

PCAT NEWSLETTER NO 42 – APRIL 2007



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Editor – Ann Graves



PASSING ON INFORMATION TO MEMBERS

DCs please read through this newsletter and extract pertinent points to insert in your club ones so that all your riders get the necessary information. We have had a couple of instances recently where riders did not know that something was about to happen or how to go about it. Suggest to them that they look at the web site weekly, especially at the busy time of the year, for updates of info regarding entries and closing dates.

It is sometimes brought to our attention that office bearers and members do not always follow the rules. I am not blaming officials as being dishonest – it is usually brought about by ignorance. We realise that the PC population is not constant – that parents, and therefore DCs, secretaries and other club officials come and go as their kids enter and leave pony club. Only a very few of us are constant for any long period of time.

When clubs change office bearers the past ones **MUST** hand on all the club records and handbooks to the new ones. If they wish to keep copies of any of these they must get new ones – the Handbook is on the web.

It is the duty of all new officials to acquaint themselves with the rules and regulations which are mostly included in the Handbook, and any updates to these (contained in Council minutes and the latest newsletter).

MAKE SURE YOU ENTER ANY CHANGES IN YOUR HANDBOOK. See end of this newsletter for the latest.

It is a large volume and one is not expected to read it from cover to cover. It is a reference book, so when dealing with something new that you are not sure of please look up and read that section. However all new officials should read sections 1 and 2 and Chief Instructors and test coordinators should be well acquainted with section 3. If you are nominating members for a national or international team then read section 6, and if entering members for the championships then check out sect 8. And do not forget to pass on relevant parts of it to the members themselves.

I would remind everyone that Pony Club is not competition orientated as the EFA is, but is a character building youth movement set around horses. Perhaps it is a good time to remember the

AIMS OF THE PONY CLUB

To encourage young people to ride and to learn to enjoy all kinds of sport concerned with horses and riding.

To provide instruction in riding and horsemastership and to instil in members the proper care of their animals.

To promote the highest ideals of sportsmanship, citizenship and loyalty, thereby cultivating strength of character and self-discipline in an environment free from harassment and discrimination

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Inter Pacific Congratulations to Freyr Colvin from the Tasmanian PC who will be our representative travelling to Kentucky, USA in July 2007. She has started her fund raising campaign and hopefully all the clubs will get behind her and raise some funds on her behalf, as there is only a limited amount of funding available for this expensive trip.

Games The two Riders that were chosen for the **IPPG selection trials** held in NSW in January were Katie Lowery of Kentish and Sabrina Docherty of Leven. Well done girls for being selected to represent the state at that. Unfortunately neither made it into the International team, but are in our state team. Jean Treloar was our selector on that weekend.

Congratulations and good luck to the following who were selected for the Games teams which will be held in conjunction with the National Championships in Toowoomba in July:-

Juniors – Melanie Cotton – Brighton, Sabrina Docherty – Leven, Katie Lowery – Kentish, Samatha Smith – Hunt, Skye Taylor – W.Tam. Reserves 1st Hannah Orchard, 2nd Danielle Whately, both Deloraine.

Coach – Barry Harper, Chaperone – Anne Cotton.

Seniors – Kyra DeKaste – Fernpark, Tegan Lovell – Brighton, Anna Murton – Inglis, Tristan Newitt – Brighton, Carina Walton – Deloraine 1st Reserve Alison Cook – Huntingfield

Coach – Liz Murton, Chaperone – Sue Newitt

National Championships in Toowoomba in early July. Only two riders, other than the games teams, have accepted to take part in these – Alison Cook (Assoc) of Huntingfield who will take part in show jumping and Marian Goss (Member) of Tasmanian who will take part in dressage and show jumping.

Amanda Cameron (Coulson) was appointed as the team coach, but as there is no team going she has withdrawn. We all wish the girls good luck in their individual pursuit.

Australian Eventing Talent Search Squad Congratulations to Erin Pitt, Kate Duffy, Grant Walter and Amanda Cameron who have been selected for this squad. There are only 20 places available in the squad which is designed for the National Eventing Coach to keep an eye on up and coming combinations. Great for Tasmania to have four inductees.

AFFILIATION AND INSURANCE FEES

In future these fees must all be paid at the same time to the PCAT treasurer. It will probably mean that clubs will have to collect from all their members both the subscriptions and insurance component at the same time and will not be able to have them pay in instalments. The treasurer will be sending a notice to all clubs shortly on the matter of fee payments. It should be realised that until a member has paid their annual fees they are not a paid up member of their club.

TESTS

In order to assist the riders presenting for next year's A, B and C* tests, we have decided to hold an assessment day, which will be in the north on the 23rd September. This is to give them an idea as to how they are progressing and what needs particular work on before presenting for the practical elements. It is not compulsory, but you are advised to attend. If there are a quite a few within a zone, then that zone could hold a separate one for their riders.

Examination Credits We have also decided to delete the part in brackets at the bottom of page 2 of the syllabus (*max. of two years from original practical examination date*) so allowing any credits to be held indefinitely.

B Test Congratulations to Caroline Blackley of Inglis and Jesica Pyke (Tasmanian) who passed theirs in the summer. There are a number of others who only have a few sections to do to finish it.

COACHING SCHOOLS

There is a NCAS PC Level 1 course being held in the north on May 26th-27th & June 23rd at "Pine Lodge" Westwood, and June 24th at "Mirragong" Bishopsbourne Rd. If anyone is interested, please contact Judy Kilby 6393 6158 immediately as nominations have actually closed.

There is also one being held in the south on Jun 2nd-3rd & 16th at Brighton, and an O level one on 7th & 8th July. Contact Abigail Hawkins for either if interested on 6248 5331.

A northern O level is scheduled for 16th & 17th June at Beauty Point. Contact Carol Hobson on 6383 1700.

PCA STATE CLINIC

This will be held on 24th and 25th August at the Indoor school at Exton near Westbury, conducted by the new PC Australia's Coach, Diana Keach, who is an ex-Tasmanian. She is a very experienced coach and coach educator, and it will be good to get her ideas. Do try to organise this weekend free of all PC activities, including your club rally – change it to another weekend – and encourage all your instructors to come. However experienced we are we do need to attend these schools to keep up with modern practices. If there is a charge, it will be minimal. We can probably find a few billets for those who wish to stay overnight. Notices will go round shortly with details.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The last two months have seen the running of our three FEI discipline championships. Well done to all the organisers – it is a mammoth job by all concerned – and the riders who took part. Congratulations to all the winners.

The full results of all competitions are on the web site so I am not going into great detail here, but will single out the chief winners. At the Trials, a Northern Zone team won grade 1, Tasmanian PC grade 2 and a Southern Zone team grade 3, while Birralea won the Fairlands trophy for the best performed club with a rider from each of the three grades. Derwent PC took out the Dressage Champs from Deloraine, Monmouth and Leven, while a Southern Zone team took out the Jumping Champs from Hobart and District, Tasmanian and a Northern Zone team with Deloraine 5th, clinching for them the Barwidgee Snowdon Trophy for the most successful club at the Dressage and Jumping champs.

Grace Ellis and LP Musenden of the Derwent PC won the Bonn View Roger Trophy for the best performed combination over all three disciplines of Trials, Dressage and Jumping.

TRIALS

Comment by Sandra Atkins, a very experienced Eventing rider who made the Aussie team long list. The riders need to heed her comments on screaming.

"I enjoyed the Trials – the course seemed fairly straightforward, but the riders always make plenty of mistakes, mainly due to pressure. The number of riders I saw screaming at their horses even before the horse could see the jump was something that annoyed me – it will need to be talked about at Pony Club rallies. The horses were expecting to stop every time, there just had to be something terrible there! The double of beehives on the track beside the plantation was a prime example and there was nothing scary about them. I suppose most of the kids felt they were under a lot of pressure from friends, family and coaches or just because it was the Championships. I hope Hobart build a nice friendly course too for next year."

STATE GAMES FOR 2007 These are this year's games which will run in the following order:

Bending, Rope, 3 Mug, Sword, Canadian, Pony Express, Ball & Racquet, Housewives' Scurry, Hi Lo, Tyre, Ball & Bucket, Fishing, 2 Flag, Old Sock, Sack, Pyramid, Windsor Castle and 5 Flag.

DISCUSSION POINTS

Trials Speed. Do we increase Grade 3 to the EFA speed of 400 mpm for a 12 month trial period? It was pointed out at the TD meeting after the Trials that many of the grade 3 riders were circling and slowing down before the end of the course to use up the time, so the recommendation has come through from them that we do increase it. TDs do have the right and do extend the optimum time for slower courses. It would make the scorers' job a lot easier if all were the same.

Possible New Format for the Jumping Championships

With the change of date of these it gives us a good opportunity to review the whole concept. Some people feel that Jumping Equitation has run its course. So it was suggested at this year's champs that we should change the programme in the future and put some other class/es in its place. This is not final, and some believe it should still be there. After all one of the objects of Pony club is to teach riders the correct way to ride and this class is a judgement of the rider's and not the horse's ability. Any changes have to be discussed at a CIP meeting and be ratified by Council (it is an agenda item), so discuss it among yourselves and at zone meetings and let the CIP know VERY SOON if you want it deleted and what you would like to take its place if so.

Splitting of age groups.

This year we had excessive numbers in C group so I did a survey on the split of the ages which I have sent to everyone. When we first started we had the 14 yr olds in B group, but we had so many in B and very few in C that after a couple of years it was changed to put them into C group to even up the numbers. However, C group numbers have grown, specially in the dsg and this does give a poor split of the ages with only two years spanning B group, 15 and 16, whereas the other groups cover a much wider span. It has been suggested that we re-instate the 14 yr olds into B group so making that cover 3 years which certainly seems to make more sense.

The decisions will ultimately rest with the CIP but we would all like to hear the club's thoughts on the subject so talk about it at your next club and zone meetings and then send the results through to the SECRETARY ASAP SO SHE CAN PASS THEM ON TO THE CIP. They need to discuss it and decide before the July Council meeting, so it can be adopted and riders can start qualifying over the spring and summer shows and gymkhanas. The November meeting is too late so don't put it off.

CHAMPIONSHIP MATTERS

Qualifying at rallies and competitions is one of those things that rears its head during the spring and summer as everyone is trying to get enough to compete in our championships. For clarification of these refer to HB pages 1.12-13. The rally qualification is there to assure that it is a true PC member that is competing and not one who just does PC in order to be able to compete. The competition one is to ensure that they are up to a standard so they are not over faced at the championships.

With regard to qualifying rallies, only rallies of one's own club count as qualifiers, unless, for example, one is at uni in Hobart, have their own horse with them and have applied to attend another club as a regular visitor. In such a case they ride in their home club's uniform – they do not adorn the visiting club's one. They may not go to another club within their own zone to count it as a qualifier. This does not mean that they may not visit other clubs at times, but, of course, they do not just turn up, but check with the DC that it is alright to go along. If joint rallies are conducted by two or more clubs, they may be counted by either clubs' members.

Horses and riders have to do a full day at a rally, so if a member is lucky enough to have two horses and take them both to the same rally that only counts as half a rally for each horse. Therefore they would have to attend six rallies during that year to get them both qualified.

Qualifying times

The normal qualifying period is from the CLOSING DATE OF ENTRIES of the previous year's champs to that of the present year, so events held after that date will not be allowed to be counted in future. The PCAT decided that this will be strictly enforced from now on – that the combinations MUST BE QUALIFIED AT THE TIME OF ENTRY – because it makes it too difficult for the event's organisers to get the programming done. This applies to Trials as well. If a club/zone intends that a day they conduct is to be used as a qualifying competition it must be scheduled for a date prior to the closing date of entries.

Due to the change of next year's dressage and jumping championships to the third weekend in January, the qualifying period for those will be from the 1st Jan to 1st Jan or thereabouts (18 days before the event) each year. This means, that for next year only, riders will be able to use some events that they used for this year as well. They will not be able to use the January ODEs as qualifiers for these champs in the future.

Too many people leave it until the last minute to try to qualify. Accidents and illness do happen, so they need to realise that they might not get to that later event that they intended to. They should get all their qualifiers done in plenty of time so there is not any doubt that they are right to take part. If however, something unforeseen does prevent them from fulfilling all these requirements there is a procedure by which riders, may apply to the PCAT to get exemption. We encourage riders to try to fulfil the requirements, of course, but if there is a possibility that this might not take place then put in the application ASAP. It does not have to wait until the closure of entries, but the result will not be notified until then in case they have been able to fulfil them.

CLUBS MUST KEEP A RALLY ATTENDANCE BOOK which records the date of the rally, the member and the horse/s ridden at each one. MEMBERS MUST ALSO KEEP THEIR RALLY ATTENDANCE AND COMPETITION PERFORMANCES IN THEIR RECORD BOOKS UP-TO-DATE for the whole of their PC life. It makes it so much easier for all concerned when entering competitions or nominating for selection. It should not take more than a couple of minutes after each day to fill in that one line.

HORSE TRAFFIC RULES

I understand there was some confusion in the rather crowded warm up area at the dressage champs as to who has to give way to whom. These rules should apply anywhere where horses are being ridden together in a confined space. The traffic rules applicable to any group riding in an indoor or outdoor arena, should apply as a matter of courtesy. They are as follows:

- riders must pass left to left if they meet on the track.
- faster paces have priority to the track (outside), riders in slower paces must move in off the track.
- do not overtake on the inside and sandwich someone against the fence; turn away in plenty of time
- lateral work has priority over all paces
- halt off the track
- mounting, dismounting and adjustment of gear must be done clear of the track and gate (on centre line in D or G area is ideal)
- riders should pass outside shoulder to outside shoulder on the diagonal line.

Further to these formalities it is generally accepted that if anyone is riding a fractious horse they have a duty of care to keep it at a safe distance from other riders. Kickers should wear a red ribbon and other riders should be warned if they come too close.

BELLE VUE SYSTEM

The PCAT is going onto this database computer system to keep track of all its records. It is the same one used by the Victorian PCA. Each club and all their member's details will be recorded on it for the use of the clubs' and PCAT officials. In order to have the information to put into this it is necessary for all members and officials to complete the forms that are being distributed at present. The four Membership Registration forms are to find out the Personal Details of:- Riding Members, Instructors, Judges and Voluntary Workers. Please fill these in promptly and return them to the president Judy Pitt, as soon as possible.

In time, each club's own website will be on it and linked to every other clubs' as well as the PCAT's. This will have all the latest information kept as up to date as is possible so all riders will be able to access the latest calendar, rule changes, entry details, etc.

However, at the moment, you will be seeing subtle changes to the PCAT website. Information such as results, this newsletter and rule changes are being added immediately, as are photos etc. The calendar is being updated, so all your zone dates will be shown. To help us keep this information up to date, please forward your results and events to jlppitt@bigpond.com. Please look at the www.pcat.org.au site and pass on feedback. We want this site to be your own.

2006 RAFFLE was once again a great success, with the time of year making it easier on clubs to sell tickets. About \$3,260 was raised for both the clubs and the PCAT with printing and advertising costs to come out of the latter.

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DO YOU KNOW OF THIS PONY?

I do not usually include "adverts" but I think this is more a request and not commercial, so have this time.

I have had a request from a Kirstin Milner who is looking for her old pony FIRE. She would really love to find her or know where she is. Fire is 11.2 hh, 19 years old, white with pink lips, an MT in circle on her nearside and 3 over 7 on her off side. The last known home was at Ross about 10 years ago and she was sold around that time too. If anyone knows of her whereabouts could you contact Kirstin at <milners2@bigpond.net.au>.

REVISED EVENTING RULES

These are rule changes adopted by the EFA at 1st January 2007. The PCAT usually goes along with all the changes after the Trials, however, there are two that we are not going to adopt. They, rules 33 re ambulance and 40 re Back Protectors, are already in the addendum so no change required to either for us.

33 Cross Country Test *(An ambulance (or paramedic equivalent) must be present during the cross country test. If not the event must be halted.* Not adopted.

40 Dress *(Back Protectors MUST be worn).* Not adopted.

All, and particularly those in brackets, should be aware that these others must be adhered to so please note them in your EFA rule books.

Rule 20 *Insert between after XC optimum time and before the dressage para.*

If there is still equality, the classification will be decided in favour of the competitor with the best score in the Jumping test (time and obstacles). If there is still equality, the classification will be decided in favour of the competitor with the best time (fastest) in the Jumping test. (Scorers).

Clarification of Rules Relating to Dressage Arenas and Statutory Elimination – not new rules.

35 - Construction of Arenas

Arenas must be as safe as possible. If rope and steel pegs are used, the rope should be kept taught, at least 30cm above the ground, and any sharp elements of the pegs should be covered to protect horses.

Alternative arena construction is encouraged. Examples of alternatives are plastic chain, plastic pipes, ground markings, and painted 10cm x 2.5cm wooden boards placed on the ground at corners and markers.

Explanation: The key point here is 30cm above the ground. Any alternative arena that does not comply is not considered to be sufficient, and therefore the 'Statutory Elimination' for any horse leaving the arena with all four feet, cannot be imposed. The Judge will have the discretion to decide on the merits of the movement at the point at which the horse leaves the arena, and score it appropriately.

38 Statutory Elimination

Leaving the arena completely with all four feet between the time of entry and at the time of exit at A, providing that the arena is fully enclosed.

Explanation: Where there is an 'open gate', the arena is not considered to be enclosed, therefore a horse 'leaving the arena via the open gate', cannot be eliminated. The horse is penalised for a 'disobedience' and allowed to continue the test. An 'out of control' horse leaving the arena will always be penalised by elimination.

Add these at the end of the respective clauses:

36 Whips (max length 110cms) must be dropped before entering the space around the competition arena.

38 Whips Not dropping whip before entering competition area 4 pts per judge . (Riders, gear inspectors, dressage judges and scorers please note)

60 Starting and Finishing Lines Both may not be more than 15m nor less than 6 m from the first and last obstacle. (Show jump course designers, judges and TDs please note).

Annex 5 Show jumping number of efforts for grades 4 & 5 Change from 8/9 (only) to 8/9 - 9/10. This has been extended by one fence to bring it into line with the other grades so the line of the course does not have to be changed and a fence removed for the lower grades when other grades are taking part.

The EFA speeds for Grade 1 & 2 have now been adopted permanently – they were on trial for 12 months.

Clarification regarding bits Mylar bits acceptable for dressage. Peewee bits not acceptable for dressage . They are not disallowed for general use in pony club but should be discouraged. (Gear inspectors)

CORRECTIONS TO HANDBOOK –

p 1.12 Qualifying rallies

Change 2nd para by deleting previous and adding at end so it reads:

Both horse and rider, not necessarily together, must have attended three working rallies of their club during the twelve months prior to the closing of entries.

Delete start of last para: ~~However it is the prerogative of zones/clubs to stipulate in their schedules that only riders and/or horses with the three rally qualification may start in their competitions.~~

Syllabus p2 bottom Examination Credits ~~Delete (max. of two years from original practical examination date).~~

p 4.7 & 4.8 **Rider 2 Uniform** Add at the end of both It is recommended that Back Protectors be worn.

P 4.10 **D'Entrecasteau Pony Club** Uniform Change Photo 2007

Active Top Mid-blue top half, and maroon bottom half with six narrow bands of each colour half way on body and sleeves, maroon collar.

p 8.1 Qualifications Add yellow words at end of first sentence.

Are for both riders and horses, but not necessarily together during the twelve months prior to the closing of entries . They may only be obtained on different days at recognised competitions, i.e. ODEs, Shows and Gymkhanas, etc. and for dressage only under recognised judges i.e. those accepted for the PCAT Panel for their relevant age group/grade. Both must have attended at least three working rallies of his/her club. For definition of a working rally see section 1.

P 10.29 86.2 ~~These two sentences to be deleted from third para Horses should start at not less than 2 minutes intervals at the championships. 3 minutes may be allowed depending on number of starters etc.~~