

BELVOIR VALE RDA

ANNUAL REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES SEPTEMBER 2017- AUGUST 2018



REVIEW OF BELVOIR VALE RDA ACTIVITIES



RIDERS and VOLUNTEERS

It has been another busy year for the Group filled with many highlights and successes, not just in competitions but, more importantly, for all our riders achieving their own personal goals.

Belvoir Vale RDA delivered over 775 riding opportunities to its 22 regular riders last year.

This was made possible by our wonderful team of 24 volunteers which remains a broad mix of ages and backgrounds bound together by their desire to help our disabled participants. Our younger volunteers- 7 aged under 25years- have continued their volunteering service with us, several of whom progressing to work toward their silver Duke of Edinbrough Award and Youth Equestrian Leaders Award.

PONIES

This year has seen our team of Belvoir Vale pony stars increase in number to 5 with the purchase of Alfie- an adorable welsh pony (pictured.) What he lacks in stature (he is only 12hh) he more than makes up for with his larger than life character.

He has already proved himself as a valuable asset, being a perfect poppet in the riding sessions and quickly becoming a favourite with his little charges.



Meanwhile, Pumpkin, Roma, Ali and Tommy have all given their best and we are, indeed, very fortunate to have such super ponies.

We were particularly delighted when our very special pony, Roma, was awarded with his long service award. This recognises his many years helping so many disabled riders at Belvoir Vale and at Kesteven RDA.

EVENTS

The festive period was celebrated with a party involving games on ponies, lots of cake and a visit from Santa who arrived in a horse drawn carriage to the delight of all.

The winter was cold and prolonged but lessons continued whenever possible. This period was used to prepare the riders for their **RDA Proficiency tests**- an invaluable way to recognise and reward achievement across all levels. ALL the riders achieved a level of competence in riding, be it sitting quietly for one circuit of the arena or riding independently. To mark these awards Matthew Dalley, the N Midlands Rider representative was



invited to the group to present the certificates and badges.

Belvoir Vale sent riders to all 3 Regional competitions and 5 riders qualified for the **RDA National Championships** held in July. Louisa regained her shield for the highest score for a Junior.

At the Championships, all the riders and ponies performed to their best and were awarded with 3 winning their classes. Sophie, riding Pumpkin, won the overall Championship for the higher score in the Countryside Challenge- amazing achievement.

*Sophie & Louisa pictured with their awards.

EVENTS

In June Belvoir Vale took 4 of our younger riders to a Regional Have-A-Go-Day when they had an opportunity to compete in a more relaxed atmosphere. They all came home with rosettes and big smiles !

During the School holidays we held our popular **Summer School**. 15 of our riders came together to enjoy a mini Gymkhana, An Away Day to Scropton Special Riding



Riders enjoying a ride in the glorious countryside during the Summer School.

School and a ride around the fields at our secretary's home.

It was a first for the Group, when Olive and Roma took part in an **Endurance** Event.

This was held at the home of Wenlo RDA. There were a few hairy moments but we were all delighted when they won a 2nd place.

FUNDRAISING.

All these riding opportunities would not be possible without the fundraising efforts of our volunteers, trustees and local supporters.

We are particularly indebted to The Hungry House group of public houses and Mr Dennis Ashcroft, who raised £1335 from a head shave and chest wax evening. These funds allowed us to purchase Roma from Kesteven RDA to secure his future with us.

Special thanks also go to Mrs Lorrie McGovern and Mr E Hine for arranging a summer BBQ which raised £1000 to support our riders at the National Championships and to all the guests and volunteers who supported a Curry evening in the village hall which added over £1800 to group funds.

