

EPSOM RDA NEWSLETTER

Summer 2019

Indoor School—planning permission granted

- Enabling works start in Spring/ Summer 2020
- Aim to start main building work in Summer 2021

Since the last Newsletter the Planning Committee of Epsom and Ewell Borough Council have met to consider our planning application to build a new indoor school. The fantastic news is that the Committee have **approved our application**. As we are in a Green Belt area final approval from the Secretary of State for the

Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs was also required.

This has also been granted .

The start of the building work is subject to funding being secured but the aim is to start the main building work in the **Summer 2021** with some enabling works being done in the

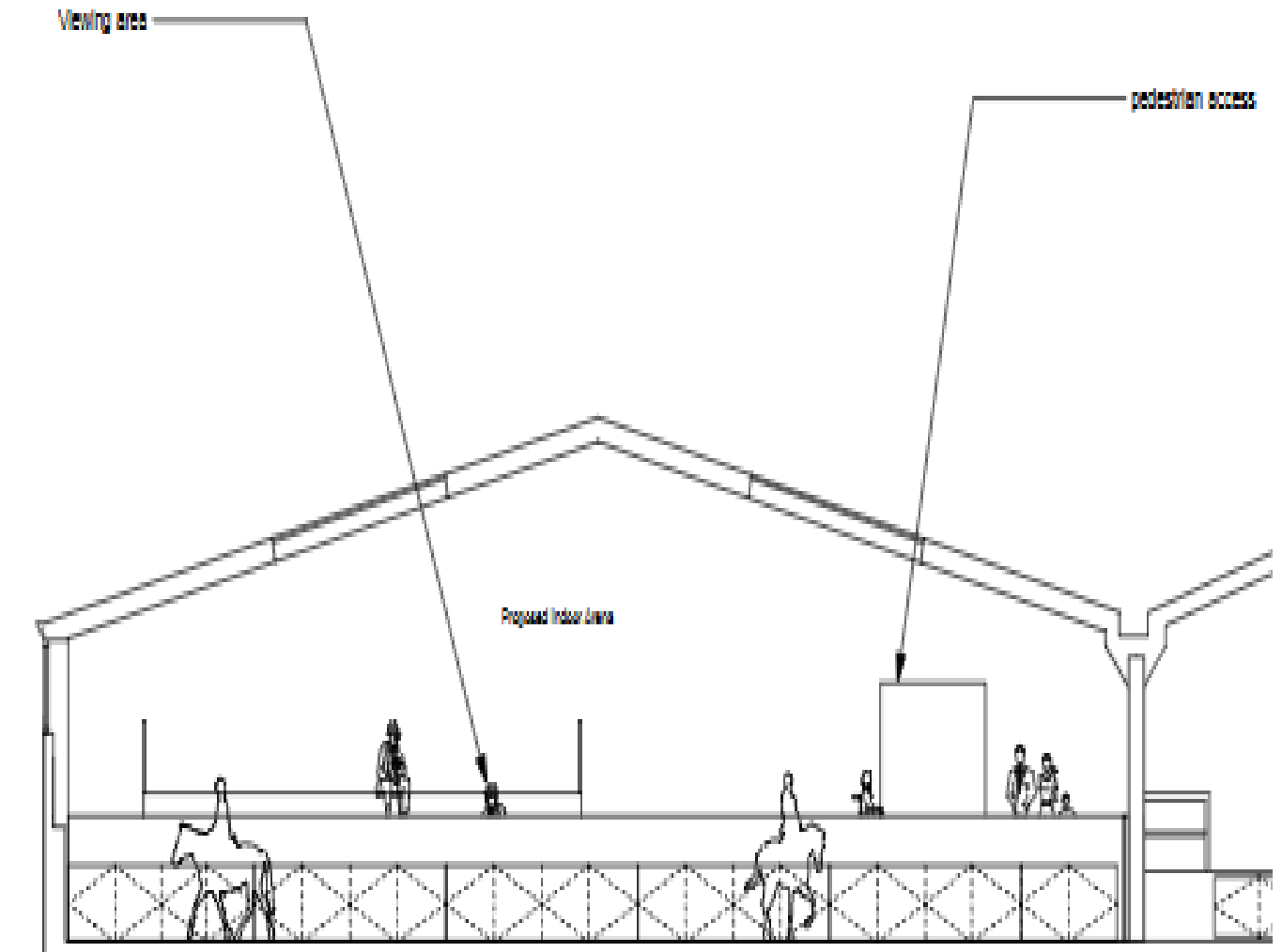
Autumn/Winter next year.

There is a lot of work to be done in the year ahead. The project Working Group will be in contact with you regularly to keep you up to date on the progress and also to let you know what you can do help give our riders a wonderful new facility.

Viewing area

pedestrian access

Proposed Indoor Arena



Planning for the Future

Following the retirement of our Group Chair of many years Stella Milne, the Board of Trustees has a new look. Interim arrangements are set out below:

Chair – Gill McPherson, leading on Group governance and strategic development.

Vice Chair - Ewen McKay, with specific responsibility for local community relationships

Hon Treasurer – Angela Wilson

Hon Secretary – Jane Sanders

Horse & pony Trustee – Jo Lee, working closely with Mo Blackett for day to day welfare of the herd

Property Trustee – Ray Lee. Ray also has lead responsibility for the indoor school project.

The Trustees are continuing to work closely together during this period of transition. As well as making sure the day to day operations continue, the Trustees are putting in place the **Membership of the CIO**, and taking the opportunity to think about the **permanent Board structure** and also look at the **operational roles**

need to help our Group to continue to thrive and grow.

As part of this process the Trustees met on 21 July along with other volunteers in key cross-cutting roles to consider our ambitions for the future, and look at the gaps where new skills or extra resources are needed. To enable the essential business of running Sessions for our disabled riders seven days a week, key areas of work considered include:

- Volunteer recruitment, retention and coordination

- Rider management and development of our services

- Training and development of our volunteers, including coaches

- Financial planning and control, and regulatory compliance

- Risk management including Health and Safety, Safeguarding and Data Protection

- Marketing and events management

- Fundraising

- Facilities maintenance and development, and last but definitely not least...

- Sourcing and managing the welfare of our amazing horses and ponies.

We will keep you informed as the ideas are drawn together into a permanent structure of the Trustee Board, supporting Committees and operational roles. This will include recruiting up to five new Trustees in the autumn, as well as creating lots of other opportunities to be involved across these essential areas of activity. If anyone is interested in becoming more involved in running the Group, please do speak with any of the Trustees or drop us a line at epsomrda@outlook.com.

In the meantime we were delighted with the response to our call for more administrative support, and welcome some new members into key roles:

- **Pat Ashley, and Sarah Jones** from Tuesday session will be working with our team of therapists to manage the **rider waiting list**. **Lydia Fay** is helping with getting them up to speed and picking up handover from **Issy Smith**.

- **Beryl Randall** from Mondays is supporting **fundraising**.

- **Carol Reyes** from Saturday session will support

Kate El Bizanti, our **training committee chair**

- **Sue Robinson** from Thursday session will work with **Eleanor Oldham and Zoe Foster**, our **volunteer coordinators**, to manage our volunteer database and liaise with sessions on their needs, including administering essential processes such as DBS checks.

Dressage Anywhere

This year Epsom RDA took part in the RDA Championships on-line dressage competition—Dressage Anywhere. **A first for the Group.**

Dressage Anywhere enables riders to ride dressage tests at “home” where they are videoed. The videos are uploaded onto the Dressage Anywhere site and marked by **qualified dressage judges**

Between August 2018 and March 2019 RDA riders

from across the country competed monthly to qualify for the sixth RDA Online Dressage Championships. The Online Championship Show took place during May with a **record number of RDA Groups and riders taking part!**

Epsom RDA had an **excellent set of results** in high scoring classes being in the top four in all classes entered—see below.

The rosettes were collect-

ed at the RDA National Championships and will be presented to the riders soon.

We should also mention the ponies who took part They were:

Romeo with Simone

Marigold with Felicity

Moss with Tyriq

Hugo with Jon and Matt (Hugo is based at Tandridge Priory Riding School)

We are currently looking at the 2020 competition calendar for our riders and hope to include a option for taking part in Dressage Anywhere.

2019 Champions

| Placing | Rider | Score | RDA Group |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|--------|------------------|
| Walk Only | | | |
| 1st | Shera | 71.11% | South Bucks RDA |
| 2nd | Tia Truman | 70.28% | Wakefield RDA |
| 3rd | Simone Benzieke | 69.17% | Epsom RDA |
| 4th | Felicity | 68.61% | Epsom RDA |
| 5th | Bryony Moss | 68.06% | South Bucks RDA |
| Intellectual Disability Walk and Trot | | | |
| 1st | Ben | 73.00% | Wilton RDA |
| 2nd | Tyriq Dolphy | 68.50% | Epsom RDA |
| 3rd | Cathy | 66.25% | Mid Cheshire RDA |
| Intellectual Disability Canter | | | |
| 1st | Mary Leigh | 68.95% | Mid Cheshire RDA |
| 2nd | Jon Sullivan | 65.79% | Epsom RDA |
| 3rd | Matthew Sullivan | 62.37% | Epsom RDA |

Epsom Riding for the Disabled Association

St Ebba's Farm
Hook Road
Epsom
Surrey
KT19 8QW
Phone: 01372 743690

www.epsomrda.btck.co.uk



Prickly Planting

In the Spring Epsom RDA welcomed a group from one of our local churches, **All Saints West Ewell** who spent their Sunday afternoon planting a selection of hawthorn and holly “whips” around our boundaries.

When it is fully grown the hedgerow will provide a natural form of shelter for our ponies. The prickly hedge will also help strengthen the security of the boundaries

The plants were purchased thanks to a generous donation from **Toyota GB** based in Burgh Heath.



50th Birthday Tea Party—Date for the Diary

To mark the 50th Birthday of Epsom RDA and celebrate our Groups' past, present and future we are hosting a **Tea Party** for all our volunteers, riders and their families/carers on

**Sunday 15 September
from 3pm to 6pm.**

A marquee is going to be set up in the yard with live music, and as it's Epsom RDA, lots of cakes! **Entry will be free.**

To register for your Free Ticket please go to the [Facebook Event](#) or order them directly on line at [Eventbrite](#)

