

NORTH WALES REGION of RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION

AGM

Held at Rhug Estate meeting rooms, Corwen, on May 27th 2016 at 12.30pm

Present; Liz Rees . Alys Lewis-Jones. Ann Mayfield. Michael Dixon. Chris Dixon. Sarah Huxley. Louise Peeters . Mandy Jones. Sam Davison. Budge English. Joan Davies. Phena Wilson. Barbara Himsworth. Eve Tiston . Mary Axford. Diane Williams. Maddy Shepherd. Kirstie Harper. Anne Furey. Penny Harris. Bronwen Williams. Jill Stott. Jillian John. Lucy Curtis.

1. Apologies; Lynne Munro. Maggie Tomley. . Margaret Brockie. Fiona Burger. Pam Jones. Ann Lambert. Sorrel Taylor. Eileen Clarke(for whole group). Kay Mullin(for whole group). June Little. Barbara Himsworth. Joan Fairhurst. Caroline Ward. Di Porter

2. Minutes of the AGM. November 20th 2015 were accepted. Proposed by Michael I Dixon.
Seconded by Mandy Jones

3. Matters Arising : None

4. Financial Update. Michael Dixon. See attached document. Louise Peters raised the question of a missing grant application and suggested we need some written guidance about these applications.

Action MD & AI-J

Examiner of Accounts: Mr David V. Bamber CPFA. To be done.

Adoption of accounts: Proposed Sarah Huxley , seconded Mary Axford

5 . Reports. Regional

- **Chair report. Alys L-Jones & Liz Rees**

At the last Regional meeting, kindly hosted by Montgomery RDA near Oswestry, it was agreed to move this years' AGM forward to May- to coincide with the end of our financial year, and also to avoid potential "snowy" November weather.

And so, as we start a new RDA year, Liz and I would once again like to welcome new people to the Regional committee this year, as well as hoping that those retiring from posts on the committee will continue to feel part of North Wales Region RDA. We would be very sad to lose their considerable skills and expertise after many years of dedicated volunteering.

We also sadly say goodbye to St Asaph RDA group, who have decided to close as a group after many years of providing an excellent service to children in their area. Our thanks and good wishes go out to all the members of St Asaph group who have given so much pleasure and dedication to their RDA participants over the years.

Since the last AGM in November, the Region's website has been launched, we would like to give thanks to Neels Burger and Sam Davison for all their work setting it up, and to Sam for continuing to update it regularly.

Since November, the Region has run the following events:

Riding clinics at CSRC in January, February & March for riders, coaches and volunteers- coached by Sue Adams Wheeler, Nic Tustain and Sarah Rodgers.

Fundraiser in February at Cheadle, to raise money for a “made to measure” saddle for “Mouse” - a fell driving pony who’d been bought by CSRC. The event raised £1000 and we hope to run a future fundraiser this winter to go towards costs of Hartpury.

Regional Training Weekend in March- many thanks to Mandy Jones who organised this successful weekend.

Regional Riding Fun Day also in March at Clwyd Special Riding Centre. Many thanks to our volunteer, Sara Bishop, who became our “Regional Photographer” at this event, and took so many beautiful photographs.

Regional Holiday in April- The number of applicants almost doubled this year, and the experience was enjoyed by all. A special thanks goes to the wonderful volunteers who came to help, and to the Pony Club members who came to volunteer during this busy holiday.

Regional Countryside Challenge, Dressage and Show Jumping Qualifiers- and Arts and Crafts competition these events again went very smoothly this year- due to the preparation and hard work put in by Diane Williams organizing the events, and coordinating the brilliant volunteers on the days.

- **Vaulting and Show Jumping report. Di Williams.**

Report of HETI Spring Forum 2016

Hosted by the Welsh Institute of Therapeutic Horsemanship (WITH)

I attended the HETI spring forum with Lynne Munro and Gerry Green which was held at Porthmadog golf club and Pen Y Trip farm.

Updates were given from each of the federation members WITH, FCRT, GUL, RDA and ACPTR

Iain Crosby (WITH) talked about PQASSO Quality Standards. Mia Harri a student at University West, Sweden gave a presentation of her work. An Ethnographic study Interaction in Therapeutic Horsemanship. Jennifer Dixon-Clegg (FCRT) talked about Further Education Through Horsemanship Courses at Fortune Centre.

During the afternoon Lindsey Crosbie and Beccy Harrison (WITH) demonstrated positive reinforcement training and the use of equine massage therapeutically. Forum attendees were given the opportunity to have a go at massage techniques. The day was interesting and enjoyable.

Vaulting and Show jumping report

North Wales continues with 4 registered vaulting groups. Meirionnydd currently are having a break from vaulting. Benson has been retired from RDA by CSRC. Charlie and Erik are the 2 large horses now used for adapted vaulting. Hope Mountain restarted a therapeutic vaulting session using Apollo from CSRC. Wrexham group have 2 sessions and have been including lots of barrel and horse care work into their sessions. CSRC has been running 2 sessions the session with children from Tro Rownd will now change to riding and horse care. Ysgol Maes Hyfryd will continue vaulting until the end of the summer term. 2016 will see the introduction of individual vaulting competition alongside the team competition at the RDA National Championships.

Show jumping has been quiet recently, with 2 competitors taking part in the regional qualifier at Level 2. Ann Furey and Pam Jones are organising a training day during the summer.

Finally thank you to the region and the groups for their support while I have been Vaulting and Show Jumping Coach, I look forward to future progression in new hands.

- **Coach report. Anne Furey**

T.A.'s and visits

Thanks and congratulations; N.W. is one of the few regions up to date with the coach reviews due in 2016. Must be done by the end of the year, but please don't leave until Dec:

NO. has asked that groups inform them of any changes in contact details.

Coaches Weekend

Thanks to Mandy Jones for her hard work organising and running the weekend.

Feedback was very good.

Provisional dates for next year are the 11th and 12th March 2017

Regional Holiday Thanks to everyone involved who put in a massive amount of hard work.

Regional Qualifiers

Thanks to Di Williams who put an enormous amount of work into the smooth running of the countryside challenge, dressage and show jumping

Wrexham is organising the driving qualifier, which will be in early June.

New Annual Vet Check

All RDA horses now have to have an annual vet check. Details are on the RDA National Website.

Log Books

Theses are now in a modular form with coaches receiving new packs as they move up the coaching levels

There will be the facility for coaches who wish to have their log books online rather than paper. It is hoped that will be ready by the end of the year

Safe Guarding

All assistant coaches must have a face to face safe guarding qualification within 6 months of their successful assessment. They then can be online.

Upcoming Training

20th July at Clwyd Show jumping Training Information has been sent out.

Novice Coaches and potential log book holders, 7th September 2016, at Ynys Mon's Anglesey centre. Information will be emailed next week

- **Physiotherapy report. Lynne Munro**

There have been a few requests which have been helped.

Hippotherapy continues on Fridays at CSRC. Anyone is able to refer a participant to Lynne for advice and possible hippotherapy.

- **Driving report Margaret Brockie**

The only active driving group in North Wales at the moment is Wrexham. They have just purchased a new 4 wheel vehicle which they are very pleased with and have ordered another.

Their 2 drivers did well at Hartpury in 2015 and there will be an assessment at Clwyd on 6th June to qualify for this year's Nat. Chs.

Ynys Mon cannot drive due their coaches not having had their triennial assessment. Several contacts have been made with the group to no avail.

Under the succession planning arrangement I can no longer continue as Driving Rep for North Wales and a new rep. is needed.

- **Dressage report. Eve Tilston**
 - Over the winter period five dressage clinics took place at Clwyd Special Riding Centre
 - from January through to March. Three of the clinics were led by Sue Adams Wheeler, a Senior RDA Coach and examiner, one by former Para rider Nic Tustain and one by Sarah Rodgers, an International Para Dressage Judge. A big thank you should go to Alys for contacting and booking them for our participants.
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 - The sessions were well supported by riders from largely three RDA groups from the Region.
 - Several coaches from the area were also given the generous opportunity to work with the horses at the Centre along with CSRC staff in the clinics taken by Sue Adams Wheeler.
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 - Again the riders and coaches' sessions were subsidised by the North Wales Region, as it covered the costs of hiring the indoor school.
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 - Going forward into the North Wales Regional Qualifiers this year are 11 riders, quite a low number by comparison with previous years. We have just one of the participants competing on her own pony again, who last year was awarded a lovely trophy at the National Championship for highest point achieved. Good luck to all.
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- **Participants report & Publicity report.** None
 - **Web page co-ordinator.** Sam Davison

Sam is building up a skills matrix for easy access to the right person, and building up a photo gallery of who's who. He requests photos but asks that we always get permission from the people concerned. He will also advertise jobs for the region if we send in job descriptions. **Action AM&SD**

- **6. Appointment of Regional Officers .**

Retiring Officers since last AGM:

Diane Williams- Regional Vaulting Coach & Regional Show Jumping Coach, retiring at this AGM

Joan Fairhurst- East County Chair, retiring at this AGM

Many thanks to Diane and Joan for all the hard work and effort they put into their roles!

New Officers and Posts

Caroline Ward- National Office Representative for N Wales

Barbara Himsworth- put forward by Joan Fairhurst for EAST COUNTY CHAIR POSITION-Proposed Eve Tilston seconded Chris Dixon

Sam Davison- put forward for REGIONAL VAULTING COACH- to take on role at the AGM

Vacant Posts:

Regional Equine Advisor

Regional Publicity Officer - (although some of this role is currently done by Sam Davison as Website coordinator) The rest of this role can be split up into different parts: Writing articles for Newspapers etc; writing articles for RDA Magazine; and editing/creating a Regional Magazine.

Regional Participant Representative

Secretary wishes to retire. Job description to SD for advertising on the website

Regional Carriage driving coach Margaret Brockie has to retire from office due to the rules set out on succession planning from N.O. for 2016. Any interested persons wishing to apply for this role need to contact Reg Chair and send CV along with application for approval by RDA Carriage Driving committee.

Current Posts:

Lynne Munro- Regional Physio

Bryan Hallows- Regional Vet

Anne Furey- Regional Coach & T.A.

Mandy Jones- East Counties Coach & T.A.

Kirstie Harper & Jaspa Wynne Williams- Joint West County Coach

Pam Jones- Regional Show Jumping Coach

Eve Tilston- Regional Dressage Representative

Ann Mayfield- Regional Secretary

Michael Dixon- Regional Treasurer

Liz Rees & Alys Lewis-Jones- Joint Regional Chair & New Group Liason Officer

Louise Peeters- West County Chair

Diane Williams- North Wales T.A.

Tess Chew- North Wales T.A.

Sam Davison- North Wales Website Co-ordinator (and social media)

• **7. AOB**

Diane Williams was presented with flowers and a voucher from Mothercare, with thanks and best wishes for the baby, due July 17th. She has been at the Centre for 15 years and we all hope will be back. Joan Fairhurst was presented with a card and our thanks for her work as county chair. Ann Mayfield was presented with flowers and thanked for her work as secretary, which will continue in the near future.

Mary Axford and Joan Davies thanked the region for their gifts at the last AGM. Mary had bought a Rowan tree.

Regional magazine. We should have one and also an e version. Cost £1300. **Action A L-J**

Leaflets about competitions are needed to inform parents/carers who qualifies to take part in which comps. **Action A L-J**

Suggested training days. Request for social media. **Action AL-J**

- **Thank you to our Chairs for everything they do**

8. Date of next AGM May19th 2017 same venue