



LOCHHILL EQUESTRIAN

CENTRE PONY CLUB

LOCHHILL, RINGFORD, BY CASTLE DOUGLAS

SPRING NEWSLETTER

Happy New 2017 to our Pony Club members, family and friends. We have a busy start planned to the year with badge work, Pony Club tests and a fundraiser already in the diary.

Keep an eye on the website and Facebook for details - and the Pony Club notice board in the office. As events approach, there will be posters up with details of the date and time and costs for each event and that's where Pony Club members should put their names down if required.

Pony Drive

We are holding a family social night to raise funds in Castle Douglas on Friday 24th February 2017 in the Parish Church Hall, Queen Street, Castle Douglas. Think Beetle Drive with a mane, tail and a country and western twist! We hope everyone will come along and support us. Each Pony Club member will be asked to sell 4 tickets (if you need more and we have availability great!). Your tickets will be £3 for adults and £2 for children and will include tea/coffee/juice and a biscuit at interval time. You might all want to wear your cowboy hats and get into the spirit of the drive!

We will also be having a cake and candy stall, raffle, tombola/bottle stall and side stalls like sweeties in the jar etc so we are looking for

- Prizes for the raffle (anything lovely you got for Christmas but just cannot use yourself?)
- Home baking for the cake and candy stall (we have some fantastic bakers)
- Suitable prizes for the bottle/tombola stall for a range of ages

But most of all, we just want everyone to come along and have some fun! The Pony Club

members will be assisting in running the evening. We are happy to accept any donations at Lochhill from now on. Funds raised will go into the Pony Club account for equipment and other costs and towards our trip and other events this year (a number of possibilities under discussion but feel free to make any suggestions)

FURTHER INFORMATION TO COME!!

Spring Jumping league

We kick off our Spring league on Friday 14th April 2017 at 6pm for six weeks (we have the Autumn league starting for six weeks on Friday 18th August 2017 with the 2017 prize giving on Friday 22nd September 2017). To explain to new members, this is an open event but Lochhill ponies and horses are available to hire - we run classes from lead rein to 80/90cm if required and it's a great chance to start competing but on home ground with a huge amount of support and encouragement available. The Pony Club runs the tea stall and we look for volunteers to help with the stall itself and to provide baking to sell (that's how I know we have some great bakers out there!). Everyone is asked to take their turn and it's good fun. Can we suggest new members come along and watch for a week or two and decide when they want to take part? Becky provides catering at these events so you can even have your tea with us!

Helen's been able to keep the class entry fees for the league the same for several years now but like everything else, costs have increased particularly for the rosettes (which are nice ones to have and keep) so this year, entry per class if hiring a pony will be £11 and if not hiring, £8 payable on the night. No need to book in advance but if you are coming along and hiring, mention it to Helen so she has the right ponies and horses available.

Pony Club tests

Scheduled for the February break - Tuesday 14th February 2017 - Helen will organise who is doing what and we have the well qualified and respected Justine Hunter coming to do the assessments. Study and practice hard everyone!

Easter events

The last Saturday afternoon Pony Club session will be 18th March 2017 but we have plans for Easter activities on Saturday 1st April 2017 between 2pm and 4pm. There will be an Easter egg hunt, Pony Club mounted games and a Chase-Me-Charlie. Please add your name to the list in the office in due course if you wish to take part.

In addition, there will be two fun days for Pony Club members during the school Easter holidays - on Thursday 6th April and Thursday 13th April. Details of times and costs will be up in the office so again add your name if you wish to take part. There are all sorts of activities planned and it's always a busy but enjoyable day.

Lochhill Equestrian Centre Working Hunter competition

Provisionally scheduled for Sunday 30th April 2017. Again, this is an open event but a chance to try a different sort of pony activity on home ground where Helen, staff and others will be available to help. Judged by experienced and knowledgeable outsiders, the WH competition is a fairly recent addition to our calendar of events but we've received some very positive feedback.

Any Pony Club member who wishes to compete will be able to hire a horse or a pony provided he or she meets the required standard and Helen can advise re classes and costs. Although assistance is provided, it's a chance for Pony Club members to prepare their hired pony or horse for competition - grooming, cleaning tack etc and competitors are expected to be properly turned out themselves (yes, we'll help!) It's designed to be a good introduction to WH events but its run on a proper show footing - but hopefully without all the stress!

Other events

The ride outs and Riding of the Marches season will be on us shortly - if you have any interest in any of these events, Helen can advise. Lochhill ponies and horses are very experienced and are available for hire but are booked up quickly so speak to Helen asap.

We are also looking at the possibility of organising an event with other local Pony Club like a games afternoon or gymkhana. We'll let you know how we get on.

Lochhill Pony Club members also support other local events such as the summer agricultural shows, other horse shows and events and team jumping competitions for example - again ponies and horses will be available to hire if you are interested - have a look at the website and FB for last year's successes but speak to Helen for advice.

Pony Club Camp

The legendary Lochhill Pony Club Camp.....provisionally, two nights starting Sunday 9th July 2017 for Pony Club members 10 years old and over. We sleep over in the indoor school (well, the kids don't!.....) and each camper has their own dedicated horse or pony for the entire camp. We've done all sorts of activities ranging from cross country training to horse rugby to team games, visits to Cream O'Galloway and the Galloway Activity centre, banana boating on Loch Ken....dog agility, BBQs, camp fire, Lochhill's Got Talent, our own swimming pool, treasure hunts, rounders, assault courses.....you name it we've done it!! And it's all catered to a healthy and high standard.

Further details shortly but if you are sending a young person to camp, some adult support will be required in return - and the very least we promise is fun for all!! A deposit will be required to secure a place and again, the camp gets booked up quickly.

There will be other events throughout the year including day camps in the summer holidays for those Pony Club members not old enough to come to camp where age suitable similar activities are on offer.

It's going to be a busy one!!

The Pony Club committee