



10th July 2024

Dear Volunteers,

This week's newsletter includes a reminder of the exciting activities taking place at the National Championships, a celebration of our recent Award winners and a reminder of the upcoming Annual Return deadline. We also share a request for information from British Equestrian.

National Championships

It's this week! We are so excited and can't wait to welcome the RDA community to Hartpury. Before we kick off the competition...

Championships Briefing

The recording of last weeks' online webinar can be found [here](#), and the recording slides used in the presentation can be found [here](#).

The session included a short presentation on the Championships, outlining any key changes Groups need to be aware of as well as an overview of all the additional activities we have planned.

Extra events at Championships, come along, get involved and have a go!

As you may have seen, alongside the fantastic competition, there will be additional fun activities for participants, volunteers and visitors to get involved in. As part of our 55th Anniversary celebrations, we encourage everyone, even if they are not competing, to come along – we'd love to see as many of you as possible!

What's on - Friday 12th?

[My Everest \(12A\) film screening and Q&A, Legends Bar, 8.00 pm](#)

The story of RDA rider Max Stainton-Parfitt, and his support circle, as he attempts a world first trek to Everest Base Camp - on horseback. As the challenge and risk increases on the mountain, he's forced to question how far he should go to seek social acceptance.

Q&A with Director Carl Woods, and Disability Consultant, Sam Oldknow

[Limited free tickets, booking required.](#)

Director Carl Woods has also created an [impact campaign](#) to support local RDA groups to organise their own 'My Everest' screenings **to fundraise, raise awareness of RDA's work**, and spread Max's empowering message. RDA groups can access the film, together with a whole host of educational materials, and promotional images and videos, to host your own screenings. Come and meet Carl at the Champs, or [find out more](#) here.

What's on - Saturday 13th 2024, from 10:00 am

- My Everest exhibition - meet the crew who trekked to Everest basecamp and record your own epic story
- Get crafty in our childrens' workshops
- View the amazing RDA Arts & Crafts on display
- Try the Polyjumps clear round course...for people
- Have a go at vaulting on the 'barrel horse'
- Test your horse care knowledge and skills
- Enter the Agria fun dogshow classes
- Ice creams, coffee, food & drink
- Disabled parking & drop off points
- Mobiloo accessible toilet & changing place with hoist

If you have any guests joining as visitors, they can register for their [FREE ticket here](#).

RDA National Championships Clothing & Merchandise

We are delighted to share that Wainwrights are once again providing branded clothing for the National Championships, with new designs available for our 55th anniversary.

This year, merchandise is only available to purchase online and will not be available to purchase at Hartpury. Orders will no longer arrive before the Championships, but **items will still be available after the Championships and these orders can be placed at any time.**

[Shop the range here.](#)

Awards and Recognition

Last week, we shared the incredible news of our Annual Award, Coaching, President Award and Susan Dudley-Smith award winners. We'd like to send a huge congratulations to every winner and nominee, we're so proud to have such outstanding members of the RDA Family.

Annual Awards

The Annual awards celebrate the dedication, passion and commitment of individuals who have made a significant impact over the past twelve months. The winners are...

- Participant of the Year: Ben Wishart from Ballyclare RDA
- Volunteer of the Year: Jo Goldsmith from Pembrokeshire RDA
- Young Volunteer of the Year: Georgia Halliwell-Paget from The Cavalier Centre
- Equine of the Year: Sam from Park Lane Stables

Read all about the fantastic [winners on our website](#).

Coaching Awards

The Coaching awards celebrate our incredible coaches across the RDA coaching community. This years' winners are...

- Coach of the Year: Sally Lefroy from Wilton RDA
- New Coach of the Year: Alison Riley from Helen Atkin Group
- The Extra Mile Award: Lysbeth Stevens from Patchwork RDA
- Young Coach of the Year: Isla Stewart from Muirfield Riding Therapy
- Coach Mentor of the Year: Karen Glasgow from Muirfield Riding Therapy

Read more about these incredible [coaches on our website](#).

President Awards

The President's Awards at RDA is a highly prestigious award, awarded to individuals who have displayed extraordinary dedication and and service over three decades or more. This year, 12 volunteers from across the UK have been honoured.

The winners are...

- Angela Blott from Avon RDA
- Bovel Hamilton from Omagh RDA
- Cathy Costley-White from Avon RDA
- Fiona Anderson from the Berwickshire Group
- Gail Jarman from Avon RDA
- Jenna Leight from Bradbourne RDA
- Jenny Harris from Westmorland RDA
- Joy Claxton from Cobbes Meadow RDA
- Lesley Morrill from Hope in the Valley RDA
- Patricia Atkin from Helen Atkin RDA

- Theresa Drake from South Bucks RDA
- Venetia Kenney-Herbert from Chipping Norton RDA

Read all about their dedication to [RDA on our website](#).

Susan Dudley-Smith Award

The winner of the Susan Dudley-Smith Award for 2024 is Karen Lehner from Barrow Farm RDA. Each year the Susan Dudley-Smith award recognises an outstanding volunteer who has made an important contribution to RDA Carriage Driving through hard work and dedication. Read all about Karen's outstanding [contribution on our website](#).

King's Birthday Honours

Outside the RDA awards, we would like to extend a huge congratulations two members of the RDA community who were recognised as part of the King's Birthday Honours.

Firstly, to Carol Hipkin, who was awarded a British Empire Medal for services to young people. Carol, set up RDA Colchester (Garrison) Group in 1987, and has been a huge part of the Group in all of the 37 years since. Read more about [Carol's achievements on our website](#).

Secondly, to Ed Bracher, CEO of Dogs for Good - UK and formerly RDA's CEO, on being awarded a very well-deserved OBE in the King's Birthday Honours list for his work in support of disabled people.

Annual Return deadline approaching

The 19th July deadline is coming up fast, and whilst we have had a really good response to date there are still quite a number of Groups who have not submitted their return. Annual Return information can all be found on [My RDA](#).

British Equestrian Call for Evidence

British Equestrian are calling on RDA, including RDA Groups and other member bodies, to help demonstrate the social value of equestrian sport - specifically making the case for its impact on physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development and social and community development. You can read more about the project [here](#), and they have started with a collective call for evidence.

RDA UK has shared the evidence we hold, however if your Group has relevant evidence that could contribute, please submit to abigail.bevan@bef.co.uk, copying in ldavies@rda.org.uk. Whilst BE's initial deadline has passed, this is an ongoing project and they are still taking evidence.

RDA Volunteer stories

Lindsay Nicholson, multi-award winning Editor & Editorial Director, and more recently a Coach at Gaddesden Place RDA, has published her memoir, 'Perfect Bound' – in which she dedicates more or less a whole chapter to RDA and the role it played in her personal journey, and particularly the benefits of volunteering in offering community, a sense of purpose, fresh air, exercise through being around horses. Do look out for this in the media.

Volunteer Training

Safeguarding Courses

Do you need to update your safeguarding training? There is a schedule of virtual course dates available to [book on MyRDA](#).

Any queries, get in touch with groupsupport@rda.org.uk

This email has been sent to:

Regional Coaches, Regional Reps, Regional Treasurers and Secretaries, Coach Developers, County Chairs, County Coaches, County Reps, Group Chairs and Primary Group contacts.

Please share this information with your Group and network where appropriate.

Need quick access to MyRDA, click [HERE](#).

Best wishes,

Molly Knox

Communications Coordinator

Riding for the Disabled Association



RDA

Registered Charity No. 244108 and SCO39473 (Scotland)

Stay in touch with RDA

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