



COR BITS

Feedback is Welcome ... Please send comments or suggestions to [Bob Inglis](#),
COR Communications Chair.

June, 2004

Mid-Season Review

It may not be quite mid-season, but the Pony Club competition year is well underway. Quiz is over for another year, the first show jumping and dressage qualifiers are behind us, both halves of working rally are done, and as I write this I am warming up my tonsils to announce at the second PPG meet. Tetrathlon and the competitive rallies are still to come, but it seems to me a good time for all the active members to take stock of how the season is going so far. In particular, you should review with your instructor your progress towards whatever aims the two of you set for yourself for this season. You did set some goals, didn't you? If not, you can't review them, but you can decide with the benefit of 20:20 hindsight what looks realistic for you this year. Those of you who did set objectives, you can use that 20:20 hindsight to decide whether they were realistic in the first place. Maybe they are still okay, or maybe they need a little adjustment. Maybe you should be a bit less ambitious, or a bit more. You are the only ones who can decide that.

Youth Reps - Use it or Lose it

Some of you may not have noticed that our new COR Rules and Regulations have made one Youth Rep from each Branch a member of the Regional Committee, and those 18 or older are now voting members. Of course, it is now more than a year since the Canadian Pony Club By-Laws required all Branch Executives to include at least one Active Member - that's you youth guys. The idea was to give Branch Youth Reps a say in how the Region is being run, to make sure that the Active Members were really well represented on the Regional Committee.

But there is a hitch.

When we submitted our Regional Rules & Regulations to the Canadian Pony Club Governance Committee, its members insisted that we must have at least 25% of the voting members at any meeting of our Regional Committee, before it would have a legal quorum. And the inclusion of the Branch Youth Reps made the number of our Regional Committee's voting members much more than it used to be. How much larger we don't really know, since most Branches have not told us how old their Youth Reps are, and only those 18 or older are voting members, remember.

But our last try at having a Regional Committee Meeting failed, because we did not have a quorum, no matter how few Youth Reps are voting members.

As a matter of fact, since we decided at the Annual General Meeting last November to make Branch Youth Reps voting members, I can't remember seeing even one Branch Youth Rep at any of the Regional Committee meetings held this year.

So now the Regional Executive is seriously considering proposing an amendment to the Rules & Regulations, taking away the voting status of Branch Youth Reps, so we have a chance of getting quorums (quora?) at our meetings. If that's not enough, we may have to make Branch ADCs non-voting members as well.

So, as we said in the headline, it's "Use it or lose it." Let's see how many of you we get out to the meeting in September.

Remember, though, only one Youth Rep can sit on the Regional Committee from each Branch. If your Branch happens to have more than one Youth Rep on its Branch Executive, you must find some way to decide which of them has a seat on the Regional Committee. A vote among the Active Members is probably better than a jump-off, to make this decision.

Bad Things Come in Threes

Three Deaths in the Pony Club Family

We do not often have to write about death in a Pony Club newsletter. It is all the more painful, therefore, to have to report no fewer than three deaths in the Pony Club family, one of them an Active Member.

Breanna Matthews, a 12 year old member of the Victoria Pony Club, was killed in a car accident February 27, on her way home from her riding lesson. This young lady loved her Pony Club activities so much that her Mom asked permission to have Breanna buried in her Victoria uniform - a request proudly but sadly approved by her DC. The Region has already expressed its condolences, and made a donation in Breanna's name to an equine rescue organization.

On April 9, not long after Quiz, our Quiz Chair, Catherine Barker (nee Burke), lost her Dad. Mr. Burke was an active sportsman, and at one time headed the Canadian Field Hockey Association. And he was a Member of the British Empire. Who knew? Our condolences go out to Catherine and her Mom, Carol, a long-time member of the Regional Committee and my predecessor as Communications Chair.

Most recently, John McIninch died in a car crash on May 14. Most of you won't know John, but he became the President of the Eglinton Equestrian Club a year or two after my daughter Stephanie joined the Eglinton Pony Club in 1983, and his wife, Michelle Leroux, was my predecessor as District Commissioner of Eglinton, back in the late 1980s. Both their daughters were active Pony Club members, and John was a great supporter of Pony Club. In his time as President, anybody joining the Eglinton Equestrian Club at 21 or younger was automatically enrolled in the Eglinton Pony Club, with the Equestrian Club taking care of the head fees.

All three will be greatly missed.

And I hope I never have to write another item like this for CORBITS.