



26th July 2024

Dear Volunteers,

This week's newsletter includes an update on the Governance Review, a thank you to everyone involved in the National Championships and an update on the new MyRDA, coming soon! There is also a link to our position on equine welfare, and our equine policies; as well as updates on our Insurance FAQs and a reminder of some offers and discounts available to Groups.

Governance Review

We have now completed the first part of the RDA Governance Review, with focus groups and interviews conducted by [CCE \(Centre for Charity Effectiveness\)](#). Thank you to everyone who has given their time to attend and contribute to the initial phases. CCE, who are helping us with the review, are incredibly grateful to you all for sharing your experiences and your thoughts for the future of RDA. We are also grateful to those of you who contacted the review by email, your comments have been shared with CCE.

As part of the ongoing commitment of everyone at National Office and the RDA UK Board of Trustees to engage with every RDA group, the next stage of the Governance Review is a series of roadshow events. These events, called "Our Governance – how we work together," will be held in late September and October. They are open to up to 100 attendees at each venue, and in addition there will be two online events with space for large numbers. The events will take place in the early evenings and one of the virtual events will be at the weekend. Our new CEO Michael Bishop, together with some members of the RDA UK team and RDA UK Board will be at the events.

Please look out for the event email with further details which should be with you soon. Please circulate the details widely within your RDA Group. We hope to hear from and gather the views of participants, volunteers, group trustees and coaches - everyone who is part of RDA – at these roadshows.

National Championships

A huge thank you and well done to everyone who volunteered, coached, and competed at the National Championships this year. From Friday morning to Sunday afternoon (and beyond!) the RDA community came together to deliver a fantastic event. So much work goes into every competitor, and to the competition itself, so thank you to everyone involved.



[Top picture, HRH, The Princess Royal meets and chats with RDA Chief Executive Michael Bishop and RDA Chair Helena Vega-Lozano.

Second picture, HRH, The Princess Royal presents Alison Riley from Helen Atkin Riding for The Disabled Group with her award for 'RDA New Coach of the Year.']

On Friday it was an honour to welcome RDA President, HRH The Princess Royal, for her first public engagement as she returned to work after her recent injury. She presented the President Awards, the Annual Awards, the Annual Coaching Awards and Advanced Coaching Certificates to recent graduates of the Princess Royal Coaching Academy. The event was covered by the national press, giving RDA the attention it deserves! Congratulations to all those honoured.

Competition was outstanding, from every rider, driver, vaulter and artist, everyone should be so proud of everything they achieved.

Here are a few quick links for things you may be searching for:

- [Full results](#) are available on MyRDA
- Official competition photos are available to purchase from [Michael Martin Photography](#)
- Championships clothing can still be ordered [online](#)
- Missing the action already, [here you can watch](#) the action in arena 4

Thank you again to everyone who made the event so special, and save the date for the Virtual National Championships, Friday 15th – Sunday 17th November 2024.

A new My RDA is coming!

You told us that the MY RDA website is hard to use and delivers a poor experience. We listened to your feedback and have been building a new user-friendly website to improve the online service available. Over recent months we have been working with our digital agency partner, and an RDA volunteer testing panel, to develop the structure, functionality and look of the new site.

The project is progressing well. Over the summer our volunteer panel will be putting the new site through its paces to help iron out any bugs, ahead of an official launch at the end of September.

Please look out for further updates as we will be hosting demos and drop-in clinics ahead of the launch, and in the period immediately after, to introduce the new site and provide guidance on how to access and use it.

We are looking for 'Digital Champions' to help us launch the site and support people as they become familiar with it. If you have digital skills and would like to help, please contact our Project Manager, Julie Frost: jfrost@rda.org.uk.

Equine Welfare

Equines play an essential role in delivering RDA's life changing impact for disabled people and the welfare and wellbeing of our horses is paramount to our participants, volunteers and all of us at RDA.

We hold a clear [position on equine welfare](#). As responsible members of the equestrian community, alongside [British Equestrian](#), fellow member bodies and associated industry leaders, RDA has pledged to the [Charter for the Horse](#) – a unified approach for the ethical and fair treatment of all horses under our care. Our [equine](#) guidance and [policies](#) are all available on My RDA.

Insurance

Over the past months a new version of Insurance FAQs has been developed and will be available on [this link here](#) from 10am 25th July 2024.

The intention is this new document will answer all questions that have been asked over the past months capturing all necessary links to documents that require completion. This document will be updated monthly to ensure an accurate and complete central resource for groups to use.

If you have any queries, please contact groupsupport@rda.org.uk

Save the date – RDA UK AGM

This year's AGM will take place on Monday 4th November at Saddlers Hall, London. Please mark the date in your diary and look out for further updates over the coming months as we prepare the formal AGM notices and develop an informative and engaging programme for the day. Exact timings and details will be published as soon as possible, with the event running approximately from 10.00 - 16.00.

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, contact groupsupport@rda.org.uk

Offers and Discounts

Agria Pet Insurance

Agria will donate to the RDA for every horse insurance product sold through an RDA referral. See more details on our [website here](#), of how you can insure your horse with lifetime cover while also supporting the RDA.

Horse & Country: H&C+ 15% off discount

To celebrate one of their favourite competitions, exclusive streaming partners H&C+ are thrilled to offer a 15% discount on H&C+ Annual Membership to every competitor who attended the RDA National Championships 2024! What's more, you can watch the entire

show back on-demand here for FREE - that's right, you can relive all the action wherever and whenever you like, at no cost!

If reliving your time in the ring leaves you feeling inspired to knuckle down with your training, you will love the huge library of masterclasses offering training and advice, as well as the original series and sport live and on-demand! This offer won't last forever—join H&C+ Gold Membership today using the code 15OFF and ensure you never miss a moment of your equestrian journey! Act fast and secure your memories now!

Guidance & Support

Stay alert to scammers!

Scammers are getting ever more sophisticated in their techniques and harder to spot, with an RDA Group recently being targeted by a spam caller, please be aware of this as other RDA groups may be targeted. **Don't forget, however convincing it may sound, your bank will never contact you direct and ask for banking details over the phone.**

Now is a suitable time to brush up on your knowledge and check your security processes. The National Cyber Security Centre, Charity Digital, Take Five and your own bank all offer extensive guidance and resources including:

- [Phishing](#) and what to do about it
- [How to spot and report scam emails, texts, websites, and calls](#)
- An [accessible toolkit](#) on how to protect yourself from scams, including an easy read guide and a screen reader version.

Job Vacancies

We're Hiring: Marketing & Communications Manager and Communications Coordinator

We're looking for two motivated individuals, with excellent digital skills to join our growing Marketing & Communications team at RDA National Office.

- **Marketing & Communications Manager:** to build our comms capability and capacity, with a key focus on digital channels to deliver high impact, cross-channel communications and campaigns in support of our positioning, support & funding goals.
- **Communications Coordinator:** to support the effective communication of RDA's messages to internal audiences; and support our marketing campaigns to raise awareness with external audiences, with a key focus on our social media channels.

For further details [visit our website](#), and share with your networks.

If interested, please submit your CV and a covering to Best Talent Solutions Ltd - mikebest@besttalent.co.uk

Job Vacancy at RDA Ravenswood

RDA Ravenswood based in Crowthorne, Berkshire, is looking for a new Stables Lead, preferably full-time. They offer carriage driving, riding, and equine therapy sessions five days a week.

For further information please contact Adam Godwin on 07907 575624 or Adam.Godwin@norwood.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



Stay in touch with RDA

Riding for the Disabled Association

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