

Patron: Nicola Wilson, Team GB Olympic Medallist

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To: Users of the Unicorn Centre

16<sup>th</sup> April, 2016

Dear Rider, Parent and Carer,

**THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNICORN CENTRE**

The Unicorn Centre has been running for 18 years and we are known in the RDA as an innovative and forward thinking organisation. We intend to continue with that ethos, so the Trustees and our Manager, Claire Pitt have created an exciting and ambitious 10 year development plan that includes extending the arenas, stables, offices and grandstand area. This will all take a lot of money, so it will be done piece meal as and when we can find the funding.

We can make a start on the development plan by finding the funding for our "Riding High" project to purchase a Racewood Dressage Simulator. This will cost around £65,000. It will provide our riders with a new, innovative but proven method of developing their riding skills, and prolong riding for our riders who are find horse riding difficult due to increased weight or joint and muscle stiffness.

The simulator teaches the rider changes of pace in a safe environment and sensors display imbalances in the rider's body on the viewing screen. It will help riders learn dressage tests and can be used to help the rider correct their position without having to worry about steering and making a real horse move forward. It will allow new riders gain experience of a horse's movement before riding one of our ponies and help those with weight and/or positional problems caused by their age to continue riding. The simulator can also "stand in" when a rider's pony is ill or needs a rest. I'm sure as time goes on we'll come up with many more ideas where it can assist our ponies and riders to enjoy horse riding.

To help source the funding to buy the simulator we need your help. Could you spare a few minutes give us your comments and suggestions regarding the Racewood Dressage Simulator and tell us if you think you or your rider would benefit from the "Riding High" project and how. We would also like to start a list of names of riders wanting to benefit from the "Riding High" project. You can drop your comments and name into the office, or email us on [enquiries@rdaunicorncentre.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@rdaunicorncentre.co.uk). You may view information about the Simulator at: <http://www.racewood.com/dressage.php>

Thank you for reading this letter and completing the comments section. Your ongoing support is really appreciated.

JUDY PRESTON (RDAI) Trustee

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Comments:

Rider's name to be placed on the waiting list:

