

RDA West & Central Scotland Region Group Contacts

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RDA News

Riding for the Disabled Association
Incorporating Carriage Driving

It's what you can do that counts

November 2016

West and Central Scotland Region

HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL OFFICIALLY OPENS KINFAUNS STABLES RDA

On Thursday, 6th October 2016 Geoff Brown and his wife, Joyce, founding trustees of the Kinfauns Stables RDA, welcomed HRH The Princess Royal to the group. Coach, Gemma Patterson, led a display of five riders that not only showed off their brilliant riding skills and obvious enjoyment of riding but the excellent training of their volunteers. HRH presented rosettes to the riders and moved on with Coach, Angie Welch, to meet a long line of Kinfauns' participants and their families. HRH chatted to each of them and presented commemorative rosettes, before going on to meet groups of volunteers, supporters

and sponsors, and members of the Kinfauns admin team. RDA Chairman, Mrs Sam Orde, then read out the citations for Mrs. Janet Parkinson of the Brae RDA and Mrs. Susan Fowlie of Buchan RDA before HRH presented them both with their President's Awards. This award is only given to those who have given exceptional and long service to the RDA. This visit to Scotland was an excellent opportunity for both ladies to receive their well-deserved awards. Following Geoff Brown's few words of welcome and thanks, HRH gave Her own speech of congratulations and support to the group that is flourishing despite having

only been open for a little more than 18 months. HRH unveiled a plaque marking the official opening of the group and cut the first slice of a magnificent cake. Miss Tilly Scrimgeour presented a beautiful posy of blue flowers before HRH and the party moved off to meet the horses in their stables. On a glorious Perthshire day HRH said farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Brown, David Anderson, Perth County Chairman, Kate Bennet, West & Central Regional Chairman, and Sam Orde, RDA Chairman, Lord-Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross, Brigadier Melville Jameson and Cadet Rea Bloice.



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SCOTTISH DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

A rather chilly and very foggy autumn morning greeted the 34 entries that had travelled from far afield to this year's Scottish Dressage. We were delighted to have competitors and their supporters from Highland Group, The Brae, Tayside, Thornton Rose and Shiresmill, as well as West & Central. Magically with a sudden breeze the fog disappeared and glorious blue skies lasted throughout the rest of the day and the competition was underway. There were 29 riders from 9 groups taking part, 8 riders more than last year. Judges Wendy McGrandles and Anne Ritchie were treated to some lovely riding and demonstrations of RDA team work, especially with one visually impaired rider who brought along his 'speaking letters'. It was a great pleasure to see Lynda Whittaker (Region Chairman Edinburgh

& Borders) who came to support the riders and Barbara Manson, (Highlands & Grampian) who also wrote for Wendy and helped me with the presentation of rosettes. The organisation on the day was super-efficient not only due to the huge efforts of Nancy but the team of volunteers that came and supported, from writers, arena stewards to the mathematicians who calculated the scores. I gather that everyone really enjoyed themselves despite being 'at work'. Thank you. As always our thanks go to Lynne and her team at Glasgow RDA, and the Trustees of Glasgow group for welcoming us to their facilities. We wish everyone a progressive and successful year of riding and look forward to seeing you all back again next time.



Arena A - Best Junior - Rachel McColgan - Glasgow
Best Overall - Kevin Malyan - Carrick
Arena B - Best Junior & Best Overall - Millie Smith - Forth Valley

Photographs courtesy of: Audrey Peebles

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President: HRH The Princess Royal KG KT GCVO QSO

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It has, as always been a busy year all round for the Regional Committee. Apart from assisting with new groups, coach reviews, proficiency test assessments, regional and group publicity, group support and guidance, we have been busily providing appropriate training opportunities for our groups. These are the subjects covered over the last year: In October last year Glasgow group arranged an Autism Training evening to which all our Region's Groups were invited. Isabelle Thomson organised two First Aid Courses held at Sandyflats. As there must be at least one First Aider on duty at every RDA session places were quickly filled with coaches and volunteers from all over the Region. If groups are looking for a similar course please let Isabelle know. A training day that was well received was a two-part day shared between Dom Chambers, at the time with National Office, giving us some insight into the new and easier version of the Tracker and the second half of the day led by Lesley Furnell, physio at Shiresmill's RDA and Gilean Docherty, Regional Physio and Equine Advisor. Their subject matter including assessing new participants, understanding some

of the more common conditions we are likely to encounter and how these might be effected by riding. This training day was particularly useful for coaches and trustees to help them judge when riding is not always appropriate or safe for a rider. We were given some exercises and equipment suggestions that might enhance sessions for particular riders. Gilean also updated us on correct weight allowance for our horses and how actual body weight can be altered if a rider is imbalanced, very tall or lacks mobility. Potentially adding a further 20% to the load. Equine welfare is a vital concern to us all. A training that was delivered several times on a county basis and which was also very well received, was Behavioural Issues and Equine Assisted Therapy with Rhona Harkness. Her enthusiasm and knowledge of the subject could not help but fire our own drive to think beyond simply riding. National Office organised a Scottish Coaches Training day at the World Horse Welfare Centre in Aboyne. The day was very well attended by a number of West & Central Groups despite the distance. A British Dressage/RDA Judges

Training Day was held at Sandyflats to encourage new judges to come forward. We were very grateful to our excellent rider 'guinea pigs' that came from all over Scotland. At the forthcoming Get Together we plan to include excellent training on communicating via Makaton and a parallel training with Helen Kallow on Entertaining ideas for sessions that are educational and fun, plus an introduction to the new proficiency tests. Also there will be the chance to welcome our new Perth County Chairman, Dave Anderson. Based on input and ideas from groups we have a number of new training days planned for the coming year, both at a regional and county level. A quick reminder that group coaches are now required to attend at least one training day per year. We would also encourage all group trustees and members to come along as these days are not only a chance to update and expand our knowledge and understanding on various pertinent subjects but they are a great opportunity to get to know other RDA groups and share experiences. I have been delighted to visit many of the groups in the region this year but I am conscious that there are still

some that I have not yet reached. I hope to catch up with everyone very soon. In the meantime all our groups are working hard to successfully deliver riding, carriage driving and vaulting to thousands of participants. I am aware that for some groups everything is not always easy. On such occasions if you need our help please feel that you can contact your County Chairman or other member of the Regional Committee. We are here to support you.



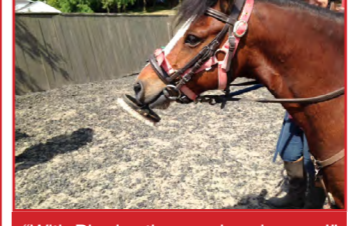
Kate Bennet
Regional Chairman September 2016.

STRATHEARN GROUP

BAG PACKING TO RAISE FUNDS! The Strathearn Group held a very successful Bag packing event at the Crieff Co-operative store. Thanks to the generosity of the shoppers, volunteers from the group raised over £730 on the day. Thanks to all involved in the success of this event and to the cheerful staff at the Co-op.



picked up a body brush and carried it between markers, then between a line of bending cones. He topped off his challenge by aiming and dropping the brush expertly into a bucket. Everyone, especially, our fantastic coach Fiona, cheered! It was a moment of magic shared by the group. We can't wait for Biggles to reveal his next trick at RDA!



"With Biggles the very handy pony!"

Everyone at Strathearn RDA loves Biggles the pony - he's always full of fun and mischief! He's also given his rider friend William, what he described as his, 'Best RDA day ever,' while they were completing our 'Handy Pony Challenge' together. True to form, Biggles surprised us all when he (instead of William)



STRATHEARN RDA STAR MOMENTS Here are some photos of the wonderful achievements and star moments of our riders, supported by the fantastic Volunteer VIP's from West and Central Scotland!



PLEASE JOIN US AT EASY FUNDRAISING

visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk and choose "join now"; you will then get the option to sign up for the donation reminder or choose not to download it (you can always do this later); search for a cause: you need to enter "RDA West & Central Scotland" (using "&" not "and"). if it doesn't come up, just put in RDA and scroll until you see us; follow instructions to create an account Once you have set up your account, you are ready to start shopping.

HAPPY SHOPPING !!!!

REGIONAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Isabelle Thomson is an institution in our Region. Her efficiency is extraordinary. Last year a lady approached us saying that she had been an RDA coach many, many years ago and felt that she was now in a good position to start a group of her own. Sadly she had not kept her log book or reviews. Isabelle almost instantly delved into her own files and produced copies of all the lady's previous reviews. The coach was brought up to date with current RDA practices and has now established her group. Last year five new groups opened in our Region. Isabelle was there guiding and supporting them all the way. Our region currently only has two

County Coaches. This year Isabelle has undertaken a majority of our coaches' reviews and participant awards assessments. She does this often with the minimum of notice but still arrives smiling, and gently putting everyone at ease with her friendly, positive observations and ideas. She has a remarkable ability to read participants and coaches and is able to correct or encourage without frightening or upsetting anyone. When organising the countryside challenge Isabelle ensures that not only the participants have a good day, her team of volunteer helpers are always carefully considered. They invariably leave enthused and

keen to come again next year. At regional events our participants come from far and wide, they are always guided into the venue by Isabelle's legendary 'RDA' signs placed at strategic points. No-one ever gets lost with Isabelle in charge. Last autumn Isabelle, and daughter Shona, introduced a fund-raising opportunity to our Region - 5 x 50 Challenge. Participants pledge to do 5kms (or specified equivalent) every day for 50 days, aiming to raise funds, fitness levels and achieve challenges. Through Isabelle's and Shona's efforts, our Region were selected as one of the

recipient charities, raising funds for regional training and supporting attendance at competitions. Also at the Adventure Awards Gala evening, at which Isabelle was a guest speaker, an additional £655 was raised for the Region. To kick start the campaign Shona was sponsored to take part in the inaugural Genghis Khan Marathon in Mongolia, raising £3700+ - Like mother, like daughter, Isabelle has passed on her gritty determination, organisational drive and passion for RDA.



WEST & CENTRAL SCOTLAND AT THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016



CONGRATULATIONS!
RECORD ATTENDANCE FROM WEST & CENTRAL PARTICIPANTS

REGIONAL DRESSAGE AND COUNTRYSIDE CHALLENGE

The West & Central Regional Qualifiers and Countryside Challenge were held at Sandyflats, Glasgow on 7th June 2016. Unlike last year with its torrential rain and cold, this year we baked in intense heat. Something in the middle would be very nice! However the riders and ponies were not daunted and carried on regardless. We had some super displays in the dressage arenas and some skilful riding in the Countryside Challenge. The Judges – Glynis McKee,

Anne Ritchie, Helen Kallow and Barbara Elder were firm but fair and the riders were delighted with the positive comments and good marks and will perhaps have some things to work on for next time. My thanks to all the judges for being very professional but also for being so supportive and helping the confidence building. Barbara told me that the standard of the Tack and Turnout was absolutely fabulous this time and they were really 'splitting hairs' to try

and differentiate the placings. Well done to all those who prepared the ponies so beautifully and the riders for looking extremely smart, despite the heat. We were delighted with the large number of first time competitors. Their energy and enthusiasm was quite infectious not only as they prepared for and rode their tests, but the absolute thrill on their faces as they picked up numerous rosettes and trophies. I was also aware of the enormous sense of

pride and the emotion amongst the parents and supporters at the tremendous achievements made by their riders. Riding a dressage test in a new environment, in front of lots of people and judges is never easy but taking part gives an opportunity to set challenges, to meet those challenges and to really demonstrate just how much our riders are achieving. Many, many congratulations to everyone.



There were 27 competitors from 5 Groups with 11 newcomers Congratulations to all!



Lindsay Trophy	Qualifying Classes	Leanne Peters	(Gareloch)
Jean Gardner Trophy	Non Qualifying Classes	Millie Smith	(Equi-power)
Punchbowl Trophy	Novice	Steven Thomson	(Winton)
Bank of Scotland Trophy	Intermediate	Lauren Dempsey	(Glasgow)
Jean Masson Trophy (Combined Competition)	Novice	Steven Thomson	(Winton)
Brian Peters Trophy (Combined Competition)	Intermediate	Lauren Dempsey	(Glasgow)
Tack & Turnout Trophy		Millie Smith	(Equi-power)



Thank You

To Shona Thomson For Her Huge Fundraising Efforts. We are extremely grateful and offer huge congratulations to Shona!

The inaugural Genghis Khan Ice Marathon has taken place in brutal conditions in Outer Mongolia. The race which took place on a frozen

river system saw temperatures of -34 celcius in a country with the lowest density of human habitation on earth, in an area where wolves

are more prevalent than people. First place went endurance athlete Doctor Andrew Murray, whilst fellow Scot, Shona Thomson, who was

heading up the fundraising aspect of the challenge for Riding for the Disabled, was well placed too.



ARRAN GROUP

Arran RDA were launched in 2006 in Lamlash by Barbara Tinto – and a decade later, we are going from strength to strength. It's now 2 years since Barbara moved away and the RDA group moved to its new home. In the coming year we are creating a new outdoor riding arena that will help the riders progress more quickly, allow more interaction with the ponies and ensure the future of Arran RDA for many years to come....all very exciting times. We recently invited keen local photographer David Kelso to see the group in action, and take some

images. I'm sure you'll agree that they really do capture what RDA is all about.



A very proud Zara was delighted to see her winning art work on display at Blair Castle International Horse Trials at the RDA Stand. Glenfarg Art went South to Hartpury to the National Championships where they got 1st Prize!!

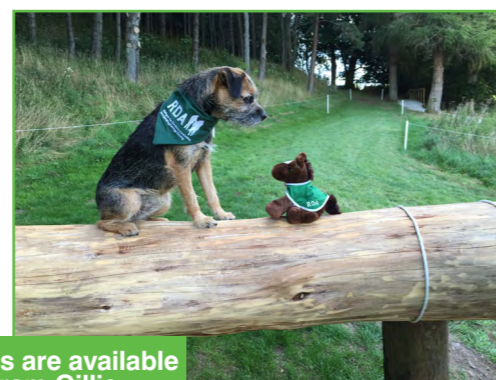


BLAIR INTERNATIONAL HORSE TRIALS

We had a fantastic 4 days with the weather being great which made a huge difference! We had a very successful tombola for both adults and children, which proved a big hit! Plus a daily draw of 10 year old Glengoyne Whisky, to complement our new RDA goods and Christmas cards.

New, this year, were the RDA Dog Bandanas which were proudly on show around the arena and on the course and a visit from Dougal, our Regional Mascot!!

Dates for next year are: Thursday 24th to Sunday 27th August 2017.



Dog Bandanas are available to order from Gillie: 077481 83 239



BREADALBANE GROUP

Aigas first came to the Breadalbane & District RDA group when he was five - with his Mum. He retired at the end of last year aged 21. He richly deserves his Long Service Medal. With his owner/breeder, Mrs Jennifer Valentine, he has been a Champion in Ridden Highland Pony Classes and won Highland One Day Events.

At RDA he never put a foot wrong - Instructors, Helpers and Children trusted him. Some of our children would only ride Aigas. He was a real favourite with us all.

He will be very much missed and we wish him a long and happy retirement.



Aigas of Litigan

FAREWELL LUNCH TO FIVE REGIONAL STALWARTS

Sadly the Region had to say farewell to three of our county chairmen:

Penny Buchanan (Ayrshire), Dorothy Wilson (Perth) and Jane Isaac (Argyll) have had to step down.

Earlier this year Jane Isaac stepped down as Argyll County Chairman. Anne Ritchie has, with her characteristic energy and enthusiasm, leapt into supporting the Argyll groups. In January Lisa MacDonald 'stepped up to the plate' and took over Ayrshire from Penny Buchanan. Also in January Patsy Muir Simpson 'handed over the reins' as Carriage Driving Representative to Eileen Cornish.

Sara Smith has also stepped down. Sara's role as Regional Coach and, until recently, our Accessibility Mark Assessor has been invaluable and she will be very hard to replace.

To Acknowledge their work 24 of the

Regional Committee and Groups gathered together at Brucefields Family Golf Centre, Bannockburn for lunch and presentation. The work and commitment that they have cumulatively given to our groups, and this region, has been phenomenal and we could never thank them enough.



HOPETOUN 2016 CARRIAGE DRIVING COMPETITION

What a great day we had on Thursday 26th May at Hopetoun. The harness was gleaming, the carriages sparkled and the team colours showed off a treat. As for the ponies they were such stars doing their best for each driver - Mary Hann, Alison Colvin, Lesley Aitken and Linda Farquhar.

Lunchtime allowed the drivers and volunteers to catch up as to how everyone did and greet friends from other groups - Argyll, Annan and Eskdale, Garioch. After lunch the cones and obstacles were walked and got ready for.

There were excellent driving skills on show for the other competitors

and volunteers to see. It was so lovely to see the commitment on everyone's face as they competed.

Grateful thanks go to the pony owners, all the volunteers who helped in the preceding weeks of training and on the day.

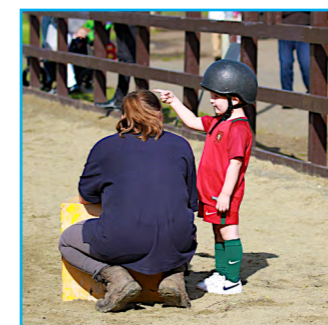


GLASGOW GROUP

On an annual basis the Glasgow Group holds a Fun Day in order to raise funds for their Group. This year's Fun Day was another great success, with the help of social media and husbands roped in to spread the word and to deliver fliers to the local community. It was a beautiful sunny day which also contributed to a record number of people attending. We were fortunate to receive a plethora of donations, from local businesses, for the raffle prizes. Home baking, in the conference room and in the T bar, quickly sold out of all the tasty treats made by our talented volunteers.

Our volunteers played a huge part in making sure the Fun Day was a great success; home baking, manning the bouncy castle and stalls. We are so fortunate that they willingly give up their valuable time in order to help run this ever popular event. Of course the pony

rides are the highlight of the day and the local community enjoyed the experience, some having never ridden nor been close up to a horse. The Fun Day enabled the local community to see what we do and how equine therapy benefits our disabled community; as a consequence, many people applied to become volunteers. We look forward to the 2017 Fun Day, where we hope to exceed this year's record profit of £2,685.



DRESSAGE ANYWHERE

Why not do your test and be judged by British Dressage Judges - Yes, all you have to do is download a test from this link, <http://www.dressageanywhere.com/> Register and download the test of your choice, practise, video your test and send it off to be judged SIMPLE!!

Better still if you would like to host an event, with riders travelling to the host site, film everyone, and upload the lot. We could then have a picnic/ glass of something and enjoy each other's company.

If you are interested, please let me know. 'West and Central Scotland Dressage Team' now have a Facebook page and a team created on Dressage Anywhere. Be sure to like and follow us.

westandcentraldressageteam@gmail.com
Anne Johnston: johnstonannie37@gmail.com

KINFAUNS GROUP

During September, Kinfauns RDA Stables Perth, ran a "Pop Up Charity Shop". Thanks to the very generous donations of hundreds of items to sell from

Kinfauns supporters and the Perth community, this was a fantastic success, raising £4387.24 over two weeks.



Fill a bucket for a fiver!!

OBAN AND LORN

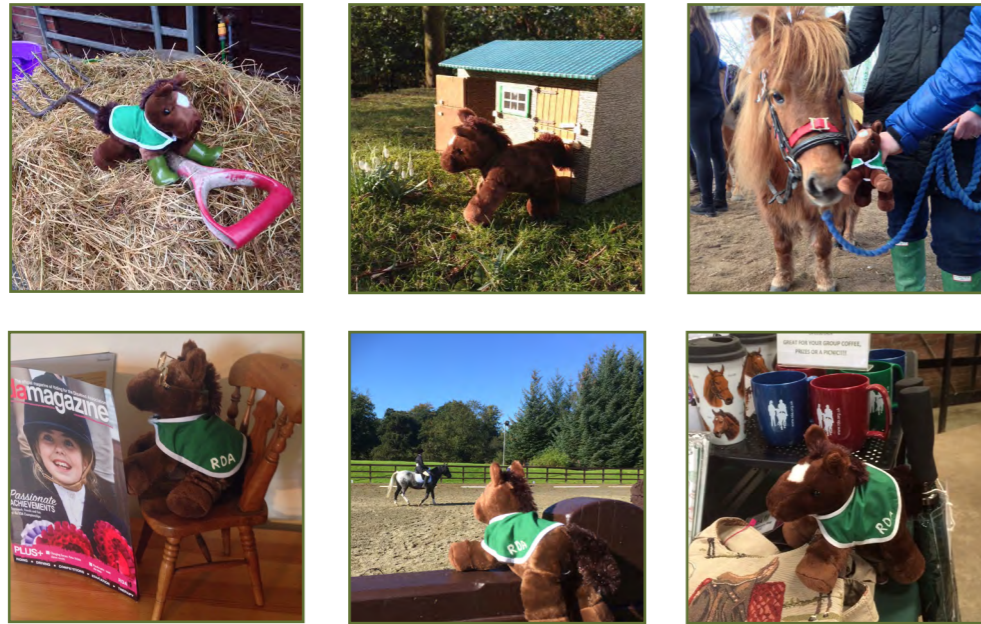
The Group had a very successful Open Day where they launched their new hoist. Everyone is very excited about the new hoist and it will make an

enormous difference - thanks to our funders - Bank of Scotland. "The hoist is appreciated beyond words by the people who use it!"





RDA WEST & CENTRAL SCOTLAND REGIONAL PONY SEE WHAT HE HAS BEEN UP TO THIS YEAR ON TWITTER!!



@RDA_WCScotland #WCSCOTRDA
VISIT OUR REGIONAL WEBSITE:
www.rdawestcentralscotland.org.uk

Looking for news and stories from around the region please email your group activities to our regional webmaster, bernadette, at:
bernieleslie@gmail.com or **drapper@kilewnan.org.uk**

!!RDA MUGS ON SPECIAL OFFER!!



6 MUGS FOR £20.00
OR £5.00 EACH
GREAT FOR PRIZES OR A PICNIC!

CARRICK GROUP

Carrick have had a very busy year - They were invited to a Gala dinner and presentation ceremony held at Ayr Racecourse where they were delighted to be presented with "Activity in the Community" award, presented by Dianne Campbell, representing the organisation "Ayrshire Sportsability", in conjunction with South Ayrshire Council, who promote all forms of sports activities in the county, particularly targeted to provide opportunities to the disabled. Ayrshire Sportsability kindly suggested that the trophy, sponsored by "South Ayrshire Access to Sports", should be represented at a later date at our arena. They also hosted a most successful training day at Ayr on Friday 6th May, being attended by 45 RDA volunteers from Carrick, Winton, Clydesdale, Forth, Woodside with representatives from the Regional Committee.

The subject "behavioural Issues" was expertly delivered by Rhona Harkness and she held everyone's attention and interest as a number of questions followed her most informed talk and "Power point" presentation. Following which a riding demonstration was staged to identify the various exercises and visual aids that can be used to assist with the challenge of dealing with behavioural issues.



Much to the Groups delight Fiona Ross, who has been a Senior Instructor for many years, was presented with a Lifetime Award for 40 years service to Riding for the Disabled, Carrick Branch, at a ceremony in Ayr organised by VASA (Voluntary Action South Ayrshire). This award was richly deserved. Carrick Group have registered

with VASA as an organisation seeking volunteers, and we get approximately half a dozen referrals each month. Not all of these become volunteers as there is often a difficulty with availability or commitment, but we do gain new volunteers.



CLYDESDALE GROUP

Following the sale of our previous home last September, Clydesdale Group managed to keep going until Christmas with the kind permission of the new owners. An immediate search began for a new home, which would be suitable for our local schools and regular riders. The search and subsequent negotiations took longer than expected but following an inspection by our regional team

of Kate Bennet, Isabelle Thomson and Gilean Docherty in April, we moved our riding activities to the Scottish Equestrian Hotel near the old Lanark Racecourse. Our riders, parents, carers and volunteers have been enjoying the excellent facilities at Scottish Equi since late April and we are now running riding sessions throughout the summer holiday period. The venue gives us a large bright

arena, a selection of ponies to suit our riders and sufficient outdoor space for them to enjoy. Some of our riders find change difficult to manage but with patience, understanding and commitment, our dedicated team at CRDA are seeing happy smiling faces. The children from Victoria Park School, Carlisle received their Achievement Awards at their last riding lesson before breaking-up

for their summer holidays. We also attended the Achievement Awards at Stanmore House School, Lanark to present certificates and badges to their riders. The smiles on these young faces are a fantastic reward for all our volunteers, our group coach and the Trustees who have worked so hard to keep Clydesdale RDA going.



MOVE OVER STRICTLY DANCING



I have several hobbies which I really enjoy, (1) horse riding, (2) writing, and (3) painting and gardening. But horse riding is my special hobby.

Last year I was given the opportunity to try the RDA Regional Dressage to Music Competition and I enjoyed every minute of the experience. The difficult part was choosing the music for the 4.27 minutes of our performance. The music had to change tempo when the moves changed, ie walk, trot, then walk again, or even a canter. I was very fortunate to have chosen Fernando by ABBA. The music suited my gorgeous big partner and he managed to change pace as the music changed tempo.

As I went round the arena I felt as

if I was on Cloud 9. My partner, Murphy was in total harmony with me and the music throughout the whole performance and I was really pleased to learn that we had won the competition. Bargower Riding School were so thrilled with this riding school horse not only performing dressage but actually winning that they put us on Facebook, along with the rosettes and the score sheet.

Now we are thinking about this year's competition and what music to use and how to make it look good. Move over Strictly Dancing this is Dressage to Music.

Hobby (2) is writing about Hobby (1), and Hobby (3) will be painting a portrait of Murphy and me winning the Competition!



Janette Lightbody 8th February 2016

SCOTTISH HOLIDAY REPORT 2016

The Argyll Carriage driving groups stunning setting was the venue for the 2016 Scottish carriage driving holiday. As everyone gathered for lunch there were greetings for old acquaintances and new folks alike all eager to start driving the horses. This year Red and Dixie from Argyll, Ozzy from Carronshore and new boy Eric (came in as a last minute replacement for Splash who was lame.) joined in the excitement.

Drivers Jane and Adam from Leicester and Rotherham met with Davina and Shona from Argyll and Mary, Linda, Alister and Emma from Forth Driving Group were able to drive all four horses during the holiday. The driving sessions for the week included short and long drives, accumulator cones, and obstacles with some volunteers having a go at the last session.

This year was blessed with lovely weather on the whole with a slight breeze to keep the flying insects away - bliss!

Competition was not just for during the day evenings were spent - designing a hat fit for the Queen, at one point there was

total silence in the room as all the teams concentrated on the job in hand. Horse and carriage racing on the second night resulted in a number of tartan themed rosettes being won.

The third evening was the ceilidh with many nifty dance moves being shown. All who were in attendance appreciated the efforts of the caller and the accordion player's skill to keep us entertained.

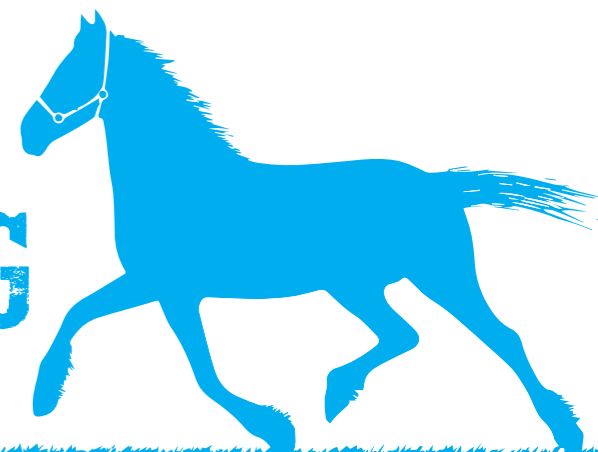
The holiday was rounded off with a barbecue held by Jane and Hamish with Penny and Gavin providing the song sheets and musical accompaniment afterwards. All participated in the songs and individual performances were encouraged.

Once the rosettes had been presented to the driver's, gifts of appreciation were given to Patsy and Jane as well as others who had helped during the holiday. The gifts were much appreciated by all who received them.

It was with grateful thanks for the hospitality, to all the volunteers and horse owners for all that they did to make 2016 memorable in so many ways for the drivers.



FOR TH DRIVING GROUP



This group is one of our smallest Groups but definitely one of the busiest!!

PICNIC DRIVE AT PLEAN COUNTRY PARK

The Forth Driving Group spent a most enjoyable picnic drive at Plean.



FUNDRAISING

Patsy receiving a cheque from the Canal Inn Camelon.



STIFF COMPETITION AT ANNANDALE AND ESKDALE DRIVING GROUP

Although an early start we had a memorable day down at Flowdens in friendly competition with both our hosts and drivers from the Keswick and Westmorland Groups. Our seven drivers supported by eight volunteers went head to head with the others in Dressage, a Conobstacle course, and lastly some fun and games.



THANK YOU ABERCAIRNY

The Forth RDA Driving Group enjoyed a relaxing picnic drive in the beautiful grounds of Abercairny Estate. Six disabled drivers supported by fourteen volunteers spent a most enjoyable day, courtesy of the Drummond Moray family, using the facilities of the grounds and stable area. The calm, peaceful atmosphere made a welcome change from the hustle and bustle at Carronshore and yet our volunteers were well exercised conquering the hill up to the stables as they returned to base. We were also delighted to meet Sally Coultis (a long standing friend and former RDA driving inspector) who joined us for a pleasure drive.



Thanks were expressed for all the preparation that clearly had gone into making this a most enjoyable day and, in particular to Barbara and Bobby Patterson whose farm we left, slightly short of grass and with perhaps a little fertiliser. Forth Driving hosted a return match at Paddockhill Farm, Liniithgow, another sunny day for meeting up and having a picnic. Marion celebrated her birthday by winning her class!!

