

Carriage Driving Newsletter

Spring 2018



(Please share with all members of your Group)

We would like to start with congratulations to several members who have received awards in the last few months

First is Lizzie Lawrence who received a British Empire Medal for her many years' service to RDA as a coach and Regional Driving Rep as well as her work in her Shropshire community.

Steve Dale was the outstanding winner of the Dudley Smith award for his work and perseverance in helping the East Park riding and show jumping group to start carriage driving as well.

Joanne Orr from Ballyward group in Northern Ireland won the RDA Coach of the year award, a first for Carriage Driving and very well deserved.

Helen Pritchard from Stella Hancock Group was awarded the Volunteer of the Year award by the members of Carriage Driving Magazine. How nice for her work to be recognised by others outside RDA. Nominations for the 2018 award need to be submitted to Carriage Driving Magazine by the end of March so please think if there is someone in your group who deserves such an award.

We must also congratulate Yolanda Hansford a long time RDA driver who has taken on the position of South West Regional Chairman. This is a huge first for a driving person and hopefully will encourage more Carriage Driving members to take on roles at Regional and County level.

Stella Hancock Grants

These grants are offered for trainee coaches, or existing coaches to broaden their knowledge and experience or for other specific roles, e.g. vehicle maintenance, course building. These can be used with qualified BDS or LHHI trainers or other appropriate persons or to attend the Para training clinics at Stow on the Wold in Spring and Autumn. Grants are for a maximum of £150 each and full details on how to apply will be circulated and available from the RDA website shortly so please do keep a look out!

Para Training Clinic, Stow on the Wold 21st & 22nd April

RDA Coaches and Trainees are welcome to come to this clinic to shadow two brilliant trainers and improve their coaching skills. This is hands on training where you will be expected to watch, help with building cones and obstacle courses and see different activities for a wide range of ability. Attendance can be one or two days but it is definitely better to do the two in order to see progression. Some help with expenses will be given. If interested please contact myself at margbrockie@gmail.com.

Holidays

When I visit groups I am often surprised that drivers are not aware of the two driving holidays which are available for them to attend. There is one held annually in Scotland, this year the dates are 4th - 8th June and one in Yorkshire from 20th - 24th August. Information can be found on the RDA website under 'Running Your Group', 'Holidays'.

RDA National Championships

The Driving classes take place at Hartpury College in Gloucestershire on Friday 13th July and consist of a dressage test, cones course and 2 obstacles. If you have drivers interested in taking part, they should qualify at one of the Regional Qualifiers and be placed 1st or 2nd in their class. In larger classes the first 3

may qualify. Where there is no qualifier within a reasonable distance, groups may contact the Carriage Driving Co-ordinator at National Office for a possible alternative.

If you have not been to the Championships before why not come and see what it's all about and support all of the other groups taking part. It really is an amazing experience for spectators as well as competitors!

Equipment

We have several carriages looking for homes either free, on loan or to purchase. If you need one please contact Sarah shadley@rda.org.uk for information. Can we just ask that once an item has been sold and needs removing from the list that Sarah is made aware otherwise the list becomes out of date very quickly. I also have quite a few bits and pieces of harness and sometimes full sets which have been donated for RDA so if you need anything it is always worth asking.

Bennington have kindly offered to loan, for limited periods, a Bennington Bug to any group who would like to try one. If you are interested please contact them directly, please note that any new vehicle must be assessed with your pony before you use it with disabled drivers.

We do also still have the Fenix vehicle available for groups to borrow should they need to – perhaps your vehicle needs a repair, you are fundraising for a new one, you have a new pony but have not yet got the vehicle or just a new group starting out. The vehicle is available with both standard and large shafts so can be used on most horses/ponies. If you are interested in using this vehicle please contact shadley@rda.org.uk

Chandelles Saddlery (01534 48412) have kindly offered to give discounts to RDA groups. Their prices are already very competitive and they are very helpful. Do remember that most modern harness comes with fixed backbands which can only be used if your carriage has independent shafts. Otherwise a sliding backband must be specified.

Please also remember before purchasing any equipment, especially vehicles to seek advice from your Regional Driving Rep.

Group CD Coach Reviews

Letters will be going out shortly to all group Chairman detailing which coaches are due to be reviewed this year or that are already overdue. All reviews must be arranged with your Regional Rep.

Do you know your Regional Driving Reps?

<i>South West</i>	-	<i>Diane Hirst & Simon Bougourd</i>
<i>Mid-West</i>	-	<i>Simon Bougourd</i>
<i>South</i>	-	<i>Sarah Clunie</i>
<i>South East</i>	-	<i>Miranda Purves</i>
<i>Greater London</i>	-	<i>Judi Ralls</i>
<i>West Mercia</i>	-	<i>Lizzie Lawrence</i>
<i>North Midlands</i>	-	<i>Janet Viner</i>
<i>East</i>	-	<i>Maureen Keegan & Anne Mitchell</i>
<i>North West</i>	-	<i>Margaret Brockie</i>
<i>North East & South Yorkshire</i>	-	<i>Jo Pilling</i>
<i>Yorkshire & Cleveland</i>	-	<i>Susan Dudley-Smith</i>
<i>North</i>	-	<i>Jenny Harris</i>
<i>Edinburgh & Borders</i>	-	<i>Eileen Cornish</i>
<i>West & Central Scotland</i>	-	<i>Eileen Cornish</i>
<i>Grampian & Highland</i>	-	<i>Diana Milligan</i>
<i>South Wales</i>	-	<i>Rowena Moyse</i>
<i>North Wales</i>	-	<i>Lizzie Lawrence</i>
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	-	<i>Joanne Orr</i>

Margaret Brockie
RDA Carriage Driving Chairman