



## The Perry Riding and Driving Group -Improving Lives

### Spring Newsletter

Issue 23. March 2007

Charity No: 1074005

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#### New pony

Stubbs is a 9 year old 14 hand Haflinger gelding. He has come to us from the South of England where he has been working with students at Plumpton College and has been doing a couple of hours a week for the local RDA group. He came with a very long letter telling us all about his exploits and experiences. If anyone is interested, it is pinned up on the board in the RDA Hut.

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#### Vaulting

There was an inter club competition at Walford on 28<sup>th</sup> January at which all the vaulters did extremely well. At the College Open Day on 25<sup>th</sup> March the team were asked to do a demonstration where they performed excellently. It was a good practice for their next two outings, one at the Fund Raising Display to Music at Walford on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April and the other, the following weekend at Northolt near Mold for the British Vaulting Open Competition. Folk might have seen in the local paper that the Midshires Cooperative have donated £1000 to the Group to set up a Saturday afternoon vaulting session. This will begin after Easter with Holly Dormer one of our Level One Coaches.

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#### Carriage Driving

Jacqueline Holyoake and Nick Foulkes Jones have both taken and passed the first of their two AB Whip assessments. We are looking forward to driving Stubbs during the Easter holidays and to getting him passed for work with the driving team by the end of the summer term. We have an article from a new rider, Sharon Tunnicliffe, telling of her reasons for coming to us 'I have recently started at Perry RDA Riding School, I am severely disabled in my limbs and have Chronic renal failure, so I find things a bit of a struggle. I decided that even though I am disabled why should that stop me from doing things I loved so much before my illness took hold of me, so I asked friends about riding schools who would probably consider me and my disabilities and I was given the Perry Group telephone number. Its only been a few weeks since I have begun to learn to ride again (I was only a beginner before) but it has been the most wonderful feeling, to be up there and riding again, all the ponies are lovely...especially the new pony called Stubbs, who I get to ride?? And most of all to have good instructors and to have lovely Volunteer workers helping and advising you along each lesson. I would like to say Thank you. To you all for helping me to live my dream of riding and because it is so nice to have people who understand that I have disabilities and know how to tackle these problems'.

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#### Riding

All sessions continue to go well. There are a lot of new Educational Initiatives in connection with the sessions. Considerable interest has been shown in the AQA Awards which are a way of certifying progress and achievement within the riding sessions. Riders from Cruckton, The Woodlands School and Mount Gilbert School are all following this award system. Anne Browning will be riding Stubbs at the Display Day in April and will be taking him to the RDA Regional Qualifier Dressage Competition at Wrexham in June.

#### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**Perry Open Day**  
1<sup>st</sup> July 2007  
Perry Cottage

**Family Horse Show**  
8<sup>th</sup> July 2007  
West Midland Showground

**RDA National Champs**  
14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> July 2007  
Hartpury. Gloucester

**World Paradressage Champs**  
18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2007  
Hartpury

If you can manage nothing else, try to get to the paradressage Championships – a Wonderful experience

### A Carriage Drivers story - Emma Suddaby

Diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis. I have a very severe strain of the disease, which has led, in the last 5 years to having much surgery. I usually have at least three Operations a year, sometimes four. I heard from a friend about the charity, Fly Scholarships for the Disabled, I wasted no time in applying.. I was called to RAF Cranwell, with the other, short listed 23 candidates for 3 days of medical checks, aptitude tests and interviews. I'd won a full Scholarship! Weeks later, I arrived at Goodwood. The row of planes lined up on the grass outside the clubhouse had my stomach in knots, but knots of anticipation, not fear, I was dying to get airborne. My first flight was a shock. Flying in a small plane (I was flying a Piper Tomahawk) is very different. It dips, whirls and banks on a sixpence - exactly what I'd dreamed of - but my tummy didn't agree and the all I learnt on that flight was how to vomit.

But over the course of the next few weeks, my confidence grew, along with my knowledge. Its been a long time since I've asked so much of my brain, and even longer that anything's been asked of my body - it felt amazing, liberating being back in the driving seat of life. Some things I couldn't manage, some of the flying controls, and Rob, the Maintenance man at the Aerodrome, even designed some gadgets for me so that I could manage everything on my own.

And the day I flew solo for the first time, made every small struggle and painful moments worthwhile. After years of imprisonment in my painful, failing body, I was now using it to achieve ultimate freedom, without help, without someone on hand in case I couldn't manage; here I was Piloting a plane 2000 feet above the Sussex countryside! my smile was as wide as the horizon.

Winning the Scholarship has been like stepping through a window into a bright, new World. I'm now back home, but have decided to go on and set myself the further challenge of achieving my National Private Pilots Licence. I just can't thank enough, all the amazing people involved with FSD for giving me, not just the best summer of my life, not just the chance to do something most people dream of, and not even for introducing me to some of the best friends I could ask for; most of all I want to thank them for giving me back a belief in myself, the belief that I can achieve something like single-handedly flying a plane, when last summer, the only thing I really believed, is that I am disabled.

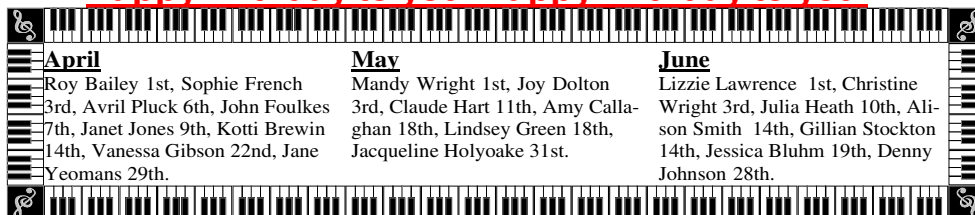
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## *Notices*

- The West Mercia Regional Dressage and Countryside Ride Qualifiers are at Solihull on 17th May. Due to Jane being absent (doing 150 mile ride for Charity across Southern Portugal), Anne Browning will be riding her qualifier tests at the North Wales Regional Competition on 2nd June at Wrexham (much nearer if anyone would like to come and support!!)
- There are greeting cards, videos, jackets and boots that we have for sale. Also we are going to get a big box in which to put the old print cartridges and mobile phones that everyone is collecting for us. It is a brilliant system and is bringing some much needed cash into the group. (So keep collecting please)
- The Criminal Record Bureau forms have mostly been filled out now and sent off, as per the legal requirement for our Charity. When you get your form back from the CRB will you please make a note next to your name on the Volunteer Green Card Sheets which are on the wall of the shed by the notice board? This is the only check we have. If you haven't filled in a form yet, please ask for one and we will get it completed and sent off.
- If you are able, please come along and support us at Walford on 29<sup>th</sup> April. Starting at 1.30pm there are a number of displays of riding, driving and vaulting to music. It will be a good afternoon's entertainment and well worth attending. Several of our horses and ponies will be there, including Micky and Berry who will be officially retiring on that day.
- If you need an up to date volunteer list, please ask for one - if you have an e mail address, make sure we have it please and then you can be sent most of our literature via that address. This does save us a terrific amount of printing out paperwork.
- We will be holding a Raffle, Kotti Brewin has kindly agreed to gather prizes together so please contact her if you have anything to offer. A Food Hamper will be the major prize. NB We are unfortunately unable to attend the Sansaw Horse Trials this year, which is where we have run a very successful raffle for food hampers over the last couple of years. Hopefully we can get back there in 2008.
- If anyone takes any pictures of our clients with our hoses, please email them to Denny at [denny.johnson@btinternet.com](mailto:denny.johnson@btinternet.com)
- The worldwide Volunteer Recruitment programme for the 2008 Olympic and Parlympic equestrian events has now been launched and applications can be submitted on line. To: [office@britishdressage.co.uk](mailto:office@britishdressage.co.uk)/[response@bsja.co.uk](mailto:response@bsja.co.uk)/[info:bef.co.uk](mailto:info:bef.co.uk)/[volunteers@britisheventing.com](mailto:volunteers@britisheventing.com)

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## Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday to you!



<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
Roy Bailey 1st, Sophie French 3rd, Avril Pluck 6th, John Foulkes 7th, Janet Jones 9th, Kotti Brewin 14th, Vanessa Gibson 22nd, Jane Yeomans 29th.	Mandy Wright 1st, Joy Dolton 3rd, Claude Hart 11th, Amy Calla- ghan 18th, Lindsey Green 18th, Jacqueline Holyoake 31st.	Lizzie Lawrence 1st, Christine Wright 3rd, Julia Heath 10th, Ali- son Smith 14th, Gillian Stockton 14th, Jessica Bluhm 19th, Denny Johnson 28th.

[www.perry-rda.org](http://www.perry-rda.org)

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