

ADAPTIVE *Riders* COLLECTIVE

OSCR
Scottish Charity Regulator
www.oscr.org.uk

Registered
SCIO
SC053786

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

NOVEMBER 2024 – NOVEMBER 2025



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Adaptive Riders Collective (ARC)

Scottish Charity Number: SC053786

Registered Address:

Adaptive Riders Collective

Wheels Cycling Centre

Invertrossachs Road

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info@adaptiveriderscollective.org.uk

www.adaptiveriderscollective.org

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

The following individuals served as Trustees of Adaptive Riders Collective during the 2024–2025 reporting year. Together, the Board of Trustees provided governance, oversight and strategic support to the charity, helping to guide ARC through its development and ensure that we continued to work towards our charitable aims.

We are grateful for the time, experience and commitment each Trustee contributed during the year.



Mike Thomas
Chairman



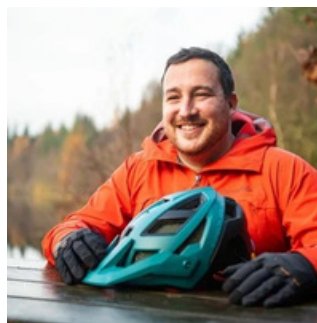
Ani Barber
Treasurer



Rosie Baxendine
Secretary



Kerry MacPhee
Trustee



Neil Russell
CEO

Adaptive Riders Collective (ARC) is a charity dedicated to creating opportunities for riders with disabilities to participate in adaptive cycling and experience the outdoors.

Adaptive cycling equipment can be prohibitively expensive, as well as challenging to store and transport. Riders with disabilities can also face a range of physical access barriers that significantly limit where and how they are able to ride. ARC was established to help overcome these barriers by providing access to specialist adaptive cycles, trained ride leaders and carefully researched and assessed routes.

Through this support, ARC enables riders to explore the countryside, get “off the beaten track” and access places that may previously have felt out of reach. The physical, mental and social benefits of these experiences can be significant, and for many of our riders, ARC has provided their first opportunity to experience particular trails, landscapes and outdoor environments.



OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Alongside the direct delivery of adaptive cycling activities, ARC works to support the wider development of off-road cycling opportunities for riders with disabilities. We aim to raise the profile and visibility of adaptive cycling by participating in organised cycling events, building relationships with cycling clubs and organisations, and demonstrating what is possible when appropriate equipment, support and accessible environments are in place.

ARC also provides advocacy, guidance and consultation to organisations seeking to improve access to cycling and the wider outdoor environment for people with disabilities. By sharing our practical experience and the lived experience of our riders, we aim to help organisations better understand the barriers that can exist and identify practical, meaningful ways to make their activities, routes and facilities more inclusive and accessible.

Our first year as a registered charity has provided an important foundation for ARC's continued development. Building on the experience, relationships and achievements established through the previous Adaptive Riders Collective CIC, becoming a charity has enabled ARC to strengthen its governance and access a wider range of funding and financial support. This has helped us to develop a more sustainable organisation while continuing to expand the opportunities, experiences and support available to riders with disabilities.



Adaptive Riders Collective (ARC) is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), registered as a charity in Scotland in November 2024. The charity was established to build upon the work and achievements of Adaptive Riders Collective Community Interest Company (ARC CIC), through which ARC's activities had previously been delivered. Following the transition to charitable status, the CIC entered the process of being formally wound up.

Operating as a SCIO provides ARC with a clear charitable and governance framework, supporting the organisation as it continues to develop and grow. The charity is governed by its Board of Trustees, who are responsible for ensuring that ARC is managed in accordance with its charitable purposes, legal responsibilities and the requirements of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

The ARC SCIO Constitution sets out the charity's purposes, governance arrangements and the framework through which the organisation operates and decisions are made. A copy of the Constitution is available on request by contacting info@adaptiveriderscollective.org.uk



TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT AND APPOINTMENT

The initial Trustees of ARC SCIO were the five members of the former ARC CIC Board, providing continuity during the transition to charitable status. All remained actively involved in governing the charity throughout its first year.

ARC's Constitution requires that at least 50% of Trustees declare a disability, ensuring lived experience remains embedded within the charity's governance and decision-making.

As ARC grows, the Trustees recognise the importance of developing the Board alongside the organisation. A priority is to broaden and strengthen the Board by bringing in additional skills, experience and perspectives to support effective governance and ARC's longer-term ambitions.

The Trustees intend to recruit additional Board members, particularly in areas where professional expertise could strengthen governance and strategic development. Recruitment will aim to be fair, transparent and minimise both conscious and unconscious bias.

Progress in strengthening the Board, including any new Trustee appointments, will be reported in the 2025–2026 Trustees' Annual Report.



PARTICIPATION, ACTIVITIES AND EXPERIENCES

2024–2025 marked ARC's first year operating as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), following our transition from a Community Interest Company. Throughout the year, we continued to build on the strong foundations established in previous years, creating more opportunities for riders with disabilities to access adaptive cycling, develop their skills and experience the outdoors.



Across the year, ARC supported a community of 74 cyclists, including 53 riders with disabilities and 21 trained volunteer support riders. In total, we recorded 399 rider attendances across our activities and events. Almost 59% of attendances were from riders identifying as female, while 53% involved the use of adaptive cycles.



A particular focus was placed on expanding our Come & Try sessions and developing our programme of regular weekly rides. Come & Try events were delivered in Stirling, Falkirk and Lochgelly, providing opportunities for people to experience adaptive cycling, often for the first time. These sessions were well attended and, importantly, provided a pathway for several new riders to progress into ARC's regular weekly activities.



Alongside our regular programme, ARC delivered a number of memorable experiences. Our residential week at Glenmore Lodge was a particular highlight, giving riders the opportunity to develop their skills, confidence and independence in a supportive environment while demonstrating the capabilities of adaptive riders within the wider cycling community.

We also worked with the Sir Walter Scott Steamship Trust at Loch Katrine to deliver a unique cycling experience combining a cruise along the loch with an adaptive ride back. The event demonstrated how partnership working and creative approaches can open up new outdoor experiences for riders with disabilities, and it is an activity we hope to repeat.



Weekend ride attendance was lower than in the previous year, largely due to ARC not attending Muck'n'Mac or Dirt Divas, alongside the postponement of Gravelfoyle 10 due to adverse weather. Our increased focus on weekly activities and Come & Try opportunities also influenced this change. With improved transport capacity now being developed, we expect our programme of weekend and more geographically diverse activities to grow again.

DEVELOPING ARC AND LOOKING AHEAD

Behind ARC's programme of rides and events is a committed community of volunteers who make our activities possible. During the year, we continued to invest in developing their skills, confidence and experience.



Working with Scottish Cycling, we trained additional ride leaders, including adaptive cyclists progressing into leadership roles themselves. This is an important part of ARC's peer-led approach, creating opportunities for riders to develop from participants into volunteers and leaders. We also delivered Outdoor First Aid training, adapted where necessary to enable leaders with disabilities to achieve recognised qualifications while maintaining the required standards.

ARC continued to use its experience to improve access beyond our own activities. Several consultancy projects were undertaken, including an audit of the Kirkpatrick Coast to Coast cycle route for South of Scotland Enterprise, helping to identify barriers and improve understanding of adaptive cycling access.

DEVELOPING ARC AND LOOKING AHEAD

Our equipment continued to be well used, with two ICE trikes added to increase the range of adaptive cycles available. We also successfully secured a number of grants, including significant funding towards the purchase of an adapted vehicle.

The new vehicle represents an important step forward, increasing our ability to transport adaptive cycles and equipment to locations across Scotland and enabling us to reach new riders and communities.

Looking ahead to 2026, plans include a full programme of weekly and weekend rides, Come & Try sessions, another residential week and participation in organised gravel events. With increased transport capacity, a developing volunteer team and a growing adaptive cycle fleet, ARC is well placed to continue expanding the opportunities available to riders with disabilities.



ARC has continued to grow financially since the organisation was established as a Community Interest Company in September 2022 and, from November 2024, as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Throughout this growth, financial sustainability and ARC's long-term future have remained central to our approach.

As the charity has developed, we have worked to build a broader and more sustainable funding base. This includes funding for staffing and organisational development, partnerships with organisations including Scottish Cycling and Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland (DMBinS), and support from private donations, charitable trusts and grants. These areas have developed significantly and will be covered in greater detail in next year's Trustees' Annual Report.

Building appropriate financial reserves is also a priority. While this can be challenging for a small and growing charity, we are committed to strengthening our reserves to provide greater resilience against unforeseen circumstances or changes in funding.

ARC operates without debt and maintains high standards of financial monitoring and reporting. We work closely with our funders to ensure funds are used effectively, transparently and for their intended purposes.

As ARC grows, we will continue to balance ambition with responsible financial management and long-term sustainability.

The full accounts for the financial period November 2024 to November 2025 accompany this Trustees' Annual Report.

Accountants and Independent Examination

ARC's accounts for the 2024–2025 financial year are prepared by Social Enterprise Accountancy Scotland CIC, who provide accountancy services to the charity.

Social Enterprise Accountancy Scotland CIC

Registered in Scotland | Company Registration No. SC618458

Registered Address:

Clyde Offices,
2nd Floor
48 West George Street
Glasgow
G2 1BP

The independent examination of ARC's annual accounts and Trustees' Annual Report is undertaken by Sheila Fazal, CEO of Social Enterprise Accountancy Scotland CIC, in her capacity as Independent Examiner.

The Trustees are pleased to present ARC's completed annual accounts for the period November 2024 to November 2025, representing the organisation's first full year operating as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). The completed accounts have been submitted in full to the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and are publicly available through the OSCR website. Copies are also available directly from ARC on request. The accounts provide a detailed overview of ARC's financial position, income and expenditure during the reporting period.

Prior to becoming a SCIO in November 2024, ARC operated as a Community Interest Company (CIC). As such, these accounts represent the first year of ARC in its current charitable form rather than the beginning of the organisation itself. Accounts covering ARC's first two years of operation as a non-profit entity under its previous CIC structure are available on request, providing additional financial context on the organisation's development prior to achieving charitable status.

CEO STATEMENT

As I look back on ARC's first year as a charity, I am incredibly proud of how far we have come, while knowing that we are still at the beginning of what ARC can become.

When ARC started in 2022, the idea was simple: to create more opportunities for riders with disabilities to get outdoors using cycles and experience places that might otherwise feel out of reach. That purpose remains at the heart of everything we do.

ARC is, above all, a community. It exists because so many people have believed in what we are trying to achieve and have chosen to be part of it. Our riders, volunteers, leaders, Trustees, partners, funders, friends and supporters have all contributed their time, experience, resources and belief. ARC's achievements belong to that whole community, and I am enormously grateful to everyone who has helped us reach this point.

As we grow, we want to remain ambitious while protecting what makes ARC special: listening to our riders, valuing lived experience, supporting one another and creating meaningful opportunities to get outdoors.

Becoming a charity has given us a strong foundation for the future. There is much more we want to achieve, and I am incredibly excited to see where this community takes ARC next.

Neil Russell



Chief Executive Officer
Adaptive Riders Collective



As Trustees of Adaptive Riders Collective, we recognise both the privilege and responsibility of helping to guide an organisation that means so much to its growing community.

We are committed to ensuring that ARC remains true to its purpose and values as it develops. This means keeping the voices and lived experiences of riders at the heart of decision-making, maintaining strong and transparent governance, and supporting the charity to grow in a responsible and sustainable way.

ARC exists because of the commitment, trust and belief of its riders, volunteers, staff, supporters, partners and funders. As Trustees, our responsibility is to respect that trust and ensure the charity continues to use its resources, opportunities and relationships to create meaningful and lasting impact.

We will continue to support ARC's ambition while safeguarding what makes it special: a community built around people, shared experiences and a belief that riders with disabilities should have the opportunity to explore, develop and experience the outdoors using cycles.

The Board of Trustees Adaptive Riders Collective



Declaration:

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Thomas'.

Print Name: Mike Thomas

Designation: Chairman

Date: Tuesday 25th August 2026

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