

Isle of Mull Riding for the Disabled Group SCO45772

Suilven, Dervaig Road, Tobermory, Isle of Mull PA75 6PY.

Charity Trustees:

Susan Penny, Carol Paterson, Susan Brackenbury, Mairianne Noble

Charity Objectives:

Our charity exists for “The provision of recreational facilities, and the organisation of recreational activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities and activities are primarily intended; the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.”

Our objectives are “to promote the objects of the Riding for the Disabled Association incorporating Carriage Driving (Company No 5010395) a charity registered under Charity Number SC1039573 (“the Company”) by providing disabled people with the opportunity to ride and/or to carriage drive to benefit their health and wellbeing in the Isle of Mull area.”

Trustees’ Annual Report June 2026

Welcome, everyone to another AGM, and thank you for coming.

The past year has been a busy one for our group. We continue to ride on Friday mornings throughout the year, and are now regularly running two sessions: one for children from local schools, and a second one for our older riders. It was a pleasure to welcome riders from Bunessan primary school for the first time this summer, and the benefit over only a few sessions was clear to see. Tobermory High School continues to send students, some coming on a regular basis, and some as part of a four-week block supporting behaviour, and mental and emotional health.

Finding a suitable weight-carrying horse continues to be a problem. Horses from as far away as the Borders and the north of England have been investigated, but with no success so far. Other groups are looking into horses from abroad, but this is a path that we have decided not to go down. Although our group does not own its own equines, we act as sponsors to “RDA ponies” (entered on our accounts as “wages”) from the Isle of Mull Trekking Centre, and we look forward to making use of newest recruit, Tommy – a smaller cob to follow in Murphy’s footsteps.

In January we were joined by the West of Scotland Regional Coach. She was delighted by the standard of coaching in the group, and pleased to sign off our coach-in-training as a fully qualified coach. In my 2025 report I identified the need for new ways to run sessions. The reduction in the number of weight-carrying ponies has meant that we need to think of alternatives to riding to allow our participants to engage with horses. With two coaches we are able to run sessions with greater flexibility, meaning that riding and ground-based sessions can run at the same time. Thank you to both our coaches for your hard work. We

could not run without you, and you are responsible for the positive and friendly atmosphere that makes our group special.

Equally important are our volunteers. Not only do you turn up in all weathers, and on dark winter evenings for meetings; you also take part in regular training online and in person to ensure that you have the skills necessary to allow our group to run. The Stirling Regional Training Day, held in March, demonstrates the challenges faced by a remote RDA group. In order to attend, our volunteers have to stay overnight, and this year faced treacherous road conditions and the risks these entailed. Thanks are also due to the volunteers who manage our PVGs, and to Sue Morley who verifies our accounts.

On the fundraising front, a huge thank you goes to Lucy Mackenzie, who continues to support us as her garden charity. The Lip na Cloiche open day is always enjoyable, but also provides a major part of our income. Smaller fundraising events may not make much money, but they allow us to raise our profile, ensuring that people who could benefit from the group are aware of its existence. We take part in Salen Charities Fair each year; and funds received an unexpected boost when we won at the Salen Christmas Tree Festival.

Isle of Mull RDA is just one small part of the wider federation of the Riding for the Disabled Association. It was a proud moment to see our group featured (on page 30) of RDA's 2025 Impact Report. Looking to the year ahead, we will be making increasing use of the support that National Office is developing for groups, as well as continuing to build our links with other RDA groups in our region.

We continue to be in the fortunate position of having adequate funds, and excellent volunteers, ensuring that we can continue to run.

In conclusion, I'd like to once again thank everyone who has allowed us to run over the last year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susan Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a period at the end.

Chair: Isle of Mull RDA