



The Perry Riding and Driving Group -Improving Lives Spring Newsletter

Issue 15, March 2005

Group Organisers report

Vaulting. There are still two vaulting sessions, Monday afternoon with the Cruckton boys and Tuesday lunchtime with Adcote girls. We were invited to join a training session at Clwyd a week ago and we took Ned and some of the vaulters. It was a very successful session and hopefully we will be able to join in many more activities as a result of having made the contact.

Riding. There have been a lot of weather cancellations this term but hopefully we will soon turn the corner into the better weather. John Foulkes and Alison Smith who both now help three days a week, are booked to go on an RDA holiday in Worcester in May. They have almost funded the entire holiday themselves through money they raised picking litter. Thank you to everyone who helped with that Sunday morning. A report has been sent off to the Environment Agency with photos.

John, Alison and Anne Browning are entered in the dressage qualifiers at Rodbaston on 18th May. Cruckton boys will join those three at the Handy Pony qualifiers at Solihull on 16th June. We will have to have Archie vaccinated in case he qualifies for the National Championships at Hartpury. Please keep 23rd/24th July free in your diaries to help at the Championships.

Driving. Sadly Jo Hodges has had problems with our 'third' horse and is unable to help us on a Wednesday at Pentre. Loppington House will now bring their clients to the West Mid Showground and Jo is going to come down there to help us on the ground. Friday driving goes from strength to strength.

Deb Daniel and Sue Roberts will be going to a training weekend at Stow on the Wold in April – date still to be decided.

By Jane Barker

Training

Driving volunteers who were unable to attend the Training Day at the beginning of the Autumn term, please notify either Jane or Lizzie. We will be organising further training.

Riding volunteers who have attended training days this year are;

Gillian Carder
Lucy Carson
Joy Dolton
Jill Harrison
Lindsey Green
Sue Heard

Denny Johnson
Sue Kirk
Rachel Neville
Robin & Julie Pockock
Dulcie Raynor
Jenny Sheldon
Dorothy Simcox
Mandy Wright
Christine Wright
Jane Yeomans

If you are not on this list, please will you see about attending volunteer training as soon as possible?

North Wales Regional Conference

The Perry group had a good turn out for the conference and the sun also turned out for the day. Four speakers gave insightful and motivating talks which certainly provided the audience with food for thought.

Mr Rick Miles (Deputy Head of Cavendish School) explained his successful approach towards turning challenging behaviour into success. The key to such success being communication at his school which has been acclaimed as a centre of excellence. He recounted success stories with difficult children when the *trigger* is dealt with, thus preventing unpredictable outbursts and enabling the child to learn.

Liz Savage and Ralph

Butler from RDA National office gave an update on their way forward for the association. Following the survey of needs they have tackled a number of issues with more still to be dealt with. Do's and Don'ts regarding insurance are now available alongside a free legal help line, due to be activated in April. Publicity was discussed and adopting one logo and strap line, 'Improving lives', was noted as essential for uniting the groups and raising awareness.

Wendy Tholen spoke on behalf of a parents view of RDA and gave a moving account of how the RDA had improved the lives of not only her son but the entire family. To the 'Tholen's', RDA stood for Richards Disability Acceptance. Medical professionals had to help but the RDA chose to, which was

not only a refreshing reaction but the shared interest helped to unite their family. A remarkable lady who is an inspiration to all.

The conference ended with Lynn Lawford, a former regional physiotherapist, who is now involved passionately with the Para Olympics. She was proud of the riding classifications for disability as there were many complaints at Madrid but none within the Riding groups. It was commented that successful competitors had to have a few things; ability, determination and commitment. Fitness is also essential, joined with support from friends and family and many anecdotes were shared highlighting the inspiration that these competitors provided to all.

By Denny Johnson

Forthcoming Events

Perry Group Open day & plant sale
15/05/05

Dressage Qualifier Competition
Rodbaston, Staffs
18/05/05

Sansaw Horse trials
Food Hamper Raffle
4/06/05 Wkd

Riding Qualifier Competition
Solihull
16/06/05

**CARRIAGE DRIVING
CONFERENCE - UNICORN**

It was an early start for Avril, Debbie, Sue and Lizzie, meeting up for the day at 08:00, all home chores completed. Off we set to the Cotswold's and the Unicorn Trust Centre, which is well worth a visit if anyone ever offers you the chance!

After our arrival and coffee the conference started with an introduction from the RDA Driving Chairman, this

was followed by a question and answers session on the structure of the RDA.

Following a good Lunch, we split into groups. Lizzie pushed off and did the inspector type stuff whilst the remainder were given an insight on how to make a musical video and WIN!

Next the floor belonged to our two stars Debbie and Sue. Both gave very good talks on what the RDA had done for them. They were both brilliant and gave a glowing report of the Perry Group.

The day now ended, we made our way back to Shropshire, all having gained something from the day.

By Lizzie Lawrence



Volunteer News

The group have 2 new committee members this quarter, Debbie is taking on the role of the treasurer and Denny Johnson is the new group secretary. We also welcome Pam King and Margaret Barnes.

Anyone going on the **sponsored bike ride** in Scotland

please tell Jane Barker **ASAP** as rooms will need to be booked in advance, considering it is the holiday season. Please either mail Jane at janebarker@perry-rda.org, phone on 0845 450 6714 or write to confirm at Perry Cottage, Yeaton, Shrewsbury. Requests need to be sent soon!

Also, if anyone can help out at this years **National Championships** held at Hartpury

College, Gloucester on Saturday and Sunday 24th July please let Jane know. Championship Polo Shirts need to be ordered for the Perry Group and therefore a size of either small, medium or large also needs to be specified.

As always, **thank you all** for your continued support!

Thank You

Annette Knight for being such a wonderful treasurer and supporter.

Brian Dulson for paying for the trailer to take our

bikes up to Scotland for the sponsored Bike Ride in August.

Alan Morgan for sponsoring a class at the show.

Andrew Williamson for inviting us to train with him and his vaulters at the Clwyd Special Riding Centre.

Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday to you!

<p>Aries Aries is a bundle of energy, assertive, forceful, competitive, determined and courageous. Born leaders who thrive on making things happen. Roy Bailey 1st of April Avril Pluck 6th of April</p>	<p>Gemini Geminis are curious, intellectual, quick-witted, talkative, friendly, and have superb communication skills. Lizzie Lawrence 1st of June Christine Wright 3rd of June Sue Roberts 19th of June</p>
<p>Taurus Taureans are determined, productive, practical, reliable, resourceful and capable of generating great wealth. Their steady demeanour makes them reliable and loyal. Vanessa Gibson 22nd of April Jane Yeomans 29th of April Mandy Wright 1st of May Joy Dolton 3rd of May Lucy Carson 5th of May Claude Hart 11th of May Lindsey Green 18th of May</p>	<p>Cancer Cancerians are sensitive, caring, maternal, nurturing, and domestic. Cancerians are deeply emotional – they wear their heart on their sleeve. Denny Johnson 28th of June</p>

