**RDA UK update 21 April**

This bulletin contains

* Update on National Office staff
* Information about 2.6 Challenge
* Information from BEF about funding for equestrian businesses

**National Office staff – furlough and changes**

We have taken the difficult decision to furlough a significant number of the National Office team. This means that the people listed below will not be working for the next four weeks (until 19 May) – this reflects the reduced workloads in these areas, as well as enabling us to save funds, enabling us to do more to support groups when we come out of the lock down.

As a result, there will be a very limited response to operational enquiries. Urgent enquiries should be sent to info@rda.org.uk, but please recognise our more limited capacity to respond during this period.

**Furloughed staff**

* Jo Hayward, Coaching
* Lyndsay Wager, Coaching
* Alex Walker, Coaching
* Fiona Harris, Activities Co-ordinator
* Emma Bayliss, Activities Co-ordinator
* Lucy Stokes, Activities Co-ordinator
* Faye McKenning, Activities Co-ordinator
* Laura Cartwright, Group Support Co-ordinator
* Tai Shuttleworth, Group Support Admin
* Angela Sly, Ops Support Co-ordinator
* Agnieszka Kulicka-Williams, IT
* Denise Robertson, Head of Therapy
* Amanda Perkins, Executive Co-Ordinator
* Katie O’Brien, Yard assistant

**Staff changes**

We are delighted that Claire Milican has delayed her leave date until the end of May.

Marisa Bretherton Mackay (formerly Activities Co-Ordinator) has taken up the new role of Operations Manager. Any issues relating to group management and governance, complaints and problems, safeguarding or the lawline should be directed to Marisa marisa@rda.org.uk.

Beth Randles is now Centre Manager for the National Training Centre. Any emails about internal communications or group support with publicity should go to Caroline Ward cward@rda.org.uk.

**2.6 Challenge**

The 2.6 Challenge is a nationwide fundraising campaign to help support charities affected by COVID-19. The main focus of the event is Sunday 26 April, to coincide with what should have been the London Marathon. More information can be found at [www.twopointsixchallenge.co.uk](http://www.twopointsixchallenge.co.uk). If your group is already registered with either JustGiving or Virgin Money Giving, you will automatically be one of the charities people can choose to support – so all you need to do is encourage your network to take part and name your group as the designated charity.

If your group is not already signed up with Just Giving or Virgin Money Giving, you can still take part, but you’ll need to register first. To register with JustGiving visit their website and enter ‘2.6 challenge’ in the promo code to be fast-tracked <https://www.justgiving.com/for-charities/a-new-free-way-to-join-justgiving>

**Information from Anna Hall at BEF about funding for equestrian businesses**

We are aware of some equestrian businesses being told by their local authority that they are not eligible for grant funding.  I have spoken to the Sport and Recreation Alliance and so can provide you with an update below which should help you with queries you may have.

Please note there are TWO sources of grant funding available.  Businesses can only receive ONE of these grants.  These both can be accessed via each businesses’ Local Authority.

These grants are:

* Small Business Grant Fund (SBGF) – applicable to businesses that receive small business rate relief or rural rate relief.  The local authority guidance says that businesses eligible for the SBGF will not be eligible for the RHLGF (bullet below).  This provides grants of 10k.
* Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund (RHLGF) – applicable to businesses with a rateable value of less than 51k in a number of sectors including leisure.  For leisure, it includes those businesses that are *used for the provision of sport, leisure and facilities to visiting members of the public (including for the viewing of such activities).* This applies to riding schools, livery yards and equestrian competition venues.  This fund provides a 10k grant for business in retail, hospitality and leisure sectors with a rateable value of up to 15k, or a 25k grant for those with a rateable value of over 15K and under 51k.  If a business has a rateable value of 51k or more they are not eligible for a grant.

Charities which would otherwise meet the criteria for RHLGF but whose bill for 11 March had been reduced to nil by a local discretionary award should still be considered to be eligible for the RHL grant.

Where funding is being refused, please can you collect the reason why and the name of the relevant local authority and email participation@bef.co.uk as we will be passing this data onto the Sport and Recreation Alliance who are coordinating discussions with Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government who provide guidance to local authorities.

Further details and guidance can be found here:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878807/business_support_grants-local_authorities_guidance.pdf>

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877758/Expanded_Retail_Discount_Guidance_02.04.20.pdf>