

PCAT NEWSLETTER NO 51 – APRIL 2010



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Most news items get posted directly onto our website under LATEST NEWS so look up that section regularly, especially in busy PC times and keep an eye on the Calendar for forthcoming activities.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

Please note the new email addresses for our president and secretary. These will remain for whoever occupies these positions in the future.

RUNNING THE PCAT

Has your club appointed a web manager yet and come on line with pcat.org? I gather some have not which is making it very hard for our president to keep the website up to date. I do suggest that all clubs make this a priority, because if you are linked into the Bellvue system via our website, all your members who have an email address will receive any important information that might affect them immediately. Also, if you post a fixture date on your website it will automatically show up in the PCAT calendar. This will ultimately save your members missing out and you having to pass this on.

Don't forget if one of your members changes an email address do make sure this is updated on your website.

PONY CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Next year's Dressage and Jumping championships. There is a move a foot to change the date of these again. Some people find the January dates difficult to fit in with family holidays etc, so if you have a feeling about when you would like it please let your club know. Also it was moved that the Jigsaw be scrapped. Both these motions have been sent back to the clubs to bring their recommendations to the July Council meeting.

The idea of holding another competition is chiefly to fill in the time while the scorers collate the team scores. As it is they are under pressure to get them right in the time available. Without some sort of fill-in competition at this time I can see everyone hanging around waiting with nothing to do which will put even more pressure on them. Is it the Jigsaw that is not liked? If so, what would riders like us to hold? A Rescue Relay or a Fault and Out perhaps? It is meant to be a fun event for those who do not qualify for any jump-offs. Perhaps we need to put that condition into the regulations because I know there were one or two that did five rounds this year, and this was not the intention.

Qualification dispensations Next year riders are to apply directly to their own Zone CCP with a copy of application to their DC. See Handbook Changes at the end of this NL.

This year's championships are over for another year except for the Games. Well done to all the successful clubs and participants. The full results of the Dressage, Jumping and Eventing (Trials) are on the website, but here is a brief resume so that it is in here for the records.

Congratulations to Huntingfield who have had a very successful year. They won the Barwidgee Snowdon Memorial Trophy by taking out first in the Dressage teams (Victoria White – Tullamore Dew, Joshua Dales – Starday, Marlene Grimes-Feddern – Shanameer Gypsy King) and =3rd in the Jumping (Samantha Smith – Indianna Jane, Jacinda Dales – Ima Gold Seeker, Nicole Elliott – Spycatcher) in January, and the Fairlands Trophy at the Trials (Joshua Dales – Starday, Esther Dales – Rising Dream and Caleb Dales – Murphy), while Josh took out the Paul Coulson Trophy for best male rider at the Trials and Meg Bishop – Princess Magnolia won the Bonn View Roger Trophy for best performance over all three disciplines from Josh. Their grade 2 team of Esther Dales, Meg Bishop, Jacinda Dales and Samantha Smith was successful too.

What a great depth of riders they have and what an asset to Huntingfield are the Dales family, not only as successful riders but as very good helpful club members. What is so surprising about this family is they only took up riding about 2 years ago!

At the Dressage Champs in the teams Deloraine were 2nd, 3 other Huntingfield riders came 3rd with West Tamar 4th. Individually Group A was won by Jessica Van der Vlist – Our Entourage (L'ton), B by Joshua Dales – Starday and C Olivia Brennan – Red Hot Chilli Pepper (Huton). Jessica also won the Elementary, Mersey Valley the Quadrille, and a combined Northern Zone group of ten were spectacular in the Musical ride.

The winning Jumping team was a Southern Zone one consisting of Mykaela Briggs – Starstruck Juliet (Hobart), Sarah Cotton – Man Undercover (Brighton) and Anna Clark – Camoola Max (Monmouth). Tasmanian PC was second and Deloraine =3rd. Individual Winners were Grade 1 Danielle Whatley – Navika Rosie Cheux (Del), Gr 2 Alysha Verwey – Imperial Jackpot (Tas), Gr 3 Anna Clark – Camoola Max.

Further results from the Trials are: Teams - Gr 1 Southern Zone of Joshua Dales – Starday, Mykaela Briggs – Starstruck Juliet and Lucy Watson – Aquila Starline (Mon) were the only team to finish (not that many took part.) Huntingfield won Gr 2 with A southern Zone group 2nd and West Tamar 3rd, while in Grade 3 a Northern Zone team of Alison van der Vlist – Moxoon (L'ton) , Alice Hirst – Dennis the Menace (Tas) and Reegan Heathcote – Valley Dreams Trinity (Del) won from a NW Zone team and Huntingfield.

The Tom Johnston Memorial Grade 1 Dressage trophy was won by Deloriane with Olivia Whatle – Prince Brodie, Melinda Bramich – Sir Rodger, Laura Johnson – Copper Field Gold their representatives.

Unfortunately there were a few team scoring problems with the Dressage and Jumping champs which were not resolved at the time, but have been now. The club representatives found it difficult to view the scores as everyone was crowding around, so the PCAT is going to provide better facilities for them to view them in future. Also the scorers will be provided with a step-by-step list of the team scoring procedure which will be placed in front of them to check as they go. Hopefully these will eliminate any more mistakes at our champs.

The Trials at Penguin were quite a challenge! The weather was one with very hot conditions on Dressage day and very wet on the final day, so that the course cut up rather badly and the fence stewards had extra work moving the fences after each class. The second was the Cross Country course, which eliminated one third of the riders, but also produced one third clear rounds. Though it was quite difficult in parts there was some poor riding that contributed to these statistics.

Since then, the PCAT CCs have issued some revised guidelines on building PC XC courses. This document has been sent to all those CDs and TDs in our email group, as has another which has just come through “FEI XC Course Design Guidelines _ April 2010 update” via Ian Coulson. It is spread over 20 pages, but I have closed this up so it can now be printed on 10 pages – 5 if backed – yet it is still easily read. (I am a great one for carrying less paper around when possible). If anyone would like this version I can email it to them. With these two documents as guidelines we hope that we will not have a similar result in the future.

PCAT also intends to hold some CD clinics during the winter. Negotiations are in progress with a mainland CD and all details will be notified on the website ASAP.

A TD Seminar was held at the conclusion of the XC which was well attended by a number of our TDs and XC CDs. Various points were discussed, and we were told of the new rules that the EA has adopted this year. PC does follow the EA rules in most cases, but there are a few which we do not. The ones that will not be adopted for PC can be found in the Handbook Updates at the end of this newsletter.

Scorers are asked to include where the XC fence faults take place. Most computer scoring programmes have this facility as it is used in the scoring, so please leave attached when sending the results to the website. If competitors continue after being eliminated, please record their continuing results at each fence.

Medical Armbands – Compulsory for XC. Riders are reminded that these are to be worn on upper left arm **ONLY**. They must **NOT** be moved to anywhere else. This is so emergency workers can read the information quickly and easily. All gear checkers are to make sure the rider has his own information on the paperwork.

QUICK FIND GEAR CHECK LIST FOR PCAT COMPETITIONS

The PCAT has issued a single backed page for gear checkers to use at all competitions. It is suggested that this be printed and laminated so it does not get ruined in wet weather and attached to their clip boards. Gear Checkers also need to have a good knowledge of the subject as listed in Handbook Section 4.

DRUG REGULATIONS

The FEI has just issued a new statement. Briefly it states that:

In the Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, **anything** prohibited in competition is called a “Prohibited Substance”. Doping substances, which have no place in equine sport, are called “Banned Substances”, while medication substances that are commonly used in equine medicine but prohibited in competition, are called “Controlled Medication Substances”.

For Banned Substances, the ineligibility period (generally known as suspension) is an **entry point** of two years. For Controlled Medication Substances, the ineligibility period is up to two years.

We want to provide all those involved in our sport, and especially our athletes, with all the necessary tools for the best possible understanding of the new Regulations. All members of the equestrian community are therefore encouraged to visit www.feicleansport.org on a regular basis.

We in PC certainly hope that our riders would never consider doping a horse, but sometimes there are reasons why one must give it some form of medication therefore you need to know what you may and may not give it and still compete. If you are in this situation I suggest you check that website before competing.

COMPETITION RESULTS

Each zone now has its own website. Each zone will be responsible for recording and uploading the results of all qualifying competitions within their zone. DAT and SJ Assoc results are on their own websites.

Riders are responsible for getting their membership cards signed when they attend a competition day.

INTERPACIFIC EXCHANGE 2011

Tasmania is eligible to have a rider take part in the next IPE which will be held in New Zealand. Remember this is the highest honour a PC member can obtain. In order to nominate you must be under 21 years of age on Jan 1st 2011 and hold your B certificate. Nominations close on 15th November, with selection taking place on 11th December. Watch the website for more details.

NATIONAL PONY CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The next Nationals will be held in Vic during Sept/Oct 2011. Now is the time to think about what qualifications you will need, and to make sure you compete at the right levels to achieve these.

FORTHCOMING CLINICS

We have again been fortunate in receiving a grant from the Government to conduct coaching and officials' courses/clinics this year. A Cross Country Course Designers / Technical Delegates' one planned as is also a JE one.

JUMPING EQUITATION CLINIC

A JE clinic with David Quick will be held at the Westbury Showgrounds on 7-8th August for all present and aspiring judges and pencilers. David is a very experienced show jump rider, who has represented Australia at the international level, so covers all aspects of the sport.

This is not only limited to JE; it is very beneficial for all jumping riders to attend, so all with an interest in show jumping keep this date free of other pursuits and attend it. There will be no charge.

We need all coaches, judges and possible pencilers to attend. Everyone who went last time said how much they had learned so let us have a good role up whether mounted or otherwise. I am sure that some northern members will be willing to billet anyone who wishes to come from a distance. We will certainly need some riders as demonstrators so here is an opportunity to get some free tuition.

JE Scoresheet

After the last championships some of our judges found the scoresheet difficult to cope with. That needed one to enter all the marks after the round had finished. This also took up rather a lot of time. Since then we have revised our scoresheet so that a judge will mark each fence besides giving an overall mark for the general performance of both rider and horse. This is now available on our website as form 11.8.8

Watch the PCAT website for further information on all forthcoming clinics. Both this and the CD one will earn points for updating any coach's qualification status.

HORSE HEALTH

An oral examination by a veterinarian is an essential part of a regular annual physical examination. This 'check-up' provides the opportunity to perform routine preventative dental maintenance, helps identify dental problems early and decreases the chance of a dental issue leading to other serious health complications for the horse. Remember prevention is ALWAYS better than cure.

In most cases you often won't know if your horse has a dental problem until it is too late. Some signs you may observe include spilling of feed, biting problems, difficulty eating and eating faster or slower than normal.

Remember this is not an exhaustive list of signs, just a few of the common ones.

At a minimum, horses should receive a dental exam every year. From birth to six years of age horses should be seen twice a year. Senior horses (20 years old or older) are at increased risk of developing periodontal disease so twice-a-year check-ups are often needed to keep their teeth functioning properly into their third and fourth decades of life.

Some horses find the process of having their mouth opened and instruments placed inside to be quite stressful. Remember also, some dental conditions can be extremely painful. For a complete oral examination and good quality corrective care, horses will benefit from a mild sedative to relieve any stress and movement as well as analgesia (pain relief) during treatment.

DRIVER SAFETY WARNINGS

I received an email recently and though this is concerned with four wheels rather than four legs, I thought it well worth passing on as many of our members will soon be drivers if not so already.

#1: How to easily achieve good vision while driving during a heavy downpour...

Put on your SUNGLASSES (any model will do), and a miracle of miracles occurs! All of a sudden, your visibility in front of your windshield is perfectly clear, as if there is no rain. Note: It is useful, even when driving at night. Most motorists would turn on the HIGH or FASTEST SPEED of the wipers during heavy downpour, yet the visibility in front of the windshield is still bad... Don't do it. Amazingly you still see the drops on the windshield, but not the sheet of rain falling! It works to eliminate the "blindness" from passing semi's spraying you too. Or the "kick-up" if you are following a semi or car in the rain. It really does work! Make sure you always have a pair of SUNGLASSES in your car. Try it yourself and share it with your friends!

#2: **Never use the cruise control when the pavement is wet or icy.**

If the cruise control is on and your car begins to hydro-plane and your tires lose contact with the pavement, your car will accelerate to a higher rate of speed making you take off like an airplane.

HANDBOOK CHANGES *Change/Add in turquoise highlighted parts and delete those struck-through.*

I suggest that you print these on separate pages so they can be cut and pasted into printed handbooks. I have printed them so they are in complete lines so you can cut out and paste over the existing print. If you have them on file on your computer, you can insert these, or download fresh docs from the website. They will have the latest date in the footer. The italics are directions only, and not to be inserted into the handbook.

3.3 Test Dates I have just noticed that this should be changed in the second line: (STCO for A, H & B) sets...

These affect pages 4.1 & 8.1. Section 4 will shortly undergo a major upgrade.

GENERAL

These are the recommended guidelines for all occasions **which gear checkers will follow before Pony Club activities.** However, if a parent or guardian insists that their child should ride in equipment not recommended **(other than that which is on the banned list)** then they must take responsibility for their action by signing a

Dress The club uniform consists of shirt, tie, jumper, jodhpurs or moleskins (the same colour as the club's jodhpurs), boots – either short or long – and safety helmet. Approved active tops and helmet covers may be worn during games and the cross country phase of Horse Trials. **Clubs may also adopt a lightweight summer top in club colours which may be worn with the judge's approval at official competitions.** Shirts must be tucked in at all times. When vaulting under supervision, members are permitted to wear soft-soled shoes and no hat. Gaiters/Leggings/Suede Chappettes are acceptable providing that they are the same colour as the boot.

Spurs Smooth blunt spurs without rowels, max length 3.5cm, pointing to the rear are allowed. Any curve must be downwards. **However, spurs with round hard plastic or metal knobs (known as "Impulse" spur) are allowed.** Young children should NOT be allowed to use spurs because their legs and seat are not steady enough to use them correctly. Indiscriminate use of spurs at any level should be actively discouraged.

Qualifications Dispensation request.

A request for dispensation, together with a full concise history and reason for request, must be lodged with the zone chief coaches panel with endorsement from the DC as soon as possible after the last qualifying event. Requests will be sent to the State CCP Delegate who will notify the organising committee of the decision after adjudication by the Chief Coaches Panel.

Section 10 EVENTING

The new EA Rules for Eventing are available from the EA website. These were noted at the TD Seminar.

A revised Addendum to the Trials will be published before the new eventing season starts.

Rules Adopted:

- 3, Spurs must be of smooth metal. The end of a shank must be blunt. Metal or plastic spurs with round hard plastic or metal knobs ("Impulse" spur) are allowed. *This is a change to our previous rule.*
- 10 Summer uniform. Club ratified polo top. At the discretion of the judge or TD.
- 56 Showjumping speed for grades 1 and 2 to be 325 metres per minute, Grades 3 and 4 to be 300 mpm and Grade 5 to be 250mpm. Note changed speeds for all grades.

Not adopted:

- 4 No yellow cards for PC.
- 24 Numbers on saddle blankets and bridles not required for PC.
- 25 2.5 Does not apply to PC.
- 29 Suede chappettes allowed for PC.
- 35 PC still allows ropes and pegs for dressage.
- 40 The width of the water crossing where a step or jump out is used must be 9 metres. *This is recommended but not compulsory on an existing course. Take into account when constructing a new water complex.*
- 56 Arena gate does not have to be closed but try to keep to a max 12' and have the marshaller blocking it.

Eventing Annex 5 Has been reissued with the new SJ speeds. These can easily be changed by hand. Grades 1 and 2 are **325** metres per minute, Grades 3 and 4 are **300** mpm and Grade 5 is **250** mpm.