

# Pony Club News



The Hong Kong Pony Club Newsletter, November 2007

Where is the time going? In the last Pony Club Newsletter I was wishing everyone a good summer and in this edition I will be wishing everyone greetings for the festive season!!

It has been a busy time in Pony Club. In July we sent a team of four Pony Clubbers to Lexington, USA for the 2007 IPE competition. At the end of September we had our hugely successful autumn camp, followed by four days of Clive Reed clinics that saw many of our Pony Clubbers enjoy the advice and expertise of this talented show jumper. More about these events inside.



On October 26th over 160 parents, pony clubbers, supporters and friends gathered at Shatin Jockey Club for the first ever 'Raggerty Ball'. Following the dress code 'Rags & Tails', it was an evening to remember and the first of what I hope will be an annual event. If you have not already done so, please check out the website and see for yourself.

The Pony Club are delighted to be able to work along side HKEF in supporting them through various shows at Beas River. All eleven entrants in the Children's Class in the FEI World Dressage Challenge held in mid November were Pony Clubbers. Well done to Fabienne Chiang, Alastair Chiu, Sylvia Chiu, Sara Devereux, India Fleischer-Ballard, Fu Hin Ngai, Harmony Ho, Kendal Kruger, Katy Leven, Elysia Roach and Taylor Yeung for taking part in this challenging and world-class event. Special congratulations to the winners: Taylor Yeung (1st), Kendall Kruger (2nd), Sylvia Chiu (3rd), Elysia Roach (4th) and Harmony Ho (5th).

As the year draws to a close and we get ready for the Xmas Shows and the Philip Day Memorial Bowl & Cup Challenge, it only remains for me to wish each and every one of you a festive season full of fun, laughter and happiness wherever you are.



Merry Xmas and a peaceful and healthy 2008.

**Mildred Gannon**  
**District Commissioner**

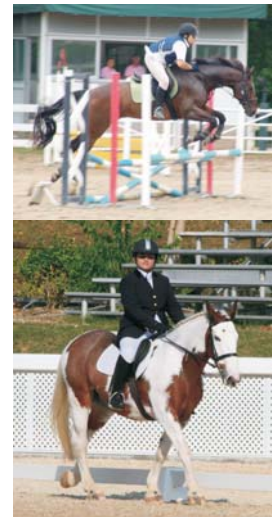
## Meet your fellow Pony Clubbers



Hi guys! I am Alastair Chiu, aged 14. I am studying in La Salle College, a local school in Kowloon. I have been riding for about 4 years in Tuen Muen Public Riding School.

My favourite horse is Janiels Domain (I call him Danny Boy), he is pretty good at jumping. I had a jumping clinic with Tim Amitrano, an Australian competitor and I jumped a couple of 1m fences with Danny Boy. At first, I was worried about whether Danny Boy can jump 1m or not. But it turns out to be he loves it. My favourite pony is Thomas. He is a REALLY REALLY good pony. He is good at dressage and he jumps over any fence that is in front of him (unless it is over 1m). I have won quite a lot of prizes with him. At cross-country, he is brilliant too, provided you have enough strength to pull him back, because he is very strong. If you are careless for one second, the next second you will find yourself galloping through the mountain.

The best thing in riding, except from knowing many brilliant friends, is that when you win or can finish a difficult course with your horse, you can really feel that joy and fulfilment in your heart. I love jumping competitions except when I am riding a crazy horse that I know I am definitely going to fall off. I am very glad that Tuen Muen Riding School gave me the opportunity to compete in the FEI International Children Dressage Challenge Test. I had learned a lot from it and from Nick. The camps held by Pony Club are excellent. I love them, although the residential camps are the best, the non-residential camps are quite good too. CAMP ROCKS!!!



## Goodbye and Good Luck Gina

As most of you know Gina Porter has returned to the UK to continue her career in the equestrian world. During her years in Hong Kong Gina gave much of her time and knowledge to Pony club, both as an Instructor and a committee member. 'Yes' there were times when she could be heard before she could be seen, but that was Gina.

Gina, we wish you well. Remember, we are only a 'click' away with our website that will keep you up to date with what we are all doing.



## Dates For Your Diary: Upcoming Pony Club Events

### Date

### Event

#### 2007 (Confirmed dates)

December 8

The Philip Day Memorial Cup and Bowl

December 21

Pony Club Christmas Show

(We apologise to any Pony Clubbers who are unable to attend on this Friday: the last-minute change-of-date was necessary due to clashes with another equestrian event and the Winter Solstice holiday on the 2 adjacent Saturdays.)

#### 2008 (Provisional dates)

January 19

Ride and Tie

February 7-10

Help Muck Out at Chinese New Year

To be confirmed

Easter Camp

April 26

Unmounted Games

May 17

Mounted Games

June 21

Water Fight

July-August

Summer Break

September 13-15

Autumn Camp

October 25

The Raggerty Ball

November 15

Cone Scurry & Treasure Hunt

December 13

The Philip Day Memorial Cup and Bowl  
& Pony Club Christmas Show

All 2008 dates and events are provisional. Please pencil these dates into your diary, and we will let you know the final details by e-mail as each event is confirmed. You can also check the up-to-date schedule on the Pony Club website.

## The Raggerty Ball 2008

The 2008 Raggerty Ball will again be held at the New Haven Restaurant, Shatin Jockey Club, on Friday 25th October.

Can you suggest a theme for the next Raggerty Ball? Can you design a Raggerty Ball poster to fit your theme? There will be a prize for the best theme and poster!

Send your suggestion for a theme and your design for a poster by e-mail to [raggertyball@hongkongponyclub.com](mailto:raggertyball@hongkongponyclub.com) before the end of February 2008.

# Instructor Top Tips

Peta Duncalf



How long have you been an instructor in Hong Kong?

Around 10 years.

Which stable do you teach at?

Mmmm... That's a hard one. POKFULAM! (ha ha ha)

How old were you when you started learning to ride?

I rode first in my mummy's tummy on a horse named Shanon. I had my first pony when I was four.

Where did you learn to ride?

Lysfaen, North Wales. My instructor was a nice lady named Rachel.

Who was your favorite pony when you were learning to ride? What colour was the pony and why did you like him especially?

I loved all my ponies but Halo my 3rd pony was my favorite. He was dark bay and 14.2 hands tall. He was a fantastic jumper. I won around 100 pounds and upgraded him from a JC pony to a JA. This is kind of like winning rider of the year in Hong Kong. I was under 16 and jumped the Junior Open (highest Junior level). Halo jumped fences that were 4'3" to 4'6". Ponies are clever and easier to jump than horses they get you out of a lot of trouble.

Who are your favorite horses in Pokfulam?

I have two favorites Peggy (New Pegasus) and Bamboo (Sunshine Bamboo). They are both Dark Bays. Peggy is around 16 hands and Bamboo is around 16'1 to 16'2 hands.

What do you think about talking to the horse when you are riding?

Talking to the horse is useful and can soothe, encourage, and scold the horse. It also helps you feel better. Talking and singing makes you breathe and helps you when you're nervous at competitions. Sometimes when I rode Peggy in dressage competitions, I quietly sang to him "Peggy lets go, Peggy move on". No one else could hear but him. It relaxed us both so we could do better.

What should you do when riding a new horse?

BE VERY CAREFUL! (Ha ha) Ask the owner or the instructor a bit about the horse. Most instructors here will tell the riders about a new horse but kids should always ask questions about a new horse or pony. If you are riding outside the owner of the horse can tell you a lot about it. It is a good idea to ride a circle where it is more easy to control the horse or pony. You can see what your horse is like.

## Peta's Top Tip:

Every pony has a very special lesson to teach you. So appreciate your pony and have lots of fun together - Even on Tonto!

Peta was interviewed by: Kieran Cheng



## Training News

### Hong Kong Pony Club Teams Up With Clive Reed

We are delighted to let you know that Clive Reed has accepted our invitation to work in partnership with Pony Club and our members as our 'In-house' Jumping Coach.

Clive comes with a wealth of equestrian knowledge and is a familiar face in Hong Kong. We are still in the process of finalizing the dates for his next visit but it should be around February/March time. Thereafter, Clive will be coming to Hong Kong approximately every 10 to 12 weeks to give jumping clinics to those who wish to 'sign up'. Pony Club will keep you informed with the details once they are confirmed.



### PONY JOKES

Q. How do you spell hungry horse with 4 letters?  
A. M.T.G.G.



### Jo Winfield

I imagine that this is a name that will not, at this stage, mean very much to many of you. Jo was Annie Ho's Instructor in England when Annie was at Hartpury College. She will be coming to Hong Kong for her first time in early January to see Annie and we are hoping to organize an evening for Pony Clubbers to meet her.

Jo was recently made a Fellow of the British Horse Society, which is no easy thing to achieve. She will give an informal talk in the lecture room at Tuen Mun about her background, her days as a Pony Clubber herself and where she is to-day as a British Eventing Coach, British Dressage Judge and Trainer as well as continuing to teach Pony Club. Date and time for this talk will be notified closer to the time.

Jo Winfield riding Scherzo at the Horse of the Year Show.



# Pony Club Reporters

## The Raggerty Ball



Rachel Chiu writes: The Raggerty Ball was fantastic. I didn't know what to expect! As soon as I got there I saw a bunch of people dressed in



beautiful clothes. They were laughing as they waited for the ball to start. A while later the actual ball began. All of us filed into the Double Haven room at the Shatin Jockey Club. We all settled down and began to order food. The room was full of happy people. Then Mildred came up and gave thanks to everyone that helped organize the Raggerty Ball. After that the food came. There were delicious shrimps with salads. Even just looking at the plate made my mouth water! My friend and I gobbled it up. After that the dancing began. The music started out slowly but a while later everybody was dancing to the disco music. I barely had time to eat the juicy steak that I had ordered! I was too busy dancing with my friends! We were dancing crazily but I never got tired. The strong disco music was keeping me awake. At last, after a lot of brilliant dancing, we all calmed down and ate our food. Then we all waited patiently for the lucky draw to begin. I didn't win anything, but that was okay because right after that we started dancing, again! We twirled, we twirled and we just had fun until 11! If you didn't go to the Raggerty Ball this year, I suggest you go next time. It'll be a night you will never forget.



## Pony Club Reporters



Hi, I'm Katie Chan! On the 26th October, I participated in the Raggerty Ball. The aim of the Ball was to collect enough money so that we could send Raggerty to Australia because he needs to retire. We had lots of fun playing and especially because we had to dress up really fancy and posh! We got to see what all the others were wearing and also won lots of prizes. There was a live band that played lots of songs and we had lots of



fun dancing. It was really good when the band played The Macarena and we all got to dance to it. We celebrated two people's birthdays that evening: Max Smith and Harmony Ho. I hope you had a great birthday, guys! Thank you to Mildred and Canney and everyone else who organised that lovely night. I hope that Raggerty will be able to return to Australia soon!



## Inter Pacific Exchange 2007!

In July this year Hong Kong Pony Club sent a team of 4 Pony Clubbers (Francis, Joyce, Ching & Jah Ying) to represent Pony Club & Hong Kong in the Inter Pacific Exchange programme, in Lexington, USA. This exchange programme, between Pony Clubs within the Pacific region, takes place every two years and is a great opportunity for Pony Club members, aged 17 to 21 years and of a 'B' standard riding to compete against other Pony Clubs in a variety of equestrian disciplines.

The Hong Kong team did Pony Club & Hong Kong proud by coming 4<sup>th</sup> place overall out of six different participating countries. Well done girls. You should be very proud of your achievements. Special thanks must go to Peta Duncalf (Coach) and Sally Cinammond (Chaperone) for all their time and support with the girls while in the US and to Pippa Hatton, Bee Chan, Tony Shea and Jennifer Lee who helped coach the team in the months leading up to the event.

...and guess who is hosting IPE 2009? **HONG KONG!**



# Pony Club Reporters

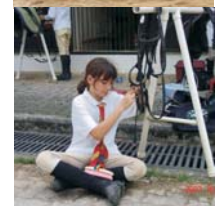
## Autumn Camp

*Katie Leven writes:* One morning, I wake up, stare at the ceiling for a few minutes, then grin and leap out of bed, promptly trip over my hungry cat, narrowly avoid falling down the stairs and start humming. Well, almost. Why am I so excited, you ask? Well! It's Pony Club Camp, and who wouldn't be?

And, indeed, Camp was fun. It involved a lot of, obviously, horses, but also a lot of laughter, serious conversation we tried, anyway - and learning. What with mucking out, grooming, tacking up, riding, cleaning the yard, long-reining, vaulting and lectures on subjects from the digestive system to the structure of the leg, it's no wonder we all ended up collapsing into bed every night!

For me, Pony Club Camp was a great success, mainly because I enjoyed it tremendously, but also because I felt I learnt a lot, and I'm sure it was all highly character building.

From the first day, which started with all of us mucking out, or tacking up and riding, to the last day, which involved both jumping with the horses and obstacle courses without the horses who seemed to be enjoying themselves watching us do the running around... - Pony Camp was a lot of fun. I'd just like to thank all those who were involved in organizing it, I know I, and I'm sure everyone who was on it, really appreciated your efforts. Thank you!! And what else can I say but... Roll on next Camp!!



# Pony Club Reporters

## Water Games



Hi, my name is Lennard Chiang and I am 10 years old. I went to the pony club water games 2007 with my friends Lisle and Joss. Many children were there from different riding schools. First we had a BBQ but we had wet ourselves already before we even had the BBQ. Finally we could go to the paddock where the water games were set up. We had to split in groups of

five people. The first race was filling a bucket with water with all sorts of things. We had to use a cup, plate, glove and balloon to transport the water to the other side of the paddock and empty it into an empty bucket. The team that had the most water in the bucket won. The second game was taking a plate with 5 cups of water on it only using one hand, while the other teams tried to hit it by throwing balls. Then we were allowed to do a water fight. After the water fight many people went to sit in the horses' drinking trough. Later everybody had a shower and changed into dry clothes. I am sure we all had fun if not I hope it was not too bad for you.

A big "Thank You" to Mildred Gannon and Canney Cheng for organising this fun event!!



# Pony Club Reporters

## Camelot Riding Resort and Country Club

Hi guys!

I'm Kwan Yee Ng, aged 9, and I've just had the best weekend ever!!!! I went to Camelot Riding Resort and Country Club with my friends Michelle, Vanessa and Charmaine (Michelle's sister). I stayed there for 2 days and 1 night. I rode a horse that didn't have a name but his number was 176. He was about 16 hands high and that is massive to a girl who is 1.4 m tall. He was very quiet and tame but he was rather slow and every time I had to kick him it was my hardest, and I seriously mean hardest, kick I could do. (You weren't allowed to use crops) Even though, he is now in my "cutest horse list"!!!



Guess what, I met the best rider China!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I have no idea why he was in Camelot but I saw him jump about 1.6m and it was just deliciously AMAZING!!! His position and control were 100% perfect in every way!!!



My coach, Philip knew 4 languages including Cantonese, Mandarin, English, and German and spoke them perfectly without any hint of accent and he was so nice!!! He taught us really well and we improved A LOT over the day. My next day I had an instructor whose name I

didn't know but he was the 2nd best rider in the Guangdong province and there are almost 70,000,000 people in that place. He also was very nice and he always asked if we were tired and if we were, he'd let us have a rest. I think it's a very good place to improve riding and if pony camp took place there, I'd be over the moon.



I think if you rode there once or twice a month, your riding would be simply incredible.

### PONY TRIVIA

It is illegal to fish from horseback in Washington D.C, Colorado, and Utah, whereas Tennessee prohibits riders from lassoing fish.

# Pony Club Quiz

## Are you and your favourite pony soulmates?

Use India's guide to find out whether you share a deep friendship with your pony. Here's how:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	

First, use the table on the left to work out the number score for your name and for your favourite pony's name.

For example: I=9, N=5, D=4, I=9, A=1:  
 $9+5+4+9+1=28$ ;  $2+8=10$ ;  $1+0=1$ .

The number score for India's name is 1

T=2, I=9, B=2, B=2, S=1:  $2+9+2+2+1=16$ ;  
 $1+6=7$ . The number score for Tibbs' name is 7.

Then cross-reference your number score with your pony's number score in the table on the right.

INDIA and TIBBS are SOULMATES!



Number score for YOUR PONY

		Number score for YOU								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	1	T	T	B	B	H	S	H	S	B
2	2	S	B	S	B	B	H	T	B	H
3	3	H	S	H	H	T	B	B	S	T
4	4	B	S	B	S	S	T	B	T	T
5	5	T	H	B	H	T	S	H	B	B
6	6	T	B	T	T	T	S	T	T	S
7	7	S	H	T	T	S	H	S	H	S
8	8	B	B	S	S	H	B	S	T	B
9	9	H	H	H	B	H	T	S	B	S

### S = SOULMATES

You and your pony are soulmates: you always seem to know what the other is thinking.

### B = BEST BUDDIES

You and your pony are best friends: you're always having a laugh together.

### H = HAPPY HACKERS

You and your pony love going on hacks together. You love matching your outfit to his numnah.

### T = TOP TEAM

You and your pony are a top team: you always seem to come home with a red rosette.

## Quick Quiz

1. What is the tallest breed of horse?

- a) Belgian                      b) Clydesdale                      c) Percheron                      d) Shire

2. What colour of horse has a white mane and tail and a golden body?

- a) Albino                      b) Chestnut                      c) Cremello                      d) Palomino

3. What is meant by a "green" horse?

- a) A horse that always lives out in a field                      b) A horse that has eaten too much grass  
c) A horse that only eats organic oats                      d) An inexperienced horse

## Rallies and Tests

D Rallies with Rebecca Bugg are currently under way at Tuen Mun PRS, and D+ Rallies with Jo Eling are under way at Pokfulam PRS.

The minimum ages to take your Pony Club Tests are shown below. If you are waiting for the opportunity to attend the rallies and to take one of your tests, please let Canney know ([ponyclub@pacific.net.hk](mailto:ponyclub@pacific.net.hk)). We will try our best to arrange rallies whenever there is enough demand for them.

Test	Minimum Age	Test	Minimum Age
D	8 years	D+	10 years
C	12 years	C+	14 years
B	15 years	A	17 years

Answers to Quick Quiz questions: 1. d, 2. d, 3. D.

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

Merchandise available from the Pony Club Office:

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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