

# **RDA VIRTUAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

*Event Programme 2024*



# A message from the RDA Chair



**RDA CHAIR**  
Helena  
Vega-Lozano

*Dear all*

I am delighted to welcome you to this year's Virtual National Championships which has firmly established itself as a special part of our RDA calendar, offering riders, drivers, and vaulters of all abilities the chance to showcase their talents, from wherever they are. I am excited that this year we have introduced several new entry level classes such as Introduction to Dressage Led with two side walkers and Visually Impaired Countryside Challenge Led with two side walkers making the competition accessible for even more RDA participants.

We are thrilled to have 351 competitors are taking part, from RDA Groups as far afield as Scotland, Devon and even New South Wales, Australia! There is an action-packed schedule featuring dressage, show jumping, carriage driving, performance showing, vaulting, countryside challenge, and the ever-popular

musical ride and drive. Whether you're taking part for the first time or returning for another exciting year, we're so proud of everything you've achieved. This event is a celebration of your hard work, determination, and the joy that horses bring into all of our lives.

Thank you to everyone involved – our riders, volunteers, coaches, and supporters, without which none of this would be able to happen.

Your dedication and passion are what make RDA such a wonderful community and I hope you enjoy every moment of the Championships and feel proud of all you've accomplished.

Here's to an amazing three days ahead and best of luck to all!

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, representing Helena Vega-Lozano.

**HELENA VEGA-LOZANO**  
RDA Chair



# A message from the National Championships Chair



**NATIONAL  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
CHAIR**

Anne Coney

*Dear Competitor,*

Welcome to the 2024 Virtual Championships. I am so pleased that the Virtual Championships have continued to develop over the last three years since they were introduced and gives so many riders, drivers and vaulters the opportunity to compete. I hope you have all enjoyed entering this year and my thanks go to all the judges who have given so much time judging the entries. If you can please do take some time to sit back and enjoy watching the livestream on every day from 3.30pm on Friday 15th, Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th November 2024.

*Anne*

**ANNE CONEY**

National Championships Chair





## HOW TO WATCH

*We will be showing the top three competitors from each section in each class in reverse order during the Virtual event on Friday 15th, Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th November 2024.*

Watch live on our Facebook page [facebook.com/RDANational](https://facebook.com/RDANational) or on our YouTube @RDANational.

To see when classes are taking place, please visit the timetable on pages 20-22.







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## MEET THE TEAM



**NATIONAL  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
CHAIR**

Anne Coney



**NATIONAL  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
EVENT MANAGER**

Fiona Harris



**NATIONAL  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
ADMINISTRATOR**

Katie O'Brien



## WHO'S INVOLVED



## DISCIPLINE LEADS

**Carriage Driving:**

**Countryside Challenge:**

Sue Mack

**Dressage:**

Sarah-Jane Prew

**Musical Ride and Drive:**

Anne Coney

**Performance Showing:**

Ginny Oakley Pope

**Showjumping:**

Bridget Mackwood

**Vaulting:** Lizzie Bennett



*London International Horse Show*

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# CARRIAGE DRIVING



*Supported by JM Finn*

Carriage Driving has been an important part of RDA since 1975 and there are now over 60 groups throughout the UK, giving driving opportunities to over 1000 drivers. It is also 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.

At this year's Virtual Championships, we are offering three classes for Novice, Intermediate and Open competitors who will just drive a dressage test. 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.

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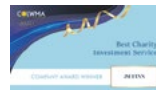
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# COUNTRYSIDE CHALLENGE

*Supported by Leucillin*



With its focus on achievement, progression, confidence and enjoyment, the Countryside Challenge is a development of skills acquired in everyday RDA Sessions.

During the course - which is based on grassroot school movements, Dressage, Showjumping, Endurance and of course FUN - Riders have the opportunity to put their skills to the test in this “Challenging” adventure.

During the course, riders have the opportunity to put their skills to the test through challenging tasks. Steering, balance and confidence are all put to the test whilst encountering sheep, hens and a duck pond!

There is a range of classes from led with two side walkers through to riders riding independently around the course.

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## DRESSAGE

*Supported by Dodson & Horrell*

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Dressage 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.

Dressage plays a huge part of the Virtual National Championships with a variety of classes on offer this year. We have increased the number of led classes this year to include classes with side walkers as well. Grades 1-5 and B1-B5 are being run through Dressage Anywhere which is an exciting partnership that has formed this year.

Participants can ride tests in walk only, walk and trot or walk, trot and canter. 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.





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## MUSICAL RIDE & CARRIAGE DRIVE



The Musical Ride and Carriage Drive classes have been running for a number of years before we started our Virtual Championships. They are a great way for groups to get involved with from a team perspective.

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 using modest fancy dress if they wish too to reflect the drill ride they are demonstrating.

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.

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# PERFORMANCE SHOWING

*Supported by  
Oliver Wight EAME LLP*



**P**erformance Showing has really taken off within RDA and this year at the National Championships saw the biggest number of entries we have ever seen.

Performance Showing is designed to introduce the rider to conducting individual displays plus exposing the newer combinations to the ring teaching manners and discipline. These classes provide vital exposure and act as a stepping stone to dressage.

The class is judged as follows:

- **50%** suitability of horse for rider and harmony shown between the two.
- **40%** on manners and way of going.
- **10%** on cleanliness and turnout of horse and rider.

Conformation is not considered

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

Classes will be judged on turnout: cleanliness and condition of equine and tack, suitability of equine for the rider and job and overall impression.

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 presented, clean and tidy. Saddlery should be suitable for the rider and horse to be comfortable and go correctly.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE](#)





**At Oliver Wight, we believe in achieving a sustainable future, not only for our own organization and our clients, but within the wider community too.**

That's why we have proudly sponsored the RDA for over 14 years and continue to support their mission to enrich lives and change the futures of thousands of people through education, therapy, and fun.

The RDA riders are an inspiration. The entire Oliver Wight team wishes them the best of luck.



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## SHOWJUMPING

*Supported by  
Oliver Wight EAME LLP*

**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.

Showjumping has proved to be a popular discipline within RDA and now has over 140 Groups taking part in level 2 or above and all groups are now able to take part in level 1, it is set to soar in the coming years.

We will be showcasing levels 1, 2, 3 and 4 at the Virtual National Championships this year.

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# VAULTING



*Supported by JM Finn*

Vaulting is best described as gymnastics and dance on horseback. At all times, the aim is for the vaulters to achieve perfect harmony with the horse whilst demonstrating their strength, flexibility, balance and creativity. Vaulting classes are offered for teams of six vaulters, for pairs, and for individuals, with options to perform on the horse or on the barrel. When competing on the horse, the lunger is in control of the horse, and is therefore a crucial part of the team!

Vaulters show as great a variety of moves as possible in their freestyles, which are performed to music. This variety is achieved by working on different parts of the horse, using different types of body position (e.g. kneeling and standing), and facing different directions. Individual vaulters also perform a set routine ("compulsories") before their freestyle.

Vaulting is immensely adaptable and is therefore perfect for people with all kinds of disabilities.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE](#)





CLASS	TIME	EVENT
	15:30	Welcome and official start to the Virtual National Championships from Michael Bishop, CEO
	15:32	Good Luck Messages
43	15:34	Carriage Driving Novice
44	15:49	Carriage Driving Intermediate
45	15:54	Carriage Driving Open
1	16:10	Dressage Visually Impaired Walk Only
2	16:20	Dressage Visually Impaired Walk Only Open
	16:25	Dressage Anywhere Grade 2 Open
29A	16:30	Countryside Challenge Led with 2 side walkers Junior/ Senior
30A	16:54	Countryside Challenge Led with 1 side walker
19A	17:24	Dressage Led Walk Only
19B	18:00	Dressage Led Walk Only Open
20A	18:12	Dressage Led Walk Only with one side walker
61	18:18	Musical Drill Ride Led
63	18:38	Music Drill Drive
	18:48	Dressage Anywhere Grade 1 Open
	19:09	Dressage Anywhere Grade 4
	19:21	Dressage Anywhere Grade 4 Open
	19:27	Dressage Anywhere Freestyle to Music Grade 1

CLASS	TIME	EVENT
	19:41	Dressage Anywhere Freestyle to Music Grade 2
	19:46	Dressage Anywhere Freestyle to Music Grade 4
	19:52	Close of Day: Anne Coney, Chairman of the National Championships







CLASS	TIME	EVENT
	15:30	Welcome and official start to the Virtual National Championships from Michael Bishop, CEO
	15:32	Good Luck Messages
<b>7</b>	15:34	Dressage Grade 6 Walk Only
<b>8</b>	15:49	Dressage Grade 6 Open Walk Only
<b>9</b>	15:54	Dressage Grade 6 Walk & Trot
<b>10</b>	16:24	Dressage Grade 6 Open Walk & Trot
<b>11</b>	16:39	Dressage Grade 6 Canter
<b>12</b>	16:59	Dressage Grade 6 Open Canter
	17:11	Dressage Anywhere B1 Walk Only
	17:14	Dressage Anywhere B1 Walk & Trot
<b>37A</b>	17:22	Showjumping Level 1 Led
<b>38A</b>	17:40	Showjumping Level 1 Unled
<b>40A</b>	17:55	Showjumping Level 2 Unled
<b>41A</b>	18:01	Showjumping Level 3
<b>42A</b>	18:05	Showjumping Level 4
<b>42B</b>	18:06	Showjumping Level 4 Open
<b>31A</b>	18:07	Countryside Challenge Led or 1 Side Walker
<b>31B</b>	18:37	Countryside Challenge Open Led or 1 Side Walker
<b>32A</b>	18:42	Countryside Challenge Independent
<b>32B</b>	19:01	Countryside Challenge Independent Open

CLASS	TIME	EVENT
<b>34A</b>	19:17	Countryside Challenge Visually Impaired Led with 1 Side Walker
<b>35A</b>	19:21	Countryside Challenge Visually Impaired Led or 1 Side Walker
<b>21A</b>	19:25	Dressage Championships Led with two Side Walkers, Walk Only
<b>22A</b>	19:31	Dressage Led Walk & Trot
<b>22B</b>	19:56	Dressage Led Walk & Trot Open
	20:01	Close of Day: Anne Coney, Chairman of the National Championships





CLASS	TIME	EVENT
	15:30	Welcome and official start to the Virtual National Championships from Michael Bishop, CEO
	15:32	Good Luck Messages
<b>13</b>	15:34	Dressage Grade 7 Walk Only
<b>14</b>	16:04	Dressage Grade 7 Open Walk Only
<b>15</b>	16:19	Dressage Grade 7 Walk & Trot
<b>16</b>	16:49	Dressage Grade 7 Open Walk & Trot
<b>17</b>	17:04	Dressage Grade 7 Canter
<b>18</b>	17:16	Dressage Grade 7 Open Canter
<b>50</b>	17:28	Vaulting Individual H1 Walk Freestyle
<b>52</b>	17:36	Vaulting Individual H3 Pre-Novice Canter Compulsories/Walk Freestyle
<b>53</b>	17:40	Vaulting Individual H4 Novice Canter Compulsories/ Canter Freestyle
<b>54</b>	17:42	Vaulting Individual Level B1 Barrel Freestyle Only
<b>55</b>	17:50	Vaulting Individual Level B2 Pre Novice Compulsories / Barrel Freestyle
<b>57</b>	18:02	Vaulting Pairs Walk Freestyle
<b>60</b>	18:06	Vaulting Team Barrel Freestyle
<b>26</b>	18:18	Dressage Freestyle Grade 6 & 7 Walk Only
<b>27</b>	18:23	Dressage Freestyle Grade 6 & 7 Walk & Trot
<b>28</b>	18:28	Dressage Freestyle Grade 6 & 7 Canter

CLASS	TIME	EVENT
<b>46</b>	18:35	Performance Showing Led Walk & Trot
<b>47</b>	18:43	Performance Showing Unled Walk & Trot
<b>48</b>	18:51	Performance Showing Unled Walk, Trot & Canter
	18:55	Close of Day - Anne Coney, Chairman of the National Championships



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