

Welcome to the Morpeth Hunt Pony Club

- *Welcome to our branch. We have lots for you to do and we hope you join in and have a great time with your pony.*
- *We have put together this information leaflet so that you can learn a little bit about us and the organisation you have joined. (We have put some adult stuff in here too so that your parents don't feel left out!). We look forward to seeing you at our next rally.*



Welcome to The Pony Club

Congratulations, now you have joined our branch you have become a member of one of the worlds largest children / youth charitable organisations.

The Pony Club operates not only in GB but all over the world. Our branch is one of 360 branches in the UK with every branch offering the same opportunities. The Pony Club is managed by the Pony Club Council. They write the rules, policies and procedures that all branches and members have to follow.

***Our branch** is managed by a District Commissioner who is in regular contact with the Council. The information given to her is passed down to the branch through the branch committee at our bi monthly meetings. We are a large pony club with an average annual membership of 140 members ranging from 3 to 22yrs old.*

- ***The Pony Club aims to;***
- ***Encourage you to ride and to enjoy all kinds of sport connected to ponies and riding. (When the pony club say “ponies” they mean ponies and horses!)***
- ***To give you instruction in riding and to help you learn about looking after and taking care of your pony.***
- ***To promote highest standard of sportsmanship, citizenship and loyalty to help develop your strength of character and self-discipline.***

- ***Our branch prides itself on the behaviour of all of its members, parents, visitors and committee promoting respect, courtesy and politeness and we would ask that you continue to promote this highest stand of good behaviour at all times.***
- ***Our committee – we have a committee of 10 volunteers who aim to meet the needs of the full range of members, from the nervous novice with an interest in pony socialising to the open level competitor by ensuring that there are opportunities for all.***

District Commissioner(DC)and child protection officer : Mrs Michelle Macaulay. Payne Cottage, Whittingham, Alnwick NE664UN tele no. 01665-374795	Deputy DC: Mrs Susan Walby Great Law Farm, Capheaton, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE192AN tele no. 07754195995
Membership Secretary: Mrs Shirley Bamigbade. The Old Rectory, Sheepwash, Northld. NE62 5NG tele no. 0781 4476801	Secretary: Mrs Valerie Bullough Hartburn House, Hartburn, Northld NE61 4JB tele no. 01670 772448
Treasurer: Mrs Judith Pattinson The Rowans, 11 Millfield Road, Wickham, Newcastle NE16 4QA0191 2859858	Chief Instructor: Miss Jane Mancey Benridge Equestrian Centre, Morpeth NE61 3SB tele no. 01670 503535
Health and Safety: Mrs Amanda Gallon, 17 Foxley Close, Killingworth, NE126FX Tele no. 07835020205	Mrs Lyn Charleton, Harle Farm, Kirkwhelpington, Newcastle NE192PB Tele no. 01830 540412
Mrs Laura Horgan, Linden Garden Cottage, Longhorsley NE658TB Tele no 01670 788605	Mr Ian Gillespie, Heathery Edge, Newton, Stocksfield NE437XB tele no 07831507507

- *Any parent can volunteer to join the committee. As people decide not to continue (its a lot of work!) we let everyone know that there are spaces. If you are interested in becoming a member of the committee you can contact the DC who will take your nomination forward to the following committee meeting along with any other interested persons.*

Back to you, the member, so what do we do?

- *In our branch we offer a number of different activities – some with your ponies and some without! We try to offer something for everyone and try to survey the members every couple of years to see if there is anything else they would like to see us do. Last year we introduced extra coaching sessions and reduced the number of children in rides at rallies as a result.*
- *Lots of the things we do are organised in age groups, this is to make sure that you won't be expected to ride with someone much older (and usually on a much bigger horse) or much younger (on a much smaller pony) than you. It also helps you to meet other pony mad members your own age!*
- *We have our working rallies but we also offer Easter egg hunts (on ponies!), country rides, group coaching sessions, stable management sessions, badges, competency tests and training, riding and road safety training and testing.*
- ***We enter teams and individuals for competitions in tetrathlon (xc riding, shooting, running and swimming), show jumping, dressage, endurance, eventing and games. We do dismounted competitions too, we have horse and pony care and quiz teams.***

- *And of course we have our summer camp every year. Again in age groups, where you take your pony to camp for a few days, have lessons, eat lots and make lots of new friends! On a social level we have some evening events such as BBQ, parents evenings, xmas parties and the pony club ball.*
- *We think that all of these activities means that there should be something for everyone, but if you think we could offer something else we encourage you to let the committee know, new ideas are always welcome!*
- **Summer camp..**



Rallies...

How do I find out whats going on, and how do I join in?

- *All of our activities are listed on our events page on our website, **morpethhuntpc.co.uk***
- *Anyone who is a member and is the right age / ability for that activity can attend. To attend you must send a reply slip and fee to the person identified on the activity notice on the website before the closing date shown.*

- *It is important to reply before the closing day because we need to book venues/ instructors / helpers for the activity. If you apply after the closing date you will be put on a waiting list and will be given a place if someone else cancels.*
- ***When you put your name down you will be given a time to attend, this along with who will be in your group will be posted on the events page of the website, so remember to check!***
- ***Working Rallies***
- *The working rally is the main activity of all pony club branches. A rally may be for 1 hour, a half or whole day. At a rally you will meet lots of other members and their ponies. Rallies may be flat work, dismounted, jumping or games rallies. It will say on the website which type of rally it is. Although we aim to ensure that there are no more than 6 members in each ride there may be occasions where this is not possible. We try to support our local equestrian centres and use many of them for our rallies. We also use private land, kindly allowed by the owners for the purpose of hosting a rally. It is up to you / your parent how many rallies you attend, unless you want to be considered for the branch teams.*
- ***Team competitions*** – *to be able to do our team competitions you have to have attended a minimum of 3 rallies before the competition date. If you are interested in teams please let the Chief Instructor- Jane Mancey know.*
- ***Money***, *there is often a small fee attached to activities. This fee covers the cost of hiring instructors and venues and anything else needed for that activity.*
- ***When you book a place on any activity you and your parent will be asked to say whether you are going to help at the beginning or the end of the activity. This may mean setting jumps up, opening the gate for vehicles etc and clearing up and putting things away at the end. You will need to plan an extra ½ at the beginning or end of your session to help, depending on which you are doing but remember, the more people who help the faster everyone gets home!!***
- ***Your 1st rally:***
- *When you arrive let someone know you are there and then get your pony ready.*
- *Its a good idea to get there early so that you don't need to rush to tack up and get dressed.*
- *You will usually see where everyone is meeting so make you way over and your instructor will tell you where you need to go.*
- *You are given instruction by a riding instructor in small groups. The rallies are split into ages, we currently have junior (12years and under), senior rallies (over 12 up to age 15) and 15+ rallies for those older members.*
- *Although many of our rallies are separated into age groups 3 or 4 times a year we have all day rallies where everyone who is a member can attend and ride both in the morning and the afternoon. These are organised for the school holidays so that as many members as possible can come and enjoy the fun. Remember to bring your picnic along with hay, water and carrots for your pony!*

What do I wear for pony club?

The Morpeth branch has a uniform that you should wear to every event unless you have been told that there is a different dress code.

Our uniform is, for you;

- **Beige or cream jodphurs or breeches, jodhpur boots in brown or black (matching plain chaps may be worn). Long yard fashion boots are not allowed but older members may wear long riding boots - plain brown or black.**
- **White or pale blue shirt – top button done up and with your pony club tie.**
- **A tweed, navy, brown or black show jacket (no bling or bright colours please) with your pony club badge worn on the left lapel. Gloves in plain brown or black. You can wear your pony club sweatshirt underneath if you wish.**
- **A riding hat that meets current safety standards – at your first rally ask the DC to check your hat – she will then tag it so that everyone else knows that your hat is safe. Long hair needs to be tied up and a hair net worn.**

Your pony;

- **Needs to be clean and tidy and well presented.**
- **Tack - brown or black and well fitting. Your numnah should also be plain brown, black, white or navy – no piping, names or sponsors.**
- **Pony club do not allow ponies who are;- younger than 4, who are ill, too thin, lame or infirm because of old age or who are considered dangerous to their riders , other members or their ponies.**
- **The Morpeth branch, for safety reasons do not allow members to ride in hoodies, trainers or willies. If you do arrive wearing these you will not be allowed to ride.**
- **If we are jumping it is strongly recommended that you wear a body protector. Cross country jumping you must wear one.**

Information for parents;

- **The branch is a large branch run entirely by volunteers, who do not receive payment for their contribution to the running of the club.**
- **As a large branch it is vital that we have the support of the parents of the members, without which the branch would be unable to function. We actively encourage all parents to get involved – don't feel shy its a great way to meet people. We need all sorts of horsey and non horsey help, from setting up arenas and putting jumps up and away again at rallies to making sandwiches, selling raffle tickets and managing the BBQ's at beach rides and camps!**
- **We are known for the polite and mannerly attitudes demonstrated by everyone associated with our branch and we hope that you can support us in our endeavours to remain a polite, well mannered and courteous club, making it fun and enjoyable for all.**

- *Our committee meets bi monthly and we actively encourage feedback to that meeting, any issues / queries please contact any committee member to take your issues to the meeting.*
- *As part of the Pony Club we are obliged to have 1 parent meeting a year. As a branch we hold 2 meetings a year, the 1st to present our accounts to parents, this takes place at the beginning of the pony club year, after the accounts have been reviewed by an accountant and submitted to head office. Our 2nd meeting is a celebration of our childrens success throughout the year and we use this meeting to present badges, trophies, awards, certificates etc to members.*
- *As a charity all of the monies raised are put back into the branch. The charge for activities covers costs only – instructors, venues etc. Fund raising enables us to maintain and renew our equipment and when possible, and is to the benefit of the majority of members and the club, subsidise some activities.*
- *The joining fee is set nationally and PCUK receives most of this membership fee. A small amount is given to each branch to support their activities, the Morpeth branch uses much of this to provide the free all day rallies that are open to every member. The joining fee includes a substantial insurance cover for personal liability in request of equestrian related incidents, for up to £30,000,000. Please refer to the PCUK website for further information regarding this.*
- *We hope you will be able to join us in order to make the experience for our children an enjoyable one.*