

**Minutes of the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Riding for the Disabled Association held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at The Trades Hall of Glasgow, 85 Glassford Street, Glasgow G1 1UH**

**Present (Top Table)**

HRH The Princess Royal (President and Chairing this meeting)  
Mrs S Orde (Chairman)  
Mr E Bracher (Chief Executive)  
Mr N Goldie Scot (Honorary Treasurer)  
+ Other Board members  
+ Representatives of all Regions acting as proxy voters for Groups from that Region  
+ Representatives from various Member Groups

**In Attendance**

Angela Sly

The AGM opened at 2.00pm. The President welcomed everyone to Saddlers' Hall for the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and thanked them for attending.

**A Apologies were received from:**

A list of all apologies is held at RDA National Office.  
There were no other apologies.

**B Minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held at Saddlers' Hall 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

The minutes had been circulated and agreed to be a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman on a proposal from Mrs Sheila Saner and seconded by Carole Barr.

**C Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**D Chairman's Report**

The Chairman delivered her report for the last year as follows:-

- Thanked all members of RDA for working together to continue to provide the best possible experience for our participants.
- £190,000 was given out in grants to support groups.
- Groups have supported 21,000 education activities, including thousands of endeavour awards.
- The progress of 2,500 participants has been recorded on the RDA Tracker, giving us strong evidence of the impact we make; now used in 11 countries.
- Endurance was introduced at our National Championships, as the number of endurance groups reached 95.
- We are piloting a Growth Plan to give even more support to groups who would like to and could expand, so as to help more riders and drivers.
- During the last year, two groups visited by our President have been inspiring examples of overcoming challenges to grow and help even more riders and drivers. Both were forced to move venues and with a positive attitude, determination and work they are now enjoying a new lease of life.
- Supporting our volunteers continues to be a high priority. The experience and work of RDA's volunteers continually impresses. As you heard this morning there has been a huge amount of work on the Coaching pathway. This is a real step forward for our coaches. It was brilliant to have the input of so many volunteers and staff working together to develop a pathway, which was received with such a positive vibe at the Coaching Conference.
- Next year we will be able to train coaches at our National Training Centre. I believe that this will be a valuable resource to see RDA move into its second half century, continuing to be leaders in our field. I am pleased to report that the building project is progressing well on time and to budget. The first stage of the gallery on the indoor school is now finished and starting to be used. The builders should be finished in March.
- You will soon be voting for a new Chair of RDA. There has been a rigorous recruitment process and I believe that this gives us an excellent candidate. Sarah Heynen's experience in marketing and

strategic thinking, will help with promoting RDA's work. Sarah has already demonstrated her commitment to RDA and I fully recommend Sarah as the next Chair.

- I would like to give a huge thanks to everyone who has helped me during my 9 years as Chair. It has definitely been a team effort. We have a Board who all give a lot of time to RDA. Working with Ed and the excellent team of staff at National Office has been a wonderful experience. RDA is lucky to have them.

## **E To note the Trustees' Report and Accounts for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, and to receive the commentary from the Honorary Treasurer**

The Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 had been approved and signed on behalf of RDA by the Board of Trustees on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and the RDA Auditors had issued an unqualified audit report confirming that the accounts provided a true record of the finances of RDA and a copy is filed with the Charities Commission. A copy of the summarized accounts is in the Annual Review and a copy of the full audited accounts is on the web-site.

The Honorary Treasurer reported the following: -

- Income totalled £2.6m, the increase of £475,000 over the previous year. The increase was due to increases in grants and voluntary donations and continuing strong support from legacies. This increase in income was achieved despite losses on the investment portfolio of £56,000 reflecting market conditions. Total income included £842,000 that was restricted for the NTC.
- Expenditure totalled £2m an increase of £129,000 on the previous year. Over 80% of expenditure was spent on charitable activities. Expenditure on fundraising was lower than last year, despite the increase in income at £360,000. Expenditure on fundraising as a proportion of funds raised now stands at 17.3% a very credible performance on which our fundraising team should be congratulated.
- The value of RDA's net assets amounted to £6.4m an increase of £580,000. During the year a bank loan of £500,000 was drawn down for the purchase of NTC which took place in August.
- At the year end, Unrestricted General Funds represented approximately 10 months of expenditure. It should be noted that looking forward to the current financial year, the charity has budgeted for an excess of expenditure over income partly to reflect the significant investment in the NTC currently taking place. The trustees continue to monitor the situation carefully and draw comfort from the significant investment reserves.

There were no questions for the Honorary Treasurer.

## **F Resolutions ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS**

1. To re-appoint Sayer Vincent as Auditors of the Association in respect of the accounts for the year commencing 1 April 2018  
**Carried**
2. To elect Sarah Heynen as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Association  
**Carried**
3. To confirm the re-appointment of Ms Jacqui Scott as a Trustee of the Association, with specific responsibility for fundraising  
**Carried**
5. To appoint Mrs Sam Orde as an Honorary Life Vice President of the Association  
**Carried**
6. To appoint Mrs Sheila Saner as an Honorary Life Vice President of the Association  
**Carried**

## **G Any Other Urgent Matters**

No items were raised.

The meeting closed at 2.15pm