

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.***

- *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 alone, being part of this huge club allows you to have the same opportunities as every other member in the country.*
- *The Pony Club Council manages the Pony Club. They write the rules, policies and procedures that we all have to follow.*
- *Our DC is in regular contact with the Council and shares information we need to run the branch with the committee at our meetings.*
- ***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 standard of good behaviour at all times.***

A bit about our branch...

- We are one of the largest branches in the area with an average annual membership of around 140 members. Our ages range from 3 to 22 (this year!)*
- The branch is run by a committee of volunteers who are managed by a District Commissioner (DC) Mrs Michelle Macaulay.*
- If you have any questions / concerns (or your parents have) please get in touch with a member of the committee who will raise the issues at the next committee meeting.*
- Our committee*
- Any parent can volunteer to join the committee. We have 9 members and as people decide not to continue (its a lot of work!) we let everyone know that there are spaces.*
- If you are interested you can contact the DC who will take your nomination forward to the committee meeting along with any other interested persons.*
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- The committee is made up fully of volunteers who aim to ensure that the club meets 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.*

Our Committee

**District Commissioner(DC)and child protection officer
: Mrs Michelle Macaulay.
Payne Cottage, Whittingham, Alnwick NE664UN tele
no. 07765 925850**

**Assistant DC: Mrs Susan Walby
Great Law Farm, Capheaton, Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE192AN tele no. 07754195995**

Membership Secretary: Mrs Helen Wyld.
New Moor House, Edlingham, Northld. NE66 2BT
tel no. 01665 574638

Secretary: Mrs Valerie Bullough
Hartburn House, Hartburn, Northld
NE61 4JB tele no. 01670 772448

Treasurer: Mrs Lynne Steel
West Harle, Kirkwhelpington, Newcastle NE19 2PF
Tel 01830 540339

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, NE12 6FX
Tel 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

What do we do?

- *In our branch we offer a number of different activities – some with your ponies and some without!*
- *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(xc , SJ, dressage) and games. We do dismounted competitions too, we have horse and pony care teams 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 people to let the committee know, new ideas are always welcome!*



How do I find out whats going on?

- *Everything we do is listed on our events page on our website, **morpethhuntpc.co.uk***
- *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.*
- *This year, as a result of this survey we started some extra group coaching sessions and reduced the number of children in each ride at rallies.*
- *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 event notice before the closing date for the rally.*
- *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.*
- *There is often a small fee attached to activities. This fee covers the cost of hiring instructors and venues and any thing 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 help the faster everyone gets home!!*

Working rallies

- **Working Rallies**

- *The working rally is the main activity of all pony club branches.*

- *A rally may be for 1 hour or for a whole day. At a rally you will meet lots of other members and their ponies. Everyone looks smart and their ponies are always groomed and turned out well.*

- *It may be a flat work rally, a dismounted rally or it may be a jumping rally.*

- *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.*

- *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!*

- *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 and under 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. Our all day rallies are free of charge and give instruction in the morning and after lunch. 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 and hay, water and carrots for your pony!

- *Remember to plan your helping time into your day.*

What do I wear?

- *YOU*
- *As with all large organisations we have a uniform /dress code to follow! For all pony club activities you will need to wear*
- *Beige or cream jodhpurs or breeches*
- *White or pale blue shirt – top button done up please!*
- *A tweed, navy, brown or black show jacket (no bling or bright colours please)*
- *PC tie and badge (badge on the left side of your jacket)*
- *Jodhpur boots (chaps may be worn) in brown or black. (Long yard, fashion boots are not allowed)*
- *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 we know it meets the required standard*
- *YOUR PONY*
- *Needs to be clean and tidy and well presented.*
- *Your tack needs to be brown or black and well fitting and safe.*
- *You need to wear a plain brown, black or white numnah with no bling, coloured piping or embroidery on it. No coloured brow bands.*
- *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.*

Ready to Ride!!

- *When you arrive at your 1st rally get yourself and your pony ready. Tell someone that you are new and they will point you toward either the instructor or to a committee member who will be able to help you and show you where to go / what to do. Don't be shy, we are here to help you.*
- *Remember to get your hat checked.*
- *Once you are on your pony you will be allocated a ride and off you go and enjoy your 1st pony club experience.*

Adult Stuff

- *The branch is a large branch run entirely by volunteers, who do not receive payment for their voluntary 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 do need your help with all activities and when applying for activities you will be asked whether you are helping at the beginning or the end of the activity, you will need to plan an extra 30mins to do this but when everyone helps it takes no time at all!*
- *As a branch we are known for the polite, courteous 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 a branch of the Pony Club we are managed and governed by the rules and regulations of The Pony Club. We have a DC who manages our branch and a regional officer and both are in regular contact with head office.*
- *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 and 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. There is a small charge for many of the activities – this is to cover the cost of the instructors and venues. Fund raising enables us to maintain and renew our equipment and when possible, and is to the benefit of the majority of members, subsidise some activities.*
- *The joining fee is set nationally and PCUK receives most of this membership fee. A small amount is put into the branch to support branch activities. 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.*