**RDA UK Update 24 April**

This bulletin contains:

* Invite to Zoom presentation by RDA Chief Executive Ed Bracher, 1 May
* Update on furlough
* Guidance on applying for the Sport England Community Emergency Fund
* National Championships ‘The Missing Year’ merchandise
* Online training opportunities

Also: Good luck to everyone taking part in 2.6 Challenges this weekend.

**Zoom talk by Ed Bracher, 1 May 3pm**

Join RDA Chief Executive Ed Bracher next Friday 1 May at 3pm. Ed will talk about RDA during this unprecedented time in its 50 year+ history; the actions the organisation is taking to help secure its future and if there are any opportunities we can seize as we plan for life after lockdown.

There are spaces for 100 viewers for the live presentation (registration required). The talk will be recorded so there’s no need to miss out if you can’t make it on 1 May.

Register here by the close of play on Tuesday 28 April: <https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Sqz7ckHLRruDYhZs_V_fRQ>

**Update on furlough**

You may be aware that the government updated its advice on furlough this week.  For those groups who employ staff there are a number of important changes:

* The scheme has been extended to 30th June 2020
* They have clarified that furlough can be applied for any staff employed on or before 19th March 2020 (a change from the previous date of 28th February).
* It has been clarified that staff on furlough can volunteer for their employer, provided that they are not involved in service delivery and/or generating income.  This therefore means that furloughed staff could volunteer to spend some time looking after horses.

The full advice can be found on the Gov.uk website [here](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-could-be-covered-by-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme)

**Guidance on applying for the Sport England Community Emergency Fund**

Sport England has created a £20million Community Emergency Fund (CEF) which aims to deliver immediate funding to those in need, who are facing ongoing fixed costs including rent, staffing, utility bills and maintenance. It is designed to help grassroots sport and physical activity providers.

Please note, if your group is based at a commercial riding school you might want to make them aware of this fund. Previously it has only been available to organisations with charitable and not for profit status , but Sport England have said they may consider applications from Limited Liability Partnerships and sole-traders if they meet all the other criteria and cannot receive support elsewhere.

We have produced guidance notes to help with your application, which can be found here in the fundraising section: [www.myrda.org.uk/runningyourgroup/covid19/](http://www.myrda.org.uk/runningyourgroup/covid19/)

More information, including the application form is on the Sport England website here:

[www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/our-funds/community-emergency-fund](http://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/our-funds/community-emergency-fund)

**National Championships Merchandise – The Missing Year**

Our good friends at Wainwright Screenprint, who have been supporting RDA with branded clothing and other merchandise for 40 years, have produced a range of clothing for this year’s National Championships. Titled ‘The Missing Year’, the hoodies, polo shirts and hats will ensure that collectors of Championships clothing don’t miss out.

Visit [www.wainwrightscreenprint.co.uk/man/2](http://www.wainwrightscreenprint.co.uk/man/2) or email info@wainwrightscreenprint.co.uk for more information and an order form.

**Online Training**

Don’t forget that while volunteers, staff or participants are not able to access your group, there are plenty of on-line training opportunities.  As well as the RDA e-learning [www.rda-learning.org.uk](http://www.rda-learning.org.uk) there are some good courses externally.

The only free courses we are aware of are on the FEI campus – this includes diverse subjects such as horsemanship, equine physiology and anatomy as well as on the rules of the different FEI sports <https://campus.fei.org/>.  You can also watch fei.tv for free now <https://tv.fei.org/home> until July if you want to catch up on any filmed FEI events.

British Dressage also has a horse care online learning system which costs £5 per course [www.britishdressage.co.uk/get-involved/bd-youth/british-dressage-horse-care/](http://www.britishdressage.co.uk/get-involved/bd-youth/british-dressage-horse-care/)

If you wanted to do something that went beyond equine studies, there is good information about classification for disabled sports people on the BPA website <https://paralympics.org.uk/footer-pages/classification>

We would also highly recommend UK Coaching resources [www.ukcoaching.org/](http://www.ukcoaching.org/) – many of the formal courses you have to pay for or be a subscribed member which also requires a payment but there are also lots of videos, blogs, articles etc on this website that are free.  UK coaching provides resources for the widest definition of ‘coach’ so those that help, volunteer etc, not necessarily just those with a formal coaching qualification.

For wider activities, the Open University offers a lot of free courses, the full list is here: [www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue](http://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue)  This includes communication and working relationships in sport and fitness [www.open.edu/openlearn/health-sports-psychology/communication-and-working-relationships-sport-and-fitness/content-section-overview?active-tab=description-tab](http://www.open.edu/openlearn/health-sports-psychology/communication-and-working-relationships-sport-and-fitness/content-section-overview?active-tab=description-tab)

And coaching others to coach [www.open.edu/openlearn/health-sports-psychology/coaching-others-coach/content-section-overview?active-tab=description-tab](http://www.open.edu/openlearn/health-sports-psychology/coaching-others-coach/content-section-overview?active-tab=description-tab)