

## NEWSLETTER

Issue No 30 – Dec 2015

### CONTACT DETAILS

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

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**Another year has flown by and 'Team Stratford' has had another amazing time!**

- 👉 **1000 rides given to 39 riders Our record SMASHED again!**
- 👉 **New hydraulic lift installed**
- 👉 **Jules became our RDA National Champion in the Countryside Challenge class**
- 👉 **New riders have joined us; Jack, Sasha and Jessica**
- 👉 **New horse, Alfie, purchased**

There have been so memorable moments this year. Our riders have continued to delight us with their enjoyment for riding and surprised us with their confidence. We had a go at equestrian vaulting and had great results at the Regional Qualifiers, RDA Nationals and Fun Day. Riders have gained ASDAN, Proficiency & Endeavour awards and enjoyed a holiday in Wales. We have been joined by many enthusiastic new volunteers and have attended

Makaton sign language, Safeguarding and National, County & Group Training sessions. Our young volunteers have gained Duke of Edinburgh Young Equestrian Leader (YELA) awards and Pony Club Badge and Alice was registered as a Trainee Coach. Karen took over as joint County Coach and achieved a well deserved UK Coaching Certificate Level 2

### So here's the year in full .....

The Group celebrated in style on 31st March, when we launched the installation of our new hydraulic lift which enables our riders to mount their horses in a more efficient manner. Described as the 'flying carpet' by our Group Coach, Karen Arnold, the lift was officially 'opened' by **Paralympic Equestrian Dressage rider Ricky Balshaw**

This lift represents a significant investment for our group. The ponies have taken to it



with ease and it has already proved to be a positive experience for our riders, especially those with reduced mobility, as it is big enough to take a wheelchair. We have a lot of people to thank for their kind support and generosity, but primarily we

are indebted to the owners of Home Farm and Dan Wain Equestrian, who operate the stable facility, for allowing us to install it alongside the arena.

The lift which cost upwards of £15,000 to install has been funded through the kind generosity of a variety of sources including Mrs Linda Morris, Mark & Vanessa Petterson, the supporters of a Garden Concert given by the A440 Chamber Orchestra last year in Adderbury and the fundraising efforts of the Stratford on Avon District Council past Chair, Councillor Chris Mills and this year's Chair, Councillor Simon Jackson as part of their year in office.



## Great results at the Regional Qualifiers

We were full of excitement again for our riders as we turned up in force at the West Mercia RDA Regional Qualifiers.

Our first riders were entered in the Dressage classes. Jo desperately wanted



to better her score from last year and scored more than enough to qualify for the RDA National Championships. Isabella,



riding Henry, also qualified in her Dressage class gaining equal 1<sup>st</sup>

Now it was the turn of our riders in the Countryside Challenge. Mostly in different classes, Leo rode well on Marco and qualified. First time for Jack, but you would not have known. The apple wouldn't stay in the bucket first time; however he gained a 2<sup>nd</sup> and qualified. Isabella rode a lovely round and gained a 1<sup>st</sup> and qualified. Charlotte never stopped smiling on Keira and was so proud of her 3<sup>rd</sup> rosette and score of 77.25%. This was a tough class with a lot of competition so unfortunately, she was pipped at qualifying which was a shame. Jules had also entered for the first time; she hasn't stopped mentioning it for weeks! She did so well with her steering and came 1<sup>st</sup> and qualified. For Neil, Badger decided he wouldn't behave, which was such a shame, but Neil battled on and came 4<sup>th</sup>. The last rider up was Matthew, who rode completely on his own. He gained a 1<sup>st</sup> and qualified.

A quick turn around and onto the show jumping. This was not a qualifying class so riders could relax a little. They all did so well. Isabella and Matthew came 1<sup>st</sup> in their unled classes Charlotte, also unled came 2<sup>nd</sup>. Leo and Jack in the led class came 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Jules came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the adult led class and Neil in a tough unled class came 5<sup>th</sup>. Not one rider under 60%! The presentations showed some very proud and happy faces on riders, parents and our volunteers. And it didn't stop there!! In the Arts and Crafts class, Henry gained a 1st with his picture of a rainbow coloured pony and his picture qualified for the RDA National competition at Hartpury. Chris

came 1<sup>st</sup> with his picture of his mount Moley and Neil and Lisa with their large watercolour of two ponies came 2<sup>nd</sup>. What a day! A real triumph for 'Team Stratford'.

We all went home with very big smiles.



### Another fun & successful Regional Fun Day (by Karen, Group Coach)

Nine of our riders went along to Lowlands Farm, including several newbies. Everyone rode with skill & determination & it was a very successful day. All the practising beforehand definitely paid off! Everyone took part in the Handy Pony course, with some very high scoring rounds. Congratulations to first-timer Sasha, riding Kiera, who was well deserved winner of the junior led class. His score of 91 was the best result of the whole day & Sasha won a lovely trophy, to keep for a year.



Isabella on Henry was a very close second, going on to win the unled section too!

**Henry**, ever the showman, rose to the occasion, steering Marco into sixth place. Lewis on Marco was positive & very focussed, Arthur was very excited to be riding Badger & Harrison put in a good performance on Marco. They all scored over 70% and were awarded special rosettes. Our riders once again dominated the senior led class, which was won convincingly by Matthew A, riding Badger. Matthew completed the whole course unprompted. Jo P showed good skills on Kiera to achieve second place, and Holly on Badger, completed all the activities with enthusiasm, (particularly trotting!) to win a third rosette. All our riders also successfully took part in a "clear round" show jumping



class. They enjoyed steering round a course of poles and were awarded rosettes for showing the correct approach & forward position. Whilst results are important, I was immensely proud of the confident, happy, positive attitude adopted by all our riders throughout the day. The excitement in simply being on their ponies & taking part was obvious. Isabella proved her knowledge of grooming & looking after ponies by coming third in the Stable Management quiz. Sasha's research on the internet gained him a 5<sup>th</sup> rosette & Matthew A was 6<sup>th</sup> in a highly competitive class. The day was rounded off with a picnic, followed by the prize-giving, when our riders proudly collected their rosettes.

It was lovely so many parents, carers,

riders & helpers were present to celebrate Donna receiving the "Warwickshire Trophy".



### Galloping Acrobats!

Riders and volunteers had an entertaining and informative evening watching the Galloping Acrobatics at Moreton Morrell College. Rosie and her team wowed us with their horsemanship skills walking and cantering around an arena on a horse with no lunge whilst moving into gymnastic poses. 'Vaulting' is a discipline that many RDA groups around the UK offer, maybe Stratford in the future?



In the second half of their show Rosie with her new protégé Peroni explained how training of horse and vaulter is managed with lots of praise and carrots (for the horse that is). Peroni is learning how to be a dog and fetch his toy!

A great night, thank you to the Galloping Acrobats. If you want to watch how Peroni accomplishes his new tricks visit their website.

We were so enthralled by the Vaulting evening that we decided to hold a **Vaulting Taster** and what an amazing experience for our six riders who came to the session on the afternoon of 12<sup>th</sup> June. Julie Newell the Coach from the British Equestrian Vaulting GBR Team brought Katie one of the GBR vaulters to help and support the riders. Katie jumped up first on Boris, a rather large 17.2 trained vaulting horse and gave us a demonstration of her free style test so that we could see exactly what equestrian vaulting is. Then it was the turn of our riders. Sophia was up first with so much confidence.



Harrison was next up. He looked so small and so high up, but Katie jumped up with him as support. He was encouraged to stand up with Katie holding him and then he just kept asking for 'more and more'. His delight and giggles had us all smiling.

Jules was next and her face beamed as she tried the arm extensions but it was a long way down for her to dismount which was a bit worrying!





Arthur's turn and he stunned us all. He looked so confident at a trot and then at a canter – in fact all the riders had a turn at their first canter.



Charlotte managed to stand up with Katie to help and was she very pleased with herself. Our final rider, Sasha, ended the afternoon by standing on his own whilst the horse was walking with his arms outstretched. What amazing achievements from all especially as they had never had this opportunity before. They all received an RDA Endeavour award for trying so hard.

**'Team Stratford' had great results at the RDA Nationals!**

Wow, 'Team Stratford' did it again!! After weeks of practicing, the weekend was upon us. The tack was cleaned, boxes packed and on Friday 17th July, Badger, Keira and Marco were shampooed and were sent on a lorry to Hartpury College.

Alarms at 6am on Saturday and our volunteers were up giving them breakfast and a final brush and Liz plaited Badger's mane and tail after giving him yet another

bath! Then Karen and Puffin arrived ready to tack-up and wait for our riders.

First up was Jules on Keira in the Countryside Challenge senior class. It was her first time at the Championships and she was so excited but settled to concentrate very hard negotiating the obstacles well leaving Karen and Puffin with very little to do. So well in fact, that later on she learned that she had been placed joint 1<sup>st</sup> and become National Champion. She hasn't stopped smiling yet!!



Leo was next on Marco and rode exceptionally well placed 4<sup>th</sup> in his Junior class. His steering was superb. Jack on Marco was also taking part for the first time which was a huge achievement for him. He was in a different Junior class and rode well showing great control. He was also placed 4<sup>th</sup>



Jo was next riding Badger. It was also her first time and faced stiff competition in the Dressage Grade 1 class. Both horse and rider looked very smart and Tom and Liz, Badger's previous owners, were thrilled to watch them perform their Dressage test. From carriage horse to Dressage, quite an achievement for Badger! They were

relaxed and showed a harmonious well-balance team. We were all very proud of their performance. They didn't make the rosettes but scored an admirable 60.5%.



After lunch it was Matthew's turn Countryside Challenge Independent class.

Keira went well for Matthew and they negotiated the obstacles with a couple of extra turns and achieved 6<sup>th</sup> place. Well



ridden Matthew, off the lead rein and on your own is a challenge which you overcame.

Keira and Marco were entered into the Best Turned Out, where tack, pony and rider were scrutinised for cleanliness and presentation and gained 85% and 88%. A big thank you to their grooms! They shone and no one noticed the boot polish! (only joking!)

On Sunday, it was the turn of Isabella on Henry. Isabella is coached at Rookery Farm stables but is registered with us as an independent rider. Isabella took part in the Combined Training by riding in the Countryside Challenge Junior class and Dressage. Henry sparkled and so did Isabella's hat. They looked like they had

been sprinkled with fairy dust. She was thrilled to be placed joint 2<sup>nd</sup>. An amazing result for her first time, she also achieved 89% in the Horse Care and Knowledge competition!!

## Tails from Clwyd by Jo White

Lots of tired and happy faces returned from a fabulous holiday at the Clwyd Special Riding Centre in Llanfynydd, Wales. What a lovely time we had!



We arrived on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August and immediately changed for the rider's assessment on their mounts. After a short ride we put them in their field next door to our bungalow and had a rest before dinner. Karen also went through setting objectives with them all so that they could work towards an Endeavour award.



Up with the lark the next morning and our last rider Jo arrived and introduced to Big Charlie. The others meanwhile caught their ponies in from the field. After grooming, tacking and warming up it was off round the tracks for our first outdoor ride. The weather was glorious so after a break at lunchtime we were off again, this

time collecting wild flowers. The water splash was tackled by all except Jules as Guinness does not like getting his hooves wet apparently – what a Wally! After tea, tack cleaning duties were on the cards. Jules had set learning how to do this as one of her objectives so was almost first there whilst Jo P took it slowly as its not her favourite job!



Saturday came and our warm-up was to place items of food into buckets of what horses do and do not eat. This was scuppered a bit by Mr Harvey who took a shine to a lemon! Our first ride outdoors took us a long way down the disused railway track with one of the girls from the stables.



We were very lucky with the weather as Sunday continued to be warm and dry. Jo, Chris and Neil were all confident enough to ride around the tracks independently and, with Jules, took turns in which way we should go. We had a lovely picnic break

on the top of the hill overlooking the stables trying to eat all the cake that had been brought, but we were losing the battle!!

Monday came and there were a few sad faces as this was to be our last ride out before we said goodbye to our horses. After putting the horses back in their field and giving them their last pat the riders were given a surprise. Alys, an instructor with CSRC came into the indoor school with Big Charlie and what was on his back – no saddle – big handles? Our riders were given a ‘Vaulting Taster’. First they had to time and walk to pat Charlie, then each one was given a turn sitting on his back and performing various gymnastic moves whilst Charlie walked in a 20m circle. They rode sideways, round the world, lying down, and hands out to the side and backwards and Chris and Jo even managed to kneel up. Jules was so excited as she had also had a turn a while back at our stables so she was chosen to go first to show everyone how it is done. Neil could not contain his enjoyment and had everyone laughing with him. What a lovely way to end our holiday. After lunch Karen gave our amazing riders their Endeavour awards. Each one had obtained their objectives, Neil of leading his horse in from the field and trotting independently, Chris for riding without stirrups and trotting independently, Jo P for showing a good position up and down the hills and for gaining reins, Jules for learning how to clean tack and attempting the rising trot and Jo W for having the courage to get on Big Charlie! They also were given another one for having a go at equestrian vaulting, which takes a lot of courage on Big Charlie! Final rosettes were given to Dennis for being a superb ‘washerupper’ and Roger for being the ‘Most Improved Helper/sidewalker’! A huge thank you was given to Sandra and her catering team and all to our instructors and helpers and then we packed the cars for the homeward journey. . We can’t wait for next year!

On a more serious note, the quotes below sum up what RDA achieves. It’s not just the social element.....

“Jules and I have just come back from a totally exhausting but fantastic weekend! Jules has had more physical exercise and mental stimulation in 5 days than she would normally have in 5 months! She coped really well and there were no meltdowns. She really appreciated being treated as an adult, 55, instead of as a child. She blossomed, loved the riding. Her horse, Guinness (how appropriate!), the people leading her and of course Karen and Donna. At the end of 5 days her walking had improved as had her physical ability to use both arms and legs. “Use them or lose them.” I was so proud of her and she can’t wait to go next year. I too had a fab time I worked harder and walked further... wonder if they did a risk assessment on me?! She wants to ride Guinness again!” Jane – Jules’s Mum

“Charlie was a lovely boy and so versatile, much too good for me but so lovely to have the opportunity to ride him. He has kept me pain free for 4 days. How good is that?” Jo White

### Adult Summer Lunch



Our adult riders, their parents and personal assistants, joined with many of our volunteers in a Pimms and a barbeque lunch on 20<sup>th</sup> August. The lunch party was kindly hosted by our Group Instructor, Karen and her husband Keith at their farm. Everyone had been encouraged to wear a ‘hat’, any type of hat, and the turnout was terrific with hats ranging from cowboy Stetsons to jokers and hard hats! Although the weather could have been a little kinder

it did not deter us from sitting outside enjoying the lovely view across the fields. After lunch, Karen kindly brought her horse Tim for us to see and then we walked to see the other horses in the stables and to see some miniature pigs next door. It was a lovely afternoon with time for riders to meet others who ride on different days than theirs and old friends to catch up. Thank you so much Karen and Keith for your kind hospitality.



### We celebrate our Riders & Volunteers achievements in 2015



This year the Group held a joint Christmas Party & Annual Awards Ceremony on 9<sup>th</sup> December and were delighted that our Founder, Beryl Sainsbury (centre), sponsors and supporters joined us to celebrate the year and see our riders and volunteers presented with our various trophies and certificates by RDA Chief Executive, Ed Bracher. At the end of the afternoon everyone shouted a welcome to Father Christmas who brought our riders a present.



The full lists of award winners for this year were:

The **South Award** for the 'Most Improved rider' was presented to **Jack Tandy**.

The **Hughes Family Award** for the rider 'with fortitude and perseverance' was presented to **Lauren Mitchell**

The **Heather Rhead Award** for 'Confidence' was presented to **Matthew Andersson (presented by Heather)**

**Claudia Paul Award** for 'Determination' was presented to **Arthur Duggan**

The **Tracey Perks Award** for 'the rider who consistently tries hard' was presented to **Jo White with a special rosette to Lisa McLaughlin**

The **Neil Hancock Award** for the 'one who has made good progress' was presented to **Sasha Simonnet with a special rosette awarded to Holly Hopkins & Peter Colby**

The **Pauline Richards Award** for 'the child who can meet the challenge' was presented to **Matthew Lane**

The **Michael Jack Award** for 'Highest Show Jumping marks at the Qualifiers' was presented to **Isabella Benfield**

**Claudia Paul Award** for being a 'daredevil' was presented to **Harrison Oldrey**  
**Stratford RDA Achievement Award** was presented to **Jules Reed** for achieving RDA National Champion 2015.

Our Rider Education awards have gone to Sasha who has gained the ASDAN Towards Independence Horse Care award and to the following riders who showed their riding skills and successfully answered questions on parts of their

pony and tack to receive an RDA Proficiency test certificate and badge. Charlotte obtained Grade 2 riding and Grade 1 Horse Care. Henry, Sophia, Arthur, Peter, Jack and Lewis achieved Grade 1 Riding and Horse Care and Holly – Grade 1 and Maisy Grade 2 Riding. Various Endeavour certificates have been achieved by; Chris, Neil, Jo P, Jules, Jo W, Harrison, Sasha, Charlotte, Jack, Arthur, Louis, Ellis, Scarlett and Sophia. Well done to all of you.

Our fabulous team of **volunteers** were also recognised starting earlier in the year with our County and Group Coach **Karen Arnold**, who achieved the UK Coaching Certificate Level 2.

**At the ceremony Val Shone** was presented with the Boris award for 'always being willing'. **Verena, Gill, Liz and Beryl** received Group 'Over and Above' awards

**Alice Hanson** is awarded the **Clemons Young Volunteer of the Year**. Alice has also achieved her Young Equestrian Leaders Award (YELA) Bronze and is currently undertaking her Silver. She has also commenced her training to become an RDA Coach.

A big Congratulations and Thank you our long serving volunteers;



**Alison Hamilton** has been a session helper for 20 years and was presented with her certificate at our riding session in December. She brings a wealth of experience,

patience and guidance to our riders.

**Isobel Ollis** received her badge and certificate to commemorate her 25 year voluntary service to RDA. The presentation was made by our Regional Chair, Celia Baker at the West Mercia Regional Qualifiers on May 20th. Isobel has predominantly helped with the children's sessions on Tuesday afternoons and will be remembered by many over the years for her words of encouragement.



However, she has not only served our Group but has also been a huge asset to the Regional Fun Day and Regional Qualifier event organisers by coordinating all the entries, results and rosettes.



**Jane Riley** was presented her certificate by Ed Bracher, RDA Chief Executive, at our Awards Ceremony. She has been an amazing volunteer with the RDA for 30 years and has been an invaluable member of our Group not only as a session helper but also as a Trustee and Committee

member, holding the post of Sponsorship Secretary for 17 years.

**Thank you so much to you all for your dedication to RDA.**

### **Welcome 'Alfie'**

The Group has been able to purchase a new horse for our riders thanks to a £2,000 grant by the Zurich Community Trust (UK) Ltd. and the kind support from the organisers and supporters of the Admington Fun Horse Ride.

'Alfie' is a 5 year old, 15hh Irish cob. After a trial, he has commenced his training and started providing riding lessons. Following the loss of our pony,



Meg, in the summer, this has come just at the right time. It is difficult to find that special horse and Alfie, being young, will hopefully enable us to continue to offer a service for larger riders and help us to reduce our current waiting list for many happy years. We would like to thank Zurich and especially their employee, Katy Axcell-Steele, who nominated the group as part of its regional programme and all of the organisers, local farmers and horse riders who supported the Fun Ride and made it such a successful event.

## Spreading word...



Our **Annual General Meeting** was held at Kineton Village Hall, Kineton, on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Volunteers attended a County Training Day in April and Group training entitled "Working together to get the most from our sessions" in October. 9 volunteers attended Makaton (sign language) Training, 5 attended Safeguarding courses & 2 attended Volunteer Management sessions at RDA National.



Our ponies, riders & helpers were a credit to our Group, assisting RDA Regional Coach, Karen Thompson, to deliver a "progressive coaching" demonstration to RDA coaches from across the country at Moreton Morrell College.

## Reaching further into the Community..

**Information tables** were manned at the Kineton Scout Fair by volunteers and Holly and her mum helped at the Banbury Lions Fun Ride and the Warwickshire Hunt Team Chase.



## Chernobyl's Children return for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year

The Group joined forces with the Chernobyl's Children charity on Thursday 13<sup>rd</sup> August and welcomed them back to Home Farm for a second year. 12 children aged between 13 and 15, all in remission from various cancers, turned up around 10 with their own doctor and translators and our ponies and team of volunteers really enjoyed taking the children around the fields.



It was such a pleasure to offer them the opportunity to ride as well as grooming and tacking up the ponies, learning how to clean tack and what horses can and cannot eat and decorating horse shoes. They stayed near Solihull whilst undergoing optical, dental and medical check-ups. As well as health checks the charity organises various fun activities such as biking, horseriding, arts & crafts and picnics and buying them clothes. We look forward to welcoming them back in 2016."

## Fundraising & Donations

We would like to say a



We hope that seeing what we have achieved this year is a reflection of what we have achieved together.

## TEAM STRATFORD

Together  
Everyone  
Achieves  
More

We could not have  
accomplished 1000 rides  
without you!

To

-  Our Rider Sponsors who have joined us or loyally return year after year.
-  Stratford DC, Linda Morris, Mark & Vanessa Petterson our main sponsors of the hydraulic lift.
-  Phillips 66 & Gill F for sponsoring the new hats which we are still purchasing.
-  Zurich Community Trust & the organisers of Admington Fun Ride for 'Alfie'
-  Banbury Lions, Warwickshire Hunt, Wellesbourne & District Lions, Hook Norton Brewery & Gemini Fashion for nominating us to receive a share of their event profits.
-  Waitrose, David Garrick Lodge of Freemasons, Betty Kensit Fund, St Peter's Church, Kineton & All Saints Church, Stretton and kind individual donations.
-  those who give practical support – by giving so generously of your time and resources so we can accomplish so much.

***"When we say: "It's what you **can do** that counts" – we really mean it"***

**Sam Orde  
RDA Chairman**

## Sad Goodbye's

**We said farewell to Riders Leo, Maisy and Sophia who left for a variety of reasons.**

Hilary Rhead retired from the Committee and the Group to spend time setting up a support group for adults with special needs. We thank you so much Hilary for all your enthusiasm and dedication.

Sadly, both our ex County Chair, Rosemary Stretch and ex helper Sheila South passed away this year. Both had been long term committed volunteers to RDA and are greatly missed.

We also sadly said goodbye to our pony Meg, who is still missed by our riders, she was always so reliable and gentle.



and our horse Patrick, who was in retirement in Cornwall. Many happy memories!

We look forward to seeing you either at the stables, or at one of our events in 2016.

### Dates for your diary

Regional Qualifiers 25<sup>th</sup> May, Stourport Riding Centre

RDA National Championships, Hartpury College 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> July 2016

## Stratford upon Avon RDA

Proud to be one of nearly 500 Groups in the UK with 28,000 participants helped by 19,000 volunteers.

If you don't want to wait for our Latest News log into our website and 'subscribe' to receive it as it happens

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



## How much do you know about RDA & our Group?

A STRATFORD UPON AVON RDA	
1.	How many years we been in existence? 25 years <input type="checkbox"/> 36 years <input type="checkbox"/> 47 years <input type="checkbox"/>
2.	How many regular riders do we have? 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 25 <input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Can a rider ride any of our ponies? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Why is that?
4.	What factors are taken into consideration when a pony is matched to a rider? Choose the 3 that you think are most important Height <input type="checkbox"/> Colour <input type="checkbox"/> Shape <input type="checkbox"/> Temperament <input type="checkbox"/> Name <input type="checkbox"/> Rider Support/needs <input type="checkbox"/>
5.	What is the maximum weight that a rider can be? 10st/64kg <input type="checkbox"/> 11st/70kg <input type="checkbox"/> 12st/76kg <input type="checkbox"/>
6.	How much money (budget) do you think we need each year £25k+ <input type="checkbox"/> £36k+ <input type="checkbox"/> £40k+ <input type="checkbox"/>
7.	What percentage of this do you think we need to keep our ponies in livery? 30% <input type="checkbox"/> 50%+ <input type="checkbox"/> 70% <input type="checkbox"/>
8.	What is the approx. cost per ride with our Group ride? £20+ <input type="checkbox"/> £30+ <input type="checkbox"/> £40+ <input type="checkbox"/>
9.	How much do you think is contributed by the riders p.a.? £7K+ <input type="checkbox"/> £12K + <input type="checkbox"/> £15k+ <input type="checkbox"/>
10.	Are any of our helpers/volunteers paid? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
11.	Do we have a Rider Sponsorship Scheme? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
12.	How much do our think we receive from our Rider Sponsors each year? £5k+ <input type="checkbox"/> £8k+ <input type="checkbox"/> £10k+ <input type="checkbox"/>
NATIONAL RIDING FOR THE DISABLED	
13.	How many Riders & Drivers are there in all 500 UK Groups 12,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 20,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 28,000 <input type="checkbox"/>
14.	Supported by how many volunteers? 17,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 19,000 <input type="checkbox"/> 25,000 <input type="checkbox"/>
15.	Approx. how many staff are employed in their office 15 <input type="checkbox"/> 40 <input type="checkbox"/> 60 <input type="checkbox"/>
16.	Do RDA National financially support RDA Groups? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

**We would really welcome your views or comments on the following:**

**What is it that makes you support the Group?**

**Riders & Volunteers: Why do you participate?**

**Do you have any ideas for future fundraising?**

**Do you know of an individual, or company, that may sponsor a rider or pony?**

**Please send to Donna at [donna@mdjenkins.co.uk](mailto:donna@mdjenkins.co.uk)**

**Answers: 1. 47, 2. 25, 3.No (It depends on the weight of the rider & tack and a calculation based on their balance and how much a pony can carry), 4.Height, Shape, Temperament, Rider Support/needs, 5. 12st, 6. £44-45K, 7. 55%, 8. £35, 9. £8k, 10. No, 11. Yes, 12. C£10-12k, 13.28,000, 14. 19,000, 15. 15. 16. No, we pay them to be a member.**