



9th August 2024

Dear RDA Volunteers,

There's lots to cover in this week's newsletter, from an update on the Governance Review and to the key Paralympic dates for your diary. We'll also provide an update on Volunteer training opportunities, the Annual Return along with Equine queries.

Governance Review

We will be soon sending out an email to share the Governance Roadshow dates and venues. Please look out for this in your inbox and share as widely as possible within your RDA networks.

It's a Paralympic Summer!

In a few short weeks will be the kick off of the Paris 2024 Paralympic games, with the opening ceremony taking place on Wednesday the 28th of August.

We're super excited to watch and marvel at the para-equestrian athletes, especially those with a connection to RDA. We can't wait to cheer on Mari Durward-Akhurst, Natasha Baker, Georgia Wilson and Sophie Wells from Team GB, and also to cheer on Austen Burns from Team Canada, who rides with Omagh RDA in Northern Ireland.

[Click here](#) to read all about the athletes and horses of Team GB, and [click here](#) to read all about Team Canada.

Here are the key dates for your diary, to catch all the action.

- 28 August – Opening Ceremony
- 3–4 September – Individual tests and medal ceremonies
- 6 September – Team tests and medal ceremony
- 7 September – Freestyle tests and medal ceremonies
- 8 September – Closing Ceremony

For more information on the Paralympics, visit the British Equestrian Paris Hub [here](#), for detail on the tests and the competition format.

National Training Centre

RDA Unaffiliated Dressage Competition, Sunday 27th October from 1:00pm, National Training Centre, CV35 7AX

Hosted at the National Training Centre, there will be three RDA only Dressage competitions, which will include the following tests:

- RDA Introduction to Dressage, Test 4 (2018) walk & trot (with leader)
- Intro B (2009)
- Prelim 12 (2005)

These will be judged by an RDA approved judge and is a fantastic opportunity for riders in the area to get a taste of RDA competition.

We are offering an introductory offer of £8.00 per entry for RDA riders only.

To book on you can book via the National Training Centre website [here](#) or fill out [this form](#) and email a completed copy to Katie at ko.lowlands@rda.org.uk for an entry form.

Volunteer Training

Safeguarding for Equestrians (Face to Face): The Hub at 531, Edinburgh, EH14 5DE - Sunday 1st September, 9:30 – 1:30pm

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

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

Bookings close Sunday 11th August 2024.

Safeguarding Virtual 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

Coaching

UK Coaching Award Nominations are open!

Nominations for the UK Coaching Awards are now open, last year our very own Dawn Whitmore-Kirby from Wenlo RDA won the Change a Life Award (supported by Sport England) for her dedication and leading riders to Regional, National, and Special Olympics success.

Let's recognise some more of our amazing RDA coaches! Nominations close at 10am on Monday 2nd September 2024 and are open in the following categories:

- Young Coach of the Year
- Community Coach of the Year (Children and Young People)
- Community Coach of the Year (Adults)
- High Performance Coach of the Year
- Talent Development Coach of the Year
- Change a Life Award
- Online Coach of the Year

This is a fantastic opportunity to recognise and celebrate the incredible coaches in our community. Don't forget to spread the word and encourage others to submit their nominations too.

[Click here for](#) more details and to nominate your coach.

Staying Safe Online

False RDA Facebook Accounts

It has been brought to our attention that there are several fake accounts impersonating RDA UK, particularly National Championship pages.

Please be cautious when using social media, RDA UK official pages will never send any friend requests or ask you to share any personal details.

The official RDA UK accounts are as follows:

- [Facebook: @RDANational](#)
- [Instagram: @RDAUK](#)
- [LinkedIn: Riding for the Disabled Association](#)

If you are ever in any doubt, contact comms@rda.org.uk.

Annual Return

The Annual Return has now closed. We would like to extend a big thank you to everyone involved in collating and submitting your data, and for the considerable amount of work we know has gone into this. The Annual Return provides invaluable insight into the health and strength of the RDA network across the UK, and our collective reach to deliver life changing impact. Over the coming months we will be doing a deep dive into the data and will share key insights later this year.

RDA Equines

From now on, if you have any queries, questions or any news about RDA Equines for National Office, please contact equine@rda.org.uk and one of the team will be able to get back to you as soon as they can with advice and support.

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 SC039473 (Scotland)

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