



Sports Driving Unlimited Newsletter



Issue 2
September 2010

It's been a very busy six months since the first issue of the SDU Newsletter. We are delighted to announce that we have been successful in grant funding from the People's Postcode Lottery; BBC Children in Need, Bailey Thomas Fund, Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland and the Frieda Scott Trust. Also very exciting is that Lockerbie and Annan Rotary Clubs have nominated SDU as one two charities they are supporting during the next 12 months. We have provided sessions for many young people and have supported three especially talented disabled drivers who are planning to compete in the National Para-Championships later this month. Read on for more info

2010 Activities supported by SDU

Rhins & Machars Programme at Stranraer: youngsters from Quarriers attended 4 sessions at the Terally Equestrian Centre near Stranraer. These were a huge success and judging from comments made on the feedback forms, none of the participants or parents wanted them to end. The young people learnt all the basics of driving ponies and particularly enjoyed the games. Some of them made great strides in their confidence and ability through the sessions. Check out the Awards page for more information on plans for the future!



Cumbria Cerebral Palsy benefited from 2 sessions at the Greenlands Equestrian Centre in May. These were so successful that CCP have now raised further grant funding themselves to extend these for another 4 sessions in the autumn.

James Rennie Special School, Carlisle: further sessions were held in May with a different class which were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Some Feedback from Rhins & Machars

"Chance of a lifetime as ordinary families can't afford horses and get so close and familiar with the horses to get the enjoyment, especially the safety too. Great Stuff!"

"My daughter would never try new skills. She now loves going faster, especially likes being with Amanda."

"Fantastic opportunity which he has thoroughly enjoyed. The whole team were brilliant, it has broadened his horizons, given him confidence and he has had great fun. Many thanks."

**The Bailey Thomas
Charitable Fund**



Pupils with special needs from **Langlands School in Dumfries** and **Lockerbie Learning Centre** are now regular visitors to the Driving Centre in Boreland for sessions.



Driving ponies: harnessing potential

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Registered Charity SC038870 Limited Company 332979

Individuals and Competitions

After competing throughout last winter - four drivers supported by the SDU qualified for the **National Indoor Championships** at Keysoe in April. Josh Hepple, Graham Smith, Finlay Grant and Chris Pears, supported by Amanda and a team of volunteers had a great weekend - all the drivers really enjoyed the experience and received a very warm and enthusiastic welcome from the audience. It was good preparation for the outdoor season which began soon afterwards!



Graham and Chris have been successfully competing in Club events during the summer at Nidd Hall, Boreland and Newby Hall; and have qualified to attend the first National Para-Championships to be held at Escrick Park near York in September. Josh Hepple, one of our founding drivers has decided that, now he is at University and very involved in student politics, he cannot commit sufficient time to competitive driving. Josh is now the Disabled Students Officer at Stirling University - a post he created - and has recently been voted onto the National Executive of the National Union of Students as the youngest ever representative. He hopes to carry on driving in his 'spare'; (!) time as he just loves it.

Charlotte Thompson, who only began driving in February this year, has also been successfully competing outdoors. She will join Graham and Chris travelling to Yorkshire with Amanda and her back up team and a crew of volunteers to compete in the Championships. With two ponies supported by grant funding - Donald and Ruby; and Dash on loan from Amanda - they are working hard on improving their skills and the ponies' fitness. At the Championships they will compete against other drivers with disabilities from all over the UK and Ireland in three phases - dressage, cones and the marathon - over two days. It is the culmination of the summer season and there will be fierce competition!

Other individual drivers, including Heather, Mark, Angela, James, Paul and Pauline continue to attend for individual lessons. Some of them will be preparing to compete in the indoor competitions at the beginning of next year."



Charlotte & Ruby



Graham & Donald



Heather competing at Boreland

Check out our website **News** page for more photos and information about what's going on right now!

Awards & Fund Raising

The People's Postcode Lottery has awarded us a grant to provide sessions for small groups throughout the summer and early autumn. Young people with special needs have attended sessions at Chariots of Fire from Quarriers, Lockerbie Learning Centre and Langlands School.



The Frieda Scott Trust has offered us a non-solicited grant to run two sessions for a Cumbria school. These have been booked with the Sandgate School in Westmoreland during September and October.



BBC Children in Need have awarded us two grants - one to provide a year's programme of sessions for young people in Cumbria; the other for a similar programme in the Rhins of Galloway. These will commence soon at Greenlands Equestrian Centre near Carlisle and Terally Equestrian Centre near Stranraer.

The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund



The Bailey Thomas Charitable Fund awarded us a grant to provide further sessions for young people from Lockerbie Learning Centre & Langlands School.



Lloyds TSB
Foundation for Scotland

The Lloyds TSB Foundation has awarded us a grant towards the upkeep of our very special ponies that are on loan to the charity. This only covers part of their costs so we will be writing to other grant funders to see if we can make up the shortfall.

Many other fund raising activities have been held during the past few months:

Bennington Carriages held raffle raised funds to provide lessons for disabled driver at the regular Try Driving training sessions held there.

Our stalwart regular volunteers Libby, Graham and Pat went to Dalemmain House Tracks event - on our behalf and raised funds through a tombola. They repeated this at Dumfries Show and Annan Gala.

Chris Pears and his family organised a Race Night in Lockerbie which was well attended and very successful!

Another is planned for October!

All helping to boost the charity's coffers - we are grateful to our core group of hard working volunteers!

A 22 mile sponsored cycle ride from Annan to Boreland was completed by friends and family of Marc Clements - Marc joined them for a section of the ride on his mean trike machine!



Other Activities

With the help of pony Tiffany, Alicia and Carolyn Fraser took part in the **Parade at Lockerbie Gala** to promote the news that **Lockerbie and Annan Rotary Clubs** have nominated SDU as their charity of the year for the next 12 months. The Clubs' first fund raising event was a terrific evening of entertainment - Music for a Summer Night - held at Annan Academy. The audience enjoyed some fantastic instrument playing from some of the county's most talented young musicians. The Clubs plan to hold more fund raising activities over the next year.



Chris Pears was the first disabled driver to take part in the annual **Riding of the Marches** in Lockerbie. Carriages have never before been allowed on the rideouts, but Chris negotiated with the committee and they agreed that he and other drivers could attend.

John Fergusson - a professional video film maker retired from the BBC, has kindly offered to produce a short promotional video for the charity which will soon be available on our website.

See more of his work at: www.myvirtualvisitor.co.uk



Equipment: with more activities and more young drivers we have required more bits of kit! Another set of harness has been purchased along with more safety belts and rein loops.

Also a set of promotional boards to add visual impact to all the fund raising events and a number of talks that are planned over the next few months. The photos on these along with recent videos compiled by both Liza and John Fergusson give a real flavour of the impact our activities have on those taking part.

We gave a donation to Margaret Lupton from Dumfries and Galloway, who was selected as a member of the British team for the Para-Equestrian World Driving Championships held at Breda in the Netherlands in August, to help with cost of getting to the event.

Margaret said: "A team Bronze Medal and a top 10 individual place made the trip one to remember! I have fulfilled my personal goal of finishing in the top ten overall and achieving a personal best so far this year with loaned horse Keelan. It was a fantastic experience, the venue and the people where second to none."



DONATE NOW

POWERED BY
CHARITY CHOICE

Don't forget you can donate through the Charity Choice website - go to our SDU website www.sportdrivingunlimited.org.uk and click on the Donate Now button. The website's News page is updated regularly with how our activities are progressing.