

BHS Scotland Update – Regional Manager’s Report

In Scotland, there are now 7,474 members as of the end of December 2018, with a total of 489 new members during 2018 resulting in a membership increase of 7.0% (Scotland once again has the highest membership growth in the UK). There has been a very slight reduction in numbers during December, which is expected however January is seeing lots of new members joining.

Two days of CPD took place with Adam Kemp FBHS on the 18 November at Houston Farm and on Monday 19 November at Morris EC.

Several requests have been received for some Stage 4/5 training, so this took place at Gleneagles last week which was a great success with 2 fully booked days.

Sarah attended the BHS Awards ceremony with Tricia Halley to be presented with the BHS Fundraising Award, as a result of £8000 being raised at the Balmoral event in May. Huge thanks to the BHS Scotland tearoom ladies and to everyone who supported this fantastic day. This was a joint fundraising event between BHS Scotland and the Equine Grass Sickness Fund. Aberdeen RC also won the BHS Award for the BHS Approved Centre.

There will be a BHS International Convention in Scotland from the 7-9 April at Morris EC so keep the dates free. The line up of presenters is looking fantastic.

BHS Scotland is promoting the BRC Five Star Train Together Tour at RDA Sandyflats on the 14 April 2019 with Lisa Hiddlestone.

Safety

During the first year of Operation ‘Lose the Blinkers’ there has been 21 action days with the following results:

247 Drivers Have Been Stopped and Educated and Given An Advice Leaflet

27 Seatbelt Offences

18 Mobile Phone Offences

7 Careless Driving Offences

5 Miscellaneous Offences

2 Possession of Drugs

2 Arrests for Warrants

10 Drivers Stopped and Commended On Their Patience and Professionalism Shown When Passing Horses.

A rider’s responsibility session is scheduled in Stornoway on the 2 March.

Education

BHS Scotland has been extremely busy in terms of training and education.

We have also been working with the regions to hold training events in their areas. BHS Strathclyde has a lunging night with Sheila Thom on the 12 February at RDA Sandyflats.

Safeguarding courses have been very popular – the one at Morris EC on the 16 January was fully booked with a waiting list. There is another one at Morris EC on the 30 January and one in Fife on 5 February.

I am currently organising 6 training sessions with the BHS Accredited Professional Coaches on Challenge Awards.

The ride at Dumfries House on the 17 March is full with a very long waiting list. There is also an Equestrian Open day on the 16 March at Dumfries House, which is proving very popular. There is a ROUK ride at Culzean on the 12 May with 19 entries already.

Nick Turner FBHS returns to Scotland in May for two days of XC training and plans are well underway for this year's camp.

Other

BHS Scotland worked with Robert Gordon University over the summer to produce research into the value of the equine industry. This is now available online.

BHS Scotland had a successful day at the Kelso races with the BHS Scotland tearoom on the 29 December 2018.

BHS Scotland Quiz Final is on 8 March 2019 at Auchterarder Golf Club – encourage riding clubs to enter teams for this also.

BHS On the Move lorry is back in Scotland week beginning 11 March.

Welfare conference at Belwade on Friday 17 May.