

## THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD EXAMPLE CITATIONS



The President's Award Nomination Panel relies heavily on the citation when deciding whether an application meets the criteria for the award. However, it is recognised that the art of writing a citation may not always be a simple task and in order to help we have produced some example citations to give an idea of the standard required. Although the citations below are fictional they are based on citations which have been successful in the past and should provide a good starting point if you are considering making a nomination.

### **"Miranda Smith" – a Group Volunteer with Vision**

When "Miranda Smith" joined the Peppermint Group in 1984, she had little personal experience of horses, and although she had been aware of RDA through contact with a former RDA rider, she knew little of the therapeutic value that RDA offers.

After five years as a side-walker, and attendance at numerous training sessions, "Miranda" realised that she wanted to be more involved. After a Group AGM she realised that the Group was struggling financially and there was a real possibility that it may even have to close. To "Miranda", closure was not an option and it was to avert this that she joined the Fund Raising Committee, and from there she was co-opted to the Management Committee, becoming Hon Treasurer and then Chairman within two years.

Having restored the Group's financial stability "Miranda" became the driving force behind a new project to create a purpose built centre. Along with other Trustees, "Miranda" was successful in raising the initial £500,000 required to begin the project. The team was faced with many challenges, but when the new centre opened in March 2005 it was all worthwhile.

"Miranda's" vision extended to introducing new opportunities and in 2007 the Group delivered its first carriage driving session. "Miranda" was once again the leading figure; arranging training for 10 volunteers, finding suitable ponies and overseeing the purchase of two specially adapted carriages.

"Miranda" always leads from the front and even when suffering a period of ill health, she never allowed it to impede her enthusiasm. It was this dedication that endeared her to her RDA colleagues, and participants and their families, and brought the best out of them.

**279 words**

Under "Miranda Smith's" expert Chairmanship, the Peppermint Group has developed from a small, financially distressed riding Group with 20 riders to become a respected multi-disciplined RDA Centre with over 130 riders. She did this by putting the Group on a sound financial basis, introducing carriage driving, and ensuring that the management was on a sound footing.

"Miranda" was the driving force in raising funds for the new premises, and for ensuring that Instructors, resources and administrative backup, were all in place to broaden the range of therapies available to meet an increased demand for RDA therapy.

**96 words**

## **"Pricilla Willowspot" – an Inspirational Coach**

When "Pricilla" decided to become an RDA Coach, it was a red-letter day for RDA.

Under "Pricilla's" careful and compassionate tutelage, riders at the Stonecroft Farm Group blossomed and some have gone on to compete at a high level at the RDA National Championships with one rider entering the talent pathway for Para-equestrian Dressage. Despite being a highly esteemed coach, "Pricilla's" heart remains in coaching grass roots riders and her lessons are serious, but infused with fun. She has a gift for enticing the most timid rider to try just that little bit harder. She also works hard to include parents so that RDA becomes a part of their lives too.

The Region quickly recognised "Pricilla's" knowledge and talent, and she took on the role of County Instructor a position she held for 6 years. She was then appointed Regional Instructor, and, again, held this post with considerable distinction. She was instrumental in re-inventing the Regional Training Programme and through her efforts the standards of Group instruction, volunteering training, and volunteer management have advanced beyond recognition.

"Pricilla" then became a member of the RDA UK Coaching Committee and has played a large part in the production of many of RDA's standard policies and protocols. As Chairman of that Committee, she had the vision and enthusiasm to revise training procedures to include the many new Health & Safety requirements while ensuring that teaching programmes were kept fresh and invigorating for volunteers and participants alike.

While "Pricilla's" first love is teaching, she has never forgotten the need to pass on her knowledge and experience to the next generation of RDA coaches. It is for this dedication to ensuring a continued supply of well-trained volunteers for future participants.

**290 words**

"Pricilla Willowspot" has used her natural gift for teaching RDA participants to help a huge number of coaches to improve their teaching techniques and enhance their RDA sessions, and in the process has gained much admiration and respect. In addition, she has been unstinting in her input at Regional and National levels to pass on her enthusiasm, skill, and knowledge to establish the high standards expected from RDA coaches, without whom Groups could not operate.

**75 words**

## **"Horatio Stephens" – a Generous Benefactor and Ambassador**

The Market Stanton RDA Group was started around 1978 and a year later, were in danger of losing their base. When approached by his local Group, "Horatio Stephens" generously allowed them to base their activities in the riding school on his family estate and in 1980 graciously accepted an invitation to become their President.

Every week without fail he brings tea and cake down to the riding school to feed hungry volunteers and participants after their weekly ride. He has a special affinity with the riders and their families, displaying a genuine caring attitude without being patronising. The Group has transformed the lives of hundreds of participants and volunteers over the years and much of this is due to his influence and enthusiasm.

As well as allowing the use of the riding school, "Horatio" plays a key role in ensuring the financial stability of the Group in subsidising the cost of rides ensuring that finance is never a barrier to any

participant.

“Horatio” has helped numerous riders over the years and especially given support to those who wanted to compete. The Regional Qualifier has been held on the estate for the last 10 years which had provided a springboard for many participants to compete at the National Championships.

“Horatio” is a superb ambassador for RDA and is not somebody who takes his duties lightly. As Chairman of the Parish Council, a school governor and a leading light in the local business, he has ensured that Market Stanton RDA Group is an integral part of the local community and has played a vital role in securing new volunteers, particularly in the form of trustees ensuring a stable future for the Group.

**287 words**

“Horatio Stephen's” contribution to RDA for nearly 40 years has been largely behind the scenes. As a member of many organisations in his home village, he has used his influence to support the Group being instrumental in its formation in the past and also ensuring its stability for the future. When asked for his advice, he gives it – whether it is what RDA wants to hear or not - and it is always very welcome. Above all the group simply would not exist without his generosity which continues to this day.

**91 words**