

To All Cambs Hunt PC Members and Supporters,

As part of an ongoing review of working practices within the Cambridgeshire Hunt Branch of the Pony Club, I have been tasked with recommending how we should better incorporate Pony Club badges into our working rallies. Horsemanship awards are an area where we are currently weak and in order that all of our members are engaged in a rewarding and fulfilling programme of horsemanship learning, it is really important that we address this issue with immediate effect.

Learning how to care for a horse or pony responsibly, whilst striving to achieve a high standard of riding, underpins the ethos of the Pony Club as it stands today.

The aim of this document is to set out how best to achieve these aims, looking specifically at the following areas:

- Standards of Efficiency tests
- Pony Club Achievement badges

I am sure you are aware that the Standards of Efficiency tests are graded A to E, the E test being aimed at the youngest, least experienced members, progressing to the highest possible level - the A test.

The Pony Club badge system is designed to act as a teaching tool to facilitate learning of the Standards of Efficiency tests.

Mini badges are aimed at E and D Standard of Efficiency and Pony Club Achievement Badges are aimed at D+ and C Standard of Efficiency.

We shall introduce a rolling programme of badge teaching and testing throughout all our future Working Rallies.

It is not mandatory that all of the badges (less Riding and Road Safety) are attained prior to attempting Standards of Efficiency tests. However, by exposing the members to the knowledge base in this way, it is hoped that the transition to the Standards of Efficiency tests will become naturally progressive and more achievable.

Regardless of previous knowledge and experience, the programme intends to serve as a useful reminder for everybody. The programme will be tailored to match all ability groups.

It is our ultimate aim that our members will achieve the correct Standard of Efficiency to match their ability.

The measure of our success will be in the years to come.

## **Riding and Road Safety**

Riding and Road safety programmes also need to be updated.

There are now a series of progressive Road Safety tests as follows:

- The Pony Club Road Rider Mini Achievement Badge (E/D Test)
- The Pony Club Road Rider Achievement Badge (D+/C Test). Members must attain this level before going on to take their C Test. A minimum of five one hour long sessions is recommended before attempting this achievement badge.
- The Road Rider Test (C+/B Test). Members must attain this level before going on to take their B Test.

We have decided that in order to avoid the rather onerous task of attending five one hour long lessons, we will now split Riding and Road Safety into smaller more manageable periods of around 15 to 20mins at the beginning of each and every Working Rally. This will form part of the ongoing and progressive accumulation of knowledge throughout a member's time in the Pony Club.

The programme below is an example of how a Working Rally may run. The format of each rally will depend upon numbers attending, their levels of attainment and the subject matter to be covered. For a typical day, the breakdown and duration of subjects is outlined below:

15 – 20 mins	1 hr 45 mins	1 hr 30 mins	1 hr
Riding and Road Safety.	Mounted – instruction in riding	Mounted / Un-mounted – instruction in horsemanship knowledge.	Badge Testing.

As outlined, one hour at the end of a Working Rally will be provided for testing badge knowledge. Current practice is that the majority of badges are not tested on the same day following instruction.

Each Rally booking form contains further instruction regarding this.

In summary, this guidance seeks to benefit all members and give some structure to an important and currently absent practice within the club.

This document ultimately aims to improve the horsemanship and horsemastership of our members and provide an environment where learning is encouraged, fun and rewarding.

I look forward to your support.

Emily Casey

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