



media release

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PONY CLUB MEMBERS WIN PONY POWER PRIZES Three Pony Club Branches and Centres benefit from Pony Power raffle

Pony Club members from across the UK have won some incredible prizes in the Pony Power raffle!

The Pony Power raffle gave Pony Club Branches and Centres the opportunity to win equipment by selling the winning tickets. All proceeds from the raffle have been donated to the Animal Health Trust's (AHT) Pony Power campaign.

Stepney Bank Stables, Minchinhampton and Tredegar Farmers Hunt Branches were all winners in the raffle and will all have some shiny new things to play with in 2011!

Stepney Bank Stables, an inner city community horse project based in Newcastle, has won 12 portable cross-county fences, kindly supplied by Jump 1. Stepney Bank Stables were nominated by Mark Skinner from Tyne and Wear who won the raffle's £5,000 cash top prize!

Minchinhampton Pony Club Branch, from Gloucestershire, has won a brand new jumps trailer thanks to its nomination by Louise Mills who won the second prize of £1,000 cash.

Taking third prize is Tredegar Farmers Hunt Pony Club Branch, from Cardiff, who thanks to Ian James has won a selection of show jumps. Ian also has reason to celebrate – having won £500 for himself!

Andrew Simmonds, of the AHT, said: “We were delighted to be The Pony Club’s charity of the year in 2010. We’ve had so much support for our Pony Power campaign and the raffle was a large part of this.

“As a charity we work hard to protect horses and ponies so the money the raffle, and the campaign has raised, will be invaluable. We were really pleased as well to be able to offer a raffle to Pony Club Members where they stood a real chance of benefitting. I’d like to thank Jeffrey and Kahn Whalley for their generous sponsorship of the raffle and I hope all three winners really enjoy their prizes!”

Judy Edwards, The Pony Club Chief Executive, said: “Our association with the AHT is giving our Members an invaluable insight into the work of the Trust, and has shown how each and every one of them will be benefitting both now and in the future from the dedication of its research.

“I would like to add my sincere thanks to the sponsors of the raffle. The amazing prizes have been an enormous incentive to the Branches and Centres, and the interest that has been generated by the possibility of having a laboratory named after The Pony Club bodes well for our second years of fundraising in 2011.”

The AHT, a veterinary charity committed to improving the lives of horses, dogs and cats through fighting disease and injury, remains The Pony Club’s charity of the year for 2011. It is hoped that by the end of the year Pony Club Members will have reached the fundraising target of £100,000. If the target is reached the AHT will dedicate and name an equine research laboratory at the Trust after The Pony Club.

For more information on Pony Power, or to get involved, visit

www.ponypower.org.uk

Ends

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Additional notes:

- The **Animal Health Trust** is an independent charity, employing over 200 scientists, vets and support workers. It aims to improve the health and welfare of horses, dogs and cats through research. It also provides specialist referral services and continuous education to vets. Visit our website at www.aht.org.uk
- **The Pony Club** is an international voluntary youth organisation for those interested in horses and ponies and riding. It is the largest association of riders in the world and has a membership exceeding 110,000. In the UK, there are more than 50,000 members.
- The aim of the **Pony Power** campaign is to let Pony Club (PC) Members and their families know that everything the AHT does for horses, improves their health and wellbeing and therefore gives them power. The AHT wants to let Members know that it is as passionate about their ponies as they are.
- More information on **Pony Power** can be found at www.ponypower.org.uk