

BENONI PONY CLUB



NEWSLETTER #42 – OCTOBER 2009

Hi Pony Clubbers,

PAST EVENTS :

Unmounted Fun Day Rally (20th September)

Our Squadron Leaders managed to put together a wonderful selection of games and obstacles courses, which were clearly a big hit with our members!!

Ostler's Inn was a perfect venue, providing ample space for all the excitement.

Events included a maze (which members had to manoeuvre themselves through, whilst tied to a team member – and being blindfolded!), an obstacle course where members had to retrieve a piece of a bridle which was assembled once all pieces were retrieved, and finally a treasure hunt – where members had to find all the letters spelling “PONY CLUB”. An additional last-minute game of egg throw-and-catch proved very entertaining and a bit “yukky” for some who got bombarded with raw egg!! (Don't worry girls – its supposed to be good for your hair!!!!)

This rally welcomed some of our very new members who have joined Pony Club for the new year. We hope that you all had a great time and met new friends and fellow members!

Well Done to the Squadron Leaders, for a job well done! This rally turned out to be such fun that we will definitely be organising more like it in the future.

Seminar by Nikki Herbert

Members of the Committee recently attended a seminar presented by Nikki Herbert (the Director of Training for the UK Pony Club, a BHS1 instructor and former Eventer).

Nikki travelled all over the country to promote Pony Club, inspiring its committees and training them to make the branches even more awesome for its members. The seminar proved very informative and the Committee has come back with lots of inspiration and ideas to make our club even more beneficial to you, our valued members!

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Annual AGM and Prize Giving (10th October)

Turnout by our members was a little disappointing this year. However, the afternoon was enjoyed by all those who attended. The venue at Old Ben's was wonderful, providing much more parking and outdoor space than previous venues. The majority stayed for the braai afterwards, which proved to be an ideal opportunity to meet other parents and members, in a relaxed atmosphere. Our members gathered for a friendly match of soccer – and the little ones had a ball on the playground equipment!!!

At the AGM, Parents and Members were given a report-back on the activities held for the year, by our D.C. and a Financial Report was presented by our Treasurer. (You were all e-mailed the Minutes of this meeting, with copies of both reports, for you to read at your leisure.)

Congratulations to every single Member of Benoni Branch for your commitment to Pony Club! Everyone received a medal for their Squadron Placings, and our "little" members each received a rosette for their Enthusiasm. Well Done to those members who received individual awards / trophies. (Names were published in the Minutes of the AGM which were mailed to you. If you did not receive your copy, please feel free to ask and I will send it to you again.)

The final placings for Squadrons were as follows ...

1 st Place	Arabs !!
2 nd Place	Welsh
3 rd Place	Lipizzaner
4 th Place	Thoroughbreds

COMING UP ... :

Games Practices :

Teams have been finalised. Those participating in the event have already had quite a few practices!

The 10 and Under team is being managed by Gideon, and you will be contacted by Gideon to arrange your own practice days.

As for the Children's and Junior's teams, please take note that we will be having practice –

DATE: Saturday, 24th October 2009
TIME: 8:30am
VENUE: Double TT Stables

Those who are in the team are to ensure that they attend, as there are new games this year, which you will need to familiarise yourself with!!! It is not essential that you bring your pony if you are unable to, but you need to come along in jods and riding gear so that you can at least learn the new games.

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Another practice session is *provisionally* scheduled for

DATE: Wednesday or Thursday, 28th / 29th October
TIME: (afternoon)
VENUE: Double TT Stables

(Please let us know which day suits most of you so that we can confirm!!!)

Annual Mounted Games

DATE: 1st November 2009
TIME: t.b.a.
VENUE: Randjiesfontein
DRESS: Beige Jods and Pony Club shirt / jacket, riding boots and helmet

As stated above, teams have been finalised. However, we extend a sincere invitation to all our members to try and come along to support our teams!!! We need you there to scream for your team, and make Benoni Branch very visible – we want to win the “Spirit Trophy” again this year!!!

Our older members will all agree, it is an extremely exciting and fun event – even if you are just a spectator - and a day not to be missed. It will definitely have you excited to enter in the next Annual Mounted Games event! So bring along your smiles, cheers and shakers – we hope to see you there!!

GENERAL / OTHER :

Our new Pony Club year has now officially started. Members who did not fill in or hand in their new Membership Forms at the AGM, must please do so urgently. Annual Fees remain at R200 per member. (Family discounts also in place!) Forms have been attached should you not have one yet. You can e-mail the forms to us, or hand them in personally, together with your payments or proof of transfer. The sooner this can be sorted, the sooner we can place our members in their Squadrons!!

As mentioned in our previous Newsletter, the Committee have already put a few plans in place for rallies in the New Year.

We will be taking a well-deserved break in December !!!!!
(Members will also be away on holidays and some of our mounts will be in Horse Sickness too)

Specific dates cannot as yet be reserved, as we will need to receive updates from The Gauteng Horse Society and the SANEF Schools League organisations, for their show schedules for 2010. We do not want to have Pony Club rallies clash with shows as many of our members are competitive riders and need to attend these shows!

However, when we are all settled and back at school, the following rallies will be held :-
(Please bear in mind these dates will be confirmed later!)

January 2010 –

- 23rd January
Annual Mounted Fun Day / Jumpkhana at Double TT Stables (Fairleads)
- Tuition for the “Care of the Horses Foot” Achievement Badge (as well as “Mini” badge)

February 2010 –

- A Mounted rally at Banbury Stables (Leopard Rd, Zesfontein)
- Visit to the Metro Mounted Police Unit (Meerkat Str, Zesfontein)

Thank you to all those who submitted their Nomination Forms for Squadron Leaders. This year, due to the fact that we had so many worthy nominees put forward, the Committee have decided to also elect Vice Leaders to assist the Leaders and lighten their load!

We are pleased to announce your Squadron Leaders for 2010 !

WELSH	Captain: Brittany Taylor	Vice: Lauren Merber
THOROUGHBRED	Captain: Stacey Ireland	Vice: Natasha Kemp
ARAB	Captain: Chelsea Taylor	Vice: Lome Steenkamp
LIPIZZANER	Captain: Gareth Ireland	Vice: Jade Williamson

Congratulations to MONIQUE HARPIN, who has been elected Head Girl for 2010 !!!

Your Leaders will be SMSing you reminders for rallies, and are there to assist you where needed at all rallies. They in turn will be assisted by the Head Girl.

As soon as we have ALL our completed membership forms in, we will draw members for each Squadron and let you know which Squadron you are in for 2010.

A big Thank You to Chimone Scott, our outgoing Head Girl for 2009. Chimone is a university student who, despite having an understandably hectic schedule, did her best to attend rallies throughout the year where she could! Thank you Chimone – we wish you every success in your future studies!!

NEW MEMBERS :

A very big, warm welcome to our newest members :-

- Chanel Jordaan
- Mykayla Pearce
- Melissa Jones
- Melanie Jones (Friend of Pony Club)
- Karen Black (Friend of Pony Club)
- Salomie Schultz (Friend of Pony Club)

We trust that you will have lots of fun and learn a great deal at Pony Club!!

BIRTHDAY WISHES :

The following member(s) will be celebrating their birthdays soon...

- Monique Harpin (29th October)
- Lome Steenkamp (1st November)
- Karen Black (12th November)
- Mykayla Pearce (18th November)

On behalf of all of us at Benoni Pony Club, we wish you a very Happy Birthday, and may you have many more !!

Happy Riding

**BENONI BRANCH OF PONY CLUB
COMMITTEE**

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Alison (084 555 310 7)
Sunette Steenkamp

Dates to diarise :

24-10-09	Games Practice (teams)	Double TT	8:30am.
28 th / 29 th Oct	Games Practice (teams)	Double TT	tba (afternoon)
01-11-09	Annual Mounted Games	Randjiesfontein	t.b.a (early!)
23-01-2010	Annual Mtd Fun Day	Double TT	t.b.a.
January 2010	Badge Tuition	t.b.a.	t.b.a.
February 2010	Mounted Rally	Banbury	t.b.a
February 2010	Visit Mtd Police Unit	Meerkat Str.	t.b.a.