



Welcome back everyone after the snow! We hoped you all enjoyed having fun and are looking forward to an action packed spring and summer with us.

### A Note from our Chairman

It's been a tough winter! We've battled the cold the wet and the snow! It was particularly difficult when the snow was down but thanks to the wonderful volunteers the ponies were fed and watered daily! There was a lot of lugging bales of hay and containers of water up to the fields but luckily it didn't last too long! I can't praise our volunteers enough for turning out in all weathers to help whether it be to help in the arena, mucking out the stables or taking in the hay delivery, it seems that nothing will daunt them! It says a lot when I tell you that we have not cancelled one session due to the weather (the driving did lose one due to the snow) The only cancelled sessions were training nights! We have done really well! I am looking forward to the Spring and being outside again. When you look at all the mud you can wonder if it will ever dry again!

We have a new pony, Zara, who we hope will soon start to spread the load of the other ponies. She rides and drives so we hope she will become a useful member of our team.

Looking forward we have a Fun day on the 4<sup>th</sup> April and a holiday week in August (with the option of camping out on site if you wish!) Watch this space.

It won't be long till the AGM so if you have questions, a desire to be on the committee or things to discuss please do come along. We don't know what you want if you don't let us know!

Janet

### Coaches Voice

We are pleased to welcome to our coaching team, Chris who has just completed his coaching qualifications. Chris comes from a polo background and is enjoying working with our participants in riding sessions. He joins our team of Jeanette, Sam, Joy, Bridget, Kerry and myself coaching the riders.

We are also looking forward to welcoming our new participants who have just been assessed, with the addition of Zara, the new pony we hope to grow our riding groups. Please remember if you can't make a session please let Barbara know asap, as she can often fill empty slots with waiting riders. It can be disheartening when we have no riders for ponies and a waiting list of keen new starters.

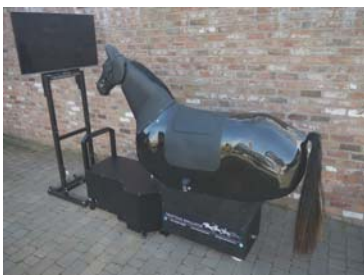
Our current riders are all showing fabulous improvement, working towards their own personal goals. As coaches we are proud of all you have achieved this year so far!

All the coaches would like to thank all the volunteers who give up their time to help us provide sessions. Without your help we would not be able to continue to offer activities to so many.

Binnie

### Fundraising News

We have received amazing support in our fund raising efforts towards a fabulous interactive mechanical horse but we still have a little way to go so if anyone has any fund raising ideas/suggestions please get in touch.



The horse we have chosen is a Racewood Simulator and he will replace our current pair of mechanical horses at the centre. You can read more about it at [www.racewood.com](http://www.racewood.com)

LWRDA are providing coffee/cake for the Kenwick Park Golf Seniors matches again this year. Last year we raised over £1200 so a huge thank you to all those who contributed yummy cakes. I will soon be trying to drum up volunteers for cake making this year so be warned!

Also we have been invited to provide refreshments for the Open Gardens at Benniworth Vicarage on the 23rd June and all profits to go to LWRDA. Volunteers to help out at this event either serving tea/coffee or providing cakes would be very much appreciated

Caroline

## On The Yard



Over the last few weeks the girls on the yard have been mainly battling the elements to keep the ponies fed and watered. Thanks goes to everyone who managed to help over the wintry weather. Our thanks also goes out to the team of volunteers who come rain or shine to poo pick the fields. We are all very grateful for your efforts, as it is a thankless task in winter pushing the barrows through the mud!

All our ponies are now feeling spring in the air and are starting to drop their winter coats which often leads to the humans being more hairy than the ponies at the end of grooming sessions. I hope they are right and no more of the white

stuff is on its way!

If anyone would like to help on the yard during the week to get ponies ready, muck out and do general horsey things on the yard please get in touch. In the next few weeks we will be significantly down on help due to illness and Hannah moving on to her summer job - Good Luck!

If you have time on Monday afternoons, Tuesday day time, Wednesday day time or Thursday morning please come and join in. Contact Binnie, Helen or Kim for details.



Welcome to Zara! Last week we welcomed Zara to the LW RDA family. She comes to us from a family home and is a ride and drive pony. Zara is a Welsh Section C Chestnut mare who is 12 years old. Being a similar height to Cracker it is hoped she will allow more participants to join us each week.

Keep a look out for more news about her adventures with us!

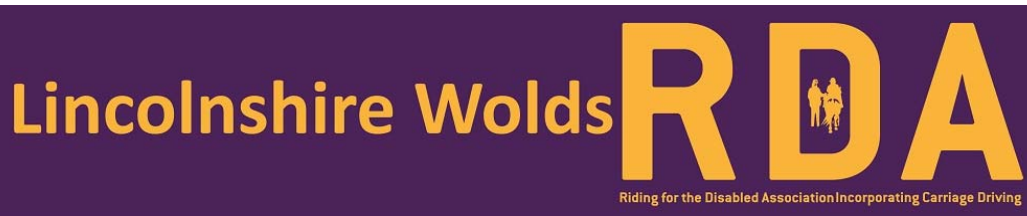
Can you help mend our field shelter? One of our field shelters requires some attention and mending. If anyone has some basic carpentry skills (the shelter is constructed in a similar way to a large garden shed) and could help us repair the shelter so the ponies can use it, please get in touch as we are desperate for this to be back in use.

Helen

## Diary Dates

Activity Day - 4th April 10am - 3pm - Please contact Barbara for details.

Holiday at LRAC - 2nd - 6th August - More details to come!



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Need help or have questions about easyfundraising? Contact Helen

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Here's to lots more fun, friendship and achievements in 2018!

