

Kyre Group Riding for the Disabled Association incorporating Carriage Driving. (Charity No.1173097)



50th AGM REPORT – JULY 2024

Chairman's Report – Andrew Brazier, Chairperson

Another year, another party! It is an honour to be your chairperson at such an auspicious point in the group's history and I hope you all feel that our celebrations have been measured, appropriate and worthwhile to mark our 50th anniversary. It is a pity that we couldn't welcome The Princess Royal, our President, to the celebrations but if it was an outside possibility before, her recent accident means any remaining chance has dwindled away. As the hardest working Royal after The King and Queen, I am sure there must be a lot of re-shuffling going on in the background to re-schedule commitments later into this year and next.

Whilst the summer break is upon us for riding, I hope that with our newly accredited pony and carriage there will be the chance to do some practice driving through the height of summer and truly get back to the level of driving we knew many years ago. It feels as if it has been a long road and our thanks must go to Helen Munro for leading on this, the help and generosity of Jackie Forrester when we owned Jack, and the ongoing support and commitment from Carolyn Kent to bringing on Blod as a driving steed for the future, and hosting driving from her house.

I was just reminding myself of what I had written in previous AGM reports and noted that we have been trying to say goodbye to Hilary Herdman as treasurer since the 2022! The time has finally come, and Hilary will stand down at the AGM meeting, to be replaced by Jane Robinson in the role of Treasurer and Trustee. Hilary has tackled the roll with aplomb over the years and the group has definitely benefited from her legal skills, and I suspect, some of her husband Geoffrey's accounting prowess! I'm sure you will all join me in offering our grateful thanks to her. Jane also comes with a wealth of business acumen and I shall ask her to just give us the briefest of insights into this at the AGM. The role of Secretary to the group is vacant for anyone who feels they would like to make a contribution in that direction. Lizzie Lloyd, who took on this role is also standing down as a trustee and we thank her for her help in this role and as a trustee. Helen Munro has confirmed that due to personal circumstances she wishes to stand back from her role as trustee as well but will continue as driving coach and organiser. Helen has been a very active trustee, always full of good ideas and having shown true commitment for which we are all very grateful.

As is our normal practice, and required under our constitution, three trustees must seek re-election on rotating basis. With Hilary, Helen Munro and Lizzie stepping down, there is no need to ask any other trustees to stand down but having approached Louise prior to Lizzie and Helen

resigning as trustees she had already confirmed her willingness to remain a trustee for the foreseeable future.

Carolyn Kent will again host us for the AGM at Middle Harthall Farm, for which we are very grateful. There will be lots of 50th Anniversary cake left over from the party to be consumed!

Time for me to hand over to our other contributors.

KYRE GROUP RDA

AGM 2024

Riding Coaches Report – Jackie Forrester – Riding Coach

For the period July 2023 (previous AGM) to July 2024 (this AGM)

Riding sessions recommenced in September following the summer break.

Riders

During the period we have provided riding for:

School	Total riders	Leavers	New riders	Current riders
Clifton Primary	3	1	1	2
Tenbury Primary	8	3	4	5
Rowden House	3	0	0	3
Tenbury High	5	2	5	3
Burford Primary	3	0	3	3
Individual	1	1	0	0
Total	23	7	13	16

Total number of riding sessions provided **55** (usually 2 sessions on each day)

Horses

Tikka continues to be very steady but willing and loved by the taller children. Kira is now being ridden by a variety of our riders who all enjoy her responsiveness. We have a new pony to use, belonging to Grafton. Madge is about 13.2 and quite stocky so an extremely useful size. She is proving to be popular with the riders.

Coaching

Jackie and Mandi have shared the coaching, with Mandi teaching the lions share. Jackie continues to manage volunteers and allocate ponies to riders. Both attended the Coaching Conference, Volunteer Training Sessions at The National Training Centre and have visited other groups to observe and gain experience as well as attending various online webinars.

Volunteers

In addition to the coaches, we have a group of seventeen very keen and enthusiastic helpers. There are now eight Trained First Aiders. We have gained six new helpers this year but have sadly lost Neville, Annette, Trevor and Fenella who are no longer able to give their time. The Riding Organiser (Carolyn) role continues to work well, ensuring a smooth communication system with the schools/riders as well as an efficient yard.

Training/Interest Days

We organised group training in September and January, a Demonstration by Debbie Boston on Natural Horsemanship using RDA horses and a demonstration by Debbie Boston using her own horse. Several volunteers have taken the opportunity to attend training sessions at The National Training Centre which have been excellent.

As part of our celebrations for the group's 50th Anniversary we held a Party with a Pony, where ponies were painted by the children followed by refreshments. It was a great success. It was attended by Doug Smith, Equine Lead for RDA and two coaches from the National Training Centre.

Equipment

We have purchased several pieces of equipment this. Made possible by kind donations.

- Arena mirror
- Replacement disabled portaloo
- 10 jump poles
- Wall rack for poles
- 8 coloured cones
- Head collars and lead ropes
- Saddle racks for tacking up/untacking
- Some new riding hats

We will be purchasing a second cupboard for equipment storage at Grafton.

CARRIAGE DRIVING REPORT JULY 2024

Helen Munro - Carriage Driving Organiser

We have continued to work as a small team progressing with Blodyn's (Blod's) training and driving experience as our RDA equine in training.

We introduced our Bennington Funbug during the summer months to assess how she would manage with a heavier, four-wheel vehicle. As with everything we have asked her to do, she dealt with this in a calm and sensible way. We continued with specific RDA training including dual reins & desensitising her to the noise of ramps and clamps. We were also joined by our RDA helpers who were happy to take the reins and practice their driving skills. Being able to adapt to different voices and experience levels of drivers is all valuable training for Blod.

RDA Vehicle: We received the very generous offer from John Hillam (Hillam Carriages) in May 2023 to build us a prototype Twingo carriage for our RDA purposes. Discussions continued throughout the year as the project progressed, our RDA regional contacts were also kept up to date. The Twingo was completed in November 2023 and thanks to Andrew & Anna who collected this for us from Yorkshire in January.

Coaches: More recently our RDA coach responsibilities have been shared to allow Jackie, (as our trainee driving coach), gain more hands-on experience with Blod and be involved with the road testing of the Twingo during its early stages. Sarah Wildy our RDA regional rep. visited in April to review our progress with the Twingo and run a 121-training session with Jackie. Based on feedback from this visit we felt confident to work towards an assessment date.

Assessment: A series of helper training days were arranged in May / June, including two successful simulation drives on the new route with three driver changeovers. During our training for wheelchair loading, we highlighted the need for some adaptations to our equipment which should improve the process for us. If these changes are successful, it should allow us to offer wheelchair driving longer term. It was agreed within the team to work towards our assessment with ambulant drivers only for this season as this was felt to be more achievable.

Our RDA assessment was completed on 1st July. Two RDA assessors attended and they reviewed: Blodyn, the Twingo, the new venue / route, Jackie as an RDA coach and Helen's three-year review. The feedback from the assessment was very positive and we were delighted to report that we successfully passed on all counts.

Future plans: During the summer we'll aim to make the necessary changes to our equipment for wheelchair loading & build on Blod's experience when working with ramps & clamps while out on our driving route. We have two RDA approved coaches ready work with our new turnout & Anna will be able to build on her hands on experience with the new setup and work towards her three-year RDA coach review.

We would like to express our thanks to Carolyn & Derek for their continued help & support with the carriage driving group; allowing us to work from their home each week with Blodyn and for storing our huge range of kit onsite. And to Jackie & Mike who continue to store our spare kit.

I would like to thank everyone who has shared their time, patience and sense of humour with us over the past two years (in all weather conditions), we couldn't have done this without you. Of course, Blodyn is the STAR! Such a willing pony and she has made the whole end to end process very straightforward for us.

We look forward to welcoming our drivers back for carriage driving in our beautiful countryside and establishing a regular routine again.

KYRE GROUP RDA

AGM 2024

Financial Report

For the period April 2023 to March 2024

Accounts for the period are set out below and are self-explanatory. It was a good year for donations and hopefully more to come in this current year. Jane will take over and deliver the next report and accounts for the period ending March 2025.

KYRE GROUP RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION CHARITY NUMBER 1173097
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

RECEIPTS		Year to 31/03/24		Year to 31/03/2023	
Donations:	Burford Trust	1,500.00		1,500.00	
	Leominster Freemasons	0.00		400.00	
	Godson Charity	250.00		250.00	
	Tenbury Freemasons	500.00		300.00	
	Funeral Collection (Wendy)	0.00		246.00	
	Sir Peter O'Sullivan Trust	0.00		10,000.00	
	Goodenough Charity	1,000.00	3,250.00	1,000.00	13,696.00
Collection Boxes:			23.55		67.29
HMRC Gift Aid claim			0.00		174.52
Riders' Payments:			552.00		624.00
Driving money			0.00		0.00
Harness sale			0.00		70.00
Fund Raising:	Christmas Cards	0.00		161.70	
	Tenbury Show	74.00		80.00	
	Collection Tins	0.00	74.00	49.44	291.14
Sale of Jack			0.00		3,100.00
Investment Income:			1,497.94		1,406.12
Deposit account interest			358.19		0.00
Sundry Income			0.00		10.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS			5,755.68		19,439.07

PAYMENTS					
Driving:	Expenses:				
	Grafton Farm; Jack	0.00		310.00	
Mrs Munro:	Travel	0.00		36.00	
	Driving harness	22.00		0.00	
	Saddle Pad	31.49		0.00	
	Tarpaulin	14.04		0.00	
	Shafts & lugs for cart	240.00		0.00	
	Debbie Boston	90.00		0.00	
	Gift for David	25.00	422.53	0.00	
Carolyn Kent:	Flywash & Tazer	60.00		0.00	
	Misc	10.00		0.00	
	Vet's Bill	72.60		111.37	
	Expenses	219.00	361.60	0.00	
Electric Bike			750.00	0.00	
Andrew Brazier:	Mileage	177.99		0.00	
	Wheel clamp	39.04	217.03	0.00	
Farrier			756.00	179.00	
Insurance			180.00	180.00	816.37
Riding & General:					
	Clare Thomas (Dentistry)	0.00		180.00	
Grafton Farm	Autumn Term	0.00		658.89	
	Spring Term	1,966.29		983.63	
	Summer Term	0.00	1,966.29	722.48	
Mrs Munro;	Polo shirts	7.50		55.14	
	Purchase of cards	0.00		126.50	
	Tack	0.00		95.00	
	Mileage	30.00			
	Wine (Mandi)	14.00			
	Debbie for demo.	75.00	126.50		
Mandi Boardman:	Conference expenses	128.40			
	Puppets	27.00	155.40		
Louise Painter:	Hall hire fee		25.00		
Mrs Winer:	Purchases	95.94			
	Lucky dip prizes	44.67	140.61	65.25	
Jane Robinson:	Fabric		32.00		
	D Yates; waterproof covers; flowers.		0.00	247.00	
	D Yates: Lead ropes, etc		0.00	36.20	
	Mrs Forrester: Hats and padlocks		0.00	184.58	
	Crescent Silver (cup)			43.80	
Andrew Brazier:	Mirror	510.00			
Mortimer Equine Vets		938.91		138.24	
RDA Insurance		280.00		280.00	
First Aid		180.00		112.50	
Mrs Painter: Flowers for volunteers		0.00		85.00	
Purchase of stirrups, irons and Dapps		207.65		47.10	
Ludlow Group:	1/2 Gift Aid recovered	0.00		87.26	
DBS Certificates		117.20	4,679.56	37.80	4,186.37

Total Expenses:			7,366.72		5,002.74
Opening balance 1 April			27,970.53		13,534.20
Plus: Receipts			5,755.68		19,439.07
			33,726.21		32,973.27
Less: Payments			7,366.72		5,002.74
Closing balance			£26,359.49		£27,970.53
Balance per bank, 31 March	6,001.30				27,885.83
Less: unrepresented cheques	0.00				101.30
Tenbury Academy Riding Fees due	0.00	6,001.30			186.00
Deposit Account			20,358.19		0.00
			£26,359.49		£27,970.53

Also held:					
23,520.56 units Royal London Sterling Extra Yield Bond @ cost			£25,000.00		£25,000.00
Value at 31 March 2024 (Based on 2 April 2024 price).	92.91P		£21,852.95		£21,121.46