

Minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting
of the
Andover Riding for the Disabled Group
held on
Wednesday 19th November 2025
at St. Mary Bourne Village Centre, St. Mary Bourne, SP11 6BE

Trustees Present:

Alex Hanbury-Williams	Chair, Children's Ride Leader - Tuesday
Sean Cannon	Schools Advisor
Pauline Copping	Administration
Rosie Davies	Fundraising
Mark Hyson (apologies received)	Treasurer
Gilly Summers	Secretary
Penny Wilkins	Adult's Ride Leader
Maureen Wood	Coaching Co-ordinator

The Meeting was attended by 21 Members and 12 supporters and their guests, based on the sign-in sheets.

AH-W warmly welcomed all present, including the Mayor of Test Valley, Cllr Gordon Bailey and the Mayoress, Mrs Karen Hamilton and introduced our speaker for the evening, Marie Slater. Alex thanked the members, supporters and Trustees for joining ARDA's 54th AGM.

Our Constitution states that we must have a minimum of 10% of our Members present to reach our Quorum for voting. Our membership numbers as of 1st November 2025 stood at 61 voting members. 21 members attended and therefore the meeting was quorate.

1. Minutes of the 53rd AGM and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the Andover Riding for the Disabled 53rd AGM, held 20th November 2024, had been circulated to all members and published on the website prior to the AGM.

Acceptance of the Minutes: Proposer: Barry Curd Second: Mary Childs
The Minutes were accepted and signed by AH-W.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

2. Chair's Report

A copy of the Chair's report had been included in the Annual Review publication sent to all Members & Supporters prior to the AGM. Alex presented a summary of her report to the meeting. The summary is attached to these minutes as an appendix.

There were no questions arising from the report.

The following Long Service Awards were presented:

<u>15 years</u>	Mr Barry Curd
<u>10 years</u>	Mrs Sarah Dodds
<u>5 years</u>	Mrs Veronica Morris-Marsham
	Mrs Helen Porter

Neither Veronica or Helen were present so their awards will be delivered separately.

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3. Treasurer's Report

A summary of the Trustees' Annual Report for the year ending 31 March 2025 had been circulated to all members and published on the website prior to the AGM. Copies of the full version of the Trustees' Annual Report were available at the meeting.

In Mark's absence, Pauline Copping read out the notes provided by Mark.

The summary accounts show a balance sheet, and a statement of financial activity, commonly known as a Sofa. The Sofa reflects the transactions during the year and, in particular, we would like to highlight the following:

On the income side:

The Donations of £7,576 include a much appreciated £5,000 from The Hargreaves Foundation.

The golf day raised £9,714 and we are forever grateful for all of Mike Strong's hard work in organising this.

The Pony sponsors contributed £3,860 and, although it might be inappropriate to identify any individuals, it does include the Vernons who are massive supporters of the Andover RDA.

On the expenditure side it can be noted that we incurred costs for a pony purchase of £4,419.

Besides that, the other cost figures seem to be self-explanatory

So, at the foot of the Sofa one can see that the net outcome for the year was net income of £3,811 compared with a net deficit of £819 last year, and the improvement of £1,242 in the M&G investment valuation takes the overall surplus to £5,051.

This is then reflected on the balance sheet, which shows the financial position at the year end, where one can see that the net worth has increased during the year from £78,276 on 31 March 2024 to £83,329 on 31 March 2025.

On the asset side, we have managed to squirrel away an additional £20,000 into our investment with M&G which does help to contribute to our annual income.

The liabilities did include some bills that were rendered a bit late totalling £973 plus receipts in advance of £640 for our fundraiser in June and receipts in advance of £420 for our golf day.

In conclusion, the financial position of the Andover RDA seems to be satisfactory, and I can recommend the accounts to the meeting."

A show of Member's hands was requested for approval of the Financial Report. The Members voted unanimously to approve the Financial Report.

AH-W thanked MH for keeping the ARDA finances in good order.

4. Election of Trustees

Our Constitution anticipates that one third of the committee members will retire by rotation, each year, with those longest serving in office retiring first. Three Trustees are due to retire this year.

All members had been invited to vote on this process via a postal/proxy service prior to the AGM taking place.

Pauline Copping, Mark Hyson and Penny Wilkins are due to retire by rotation this year and all seek re-election.

Pauline Copping:	Proposer:	Maureen Wood	Seconded: Barry Curd
Mark Hyson:	Proposer:	Sue Cox	Seconded: Elizabeth Maclay
Penny Wilkins:	Proposer:	Sarah Dodds	Seconded: Alex Hanbury-Williams

The Members voted unanimously to accept the re-election of all three Trustees to the Board of Trustees.

5. Election of Trustees

A further two Trustees were proposed for election to our Board, Mary Childs and Brenda Adams.

Mary Childs:	Proposer:	Penny Wilkins	Seconded: Sue Cox
Brenda Adams:	Proposer:	Rosie Davies	Seconded: Mary Childs

The Members voted unanimously to accept the election of the two new Trustees to the Board of Trustees.

6. Members' Proposed Resolutions

No resolutions had been proposed by Members in advance of the meeting.

7. AOB

Alex Hanbury-Williams raised two points under AOB.

1. AHW thanked Carolanne for the Christmas Cards being sold in aid of Andover RDA. They are available at various locations in the area including the village shops in St Mary Bourne, Enham, Goodworth Clatford, Abbots Ann, Barton Stacey and Hurstbourne Tarrant.
2. AHW also thanked Elizabeth Snowden and her team for the Christmas Wreaths which will be available on Saturday 6th December in The Wallops Village Shop and on Sunday 7th December at Red Post Bridge Farm.

There was no other business. Alex Hanbury-Williams thanked the Members and Supporters for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7pm.

The 2026 AGM will be held on Wednesday 18th November 2025
at St Mary Bourne Village Centre

Minutes distributed, read, and agreed by members on –	Wednesday 18 th November 2026
Adopted by Chair on –	Wednesday 18 th November 2026
Signature of Chair –	

Appendix A:**2025 AGM Chair's Report**

You should all have received a copy of the Annual Review so you will be relieved to hear that I shall only give you a shortened version of my Chair's report here.

As most of you know, I am planning on stepping down as Chair. To date, no one has come forward to replace me so I will continue as acting Chair until we can find a replacement. However, due to other commitments, I will be relinquishing many of my responsibilities to others on the board of Trustees. I am hugely grateful to them all and confident that Andover RDA shall continue to run smoothly and offer the huge benefits of horse-riding therapy to many more participants for years to come.

It has been a year of highs and lows. The non-stop rain last winter followed by practically no rainfall at all since the end of February and record-breaking high temperatures in May, June and July have made it a very challenging year in terms of pony care. Having battled with mud, mud and more mud all winter, we then all struggled to find enough grazing for our ponies since there was very little spring grass growth due to the lack of rain. In addition, the flies and rock-hard ground have caused their own problems. We are hugely in debt to our wonderful pony care teams who have battled on regardless and continue to go above and beyond to keep our ponies well cared for.

As always, we are very grateful to John Benson for allowing us to keep the Adult Ride horses in his paddocks and also to John and Catherine Scott who generously give us their paddocks for three of the children's ponies during the summer and autumn months. Cindy Sims has very kindly offered us winter grazing for these 3 RDA children's ponies which is wonderful, especially as it is so close to my home, and I can therefore pop over and see the ponies whenever I feel the need for some 'pony time'. The other two RDA children's ponies continue to live at Sladen Green and we are so thankful to Elizabeth Maclay and Violet and Emily for looking after them there. Without the generosity and support of all these kind landowners, we would be unable to operate and I do hope that they know how very grateful we are to them.

Thanks to some detective work by Mary Childs, we have found a suitable pony to add to our team of 5 RDA ponies for the children's rides. We bought Clover, a 14.1 Connemara gelding last April and he has proven to be an excellent addition. Unfortunately, the Adult Ride recently lost two of their horses. However, Maureen, Penny, Sarah and Barry have done an amazing job finding replacements and I am delighted to say that we are now the owner of Elvis – a 15.2 cob and we are in the midst of negotiations for the purchase of another horse who will hopefully join him and Indie at Abbots Ann soon. In the meantime, they are soldiering on with the ponies that we do have and managing to continue to hold sessions for some of the adult riders.

We have successfully recruited two new coaches who will take over from Mary coaching the Wolverdene and Mark Way School rides. Emily and Juanita have already completed some of their training and it is hoped that they will both qualify by next April or May. As a result of some excellent fundraising and Mark's careful management of our funds the Trustees decided that we are able to offer our coaches past and future some remuneration for their time and effort. It is a big responsibility becoming an RDA coach and requires a lot of training so we feel it is only right that this should be rewarded.

We are very thankful to all those who have so generously donated funds to Andover RDA. It means that we can continue to operate in these changing times. It is hard to find volunteers

able to help with the day to day running of a charity that requires the full-time maintenance of 8 equines and the transport of them when needed. In the past, most of our ponies were borrowed from pony club parents who had the time to bring them to our sessions. Today most parents must work full-time so we have had to change our operations to not only buy our own RDA ponies and find somewhere to keep them but also boost our equine care volunteers with paid staff to help look after them twice daily and transport them to RDA sessions when needed. This has meant that we need to raise a significant amount of funds each year simply to cover our running costs and we are very lucky to have so many generous supporters.

I would like to thank especially Mike Strong, ably abetted by Philip Antrobus, who once again put their energy and expertise into organising a very successful fund-raising Golf Day and also to our fundraising team for their help with a successful Summer Garden Party and Quiz. In addition, a big thank you to Liz Snowdon and her team who will once again be selling Christmas wreaths on our behalf and also to Carolanne whose expertise and energy in putting together and organising the sale of Andover RDA Christmas cards is boundless!

Our participants have, as always, developed enormously over the past year and achieved much. This could be witnessed at our annual Fun Day at which the riders showed off their riding skills admirably and many rosettes were proudly sported by all. I never tire of how rewarding it is to see our riders having such fun and realising how much they have progressed over the year.

We are particularly lucky this year to have received a significant donation from the Estate of Leonard Fuller for which we are extremely grateful. We have decided set aside this money to offer an annual Bursary of £5,000 to provide support and development to a local person with a disability and/or special educational needs that wishes to progress in an area of equestrianism. This may be a rider (with or without their own horse) who is looking to improve their riding, possibly up to competition level or a person looking to develop their equine skills/knowledge in anticipation of a career in areas of equestrianism such as farrier work or horse therapy.

Finally, I would like to thank both Rosie Davies and Sue Cox who are stepping down as trustees for their help and support. They and all our wonderful trustees have contributed an enormous amount of time and effort towards the smooth running of Andover RDA. I am delighted to announce that we will have two new trustees. Brenda Adams joins us and will primarily be responsible for pony care and Mary Childs, our past chair, has kindly offered to return as a trustee and her expertise and experience will prove invaluable. I am truly grateful to them both.

We cannot operate without our wonderful volunteers, and I am always delighted to present our RDA Long Service Certificates. This year these are presented to the following volunteers.

For 15 years service:

Mr Barry Curd

For 10 years service:

Mrs Sarah Dodds

For 5 years service:

Mrs Veronica Morris-Marsham

Mrs Helen Porter