



28th June 2024

Dear Volunteers,

This week's newsletter includes an update on the governance review, the exciting activities happening at Championships and Award Nominations. We also have an update on upcoming volunteer training opportunities, a reminder about the annual return and upcoming events.

Governance Review

The RDA Governance Review has started in earnest over the past two weeks. CCE (our independent governance experts) have undertaken ten in-depth interviews with Trustees and experienced volunteers, and CCE have also held their first virtual focus group with a group of Regional Chairs. We have four more focus groups to host – one with Regional Chairs, two with suggested volunteers (two people from each Region of RDA) and one with National Leads. There will also be ten more in-depth interviews with experienced volunteers, in addition to those which have already taken place.

CCE and the RDA Board are committed to involving as many people in our RDA groups and nationally as possible, and currently we are arranging a series of Autumn roadshows across the UK to ensure we connect with everyone across the network for their input. In addition to the roadshows anyone who is a volunteer, or involved in RDA, will be able to share their thoughts in writing directly to CCE. All the input and information gathered in the early Summer and Autumn of 2024 will help to shape the smooth running and future success of RDA.

We have been asked by a number of volunteers for more information on the roadshow venues. We are currently in the process of booking this and confirming timings, and we will share these with you over the next couple of weeks. However, we can confirm that we will be holding events across the UK, including in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

We have also been asked about the rationale and timing for the Governance Review and whether this is a one-off exercise. Undertaking a review like this is in keeping with the

expectations of the Charity Commission, OSCR and the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland for a federated charity like ours, and in fact should ideally be carried out every few years to ensure the RDA has the best possible structure to support its charitable objectives. The timing reflects the fact that this has not been carried out for a number of years, and also that it addresses one of the actions that the RDA Board are implementing following the Pitman's Review which investigated the recent complaint, and for which a full list of actions can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions, we very much welcome your comments so please do feel free to email CEO@rda.org.uk

National Championships

The Championships are just around the corner now and preparations are ramping up.

Championships Briefing, Online Webinar – Wednesday 3rd July, 7:30 – 8:30pm

Join this webinar hosted by the RDA Competitions team. The session will include 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.

Everyone is welcome to join and can do so [via this link](#).

The session will be recorded and available shortly after the presentation.

Any queries get in touch with fharris@rda.org.uk

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

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 Carol 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

RDA National Championships Clothing & Merchandise

We are delighted to share that Wainwrights are once again providing branded clothing for the National Championships. **New designs for our 55th Anniversary are now available!**

This year, merchandise is only available to purchase online and will not be available to purchase at Hartpury, so please circulate this to your Groups, riders and drivers in advance to avoid any disappointment.

Get your order in this week and items will be dispatched as soon as possible. Items will still be available after the Championships and these orders can be placed at any time.

[Shop the range here.](#)

Filming at the National Championships

We have had several enquiries about Groups and participants bringing their own film crews along with them. If you are planning to do this, please get in touch with Lisa Davies, Head of Communications on ldavies@rda.org.uk

Award Nominations

The Pat Straughan Medal and The Harvey Best All Rounder Cup

A gentle reminder that the nominations for awards 'The Pat Straughan Medal of Commendation' and 'The Harvey Best All Rounder Cup' are still open! Judging will take place at National Championships after entries close 2pm Saturday 13th July. Find the nomination forms on MyRDA:

- [The Pat Straughan Medal of Commendation](#)
- [The Harvey Best All Rounder Cup](#)

Entries should be emailed to Katie on kobrien@rda.org.uk

Volunteer Training

Travelling with Horses Training: National Training Centre, CV35 7AX, Thursday 4th July, 10 am – 12 pm

This is an in-person session for RDA volunteers in the area and will focus on building knowledge and understanding on travelling horses and ponies for competition, schooling, moving yards or vet visit.

We will cover:

- What to pack in lorry or trailer
- Safety checks for travel
- How to prepare your horse/pony for travel
- Loading and unloading best practice, tips, and advice!

For more details and to register your interest email Debs at djuler@rda.org.uk

Safeguarding for Equestrians (Face to Face): Clwyd Special Riding Centre, LL11 5HN, Saturday 6th July, 10 am – 1pm

This is an in person session for RDA volunteers in the area who need to update their safeguarding training.

To book your place on this session enter your details on the [booking form on MyRDA](#).

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

Annual Return Reminder

Thank you to everyone who has completed the Annual Return survey so far. If you have not done so already, this is a reminder to those groups yet to complete theirs that **the deadline is Friday 19th July 2024**.

You can find information and support on the [Annual Return MyRDA page](#). Any further queries please get in touch with groupsupport@rda.org.uk

Events

RDA at London International Horse Show 2024!

We are delighted to share that RDA are the official Charity Partner of London International Horse Show, at ExCeL London, later this year. Running from 18th – 22nd December, London International is home to the FEI Jumping, Dressage and Driving World Cup Qualifiers in the UK, and a festive institution of equestrian competition, displays, shopping and sport that rounds off the year in style.

With more details to come, we are excited to offer an exclusive discount to the RDA family with 25% off tickets for performances in the main International Arena.

Use code: **LIHSRDA22** for discounts for the following performances:

- Weds 18 Morning (FEI Dressage World Cup Grand Prix)
- Weds 18 Afternoon (Pony Club Mini-Major & 5* Jumping)
- Thurs 19 Afternoon (5* Jumping)
- Thurs 19 Evening (FEI Dressage World Cup Freestyle)*
- Friday 20 Afternoon (FEI Driving World Cup 5* Jumping)
- Friday 20 Evening (Jockeys Jumping & The London Grand Prix 5* Jumping)*
- Saturday 21 Evening (FEI Driving World Cup & 5* Jumping)*

** Discount excludes Top Price Tickets for these performances. NB, please note this code will not apply to Phoenix Club tickets, tickets already discounted for concession or any tickets on Weds 18 Evening (Puissance), Saturday 21 Afternoon (Six Bar & 5* Jumping) or Sunday 22 (128cm & Longines FEI Jumping World Cup) in the International Arena. Code does not apply to the London Arena unless specified.*

Take part or help spread the word - Pony Tales Fundraiser

Pony Tales is a group of friends committed to raising funds through unique equine events, for charities that support children and adults with learning and physical disabilities, or struggling with their mental health. On Sunday 11th August, they are holding a day of Coaching, Clinics and Competitions, with top Jump Coach Tegan Jones and Stage 3 Coach Scott Etches. Taking place in the beautiful setting of [Kingston Maurward Equestrian Centre](#) in Dorchester, the event promises a unique experience for just 45 riders - including breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, goody bags, professional photography, and fabulous auction prizes, with funds raised going to RDA and BHS.

If you are an equestrian based in the South west please help spread the word, or sign up to take part yourself. Places are available based on a donation of £150 per rider. To find out more [visit Pony Tales](#).

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



Registered Charity No. 244108 and SCO39473 (Scotland)

Stay in touch with RDA

Riding for the Disabled Association

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