



**Riding for the Disabled Association
Incorporating Carriage Driving**

RDA CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2016

2016 has been another busy and successful time for Riding for the Disabled, Jersey Group and the rides at Le Claire Stables, held daily on weekday afternoons during the school term, continue to be well attended. It was a wet and windy winter and spring but where possible rides were held or stable management lessons were given. Many riders worked towards and attained Riding and Horsecare badges and certificates; from Mont a l'abbe school 5 riders achieved Grade 1 Riding and 3 riders gained Grade 1 Horsecare; from Bel Royal School 4 riders gained Grade 1 Riding and 3 attained their Grade One badges. One rider, Indie Correia, achieved Grade 3 Riding and Horsecare and was examined by the SW Regional Instructor in June; Indie is only the second rider in 15 years to achieve this level and can now ride independently, controlling his pony even at a rising trot. The thrill and self esteem of such success cannot be underestimated and there is a growing need for the therapy RDA provide; two extra rides have been added this term to accommodate new young riders and this has only been possible by the time given freely by our volunteers.

RDA Jersey were invited to take some of our riders to the BSJA Members Show on 2nd July and the Group asked the adult riders if they would like to take part. Seven riders attended the show displaying their riding skills in the main ring with commentary by the BSJA. All the competitors rode with concentration as they completed the small handy pony course in front of their family and friends and their joy was evident, especially as every rider was presented with a special rosette from the President of the BSJA, Mrs. Jane Sebire.

The Group's main objective over the last two years has been to raise the money and install a hydraulic lift to help with mounting our riders. We have been enormously fortunate to have some wonderful benefactors – Domaine des Vaux Opera Festival and The Major Sullivan Will Trust - and are really pleased to report that the hydraulic lift was fitted at Le Claire Stables in July. The subsequent landscaping was finished by the start of the autumn term enabling full use by our riders since early September. It has been a tremendous success enabling us to mount our riders in a safer and easier way for all concerned and also allow us to offer therapeutic riding to a wider range of adults and children. We were very pleased to welcome our Patron, Lady McColl, on her final visit to the Group along with the supporters of the lift project, to officially celebrate the installation of the lift even if it was a rather wet and windy day. Please check our website for more information and great photos www.rda.org.je

Once again the Annual RDA Bridge Tea afternoon at Trinity Parish Hall in February was a sell out and all players enjoyed sandwiches and cakes whilst raising money. A new safety standard for the hats will be in place by January 2017 and therefore all our hats had to be replaced by this date so the money from the Bridge Afternoon was used for this purpose.

The Group continue to have the annual assessments of all instructors by the Regional Instructor for the South West, Becky Monk, together with a morning of training for all volunteers. First Aid Courses are undertaken by many of our volunteers and our Instructors, Assistant Instructors and those in training attend Safe Guarding Courses run by Sport Jersey. We are always glad to welcome new volunteers in any capacity from helping with fitting hats and acting as eyes, through to side walking and leading in the ride to progressing through to instructor level. The Group can only provide the rides thanks to our fully committed and hardworking band of volunteers who generously give their time and help, which is much appreciated.

Finally we wish to thank all our supporters, which allow RDA Jersey to continue providing riding therapy and enjoyment to our many riders

Cathy and Rachel
Chairman and Joint Group Organiser, RDA Jersey