**RDA UK update 25 March 2020**

This bulletin contains:

* Funding news for Groups in Scotland
* News about RDA Magazine
* Plans to keep participants involved
* News from Dressage Anywhere
* Duke of Edinburgh Awards survey

**Funding news for RDA groups in Scotland: Third Sector Resilience Fund**

The SCVO has announced this morning that the Third Sector Resilience Fund is now open for applications. It is open for charities, community groups, social enterprises and voluntary organisations working in Scotland. An initial £20m emergency fund is available to help organisations stabilise and manage cash flows. The link below includes details on eligibility and how to apply:

<https://scvo.org/support/coronavirus/funding/for-organisations/third-sector-resilience-fund>

The Fund will be delivered by Firstport, Social Investment Scotland and the Corra Foundation and will provide grants between £5,000-£100,000. In addition there will be up to a further £5m available in fully flexible, 0% interest loans starting at £50,000. The fund will be complemented by specialist business advice from Just Enterprise to help grant recipients maximise the impact of the financial support.

It is important to bear in mind - you will need to ensure all your policies are in place and that you have calculated your running costs over 6 months and know what funding is required when you apply.

**RDA Magazine**

Unfortunately, we are not going to be able to go ahead with the next magazine. With group closures and all our activities focussed on supporting groups through the crisis, we have little news, and what little we do have now seems out of date or no longer relevant. We also have to be realistic about our financial situation and the impact on our budgets for the foreseeable future.

 At this point we have no idea when we will come out of this situation, and what our future plans may be in terms of the publication, but for now this is not something we can produce.

You might argue that now more than ever we need to keep these lines of communication open, to help people remain connected to RDA during a period of isolation. In response, we are working hard to maintain more regular, timely and relevant contact with as many people as possible by email, phone and social media.

We will be contacting all individual subscribers in due course, but wanted you to hear as soon as possible. This has been a difficult decision to make but we hope you understand our reasons.

**Keep doing RDA!**

Groups everywhere are finding creative ways to help keep their riders and drivers engaged, active and learning during the downtime. We are collecting online resources, weblinks and ideas that we can share with participants, families and carers throughout this time. If your group has prepared any fun or educational resources that can be emailed, please share them with us. Contact Caroline Ward cward@rda.org.uk

**Dressage Anywhere**

Dressage Anywhere have made some changes to their online competition schedule for the coming months. They are pausing their Online Championships, but all qualifying scores achieved with Dressage Anywhere between August 2019 and March 2020 will count towards the Online Championships show, which will be held once things are up and running again. You can find the details on their website here, including the launch of a slimmed down competition with RDA tests for any riders who may be able to continue riding (e.g. they have their own horse): <https://www.dressageanywhere.com/News/Article/431>

**Duke of Edinburgh survey**

It’s time for the Duke of Edinburgh annual audit. If your group has supported D of E volunteers during the past year, please take a couple of minutes to complete this survey. Entries by 30 March: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TNYQ33B>