

Pony Club News



The Hong Kong Pony Club Newsletter, January 2007

'Kung Hei Fat Choi'

As we enter the year of the Pig, I am told that the pig is highly intelligent, but prefers pleasure and comfort to hard work. I am sure that is true of us all, but as with most things in life, what you get out reflects the effort you put in. That is why I, along with the Pony Club committee and other friends have been busy getting things organized for Pony Club. We have set up rallies for D, D+ and C training in Pokfulam, Lei Yue Mun and Tuen Mun riding schools. (Please see the Rally Schedule in this issue, and sign up asap). We have also been planning a variety of social evenings to include mounted games, un-mounted games, quiz evenings and evenings where you can learn a little bit more about stable management and the care of your pony. (Please see 'Dates For Your Diary' below).



I hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter. Thank you to all those people who have contributed to this issue, especially to Canney Cheng, Hon Sec for the Pony Club, who has helped me immensely to get settled into the role of DC, and Heather Ballard, who has put this Newsletter together with much time and care. Thank you.

Mildred Gannon

DC In Action

Dates For Your Diary: Upcoming Pony Club Events

FEBRUARY	Saturday 24 th	Mounted Games (Tuen Mun)
MARCH	Saturday 24 th	Un-mounted Games
APRIL	date t.b.c.	Pony Club Camp
MAY	Saturday 26 th	How to weigh/measure your pony Colours and markings
JUNE	Saturday 23 rd	BBQ & Disco for all the family
JULY/AUGUST		SUMMER BREAK
SEPTEMBER	Saturday 22 nd	Welcome back evening Mounted Games
OCTOBER	date t.b.c.	Early morning visit to Shatin
NOVEMBER	Saturday 24 th	Dressage training/demonstration
DECEMBER	date t.b.c.	Pony Club Xmas Show/Carol singing

This is the provisional schedule that we have planned, although, the events may be subject to change. As soon as the details of each event are finalised, they will be sent to you by e-mail and posted on the Pony Club boards at the Riding Stables.

Meet your fellow Pony Clubbers

India Fleischer-Ballard

HI!!! I'm India Fleischer-Ballard. I'm 12, and I started riding when I was 6. I first rode at Lo Wu. My favourite pony there was Trixie. Then I started riding at Pok Fu Lam as well. When Nicola and John left, I stopped riding at Lo Wu, and rode once a week at Pokfulam and once a week at Tuen Mun, but now I just ride twice a week at Tuen Mun.

My favourite horses are **SUNRAY** and **TIBBS!!!!** You probably think I'm crazy when I say I love TIBBS, but I'm not. HE IS THE BEST HORSE EVER!!!! I love Sunray too. He is an **AMAZING** pony. I rode him in the Chase-Me-Charlie at the Christmas Show (he was already



my favourite pony), and he cleared a metre. IT WAS AMAZING!!!! That was my best riding experience. My funniest was when I was about 10 and I was riding Tricky for jumping. I didn't have enough impulsion, so Tricky put his head down after the jump, and I rolled off the front. I got back on so quickly, that nobody actually realised I had fallen off.

Would you like to be featured on our 'Meet your fellow Pony Clubbers' page? Write about your riding experiences, and e-mail your article to Canney at ponyclub@pacific.net.hk. The kinds of things we'd like to hear about are:-Where do you ride? Who are your favourite ponies? What was your best riding experience? What was your most embarrassing or funniest riding experience? Don't forget to give us a photo of yourself!

A man walks up to a Shetland pony and asks "Do you have a sore throat?"

"No" replies the pony, "I'm just a little hoarse"



Instructor Top Tips

Chief Riding Instructor

Gina Porter



**Gina's
Top Tip**
Keep trying!

How long have you been an instructor in Hong Kong, and at which stable?

14 years,
at Tuen Mun

Where did you learn to ride, and how old were you when you started learning?

At home in England,
when I was 9 years
old

Who was your favourite pony when you were learning to ride, and why?

A grey called
Shadow, because he
was naughty

Who is your horse now, and what is he like?

Dr. Gafield, a 16.2
hh chestnut

What do you like to do in Riding Shows?

Cross Country

Gina was interviewed by
Amanda Rojens and Samara Gannon



Hong Kong's newest riding instructor is

How long have you been an instructor in Hong Kong, and at which stable?

I've been working at Tuen Mun stables for 2 weeks.

Annie Ho

Where did you learn to ride, and how old were you when you started learning?

I learned to ride in England, starting when I was about 5 or 6.

Who was your favourite pony when you were learning to ride, and why?

Milton, a cremello pony, because he was good at jumping and had a good character (he was crazy).

Who is your horse now, and what is he like?

Super Combed, a 16.2 hh bay.

What do you like to do in Riding Shows?

Eventing

Annie was interviewed by
Kellina Gannon



Annie's Top Tip
Set yourself a good target, that's achievable, then be determined to do it



Inter-Pacific Exchange 2007

Inter Pacific Exchange is a programme that enables Pony Club members from different countries, to get together every two years to share and exchange a common interest with each other. They will learn about the country they are visiting, its culture and customs, as well as making new friendships. This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone lucky enough to be selected as the representative of their Pony Club and Country.

This year, the exchange will take place from July 17th to July 28th in Washington DC and Lexington, Kentucky. Hong Kong Pony Club has identified 6 Pony Club Members who would fit the IPE criteria (age 17 to 21, pony club member living in HK, regular rider and competitor at events, attained B standard in riding) These riders are now under weekly training with Pippa Hatton BHSI, at Lo Wu Saddle Club. We wish them well in this and trust that those selected will represent Hong Kong and the Pony Club well.



And guess who is hosting Inter Pacific Exchange in 2009?????

See you all there!!!



Pony Trivia: Horse Laws From Around the World

Horses are required to wear hats in hot weather in Rasario, Argentina.

In South Carolina, no horses are allowed into Fountain Inn unless they are wearing pants.



Quick Quiz

- How old was the oldest known Thoroughbred when he died?
a) 28 b) 34 c) 39 d) 42
- Who said: 'A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse?'
a) Alexander the Great b) Caesar c) King George IV d) King Richard III
- What is 'Skewbald'?
a) A horse disease b) A type of bit c) A coat colouring d) A horse that has been clipped too close
- What is a white marking on a horse's forehead called?
a) Brand b) Spot c) Cloud d) Star
- How long is the gestation period of a horse?
a) 9 Months b) 10 Months c) 11 Months d) 12 Months

Answers to Quiz Questions: 1. He was 42. (He was a chestnut gelding called Tango Duke) 2. King Richard III 3. A coat colouring. (A Skewbald has large patches of any colour but black and white. A black and white horse is called a piebald.) 4. A star 5. 11 months

Pony Club Rallies

D Rally & Test

The following D Rallies have been arranged for 2007. The maximum number of participants in each rally is 8, and you must complete all the rallies before you can take your D test. Please contact Canney if you would like to register for the rallies..

Pokfulam PRS

1st Rally	3 Feb, 9:00 - 10:30 am
2nd Rally	10 Feb, 9:00 - 10:30 am
3rd Rally	17 Feb, 9:00 - 10:30 am
4th Rally	24 Feb, 9:00 - 10:30 am
D Test	26 Feb, 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Instructor: Miss Jo Eling

Lei Yue Mun PRS

24 Feb, 10:30 - noon
3 Mar, 10:30 - noon
10 Mar, 10:30 - noon
17 Mar, 10:30 - noon
24 Mar, noon - 2:00 pm

Instructor: Ms. Therese Hederby

D+ Rally & Test

The following D+ rallies have been arranged for 2007. The maximum number of participants in each rally is 6, and you must complete all the rallies before you can take your D+ test. Please contact Canney if you would like to register for the rallies.

Pokfulam PRS

Rallies

3 Mar, 9:00 - 10:30 am
10 Mar, 9:00 - 10:30 am
17 Mar, 9:00 - 10:30 am
24 Mar, 9:00 - 10:30 am
14 Apr, 9:00 - 10:30 am
21 Apr, 9:00 - 10:30 am

D+ Test

23 Apr, 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Instructor

Miss Jo Eling

Tuen Mun PRS

Rallies

4 -Mar, 10:30 - noon
11 Mar, 10:30 - noon
18 Mar, 10:30 - noon
25 Mar, 10:30 - noon
1 Apr, 10:30 - noon
15 Apr, 10:30 - noon

D+ Test

17 Apr, 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Instructor

Miss Annie Ho

Lei Yue Mun PRS

NOT YET CONFIRMED

Rallies

31 Mar, 10:30 to noon
14 Apr, 10:30 to noon
21 Apr, 10:30 to noon
28 Apr, 10:30 to noon
5 May, 10:30 to noon
12 May, 10:30 to noon

D+ Test

19 May, 12:30 - 2:30 pm

Instructor

Ms. Therese Hederby

POZOP FACTS

Horses do not have any muscles in their lower legs.

Horses kept at grass spend around 11-13 hours a day grazing.

Horses have good "homing" senses, and can find their way back home from a very long way away.



Pony Club Reporters

Pony Club Christmas Show

The Philip Day Memorial Cup



Harmony Ho writes: The Philip Day Memorial Competition is organized in memory of Vanessa Day's beloved husband, Philip Day. This year, the contest was not only for her husband, but it was also in appreciation of Vanessa's contribution to the Pony Club. She has already returned to Australia with her family, but she is missed in Tuen Mun Riding School. She taught many students, helped me and a few others with the

training for FEI and organized many events and camps for members. We miss her a lot!

Philip Day Memorial Competition has three rounds, two of which consist of the whole course, and the last one is a jump-off (timed). What is different and difficult is that you have to change horses halfway through! Sadly, the horses for the second round were picked at random, so they didn't exactly always manage to make a good pair with their new rider. But still, everyone did good. The easier part was the first round, since you had a chance to get used to your horse before the competition, and also in the warm up arena. Not to mention it wasn't timed! The horses were much more energetic in the first round, so that was kind of good, but sometimes they were a bit too wild. And when someone got a clear round, there was this eruption of claps - it was great that the audience were really into the show jumping, but a few horses got a bit scared at the uproar...

Lots of people took part in the competition, including my friends, and a few of the experienced senior members. That day, I was riding Lucky Fortune (S322). One by one, we took turns riding into that arena, and jumping over fences. Each of us waiting for our turn - with each passing moment we busied ourselves with worries about our own go. The more we all had to wait, the more agitated we were, and that didn't really help our results. When I got my second horse I was petrified, since I had ended up with Patches. (Henry got my horse, Lucky Fortune.) Patches doesn't exactly have a wonderful reputation, so I didn't think I was going to get a clear round. Luckily, I did! The tension increased in the atmosphere as the time for the jump-off came. Everybody did their very best in the last round! Henry was 1st, riding Patches, Tung Ching was 2nd, riding Puzzle, I was 3rd, riding Lucky Fortune, Jacky (Tam) was 4th, riding Ol' Blue Eyes. I like jumping, and I also like challenges. The Philip Day Competition was full of them, so I enjoyed the event completely.



Pony Club Reporters

Pony Club Christmas Show Ride and Tie



Anjali Saran & Amanda Budge write: The ride and tie was a fun-filled competition, which took place on the 16th of December at Tuen Mun. It was a pairs competition, however each pair was only given one horse. We were given Indian Joe. There were four stations, posted around the bottom paddock and in the lychee garden. Amanda, the first rider in our group, rode until the first station, followed by Anjali who was running on foot. We then swapped and Anjali rode while Amanda ran. This swap happened at every station until the end. This whole process was timed and the fastest time won!!

Strategies: GO FAST!!!! =) However, keep your horse under control or you could lose a lot of valuable time (very important!)

Best and Worst things!!: WE GOT A TROPHY!!!! We had a blast with our friends and many laughs, especially when Anjali was riding and Indian Joe decided to run off with her on top!! That was fun for Amanda, though not so much for Anjali. =)

Warning: be careful in the lychee garden as most of the horses go a little wild! He He!



Cheryl Chan writes: Hi! I'm Cheryl Chan and I competed in the Pony Club Christmas Show on the 16th December. I was in the Ride and Tie event with my friend Lauren and we were riding Tonto. At the beginning I was worried that Tonto, who is quite strong, would pull me around. But then Lauren and I came up with an idea that one of us would run beside him and make sure nothing bad would happen. It worked and Tonto was really good!

I especially enjoyed the last part where Tonto went really fast and almost overtook Lauren, who was running in front of us. I loved the Ride and Tie event and I wish that I could do it next time!

Lauren Tang writes: It was the first time I had participated in a Ride & Tie competition, and I was really excited. Tonto was a bit sluggish at first, but his competitive spirit was up, he was great! I really think horses and ponies can sense when something special is happening (eg: competitions). At one point in the competition, I'd dismounted and was running as fast as I could go. I had quite a head start, but Tonto actually caught up with me not long after! We did our best, and in the end, we even got fourth place! I really enjoyed the whole event, from thinking out strategies with Cheryl to actually competing in the real thing. All in all, it was really exciting (and tiring... I was absolutely breathless afterwards).



Pony Club Reporters

Pony Club Christmas Show

Fancy Dress Parade

My name is Linnea Gannon and I am 7 years old. I was one of the Knights at the Fancy Dress Xmas Show. My Mum helped Heather to make the costumes. I think Lightning was a little



afraid of all the things that we put on her, especially the one on her face but she

was very good. We got first prize for best Group entry and I got a rosette and a small bridle which is very cute.



Chase Me Charlie

Hi, everyone, I'm Sylvia Chiu. I would like to share with you my happy memory of the Pony Club Christmas Show. To me, the highlight of the show is an event called 'Chase-Me-Charlie'. This event is really exciting and enjoyable. Unlike the usual jumping competition of a fixed course, the competitors had to jump only one fence in turn. Those who knocked down the pole or got a refusal were eliminated. The fence was then raised to a higher level. The original plan was that the fence would continue rising until only one rider left who would then be the winner. The funniest thing was that out of the 20 riders or so, we had more than one winner this time because our ponies did so well that some of them could jump up to **1 METRE HIGH**. Although I was really eager to try out my limit, we were not allowed to carry on as it would be too dangerous and stressful for the ponies.



YOU

can be a Pony Club Reporter: e-mail a report on the next Pony Club event to Canney!

Camp Update

The BIG question that many of you are waiting to hear is 'Will we have Pony Club Camp this year and, if we do, will it be residential and will it be at Beas River' !!

I know how much you all look forward to the annual camps each year, both residential and non residential .The good news is that we will have both camps this year; the bad news (if it is bad news), is that it may not be possible to have the Easter Camp residential. Why?

Because in recent years, we have been lucky enough to have the use of facilities (including the chalets) at Beas River Country Club. This year (and next) Beas River will be host to the 2008 Equestrian Olympic Games. In preparation of this event time, space and safety all become a major concern .We, at Pony Club, feel it would not be in our best interests to put further demands on those facilities during this period, but look forward to future Pony Club camps being there again. I with the rest of the Pony Club committee are at present working out other possibilities for the camps. We will let you know asap.

Pony jokes: Q. Why do vampires like horse-racing? A. Because it's neck-and-neck!

Pony Club Word Search

Hal	Flynn	Amber	William	Charade	Flinger	Carrington
Polly	Tonto	Harry	Sunray	Fortune	Tango	Indian Joe
Blitz	Tibbs	Tricky	Turnip	Patches	Raggerty	Toy Story

Can you find the names of these 21 ponies hidden in the word search? Names may read up, down, forwards, backwards, or diagonally.

T U R N I P B I T Y W I L L I A M M A
 O R N A C S T E R K E O L M P X Z A E
 Y O T V K O N D D C H A R A D E R S N
 S S P O M W S B B I T X F G R E J Y D
 T F S R H S O W J R N L O N P O R B A
 O B S R A G G E R T Y V R M A O S H N
 R C Y S R W E K N N T W T J T O L A D
 Y K C E R I T L N G B Z U L C D I L R
 L P I Y Y N X R M R U U N G H A F N Y
 F E A J N D B H G F Y Q E P E U B A S
 A E N B L I T Z A L V E W O S A R M S
 H L T G R A H B J C K T G D L N P B L
 C A R R I N G T O N T S X B U O P E L
 X F L A M J W C W R R D M S G R I R W
 L R P D T O N T O W I O N T O K C O H
 F L I N G E R P T P L T Y B A P T S E



This Word Search
 was designed by
 Joss Fleischer-
 Ballard

What do you think of the new-look Newsletter?

What do you like about the Newsletter? What do you hate about the Newsletter? Is there anything missing from the Newsletter that you'd like us to include?

Please e-mail your views to Canney, and she will pass them on to the Newsletter team!

PONY CLUB REPORTERS - PONY CLUB REPORTERS - PONY CLUB REPORTERS

We'd like to invite all our Pony Club members to send us articles! Next time you take part in a Pony Club event, send us a report about it. Interview your Instructor and find out their Top Tip to improve your riding. Who's your favourite pony? Write in and let us know why you love him/her. Can you design a pony-themed word search or crossword? We'll include as many as we can fit in the next Newsletter.

Top Ten New Year's Resolutions for Ponies

- I will NOT try to roll when my human is on my back.
- I will NOT shy at familiar objects just for fun.
- I will NOT bite the butt of the pony in front of me just to say "Hi".
- I will NOT leap over large non-existent obstacles whenever the whim strikes.
- I will NOT grab my lead rope in my mouth and attempt to lead myself.
- I will NOT swish my tail while my human is picking out my back feet.
- I will NOT bite my human's butt while she is picking out my front feet.
- I will NOT mistake my human's blonde hair for really soft hay.
- I will NOT wipe green slime down the back of my human's white shirt.
- I CAN walk and potty at the same time. I can, I can, I can.

...Classifieds...Classifieds...Classifieds...Classifieds...

Do you have outgrown riding gear that you want to sell?

You can advertise your gear in the next issue of **Pony Club News**.

Just fill in the form and pass it to Canney, or e-mail her the details, and she will include it in the next issue.

Pony Club News Classifieds

Item for sale:

Description (size, colour, condition):

Price:

Contact phone #:

Contact name:

Hong Kong Pony Club, Lot 45, Lung Mun Road, Tuen Mun, New Territories, Hong Kong
Tel/Fax 2461 3830 - E-mail: ponyclub@pacific.net.hk - Website: www.hongkongponyclub.com