

# BENONI PONY CLUB



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NEWSLETTER #50 – AUGUST 2010

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Hi Pony Clubbers,

Well, Pony Club noticeably took a ‘back seat’ during the past holiday (and soccer season!), but it looks like we’re well up and running again this month!!!

## PAST EVENTS :

### **Highveld Horse Care Unit visit**

On Saturday morning, 24<sup>th</sup> July, Benoni Pony Club visited the HHCU in Meyerton. Thank you for the wonderful turnout by members and parents.

We all had quite a shock when we arrived and were put to work, but everyone buckled down with smiles on their faces!! Members cleared manure from paddocks, sorted out the 2<sup>nd</sup> hand tack shop, washed horse boxes, cleaned out their medical room, and washed feed buckets. Thank you to all of you for your hard work. Our sincere apologies that we didn’t warn you to wear gum boots and overalls, but our last visit was just a tour – so that’s what we were expecting!!!

When all the jobs were done, we were finally given a tour of the facility and a run-down on all the present horses/donkeys in their care. All the animals appreciated and enjoyed their carrots eagerly dealt out by the members!

Notwithstanding some “shocking” events (ha ha ha!!), we were also sent running out of a huge field by two over-zealous thoroughbreds, who couldn’t get enough carrots!

On this note, some exciting news .....

All of us who were dreaming of owning that magnificent liver chestnut in the field – Monique Harpin beat us to it!!! Congratulations Monique, you now have another beautiful youngster to bring on and show off! May the two of you have many, many wonderful years ahead together.

*A special thank you to James Lloyd, who kindly donated the use of his bus and diesel costs, to transport our members to the HHCU.*

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## COMING UP ... :

### Proficiency Testing

DATE: Saturday, 07<sup>th</sup> August 2010  
TIME : 09 :30am  
VENUE : Kingsdale Equestrian Centre (Holding Rd)  
DRESS : Full inspection attire

(Members were sent urgent emails on Tuesday regarding the date)  
Our apologies for the short notice.

Only those who have notified us that they will be attending will be allowed to take their tests.

Please ensure you are there early enough to have yourself and your horse ready for inspection at 9:30!  
Full Inspection is done, so mounts are required to be well groomed and suitably turned out also!  
Bring your hoofpick, hanky and halter. You should be wearing Beige jhods, blazer, tie and pony club tie & metal badge on the blazer.

Remember to bring along your test payment on Saturday morning! (No payment – no testing will be done)

E-Test (R20)    D Prelim (R25)    D Advanced (R50)

### Evening Rally

DATE: Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2010  
TIME : 6 :30 for 7:00pm  
VENUE : Plot 273 Barbet Rd, Rynfield Agricultural Holdings, Benoni.  
(Just near the Linmed Hospital, parallel to Uys Rd !!)  
DRESS : Casual

This is an official Rally. Please join us to watch the new DVD issued by Pony Club, providing vital instruction towards your Riding and Road Safety Achievement Badge. (Members must attend if they wish to do this badge, which we will be testing shortly !)

A short tuck-shop break will be given afterwards. The Committee will also be selling hot dogs / burgers and milo (which went down well at a previous rally !).

Following this, we will be showing some « Horse Funnies » DVD's – something I'm sure we will all relate to from our riding experience / misfortunes – and have some good laughs.  
The evening should end at around 9 :00pm

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### **Fun Rally (Unmounted)**

DATE: 19<sup>th</sup> September 2010  
TIME : 09 :00am – 12 :00  
VENUE : to be advised  
DRESS : Casual

Our Squadron Leaders will be putting together another Fun morning of activities for our members ! Their previous years' rally at Ostler's Inn proved a big success, with obstacle courses, treasure hunts, egg races, etc.. !!

We don't have any clue what they will have in store of you, but you can bet its gonna be fun – so make sure you diarise this date ! (Note : this date is provisional. If there is any change, you will be notified.)

### **Other**

- (a) We are still planning to book testing for those who want to do the (big) Farming Badge, Poisonous Plants, and SA Flowers & Trees badge. However, some of our members are in the middle of exams currently, so we will be looking at perhaps the end of August. You will be notified when dates are set.
- (b) A date has been set for the Knots badge, and Stargazing badge. **(03<sup>rd</sup> September 2010)** If you would like to do these non-equine related Achievement Badges, please let Justine know. The venue is yet to be advised. Tuition and testing will most likely be done simultaneously.
- (c) We are in the process of arranging a rally / demonstration on Natural Horsemanship, which may include tuition for the (big) Equine Behaviour Badge. Watch out for updates in your next Newsletter!
- (d) The annual Pony Club Mounted Games is scheduled for sometime near the end of October. In order to prepare for this event and select teams to represent Benoni Branch, we would like to arrange some games practices during the September/October school holidays (whenever and wherever we can!). So if you would like to compete in the Games this year, please make note of any practice dates that will be emailed to you when they have been set.

### **Annual Prize Giving & AGM**

DATE: Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2010  
TIME : 11 :00am  
VENUE : to be advised  
DRESS : Casual

We have provisionally set aside this date for our annual Prize Giving and AGM, and are hoping to secure Old Bens Sports Ground as the venue again.

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As last years event turned out so well there, we will be planning to do the same again this year. Parents and members are encouraged to stay after the official event, to socialise and join in a bring-and-braai. The kids all ended up playing soccer on the fields, so this year we will be organising an official "Squadrons Soccer Challenge" !!! Details will be provided closer to the date.

### GENERAL :

The SANEF Schools League qualifying rounds are now over, and we eagerly await the announcement of Teams for Ekurhuleni Region! Congratulations to all our members who took part in this league, and we wish all those who make the Finals, Good Luck for September!

Justine (being a showing judge), would like to remind all our members who take part in competition, to be aware of the new SANEF ruling regarding Showjumping.....

A rider may be eliminated (and face disciplinary action) if they make excessive use of crops!

You are allowed no more than 3 smacks per single disobedience at a fence. It is also not permissible to smack your horse after being eliminated.

A number of riders have gotten in to hot water for NOT adhering to this new rule, so please make sure you are aware of it – we would hate a Pony Clubber to be found guilty of this !!!!

Our Pony Club year ends off just prior to our Prizegiving. As is custom, the Committee is elected for the new year. We extend an invitation to any interested parents who would like to offer their time on the Committee, to please notify us.

### BIRTHDAY WISHES :

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

- Cyngen Black (30<sup>th</sup> August)

On behalf of all of us at Benoni Pony Club, our best wishes for a very Happy Birthday, and may you have many more !!

***Happy Riding***

### **BENONI BRANCH OF PONY CLUB COMMITTEE**

Justine ( 084 583 6487) [jharpin@tis-sa.com](mailto:jharpin@tis-sa.com)

Mrs T. (082 453 423 5) [rtremainem@mweb.co.za](mailto:rtremainem@mweb.co.za)

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Sunette Steenkamp

**Dates to diarise :**

07-08-2010	Proficiency Tests	Kingsdale	09:30am
27-08-2010	Evening Fun Rally	273 Barbet Rd.	7:00pm
03-09-2010	Knots and Stars badge	t.b.a.	t.b.a.
19-09-2010	Unmounted Fun Rally	t.b.a.	09:00am
23-26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<b>Schools League Nationals</b>	<b>KEP</b>	-
Sept/Oct	Games Practices!!	T.b.a.	t.b.a.
10-10-2010	Annual Prizegiving/AGM	t.b.a.	11:00am
October (end)	Annual Mounted Games	t.b.a.	t.b.a.

**Dont forget our Benoni Pony Club profile on FACEBOOK,  
and the Gauteng/Limpopo Pony Club Website on  
[www.ponyclubgauteng.co.za](http://www.ponyclubgauteng.co.za)**

**OBITUARY**

**ON THE 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2010 OUR WONDERFUL RATTLES PASSED AWAY. WHAT A LIFE HE HAD LIVED. HE LIVED UP TO HIS NAME, HE WAS BRILLIANT WITH YOUNG RIDERS LEARNING TO RIDE. HE GAVE THEM SO MUCH CONFIDENCE. HE HAS BEEN GOING TO PONY CLUB FOR YEARS AND HAS PARTICIPATED IN MANY INTER BRANCH COMPETITIONS AND INTER BRANCH GAMES. HE WAS JUST THE SWEETEST PONY AND WOULD PICK UP SPEED AT FEED TIME TO BE THE FIRST TO THE STABLE TO GET HIS FOOD. HE WAS MONIQUE'S FIRST PONY AND ENSURED THAT SHE HAD THE GROUNDING THAT SHE NEEDED TO GET HER TO WHERE SHE IS TODAY.**



**RATTLES WILL BE REALLY MISSED BY US, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN!**

*On behalf of all of us at Benoni Branch of Pony Club, we extend our sincere Condolences to Monique and Justine Harpin, on the sudden passing of their beloved pony, Rattles.*