

Pony Club News



The Hong Kong Pony Club Newsletter, January 2008

'Kung Hei Fat Choi' as we enter the year of the Rat. I am told that while the Rat is a nervous animal he is also curious and intelligent and where he is, there will be food. Perhaps this is why stables are one of their favourite haunts.

Since the last news letter we have had the Philip day Memorial Bowl and Cup Challenge, the Xmas Show and a Ride & Tie evening. All of these events have been really well supported by our members, which is very encouraging to those of us who organize and run them. Without your support and participation they would not happen.



March/April would normally see Easter Camp but unfortunately this year, with Easter being much earlier than usual, many of the schools are having different holiday timetables making scheduling for camp nearly impossible. Added to that, the BHS exams are now being held on the week that we were hoping to have camp. It looks at the moment that instead of having an Easter Camp we will be having a May Camp. Full details will be notified once all arrangements have been confirmed.

Pony Club are once again delighted to welcome back Clive Reed as their 'In-house' jumping coach. Clive has conducted his usual jump clinics over a number of days both in Tuen Mun and Lo Wu. If you have not been able to 'sign-up' this time then don't worry too much: Clive should be back with us again in May/June time.

Last but not least, on behalf of Pony Club, may I welcome Bernd Knorr, Chief Riding Instructor of the Public Riding Schools, to Hong Kong, and wish him well in his new position. We, at Pony Club, look forward to working together with him in the future, and to a continuation of the support we have enjoyed in the past with the Jockey Club through him.



May I wish you all a good year of the Rat and look forward to seeing you soon.

MILDRED GANNON
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER



Meet your fellow Pony Clubbers



Dear Pony Club members!

Hey how's everyone doing? This is Francis Lo and I am in year 13 at Sha Tin College. I have been riding at Tuen Mun since I was twelve. TMPRS and Hong Kong Pony Club have given me a lot of opportunities both for equestrian and personal development. The experiences that HKPC creates allowed me to step out of my comfort zone- to gallop in that cross-country course with Gina's screams reverberating in my head, to answer a question during those notorious water quizzes and of course, to represent my city and HKPC last summer in Kentucky, United States!

Well my best riding experience was definitely my 120cm clear round in Bangalore, India. After the horses were drawn for the individual's competition, I found out I had Matilda, a pony the size of Socks! There were gigantic oxers, spreads and skinnies on the course! The only thing I remember was the massive and extremely supporting crowd, who would gasp, cheer, applaud and sometimes even sigh at every take-off Matilda and I made. With team instructor, Bee Chan instructing me on the side of the arena I felt a lot more confident and eventually, even had a clear round the first time I jumped at that height! To me, it was an extreme honour to have represented my city and actually got granted the chance to go overseas for the sport I love!

Well, after talking about the best experience, now let's look at my worst one! During April, 2007, I rode and fell off Imbili Diana. I made a huge striding mistake between jumps at a combination and flew right into the 110cm oxer. Head first. Wait, FACE first. For the next five months, there was a huge scar on my right cheek and my family and friends went into a frenzy whenever they saw it (to be honest, I just found the whole episode quite hilarious in an embarrassing way!).

Hmm, my favourite pony has definitely been Lucky Fortune (even though his sheer size classifies him as a horse). His ease over the jumps gave me a taste of the bigger show jumping classes when I was younger. Whatever challenges lay ahead, Lucky would reassure me and together, we would witness the progress we made as the ultimate team.



At the moment I am competing a lot on Puzzle, a skewbald who I took to the HK SAR 10th Anniversary Eventing Competition. Sadly, my equestrian life will end when I focus on my studies in the US for university this coming August. In the mean time, you will still see plenty of me at Tuen Mun and the local competition scene!

In loving memory of my one and only Lucky Fortune.

Francis Lo

Dates For Your Diary: Upcoming Pony Club Events

Date	Event	Venue	
March 8	Mounted Games	Tuen Mun	☺
April 26	Unmounted Games	Lei Yu Mun	☺
May 10-12	Spring Camp	Tuen Mun	☺
June 21	Water Games	tbc	--
July-Aug	Summer break	--	
Sept 13-15	Autumn Camp	tbc	--
Oct 24	The Raggerty Ball	New Haven Restaurant	☺
Nov 15	Cone Scurry & Treasure Hunt	tbc	--
Dec 13	Philip Day Memorial Cup & Bowl and Pony Club Christmas Show	tbc	--

☺: **confirmed events.** Final details of all events will be sent to you by e-mail. You can also check the up-to-date schedule on the Pony Club website.

Schools Equestrian Challenge

Just a preliminary notification about the forthcoming Schools Equestrian Challenge. We ran the "test event" for this last April and are planning something a little bigger this year.

Format: Each school will enter a team of 3 to 4 riders. The scores of the top 3 riders will count towards the team's overall score. Each rider will take part in one class of dressage (preliminary) and one class of showjumping (80-90 cm). The winning team will be the one with the highest overall score.

Horses: Suitable horses will be assigned randomly on the day. There will be no preferential treatment or reserving of particular horses.

Riders: Riders should be aged 12-16 (i.e. under 16 on August 1, 2007).

Dates: 3 or 4 teams will compete at any one meeting. The dates of the first shows are March 5, 12, and 19th, 2008 at Tuen Mun Public Riding School.

Final: The top 3 or 4 teams will go forward to the final at Happy Valley in-field on April 5th 2008.

Entry fee: \$360 per rider (This includes horse-hire and entry fee. There will be no additional fee if your team goes forward to the final.)

Prizes: The winning team will be invited to spend a week at Hartputy College, UK.

For more information contact: Dr. Simon Griffin (sgriffin@gsis.edu.hk), Equestrian School Sports Coordinator for the HKEF. Application forms and further information are available at www.hkef.org.

Instructor Top Tips

Bernd Knorr

Hong Kong Pony Club welcomes Bernd Knorr as Chief Riding Instructor and Equestrian Manager of Public Riding Stables.



How are you enjoying your time in Hong Kong?

We (Bernd and his wife Christina) are enjoying Hong Kong and spend our free time shopping in Central and Stanley. We also like to go and watch the night races in Happy Valley.

What's it like doing CIC* eventing?**

There are big fences and it requires a lot of discipline. You have to school and educate your horse for a reasonable time, and both rider and horse need confidence and experience.

What is the highlight of your career?

It is difficult to say, but some of the highlights are: 2002 winning team for Germany, for the nations prize in Germany, riding with Dirk Schrade and Hiurich Romeike; 2003 won open Swiss champions and I also was in the winning team for Germany in Italy 2004, the same year I came second in the world qualifier in Poland.

Do you think Chrischona was a once in a lifetime horse?

Chrischona was the best eventing horse I ever rode. He was a grateful horse with a big, sensitive heart, and a fighter. I learnt a lot from him.



What makes Tibbs so special and what do you think he is capable of?

Tibbs is very sensitive and smart both making him difficult to handle. He is also very ambitious. It is hard to predict what he will be able to do at the moment, he first needs to be more controlled and he needs to be more confident.

Bernd was interviewed by Kendall Kruger.



My advice to pony clubbers is to be careful in handling and riding but also be consistent. Ride and learn as much as possible, especially in lessons. Also read a good riding book from time to time.

Training News



Clive Reed Clinics

Pony Club were delighted to welcome back Clive Reed from February 12th-15th for his Jump clinics. Clive, as you all know, has agreed to be the 'in house' jumping coach for Pony Club. This is a wonderful opportunity for members to have clinics with a world-class show jumper. Clive will continue to visit us regularly to hold jump clinics: his next visit to Hong Kong is expected to take place in May or June.

Instructor Top Tips

Senior Riding Instructor, Lei Yu Mun Public Riding School

Joe Yuen

Joe had started to ride when he was about 20 (exact age unavailable) and has now become the senior riding instructor in Lei Yue Mun.

When Joe started riding, his favourite horse was a grey called Tom and he liked him because he was grey. This was all very long ago and by now, Tom has passed away.

Joe had an unforgettable event when he was riding. He hadn't been riding very long and he went to a competition riding a horse called High Speed which was also grey. High Speed had a German owner and was lent to Joe on the competition day. Joe was delighted because he had won 3rd place on his first competition!

Joe's horse now is called Elegance and the first time they met, poor Elegance had a sore back and it took Joe nine months to heal him. Nine months later, Joe finally got to ride Elegance the first time. He likes Elegance because he has a good temperament and is very competitive.

In riding shows, Joe likes to do dressage. He was brought up in Hong Kong and got his instructor's license in England. He learnt to ride in Beas River Country Club.

He loves teaching people and in his opinion, the best way to teach is to first build trust with the rider and then use skill to teach. He likes teaching children just as much as adults but in his position, he was assigned to teach adults instead, what a miss!

Joe was interviewed by Kwan Yee Ng



Joe's Top Tip
Don't be a
lazy rider!!!!



Pony Club Rallies and Tests

Congratulations to Lennard Chiang, Ming Chu Chiu, Julian Chun, Jasmine Leung, Jonathan Leung, Eva Lo and Amy Wong for passing their D Tests on 23rd December 2007, and to Camille Montagne and Ignatius Lau for passing their D+ Tests on 2nd February 2008.

Upcoming D Rally and Test

- Where:** Beas River Country Club
When: Sunday, 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th April
Time: 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
Cost: \$ 120 per rally
Provisional Test Date: 12:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Sunday 4th May (to be confirmed), at Beas River Country Club. Test fee \$150.
Spaces: Minimum no. of participants 4; maximum no. of participants 8
Please contact Canney Cheng (ponyclub@pacific.net.hk) to sign up for the rallies.

Pony Club Reporters

Philip Day Cup and Philip Day Bowl



The Philip Day Memorial Cup, over a 1m course, and the Philip Day Bowl, over an 80cm course, were held on 8th December 2008.

Hi my name is Kellina Gannon and I am eleven years old. I participated for the first time in the Philip Day Memorial Bowl. It was a first for me and a first for this Bowl competition.

Philip Day was the late husband of Vanessa Day. Vanessa was my first instructor when I started riding in Tuen Mun. She taught me a lot during those times, so therefore it was, for me, a great honour to be able to enter this competition.

The jumps were 85 to 90cm over eleven jumps. I was riding Majestic Warrior. He is not the easiest the horse to ride but I get along quite well with him. I was number twelve to jump out of fourteen riders. As I entered the arena and took my bow before the judges, I felt both excited and nervous. I wanted to do well for Vanessa, my Mum and Dad, and of course me!! This was the first time the Philip Day Bowl competition had been introduced to this annual competition. I went clear on my first round, so that took me into the jump-off against the clock. I was in the jump-off with five other Pony Club Members. This is always the hardest part, because you want to do well, but you must also keep your 'head' and not allow the clock to force you into losing. As I entered the arena for my 'jump-off' round, my heart was pounding. My Mum and Dad were in the judges' box as they were helping to organize the event. I saw my Mum smile at me, and then the bell rang. I was off. As I cleared each jump I 'willed'

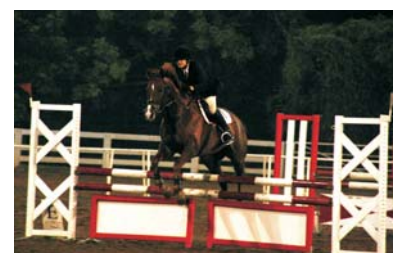


Majestic to do well. He did. I came second to Jacky Tam with only 2.34 seconds between us. Well done Jacky!!!



My thanks to the Day family. To Annie Ho, who is now my Instructor, and encourages me to take on these new challenges, 'thank you'. Thanks also to Bernd Knorr, who spent over two hours with some Pony Club members one evening before the competition helping us to prepare for it.

Last, but not least, to the Pony Club, 'thank you' for giving us the chance to take part in these sort of events. I know my Mum is the DC of Pony Club, but I do appreciate all the opportunities that we have as Pony Club members both in riding and in making lots of great friends.



Pony Club Reporters

Pony Club Christmas Show



Emma Leeds writes:
The unmounted games and cone scurry were held on Friday December 21st. There were around 20 kids there. The unmounted games were really fun; there was the sack race relay, the slalom relay, and my favourite game, the Santa dressing relay. There were 4 teams in the unmounted games, all quite even.

The Cone Scurry was also great fun; all my friends enjoyed themselves. I rode Olympic Dreamer and so did my twin sister, Alex. Dreamer went really well. My friend Elaina was there too, and she rode Charade. There were 9 cones to ride through; some of the younger kids rode with a leading rein, they also did really well too.



Pony Club Reporters

Ride and Tie



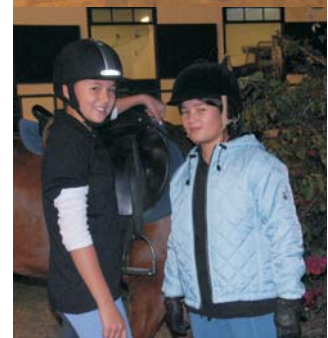
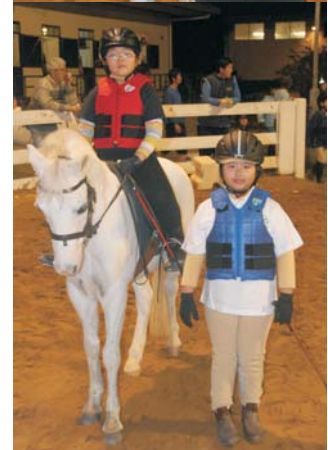
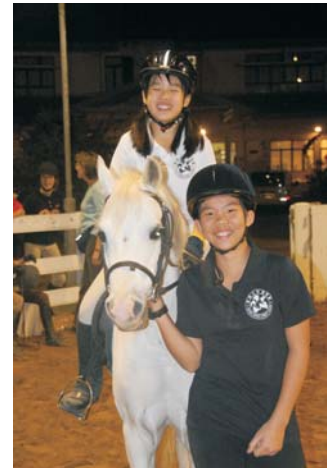
Camille Jade Montagne writes:
Ride and Tie was my first Pony Club games at Tuen Mun. It was a bit hard for me to get there - my Mum lost her way! - but it was worth it! The game was great, though hard when you were running in your riding boots! I was partner

with Alex and we had Tricky to ride. The game was easy to understand. What you had to do was have a starting order: one person on the horse and the other on foot. The two riders had to run or ride to the first check point. Once you got there you had to swap over and keep repeating that for the next few check points before the end. The time was stopped when the horse passed the finish line.

Trick was really hyper when we went around the bottom paddock; he kept on taking sharp turns, especially at the judges' box!!! At the end, the rider on foot had to run around the starting paddock. When I got there, I didn't know that, because I arrived a bit late, so I just stood there letting time go by!!! I only started running again when luckily this man said "Keep running! You are wasting time!" I did waste about 20 seconds - a bit silly, but never mind, it was still so much fun.

After everyone had a go, we all went to the clubhouse to receive our times and rosettes. We came 3rd with a pretty rosette. What made me happy was that even if you didn't come in the top 10, you still got one! That shows the good spirit of the Pony Club, and the people were all very friendly.

After the game, I realised how much stamina a horse must have to be able to gallop around the whole course. I was really tired out after all the running. I think Ride and Tie was one of the best games I ever did on horse so far. When the next game comes, I am definitely going to go, and you should too: it's GREAT!!!



Pony Club Reporters



Alex Leeds writes: The Ride and Tie was held on January 19th. It was really fun but some of the horses were spooked because we had to start in the top paddocks, then we had to run or ride all the way around the outside of the big lower paddock, and run or ride back in front of the car park into the top paddock. The way you had to do the race was there were marking points: you either started on foot or on horseback. Your team then got to the first marker and you changed so that you were riding and your partner was on foot, and so on. The ponies being ridden were Tricky, Lightning, Sai Hung, Sky and Charlie Mouse.

Camille and I were riding Tricky, and so were Sum Sze and Oi Man. Emma and Elaina were riding Lightning, and so were Mia and Linnea. I don't know who was riding Sai Hung or Sky, but the girl on Charlie Mouse went bombing off like a Hong Kong race horse! She sat on very well. She was quite young, about 8. Camille and I came in 3rd place and we had a great time.



Treasure Hunt and Cone Scurry



Kate Cunich writes: Before the Cone Scurry I felt a bit nervous because it was the first one I had ever done, but I soon got over it because I realised I was riding Chatterbox!

I had fun walking the course with my friends and learning about where I should be going on my pony. I was quite excited because it was the first time I had ever ridden in the dark. Even though I did not win a prize and I was too slow I still enjoyed the event.



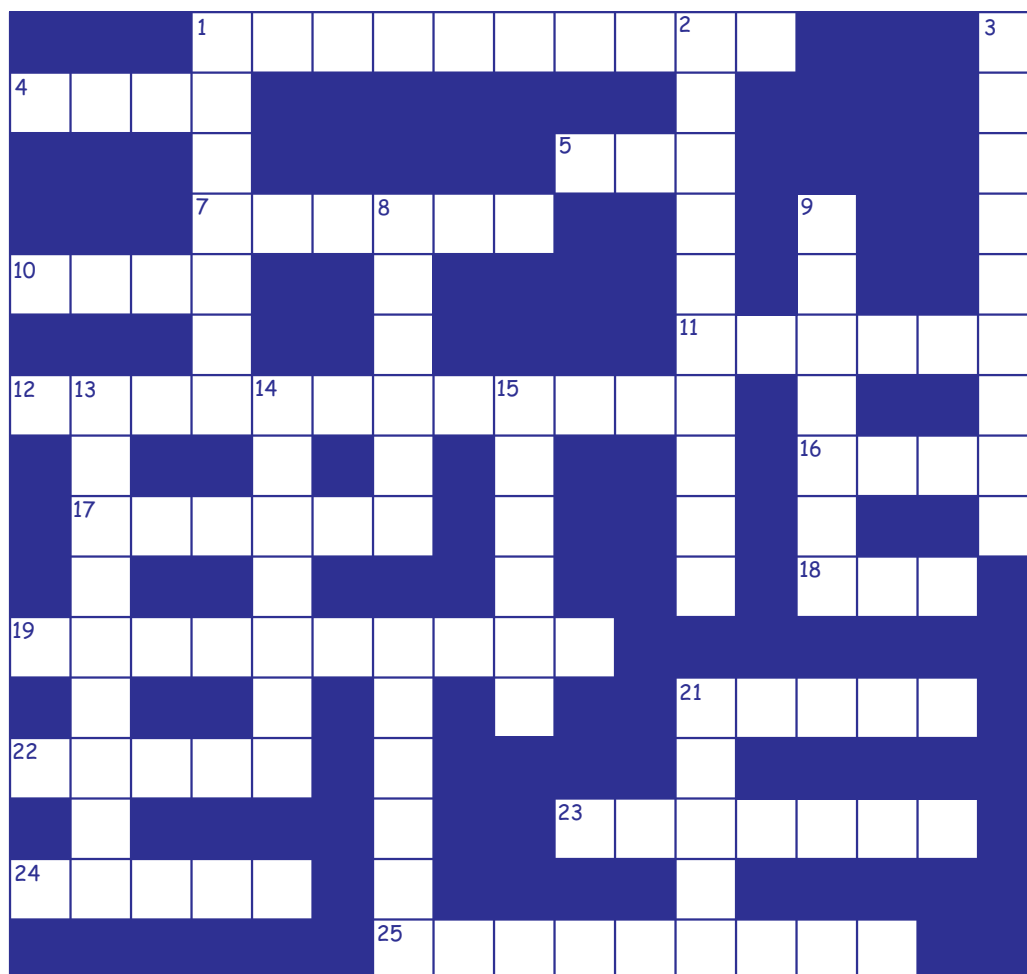
Joss Fleischer-Ballard writes: The Treasure Hunt was up the hacking trail at Pokfulam at night. I was partnered with Lisle Gannon. Our first task was to count the number of tiles on the floor. It was absolutely pitch black, so it was really hard to see the black tiles on the floor, but luckily we had brought our



torches. We continued up the trail answering clues and collecting things. By the end, we had a lot of stuff in our bag! One of the things we collected was a carrot, and we fed it to the horses when we got back. I enjoyed this event especially, as I met a couple of friends that I hadn't seen in ages, because they ride at Pokfulam and I ride at Tuen Mun.



Pony Club Crossword



CLUES

Across

1. Part of a bridle
4. A jump with 2 poles
5. A type of feed
7. Front part of saddle
10. Upright and water are types of _____
11. A horse's house
12. The breed of most racehorses
16. Part of foot at back of hoof
17. A 3-beat gait
18. A pony wears this on cold nights
19. Tack used to control carriage of the head
21. Type of bedding
22. A mount that is taller than 14.2 HH

23. Put your foot here when riding
24. Used to steer the pony
25. A French breed of heavy horse

Down

1. Tack used to stop saddle from sliding forwards
2. A Scottish breed of heavy horse
3. A very small breed of horse
8. Container used to hold feed
9. Strap for the stirrup
13. A type of bridle with no bit
14. You use your _____ leg to tell your pony to move onto a circle
15. Head-wear for horses
20. The fastest gait
21. An English breed of heavy horse

Pony Club Poem

My Greatest Pleasure in Life

My greatest pleasure in life is being around horses,
In the stables, the farriers, or on the jumping courses,
Cleaning the stalls is a matter of luck,
I just hope they are never full of muck.
For show jumping, whenever my horse really flew,
My butt would end up black and blue.



Dressage is a test of skill,
Just like getting my Dad to foot the bill.
A lot of time is spent giving my horse a groom,
Far better than having to clean up my own room.
I try hard to make my horse trot and canter,
Despite my Mum at the rail giving lots of banter.

Cross Country is what I really like,
Much more than falling off my bike.
At the end of every jumping course,
I really enjoy time spent talking with my horse
Although lots of effort is spent cleaning tack,
You can be sure that every week I will be back.

Dad says I am really hopeless at school,
For me, horse riding is far more cool.
Whatever weather, season, day or night,
Any time spent with my horse is a real delight.
No matter that the instructors resort to shouts and screams,
I am always far off jumping horses in my dreams.

My horses look forward to me bearing treats,
Apples, carrots, and if they are really good, maybe sweets.
Shoeing, tacking, grooming, washing down are all fun,
Everyone is so thoroughly wet when I am done.
If anyone's life can be made to measure,
Then for sure, horse riding is my very own treasure.



Clinton Whyte



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? Tell your fellow pony clubbers about your best and worst riding experiences. Can you design a pony-themed word search or crossword? E-mail your articles to:

newsletter@hongkongponyclub.com

and we'll include as many as we can fit in the next Newsletter.

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

ORDER FORM FOR PONY CLUB MERCHANDISE

Name: Contact tel:

E-mail: I will collect my order from:

Beas River / Lei Yu Mun / Lo Wu Saddle Club / Pokfulam / Tuen Mun Stables
(Please circle one)

I would like to order:

	colour	size	number	\$
T-shirt	red / black / white	X-small / small / medium / large / X-large	.....	.....
Sweat-shirt	red / black	X-small / small / medium / large / X-large	.....	.....
Cap	red / black	one size	.....	.....
Tie	red & yellow only	one size	.....	.....
Bag	black only	small / large	.....	.....

Please make your cheque payable to Hong Kong Pony Club Total \$.....

Cheque number: Bank: Amount:

Send your order and payment to: Hong Kong Pony Club, 45 Lung Mun Road, Tuen Mun, New Territories, Hong Kong. Your order will be delivered to the stables that you have selected within one week.

Pony Club Merchandise:

T-shirt (red/black/white)	\$ 60	Baseball cap	\$20	Bag (S)	\$ 80
Sweat shirt (red/black)	\$120	Tie	\$80	Bag (L)	\$150

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