

RDA

National Championships

12th – 14th July 2024

Event Schedule

To be held at

Hartpury College, Hartpury House, Gloucester, GL19 3BE



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A charity registered in England & Wales (No: 244108) Scotland (No: SCO39473)

CLOSING DATES FOR ENTRIES FOR ALL ENTRIES IS WEDNESDAY 12th JUNE 2024

LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

All rider times will be available on the RDA website

<https://www.myrda.org.uk/runningyourgroup/national-championships/> two weeks prior to the event.

It is the responsibility of the groups/competitors to comply with the Rules and Regulations outlined in this schedule.

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What's happening in 2024

1. 2024 see's RDA's 55th anniversary, and to celebrate we will be running a number of additional activities/celebrations over the weekend.
Please do encourage members of your group to attend, even if they aren't competing.
2. Arena walks will take place in both Dressage and Countryside Challenge. Countryside Challenge arena walks are led only. For both dressage and countryside challenge arena walks leaders must wear hats and gloves. Arena walks should take place at specified times.
3. We will be introducing a WhatsApp group that will be used to share important information about the event. People can join this group via a QR code which will be available nearer the time. The group will only be used to share information from the event secretaries. No participants will be able to comment.
4. Please note visually impaired dressage classes have been split into B1, B2, B3, B4, B5. Please enter your correct class to your classification.
5. Opening Hours
The event secretary's office will be open during the following hours: Anything outside of these hours please contact the Secretary on 01926 405972.

Thursday 12.00noon – 8.00pm
Fri 07.00am – 8.00pm
Sat 07.00am – 8.00pm
Sun 07.00am – 5.00pm
6. Please note we have also updated the arena numbers to coincide with Hartpury, Please make sure you familiarise yourself.

Entries – Entries will be taken once again through Horse Monkey. [Welcome - Horse Monkey Events](#). For guidance on how to enter please go to the National Championships Page of MYRDA where there are several documents to help and support. If you cannot enter online then please contact Fiona Harris on fharris@rda.org.uk or Katie O'Brien on kobrien@rda.org.uk and we will be able to send out an entry form.

Stable Manager's office will be open for arrivals and departures at the times listed below. Anything outside of these hours please contact the Stable Manager to arrange on 01926 405971 (prior to event) or 01926 405971 (during the event).

Thursday 12noon – 8.00pm
Fri 07.00am – 8.00pm
Sat 07.00am – 8.00pm
Sun 07.00am – 6.00pm

Entry Fees

| Classes | Online Entry Fee |
|-------------------------|--|
| Arts & Crafts | £8.00 |
| Best Turned Out | £10.00 |
| Carriage Driving | £22.00 |
| Countryside Challenge | £22.00 |
| Dressage – Championship | £22.00 |
| Endurance | £22.00 |
| Horsecare & Knowledge | £10.00 |
| Showing | £22.00 |
| Showjumping | £22.00 |
| Vaulting | Team - £50.00 Pairs - £22.00 Individual - £22.00 |

Prizes & Prize Giving

Prizes will be awarded 1st to 6th in all classes. The Championships Classes are split into Junior and Senior Sections with the Open section now having their own individual class. The Open section for all disciplines will be split into junior and senior. A Class Champion will be awarded in the championship classes where there is a junior and senior section and a class champion will be awarded in the open section.

Prize giving will be scheduled throughout the event; times will be displayed and announced on the PA system and through the WhatsApp group.

Stabling

Stables must be reserved at the time of class entries and on payment of the fee below. This entitles the competitor to the use of a stable from **17.00hrs on the day of reservation until 17.00hrs the following day**. Day stables are available from 07.00hrs to 17.00hrs. Stabling is not available on Sunday night.

| Stabling | Fee |
|------------------|--|
| Overnight | £37.00 including a base bed 17.00 – 17.00 |
| Day Stable | £16.00 some bedding included 07.00 – 17.00 |
| Electric Hook Up | £70.00 for the duration of the event |

Stable Manager's office will be open for arrivals and departures at the times listed below. Anything outside of these hours please contact the Stable Manager to make arrangements on 01926 405971.

Thursday 12noon – 20.00pm

Friday 07.00am – 20.00pm

Sat 07.00am – 20.00pm

Sun 07.00am – 18.00pm

All stables **MUST** be cleaned out each day, prior to departure please check with the stable manager how your stable needs to be left. All stables to be checked by the stables team before departure. A £20 deposit for your stable will be required on arrival at the National Championships and will be refunded if the stable is left as it should be at the time of departure.

Stables will be allocated prior to arrival; any special requests should be made at time of entry. Groups should bring their own mucking out equipment. Extra bedding and hay can be purchased on site from Hartpury College via the Stable Manager (approx. £8.00 each) payment can be made by card or cash

All visitors must clean up any muck and hay around their lorry in the car park prior to departure.

Vehicle Parking

Equine vehicles may park in the designated parking area close to the stables, please follow parking stewards instructions. All areas around the equine vehicle must be cleaned up before departure.

Cars **WILL NOT** be admitted into the equine vehicle parking area. They will be accommodated in the main car park. Please follow traffic management signs and take instructions from the parking stewards.

Accommodation

Accommodation at the college is available on a first come first served basis. Most rooms are single occupancy and ensuite. The number of disabled access rooms available are extremely limited.

Accommodation must be booked in advance and the price includes breakfast. **All rooms MUST be vacated by 10.00 am** and keys returned to the accommodation office. All key fobs will be deactivated by 11.00 on day of departure and access to accommodation blocks will not be possible after this time.

Offsite accommodation can be booked through Gloucester Tourist Office on 01452 396576.

The accommodation office will be open for arrivals at the times listed below:

Thurs 12 noon – 8.00pm

Fri 07.00noon – 8.00pm

Sat 07.00am – 8.00pm

Sun 07.00am – 5.00pm

| Accommodation | Fee |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| All Rooms | £45.60 per night B+B |

Caravans & Camping

A limited amount of space is available for caravans and camping. Pitches must be booked and paid for in advance through Horsemonkey by Wednesday 12th June. There is no power supply; a standpipe provides water and toilet/shower facilities are available. The showers are located

in the Hartpury Arena and are open from 07.00 – 22.00 daily. Please report to the accommodation office upon arrival to check in and follow the guidance given.

| Caravans & Camping | Fee |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Caravan/Camper Van | £17.00 per night |
| Tent | £11.00 per night |

Catering

Catering Facilities are available on site either from the refreshment's vans or the college refectory. There is also a selection of good pubs locally.

Hartpury have refurbished the Graze Restaurant. Please note it has moved location and is a slightly longer walk from New Vic and Limbury accommodation blocks.

Dogs

Dogs are permitted at the Championships but must be kept on a short lead and under control at all times. They are not allowed in the stable, competition or accommodation areas.

How to Find Us

Hartpury College (GL19 3BE) is on the A417, 4 miles north of Gloucester. There may be heavy traffic around Gloucester, so you are advised to approach from the M5 or M50 motorways.

From the M5:

Leave at Junction 11 and follow the A40 towards Gloucester. At the first roundabout turn towards Ross-on-Wye. At the third roundabout, take the A417 towards Ledbury. After leaving Maisemore, the college is signposted at the second turning on the left.

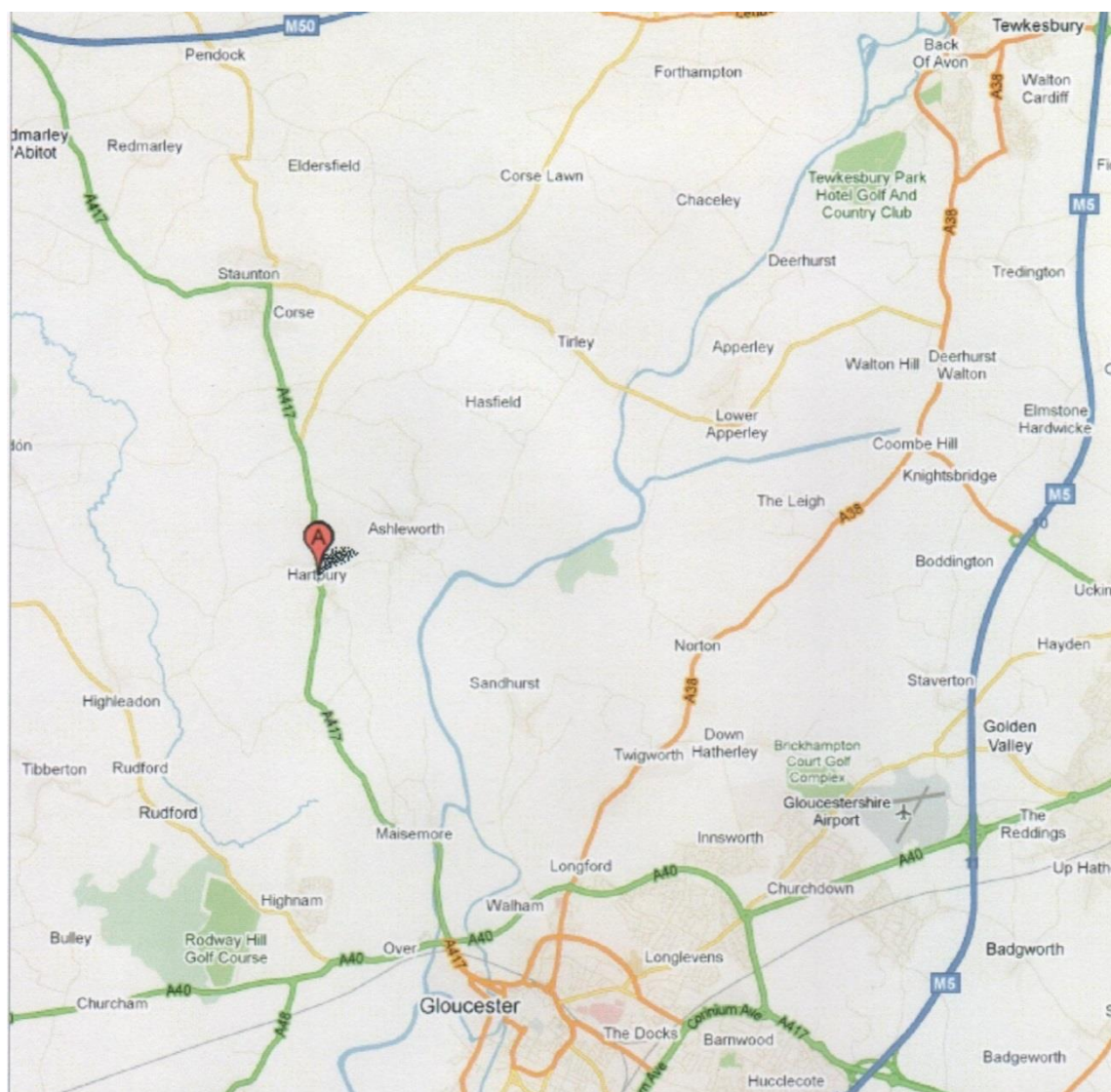
From the M50:

Leave at Junction 2 and follow the A417 south towards Gloucester to Hartpury. Continue for approximately 10 miles. The college is signposted to the right.

From London and the M4:

Leave the M4 at Junction 15 and follow the A419 towards Cirencester. At Cirencester the A419 becomes the A417. Follow the A417 towards Gloucester and the M5. At the roundabout at the Air Balloon pub, take the first exit towards Gloucester. Take the second exit at the next roundabout. At the next roundabout take the third exit (A40) towards Ross-on-Wye. Continue on the A40, heading straight on at the next two roundabouts.

At the third roundabout, take the A417 towards Ledbury. After leaving Maisemore, the college is signposted at the second turning on the left.



Arts & Crafts

All classes will now be split junior and senior as per the RDA rules. There is no longer a need to have a relevance to RDA in the art work but must be equestrian themed if not then the art work will be marked down.

Please see the Arts & Crafts rules for full information.

Who can enter?

The Arts & Crafts competition, as part of the RDA National Championships, is always an incredibly popular event – providing a great opportunity for participants to express themselves through art. It is open to all participants of all ages in RDA and gives everyone the chance to take part in the RDA National Championships in some way, and to achieve recognition.

Classes are available, with **junior** and **senior** sections, for both **individual** and **group** artwork, and entries can be made in the form of drawings, paintings, collages, sculptures, textile creations and even photography.

We're always amazed by entrants' creativity and imagination! As in previous years, we'll be offering entry classes for both individual and group artwork, and these can be drawings, paintings, collages, sculptures, textile creations and photography. It's a fantastic opportunity to involve families, schools, colleges or care centres, too, as participants are welcome to create their artwork at any time - in RDA sessions, in the classroom or at home.

How do groups take part?

We recommend that groups speak with their Regional Chair as soon as possible for specific dates and deadlines for the regional round of judging, as it will vary from region to region. If you are unsure who your Regional Chair is, please consult the RDA Handbook in the first instance. There should be several copies in your group. If you cannot find this, or are still unsure, please contact RDA National Office on 01926 492915.

The winners from all classes in the regional rounds will qualify for the finals, which will be judged on Saturday 13th July 2024, at the RDA National Championships at Hartpury College, Gloucestershire. The winners for all Arts & Crafts classes, in places 1st – 6th will be announced on the same day.

How will the artwork be marked?

The following updated marking system will be used for Classes 99 to 103 at both the regional judging and the finals at the RDA National Championships:

| | | |
|--------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. | Composition Relevant to Class | 20 marks |
| 2. | Originality, use of materials and colour. | 20 marks |
| 3. | Overall impression | 20 marks |
| Total | | 60 marks |

Sizing guide for all classes:

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| A1 (W x H) | 594mm x 841mm / 23.4" x 33.1" |
| A2 (W x H) | 420mm x 594mm / 16.5" x 23.4" |

Maximum size of sculptures

We don't specify a maximum size for sculpture classes. But please do bear in mind that any work submitted needs to be able to be photographed as a whole sculpture.

Definition of Artwork Types

Artwork entered in the wrong class will not be judged - so please avoid any disappointment by carefully reading the following definitions of 'Pictures/Painting and Drawing', 'Collage', 'Sculpture' and 'Photograph' for the purposes of this competition:

Paintings/Drawings: Artwork must be produced using pens, inks, crayons, pencils or similar, with no details stuck on, or extra embellishments added.

Photography: Entries in this class must be photographs taken by the entrant themselves, to show off their photography skills. Still digital or analogue camera (film) prints acceptable. Please ensure that written permission has been obtained from any people featured (if applicable) before sharing any images. Please do not frame pictures with glass, or use heavy or fragile frames.

Collages: Artwork must be created by sticking different materials such as photographs, pictures, coloured paper, fabric onto paper or card, canvas, a sheet of fabric etc. Collage classes will also encompass embroidery pieces, on a flat canvas or cloth. Work must be one-sided and be wall-mountable. Please do not frame pictures with glass, or use heavy or fragile frames

Sculptures: Artwork can be in any material. Sculpture classes will also include any textile work that is multi-dimensional and not flat. Please note the size restrictions for these classes, and the portability of the artwork.

Class 99: (JUNIOR & SENIOR sections)

Paintings and Drawings – Individual or Group of up to 4

Entries in this class can be made using watercolours, oils, acrylics, pencil, crayon, pen and ink or pastel etc. Please do not frame pictures with glass, or use heavy or fragile frames. Max. size A1

Class 100: (JUNIOR & SENIOR sections)

Collage – Individual

Please do not frame pictures with glass, or use heavy or fragile frames. Max. size A2.

Class 101: (JUNIOR & SENIOR sections)

Collages – Group (maximum 10 people)

Please do not frame pictures with glass, or use heavy or fragile frames. Max. size A1.

Class 102: (JUNIOR & SENIOR sections)

Sculpture – Individual or Group of up to 4

Class 103: (JUNIOR & SENIOR sections)

Photography Class – Individual entry only (photos must be taken by the participant themselves)

Black & white or colour entries welcome.

Closing Date

- Wednesday 12th June 2024

Entry Fee

- Individual £8.00 per person Group £8.00 per person.

Best Turned Out

These classes are judged purely on turnout, not as a showing class and are open to all riders.

There will be a junior and senior section for each day. Riders may compete as juniors until the end of the year in which they reach the age of 16.

Rosettes will be awarded 1st to 6th place. Rosettes will also be awarded to the grooms of the equines placed 1st to 6th .

Scoring:

The marks total 100, which are divided equally between the horse, saddlery, rider and the overall impression. In the event of a tie, the overall impression mark will decide the result.

Horse (marked purely on cleanliness not conformation) 25 marks

Saddlery (marked on cleanliness, suppleness and fit) 25 marks

Rider (marked on cleanliness and fit of riding attire) 25 marks

Overall impression (marked on general appearance) 25 marks

Total 100 marks

Closing Dates

- Wednesday 12th June 2024.

Entry Fee

- Entries may also be made on the day
- £10.00

Carriage Driving

The 2024 RDA National Championships Carriage Driving competition consists of the Driven Dressage Test and a Conobstacle course, which will be a cones course interspersed with two obstacles. It will be judged and scored as two phases: Phase 1 – Dressage, and Phase 2 – Conobstacles (overall time, not individual elements). There will be three separate dressage tests this year. One for Novice, one for Intermediate and one for Open and a copy is available on the website under National Championships.

- The objective of the driven dressage test is to judge the freedom, regularity of paces, harmony, impulsion, suppleness and lightness, ease of movement and correct bending of the horse on the move. Drivers will also be judged on style, accuracy, dress, control of the horse and general condition of their horse, harness and carriage.
- The objective of the Conobstacle course is to drive accurately without knocking balls off the cones, and in the fastest overall time possible. It will test the fitness, obedience and suppleness of the horse, and the skill and competence of the driver.
- In all phases, and in all classes, CD Coaches may assist with verbal directions **but will be penalised in all classes for using the second set of reins unless on safety grounds.**
- Conobstacles must be driven at walk and trot only. Penalties will be awarded for cantering.
- The width of the cones will be 25cms wider than the standard axle i.e. set at 165cms. Any carriages of non-standard width will have the cones adjusted for them, but you may have to drive at the end of the competition after the standard width carriages have all taken part, so that the arena party do not have to set and re-set the cones more than necessary.

Dressage Arena

The arena size for the dressage test will be 60m x 30m. The markers down the long side are laid out with equal spacing.

Driver Categories

The organisers reserve the right to transfer drivers to a different class if felt appropriate.

a) Novice

- Any driver who drives with dual reins who has never competed at any previous RDA face-to-face National Championships. They may remain in the Novice class until they win the Novice class at the National Championships.
- Any driver who drives with dual reins, who requires verbal guidance from their CD Coach, and has not won the novice class at any previous RDA face-to-face National Championships.
- The winner of the Novice class, at any previous face-to-face National Championships, will move up to the Intermediate class for future competitions.

b) Intermediate

- Any driver who drives with dual reins, who does not require verbal guidance from their CD Coach, and has not won the intermediate class at any previous RDA face-to-face National Championships.
- The winner of the Intermediate class at any previous face-to-face National Championships will move up to the Open class for future competitions.

c) Open

- Any driver who drives with dual reins and has progressed from the Intermediate class at previous face-to-face National Championships.
- Any driver who has been assessed to drive with single reins with their CD Coach sitting beside them.

For full competition rules please see the RDA Rule Book.

Closing Date

- Wednesday 12th June 2024

Entry Fee

- Online £22.00

Countryside Challenge

For full competition rules please see the RDA Competition Rule Book. Classes are split into Junior and Senior and open sections

- Junior Riders – May compete as Juniors until the end of the year in which they reach the age of 16.
- Senior Riders – Riders over the age of 16.
- Open Riders - Riders who have been Overall Class Champion in the same class for 2 consecutive years at the RDA National Championships or who are independent rider/own-horse participant.

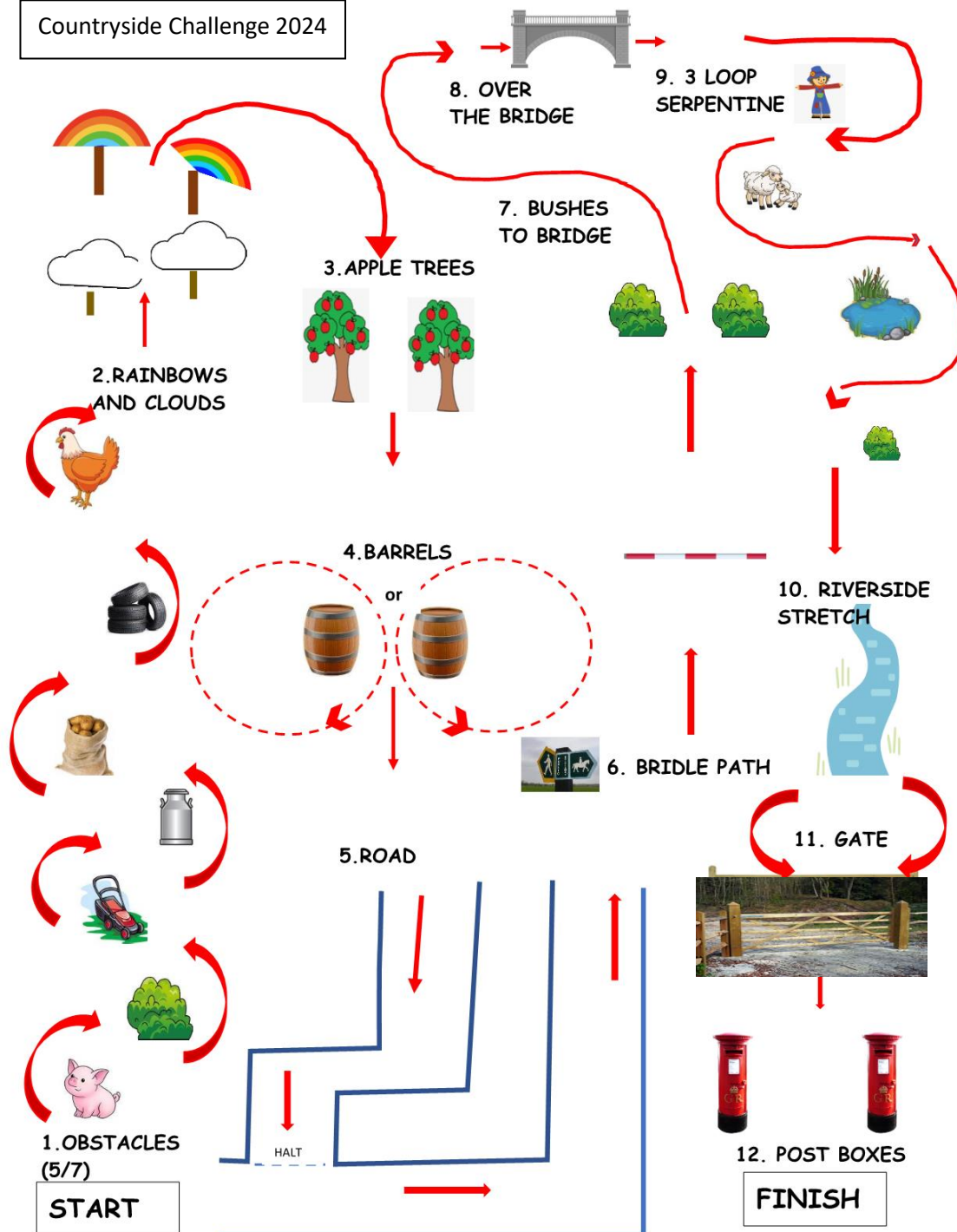
Closing Date

- Wednesday 12th June 2024.

Entry Fee

- £22.00

Countryside Challenge 2024



Dressage

All dressage classes are held in a 20m x 40m arenas. We offer a variety of classes including freestyle to music, costume freestyle to music.

Classes are divided in to Junior, Senior and Open

- Junior Riders – May compete as Juniors until the end of the year in which they reach the age of 16.
- Senior Riders – Riders over the age of 16 who are not an Open Rider.
- Open Riders – Open Riders – for any participants and equine combination who have been RDA Class Champion for two years; or compete in FEI, BD Para at Silver Level or above; or are an independent rider.
Open classes will be split into Junior and Senior sections and will be awarded class champion.

For full dressage rules please consult the RDA Competitions Rule Book.

Closing Date

- Wednesday 12th June 2024

Entry Fee

- £22.00

Dressage - Costume Freestyle to Music

The object of this class is to provide entertainment for both the participants and spectators.

This class will be run as a Freestyle to Music Class for 1 rider and horse/pony combination that have already qualified for the National Championships. It will be in a 20m x 40m arena and should be ridden in a costume themed to match and enhance the music used. The ride must tell a story and a brief introduction (max 50 words) must be submitted. Music must be between 4 and 4 ½ minutes, and will be timed from opening to closing halt. Penalties will be incurred for exceeding the time allowed.

The number of entries for this class will be 15 and accepted on a first received basis. Additional entries will be wait listed. There is no requirement for qualification prior to the event but all entries must be deemed suitable by either a Regional Coach or Regional Dressage Rep.

Requirements: Walk and trot on both reins; all types of movements may be used but degree of difficulty may not always gain higher marks and must be correctly executed.

Optional: Canter may be incorporated, props may be used either by helpers, in a static position or carried by the rider, a maximum of 2 static props and 2 helpers are permitted but all props and helpers may only enter the arena, and be removed from, within the time allowed for each competitor (6 minutes including performance time).

Horse/Pony Tack: Saddles, side saddles, bridles, boots, costumes, etc. should be safe and fit correctly, but may be decorated appropriately.

Rider's Costumes, Headwear, Props & Helpers: Hats must be worn and must meet the current RDA Safety standards. Costumes worn and any props used are done so at the riders own risk. Any helpers should also be in costume. A leader if required is separate to any additional helpers.

Tests: Tests may be verbally commanded and/or performed on the lead rein.

Scoring:

The Judge will allocate a total mark of 100 marks for:

Harmony between rider and horse/pony 20 marks

Music which appropriately enhances the performance 20 marks

Costume which is most suitable to the rider, horse/pony and the performance 20 marks

Overall entertainment, performance and presentation 40 marks

In the event of equality of marks, the highest marks for overall entertainment & presentation, achieved shall be the winner; if not conclusive the highest marks for way of going and harmony between rider and horse/pony, shall be the winner; if not conclusive the results shall be declared a tie.

Music and Introduction – Both must be handed in at the Secretaries Office at least 2 hours before the start of the class, they must be clearly marked with the competitor's name, number, class number and any specific instructions concerning the music. (Please don't forget to collect these once the class has finished)

Competitors must wait until the judge has rung the bell to start, as per usual dressage rules.

Closing Date

- Wednesday 12th June 2024

Entry Fee

- £22.00

Endurance

Following the success from last year's endurance competition at the National Championships this year there will be distances 1km – 5km available will be offered.

The qualification process is as follows:

- 1km is a led class and anyone can enter – no need to qualify
- 2km is a led or unled class and by nomination only by the Group
- 3km is a led or unled class and by nomination only by the Group
- 5km is a unled class and by nomination only by the Regional or County Coach.

Mounted escorts are permitted on course as per the RDA Endurance rules.

If the group cannot provide a mounted escort for 5km, please inform National Office BEFORE the Championship.

Entries must be made and paid for prior to the event, entries on the day will not be accepted.

The course will be clearly marked, and stewards will be out on course too.
Times for this class will be allocated and will be available 2 weeks prior to the event on the RDA website <https://www.myrda.org.uk/runningyourgroup/national-championships/>

All leaders must be correctly trained with green cards.

For full details on dress, tack, timings etc. please consult the RDA Rule Book.

To take part in this discipline at the RDA National Championships the group must already be a registered endurance group.

Closing Dates

- Wednesday 12th June 2024

Entry Fee

- £22.00

Horse Care & Knowledge

Open to all competitors, riders and drivers of RDA Groups.

Please note Horse Care and Knowledge will be moving to the Attraction Area for 2024 and will be in a clearly identified area on Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday.

Please ensure enough time is allowed between ridden classes so that time in the classroom is not rushed.

No more than three competitors will be allowed in the area at any one time, so competitors will have to wait their turn outside.

In the case of a competitor with hearing or communication difficulties, one helper will be allowed into the area to facilitate communication between competitor and steward only. In every other case the competitor will be accompanied by a steward only, no other person will be allowed to enter the classroom.

The classes will take the form of a visual and tactile test of knowledge, using illustrations and items of equipment about which the Steward will ask questions of the competitor. The Steward will record the competitor's answers on a marks sheet that will be checked and totalled by the Chief Steward. It should be noted that questions will NOT be the same on all three days.

All questions will relate to requirements for the Horse Care sections of RDA Proficiency Tests Grades 1 - 4 inclusive.

We also offer an Advanced class for those competitors obtaining 90% or more. This class will require general knowledge of horse care and related subjects equivalent to the RDA Bronze Proficiency Test.

Scoring

Competitors scoring 75% and over will receive a distinction rosette and those scoring less will receive an endeavour rosette.

For those competitors wishing to be considered for the Anne Birkmyre Trophy or for the highest place rider in the West Mercia region need to have entered by 2.00pm on Sunday 14th July 2024.

Closing Dates

- Wednesday 12th June 2024.
- Entries may also be made on the day.

Entry Fee

- £10.00

Performance Showing

There is a series of showing training videos available to watch on the RDA YouTube channel

The three classes are as follows:

- Ridden Horses / Ponies Led (Walk & Trot)
- Ridden Horse / Ponies Unled (Walk & Trot)
- Ridden Horses / Ponies Unled (Walk, Trot & Canter)

Classes will be judged on:

- Turnout – cleanliness and condition of equine/tack
- Conformation of the equine with the suitability for the rider/job in mind
- Overall impression of the suitability of the equine for the rider and the harmony between rider and equine.
- Overall turnout of rider, horse/pony and leader in the led class

All classes will require a group walk only go around followed by an individual show. For more details on judging criteria and what is required in an individual show please see the RDA Competitions Rule Book.

Closing Date

- Wednesday 12th June 2024

Entry Fee

- £22.00

Showjumping

| RDA Level Showjumping | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| RDA Showjumping | Level 2 Unled | 30 cm |
| | Level 3 | 60 cm |
| | Level 4 | 70 cm Double max height 60 cm |
| | Level 5 | 80 cm Double max height 70cm |

All Showjumping classes are run under RDA rules.

Classes are divided in to Junior, Senior and Open.

- Junior Riders – May compete as Juniors until the end of the year in which they reach the age of 16.
- Senior Riders – Riders over the age of 16.
- Open Riders - Open Riders - Riders who have been Overall Class Champion in the same class for 2 consecutive years at the RDA National Championships or who are Independent Own-Horse Participants.

Please consult the RDA Rule Book for full details on competition expectations.

Course plans and further information can also be found here

<https://www.myrda.org.uk/runningyourgroup/showjumping/>

Closing Date

- Wednesday 12th June 2024

Entry Fee

- £22.00

Vaulting

The competition will be run according to BEV rules for Pre Novice Individuals, Pairs and Teams and will be scored accordingly. The full BEV rules can be found in the BEV rule book on line <http://britishvaulting.org/get-involved/rules/bev-rules/>

Lungers must hold at least the RDA Lungeing Certificate, RDA Vaulting Coaching Certificate or BEV Level 1.

Please note that the 'Run in' and 'Run out' do not have to be performed as a run – it is perfectly acceptable to enter, leave and move around the arena in any way which is safe and appropriate for the vaulter(s), e.g. with a guide, crutches or a wheelchair.

Team Competition

Teams are made up of 6 vaulters AND a barrel OR one horse AND a lunger. The vaulting team may include up to 2 non-disabled vaulters who must be RDA volunteers, aged a minimum of 12 years. This will be run as an open competition with no age restrictions with two sections: Horse and Barrel. No compulsories are shown in the Team Competition.

Horse Team

1. Run in and bow to the judge. Bow to judge and run out at the end.
2. 4 minutes (maximum) Freestyle in walk.

Barrel Team

1. Run in and bow to the judge. Bow to judge and run out at the end.
2. 4 minutes (maximum) Freestyle.

Pairs Competition

Pairs are made up of 2 vaulters AND a barrel OR one horse AND a lunger. No non-disabled vaulters are permitted. This will be run as an open competition with no age restrictions with two sections: Horse and Barrel No compulsories are shown in the Pairs Competition.

Horse Pairs

1. Run in and bow to the judge. Bow to judge and run out at the end.
2. 1.5 minutes (maximum) Freestyle in walk

Barrel Pairs

1. Run in and bow to the judge. Bow to judge and run out at the end.
2. 1.5 minutes (maximum) Freestyle

Individuals will be split into 3 sections:

- Junior – May compete as Juniors until the end of the year in which they reach the age of 16.
- Senior – Over the age of 16 who are not an Open Rider.
- Open – Anyone who has been Class Champion twice at the RDA National Championships for the level they are entering or anyone who has competed in two or more BEV events in the previous 12 months.

There will be two sections – Horse and Barrel – and each section will feature levels appropriate to the experience and ability of the vaulter.

Horse Levels

Level H1: Walk freestyle (no compulsories)

Level H2: BEV Pre-Novice trot compulsories AND walk freestyle

Level H3: BEV Pre-Novice trot compulsories AND walk freestyle

Level H4: BEV Novice canter compulsories AND canter freestyle

Barrel Levels

Level B1: Freestyle (no compulsories)

Level B2: BEV Pre-Novice compulsories AND freestyle

Level B3: BEV Novice compulsories AND freestyle

If insufficient entries, age groups in classes will be amalgamated.

Music must be emailed to Fiona Harris, Championships Event Manager three weeks before the National Championships clearly marked with the classes and vaulters names.

For full Vaulting rules please see the RDA Rule Book.

Closing Date

- Wednesday 12th June 2024

Entry Fee

- Team - £50.00
- Pairs – £22.00
- Individual - £22.00

Friday

| Class | Description | Grade | Test |
|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1 | Carriage Driving | Novice | Novice Test RDA National and Virtual Championships 2024 |
| 2 | Carriage Driving | Intermediate | Intermediate Test RDA National and Virtual Championships 2024 |
| 3 | Carriage Driving | Open | Open Test RDA National and Virtual Championships 2024 |
| 4 | Performance Showing | Led | Walk & Trot |
| 5 | Performance Showing | Unled | Walk & Trot |
| 6 | Performance Showing | Unled | Walk, Trot & Canter |
| | Performance Showing Championships | | |
| 7a 7b | Countryside Challenge | Junior / Senior Open | Led with 1 Side Walker |
| 8a 8b | Countryside Challenge | Junior/ Senior Open | Led or 1 Side Walker |
| 9a 9b | Countryside Challenge | Junior/Senior Open | Visually Impaired Led with 1 Side Walker |
| 10a 10b | Countryside Challenge | Junior/ Senior Open | Visually Impaired Led or 1 Side Walker |
| 11a 11b | Countryside Challenge | Junior/Senior Open | Independent |
| 12a 12b | Countryside Challenge | Junior/Senior Open | Visually Impaired Independent |
| 13 | Best Turned Out | Junior | |

| | | | |
|----|--------------------------|--|--|
| 14 | Best Turned Out | Senior | |
| 15 | Horsecare & Knowledge | All Levels | |
| 16 | Dressage – Championships | B1 (Walk only) Junior & Senior | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk Only (2022) |
| 17 | Dressage – Championships | B1 Open (Walk only) | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk Only (2022) |
| 18 | Dressage – Championships | B1 (Walk & Trot) Junior / Senior | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk & Trot (2022) |
| 19 | Dressage- Championships | B1 Open (Walk & Trot) Junior / Senior | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk & Trot (2022) |
| 20 | Dressage - Championships | B1 (Canter) Junior / Senior | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk, Trot and Canter (2022) |
| 21 | Dressage - Championships | B1 Open (Canter) Junior / Senior | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk & Canter (2022) |
| 22 | Dressage – Championships | B2 (walk only) Junior / Senior | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk Only (2022) |
| 23 | Dressage – Championships | B2 Open (walk only) Junior / Senior | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk Only (2022) |
| 24 | Dressage – Championships | B2 (walk & trot) Junior / Senior | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk & Trot (2022) |
| 25 | Dressage – Championships | B2 Open (walk & trot) Junior / Senior | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk & Trot (2022) |
| 26 | Dressage – Championships | B2 (canter) Junior / Senior | TVI/ PVI Championship Test Canter (2022) |
| 27 | Dressage – Championships | B2 Open (canter) Junior / Senior | TVI/ PVI Championship Test Canter (2022) |

| | | | |
|----|--------------------------|--|--|
| 28 | Dressage – Championships | B3 (walk only) Junior / Senior | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk Only (2022) |
| 29 | Dressage – Championships | B3 Open (walk only) Junior / Senior | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk Only (2022) |
| 30 | Dressage – Championships | B3 (walk & trot) Junior / Senior | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk & Trot (2022) |
| 31 | Dressage – Championships | B3 Open (walk & trot) Junior / Senior | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk & Trot (2022) |
| 32 | Dressage - Championships | B3 (canter) Junior / Senior | TVI / PVI Championships Test Canter (2022) |
| 33 | Dressage – Championships | B3 Open (canter) Junior / Senior | TVI / PVI Championships Test Canter (2022) |
| 34 | Dressage – Championships | B4 (walk only) Junior / Senior | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk Only (2022) |
| 35 | Dressage – Championships | B4 Open (walk only) Junior / Senior | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk Only (2022) |
| 36 | Dressage – Championships | B4 (walk & trot) Junior /Senior | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk & Trot (2022) |
| 37 | Dressage – Championships | B4 Open (walk & trot) Junior / Senior | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk & Trot (2022) |
| 38 | Dressage – Championships | B4 (canter) Junior / Senior | TVI/ PVI Championship Test Canter (2022) |
| 39 | Dressage – Championships | B4 Open (canter) Junior / Senior | TVI/ PVI Championship Test Canter (2022) |
| 40 | Dressage – Championships | B5 (walk only) Junior / Senior | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk Only (2022) |

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|----|--------------------------|--|--|
| 41 | Dressage – Championships | B5 Open (walk only) Junior / Senior | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk Only (2022) |
| 42 | Dressage – Championships | B5 (walk & trot) Junior / Senior | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk & Trot (2022) |
| 43 | Dressage – Championships | B5 Open (walk & trot) Junior / Senior | TVI/PVI Championship Test Walk & Trot (2022) |
| 44 | Dressage – Championships | B5 (canter) Junior / Senior | TVI/ PVI Championship Test Canter (2022) |
| 45 | Dressage – Championships | B5 Open (canter) Junior / Senior | TVI/ PVI Championship Test Canter (2022) |
| 46 | Dressage – Freestyle | B1, B2, B3, B4, B5 | Grade 1 Freestyle to Music (2023) |
| 47 | Dressage – Freestyle | B1, B2, B3, B4, B5 | Grade 1 Freestyle to Music (2023) |
| 48 | Dressage – Freestyle | B1, B2, B3, B4, B5 | Grade 2 Freestyle to Music (2023) |
| 49 | Dressage – Freestyle | B1, B2, B3, B4, B5 | Grade 2 Freestyle to Music (2023) |
| 50 | Dressage – Freestyle | B1, B2, B3, B4, B5 | Grade 2 Freestyle to Music (2023) |
| 51 | Dressage – Freestyle | B1, B2, B3, B4, B5 | Grade 4 Freestyle to Music (2023) |
| 52 | Dressage – Freestyle | B1, B2, B3, B4, B5 | Grade 4 Freestyle to Music (2023) |
| 53 | Dressage – Championship | Grade 1 Junior / Senior | Grade 1 Championship Test (2022) |
| 54 | Dressage – Championship | Grade 1 Open Junior / Senior | Grade 1 Championship Test (2022) |
| 55 | Dressage – Championship | Grade 2 Junior / Senior | Grade 2 Championship Test (2022) |
| 56 | Dressage – Championship | Grade 2 Open Junior / Senior | Grade 2 Championship Test (2022) |
| 57 | Dressage – Freestyle | Grade 1 | Grade 1 Freestyle to Music (2023) |

| | | | |
|----|------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 58 | Dressage – Freestyle | Grade 2 | Grade 2 Freestyle to Music (2023) |
| 59 | Dressage – Costume Freestyle | | Freestyle to Music |

Saturday

| Class | Description | Grade | Test |
|-------|--------------------------|---|--|
| 60 | Dressage – Championships | Led (walk only) Junior / Senior | Introduction to Dressage Championships Test Walk only (2022) |
| 61 | Dressage – Championships | Led Open (walk only) Junior / Senior | Introduction to Dressage Championships Test Walk Only (2022) |
| 62 | RDA Showjumping | Level 5 | 80cm |
| 63 | RDA Showjumping | Level 4 | 70cm |
| 64 | RDA Showjumping | Level 3 | 60cm |
| 65 | RDA Showjumping | Level 2 Unled | 30cm |
| 66 | Vaulting – Individual | Junior Senior Open | Level H1 Walk Freestyle Only |
| 67 | Vaulting – Individual | Junior Senior Open | Level H2 Pre-Novice Trot Compulsories/Walk Freestyle |
| 68 | Vaulting – Individual | Junior Senior Open | Level H3 Pre-Novice Canter Compulsories/Walk Freestyle |
| 69 | Vaulting – Individual | Junior Senior Open | Level H4 Novice Canter Compulsories/Canter Freestyle |

| | | | |
|----|-------------------------|--|--|
| 70 | Vaulting – Individual | Junior Senior Open | Level B1 Barrel Freestyle Only |
| 71 | Vaulting – Individual | Junior Senior Open | Level B2 Pre-Novice Compulsories/Barrel Freestyle |
| 72 | Vaulting – Individual | Junior Senior Open | Level B3 Novice Compulsories/Barrel Freestyle |
| 73 | Vaulting – Pairs | All Ages | Walk Freestyle Only |
| 74 | Vaulting – Pairs | All Ages | Barrel Freestyle Only |
| 75 | Vaulting – Team | All Ages | Walk Freestyle |
| 76 | Vaulting –Team | All Ages | Barrel Freestyle |
| 77 | Dressage – Freestyle | Grade 6 (canter) | Grade 6 Canter Freestyle to Music (2023) |
| 78 | Dressage – Freestyle | Grade 6 (walk & trot) | Grade 6 Walk & Trot Freestyle (2023) |
| 79 | Dressage – Freestyle | Grade 7 (canter) | Grade 6 Canter Freestyle to Music (2023) |
| 80 | Dressage – Championship | Grade 6 (walk & trot) Junior / Senior | Grade 6 Walk & Trot Championship Test (2022) |
| 81 | Dressage – Championship | 6 Open (walk & trot) Junior & Senior | Grade 6 Walk & Trot Championship Test (2022) |
| 82 | Dressage – Championship | Grade 6 (canter) Junior / Senior | Grade 6 Canter Championship Test (2022) |
| 83 | Dressage – Championship | Grade 6 Open (canter) Junior / Senior | Grade 6 Canter Championship Test (2022) |

| | | | |
|------------|--|--|---|
| 84 | Dressage – Championship | Grade 7 (canter) Junior / Senior | Grade 7 Canter Championship Test (2022) |
| 85 | Dressage – Championship | Grade 7 Open (canter) Junior / Senior | Grade 7 Canter Championship Test (2022) |
| 86a 86b | Countryside Challenge | Junior/ Senior Open | Led with 1 Side Walker |
| 87a 87b | Countryside Challenge | Junior/Senior Open | Led or 1 Side Walker |
| 88a 88b | Countryside Challenge | Junior/ Senior Open | Visually Impaired Led with 1 Side Walker |
| 89a 89b | Countryside Challenge | Junior/ Senior Open | Visually Impaired Led or 1 Side Walker |
| 90a 90b | Countryside Challenge | Junior/Senior Open | Independent |
| 91a 91b | Countryside Challenge | Junior/Senior Open | Visually Impaired Independent |
| 92 | Endurance | Led | 1km |
| 93 | Endurance | Led or Unled | 2Km |
| 94 | Endurance | Led or Unled | 3km |
| 95 | Endurance | Unled with Mounted escort | 5km |
| 96 | Best Turned Out | Junior | |
| 97 | Best Turned Out | Senior | |
| 98 | Horsecare & Knowledge | All Levels | |
| 99 | Arts & Crafts – Paintings & Drawings | Junior /Senior | Individual / Group |

| | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 100 | Arts & Crafts – Collage | Junior / Senior | Individual |
| 101 | Arts & Crafts – College | Junior / Senior | Group |
| 102 | Arts & Crafts Sculpture | Junior /Senior | Individual or Group |
| 103 | Arts & Crafts Photographic | Junior / Senior | Individual |

Sunday

| Class | Description | Grade | Test |
|-------|--------------------------|---|---|
| 104 | Dressage – Championships | Led (walk & Trot) Junior / Senior | Introduction to Dressage Championships Test Walk & Trot only (2022) |
| 105 | Dressage Championships | Led Open (walk & trot) Junior / Senior | Introduction to Dressage Championships Test Walk & Trot only (2022) |
| 106 | Dressage Championship | Grade 3 Junior / Senior | Grade 3 Championship Test (2022) |
| 107 | Dressage – Championship | Grade 3 Open Junior / Senior | Grade 3 Championship Test (2022) |
| 108 | Dressage – Championship | Grade 4 Junior/ Senior | Grade 4 Championship Test (2022) |
| 109 | Dressage – Championship | Grade 4 Open Junior / Senior | Grade 4 Championship Test (2022) |
| 110 | Dressage – Freestyle | Grade 3 | Grade 3 Freestyle to Music (2023) |
| 111 | Dressage – Freestyle | Grade 4 | Grade 4 Freestyle to Music (2023) |
| 112 | Dressage – Freestyle | Grade 5 | Grade 5 Freestyle to Music (2023) |

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| 113 | Dressage – Championship | Grade 5 Junior / Senior | Grade 5 Championship Test (2022) |
| 114 | Dressage – Championship | Grade 5 Open Junior / Senior | Grade 5 Championship Test (2022) |
| 115 | Dressage – Championship | Grade 6 (walk only) Junior / Senior | Grade 6 Walk Only Championship Test (2022) |
| 116 | Dressage – Championship | Grade 6 Open (walk only) Junior / Senior | Grade 6 Walk Only Championship Test (2022) |
| 117 | Dressage – Championship | Grade 7 (walk only) Junior / Senior | Grade 7 Walk Only Championship Test (2022) |
| 118 | Dressage – Championship | Grade 7 open (walk only) Junior / Senior | Grade 7 Walk Only Championship Test (2022) |
| 119 | Dressage – Championship | Grade 7 (walk & trot) Junior/ Senior | Grade 7 Walk & Trot Championship Test (2022) |
| 120 | Dressage – Championship | Grade 7 Open (walk & trot) Junior / Senior | Grade 7 Walk & Trot Championship Test (2022) |
| 121 | Dressage – Freestyle | Grade 7 (walk & trot) | Grade 6 Walk & Trot Freestyle to Music (2023) |
| 122 | Dressage – Freestyle | Grade 6 (walk only) | Grade 6 Walk Only Freestyle to Music (2023) |
| 123 | Dressage – Freestyle | Grade 7 (walk only) | Grade 6 Walk Only Freestyle to Music (2023) |
| 124a 124b | Countryside Challenge | Junior/ Senior Open | Led with 1 Side Walker |
| 125a 125b | Countryside Challenge | Junior/Senior Open | Led or 1 Side Walker |

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---|
| 126a 126b | Countryside Challenge | Junior/ Senior Open | Visually Impaired Led with 1 Side Walker |
| 127a 127b | Countryside Challenge | Junior/ Senior Open | Visually Impaired Led or 1 Side Walker |
| 128a 128b | Countryside Challenge | Junior/Senior Open | Independent |
| 129a 129b | Countryside Challenge | Junior/Senior Open | Visually Impaired Independent |
| 130 | Best Turned Out | Junior | |
| 131 | Best Turned Out | Senior | |
| 132 | Horsecare & Knowledge | Any level | |

ALL RIDDEN DRESSAGE TESTS WILL BE IN A 20 X 40 ARENA

Safeguarding Concern Reporting for all at National Championships

If you suspect a child, young person or adult at risk is being abused, they confide in you or someone has a concern, complaint or allegation about a member of staff, a volunteer or about you, **it is your duty to report it**. This is also the case if declarations are made to an RDA volunteer/ staff member about possible poor practice or abuse, even if there is no connection with RDA.

If an individual is at immediate risk of significant harm call 999 and request the police, or phone Social Services. Inform the Safeguarding Lead for the National Championships once you have done this.

If a child or adult at risk has told you they are being abused, you must:

1. Allow the individual to speak without interruption, accepting what is said.
2. If possible, write down what is said, using the actual words spoken to you. This includes the date and time, and then sign the document.
3. Explain that you cannot keep the information secret and must pass it on. If the disclosure is made by an adult, you must ask their consent to pass the information on. If the adult refuses but you feel there is a real risk of abuse, or the adult does not have capacity to consent, you should still pass the information on.
4. Inform the RDA Safeguarding Lead at the event immediately and pass on any notes you have taken. Disclosures are confidential and should only be shared by exception.
5. Should the Safeguarding Lead not be available, the person who received the disclosure should contact the Event Secretary.

If you are concerned about the welfare of an RDA participant or volunteer, or you have concerns about the conduct/poor practice of an adult involved in RDA, including yourself, you must:

1. Inform your Group Safeguarding Officer immediately or the Safeguarding Lead for the event
2. If possible, write down what you have witnessed. Include the date and time, and sign the document
3. Pass any notes you have made to the Group Safeguarding Officer and Safeguarding Lead

If you need further support or are not sure what you should do, you can contact:

RDA National Office: 01926 476302

RDA National Championships Safeguarding mobile ('Back at Base' mobile): TBC – 24 hours a day from the first to the last day of the Championships.

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000 (please note that this is not 24 hours)

Things all volunteers, staff, participants and supporters should consider before, during and after the event:

- Always make sure consent has been obtained before tagging someone in photographs or film on social media (using individuals' names and/or details of their Group or location)
- When travelling to and staying the event (where applicable), always make sure that appropriate safeguarding supervision ratios of volunteers/staff: Participants are maintained, at all times – including in vehicles, outside competition hours and in accommodation or social areas.

Links to key RDA Safeguarding and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policies/statements:

- [RDA UK Equality & Diversity Statement and Policy](#)
- [RDA UK Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy](#)
- [RDA UK Safeguarding Children Policy](#)
- [RDA UK Safeguarding Code of Conduct](#)

Useful link to external organisations offering support and guidance on mental wellbeing:

- [MyRDA Website: Supporting our People](#)

Rules & Regulations

Competitor Entries

- a) Riders and drivers who qualify to compete at the RDA National Championships will receive a qualifying pack. Please make sure you read this through.
- b) If a competitor qualifies in more than one discipline they may enter as many disciplines as they wish, taking into consideration, each horse may only enter a maximum of five ridden classes including lead rein each day. These must not comprise of more than four in any one discipline. At the National Championships the maximum number of classes is 12 over the 3 days of competition.
- c) If a rider qualifies more than once in the same discipline they must choose which class they wish to enter.
- d) The entry must be submitted to Horse Monkey together with the correct entry fee no later than the closing date stated. Late entries will not be accepted. If a rider entered for the Championships is unable to compete the Championships Secretary must be notified immediately.
- e) If you would like confirmation of receipt of entries, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope.
- f) If necessary horse substitutions may be made. Horse and rider/driver combinations must be deemed suitable by either the Regional Coach or Regional Discipline Representative. A substitution form must be completed and submitted to the Championships Secretary.
- g) Withdrawals must be notified to the Championships Secretary at least one week prior to the start of the Championships. Withdrawals made after this time may not be eligible for a refund.
- h) All riders entering Graded classes must send a copy of their classification with their entry.
- i) All visually impaired riders must send a copy of their classification certificate from British Blind Sport.
- j) Refunds for entry, accommodation and stabling fees may be issued for withdrawals/cancellations received by Monday 24th June 2024. For withdrawals/cancellations made after this date refunds will be considered on an individual basis, partial refunds may be given. The Organisers decision is final.

Invitation to Compete

- a) Open dressage riders may apply to the Dressage Lead for an invitation to compete. A scoresheet from a Para-Equestrian competition during the 2 years prior to the competition they wish to enter should be sent to the Championships Secretary at RDA National Office for consideration.
- b) In exceptional circumstances riders may apply to the Championships Secretary for an invitation to compete. A scoresheet from a Para-Equestrian competition, RDA Regional Qualifier or RDA National Championships during the 2 years prior to the competition they wish to enter should be sent to the Championships Secretary at RDA National Office for consideration.

Order of Riding

Competitors will be able to view their times via the RDA website or Horse Monkey.

Rider Falls

If a competitor falls from the horse during warm up they must not be allowed to re mount until they have been assessed by the first aider/paramedic on site. Only when they have been passed to continue may they re mount.

If a Competitor falls during competition they will retire immediately from that class and must then be assessed by the onsite first aider/paramedic before being allowed to continue in any other classes.

If a rider falls more than once throughout the event they must be assessed by the following before being allowed to continue:

- First aider/paramedic
- Coach
- Ground Jury (Championships Chairman, Championships Secretary, relevant discipline Lead)

Any falls in vaulting will follow the BEV rules.

Prizes

Prizes will be awarded 1st to 6th in all classes.

Where classes are split Junior and Senior, 1 Class Champion Rosette will be awarded to the overall winner.

Judges

For all disciplines judges shall be appointed by the Championships Secretary from the official RDA judges list.

Jury of Appeal

There will be a jury of appeal consisting of the Championships Chairman, the relevant discipline lead and a Senior Discipline Judge.

Passports & Vaccinations

All horses travelling to the Championships must have a valid passport from which the horse's identification and vaccination record will be verified. The passport must contain all vaccination details which must be up to date, completely and clearly recorded, signed and stamped by a veterinary surgeon, who is not the owner of the animal. Passports with missing, altered, unclear or incomplete vaccine records will not be accepted and entry to the event may be refused. Before unloading your horse at Hartpury you must report to the Stable Manager and have your horse's identification and vaccination record checked by a vet.

The horse must receive a primary course of two injections against Equine Influenza. For horses that start their vaccination course before 2024, vaccines need to have been given no less than 21 days and no more than 92 days apart (only these first two injections need to be given before the horse may compete). For horses that started a course of vaccinations in 2024, the interval between these two vaccines is required to be no less than 21 days and no more than 60 days.

In addition, a third vaccination to be given. For horses that started their vaccination course before 2024, the third vaccination must be given between 150 and 215 days after the date of the second injection. For horses that started a vaccination course in 2024, the third vaccination

must be given no less than 120 days and no more than 180 days after the second injection of the primary course.

Any horse that has previously had a compliant primary course of vaccines, and compliant subsequent boosters **does not** need to re-start the vaccination process. **Any horse that has had the first and second vaccinations in 2023, and is due the second or third vaccination in 2024, either the old or new date range can be used for subsequent injections in the primary course.**

Subsequent booster injections must be given at intervals of not more than one calendar year apart, commencing after the first booster injection. **Those horses attending the RDA National Championships must have received a subsequent vaccination in the preceding 6 months of the event.**

None of these injections can be given within the seven days before the day of the competition or entry into competition stables, whichever is sooner.

If your horse has not been vaccinated against equine influenza in accordance with the above requirements, it will not be permitted entry to Hartpury College.

Questions regarding vaccinations please contact the RDA vet at vet.rda@gmail.com

Medically Fit

Competitors must be medically fit for the activities they undertake. It is the responsibility of all competitors to ensure that they are medically fit to compete. Where necessary their parents/guardians must take this responsibility. The organisers reserve the right to require any competitor to withdraw. The complexity of the event requires strict observation of health and safety guidelines at all times by everyone involved. In order to minimise risk of accidents you are asked to comply with any instructions given by a Steward.

Prohibited Substances

The use of any herbal, natural or chemical product to affect the performance of a horse or pony in a calming (tranquillising) manner is strictly forbidden under RDA rules. The use of such products during competition has important safety and welfare consequences.

The RDA follows the lead of the FEI (Federation Equestre Internationale) and British Equestrian with respect to the medication of horses used in competition. A full list of banned substances can be found on the FEI's Clean Sport website.

The RDA does make certain, specific exceptions to the FEI's list of controlled and banned substances with respect to the population of horses engaging in RDA activities. Some of these medications need to be declared before National Championships in order to be permitted. You will need to fill in a National Championships Medication Declaration Form which is available on the equine section of the Myrda website. This then needs to be sent to the Championships Secretary before the event begins.

Medication Control Testing may be carried out at the National Championships. If a horse tests positive for a banned or undeclared substance the horse will be disqualified and the cost of the test will be passed onto the RDA Group/Competitor. This cost is approximately £500 + VAT. It is strongly recommended that you familiarise yourself with the Prohibited Substances Policy under the National Championships section of the RDA website.

Isolation

To ensure the welfare of participants and all horses on site, horses showing signs of infectious disease may be isolated. If the person responsible for the horse cannot be contacted emergency treatment will be provided as deemed necessary by the attending Veterinary Surgeon.

Once isolated the horse may no longer take part in the competition. Where possible, isolation facilities will be provided on site, however if this is not possible for any reason the RDA Group/person responsible for the horse will be required to make alternative arrangements for the horse to be stabled outside the venue.

Welfare

Horses play a vital role in RDA and their welfare is paramount. Equine welfare will be monitored throughout the competition to ensure horses' welfare needs are being met. This includes freedom from hunger and thirst, discomfort, pain, injury and distress. Any welfare concerns will be investigated, and in the event of a breach sanctions may apply.

Hat Tagging

All hats worn when mounted at the RDA National Championships are required to be checked and tagged to show that they meet the required safety standard. This must be done prior to competition.

Event Photography & Videos

Riders must be aware that they may be photographed and videoed during the National Championships. If you have any strong objections to either being videoed or photographed please complete the tick box on the rider entry form or by completing the relevant form at the event and a fluorescent arm band should be worn.

Lost Property

Any lost property found or handed in will be kept by National Office for 3 months then disposed of accordingly.

Health & Safety

The organiser of this event has taken reasonable precautions to ensure the health and safety of everyone present. For these measures to be effective everyone must take all reasonable precautions to avoid and prevent accidents occurring and must obey the instructions of the organisers, officials and stewards.

Liability

Neither the organiser nor any person acting on their behalf accepts any liability for any loss, damage, accident, injury or illness to horses, competitors and spectators or any other persons or property whatsoever.

Cancellation/Abandonment

There may be circumstances where the event has to be postponed, cancelled, abandoned or curtailed as a result of circumstances beyond the control of the organisers, for example as a result of inclement weather making it impractical to hold the event. In such circumstances, once any administration fees have been deducted, entry fees will be refunded. The organisers will have no liability for loss or damage suffered by competitors, horses, spectators or any other persons.

Equines

There will be no tying up of equines on the outside of lorries or trailers unless you are tacking up due to health and safety. Day stables are available to purchase if needed.

Horses and ponies must be five years old or over.

Any height of horse or pony is allowed in any class.

In line with standard RDA policy, stallions must not be used in any RDA competitions.

Bitless bridles are not permitted in any discipline.

If a horse becomes unsettled to the point at which it poses a risk to the rider, helpers, the judge and others in the immediate area the judge has discretion to ask the horse/rider combination to leave the judging area.

Before entering the National Championships please ensure that you consult the RDA weight chart to ensure that your horse/rider combination is suitable. We will be monitoring this at the Championships

RDA has created an excel calculator to help groups work out the maximum carrying weight a horse can carry. Please see the RDA website (Horses and RDA) for further information.

RDA reserves the right to check any rider/horse combination considered not to comply with the limits set out on the weight chart on RDA's website.

If a combination is found to be outside the parameters action may be taken

Ground Rules

Lunging should only take place in designated areas.

Horses may be ridden and schooled for up to 20 minutes per day by the trainer/coach or their nominated representative during competition hours (8am to 6pm). The horse may only be warmed up in permitted saddlery and bits. The competitor only may ride the horse during the 20 minutes immediately before the test.

Walk only outside the arenas.

Only ride on the designated horse walks.

No mounting/riding in the stables, please use the designated mounting area.

It is the sole responsibility of riders/guardians to ensure that at all times while on horseback, they wear correctly fitted protective headgear and that chin straps must be securely fastened.

