



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 September 2024  
To 31 August 2025

Period start date  
Period end date

Charity name: Wilby Riding for the Disabled incorporating Carriage Driving  
working name Venture RDA

Charity registration number: 1173610

## Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	Venture RDA is set up to work across the spectrum of disabilities, age range, social status and rural and urban environments. The focus of the work is to ensure that each individual has the chance to derive therapeutic benefit and opportunity to achieve personal goal.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Venture RDA offers regular riding sessions for children with a variety of needs. The sessions in corporate activities that encompass the following skill sets; pony care, riding skills, physical development, cognitive support, speech and language skills, self esteem and confidence and relationship building. These skills show the children empathy and care through looking after the ponies. They allow children to try new things whilst building physical and inner strength. The focus on the child as an individual gives them a voice, a voice that can be heard. The families meet like minded others, who face the same day to day difficulties which gives them a network and subsequent strength as well. Venture RDA offers skills to the children and families that can open new doors when at times the families and children may feel many are closing.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the	Para 1.18	Trustees have ensured that guidance is read and understood.

Charity Commission on public benefit		
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### Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p><b>A Year of Growth and Achievement</b></p> <p>September 2024 to August 2025 has been an exciting and transformative year for Venture RDA, marked by significant milestones, increased engagement, and a renewed commitment to delivering positive outcomes for our community.</p> <p><b>Official Launch of the Mechanical Horse</b></p> <p>In March, we celebrated the official opening of our new mechanical horse, a milestone event that highlights our ongoing dedication to innovation in therapeutic riding. The occasion was made even more special by the presence of our new patron, Piggy March, who graciously led the ceremony. The launch drew together the entire Venture RDA community, including our team, trustees, volunteers, participants, and supporters, underscoring the collective effort that drives our success.</p> <p><b>Riding Sessions and Participation: By the Numbers</b></p> <p>This year, Venture RDA delivered a total of 934 riding sessions, benefitting 136 children. This represents a notable increase from the previous year—an additional 184 sessions and 30 more participants. This growth reflects not only the increasing demand for our services</p>

		<p>but also our capacity to meet the needs of more children, expanding the reach and impact of our programmes.</p> <p><b>Progress Towards Our Core Outcomes</b></p> <p>At the heart of Venture RDA's mission are our three most important outcomes, which continue to guide our activities and strategic direction:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Enhancing Physical Wellbeing:</b> Our riding sessions and therapeutic activities are designed to support the physical development of our participants, improving balance, coordination, and strength.</li> <li>2. <b>Promoting Emotional and Social Development:</b> Through riding and the supportive environment we foster, children develop confidence, resilience, and meaningful connections with peers, volunteers, and horses.</li> <li>3. <b>Fostering Inclusion and Opportunity:</b> We are committed to ensuring that children of all abilities have access to high-quality equestrian experiences, breaking down barriers and enabling everyone to thrive.</li> </ol> <p>We are immensely proud of what we have achieved together over the past year and remain dedicated to building on this momentum in the months ahead. Thank you to everyone who has contributed their time, energy, and support to Venture RDA's ongoing journey.</p>
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## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>Income from riding has almost doubled from circa £4.5k pa in 23/24 to £8.4k in 24/25, reflecting the continued growth in service provision, as discussed above.</p> <p>The Charity also continued to fund-raise in order to complete the Mechanical Horse project this year, raising additional funds of almost £40k. This meant that we were able to expand service delivery even further from March 2025, when the mechanical horse was officially launched.</p> <p>As a result of the expansion, our cost base has also increased. This will further increase next year too, as livery costs are expected to rise significantly in 25/26.</p>
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		<p>We estimate that ongoing costs are likely to amount to approx. £42k pa going forwards. Excluding the “non cash” depreciation cost on the mechanical horse – this still amounts to £32k pa in cash terms – and puts additional pressure on our free reserves.</p> <p>As indicated below, whilst total reserves amounted to just over £129k by the end of August 2025, the majority of this is “tied up” in fixed assets (the mechanical horse) and our free reserves are currently only just sufficient to ensure continuity of ongoing “cash” running costs for around 11 months, should further funding not be forthcoming.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<p>The Charity has a target to hold Free Reserves to ensure that it ideally has the capacity to run for a minimum of 12 months, should funding be reduced / ceased.</p> <p>As noted above, the current level of reserves would ensure continuity of “cash” running costs for approx. 11 months, based on budgeted ongoing costs for 2025-26.</p> <p>The Trustees are actively fundraising to help ensure that the level of reserves is maintained.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	<p>£129,347 in total</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Free Reserves – £30,049</b> which covers approx 11 months of future ongoing cash running costs</li> <li>• Designated funds – £96,298 held as fixed assets (mechanical horse and building)</li> <li>• Designated funds – £3,000 ring-fenced for the potential replacement of ponies</li> </ul>
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity' s trusts:		
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Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	The RDA family is a federation of member groups which are governed by a Membership Agreement with RDA UK and a standard group constitution.
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Prospective trustees apply and are notified of a decision within 21 days. All applicants are given fair consideration. Posts are decided collectively with nominations from trustee group members, first and seconded.

## Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Wilby Riding for the Disabled Incorporating Carriage Driving
Other name the charity uses	Venture RDA
Registered charity number	1173610
Charity's principal address	77 The Ashway Brixworth NN6 9UZ

## Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Karen Mackaness	President		
2	Kevin Hives	Vice Chair		
3	Wendy Spillane	Pony welfare		
4	Karen Vessey	Compliance		
5	Sarah Hedgecock	Treasurer		
6	JD Hives	Secretary, Safeguarding and Risk Assessments		
7	Claire Stuart	Chair		
8	Krassy Bell	Fund Raising		
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				



## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity' s objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity' s own assets	

## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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## Other optional information


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## Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
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Full name(s)

Claire Stuart	
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Position (eg  
Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair	
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Date

2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026
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**Wilby Riding for the Disabled Association**  
**Charity Number 1173610**  
**Income & Expenditure for the 12 months to 31 Aug 25**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Income from riding	8,412	4,492
Grant income	34,500	68,000
Fundraising	6,337	11,078
Sale of Horses	3,000	
Interest Received	1,274	2,556
Other income		-
	<b>53,523</b>	<b>86,126</b>
<b>less Cost of Charitable Activities</b>		
Livery fees	26,702	19,959
Pony lease		-
Grant refund		-
Vet and Farrier fees	2,336	1,339
Repairs, maintenance and renovations	290	617
Riding equipment	1,668	492
Horses	3,000	-
Insurance	1,911	1,394
Training	-	907
Legal & Professional		244
Depreciation	-	
Other costs	944	260
	<b>36,851</b>	<b>25,212</b>
<b>Net surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>16,672</b>	<b>60,915</b>
	- 1	-
Reserves bfwd	112,675	51,760
<b>Reserves cfwd</b>	<b>129,347</b>	<b>112,675</b>

**Charity Number 1173610**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 Aug 2025**

	£ 31-Aug 2025	£ 31-Aug 2024
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Assets under Construction to 31 Aug 24		60,628
Assets in Use	96,298	
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Trade Debtors	200	
Prepayments		
Bank Account: Business Current Account	21,163	43,815
Bank Account: CCLA COIF Charities Deposit Fund	11,686	51,412
		-
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		-
Trade Creditors		(43,180)
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>129,347</b>	<b>112,675</b>

**Reserves**

Free Unrestricted funds	30,049	14,047
Designated funds - assets in use	96,298	-
Designated funds - assets under construction to date		60,628
Designated funds - mechanical horse to completion		35,000
Designated funds - replacing ponies	3,000	3,000
Restricted funds - equipment for riding		
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>129,347</b>	<b>112,675</b>

Signed on behalf of the Trustees by:

Date:

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Wilby Riding for the Disabled  
incorporating Carriage Driving, working name Venture RDA, charity number 1173610**

*I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of:*

*Wilby Riding for the Disabled incorporating Carriage Driving, working name Venture RDA,  
charity number 1173610, (the Charity) for the year ended 31 August 2025.*

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

*As the trustees of the Charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in  
accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').*

*I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145  
of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable  
Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.*

**Independent examiner's statement**

*I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my  
attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material  
respect:*

- 1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130  
of the Act; or*
- 2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or*
- 3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form  
and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations  
2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is  
not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.*

*I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the  
examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper  
understanding of the accounts to be reached.*

**Signed:** *Zoe J Garrell*

**Name:** *ZOE JANE GARRELL*

**Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any):** *BSc  
FCA (retired)*

**Address:** *31 LATTIMORE CLOSE  
WEST HADDON  
NORTHANTS NN6 7GL*

**Date:** *30<sup>th</sup> November 2025*