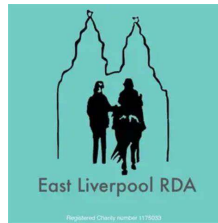


Charity Number 1175033



EAST LIVERPOOL RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024



EAST LIVERPOOL RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

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Trustees

Natalie Burns
Pauline Edge
Carole Burns
Freddy Carpen-Jukes
Mary Angela Heatherington
Jane Alison Owens
Helen Turner

Chairperson

Natalie Burns

Vice Chairperson

Pauline Edge

Treasurer

Carole Burns

Secretary

Helen Turner

All Trustees held position throughout the year unless otherwise noted.

Charity number

1175033

Activity Address

Woodhouse Stables
School Lane
Rainhill
L35 6NW

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TRUSTEES REPORT

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the Charity for the period ending 31 March 2024.

Chairperson's introduction

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the Annual Report for the year which sets out, for all our volunteers, supporters, funders and members of the general public our continued achievements and growth in the past 12 months.

With an insight into our future and development.

Introduction

The achievements of this Charity have continued to be phenomenal; this charity has adapted and grown to meet the demand of the community, continuing to grow as a key asset in the community.

East Liverpool RDA continues to deliver the message **IT'S WHAT YOU CAN DO THAT COUNTS**.

East Liverpool Riding for the Disabled is a Merseyside based Charity that works within the local community to provide various therapy, contact and learning opportunities through horses for children and adults with a huge variety of disabilities and health concerns across the Merseyside area.

This Charity is a truly voluntary organisation. We are led by volunteers and funded by kind-hearted people who make donations, provide funding and grants. All of our work is only capable due to the community support and effort of our participants.

East Liverpool RDA brings together individuals, carers and families from all different backgrounds and allows them to escape the struggles and hardships they have to face in daily life. Our sessions give our riders and participants social and interactive skills but most importantly it brings enjoyment and fulfilment to their lives.

Sessions give carers and families the chance to take respite of the demands their role of caring for a person living with disability can bring.

We are self-contained within a sole use property adapted to our needs.

Aims and Purpose

To provide the opportunity for disabled children and adults to benefit from the positive experience of horse riding, therapy, horse contact, care and stable management.

Our priority is to improve lives, promote wellbeing and enhance the health of those in our area who would most benefit from what we are able to offer.

Objectives and Activities

Sessions are provided for participants from across Merseyside. The therapeutic benefits of being around horses, to not only ride but also to be in contact with horses is tremendous. The benefits of horse riding are immense enjoyment, mental fitness, and stimulation in the outside fresh air.

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There are significantly more physical benefits in terms of enhancing balance, developing core strength, co-ordination, reflex acceleration, etc.

The emotional experience of bonding with the horse or pony and often immeasurable improvements in terms of patience, self-discipline, self-confidence, self-esteem and self-worth.

We are set up in an area of significant deprivation within Merseyside and reach participants with a huge range of disabilities; physical, mental, emotional, and learning. We engage those of all ages and abilities from a variety of backgrounds. We utilise an inclusivity programme that we established to ensure that participants can access our service without prejudice. As such this programme enables sessions to be subsidised, should they face a barrier. This ensures the community benefit derived from our service.

Adults and children (who may spend a lot of their time struggling) can learn to ride and for those with problems with mobility the horse or pony enables them to be an equal in speed, grace and agility in the arena.

Whatever the activity our participants engage in, that be riding, care tasks, quiet corner, or contact sessions, the feedback is captured by questionnaires and by engaging in conversation with carers and parents. The feedback to date reflects our efforts to expand and is showing that we are a valued and welcomed asset to the community.

We aim to enhance self-belief, self-worth and confidence. Being around horses provides a multi-sensory experience. Simply stroking horses, hearing and using motor skills to partake in activity or care tasks is hugely beneficial and rewarding to our participants.



Volunteers

We would like to thank our group of extremely dedicated volunteers, without who, we would not be able to operate as we do.

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Our volunteers have stood by the Charity's aims, objectives and beliefs and turn up in all weathers so that the Charity continues to enrich its Participants' lives whatever their disability, background or age.

The volunteers' dedication and commitment to the Charity is admirable and the Board wishes to thank them all for their effort and commitment.

The Board are committed to ensuring the recruitment of volunteers from a diverse area within our community and a group of volunteers on the Board that reflects the needs of the Participants.

The Board are focused on ensuring that the Volunteers and Trustees are adequately trained and constantly reviewing the practise and need to adapt as required to current changes.

The training programme for volunteers is established and updated regularly in conjunction with volunteer feedback and participant views. Volunteers have access to all procedures and policies and access to dedicated trustees for Safeguarding.



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Structure, Governance and Management

East Liverpool RDA was established in 2017 registered with the Charities Commission of England and Wales and we adopted the Articles of Management recommended by RDA National Office at our inaugural meeting on 1st July.

We immediately took the necessary steps to register at Charities Commission our Registered Charity no. is: 1175033.

Accounts are submitted annually to the Charities Commission.

East Liverpool RDA Group is a Member Group of the Riding for the Disabled Association. The RDA National is registered as a Charitable Company Limited (no:5010395) by Guarantee governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association and registered charity number 244108.

The Charity is constituted and run by the Trustees, although matters will generally be settled by consensus, they are the only members to have voting rights. Additional Full Members (with voting rights) need to be proposed and seconded by existing members and approved by the Committee at a scheduled meeting. In pursuing a desirable expansion of voting membership it must be borne in mind that a quorum at a General Meeting requires 35% of members to attend.

Although various responsibilities are delegated to individual members of the Committee, every effort will be made to keep the Committee informed of any significant developments. The Secretary will maintain a list of voting members and details of the allocation of specific responsibilities.

Meetings will be held at least four times a year with a minimum of four weeks' notice and an agenda circulated no fewer than ten days beforehand. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer should feel empowered (in consultation with each other) to take any necessary decisions between scheduled meetings.

This charity operates independently of any single Equestrian Centre or Riding School.

The Board of Trustees maintains and reviews a skill audit to ensure that the Group has the appropriate skill set, experience and support in delivering the Group's aims and objectives and its legal obligations.

The Charity's board of trustees is developed in a way that allows a clear line of communication depending on role and concern. Each trustee is appointed to ensure that each role within the Charity was fairly represented. As such we appointed trustees into the following roles: we have 2 safeguarding officers. These roles are given in addition to each board member's role. The aim of this allocated role is set out in a role specification given to each member, this is to ensure clear communication, order, and best practise. All trustees have access to policies, procedures and legal advice as required.

The legal responsibility for the direction and administration of the Charity rests with the elected Trustees. The Trustees are required to submit themselves for re-election at the Annual General Meeting which is held in accordance with the Charity's Constitution.

All trustees, staff and volunteers are encouraged to undertake additional training as their roles and interests require.

The Board of Trustees are committed to investing in the Group's volunteers and professional member of staff to make sure that the support required is in place to support Participants with a professional and consistent high quality experience.

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Achievements and Performance

We presently cater for participants with a wide range of physical and mental disabilities such as autism and cerebral palsy, blindness, participants with deafness, heart-hand syndromes, learning disabilities, developmental delay, Down's syndrome, Pradar-Willi syndrome, hydrocephalus, Microcephaly, Kawasaki disease, spina bifida, as well as several others. The charity has identified and working to tailor more sessions to the ever-changing demand for the services we run. The scope for mental health sessions has become significantly more and we are making big moves to facilitate the variety of sessions needed.

Our current sessions include –

Riding sessions delivered by experienced qualified and RDA approved sessions

Horse personship- building relationships on the ground with the horses and carry out stable skills whilst achieving grades on an educational pathway via RDA and ABRS.

Tea with a pony- to enable us to facilitate participants with dementia and living in care facilities

We offer a variety of sessions for participants to support mental health, young carers, victims of crime and those at risk of becoming involved. Our volunteering plays a huge part in the structure of these session and the skills learnt really helps bolster experiences to move people forwards in their lives.

With the exception of East Liverpool RDA, there are very few opportunities in the area for adults and children with disabilities to learn to ride within a supportive, RDA-approved environment, taught by RDA qualified coaches.

This year we have made our biggest growth achievement to date. We have made a huge effort to raise the vital funds to replace and upgrade our amazing arena. With huge thanks to Ride Safe fort heir amazing construction of our arena. We now have a beautiful setting in our idilic little yard to host our amazing achievements. The arena has been a coming together of many funders and grant making bodies to make this project a huge success.

BEFORE:
PICTURES OF OLD ARENA AND DAMAGED FENCING



AFTER:
ARENA TRANSFORMED WITH A FANTASTIC UPGRADE

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Policy on Reserves

The Charity's policy on reserves is to generate and maintain a balance which is sufficient: a) to preserve the financial viability of the Charity in the event that unforeseen and/or unavoidable circumstance precipitate a short-term fall in its income; b) to enable the Charity, in the interests of meeting its objectives, to undertake from time to time the setting up of new and innovative projects on a pilot basis to demonstrate the viability and potential benefits of such activities as a precursor to securing the external funding necessary to maintain such projects on an on-going basis. For these purposes the Charity will endeavour to generate and maintain reserves which are at least 50% of its annual turnover.

Financial Review

The Charity receives **no** government core grants, service level agreements or contracts to cover revenue costs and depends on fundraising, donations, donations from riders and funding from small and medium sized charitable trusts and grant applications. Our efforts so far have been to increase participation and develop our facility to ensure we adapt to the industry need.

The total income for this financial year is £162,320 (2022-2023: £110,975) and the main source of income was from our Ride Sessions, Donations, Fundraising, Grants, other ride/horse associated activities and sponsorship of our equines. The significant increase in income over the past 2 annual accounts reflects a huge focus on replacing and upgrading our facilities. Our fantastic new riding arena has been the biggest financial fundraising undertaken by us since we opened, this is certainly a facility we are proud of. We have in turn been able to make more sessions available for participants and have a greater scope for session variety.

The pay of the staff members is reviewed annually and based on performance and usually increased in accordance with average earnings. The remuneration is set to ensure that it is fair and will attract and retain staff of the appropriate calibre and experience required by the Charity.

The Trustees wish to thank our participants first for their continued support through sponsorship and donations and secondly, the Trustees wish to thank the Funders for their continued support.

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Income and Expenditure

2024

2023

£

£

Income

Donations	13,338	8,774
Fundraising	81,547	79,850
Riding Sessions	20,329	17,194
Other horse associated activities	8757	3,520
Horse Sponsorship	1,265	1,637
Balance Carried Forward	<u>37,083</u>	

Total

162,320

110,975

Expenditure

Rent and Utilities	24,000	14,850
Charity Expansion	-	9,996
Equipment	4,002	5,330
Feed/Bedding	11,553	9,159
Health:farrier/vets/dentist/physio/wormers	4,831	5,676
Tack	4,100	3,208
Telephone/technology/website/computers	373	529
Horsebox: Fuel/tax/maintenance	1,542	2,648
Volunteer expenses	551	701
Yard & Field Maintenance	42,846	6,360
Training	960	419
Centre awareness/fundraising activities	3,939	3,431
Equipment for other horse related activities	-	725
Husbandry	181	-
Hay & Forage	4,960	4,196
Muck trailer/waste removal	1,360	1,750
Office/membership/insurance/DBS checks	2,928	2,966
Other ride/horse associated activities	-	349
Staff/Freelancers costs	41,842	25,713
Uniform	1,470	1,082
Worming programme	654	1,353

Total Expenditure

152,092

100,441

Surplus

10,228

10,534

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act")
- the account do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed



Date

30/1/2025

Name: Peter McDonald

FCA

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ASSETS 2023-2024

ASSET	VALUE
2 Temporary Wooden Stables	£ 1,256.00
2 ponies	£ 1,640.00
2saddles	£ 960.00
Overhead hoist	£ 320.00
Renault Horsebox	£ 1,880.00
Stables Mats	£ 221.00
Horse shower	£ 80.00
Travel Hoist	£ 3,750.00
Weighbridge	£ 275.00
Horse	£ 2,250.00
Pony	£ 900.00
Laptop	£ 278.00
Fridge/freezer	£ 150.00
Solar Lights	£ 1,295.00
Solarium	£ 1,136.00
Stables	£ 5,000.00
stable mats	£ 330.00
stable mats	£ 372.95
Mud Mats	£ 1,087.00
Storage Container	£ 500.00
Pony	£ 2,000.00
Carriage	£ 500.00
Tack	£ 500.00
Angled Metal feed bins	£ 1,200.00
Mud Mats	£ 858.00
Saddles	£ 2,450.00
TOTAL	£ 31,188.95