



# NEWSLETTER

## New Pony News

We are very pleased to announce the arrival of our new pony 'Blueberry Ice'. Blue came to NYRDA on a trial and impressed us so much with his kind temperament and good manners that we took the decision to make Blue a permanent member of the NYRDA team.

## Covid-19 Fundraising

Fundraising for all RDA centres has become increasingly important as the restrictions continue. Find out how you can support the charity and ways your donations can be spent.

## Activities @ Home



National RDA have put together a selection of fun activities that our riders and their families can take part in at home. Feel free to share your work with us so that we can display it at the yard.



## Covid-19 Update

Following the recent Government announcements, National RDA has briefed all its groups around the UK to remain closed. Due to the specific nature of the risk to our participants, and the impossible challenge of meeting social distancing requirements in almost all cases, we are continuing to remain closed for now.

We do expect more information in the coming days/weeks about the relaxation of rules around sports and physical activity, and will of course update riders, but the safety of all involved with NYRDA remains a priority at all times.

We have an amazing core team working specifically on preparing our yard for a return to activity as and when the time is right. We know the continued closure of our yard is affecting everyone involved in RDA, not least our participants and their families. We are looking forward to resuming activity as soon as possible - but not before it is safe to do so.

## Covid - 19 Fundraising

Since the closure of the yard in mid March we have been unable to offer any activities to our riders. Thankfully, a core team of unpaid volunteers visit the site daily to care for the horses and keep them in training. In the absence of income from session fees we are grateful for all donations being made to NYRDA to assist with our running costs. Please visit our donating page of our website for more information about our operating costs, which includes a link to our Payal account if you feel able to help.

## Fundraising Enquiries

As most of our fundraising initiatives e.g. Quiz Night and Annual Golf Day may have to be cancelled or rescheduled, we would also appreciate new fundraising ideas to support the future of NYRDA. If you have any suggestions or would like to get involved, please contact our fundraising co-ordinator Adi Hughes ([adrienne.hughes@btinternet.com](mailto:adrienne.hughes@btinternet.com))

## NYRDA 200 Club

Thank you to all those that have continued to support NYRDA through our 200 Club prize draw. Under the rules of the Club, 50% of the ticket sales (less expenses) go into the prize fund and 50% goes directly to New Yatt RDA to pay for horse care, site maintenance and repairs such as our current programme of fieldwork and the barn drainage improvements.

The 4 monthly prizes are £30, £20, £15 and £10 with an extra winner in the Christmas draw. This year, we currently have 75 entrants with 158 tickets sold.

The draw takes place on the third Saturday of each month, and winners will be notified by email or phone. Collection of winnings will be arranged by our organiser, Sally Allum-Smith.

Congratulations to all those that have won prizes through our 200 Club and thank you again for your continued support.



## 'Welcome to Blueberry Ice'

New Yatt RDA was honoured to be "Five Star Events 2019 Co-Charity" with Oxfordshire based Flexicare.



We had specifically requested support to fund the acquisition of a new weight carrying pony and in November we received a most generous cheque for £5,500. This February, we were alerted to a seven year old, 13.2h blue roan Tobiano gelding called Blueberry Ice. Blue was in training with Arden RDA Group, Leicestershire but underused and available to transfer to another Group. In early March, we visited and collected Blue for a 4 week trial period, which was extended due to Covid-19 virus restrictions giving us plenty of time to assess his potential and improve his fitness.

Temperament wise, Blue is very safe, steady and willing to learn. On May 15th, he was successfully vetted to become a New Yatt RDA therapy pony. We very much look forward to introducing him to Monday helper Richard Pineo and his co-fundraisers from Five Star Events, volunteers and riders very soon.

## A big hello from our ponies!

At NYRDA, we are lucky to have a core team of wonderful coaches and volunteers all caring for the ponies and ensuring that the yard is ready to reopen when RDA National criteria can be met. In order to adhere to the strict social distancing guidelines, our daily core team members have been working in pairs yet keeping a safe distance from one another while at the yard.

We have also invested in hand washing and sterilising equipment to ensure all surfaces are routinely cleaned and hands are regularly washed. All our routines have been adapted to meet new requirements.

So during lockdown, all our ponies thought they would get the opportunity to enjoy a lovely rest grazing in the paddocks and soaking up the sunshine, but they were wrong. It's not been an extended holiday, far from it!

Instead, our ponies are benefitting from a well organised training programme led by our county coach, Karen to maintain fitness and develop their paces and balance. Pairs of Core Team riders in these regular training sessions are focusing on a forward walk, active trot, smooth transitions and accurate corners. They have also been practising 20 metre circles, serpentines and figures of 8 while also having fun with pole work.

Furthermore, working with Pro Trainer Wendy they are being lunged, long reined and loose schooled, walked in hand, hogged and trimmed to ensure all round fitness and well being. To compensate for the absence of riders and their much appreciated treats they are having plenty of carrots or apples in their daily buckets.



All our ponies and volunteers are looking forward to welcoming our riders, families, carers and friends back to the yard when restrictions are lifted and it is safe for us to open our doors. Please do keep in touch and we hope to see you soon!



## South Region Competitions

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South Region RDA are currently running a competition that is now open to all South Region RDA participants, volunteers, coaches and group trustees. NYRDA falls under the South Region, so please feel free to enter any of the classes listed below. Deadline for entries is July 1st 2020.

There will be five classes and four age groups.

### **Class 1. Virtual cake bake.**

(A photo of the whole cake and a slice will be needed to enter.  
Sadly no cakes in the post please!)

### **Class 2. A photograph of any subject.**

### **Class 3. A painting or drawing relevant to RDA**

### **Class 4. A story or poem entitled "What I miss about RDA"**

It must be between 5 and 200 words (no more, no less)

### **Class 5. A Picture Quiz**

The answers are all related to horses, stable management and horse riding. Either download and print out the two Quiz Sheets and fill in your answers or complete the separate answer sheets and then email them as detailed on the entry form.



The age categories will be -

- Under 10 years
- 10-15 years
- 15-50 years
- 50 +

Additional information on the classes and the details to enter are available on the South Region website or via the links below.

[SOUTH REGION RDA COMPETITION SCHEDULE 2020](#)

[SOUTH REGION RDA COMPETITION 2020 - ENTRY FORM](#)

[SR QUIZ 2020](#)

[SOUTH REGION RDA COMPETITION QUIZ ANSWER SHEET 2020](#)

Prizes will be awarded for first place in each class and all competitors will receive a rosette for entering. The best entry from each Group will be included in the South Region News. Get creative, have a go and we look forward to receiving your entries.

*Good Luck!*

## RDA Activities @ Home

RDA UK have put together some fun activities to download and print to keep you busy while we are unable to ride during the temporary shut down of all RDA activities. We hope you enjoy them. Please click on the links below to download the worksheets and don't forget to share your amazing work with us at New Yatt RDA (email [nyrda\\_enquiries@googlegroups.com](mailto:nyrda_enquiries@googlegroups.com))

[Colouring In Pony](#)

[Grooming Kit Wordsearch No. 1](#)

[Grooming Kit Wordsearch No. 2](#)

[Grooming Kit Wordsearch No. 3](#)

[Horse Care 1 Worksheet](#)

[Horse Care 2 Worksheet](#)

[RDA Wordsearch](#)

[Writing Acrostic Poem](#)

[Writing My RDA](#)

[Writing RDA Poem](#)



## Stay in touch with NYRDA

There are many ways to keep updated with the news from NYRDA. For general information please visit our website at [www.newyattrda.org.uk](http://www.newyattrda.org.uk) where you will find details of our charity, our ponies, news updates and more.

You can also follow us on our Facebook page.

'Friends of New Yatt RDA' .



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