

# THE PERRY RIDING AND DRIVING GROUP

NEWSLETTER NO. 8 Spring 2003

Not everyone may be aware of the fact that Apache has now left us to go to a private home locally. He was never happy with the smaller ponies and they were frightened of him. Not conducive to a safe **RDA** session! If anyone would like a copy of the details about each of our ponies, please ask *Jane*. It is now a requirement that a WRITTEN Risk Assessment be kept on our files for each pony and horse that we use. This is the sort of information that Instructors and Helpers keep in their heads, such as "So and So nips occasionally" and "Watch out for so and so because he has got big feet and he may tread on you"!!

We have actually recorded an incident this term where a pony trod on one of our helpers' foot and she sustained a broken toe. She was wearing Wellington boots and several pairs of socks at the time, but these did not protect her toes! It is YOUR choice what you put on your feet, we can only recommend that you wear stout leather shoes or boots. Over  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the insurance claims that **RDA** Headquarters have to deal with are for injuries to helpers!! PLEASE be cautious and if anything at all causes you concern and/or injury, however slight, please speak to the Instructor who will write it in the Incident Book and report it to the Group Organiser.

We have a new pony called **Basil**. He is currently on loan with a view to purchase and seems to be very suitable. Jane will rely upon you for feed-back on his behaviour in your sessions. So far he has done nothing wrong and he comes highly recommended from a very knowledgeable and loving home.

We have received a Training Grant which is to be used for Training for AB Whips on a Wednesday morning either at the West Mid Showground or here if the weather is against us. Please check the Noticeboard for details of First Aid Courses and Conferences since we can also pay for these.

Our current financial state is extremely healthy. The fundraising efforts last year raised almost two thousand pounds and we benefited from very generous donations and grants.

The following are Fund Raising ideas for this year. If you have any ideas of how we could do things better, please speak to any of the Fund Raising Committee, who are: *Julie Argue, Joy Dolton, Linda Hughes* and *Becky Preece*. Or better still, join them!

- *Becky* organising a sponsored dog walk around Hawkestone Follies. Date to be advised and put in Newsletter about to come out.

- Car Treasure Hunt to finish up with a meal at the Hare & Hounds at Cruckton
- Games Evening at the Romping Cat or perhaps the Inn on the Green at Radbrook
- Fun Ride at Pentre near Nesscliff on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September
- Christmas Cards. *Julie* is going to talk to Severndale Staff about asking children to design cards for us to sell. The cards will be printed on good quality card.
- Morrissons summer collection with Peri.
- *Becky* said her husband had applied to do the Great North Run and was seeking sponsors for our Group.
- *Julie Argue* mentioned line dancing and said she would look into how popular a Line Dancing Evening might be.
- *Julie* also mentioned she would contact the organisers of the South Shropshire Show and see whether we could help/be beneficiaries.

We have been asked to do a presentation on RDA driving at the West Midland Show, by the BDS.

The sweatshirts, bodywarmers and fleeces have sold very well. There are a few green baseball caps left if anyone would like one. If there is enough demand for garments we will start a new order.