

THE PERRY RIDING AND DRIVING GROUP

NEWSLETTER NO. 9 Summer 2003

HORSE AND PONY NEWS

Basil will probably be going back to his owners at some point this summer. He suffers terribly from sweet itch and although he has a protective rug and comes in at night, it is still very difficult to control and keep him comfortable.

We are still looking for a ride and drive pony as deputy for Micky, although hopefully he will stay sound and fit for a long time yet. Tinker has turned into a super RDA pony and is very willing and cheerful about his work. Thanks again to Nicola Waldendorf for letting us use Tinker and Murphy who continues to be so good for both the riding and the driving.

Nicola and Margaret have agreed to join the Committee as co-opted Fund Raisers many thanks for that.

Most people will know that our big fund raising push this year is to raise enough money to replace the elderly vehicle we currently use to transport our ponies around. There are raffle tickets on sale with many wonderful prizes. (see our web site www.perry-rda.org for a complete list) and there will be some smaller raffles at the different events.

DRIVING NEWS

Sue Roberts had a fantastic time with Berry when she went down to the Unicorn at Stow on the Wold for training with the international disabled carriage driving team. Thanks to Lizzie Lawrence, Annette Knight and Margaret Green for taking Berry and carriage and looking after them all and to Joyce Elliott for the loan of her lorry. The training obviously paid off since Sue won the Novice Shield for Dressage at the North Wales Driving Show at Hawarden Castle. The driving ponies there were Berry and Micky and many thanks go to all our volunteers who turned out on the day to help and to compete. Sue Roberts has recently received a training grant which she may use to go back to the Unicorn Centre or for training locally.

We have been asked to give a demonstration of our vehicle at the West Midland Show and we hope to do a 'Bucket Collection' on the two days whilst Micky is in the main ring. (Cruckton school have offered to help with this) We have also been asked to go down to Hartbury to the National Championships to do a demonstration there (they can't get a group nearer to offer!!!) We hope to have qualified some of our Cruckton riders for the Championships which will make the journey really worthwhile (and we will have our travelling paid for!!)

RIDING NEWS

Our riders did really well at the Fun Day at the West Midland Showground on 4th June. All of them coming away with at least one rosette. Many thanks to all our volunteers who turned out to help on the day especially Vanessa and Alison Gibson. Vanessa for bringing her lorry to transport two of the ponies and Alison for getting on and 'sorting out' the inappropriate behaviour of Goofy!!!

Four Cruckton boys are going to the Qualifying Competition at Solihull on Thursday 19th June. Berry, Micky and Archie will be the ponies they are riding. Tom Denton will be riding his own pony that his parents are going to take there for him.

The Cruckton boys have been attending to ride and to vault on a Tuesday evening. The vaulting is going well and thanks to Margaret Green with her invaluable PE background for helping with the all important warming up and down exercises. Cathy Buckland was good enough to come along to a session and bring her son Jonathon who does the most amazing stunt riding. Including vaulting. Jonathon gave us all a breathtaking demonstration of how it is done – Berry was more than a bit surprised to be leapt on and off at speed and kept thinking he had to stop when Jonathon got off!!! Bit more training needed there with the lunge horse!

DIARY DATES

We seem to have a really full diary through until October, important dates have been given to helpers already, but here they are again for anyone who might have missed them:

Fri/Sat 20/21 st June	Fund Raising & Driving Demo at the West Midland Show
Weds 2 nd July	Picnic Drive at Loton Park, Alberbury by kind permission of Sir Michael Leighton
Sunday 20 th July	Driving demo at the RDA National Championships, Hartbury, Gloucs
Tues 23/Mon28 th July	Riding & Driving for the Shropshire RDA Holiday at Packwood School
Weds 20 th August	Sponsored Ride with Group ponies over the Long Mynd
Sun 14 th September	Fun Ride at Hilley Farm, Pentre near Nesscliffe. (all funds to the Group)
Sun 21 st September	Fund Raising Hog Roast & Jazz Lunch at Packwood School
11 th – 18 th October	Shrewsbury Amateur Operatic Society production of South Pacific (Fund raising before the show)
Sun 19 th October	Fund Raising Dressage to Music Demonstration at Walford College

IMPORTANT INSURANCE CHANGES- ADVISED BY RDA HEADQUARTERS

- 1 Due to a substantial increase in the insurance premium, the current Personal Accident policy will be withdrawn from 1st April 2003.
- 2 Our insurers now require that all volunteers in all disciplines must hold an RDA Volunteers Basic Training Record Card with sections completed appropriate to the tasks required of them. (Anyone who has not yet signed their green card pls contact Jane urgently)