



# HOPE IN THE VALLEY NEWSLETTER

## Autumn 2010

**Hope in the Valley** is a charitable riding group for physically disabled children. Manned entirely by volunteers, its aim is to give these children between the ages of three and sixteen, the opportunity to experience the pleasure, independence and therapeutic benefits that riding a horse brings.

### Important Dates for Autumn 2010

Autumn Term Begins	8th Sept
South East Regional Conference	14th Oct
Half Term	27th Oct
Riding resumes	10th Nov
Xmas Party	8th Dec
Autumn Term Ends	8th Dec
Winter Term Begins	12th Jan

## TOP STORY

Hello, Rose here, I thought you might like to hear about a rather busy weekend I had in July. You see, as a very lovely pony, I qualified for the RDA National Championships; it's the second time I've taken Ahid and Lara, but this year Lily and I were so good at Hickstead that we qualified too. Reece also qualified, which meant that Lesley insisted on bringing Heineken – he takes up soooo much space in MY lorry! Lesley drove us (and Sheila and Hilary) all the way to Gloucester and when we got there they put Heineken in the stable opposite mine – can you imagine what it's like having him as your view *all* weekend? Lesley, Sheila and Hilary then had lots of chores to do – luckily that included giving me my dinner and later on in the evening Karen arrived from something called a 'train station' to help out – it's a bit cheeky if you ask me, turning up late, but apparently she had to 'work'. Finally the humans went off to chatter with other humans and then to bed, though I think Hilary had it all wrong – she had her bedroom right next to the bar where the music was playing – she would have been better off with a nice peaceful stable! Even though Hilary didn't sleep very much they were back at 6am with my breakfast and spent lots of time making me look even more beautiful. Three kind humans had got up very early to drive Reece to Hartpury, and when he arrived Heineken took him in the Countryside Challenge. Then it was my turn with Lara and I was on my best behaviour... *EXCUSE ME! Heineken here, sorry for barging in but I think Rose needs to be a little more truthful. Lara did a lovely job of riding her, but Rose is so silly she didn't realise you aren't supposed to EAT the Countryside Challenge obstacles! You wouldn't catch me behaving like that at the National Championships. Oh look...hay... mmmm....* Anyway, where was I? Oh yes, after Lara rode Lily arrived looking very nervous as this was her first time riding at the National Championships. I was a little bit unhelpful at the start of her dressage test (sorry Lily!) but she did a good job of getting both of us sorted out and rode the end well. Together we won 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Tack and Turnout, and the judge loved me so much he gave me and Lara 5<sup>th</sup> place too! He didn't give Heineken a rosette for being beautiful (of course!), but Heineken tells me that he and Reece came 5<sup>th</sup> in the Countryside Challenge, so well done to Reece.

The next morning the humans rather rudely didn't bring my breakfast until nearly 7am, but Hilary seemed happier, something to do with earplugs? Today it was only Ahid riding, so all the attention and fuss was on me. Once I was looking wonderful Ahid got on and we did our dressage test. It was Ahid's last time riding with Hope in the Valley so we both tried our best. We must have been fantastic as Ahid won 6<sup>th</sup> place! It was finally time to head home and I was a little worried about how all the humans were going to fit in the lorry! Luckily they had what they call 'plans', and Jan and her husband gave Karen a lift. The humans were very grateful to Jan all weekend as she kept them supplied with cake – not that I ever got any ☺. Lesley drove us home and even though it was dark when we got there I still recognised my field straight away – I'd really missed the grass! Everyone was very tired when we got back but we all had a fantastic weekend. The helpers back at home also made our weekend a success, practicing with the riders and preparing all my tack to make me look wonderful -thank you!

**Oh I must thank Windmill Feeds for the lovely bags of haylage, nuts and chaff that they so kindly donated in order that Heineken and I did not starve over the weekend.**

By Rose as told to Karen Potter!



Psst.....this photo landed on my desk with no evidence of Whodunit!! Using some detective work I discover that it's Lara riding Rose at Hartpury with Hilary holding her hand up as if to smack the bottom of.....who??? Can you guess who it is??

## Hope in the Valley RDA Group

Reg. Charity No: 1074384

A member of the Riding for the Disabled Association

Incorporating Carriage Driving - registered under Charity Number 2441108 Registered Company Number 5010395

**Note from the Editor!**

The Summer has been glorious and the Autumn Term seemed so far off until recently when the weather appears to have changed to remind us to prepare our minds for the next term! The ponies are impatient, waiting to do some serious hard work for our little riders. The volunteers are counting down the weeks! The riders are probably wondering if they can remember anything from last term! I know my kids can't seem to do any maths over the holidays but suddenly become very accomplished in Algebra by the second week of term! Anyway, we hope you all had a fantastic summer and enjoyed your relaxation whether at home or away. In this newsletter, a little recap of what occurred last term and dates and events coming up so do take a moment to make a cuppa and read everything that is going on. Also grab this year's Annual Review as there are interesting articles and news to read.  
Penny Pearce PR Officer

**Horse News: Barty wants to join!!**

Applying to join the larger ponies' team for the third and fourth sessions is Barty. Barty is a 14.3hh 14 year old piebald gelding who has done nearly every sort of pony club activity you can think of. A real 'been there, done it, got the tee shirt' sort of fellow! His owners now want to do more advanced pony club jumping than Barty can manage so he is on long term loan to Liz Mills where he is hacking out and doing a bit of schooling too. Barty is living at Nicola Cramond's yard and his new friend Dylan has told him all about RDA.

**By Liz Mills**

Just along the road from Barty and Dylan lives Tilly. Some of you will already have met Tilly as she joined us for a few sessions last term. She is a 14 year old grey pony about 12.2hh. Tilly has a similar collection of T Shirts to Barty (albeit a smaller size!) and is also very fond of her food. We are very grateful to the Reffin family for letting us use her and to Helen Waters for transporting her. Marmite has been coming for a little while now but I regret that I have been a little remiss and we have not been formally I Introduced! Having been in a pony club home for a number of years she now lives with Helen who spotted her RDA potential and now really enjoys hacking her out. She is black, in her early 20's and about 13hh.

**By Nicola Cramond**

**HARTPURY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS**

<b>Reece &amp; Heineken</b>	5th Countryside Challenge (Led with Side walker 5th Countryside Challenge & Dressage 8th Tack & Turnout Horse Care: Junior - Endeavour
<b>Lara &amp; Rose</b>	Unplaced - Countryside Challenge (Led) 5th Tack & Turnout Horse Care : Junior - Endeavour
<b>Lily &amp; Rose</b>	Unplaced Dressage unled - Saturday 4th Tack & Turnout Horse Care: Junior - Distinction
<b>Ahid &amp; Rose</b>	6th Dressage unled - Sunday 5th Tack & Turnout Horse Care: Junior - Distinction/Advanced - Endeavour
<b>Arts &amp; Crafts</b>	2nd Junior Group Class



**Volunteer Training & AGM**

**1st September** is the date for this years **AGM** and **Training Afternoon**. There will be three workshops :-

1. Open Forum and Green card questions
2. Whilst on Board
3. Spot the Errors!

The AGM will begin at 3.15pm followed by CAKES and refreshments!!!

Have you visited the Group website?

[www.hopeinthevalley.org](http://www.hopeinthevalley.org)

All the latest news, photos and information can be found there. If you have anything interesting to add please contact:  
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**LEAVERS**

Riders Ahid Ghbaya and Sophie Pengilly have left this term as they have reached the age of 16 and Isabel Dean has moved with her family to Leicestershire. We wish them all good luck

**VOLUNTEERS**

Abigail Woodward and Emily Tobin from St Pauls College, Burgess Hill have left us but we've gained Charlotte Mayo, Emily Brownings and Vicky Cave.

**Picnic Ride**

Once again, we were lucky with the weather at this year's picnic ride and our riders were most surprised to find some extra guests in the woods. As they rode their ponies, they counted 10 teddy bears hiding amongst the trees. They even found some enjoying a teddy bears picnic - amazing sight! It was certainly a fun outing for all.



**GREEN SHOPPING!!**  
**Green RDA Shopping Bags to celebrate 40 Years of RDA are for sale at £3.25 in the Sheila Blair Galley from the start of next term.**