

Kesteven RiDeAbility Annual Report

2016 - 2017



Reg. Charity No. 1074079

Group Information

Riders

Over the past year Kesteven RDA provided just under 900 riding sessions to 35 riders with the help of over 25 volunteers. 18 of the riders were aged 25 or younger with four taking part for the first time and the disabilities ranged from Physical to Intellectual Disabilities.

Centres and groups

From May till Oct 2016 two sessions ran on a Tuesday morning with four clients from Ayrshire House, Long Bennington and four riders attending independently. In the afternoon, we had five riders having private lessons – on the simulator and/or on horseback. The Thursday Saddle Club session continued to be a huge success with up to 10 younger riders brought by their parents/carers. The Saturday group was very strong with 5 riders in the session. No volunteers were used in the session and it was very rewarding to see the riders gaining confidence as they ride independently.

Following a change in the business structure of The Paddocks Riding Centre in Oct the RDA group was no longer able to use several of the horses on the yard as they had reached retirement age. The group owns two ponies and can hire a third so the riding has been reduced. Most of this was achieved by riders moving to other groups/riding schools or their family life changing so they no longer wished to ride.

All riding is taking place on a Tuesday with 7 riders having private lessons through the day, 3 riders using the simulator and 3 riders attending a group session in the evening. 2 riders are still having private lessons on a Saturday.

Volunteers

The number of volunteers actively involved in the group is 28 with 8 of the volunteers aged 25 and under. Encouraging young people to volunteer with Kesteven RDA helps to ensure succession planning and secures a healthy future for the charity. 3 of the volunteers would consider they have a disability. The volunteers consist of Trustees on the committee, riding session volunteers and volunteers who help with the riding holiday, National competitions etc.

Education



The RDA Endeavour Awards have proved very useful in allowing the coaches to set suitable goals for their riders and have been used with riders from the Saddle Club.

Achievements



Winner of the Fronerthig Delyn Aur Most Improved Junior Rider 2016 is Gemma Waring. Gemma rides on a Tuesday afternoon and started riding in 2015. This year her confidence has blossomed as well as her communication skills with volunteers and coaches. Gemma is now riding independently in walk on the lovely Fudge and can complete simple obstacles.

The winner of the Kesteven Rideability Most Improved Adult Rider is Susan Ashton who started riding with us on the simulator in August 2015. Sue progressed onto Sox and Betsy in Spring 2016 and is now riding independently in walk and trot and hoping to compete in dressage tests in 2017.



Fundraising Events

Dog Show 2016



It was a bumper turnout at Kesteven's recent Fun Dog Show which saw a boost in numbers from last year. As in previous years, there were plenty of classes to suit every-dog, and we certainly had dogs of all shapes and sizes from the smallest toy breeds right up to a pair of very handsome Great Danes! The fun show classes included, Dog the Judges Most Want To Take Home, Musical Sits, Most Appealing Eyes and Waggiest Tail. The Fastest Biscuit Eater class, not surprisingly, was won by a Labrador, Buster (left) who managed the task in little more than 1 second! While waiting for classes there was plenty to keep everyone entertained with a very popular tombola stall, tea & cake stall and a 'Dog Scurry', an exciting game where owners could send their dogs running down a lane with straw bales to jump over in as fast a time as possible. This was very kindly provided by 'Wright Paw Forward' and was very popular throughout the afternoon with both humans and canines!

Some of the more popular classes had up to 26 entries in which certainly made the judging a challenge and we certainly didn't envy them the job of choosing 'Best In Show' where the class was made up of the very worthy winners of the previous classes

My Name is Bond



What a fabulous night! Our "Licence To Thrill" ball held at the Cedric Ford Pavilion, Newark Showground on Sept 24th was a fantastic success raising over £4,700 for the charity. With over 150 tickets sold the venue was buzzing from the start. Canapes and reception drinks were provided by [CP Foods](#), [Ichiban](#) and [Bee Clear](#) whilst glamorous partygoers had their photos taken by [The Photographers Eye](#). The photo is our lovely Tuesday coaches and volunteers - don't they scrub up well! With dancing from members of the [Beth Cresswell School of Dance](#), a fun casino, table raffles and a silent auction the night soon turned into a huge party. [Sound4Sound Disco](#) provided the music and we danced, danced, danced. Huge thanks to all trustees and friends who worked hard to make it happen - special thanks to trustee Claire Honeywood who masterminded the whole event. Lets do it again in two years time!!!

Annual Team Quiz Night Jan 2017

Our very popular Annual Team Quiz was well supported this year with 19 teams entered. Quiz masters Nicky Webber & Karen Thompson put everyone through their paces with Gary Webber, keeping a tight control of the scoring reins. Congratulations to this year's winning team "Whips, Spurs & Prosecco" who knocked last year's winners "Mad Pandas" into fourth place. In an exciting finish with three teams on level points "Whips, Spurs and Prosecco" won the quiz just ahead of "Should have gone to Specsavers" and "Round the Bend" who tied for second place. The evening raised over £700 for Kesteven RDA, an excellent start to the fundraising year. Huge thanks to everyone who took part and look forward to seeing you all at other events planned for this year..

Social Media

At the present time we have 341 likes on our Facebook page and 394 followers on Twitter. We have received enquiries from potential new riders and volunteers from these sources. The website continues to attract new clients and sponsors with some funders using the site to check that the group's activities fit their criteria before approaching us

Pony Angels

The group own two ponies Rio and Fudge and hire other ponies from The Paddocks Riding Centre to help run the sessions. Rio's and Fudge's board and lodgings are paid for by the Pony Angel scheme. There are seven businesses and six individuals who are contributing towards the scheme which guarantees a set monthly payment to cover their costs.

Our Pony Angels include:

Chandlers Country Store	Mark Frazer
Hills Poly Print	Move N Eat
Honington Rug Wash	Avenue Veterinary Centre
Helen Peglar	Ros Wentworth
The Sheards	Jane & Vince Heslop
Kathy Blake	Sarah Shelbourne

Donations

Further donations this year have been received from E. Fairgrieve, Waynflete, Grantham Running Club, Mr Gillmore, Grantham Rotary Club, Rosemarie Ann Foundation, British Sugar, Waitrose, Skylarks Foundation, St Deny's Lodge, Granta Lodge, Tryac and Spalding and District Riding Club.

Thank

You

To all our volunteers and supporters.

From the trustees of Kesteven Rideability