



President HRH The Princess Royal KG KT GCVO QSO

To all RDA volunteers and participants,

We are sad to tell you that there will not be a face-to-face National Championships this year.

This decision has been made after careful consideration and by asking the views of people from across our organisation.

Although the Championships doesn't take place until July, when we all hope to be living with fewer restrictions, our focus has to be on supporting RDA groups now. Much of the planning and preparation for the event (including the Regional Qualifiers) would usually begin happening in the next few weeks, and it is hard to justify the time and resource this would take, while the vast majority of groups remain closed.

We are sorry to all the riders and drivers who will be disappointed by this news. Please know that we would have pushed ahead with our planning if we thought it was the right thing to do. As it is, we will look forward to the National Championships 2022, and in the meantime concentrate our efforts on helping groups out of the current situation.

### **Virtual Championships**

We know the importance of competing for many of our riders and drivers, and we want to make sure that everyone who would like to compete this year has the opportunity to do so. In September, we will be holding a 'Virtual National Championships'. This will include all the usual activities and may even encourage more people to take part, as there will not be any travel involved (entries will be filmed and submitted in advance).

All the details of this event will be planned over the next few weeks, including the different classes and how to qualify. We will send the information to groups as soon as possible (by the end of February).

This will be an exciting new way for us to run a competition, and, if successful, this could pave the way for a 'virtual' element in all future Championships.

Nothing, of course, will compare to us all getting together face to face at Hartpury. We look forward to seeing you there in 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Coney, National Championships Lead

Ed Bracher, Chief Executive, RDA UK

**Riding for the Disabled Association Incorporating Carriage Driving**

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