

## **The Scottish Dressage Group 1964 – 2014**

The Club was founded in 1964 by a group of ladies, Mrs Stella Hayward, Mrs Joan Scott Plummer, Mrs Mary Wood, Mrs Ludi How, Mrs Bunty Russell and Mrs Gladys Dale, to promote dressage training. The first, though not official, name of the club was the GOLD Group, which stood for Good Old Ladies Dressage! For official purposes it was named The Edinburgh Dressage Group. The name was changed to The Scottish Dressage Group in 1968 as members were from all over Scotland and not just the Edinburgh area. The number of members was limited to 25.

Unfortunately there are no written records of the first years and anything recorded before 1983 is by recollection only.

The club was originally very small, but as the popularity of dressage increased so did the membership. In the 60s the club affiliated to the BHS Riding Clubs.

Margaret Walker and Val Thorne joined the club in the late 60s and during this period ran all aspects of riding club activities, including horse trials and riding club grade exams. Also during this time there were several members who started riding side saddle. Joan Scott-Plummer started instruction in side-saddle and an annual competition was held at Leithhead, Kirknewton. Teams of Three competed successfully at Dryden and The Binns. Several displays were put on in either a team of three or a quadrille (Dalmahoy, Kelso, Bonnyrigg). Three members gave a saddle demonstration in Inverness, staying with Georgie Henschal.

### **Office Bearers**

Presidents: Mr Lewis Snaden (appointed in 1976 until his death in 1984. He made generous donations to the club) and Mrs Stella Hayward (from 1984 until her death in 1994).

Chairpersons: Mrs Joan Scott Plummer (1964-76) Mrs Stella Hayward (1976-1984), Jackie Gray (1984-2013), Martha Green (2013 – 2014)

Secretaries: Stella Hayward (1964-76) Margaret Walker, Jackie Gray, Sue Kempson, Angela Sibbald (1983-1990), Judy McDonald (1990-1996), Joanna McIsaac (1995-97), Irene Carter (2000—01 and 2006-11).

Treasurers: Val Thorne, Jackie Gray, Kate Darling, Angela Sibbald, Judy McDonald, Erica Liddle and Hazel Hunter

From 2011 the office bearers 'jobs' were split (minute secretary, membership secretary, competition secretary)

Over the years many members have served on the committee and thanks must go to all those who undertook this task and who gave their time and expertise so generously.

### **Some highlights**

1983 –a discussion was started about the feasibility of acquiring an indoor school for the club. Ian Brown and Pat Gibbons undertook feasibility studies. Discussion took place for several years but came to nothing.

1984 –membership limit increased to 110

1986 – membership limit increased to 120 members (36 on waiting list)

1989 - a dinner was held to celebrate 25 years since the formation of the club

1996 - an Extraordinary General Meeting was held to discuss the period of tenure of committee members and whether to allow junior members. It was agreed to allow junior members.

2004-5 - Website created – by Anne Watt. Ros Kirkman took over this task in 2010 when Anne retired from the committee.

### **Instruction**

Instruction has always been a priority for the club and many trainers, from Scotland as well as south of the border, have helped members over the years.

Trainers giving instruction to SDG members included:

Miss Pat Manning, Mrs Audrey Horne, John Tilke, Colonel Froud, Captain Goldman, Joan Scott Plummer (side-saddle), Maureen Blackwood, Jean McAulay, Mary Woods, Stephen Clarke, Sue Hill, Lee Fergusson, Richard Walker, Peggoty Henriques, Richard Davidson, Tessa Thorne, Barbara Slane Fleming, Lady

Caroline Tyrrell, Bill Noble, Gillian Murray, Dale Lassitter, Sarah Rodgers, Phyllis Beattie, Margaret Hansen, Claire Morrison, Gill Rose, Mrs Leschalles, Joy Maclean, Lady Joicey and Jo Barry.

Greer Henry, George Bygate, Sarah Houston and Lynne Hickman – gymnastic jumping

In 1996-7 Susan Thomson took on the role of Training Officer and a portion of the subscription was used exclusively towards training. Trainers involved during this period were Lady Joicey, Tina Layton, Danny Pevsner, Margaret Hansen, Gill Rose, Joanna Jackson, Les Smith, Ian Woodhead and Jo Barry. In 1997-8 Susan reported that she had organised 32 clinics with 6 different trainers.

### **A selection of other events organised by the SDG**

ODE at Leithhead Farm

Veterinary lectures at the Dick Vet

Lecturer demonstration with Stephen Clarke

Peggoty Henriques - evening lecture demo and informal talk with video film of Goodwood plus videoing of lessons with feedback afterwards

Demo – DTM with Lady Joicey plus her on Powder Monkey

Lady Joicey with videos of World Dressage Championships at Heriot-Watt University

Wine and Cheese at Kate Darling's house

Quiz night held by Edinburgh & District RC and SDG came first

Video Evening with Klimke tapes at Kate Darling's house

Several Wine & Cheese evenings hosted by Judy Douglas Miller, Bavelaw Castle

Trip by coach to see the Spanish Riding School in Birmingham

2 evenings for potential judges with Phyllis Beattie and Les Smith

Alexander Technique classes – Jonathan Snell

Competition training with Tina Layton (15 minute warm up training, test ridden with Tina commenting on video then 5 minutes debrief).

Lecture demo with Jill Grant with commentary by Barbara Slane Fleming

Lecture demo with Jill Grant and Denise Shawns on how to ride movements in the new dressage tests subsidised by Area 1 Liaison Committee.

Two lectures on 'What the dressage judge is looking for' with Linda Penman and Phyllis Beattie

BD Workshop

Car boot sale

Dressage demo with Phyllis Beattie and Jo Barry

Demo on horse massage from Jenny Allison

Introduction to DTM with Tina Layton

Two test and training days with Jane Rutherford and Catherine Eardley as judge and trainer. Eric Wilson undertook the videoing and making dvds of the riders.

Pilates evening in Edinburgh

Training nights with a judge and an instructor

Talk by Isobel Duncan, Equine Behaviour Consultant at the Drum.

A test and training day with Joy Maclean.

A demonstration evening with Becky Holden

Demonstration by Catherine Eardley on DTM

Pilates instructor, Pauline Kidd, demonstration how Pilates can help riders

Tony Westbury (sports psychologist) lectures and training sessions

Horse Box Safety Lecture in conjunction with the BHS

### **Competitions**

Over the years competitions were held at numerous venues - Sunderland Hall (Galashiels), Roslynlea, Campbell Park (Colinton), Leithhead Farm, Kirknewton, The Drum, Gogar Park, Dalkeith Show Ground, Vogrie, Holyrood Park, Dalkeith Park, Devon Leisure, Fishcross, the Scottish National Equestrian Centre. Competitions (club and open) were also been run at indoor schools throughout the area.

Between 1982 and 2005, competitions were held during the winter months either monthly or fortnightly depending on demand, and alternating between Lasswade Riding School and Westmuir Riding School, including DTM in December and Scottish Farmer qualifiers. From 1987 the indoor winter competitions were held monthly and sometimes fortnightly at Tower Farm and occasionally at Westmuir – in 1988-9 Elementary and Medium classes were introduced! In 2005-6 the winter competitions moved to Cousland Park Training Yard (thanks to Celia Henderson). Six competitions are presently held during the winter months and 3/4 competitions during the summer months (2014).

From 1982 a spring show was held at Gogar Park. Jumping was also held for several years until the demand diminished. A larger open show was held in June at Gogar Park and another show in autumn which raised funds for the RDA or ILPH (now Horse Welfare). The use of Gogar Park, owned by D M Hall, was given free and made possible by Joyce Lancaster's late husband, Jack. Jack also helped with obtaining sponsorship. The directors of D M Hall held a party on the day and thoroughly enjoyed being involved with the prizegiving.

Competitions continued to be held at Gogar Park and Vogrie in April and September and the June show moved to Holyrood Park in 1987.

Margaret Hansen came up with the idea to hold our annual dressage competition at Holyrood Park and the site was obtained with help from Pat Gibbons and Susan Loch (Historic Scotland) and no charge was made for the use of the park. The show was one of the two largest in Scotland and ran 7 arenas. Although the site was free expenditure was high as all facilities had to be brought on site including a marquee for catering (sponsors and judges), a skip, portable toilet hire and caravans for the secretary and scorers. As Holyrood is a public park the whole area was roped off – involving a vast amount of rope and metal posts - although this did not stop a lady with her pram walking through, or swans landing in, an arena!

The show ran affiliated and unaffiliated classes for many years and entries were high (from Prelim to PSG) and riders were content to ride on grass arenas but as riders gradually got access to prepared surfaces the grass arenas were not so popular. For several years the fire brigade agreed (or persuaded by Margaret Hansen!) to water the ground to make the going softer but the weather pattern changed and for three years the show had to be cancelled due to wet ground. This resulted in the decision that the competition was no longer viable in Holyrood Park.

In 1992 June Show at Holyrood hosted the Area 1 Team Dressage, Pairs Dressage and Trent Park Dressage to Music along with the other classes.

From 1994 a Junior competition at Tower Farm was organised and this proved popular for many years but eventually was abandoned in 2005 due to lack of entries.

In 2001-02 Two competitions were held at Fieldings EC in East Whitburn. One affiliated and unaffiliated.

In 2002-03 Two competitions were again held at Fieldings EC. One was affiliated and unaffiliated. The summer competition was held at Dalkeith Park in July (thanks to Liz Robertson)

2003-4 the summer show moved to Devon Leisure, Alloa (one day only) and again in 2004-5 and 2005-6

In 2006 and 2007 the summer show was held at SNEC – indoors and outdoors. The grass arenas did not prove very popular and with only 2 indoor arenas entries had to be restricted. Despite excellent fund raising (thanks to Hazel Hunter) it was decided that the competition held at SNEC was not a viable financial option.

### **Teams entered for BRC qualifiers and Caledonia Championships**

In the early years teams were entered in the Riding Club team competitions in all disciplines and qualified for the finals several times.

In later years the SDG only entered dressage and riding test (formerly prix caprilli) teams in the area qualifying competition, many were successful and made the trip south. Teams were also entered for the Caledonia Championships held at Scone Palace, Perth.

1972 – Team dressage (Mary Wood, Phil Blackwood, Stella Hayward, Sally Imray) 1<sup>st</sup> and qualified for Stoneleigh.

1984 - 1 prix caprilli Team and 2 Dressage Teams to Area qualifier. One of the dressage teams came second and qualified for the National Championships at Stoneleigh. They were placed 21<sup>st</sup> out of 42 teams but were the top Scottish team.

1985 – 2 dressage teams to qualifiers and placed 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

1986 – 2 prix caprilli teams to qualifiers placed 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The SDG hosted the Teams and Pairs Dressage (at Gogar Park) and entered 2 teams and 1 pairs dressage 5<sup>th</sup>. One of the dressage teams (Elis Knight, Elizabeth Forsyth and Hilary Crane) were placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and qualified but did not go south due to last minute transport problems.

1987 – Prix caprilli team (Judy McDonald, Claire Seiler, Anne Chilman and Elaine Dewar) qualified and made the trip south (although unplaced). The dressage team (Sue Kempson, Morag Webster and Morag Barrell) qualified and travelled south but a lame horse on arrival at Stoneleigh resulted in the withdrawal of the team.

1988 – Dressage team (Kathy Buckner, Doreen Herr and Adrienne Taylor) placed 1<sup>st</sup>. Doreen's horse went lame and Wendy Berwick substituted and they went south and placed 12<sup>th</sup> out of 39 teams.

1989 – Dressage teams (Kathy Buckner, Margaret Paterson, Lady Caroline Tyrrell and (Anne Crawford, Joy Mallon and Sandra Parrish) placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively. Joy broke her arm and Elis Knight stepped in and both teams went south. Kathy, Margaret and Lady Caroline placed 6<sup>th</sup> out of 40 teams

1991 – 7<sup>th</sup> at Malvern

1992 – Teams didn't qualify

1993 – No teams entered

1994 – Teams entered for Caledonia Championships

1996 – Teams at Caledonian Championships placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> in Riding Test. Junior team placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. SDG won both the Team Dressage and Riding Test at Area 1 qualifier. None of the teams travelled south because of clash with regionals at Gleneagles.

1997 – Dressage team (Anne Montgomery, Anne Crawford and Harriet Linklater) won Dressage Championships at Malvern. A great achievement as only one other Scottish team had been placed 1<sup>st</sup> previously and only one since. Rebecca Ogilvie also qualified as an individual and made the trip south.

Caledonia Champs – dressage team (Anne Montgomery, Anne Crawford, Alistair Lennox and Catherine Muir) came 4<sup>th</sup>. Alistair Lennox and Cathy Thacker qualified for Dressage to Music Final and were placed 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> respectively.

1998 – 3 teams entered. Placed 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in dressage and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in Riding Test. Junior Team placed 1<sup>st</sup> Caledonian Championships – Anne Montgomery, Anne Crawford, Kay Grant and Harriet Linklater 1<sup>st</sup> in team dressage.

1999 – 2 teams entered. 1 Dressage team was 4<sup>th</sup> out of 22 teams. Harriet Linklater, Anne Crawford and Kay Grant 1<sup>st</sup> in arenas. Riding Test team placed 6<sup>th</sup>. Junior team (Emma Gibson, Laura Keir, Jennifer Wilkie and Kirsty Bisset placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in team dressage and 2<sup>nd</sup> in riding test.

2000 – No teams entered for Area 1 qualifiers. 1 team entered for the Caledonia Championships. Junior Dressage team placed 1<sup>st</sup> in team dressage and riding test. Went to Malvern but were unplaced.

2001 – Junior team (Sarah Beech, Emma Croxford, Lucy Elvin and Laura Keir) placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Riding Test and 4<sup>th</sup> in Team Dressage at Caledonia Championships.

2002 – Junior team (Sarah Beech, Emma Croxford, Lucy Elvin and Claire Houlston) qualified at the Area 1 qualifiers but were not able travel south.

2003 – Junior and senior team entered Area 1 qualifier but did not qualify.

2004 – No teams entered

2005 – Caledonia Championships – Junior team placed 1st (Jenni Macfarlane Jill Macfarlane and Mhairi McComish). The senior dressage team (Anne Montgomery, Heather Beck, Fiona Anderson and Krystal Cunningham) placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. No teams sent to Area 1 qualifier

2006 – BRC Championships – Junior team (Katie Gordon, Jenni McFarlane, Alex Meikle and Lucy Yates) qualified for team dressage and riding test. Jenni's pony went lame and Katie's vaccination certificate was found to be incorrect and was not allowed to compete. Alex and Lucy competed as individuals. Alex was 2<sup>nd</sup> in dressage and 10<sup>th</sup> in riding test. Lucy was 13<sup>th</sup> in dressage.