



COR BITS

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

March, 2003

What we Learned in Pony Club this Year

This list was contributed by Jenn Irwin and Kate Evans, graduating members of the Maple Pony Club.

Jenn and Kate had a fabulous show season. Just to prove that it is possible for an experience to be both entertaining and educational, we've compiled a list of ten things we learned this year during Pony Club events.

1. DQs can jump. Not too badly, either. (NB "DQ" = Dressage Queen)
2. Pony Club gives the best prizes. Where else can you win a huge sack of grain? Or a gold-plated pitchfork, for that matter?
3. We're not the only trivia dorks! If we were alone, they wouldn't organize Quiz just for Us!
4. Being on a team rocks. It's all about the jackets with your name on them. (Okay, okay, and the teamwork, camaraderie, etc...)
5. Pony Club provides ample opportunity to be photographed at your best. If you're riding, they catch you when your horse is behaving horribly. If you're on the ground, you're probably wearing a pinny and/or a yellow rain poncho. These pictures will inevitably surface again in the future. Probably at your wedding.
6. You get the best travel opportunities in Pony Club. Like event barns north of Barrie at five in the morning on your birthday. Or Winnipeg. In October.
7. Pony Club is a small, small world. Nearly run someone over and they'll inevitably turn up again. Possibly as a Quiz chaperone.
8. You have lots of unforeseen opportunities to get to know your fellow Pony Clubbers. These occur during the long drives to horse shows, while waiting for the rain to stop, or while waiting for horses to load in the trailer.
9. Pony Club judges are closet poets, using alliterations to describe your performance. Difficult, disunited and disobedient just rolls right off your tongue, doesn't it?
10. Pony Club events always take place in the middle of nowhere. When looking for a Pony Club event, find the only dirt road for miles and turn left. It'll be the second unmarked barn on the right hand side, approximately 11 kilometres from where your directions said it would be. If you see hundreds of moms with horse trailers gingerly trying to back up

without running over small ponies, small dogs or small children, you're probably in the right place.

A Testing Time

The snow is going , the birds are singing, and before you know it the Testing Season will be upon us.

This is just a reminder to let Gwen Barnes, our Testing Chair, know when your Branch plans to test, and how many members are going to be tested at each level. That does several good things.

First ,it lets you "double up" with nearby Branches if each of you has one or two kids who want to go for their C2 level, for example. That is more efficient and saves both Branches some money.

Second, it lets Gwen arrange for aspiring testers to get their assists. This is really vital if we want to keep a healthy pool of testers available for future kids.

Third, did we mention it could save your Branch money?

New Rules

The National Disciplines Conference held last February in Winnipeg led to rule changes in nearly every aspect of our sport.

Dressage in particular has changed to an entirely different set of levels and tests from what we have been using; this reflects Dressage Canada's decision to adopt the U.S. system. There are still some Pony-Club-only tests at the lowest levels, as there always have been, but everything from what used to be Basic on up is all changed.

PPG has a new rulebook that runs to over 60 pages. That sounds formidable until you know that the rulebook has been reorganized on a one page per game basis, complete with helpful diagrams. Still, the change in format is not the only thing that changed, and PPG players will have to adapt to some new rules as well.

Show Jumping is adding a medal class to both qualifiers and Zones.

Tetrathlon has new rules as well.

All of these are just proposals for now, until confirmed at the Annual General Meeting in a couple of weeks. There may still be some changes to the changes, so to speak.

Once the new rules are confirmed, they will be available for downloading from the CPC website (national rules) and the COR section (regional rules).

Remember, it is the responsibility of the competitor to know and abide by the rules in whatever discipline he or she enters.

Kids, you've got some studying to do.

One rule that will NOT be changed is this one, taken from the home page of the CPC website:

"Effective January 1, 2003, Equine Canada requires Junior competitors to wear proper fitting, approved protective headgear, with the safety harness correctly secured, at all times while mounted on competition or event grounds. Approved headgear meets the ASTM (American Society for Testing Materials) standards and displays the SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) seal. The British standard, BSI, is also acceptable.

The Canadian Pony Club requires EVERYONE at any Pony Club activity including branch meetings and lessons to wear an ASTM/SEI approved helmet at all times while mounted. This applies to everyone, not just juniors. NO EXCEPTIONS!"

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