

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release



Stratford upon Avon RDA rider is the RDA National Champion!

Neil Cox from the Stratford upon Avon RDA (Riding for the Disabled) group became the RDA National Champion in Level 1 Showjumping at the RDA National Championships at Hartpury College last Saturday.

The RDA National Championships is the biggest event of its kind in the World and was held from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th July with competition classes in Showjumping, Countryside Challenge (a type of obstacle course), Dressage, Carriage Driving, Vaulting and Horse Care.

The Stratford upon Avon RDA group had six of its riders entered in both the Countryside Challenge and Showjumping Level 1.

Donna Jenkins, Group Organiser of Stratford RDA said, "Our riders and volunteers showed amazing spirit in extremely adverse weather conditions gaining good marks in the Countryside Challenge - although just being pipped at being placed. Luckily the Showjumping was held in the large Hartpury indoor arena, which is vast compared to our venue, but all our riders were confident and rode well. We are so

proud of all of them. Neil rode beautifully and was ecstatic when he won the Senior class, Chris Gerrard was placed third in the same class and Matthew Lane was joint 6th in the Junior class. Our other riders were Leo Burbidge, Charlotte Seager and Sophia Whyte who all received a special rosette for taking part. They should all feel very proud in their results and being part of this fabulous event.”

Ends.

Notes to Editors

About Stratford upon Avon RDA

Stratford upon Avon RDA is one of 500 member groups of Riding for the Disabled Association and aims to provide riding opportunities to children and adults with disabilities in the local area. We ride 23 riders per week at Home Farm, Compton Verney on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Stratford upon Avon RDA relies on voluntary help and donations to deliver its services. www.rda-stratford.org.uk

Stratford upon Avon RDA is a Company limited by guarantee no. 7623057 and a charity registered in England and Wales (No: 1142590)

Neil Cox is 43 years old and profoundly deaf. He has been riding with the Group for 20 years. His mother Sandra received the MBE for services to charity for opening Deaf-initely Independent residential home based in Leamington in order that deaf adults with physical difficulties had a lovely place to live.

For more information or to receive images please contact:

Donna Jenkins, Group Organiser, Stratford upon Avon RDA, 07818 413107/01789 740929

About Riding for the Disabled Association

Riding for the Disabled Association Incorporating Carriage Driving (RDA) is dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities through the provision of horse riding and carriage driving. Through a network of over 500 volunteer groups throughout the UK, RDA provides opportunities for therapy, achievement and enjoyment, improving health, wellbeing and self-confidence, and benefiting mobility and co-ordination.

- RDA brings together more than 500 volunteer groups throughout the UK
- More than 28,000 adults and children enjoy the benefits of riding or carriage driving
- Each year more than 18,000 dedicated volunteers give a total of more than 3.5 million hours of their time
- RDA is a member of the British Equestrian Federation (BEF)

RDA is reliant on voluntary help and voluntary donations to deliver its services. www.rda.org.uk

RDA is a charity registered in England and Wales (No: 244108) and Scotland (No: SC039473).

For more information, interviews or to receive images please contact:

Caroline Ward

Riding for the Disabled Association

Tel: 01926 405 968

Email: cward@rda.org.uk