



## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date      Period end date  
From      01      04      24      To      31      03      25

### Section A

### Reference and administration details

Charity name      Happy Hooves Riding for the Disabled Group

Other names charity is known by      HHRDA Group

Registered charity number (if any)      1189349 (wef 04.05.20)

Charity's principal address      The Classroom, Happy Hooves Riding Centre,  
Ivy House, Skelton Wood End, Penrith, Cumbria  
Postcode      CA11 9UB

### 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	Rebecca Kemp	HHRDA Group Interim Chairperson	Joined Nov 2024	
2	Toni Holland	HHRDA Group Trustee		
3	Amelia Sisson	HHRDA Group Treasurer	Joined Nov 2024	
4	Alison Machell	HHRDA Group Secretary		
5	Sarah Dadley	HHRDA Group Trustee		
6	Emily Atherton	HHRDA Group Trustee		
7	Jo Allinson	HHRDA Group Trustee		
8	Iris Atherton	HHRDA Group Trustee	Joined June 2024	

### Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
N/A	N/A

### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser      Name      Address

N/A		
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### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

N/A
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## Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document

(eg. trust deed, constitution)

HHRDA is subject to a governing document, entitled "Constitution of the Happy Hooves RDA (Riding for the Disabled) Association, incorporating Carriage Driving".

Additionally, HHRDA and Happy Hooves Riding Centre (HHRC) share a Service Level Agreement (SLA), whereby the assets used by HHRDA are provided from Happy Hooves Riding Centre (HHRC).

How the charity is constituted

(eg. trust, association, company)

HHRDA is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), with Charity Commission status, which was granted 04.05.20. HHRDA Group is a community interest organisation and a member of the Riding for the Disabled (RDA) association.

Trustee selection methods

(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Trustees are elected and voted in by HHRDA Group Trustees.

## Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

All policies and procedures are subject to a two-yearly review, to ensure they are complete and pertinent to HHRDA Group. All are based on RDA guidance, and use RDA templates, as applicable. Occasionally the policies are shared (for audit purposes) with professional bodies (such as the British Horse Society (BHS)), and any feedback is gratefully received.

HHRDA Group maintains a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Happy Hooves Riding Centre (HHRC), through which all assets (horses, tack, mechanical horse, arena, and amenities) are provided.

Apart from the SLA with HHRC, HHRDA Group closely follows RDA guidance, making full use of the MyRDA website.

A number of Risk Assessments are in place to cover operations relating to HHRDA Group. These are under constant review as sessions evolve or the venue changes. A Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery (BCDR) Plan also exists. The Trustees believe that risk mitigation and management is key, including lessons-learned exercises where applicable. Documentation is reviewed and revised two-yearly, or when an event occurs.

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

The objectives of the HHRDA Group remain as follows:

HHRDA Group understands that not all disabilities are visible, and plans to make horses and horse-riding an activity available for all, giving everyone the opportunity to experience the magic of horses, to help address mental health issues, and physical and intellectual disabilities brought about by a variety of factors.

The aim is to provide a variety of equine experiences to adults, young people, groups and individuals. HHRDA Group will offer a diverse range of ridden and non-ridden activities for pleasure, health and wellbeing, developing confidence, and educational life skills, using recognised equine disciplines, and associated activities.

HHRDA Group operates in partnership with HHRC, which is recognised as an alternative education provider for young people who are not in employment or training, through the BHS Approved Changing Lives through Horses (CLtH) programme.

HHRDA Group works with the community and other partners to broaden the accessibility of HHRDA Group to more people, and ensure that everyone involved benefits from the magic of horses.

Through fund-raising (events, grants and activities) HHRDA Group plans a targeted, phased improvement of facilities to create a more accessible and modern facility for a wider range of clients. Therefore, initial funding applications will be targeted towards specific tack, hats and amenities, as suggested by RDA guidance.

Additionally, HHRDA Group wishes to offer those most in need, the opportunity to access these facilities at discounted rates.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

At all times, funding is carefully monitored and managed – as explained in Section E.

The HHRDA Group Trustees are fully conversant with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and can confirm that:

- The 'benefit' aspect will be realised in the way HHRDA Group can help those suffering mental health issues, anxiety, confidence issues etc., by giving access to horses, horse riding and associated activities.
- The 'public' aspect will be realised when the section of the public (as detailed above) will benefit from HHRDA Groups' provision of horse related activities, to alleviate adverse symptoms and create an environment for mental health improvements for all those who attend HHRDA Group sessions.

The HHRDA Group Trustees and those connected to HHRC (which provides the assets for the HHRDA Group to operate), are all committed to facilitating sessions to bring about potentially life-changing outcomes for deserving individuals, whilst at the same time, adhering to the guidance provided by the Charity Commission.

### Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The management of the funds has been consistent, with regular review by the Trustees.

Any income or investment realised, is re-invested into HHRDA Group, to facilitate growth and development in accordance with the objectives above, to better benefit the HHRDA Group clients. However, as funds increase, it is intended to support individuals, or a group, with specific needs, where possible.

HHRDA Group is reliant on a core team of HHRC staff and a group of volunteers who are trained in accordance with RDA guidelines as coaches or volunteers, obtaining the official 'Green Card'.

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

### Summary of the min achievements of the charity during the year

As previously reported, HHRC finally relocated to new premises on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023. The premises required much work and investment, and are still a work-in-progress in some areas. HHRDA has continued to operate in a small way throughout.

In May 2024, representatives from the regional RDA visited HHRDA and declared themselves to be content with progress to date. They inspected the documentation and assessed a coaching session, and left feeling happy that HHRDA could continue.

The Trustee Group underwent some personnel changes during the year. Iris Atherton joined as a Trustee in June 2024. Iris is also a HHRC member of staff. Sue Butler resigned as Treasurer, and after a short interim period of Sarah Dadley, Trustee, holding the role, Ameila Sisson joined as a new Trustee and formally became Treasurer in November 2024. Finally, on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024, Vicky Bowman resigned from the Chairperson role. Rebecca Kemp, Cumbria RDA Chair, has taken on the Chairperson role on an interim basis, until a new Chairperson can be found.

*(PNM: A new Chairperson has been elected, but this occurred in May 2025 – outside of this reporting period)*

Since November 2024, there has been an enhanced focus on fundraising activities, as HHRDA Trustees understand that more funds are required to be able to support deserving individuals or groups. Many good ideas for fundraising events have been discussed and it is very likely that HHRDA will collaborate with a neighbouring RDA Group for at least one of the events to be held in May 2025. This can only be a good thing.

Another highlight in 2024 has been the continued support from a local organisation which has given 40 'Be Kind' days to work with HHRDA and HHRC, improving facilities, erecting a shelter for parents and carers whilst watching sessions in the arena, and a shed to accommodate the RDA assets. This work has been much appreciated – and is hoped that it will be repeated next year.

The members of the HHRDA Trustee Group are feeling very positive for the forthcoming year.

## Section D

## Achievements and performance

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

HHRDA Group holds £2000 in reserve for unexpected costs such as repairs to equipment or contributions to vet's bills. This reserve will be reviewed by the trustees at regular intervals and adjusted as necessary. This reserve will only be used for unforeseen costs that the trustees have agreed needs to be paid for by the charity, and only if the Trustees are confident that the expenditure can be replaced asap.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

There are no funds in deficit.

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

HHRDA receives funding from donations, fund-raising activities (such as raffles and sponsorship monies) and the provision of coach-led sessions.

Any expenditure has only directly benefitted HHRDA – the provision of a shelter from which parents and carers may watch sessions and keep dry!!! Recently, it has been suggested that some specific tack be replaced – again to benefit HHRDA and it's clients.

Being a very small club, HHRDA is not in a position to externally invest any funds.

## Section F

## Other optional information

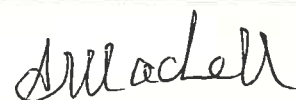
NTR

**Section G****Declaration**

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Rebecca Kemp

Alison Machell

Position (eg Secretary, Chair,  
etc)

HHRDA Group Chairperson (Int)

HHRDA Group Secretary

Date

11/06/25

**Happy Hooves RDA Group**

