

RDA



# THE RDA VIRTUAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

*Oliver Wight*

Presented by

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2021  
EVENT PROGRAMME



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We are proud to have sponsored the RDA for over 10 years and continue to support their mission to enrich lives and change the futures of thousands of people through education, therapy, and fun.

Good luck to the riders in the 2021 Virtual National Championships!

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE RDA CHAIR



*Welcome to the RDA Virtual National Championships of 2021, the first championships ever to be held remotely.*

When the idea of a national championships that would be held around the UK was first conceived, no one knew that it would gain so much support. We had over 700 entries from all four countries and every corner of the RDA family. 350 participants have qualified across the 54 classes.

We all wish that we could be actually getting together at Hartpury for one of the highlights of the RDA year

where so many participants, friends, family, staff, volunteers and of course the horses and ponies, share a real sense of excitement and common spirit. However, the huge benefit of our remote championships is that it has enabled so many people to compete who couldn't have done so before. They have been able to ride their regular horse or pony in familiar settings and show just what they can do. The standard has been very high and I'm sure the finals will be even more so.

At, my first championships as Chair I'm excited to see the

competitors and hope you'll enjoy watching some of the action over the weekend of 25th and 26th.

I want to thank everyone who has put in so much effort to support the competitors to submit their entries and to all the sponsors and supporters who have made these Championships possible.

*Rachel Medill*

**RACHEL MEDILL MBE**  
RDA Chair

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE



**National Championships  
Chairman**  
Anne Coney



**National Championships  
Secretary**  
Fiona Harris



**Secretary Support**  
Emma Bayliss

## DISCIPLINE & DEPARTMENT LEADS

**Arts & Crafts**  
Sue Veale

**Carriage Driving**  
Eileen Cornish

**Countryside  
Challenge**  
Sue Mack

**Dressage**  
Sarah-Jane Prew

**Endurance**  
Gilly Roper

**Musical Ride &  
Carriage Drive**  
Fiona Harris

**Showjumping**  
Sally Anne O'Neil

**Vaulting**  
Sam Davison



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generous support of  
the RDA Virtual National  
Championships 2021



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Riding for the Disabled Association  
Incorporating Carriage Driving





### *To all competitors*

Thank you so much for competing in our first RDA Virtual National Championships. I know you must have put an enormous amount of time and effort as all the competitions were very well supported and of a very high standard.

A big thank you to all the Regions for arranging their qualifiers, I know this has been quite a challenge but with the help from National Office they have all been very successful

As I know judging the videos is quite different from watching the disciplines live, so many thanks to all the judges for their time and patience.

I hope you all will be watching on the 25th and 26th September as it should be very exciting.

Anne

**ANNE CONEY**  
*Chair National RDA  
Championships*

## HOW TO WATCH:

We will be showing the top six competitors in reverse order in each class during the **virtual event on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th September 2021.**

Watch live on our **Facebook page** or on our **YouTube Channel.**

To see when classes are taking place please visit the timetable on page 24 - 25.



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## ARTS & CRAFTS SUPPORTED BY LIFE WITH ART

**T**he Arts & Crafts Competition is one of the highlights of the National Championships and any participant can take part. It's a great opportunity that we can continue with the Arts & Crafts competition virtually this year.

Classes this year will be split into Senior and Junior and include paintings, collages, sculptures and photography. We are also running a special class again this year for the RDA National Training Centre.

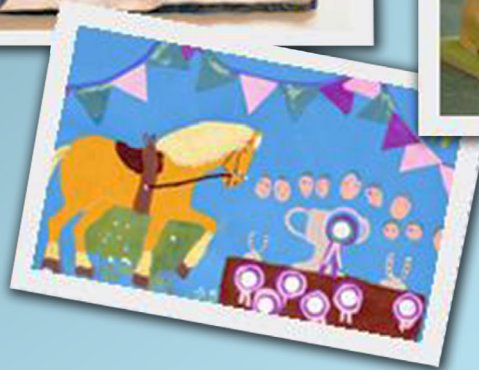
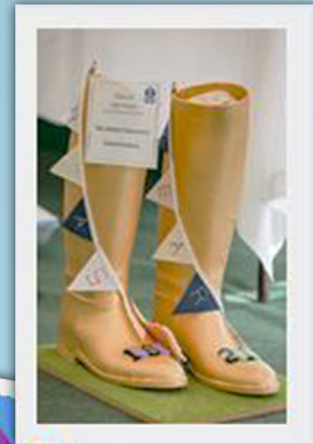
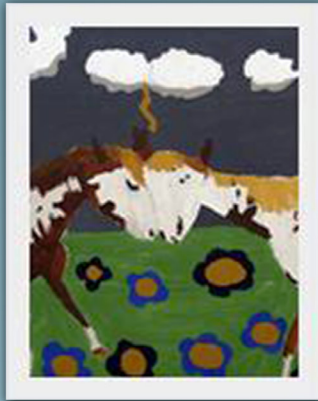
Classes are made up of both individual and group entries. Artwork is initially judged at regional level and the winners from each class make it through to the final RDA Virtual National Championships.

It's a really fun competition to enter.



# LifewithArt

## Proud Sponsors of the 2021 RDA Arts & Crafts Competition



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# INVESTED IN SOFTWARE? WHO'S USING IT?

User adoption is the difference between success and failure.

Companies that invest in digital content to drive user adoption typically double their system engagement.





## CARRIAGE DRIVING

Carriage Driving has been an important part of RDA since 1975 and there are now around 60 groups throughout the UK, giving driving opportunities to over 1000 drivers. It is enjoyed by people who can no longer ride due to disability, or who prefer a different kind of equine challenge.

Each group has specialised vehicles which take both ambulant and non-ambulant drivers. Wheelchairs and adaptations to the harness cater for the needs of all.

We are very lucky to have so many volunteers helping at Carriage Driving Groups to ensure that each driver enjoys their chosen aspect of our sport.

Drivers are accompanied by a knowledgeable and competent Carriage Driving Coach who has a second set

of reins to assist if required. The groups drive in indoor arenas, outdoor arenas, on tracks, in woods and on the road depending on their venue and their facilities. All are different! Drivers enjoy working for their proficiency tests, practicing dressage movements and tests, driving through cones or natural obstacles such as groups of trees, and competing at both local shows and the National Championships.

This year the RDA Virtual National Championships have taken direct entries, with no qualifiers, as Carriage Driving groups had to delay re-starting after COVID-19 because of the restrictions of social distancing.

We offer three classes for Novice, Intermediate and Open competitors who will just drive a dressage test this



year. Normally competitors would be asked to do a cones course followed by 2 or 4 obstacles.

The objective of the driven dressage test is to judge the freedom, regularity of paces, harmony, impulsion, suppleness, lightness, ease of movement and correct bending of the horses on the move. Drivers will also be judged on style, accuracy and general control of their horses, and on their dress, condition of their harness and carriage and the presentation of the whole turnout.





## COUNTRYSIDE CHALLENGE

### SUPPORTED BY THE TREFOIL GUILD

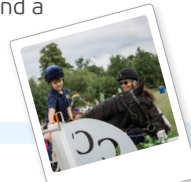
**W**ith its focus on achievement, progression and enjoyment, the Countryside Challenge is a development of skills acquired in RDA sessions.

The course is based on school movements, dressage, showjumping, endurance and of course fun, designed to both stimulate and challenge the rider.

During the course, riders have the opportunity to put their skills to the test through challenging tasks, bending around obstacles, steering through an archway, and walking along the bridge path before going through the gate. Steering, balance and confidence are all put to the test whilst encountering sheep, cows, hens and a duck pond!

Riders will have qualified for the RDA Virtual National Championships by achieving 65% or more at their Virtual Regional Qualifier, classes are split into junior and senior sections. We are holding six classes:

- **Led with 1 Side Walker**
- **Led or 1 Side Walker**
- **Independently Ridden**
- **Visually Impaired:  
Led or 1 Side Walker**
- **Visually Impaired:  
Led with 1  
Side Walker**
- **Visually Impaired:  
Independently  
Ridden**







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# Godolphin

## Sharing success on and off the track

Godolphin's aim is to create passion and care for the thoroughbred, nurture the industry and the people working within it, and support local communities by developing strong ties.



Its **Lifetime Care** programme works with partners across the world to give retired thoroughbreds happy, fulfilling lives, and the Rehoming initiative helps horses go on to successful alternative careers once their racing days are over.

Every year, the global Godolphin-backed **Stud & Stable Staff Awards** recognise the remarkable people who go to extraordinary lengths to bring the best to the breeding and racing industries.

And Godolphin's international **educational programmes** aim to inspire the next generation. They help school goers, industry employees and young adults explore career opportunities and achieve their ambitions – whether in the racing industry or the wider world.

For the full story, click [here](#).





## DRESSAGE SUPPORTED BY GODOLPHIN

**D**ressage offers the opportunity for riders to show a judge, parents, friends and helpers what has been achieved during RDA sessions. It can also help a coach to set goals, allowing the riders to demonstrate often hidden reservoirs of determination to achieve and can vividly show the benefits of previous instruction.

## CHAMPIONSHIP CLASSES

Riders must qualify through their RDA Virtual Regional Qualifier to compete. They ride a specific test with a predetermined pattern in a 20m x 40m arena. A judge marks the test, they give marks out of ten for each movement set out in the test, at the end of the test the marks are added up and the winner is the combination with the highest score.

Dependent on their impairment and/or experience, participants can ride tests in walk only, walk and trot or walk, trot and canter. Dressage is a multi disability activity but at the RDA Virtual National Championships, riders with a learning disability and visually impaired riders can choose to ride in their own classes.







**“** Endurance riding is a wonderful way to build a relationship with your horse or pony and to enjoy the freedom which riding can offer you and also enjoy the chance to learn new skills

– GILLIAN ROPER



## ENDURANCE SUPPORTED BY JM FINN

Since its launch in 2012, Endurance has become hugely popular, with levels to suit all abilities and riding environments. RDA Endurance is now a popular activity to over 100 RDA groups, enhancing participant and volunteer experiences.

This year the Endurance competition at the RDA Virtual National Championships will be a take part event and is open to all registered Endurance groups and we look forward to it becoming a significant competition in the years to come.

Riders can start riding at just 1km and by combining a range of skills including equine welfare and following a course, as well as educational elements, such as counting heart rate, fitness, speed & distance and accumulating achievements on the grassroots league.

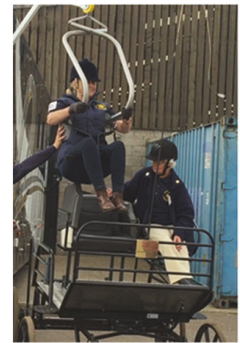




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**“An amazing friendly team who have supported me from the start”**

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**“The hoist allows freedom to riders who require mounting facilities”**

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## MUSICAL RIDE & CARRIAGE DRIVE

### SUPPORTED BY CHILDS FARM

**T**hese classes are judged entirely from a video of a ride or carriage drive filmed at the group.

Music has been shown to be a powerful element to improve and energise the performance of both horse and rider or carriage driver and each year the judges look forward to seeing a wider use of music and movements to do just that.

There are two ridden classes on offer and one driven. Each entry should present a drill ride or carriage drive with riders and helpers smartly dressed – for example in their matching group sweatshirts. If they wish to use modest fancy dress, for example to dress as soldiers to reflect marching music, then that is also acceptable.

Entries must not be edited, all video's are initially judged at Regional level and the top 3 achieving 70% or higher from each Regional class are then entered into the RDA Virtual National Championships.



## NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SHOWING

Showing is still in its infancy within RDA, and is a progression from the already established Best Turned Out competition held at the RDA National Championships.

Showing teaches you how to put in a performance and accept the judges comments as a positive way to improve. It is also a great start for a horses education, as it teaches manners and gives exposure to the show environment without the exacting pressure of a dressage test or showjumping round.

The competition is open too all RDA riders who can walk and trot.

Classes will be judged on turnout: cleanliness, condition of equine & tack.

The show should comprise of a short video of the whole horse stood still including legs and body. The rider should then move onto an individual display; to include; walk, trot and canter if applicable and change of rein.

Riders should be neatly turned out, clean and tidy with tack and saddlery suitable for the rider not the show ring will be encouraged.







At Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA), our equines benefit the lives of over 25,000 disabled children and adults at nearly 500 groups across the UK. To keep providing this life-changing support we need more horsepower...



# WANTED! MORE HORSEPOWER

- Horses and ponies of all heights and types
- Must be healthy, sound, fit, reliable, genuine, bright, sensible, alert, confident, and versatile
- Potential to compete at our National Championships in a range of activities from Dressage to Showjumping, Vaulting to Carriage Driving
- Must also be able to pass a minimum of two stage vetting

**i** If you have an equine that fits our superhero profile contact Emma Bayliss at RDA National Office [ebayliss@rda.org.uk](mailto:ebayliss@rda.org.uk)



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## SHOWJUMPING SUPPORTED BY HARTPURY EQUINE

**R**DA Showjumping has its own unique Pathway giving participants valuable opportunities to take part in RDA Competitions and RDA Showjumping Proficiency Tests. The pathway entails of 5 levels, beginning at poles on the ground through to an 80cm course, catering for all.

With more than 130 groups taking part in level 2 or above and with all groups now able to take part in level 1, it is set to soar in the coming years.

We will be showcasing levels 2 (unled), 3 and 4 at the RDA Virtual National Championships this year.



**“The Showjumping Pathway offers RDA riders the valuable opportunity to take part in RDA Showjumping Competition and the RDA Showjumping Proficiency Tests. RDA Coaches can benefit from further developing their coaching skills and allows them to gain their RDA Showjumping Coaching award.**

**– SALLY-ANNE O’NEIL**







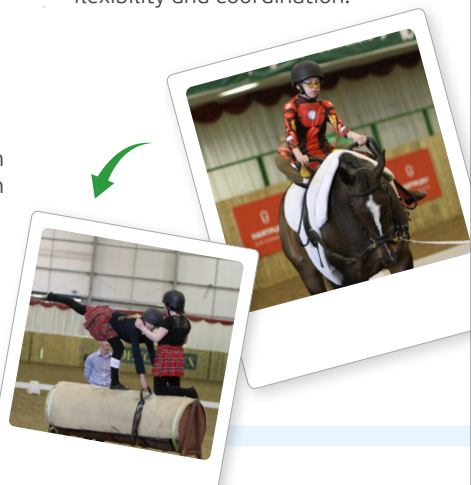
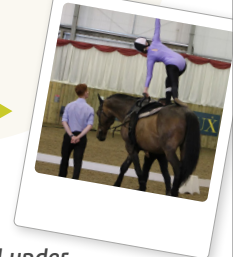
## VAULTING SUPPORTED BY CHILDS FARM

**V**aulting is gymnastics with a moving horse. The aim of vaulting is to improve the vaulters balance, co-ordination and confidence. It is a team sport and as such promotes co-operation and team spirit. The horses are not saddled, they wear a surcingle roller and a thick back pad. The surcingle roller has special handles which aid the vaulter in performing certain moves as well as leather loops.

Teams are made up of 6 vaulters who work with one horse under the control of a lunger. Pairs classes will run with no age restriction in walk and trot. Individuals can ride either on the barrel or horse and will be split into 3 age groups:

- 10 years and under
- 11-16 years
- 17 years and over

Vaulting has significant therapeutic benefits, you can work as a team to achieve a goal which can have a huge impact on self-confidence. Vaulting also has significant physical benefits and is a great discipline for improving balance, stability motor skills, flexibility and coordination.







52° 11' 33.000" N THE SPIRIT OF 1° 53' 26.000" W

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## THE CAN DO COCKTAIL



**RDA**  It's what you **can**  
do that counts

# SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021 START TIMES

Time	Class	Activity
09:00	<i>Welcome and official start to the RDA Virtual National Championships from RDA Chair, Rachel Medill MBE</i>	
09:02	1	Carriage Driving: Novice
09:50	3	Carriage Driving: Open
10:05	4	Dressage: Totally Visually Impaired Walk Only
10:25	5	Dressage: Partially Visually Impaired Walk Only
10:37	7	Dressage: Partially Visually Impaired Walk and Trot
11:10	8	Dressage: Totally Visually Impaired Canter
11:05	9	Dressage: Partially Visually Impaired Canter
11:15	<i>Group Interview</i>	
11:25	35	RDA Endurance Led 1KM
11:30	36	RDA Endurance Led or Unled 2KM
11:32	<i>Shopping Experience</i>	
11:47	23	Countryside Challenge: Led with 1 side walker
12:30	<b>Lunch</b>	
13:15	24	Countryside Challenge: Led or 1 side walker
14:15	27	Countryside Challenge: Independent

Time	Class	Activity
15:08	<i>Interview with presenting partner Oliver Wight EAME LLP with RDA Chief Executive, Ed Bracher</i>	
15:15	13	Dressage: Grade 4
15:45	14	Dressage: Grade 5
16:10	29	Showjumping: Level 2
16:22	30	Showjumping: Level 3
16:33	31	Showjumping: Level 4
16:36	<i>Roll of Honour</i>	
16:50	45	Arts and Crafts: Painting and Drawings
17:00	50	Arts and Crafts: Photographic
17:07	46	Arts and Crafts: Collage Individual
17:15	47	Arts and Crafts: Collage Group
17:17	16	Dressage Grade: 1 - 6 Canter
17:50	18	Dressage: Led Walk and Trot
18:34	20	Dressage: I/D Walk Only
19:34	<i>Closing Remarks from RDA Chief Executive, Ed Bracher</i>	



## SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021 START TIMES

Time	Class	Activity
09:00	<b>Welcome to Day Two of the RDA Virtual National Championships from RDA Chair, Rachel Medill MBE</b>	
09:03	10	Dressage: Grade 1
09:35	11	Dressage: Grade 2
10:00	12	Dressage: Grade 3
10:40	<b>Group Interview</b>	
10:50	25	Countryside Challenge: Visually Impaired Led with 1 side walker
10:55	26	Countryside Challenge: Visually Impaired Led or 1 side walker
11:15	28	Countryside Challenge: Visually Impaired Independent
11:31	<b>Panel Q&amp;A with Childs Farm, The Trefoil Guild and Godolphin</b>	
11:40	48	Arts and Crafts: Sculpture Individual
11:43	51	Arts and Crafts: Special Class
11:47	52	Musical Drill Ride: Led
12:01	53	Musical Drill Ride: Unled
12:07	17	Dressage: Grade I/D Canter

Time	Class	Activity
13:00	<b>Lunch</b>	
13:30	21	Dressage: I/D Walk and Trot
14:31	32	Showing: Led
14:33	33	Showing: Unled Walk and Trot
14:42	34	Showing: Unled Walk, Trot and Canter
15:00	<b>Shopping Experience</b>	
15:15	39	Vaulting: Individual (walk compulsories / walk freestyle)
15:20	41	Vaulting: Individual (canter compulsories / canter freestyle)
15:25	42	Vaulting: Pairs
15:28	44	Vaulting: Barrel, Individual
15:45	15	Dressage: Grade 1 - 6 Walk and Trot
16:56	19	Dressage: Grade 1 - 6 Walk Only
17:50	22	Dressage: Led Walk Only
18:50	<b>Closing Remarks from RDA National Championships Chairman, Anne Coney</b>	



## Versatile Saddle



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We are pleased to be Trade Supporters of the 2021 RDA Virtual National Championships and the entire Versatile Saddle team wishes all participants the best of luck.

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*Oliver Wight*  
OLIVER WIGHT

Imagine the  
**possibilities,**  
realize the  
**potential.**

The entire Oliver Wight  
team wishes the riders  
the best of luck for the  
2021 Virtual National  
Championships.

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