



2024 is certainly a year of Celebration
 For 50 years there has been an Association
 All because of a letter to Horse and Hound
 Like minded side saddle enthusiasts were found
 In 1974 the Ladies Side Saddle Association was founded
 In time dropping the "Ladies" so "correct" we sounded
 Although our Founder Members were in number few
 They ensured the Association began, grew and grew



With so much knowledge, expertise and experience imparted
 More became members and their side saddle careers started
 Alongside classes there are so many more activities
 Offering our members, a cross section of opportunities
 Taking part in displays and local events is encouraged
 Seminars and newsletters ensure knowledge can be foraged
 Exams are available for those who want to further progress
 Without our Judges and Instructors, we would be in a mess

There are now local Areas in the UK and links worldwide
 Ensuring there is always a team or someone available to guide
 Now run over 3 days the National Show has classes for everyone
 With a vast selection of trophies contested for and won

The Equitation and other Championships take pride of place
 But you do not have to compete in those to show your face
 There are classes for dressage, costumes and so many more
 Giving non-riding guests and visitors entertainment galore
 The Show started small and on occasion joined other parties
 Since it began, we have travelled to eleven different counties
 Two Patrons, five Presidents and nine Vice Presidents have presided
 Twelve Chairmen, twenty-three Vice Chairmen have been elected

Appointed to their roles we have had Hon Gen Secretaries ten
 And twelve Hon Treasurers have managed the accounts with their pen
 Throughout the Association there are many who perform many roles
 All volunteers but they are the ones who ensure there are no holes



We have specialist saddlers to get the saddles balanced and just right
 No rider or horse performs well in a saddle which is slipping or too tight
 Perfect turnout is of course the goal, showing what we aim to stand for
 That perfect overall picture of elegance, correctness and so much more
 Area Officers and Committee Members numbers are not noted
 But they work hard to gain members, ensuring we are promoted
 The AGMs at national and local level are a great time to meet
 And it is not all about riding with many social times on our feet

We have all been so lucky to be part of keeping this tradition alive
 It is up to each and every one of us to ensure it continues to thrive
 No more words are needed but a simple toast and "Three Cheers"
 May the Association continue for many, many more years

With grateful thanks to the anonymous author and to Jennifer Roberts of Area 8 for the illustrations

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