

Report from Carmen Gammie

Thanks very much for awarding me a sports grant. This enabled me to take part in the Scottish dressage team at the Necarne International Dressage Festival held in Northern Ireland at the beginning of May with my pony The Butler who I have on loan from the Grant family from Aberdeen. I was thrilled to be picked for the Scottish team and it was really exciting going on the ferry with the horsebox across to Ireland. Despite the fact that I was youngest competitor (11) and my pony was the smallest pony at the competition (12.3hh), we achieved some good results. The highlight was winning the last class on the Sunday with the highest percentage of the whole competition, 74.19%, which is an exceptional score for a dressage test.

Based on these results I have been asked once again to represent Scotland with The Butler at the next International competition which is to be held at the beginning of July in Southern Ireland at the Marlton Stud. The following week, I have been selected for another Scottish dressage team on my other pony Picasso to compete at an inter-regional competition at Keysoe in Bedfordshire. I have also qualified Picasso for the Riding Club championships to be held in Lincoln in September so my summer holidays are going to be very busy competing with my ponies.

Many people are involved in my success; my Mum and Dad who drive the lorry to all the competitions and help me look after my ponies, my poor brother Scott also gets involved when I can persuade him to help me, Mary McFarlane who trains me on a regular basis and Pauline Kidd who has helped me with my core stability through pilates. I also need to thank the Grant family for letting me ride The Butler, he has taught me an enormous amount and constantly challenges me to ride better.