



BERTIE BASSETT

DONATIONS

Bertie Bassett would be pleased to keep you informed by newsletter of how the charity is developing and progressing.

We appreciate that for some, time is a precious commodity and that a donation enables the individual to support their chosen charity and feel included.

Manx Carriage Driving 4 Disabled welcomes this support.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

CHAIRMAN	Arne Dahn
VICE CHAIRMAN	David Rawnsley
SECRETARY	Janet Thommeny
TREASURER	Hilary MacFarlane
GROUP ORGANISER	Mo Sheering
COMMITTEE	Margot Dahn Liz Lilley Diane Dale Linda Kneale

MEMBERSHIP

A membership fee of £5 is currently offered to all newcomers who wish to become volunteers to help the charity to develop.

At present, Taster Sessions for persons with disabilities are FREE
As a volunteer you will be required to turn out and assist at least five times a year.

During some sessions, you may have the opportunity to learn to drive a pony, **Bertie Bassett**, and carriage, if you so wished.

WHATS ON IN 2015

All sessions are at Ballavartyn Equestrian Centre indoor Arena. Santon

DRIVING SESSIONS:

Friday February 6th	1200 to 1400 (Disabled Drivers)
Friday February 13th	09000 to 1600 RDA Assessment
Friday February 20th	1200 to 1400 (Disabled Drivers)
Friday February 27th	1200 to 1400 (Disabled Drivers)
Friday March 6th	1200 to 1400 (Disabled Drivers)
Friday March 13th	1200 to 1400 (Disabled Drivers)
Friday March 20th	1200 to 1400 (Disabled Drivers)
Friday March 27th	1200 to 1400 (Disabled Drivers)
Friday April 3rd	1200 to 1400 (Disabled Drivers)



WE AIM TO MAKE THE WHEELS GO ROUND!



Manx Carriage Driving 4 Disabled

Manx Reg. Charity 1172



INFORMATION SHEET 2 - FEBRUARY 2015

Ms Janet Thommeny. Hon. Sec.
23 Berrywoods Avenue
Douglas
Isle of Man
IM2 7DA

Phone: 07624 497833
janetthommeny@manx.net



Carriage Driving

Carriage Driving is open to **all**, and is particularly useful for people who can no longer ride due to disability or prefer a different kind of challenge.

Carriage Driving gives those who are unable to mount a horse the opportunity to experience the fun and enjoyment of equestrian activities.

All Driving sessions are conducted under the supervision of a experienced Whip, that's the Driver!

Carriage Driving allows participants a feeling of independence which can increase their levels of self esteem and confidence and offers:-

Same benefits as riding:

- Improved co-ordination
- Improved muscle power
- Improved balance
- Relaxation through rhythmic movement
- Being out in the open air in summer
- Winter time is indoors

Non-physical benefits:

- Decision making
- Making friends
- Achievement
- Self confidence
- Having fun!



Carriage Drivers progress in the same way as riders. Drivers can take proficiency tests to increase and demonstrate their ability and knowledge. They can join the RDA and compete in RDA and Shows that have disabled classes. Some drivers progress outside of RDA and attend training days and compete interna-

MEMBERS VISIT TO UK RDA CENTRE

Linda, Margot, Liz, David and Arne travelled to Wrexham to visit Clwyd Special Riding Centre, (at their own expense) for the purpose of visiting the Wrexham RDA Driving Group, to watch driving sessions in progress with mentally challenged and Young Drivers. There are eleven Driving Groups in North Wales Region, divided into East and West Regions.



The members of Wrexham were very helpful and informative, we were give information on how to progress up the RDA ladder from volunteers to grooms and whips and even area instructors! We were also shown how Wrexham deals with all the record keeping and other paperwork, a full time job for somebody!

We were also treated to hot drinks to warm us, home made cakes and other snacks to keep the inner man happy. We were really made to feel at home:

So a great THANK YOU to all the members of Wrexham RDA Group

OUR FIRST DISABLED DRIVING SESSION

Finally work begins. On January 23rd we welcomed our first service users, Nicky and Leslie. The volunteers were very smart and easy to identify in their red tops while Bertie in his harness and carriage was spotless, everything looking very professional.



People watching from the Arena gallery were impressed and making complementary comments; 'They are fantastic, see how they are all enjoying it.' New volunteers were also watching from the gallery while having a cup of tea, looking forward to getting involved.

Both Nicky and Leslie can't wait till their next session, they were both surprised to be handed the reins so early on during their first encounter with pony and carriage. Over lunch they were already talking about driving outdoors in the summer and maybe a countryside drive. No stopping these two newcomers!

The TEAM has worked hard over the past six to eight months training for this day and it has paid off. They have also been involved in fundraising for the past year to assist with the maintenance of equipment, like harness and carriage. Ballavartyn offers great support to the Charity by making their facilities available to us. Thank you Everyone.

