



**Riding for the Disabled**  
**(Colchester Garrison Group)**  
Charity Number 1183361

**Trustees' Report for year ending 31 March 2025**

Founded in 1987, the Colchester (Garrison) Group of the RDA has been located at Fletchers Farm Riding School since 2004. We operate on Monday mornings during term time (except the first half of the Spring term) and provide riding experiences for both private riders and children from Lexden Springs School in Colchester. The Group provides horse riding for young children (under 9) on a weekly basis helping the children to gain in confidence and assisting them with their posture, coordination and communication skills. We also make the rides an educational experience, so they learn as they go round making it as interesting for them as possible.

**Address:** The Group operate at Fletchers Farm, Rams Farm Road, Fordham, Colchester CO6 3NT.

**Trustees:** Ian Gibbs (Chairman), Laura Banning (Treasurer), Louise Wells (Secretary), Carol Hipkin BEM (Chief Instructor), Linda Betchley, Henrietta Drake, Jane Smith and Emma Brice (resigned November 2024). Trustees are generally recruited from the volunteers with the skills they might be able to bring to the board being an important consideration for them being approached. Two new trustees have been appointed since April 2025.

**Volunteers:** The Group is well supported by volunteers with 34 volunteers on the books and available during this reporting period, of which 27 regularly attend.

**Ponies:** We hire ponies from both the stables and private individuals who livery at Fletchers Farm. The availability of suitable ponies has been an issue for us during this period and limited us on occasions as to the number of riders we are able to cater for. However, we are very grateful for the support we receive from Fletchers Farm Riding School and we remain on the lookout for more ponies.

**Riders:** 25 children rode on 29 occasions during the year. We had the use of six ponies at different times during the year but only three were available on most days, a maximum of four available on six days and only two on a couple of days. We held three sessions per day – one for private riders and two for children from Lexden Springs School. At the end of the summer term and the penultimate ride before Christmas we invite the parents to come and watch.

**Funding:** The Group has been very fortunate to receive donations from various people and organisations both on a regular basis and as one-off donations and we are very grateful to all donors. We also charge riders a nominal amount per ride and we have held a couple of successful fund-raising events during the year. We were invited to have a stall at the Five Parishes Show in August where we were able to make people aware of the RDA, and our group in particular, raise money and attract support as well as recruit volunteers.

**Accounts:** The annual accounts are submitted with this report having been independently examined by Christopher Thomas Accountants and approved at our AGM.

**Policies:** The Group adopts the policies of the RDA which are approved at the AGM. Regular risk assessments are carried out on site. The AGM is held prior to the Christmas lunch which means that it is attended by most volunteers, our accountant and a representative from Fletchers Farm Riding School.

**Training:** A training day is held for all volunteers at the beginning of each year, a day's first aid training is arranged for up to ten volunteers every two years, one volunteer is being trained up as a fourth instructor, two volunteers have been trained on safeguarding (in addition to the safeguarding training required by instructors).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Gibbs', written over a faint, light blue circular stamp.

**Ian Gibbs**  
**Chairman**  
**Colchester (Garrison) Group**  
**Riding for the Disabled**



## COLCHESTER GROUP RDA

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (unrestricted)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Riders		1365.00		812.00
Unrestricted donations (including gift aid tax)		2389.50		1280.00
Sales and refunds for horses		3992.00		13135.00
Christmas lunch surplus (2024 - deficit)		35.20		(14.75)
Interest received (gross of tax)		655.66		781.43
Legacy		-		161.31
Miscellaneous sales/fund raising		1382.18		374.91
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		9819.54		16529.90
<b>LESS: PAYMENTS</b>				
Hire of horses	780.00		360.00	
Purchase and costs of horses	-		20595.30	
RDA subscriptions	200.00		200.00	
Insurances	277.00		260.00	
Communication costs (incl website)	222.00		270.79	
Equipment purchased/maintenance	522.61		441.84	
Training	849.00		90.00	
DBS Checks etc	180.00		185.10	
Miscellaneous/Fundraising	234.84		68.98	
	<hr/>	3265.45	<hr/>	22472.01
<b>SURPLUS (2024 - DEFICIT) for the year</b>		6554.09		(5942.10)
<b>Balance brought forward</b>		33837.44		39779.54
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<b>Balance carried forward</b>		40391.53		33837.44
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<b>REPRESENTED BY MONETARY ASSETS</b>				
		2025		2024
		£		£
Cash at Bank	- Current	18699.74		12801.31
	- Business Reserve	21687.81		21032.15
Cash in Hand		3.98		3.98
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		40391.53		33837.44
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## COLCHESTER GROUP RDA

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT (unrestricted)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES</b>		
DEBTORS (Inland Revenue Gift Aid for 2023/24 and 24/25) - Estimate	701.00	301.00
STOCK	6191.00	6260.50
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CREDITORS	-	-
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Date Approved by the Trustees on

8 December 2025


Chairman



Treasurer

## TO THE MEMBERS OF COLCHESTER GROUP RDA

I have examined the above Balance Sheet and Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2025. I have reviewed the accounting records of the Club with information and explanations given to me, and confirm that overall the same are drawn up in accordance therewith.

CHRISTOPHER THOMAS & CO  
ACCOUNTANTS  
No. 24 Blackwell House  
Coggeshall Road  
Earls Colne  
Essex CO6 2JX

4 December 2025