HAPPY LANDINGS DRIVING GROUP

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION INCORPORATING CARRIAGE DRIVING

Annual Report and Accounts

for year ended

31st March 2026

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OUR AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

Happy Landings Carriage Driving Group ("the Group") exists to further the work of the Riding for the Disabled Association incorporating Carriage Driving (RDA). We give disabled people across West Sussex and the surrounding area the chance to drive a horse and carriage, for the good of their health and well-being.

For many of our participants, a session with us is a highlight of the week and, for some, it has been life-changing. In a safe and supportive setting, drivers learn horsemanship, carriage driving and communication skills, while the activity itself and the company of others lift their well-being. Those with more profound disabilities enjoy being driven along quiet country lanes; those with greater ambition can progress to local and even national competitions alongside other groups.

Many of the people we serve live in urban residential care and, because of mental or physical disability, have little opportunity for activity or stimulation beyond it. Their conditions include acquired brain injury, cerebral palsy, challenging behaviour and epilepsy. For many, carriage driving in a specially adapted vehicle, supported by trained coaches and helpers, is the only activity open to them.

The Trustees confirm that they have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievement and Performance

The RDA, to which we are affiliated, has long demonstrated the benefits of working with horses. Carriage driving in specially adapted vehicles brings those same benefits to people who are unable to ride. Many of our more able drivers have shown their commitment to improving by taking, and passing, approved proficiency tests.

What our participants gain:

- Friendship and social contact through regular sessions
- Improved physical well-being
- Better communication and stronger relationships
- New horsemanship skills
- Greater motivation and a sense of achievement
- More confidence and independence

Working with horses is physically demanding, and every driver is encouraged to take part to the full extent of their ability. In doing so, both our disabled members and our volunteers enjoy healthier, more active lives outdoors.

Drivers, their families and carers regularly tell us how much they look forward to our sessions. Many drivers stay with the Group for years, often until they are no longer able to attend.

Volunteer Members

The Group is run by a committed team of volunteers, several of whom are qualified coaches who accompany our disabled participants. Every volunteer completes basic training before helping at sessions so that our activities are delivered safely, and training records are kept in line with RDA National guidelines. All volunteers must be cleared to work with vulnerable adults and children.

Beyond our session volunteers, a wide circle of supporters helps with fundraising and raises awareness of the needs of disabled people in the community.

Location and Facilities

We drive on Wednesday mornings from April to October on a country estate at Tismans Common, near Rudgwick, West Sussex. The owner generously provides our facilities and the use of the grounds free of charge. During the winter months we have the option to hold additional sessions on Monday afternoons at the RDA Cranleigh indoor school.

Our horses are stabled by, or on loan from, our volunteers, who look after their welfare and bring them to each session. The Group also owns several specially adapted horse-drawn carriages that can carry wheelchair users as well as ambulant disabled drivers.

PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

This Report and Accounts covers the year ended 31st March 2026.

Financial performance

The Group recorded a deficit of £6,590 for the year, compared with £5,494 in 2025. Receipts fell, mainly because cash donations were lower and, unlike last year, there were no asset sales. Day-to-day running costs, however, came down.

- **Total receipts:** £5,292 (2025: £7,179)
- **Operating expenses:** £11,268 (2025: £12,073)
- **Bank balance at year end:** £20,082 (2025: £26,672)
- **Total assets:** £48,598 (2025: £57,431)

The Group is run entirely by volunteers and benefits from premises provided free of charge, which keeps our costs low.

As reported last year, the gift of a pony and carriage has reduced the capital spending we expect to need and allowed us to increase participant sessions by 18%. Our cash reserves remain healthy and should meet the Group's needs for the foreseeable future.

Outlook

The Trustees expect the Group to continue providing its services at a similar level in the coming year. Developing our volunteer helpers and coaches remains a priority, and with RDA support we continue to make good progress.

Risk Management

The Trustees have reviewed the principal risks facing the charity and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to manage them.

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf.

John Massey OBE *– Chairman*

ORGANISERS REPORT

The driving season
The 2025 season went well. We had to cancel only one session because of the weather, and driving finished on 15th October 2025. Goldie was assessed and passed in June, so we had three ponies for the rest of the season.

Participants
We held 150 participant sessions over the year, an increase of 18%, with 16 participants driving fortnightly. That is more than last year, thanks to having a third pony.

Two of our participants competed at the RDA South-East Region driving show in July. In August, two more drove at an RDA event at Windsor Park Equestrian Club. They all drove really well and came home with rosettes.

Volunteers and coaches
We now have 33 volunteers, five of whom are RDA carriage driving coaches. Three new volunteers joined us this year and have fitted in very well. Two of our coaches passed their triennial assessments, and the other three are due next year.

Fundraising and social events
Our fundraising included a well-supported skittles evening, the 100 Club and the Christmas raffle. Socially, our chairman and his wife once again hosted a very successful lunch and croquet match, and we held monthly coffee mornings over the winter.

Carol Porter *-Trustee and Group Organiser*

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The Group is a CIO affiliated with the RDA and is governed in accordance with its founding constitution which is in accordance with RDA requirements.

The board of five Trustees is responsible for governance and oversight of the charity's activities. The board aims to meet at least quarterly. Trustees are nominated and elected by the membership.

Membership is open to anyone wishing to assist in furthering the purpose of the Group and who agrees to exercise their powers as a member in good faith. Membership is subject to approval by the Trustees to ensure that they are suitable and meet the safeguarding requirements. All volunteers are required to be "Green Carded" to show they meet the required standard of training before being allowed to participate in driver session

An operations committee, chaired by the Group Organiser and Trustee, comprises a number of members who meet frequently to plan all participant sessions, events and review performance.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS	**2026**	2025
Receipts	**£**	£
Donations	**932**	1,801
Fundraising (Note 2)	**2,500**	2,863
Drivers Donations	**1,860**	1,615
Goods sold	**0**	0
	5,292	6,279
Assets sold	**0**	900
Total Receipts	**5,292**	7,179
Expenditure		
Operating expenses (Note 3)	**11,268**	12,073
Assets purchased	**614**	600
Total Expenditure	**11,882**	12,673
Surplus for the period	**-6,590**	-5,494
ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31st MARCH 2026		
Bank balance	**20,082**	26,672
Equipment	**7,028**	7,160
Carriages	**18,988**	21,098
Horses	**2,500**	2,500
Total Assets (Note 4)	**48,598**	57,431

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

1. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with UK charities Financial Reporting Standard (FRS102 - 2019) on a receipts and payment basis.

2. Fundraising

	2026	2025
	£	£
Events	**1,700**	1,888
Raffles	**470**	605
100 Club Net	**330**	370
Other	**0**	0
	2,500	2,863

3. Operating expenses

	2026	2025
	£	£
Fundraising Events	**1,554**	1,599
Facility Hire	**206**	395
Insurances	**1,906**	2,467
Admin	**1,076**	477
Volunteer Expenses	**655**	869
Equipment maintenance	**540**	0
Horse welfare	**5,331**	6,267
	11,268	12,073

4. Fixed assets (except horses) are valued at cost less 10% annual depreciation, except in the year of purchase when depreciation of 5% is charged on additions. Horse valuations are estimated at the year-end based on likely resale value.

	2026	2025
	£	£
Equipment		
Equipment at 31 March 2025		7,160
Additions	**614**	
Less 10% depreciation on 2025 equipment	**716**	
Less 5% depreciation on additions	**30**	
	7,028	
Carriages at 31st March 2025		21,098
Less disposals	**0**	
Less 10% depreciation	**2,110**	
	18,988	

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Charity name	Happy Landings Driving Group Riding for the Disabled Association Incorporating Carriage Driving
Charity number	1196839
Contact details	Carol Porter Ash Tree Cottage Coolham Road Coolham HORSHAM RH13 8GP 01403741355 carolporte@aol.com www.Happylandings-RDA.co.uk

Trustees

Chairman	John Massey OBE
Secretary	Angela Figgis
Treasurer	Susan Underhill
RDA Representative	Janice Massey
Organiser	Carol Porter