

YORKSHIRE & CLEVELAND REGION



NEWSLETTER

Issue 12 – July 2008

Dates for your Diary

July

8th-10th - Great Yorkshire Show
12th - 13th - RDA National Championships at Hartpury

August

4th- 8th - Tadcaster holiday
11th-15th - Children's holiday at Beamsley, near Bolton Abbey
17th – Trawden Bridleways Association's Pleasure Ride (See back pages for details & Entry Form)
18th-22nd – Escrick Park carriage driving holiday

September

1st-5th – Adults' holiday at Beamsley
15th – Regional Committee Meeting at Easingwold
21st – Harrogate Ladies College competition

October

Regional Conference at Askham Bryan College – please phone Judy (0845 2416311) for date and details.

Have you replied to our database request?

Thank you to all those groups who have replied to Catherine Bell, the volunteer who is helping me to catch up on some admin work. Catherine has written to each group to help provide up-to-date information on trustees and instructors as the National Office is checking they have the right information on their database. If your group has not already provided this information, please do so asap. Catherine's address is 103, Westgate, Tranmere Park, Guiseley, Leeds LS20 8HH. **Judy Olby**

10k for Sue = £100 for riders

Thanks to Sue Robson's London 10k run last year, all Hartpury qualifiers from our region will, by now, have received a donation of £100 each towards expenses. With rising fuel costs, who will help us to raise money for next year's Hartpury hopefuls? Please contact me (0845 2416311) with any ideas and/or offers.

Judy Olby

Pg 2 INSIDE - FULL RESULTS OF DRESSAGE QUALIFIERS

Yorkshire & Cleveland RDA Regional Dressage Qualifiers

KEY

B - Bedale

BB - Bense Bridge

EV - Ebor Vale

MP - Middleton Park

OT - Otley & District

UNI – Unicorn Centre

J - Junior

Q - Qualified

Class 1 Test 10

Rider	Group	Horse	Score	Place
Lynne Burnley Q	OT	Crispin	122	1 st
Gerry Savage	EV	Blues TTT	108	2 nd

Class 2 Test 22

Rider	Group	Horse	Score	Place
Andrea Evans Q	OT	Sapphire	134	1 st
Mandy Schofield	MP	Bramble	130	2 nd
Paul Kitchingman Q	OT	Major	119	3 rd

Class 3 Test 13

Rider	Group	Horse	Score	Place
Sarah Smith Q	BB	Alfie	140	1 st
Nathen Dickenson J Q	MP	Ruby	137	2 nd
Callum Wright J	MP	Jed	135	3 rd
Caroline Cannon Q	MP	Ruby	131	4 th
Anna Prosser Q	OT	Murphy	130	5 th
Emma Woods J Q	UNI	Murphy II	129	
Sarah Nolen	MP	Jed	121	
Danny Foster	OT	Major	118	
Georgina Hodgkinson J	MP	Reivan	118	
Anna Hirst	MP	Symphony	117	
Steven Rogers	UNI	Dan	110	
Lynette Crowe	MP	Abby	106	
Tanika Foster	OT	Crispin	104	
Heidi Marsden J	BB	Nugget	98	

Class 4 Test 12

Rider	Group	Horse	Score	Place
Angela Hartas Q	UNI	Whisper Teti	133	1 st
Alice King J Q	UNI	Alfie	121	2 nd
Ruth Goldman J Q	MP	Ruby	120	3 rd =
Glyn Butterworth Q	UNI	Geisha	120	3 rd =
Lynne Burnley	OT	Crispin	120	3 rd =
Helen McDonald	MP	Symphony	118	
Chloe Dickenson J	MP	Ruby	115	
Jacob Cronshaw	MP	Reivan	112	

Yorkshire & Cleveland Region of the Riding for the Disabled Association Incorporating Carriage Driving

(Reg. Charity no. 244108) (A UK company limited by guarantee no. 5010395)

www.rda-yorkshire-cleveland.org.uk

Class 5 Test 31

Rider	Group	Horse	Score	Place
Section A				
Susan Wilcox Q	UNI	Gren	137	1 st
Callum Wright J Q	MP	Jed	135	2 nd
Section B				
Amy Franks Q	MP	Patrick	157	1 st
Section C				
Mandy Schofield Q	MP	Abby	143	1 st
Ann Bennett Q	MP	Abby	130	2 nd
Mandv Schofield	MP	Bramble	128	3 rd

Class 6 Test 32

Rider	Group	Horse	Score	Place
Millie Reed J Q	BB	Tatton Siarl	153	1 st
Angela Hartas Q	UNI	Whisper Tet	152	2 nd
Lindsey McLaren Q	B	Ashley	150	3 rd
Sarah Telford J Q	UNI	Geisha	149	4 th
Emma Sigsworth	UNI	Gren	147	5 th
Chloe Dickinson Q	MP	Abby	143	
Gemma Hodgeson J Q	UNI	Murphy II	138	
Jacob Cronshaw	MP	Jed	133	
Helen McDonald	MP	Symphony	128	
Jessica Boal J	UNI	Murphy II	128	

Class 7 Test 41

Rider	Group	Horse	Score	Place
Katja Wesson Q	MP	Sundhali	166	1 st
Amy Franks Q	UNI	Patrick	146	2 nd

Class 8 Freestyle (Non-qualifier)

Rider	Group	Horse	Percent	Place
Kathryn Wheelock	OT	Indi	77%	1 st
Amy Franks	MP	Patrick	68%	2 nd

The James Tullett Memorial Trophy winners were:

Junior – Nathen Dickenson

Senior – Amy Franks

Further Handy Pony qualifier in 2009

Congratulations to The Unicorn Centre for hosting another successful competition. There were no fewer than sixty six entrants this year. In view of this great interest, we shall have two venues next year. Middleton Park Equestrian Centre in Leeds will host a second qualifier which will open up the competition to more riders from West Yorkshire and could qualify another twelve from our region.

Bedale's Charity Fun Ride

Bedale Group held another very successful Fun Ride on 18th May. We were again lucky with the weather and almost seventy riders turned out (including Barbara Birchall!).

We started at Catterick Saddle Club, under whose umbrella the ride was being held. (This is where we have our weekly RDA sessions.) We followed bridle paths to Hornby Park where, by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. Clutterbuck, riders could have a good gallop around the beautiful Estate or just enjoy the surroundings, including a large herd of deer.

After that it was tracks and road home. We raised the terrific sum of £760 with which we were delighted. Everyone said how much they enjoyed their day and hoped we would hold the ride again next year!

Anne Kitching

Photo Competition

Remember that the National Photographic Competition closes in October. Details and entry forms on the National Office website.

Welcome Cathy

Cathy Cook has kindly agreed to be RDA co-ordinator at Middleton Park. Thank you, Cathy.

Broughton Game Fair

On the 29th June, Paul Kitchingman and his mum, Jan and Ka Wheelock, Carole Dickason and I helped out on the RDA stall which was put up and organised wonderfully by Judy Olby. It was the first time I had been to the show, though I had visited Broughton Hall for another fundraising event last year.

It is a lovely show with lots to see. There were numerous displays in the main ring ranging from heavy horses to motorbike display teams. It also included an RAF Dakota Flypast, the K9 Dog Display Team, a historic vehicle rally, fairground rides for the kids and an array of stalls showing their wares, so there was a lot for all to see and Broughton Hall is set in wonderful Yorkshire countryside and is an impressive estate in itself.

Pleasure Ride

This is a joint fundraising venture in aid of Yorkshire & Cleveland RDA and Trawden Forest & Borders Bridleways Association. Within and around the Broughton Hall Estate, near Skipton, on 17th August, the new 12 mile long route goes through some stunning and varied scenery. Also 2 mile leading rein ride. Full details and entry form supplied with this newsletter. **We need to supply a lot of stewards for this event. Please get in touch with Judy if you are able to help. (0845 2416311)**

Christmas Card Stall

Volunteers are needed to help man the stall selling charity Christmas cards (including RDA ones) in Brindley's of Harrogate. Many charities will sell their cards here from October to December and charity taking part undertakes to man the stall for one half day per week. If you could offer any help, or for further details, please contact Angela Brooks. (0845 450 7021)

Regional Conference

A reminder that this year's October regional conference will, once again, be held at Askham Bryan College. There is the possibility of each group showcasing what they've done over the past year. Details from Judy Olby (0845 2416311)

Weatherwise, it was changeable and I was glad I'd taken my wellies as it was a bit muddy underfoot, but the sun shone throughout the afternoon.

The stall was brisk with people asking what RDA was all about and what sort of things we did. So information was passed forward, and it was lovely to see such an interest from people. Peter Olby's papier mache horse's head again attracted the crowd to 'Guess the Horse's Name' and there was also 'Guess that Land Rover's number plate' and a lucky dip. Paul's mum donated some bits to add to the lucky dip, and there were items on the stall to sell also.

There were lots of dogs - I think it was the most dogs I've ever seen in one place - and they all seemed to be enjoying the mud though behaving themselves.

So the day was enjoyable, and it was another lovely opportunity for the RDA to spread the word about the things we do to help people with disabilities gain more freedom through the wonderful interaction with horses.

Elaine Button

NEWS FROM OUR GROUPS

Please send your group news (150 words maximum) to patblackledge@tiscali.co.uk by the end of September for October's newsletter.

Bedale

(See article on Page 5)

Otley & District

The sad news from Otley is that Sylvester had to be put to sleep a few weeks ago due to a sudden intestinal blockage which resisted treatment. Sylvester was bought in 2004 to help some of our younger dressage riders and was a regular at Hartpury every year. He will be much missed. Two new arrivals at East View stables are Chuckie, a New Forest pony and Frances, a grey Shetland. Frances was a gift as the owners wanted to benefit RDA. She has already helped a very nervous school pupil overcome his fear of horses. We are now preparing for our second '21st Birthday Party'. This will be held at Lineham Farm after our AGM in September and will be aimed at younger riders and families. Thankfully, our American-born mother and daughter helpers, Lee-Ann and Camille have now been granted leave to stay in the UK.

The Unicorn Centre

Fifteen riders have qualified for Hartpury - an unprecedented number, and all the more special for it being our tenth anniversary year. Seven qualified in the Walk in the Farmyard competition held here and, in the Middleton Park dressage qualifiers, a further eight won through. Sarah Telford qualified in both so has passed her Walk in the Farmyard place to another rider and will only ride in the dressage. Riders have been attending regular dressage clinics with instructor Kay Brandon and their hard work has paid off. Some Unicorn riders also competed in our monthly Winter Dressage competitions. This is good for their confidence and personal development. The Winter series starts again on 21 September. Despite persistent rain for most of the day, our annual summer show on 21 June had an excellent number of entries. RDA riders took part in many of the classes with great success. A total of £3480.33 was raised.

“Follow your dreams!”

A report on the 2008 Regional Dressage Holiday

Most readers will have heard of the RDA holidays that take place around the country. During late May, I joined members from all over Great Britain for the Yorkshire & Cleveland RDA's Dressage Holiday, organised by Judy Olby.

The venue was a superb outdoor pursuits centre on the hillside above Wharfedale in Yorkshire, just north of Leeds. A converted hill farm, Lineham Farm (www.linehamfarm.co.uk) offers accommodation and activities for able and disabled people and boasts an impressive claim that some 1,400 disabled and deserving people have spent a week at the farm in the last year. Lineham Farm has several animals on site, including horses, with two popular Shetlands - Rolo and Polo - who are let out every morning to mow the grass that surrounds the eighteenth century stone farmhouse.

Some of our riders were local to Yorkshire, others had travelled from London and the South to experience Yorkshire hospitality!

The holiday kicked off on **Tuesday** with riding at Acrecliffe Equestrian Centre where local RDA group Otley & District ride. This was followed by a demonstration of Tai Chi back at the farm.

Wednesday offered the riders a special opportunity: meeting, and having a lesson with, Nicola Tustain. Obtaining one gold medal at the Paralympics is no mean feat, but to gain three gold medals is something else! I managed to catch up with Nicola after she had given the riders a lesson and found out more about how she managed to accomplish such an impressive achievement.

Nicola told me: *“I was bullied at school because of my disability. I had five years of bullying. – Don't let bullies get you down, they have the problem not you.”* It was on the back of this bullying that Nicola decided to make something of her life and really go for it. She is a very determined individual and told me *“Whatever your disability, with focus you will achieve.”* I asked Nicola what it is like to ride when competing at such a high level *“Although in physical pain, I don't let it hold me back. When I am on my horse I am so focused, the pain just goes away”*

Although Nicola is a triple gold medallist, she doesn't let the glory get the better of her. She has an admirable ability to remember the people who helped her on her journey to success. Many athletes can achieve gold and put nothing back into the sport afterwards. For Nicola, whose roots are in RDA, this is something she certainly does not do:

“The RDA gave me a lot, I enjoy doing RDA – I like to help people - I like seeing people with a smile on their face”

I asked her if she had one simple piece of advice to give an RDA rider. *“Follow your dreams!”*

After talking to Nicola, it made me reflect: how many able bodied riders would ever be given the opportunity to have a lesson with a gold medallist Olympic dressage rider. This

really was a great opportunity for the riders and perhaps for many, the highlight of this holiday.

Wednesday evening, and back at the farm, we were given a talk about dressage and some tips and hints. Later, I caught up with some of the riders who had come on the holiday. Elizabeth Elvidge, has been riding with Stevenage and District RDA for 23 years. Elizabeth told me she came on the holiday to learn more about dressage as she had been riding dressage the last two years. Elizabeth told me: *“At the moment I can walk and trot on the horse. I only cantered for the first time two weeks ago.”*

I asked Elizabeth what she thought of meeting Nicola Tustain: *“It felt good!”* she told me with a smile. *“Nicola has the same disability as me but down the other side of her body. Considering Nicola has the same disability as me made me realise I could do a lot more in the future.”*



Paralympic Gold Medallist, Nicola Tustain, talking with helpers and riders on the Yorkshire & Cleveland RDA's dressage holiday earlier this year.

Thursday morning, riders were back at the stables, this time practising the dressage test on foot in the arena and learning about what they can and cannot take and use on their horse before a test. In the afternoon, we travelled to Glusburn, near Skipton, to the home of Kathryn Wheelock. The 32 year old has been riding with Otley & District RDA group for 20 years and is representing Ireland at elementary level. Next to Kathryn's house was an outdoor arena with splendid views across the dale. Kathryn gave the riders a demonstration of a dressage test and a ride to music.

Kathryn told me her dream is to compete in London 2012. I asked her if she had any advice for riders: *“Move up in stages – take it in little steps”*

Thursday evening, back at the farm, we took part in folk dancing and line dancing. I spoke to Lynette from South Yorkshire who had come on the holiday with her mother, Gloria. Lynette rides with Middleton Park RDA. She told me *“It felt really good having a lesson from Nicola. She doesn't talk too fast and was friendly and patient – I would like to be the best like Nicola and be a good rider”*

Friday morning and we were up early for the big day – the dressage competition! The dressage judge, Berenice Holdsworth, came to the farm in the morning to talk to the riders and tell them what she was looking for. We drove to the stables where I was given the job of writing for the judge – something I have never done before. I was probably more nervous than the competition riders, but I soon got the hang of things. Writing for the judge is a really good experience. For those who don't know what this is, you are simply writing down the comments that the judge announces as he or she observes the rider during the test. I learnt exactly what the judge was looking for in a rider. If you ever get the opportunity to write, take it - as you will learn a lot about dressage.

At the end of the day, rosettes were given out, prizes awarded and people made their journey back home.

The holiday was certainly a success and I am sure the riders who came on it went away having learnt something more about their sport – I certainly did. Perhaps one person who experienced something new was Lynette's mother Gloria, who admitted to me that she had never even sat on a horse. We soon changed that!

Richard Fordham RDAGI

Next issue – October 2008
Please send your Group News and articles in to me
patblackledge@tiscali.co.uk by the end of September

Pleasure Ride at Broughton Hall, Skipton

Sunday 17th August, 2008

Long route – approx 12 miles

Short route also available

Sponsored Lead Rein Ride – 2 miles within the grounds of Broughton Hall

Please arrive at Broughton Hall between 10.00am and 11.30am and vacate the car park by 4.00pm. Follow the signs from the A59 to the Car Parks – one for trailers and one for horseboxes. **No starters after 12.00 noon.**

Colne First Aid Services will be in attendance and a vet will be on call (for emergencies only)

A British Standard/PAS Approved riding hat must be worn.

Refreshment wagon in attendance.

Rosettes awarded to all who complete the ride.

Sponsored Lead Rein Ride – trophy awarded to rider who raises the most money

The Organisers accept no liability for any loss, damage, accident, injury or illness to horses, riders, spectators or any other persons or property whatsoever. No dogs please.

The Organisers have taken reasonable precautions to ensure the Health & Safety of everyone attending the event. For these measures to be effective, everyone must take reasonable precautions to avoid and prevent accidents occurring, and must obey the instructions of the Organisers and Officials.

The money raised at this ride will be shared between the Yorkshire & Cleveland Riding for the Disabled Association region and Trawden Forest & Borders Bridleways Association.

We extend our thanks to the Tempest family and all the farmers for allowing us to ride over their land.

**ENTRY FORM
For Pleasure Ride at Broughton Hall, Skipton
Sunday 17th August, 2008**

NAME

AGE (if under 13 – must be accompanied)

ADDRESS

.....

.....

TEL NO.

EMAIL

ENTRY FEE: £15 to be sent with Entry Form before closing date.

Lead Rein: £5 – please send SAE for sponsor form

(Lead Rein class open to junior riders or RDA riders)

Cheques payable to RDA Yorkshire & Cleveland

CLOSING DATE: Monday 11th August 2008. No entries will be taken on the day.

Approximate length of Long Ride: 12 miles

Lead Rein Ride: 2 miles

Please return Entry Forms to:

Jan Wheelock, Binns Lane Farm, Glusburn, Keighley BD20 8JU

Tel: 01535 636008

For further details or forms email Jan Wheelock: jan@para-equestrian.com

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