



Winter News Letter

A Note from our Chairman

I do hope you all had a very pleasant Christmas and New Year and now are back in what passes for you as a "normal" routine! Personally, I have long forgotten what "normal" ever was!

It was great to see so many of you at the Christmas party, I thought it was a super evening and congratulations to all the trophy winners! I will just take a moment here to remind you all that the party is funded from the proceeds of the 100 club, and to remind you that the 2019 tickets are now on sale, Liz has the forms and the first draw if the year is almost upon us so if you are intending to partake, now is the hour!

With the long awaited start of the Simulator rides we have even more to offer our riders and drivers and I do hope that all our participants and volunteers will take advantage of the chance to "have a go".

Perhaps some of the parents and carers would like to come to one of our open sessions during the year...after all we have all helped in one way or the other to raise the funds to buy it!

There will be various events running this year and we shall be running a Gala show in the Autumn to mark RDA's 50th year.

Best wishes for 2019

Janet

Coaches Voice Riding

All the riding coaches would like to pass on a huge well done to our riders this term, we are seeing so many of you riding with confidence, concentration and new skills. We are always thinking of new challenges to set and if any of our riders have goal of their own, please speak to one of our coaches - we would love to help you reach them.

You may see new faces teaching in the arena, we are training a new set of coaches to help support Binnie, Joy, Kerrie and Jeannette. Our new Coaches in Training are Helen, Hannah, Kim and Nickie. They are all studying hard and attending training days ready for assessments in the spring.

During sessions the coaches can be pretty busy within the arena but we would like to be able to chat anyone before or after sessions about their rides. Please shout if you would like to have a chat with one of the coaching team, as we would love to tell you all how well you are progressing.

Watch out for dates for Easter Riding days, as we are currently planning dates and themes!

Carriage Driving

We would like to welcome Jane Roberts as the new Driving team leader and thank Janet for all her time and effort building the driving group to where it is today. Jane has been a RDA driving coach for a number of years and is an active voice on the committee. We are looking forward to a fabulous 2019 driving year.

Coordinator's Notes

In the coming month we will be updating all the ponies official weights and load charts, as they are all another year older. You maybe asked by one of our team to be weighed with all the equipment you use when either riding or on the carriage. We are required to do this and for the welfare of the ponies it is good practice to keep our records up to date.

On The Yard

The ponies have enjoyed their holidays and have come back into work feeling well and refreshed. Unfortunately for the people who care for them winter is a time of hard work and mud. It seems like every time the ponies come in they have managed to get mud in places you would never expect and it is never just a little bit!

The mud also makes any paddock work so much harder, the poo picking team are growing arms like Popeye pushing barrows through the brown sticky stuff! If anyone ever has a free hour and would like to help out, the team is at the yard most days - please drop me an email if you want to come and help.

This month we have also received donations and fundraising to purchase a new hay store. This is to keep our hay safe in the bottom car park as we unfortunately had some borrowed and not returned before Christmas. The shed was made and erected by Interskill and they have done a fab job.

As you might notice a new addition to our ponies' turn out during ride sessions. Our local saddler, Martin Thronley has made us some brand new handled breastplates to try. They are designed to help rider's balance and gain confidence as well as save the ponies' mouths from harsher hands. So far they have been a great success!

We have been gifted a large amount of new and used tack, rugs and equipment that is available to view and purchase during any session. We will also be having a large stand at the next LRAC tack sale on Friday the 22nd of February, so if you need anything please let one of the team know - we may just have one!

NEW RDA Group and Volunteer Website

The national RDA has launched a new website designed for use by groups and their volunteers. It is an easier way to find all the information you might need in one place.

This includes the E-Learning portal for online training. <http://www.myrda.org.uk>

We will be offering an evening of training using the IT suite at LRAC for all volunteers to complete the required E learning syllabus - DATE TBA.



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