

## BEING IN NORTH WEST BYRDS

### What our BYRDS Say

BYRDS is a fantastic group of people, from us the riders, to top class trainers and people behind it all organising and helping. It is full of riders all with the same interests and goals. It is a fabulous way to make new friends, improve your riding and the way your pony performs. BYRDS gives us the opportunity to compete in big competitions with riders of a similar age. I have enjoyed the Training Camps and representing the North West area at Keysoe and hope I am asked many more times in the future.

*Amber Barton, Pony Rider, Worcestershire.*

Since joining NW BYRDS eight years ago at the age of seven, I've tried to make the most of all the brilliant training opportunities that are available in the NW, including dressage training camps, sports psychology, pilates, team building and goal planning. I've enjoyed success representing the region as part of a team at the Inter-Regionals, taken part in Talent Spotting Finals, and been privileged to wear an England flag on my jacket lapel at two Home International competitions.

With its emphasis on rider position, developing the basics of a good seat, and learning to 'be the best I can be', membership of NW BYRDS helps to give me the edge at BD, BE & Pony Club competitions, and is providing me with a really strong base for my riding in the future; and I've made a lot of good friends along the way! *Leona Lock-Williams, Junior Rider, Cheshire.*

Being a member of BYRDS has given me many opportunities whether it be training, competing or socialising. I have had the opportunity to train with a variety of fantastic trainers who would normally be too far away to train with. Also the camps are a fantastic opportunity for test riding practice and offer a varied range of dressage related activities. I have also had the opportunity to represent the NW on teams travelling to Ireland, Bedford, and Lincoln. Through doing all of this I have met many fabulous friends be it from NW or other regions and gained many useful contacts and a fantastic support network and would highly recommend any young person with an interest in dressage to consider joining BYRDS NW.

*Debbie Halstead, Young Rider, Lancashire.*

**BYRDS IS OPEN TO ALL RIDERS  
AGED 8 –25 years.**

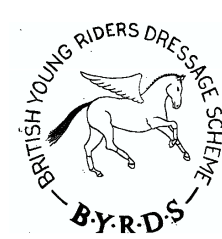
If you are under 11 you can  
become a **FLEDGLING rider, take  
part in all the activities and  
represent the NW, contact Moira  
for more details.**

### BYRDS FUNDRAISING

**Do you know of anyone who would like to  
help?**

Each year we try to raise funds through our catering at the BYRDS camps and the NW Regional Championships. This money is always re-invested to provide continuous training opportunities for our young riders. More help is always appreciated so if you have an hour or two to spare, or have any fund raising ideas please contact us.

For further information, contact  
Dr. Moira Lafferty (NW Region BYRDS Representative)  
Email: [moira.lafferty@o2.co.uk](mailto:moira.lafferty@o2.co.uk)  
Mob: 07808 924695



# An Introduction to BYRDS NORTH WEST



# Events & Activities Explained

## Monthly Training Clinics

We run monthly training clinics throughout the region with BD registered trainers, who are fully insured, CRB checked and have attended Child Protection workshops.

All of our trainers have an interest in helping young people reach their full potential and aim to help you improve whilst having fun. Whatever discipline you are involved in you can always benefit from extra training and as Leona says being in BYRDS has helped develop her dressage for eventing, so check out the NW website for a training clinic near you.

You don't have to be a member of BD to go to the clinics and if you want to go along and just watch to get an idea of what goes on then just ring the organiser. Details are on the web.

## Camps

We run three two day residential Camps per year which provide shared training sessions and test riding. As well as mounted activities there are a variety of talks and demonstrations and evening activities. Camps are a great way to make friends and meet likeminded people so follow the links on our web pages to learn more about Camps.

## Workshops

Throughout the year we also arrange a variety of workshops for our BYRDS members and parents. These include sports psychology sessions, pilates sessions, judging sessions and dressage to music clinics. All our workshops are taken by qualified experts used to working with young people so

Further information on all NW BYRDS activities can be found on:  
[http://www.britishdressage.co.uk/your\\_regions/](http://www.britishdressage.co.uk/your_regions/)

# An Introduction to the British Young Riders Dressage Scheme. (BYRDS)

## What is BYRDS NW?

North West BYRDS is one of the regions within British Dressage and has developed in the last ten years from a very small group into a successful region offering many opportunities for riders within the NW. There are monthly training clinics across the region, an Annual Regional Championship, residential Camps, talks and opportunities to represent the region at national and international competitions. We finish the year of in style with the North West BYRDS Presentation Evening.

Our aim in the North West is to help you get the most out of your riding and enjoy what you do so if you would like to take part in any of our training opportunities or, just come along and see what we do please either contact Elaine or Moira. BYRDS NW is a very friendly group and so if you want to meet new people and enjoy dressage then come along.

## What if I want to really progress can BYRDS help me?

If you have ambition and talent, BYRDS can help you make it to the top. You can apply for our Young Professionals Award and our regional development officers (RDOs) and BYRDS Representatives are always on the lookout for riders with potential during BYRDS regional training sessions to put forward for BYRDS national training viewing days. The next step up is getting on to a squad and our ultimate goal is to see you riding for your country.

To check out what you can do on a National level go to:  
[www.britishdressage.co.uk/under\\_25s/u-25s\\_slash\\_BYRDS](http://www.britishdressage.co.uk/under_25s/u-25s_slash_BYRDS)

Further information on all NW BYRDS activities can be found on:  
[http://www.britishdressage.co.uk/your\\_regions/north\\_west\\_region](http://www.britishdressage.co.uk/your_regions/north_west_region)

# Competition Opportunities Available

Full details of all events can be found on the web  
[http://www.britishdressage.co.uk/your\\_regions/north\\_west\\_region](http://www.britishdressage.co.uk/your_regions/north_west_region)



## North West BYRDS Regional Championship

This is an Annual Competition held in April/May where riders compete to become A, B, C and fledgling squad champions.



## SHEEPGATE EQUESTRIAN National Under 25's Championship

This is open to BD members on registered horses and ponies. You can qualify and compete as an individual by obtaining 2 score sheets at affiliated competitions in the current year at the appropriate percentage (details on the web). Copies of score sheets clearly stating date and venue must be forwarded to Karen Ryder at the BD Office.



## Representing England and the NW

To be considered for a representational team you must be a full member of BD on a registered horse and have fulfilled the Selection Criteria (**selection document can be found on the web**)

**Caven, Northern Ireland** – Usually teams are made up of 1 pony, 1 junior, 1 young rider and 1 from any of the 3 groups.

**Marlton, Wicklow**—Pony, Junior and Young rider teams.

**Inter Regional Teams** - Each region can send five teams.

These are made up from our A, B, C and fledgling squads. A team must comprise of a rider from three of the four levels plus another.

**Sheepgate U25 Team Championship** - As part of the Under 25 National Championships there is also a team competition - remember though you can go to Sheepgate as an individual.

Further information on all NW BYRDS activities can be found on:  
[http://www.britishdressage.co.uk/your\\_regions/north\\_west\\_region](http://www.britishdressage.co.uk/your_regions/north_west_region)