



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

Event details



**The RDA UK Board of Trustees
welcome you to this year's AGM**

Date and time

Monday 4th November
10.30 - 16.30

Address

Saddlers' Hall
40 Gutter Lane
London, EC2V 6BR

Agenda and timings

- 10.30-11.00 Arrival and registration
- 11.00-12.00 AGM meeting
- 12.00-12.15 Chair's address
- 12.15-13.15 Lunch & networking
- 13.15-13.25 CEO welcome
- 13.25-14.00 Public perception and social license talk
- 14.00-14.10 Break
- 14.10-15.15 Hidden disabilities and neurodiversity,
panel discussion and Q&A
- 15.15-16.00 Celebrating RDA
- 16.00-16.05 Close
- 16.05-16.30 Departure



Speakers



Speakers

(pictured from left to right)

**Roly Owers, CEO
World Horse Welfare**

Roly will share the latest research findings regarding the public perception of the use of horses in sport and explore societal expectation and its relationship to social licence.

**Ruth Rabet, Sunflower Hidden Disabilities
Hayley Brackley, Great Minds Don't
Glynis Dalley, RDA Regional Chair
Richard Evans, Head of Participation, RDAUK**

Panellists will explore hidden disabilities, including a deeper dive into neurodiversity. They will discuss how this affects individuals, provide practical insights from their own experiences, and look at what RDA can do to continually improve the participant experience.

Physical Access



Venue

Saddlers' Hall was built in 1822 in the neoclassical period style, and as such accessible features have been retrofitted. The main entrance to the venue is reached via a cobbled courtyard, and accessed via steps or a lift from street level. The Great Hall is on the first floor and can be reached via the main staircase, or lift. Accessible toilets are located on the ground floor next to the cloakroom. RDA and venue staff will be on hand to assist and direct throughout.

Travelling by public transport

The closest underground station is:

St Paul's, which is a 2-minute walk from the venue (0.2miles)

Bank is a 4-minute walk and wheelchair accessible (0.5 miles)

Mansion House is a 4-minute walk (0.5 miles)

The closest overground station is:

City Thameslink, which is a 4-minute walk and is wheelchair accessible (0.6 miles)

Blackfriars Station is a 7-minute walk and is wheelchair accessible (1 mile)

Cannon Street Station is 5-minute walk and is wheelchair accessible (0.7 miles)

Please visit tfl.gov.uk for more details on accessibility

Travelling by car

We strongly advise you to use public transport. Public Car parking spaces are located at:

- Baynard House Car & Bike Park, EC4V 4BQ
- London Wall Car Park, EC2V 5DY

Cognitive Accessibility



Quiet Spaces

There will be a dedicated quiet space on the day, which will be low stimulation for anyone who would benefit from accessing it. During the AGM the main room will be busy with up to 150 people and there may be a lot of ambient noise.

Sound & light sensitivity

If you are light or sound sensitive, please feel free to bring and use sunglasses or earplugs/ decibel droppers. Let us know so we can support your comfortable access. If you are using sound reducing equipment, please let an RDA member staff know in case of an emergency

Breaks

There are breaks planned throughout the day, with refreshments available. However, if you feel the need to step away there is seating in the cloakroom next to the main entrance to the building where you can take a moment as required.

Communication Accessibility



British Sign Language (BSL) Interpreters

There will be BSL interpreters present throughout the day. Please let us know if you require this service so we can reserve a space at the front, where the signers will be located, or so you can lip-read the speakers.

Language

The meeting, talks and any videos shown will all be conducted in English.

All speakers will be wearing microphones and will be briefed on best practice, including avoiding the use of abbreviations or shorthand in their addresses where possible.

Visual Accessibility



Local crossings have textured paving.

There are no full glass doors, but there are large windows throughout the venue.

The lifts have textured buttons and there will be staff throughout the venue to offer assistance.

Any videos used will have subtitles throughout.

The venue has good lighting throughout.

There will be additional screens to ensure a clear view of content throughout the day.

There will be clear signage of toilets, entrance and exit.

Venue staff will respond in any emergency and are fully trained in supporting disabled people as needed.

RDA UK Trustees



Helena Vega-Lozano, Chair

Helena brings extensive experience and expertise to RDA having served in roles across the private sector and not-for-profit; and a strong connection to our mission through her lifelong passion for horses, animals, and the natural world.

As a senior Partner and Consulting Board member at Deloitte, Helena leads the Sustainability practice across the Finance and Supply Chain business. During her seventeen years as a Partner with Deloitte, Helena has led numerous programmes for clients, ranging from governance reviews and designing Board strategy and KPIs through to performance management, HR and talent management, risk management and controls, and driving technology and digital change.

Helena is also Chair of the Trustees at Mare and Foal (an equine rescue charity) and is a Volunteer Counsellor for Childline (NSPCC) handling front line calls and digital engagement with young people using the Childline service.



RDA UK Trustees



Rachel Vaughan-Johns, Deputy Chair

Rachel will be familiar to many of our RDA family. She is a long-standing supporter and volunteer at RDA, having first volunteered in Hong Kong in 1995.

After her return to the UK, she became a coach at Lackham RDA Group in 1999, then becoming Group Organiser. Rachel was subsequently appointed Wiltshire County Chair and took over the Mid West Regional Chair position in 2019. She is also currently Group Coach at Warminster RDA.

The daughter of a naval family, she travelled and lived overseas throughout her childhood. She is a keen sports player, still actively playing hockey for the Local Ladies 1st Team, sails competitively in dinghies and in yachts, and is currently racing dinghies and has competed in class National Championships for the last 4 years. She swam the distance of the English Channel during the first lockdown to raise funds for RDA.



RDA UK Trustees



Simon Bragg, Honorary Treasurer

Simon is an experienced financial services executive, entrepreneur, investor and director.

He is Founder and Chief Executive of JSB Energy Partners and was previously Chairman and Chief Executive of Stifel Europe, which acquired Oriel Securities, a business Simon founded. Simon has been a non-executive of a number of businesses, including Intralink Group (until its sale in June 2023) and JP Morgan American Investment Trust (where he was Chairman of the Audit Committee).

Simon has taken an active interest in helping a number of charities over many years, including being a trustee of The London Music Fund, Royal Engineers Vocational and Educational Training Trust. He started The London Leg Up Fund, a charitable fund to help young people in London with a “leg up” to succeed and gain confidence. Simon is a Trustee of RACPD (a Royal Artillery charity) and was a member of Battersea Dogs and Cats Home Global Programmes Advisory Board Bio fine.

Simon is a Chartered Accountant and a Fellow of CISI. He is a Fellow of Goodenough College.



RDA Trustees



Barbara Manson

Barbara has been volunteering with the RDA since 1992, taking on both local and regional roles. She has served as Treasurer and Chair at her local RDA centre in Inverurie, which was purpose-built.

Barbara is also an RDAC and was Regional Chair for the Grampian and Highland Region until June 2021. In recent years, she has mentored new Regional Chairs. She currently leads the Steering Group for the RDA Governance Review and is Chair of the Lowlands Equestrian Centre Board.

Alongside her weekly volunteering at her local RDA group, Barbara is also Chair and Trustee of an NHS Charity in Grampian, which has recently undergone a major rebrand and reorganisation. In addition, she has developed an award-winning holiday cottage business in Aberdeenshire. In her spare time, she enjoys riding and walking her dogs.

Barbara lives in Aberdeenshire, with another base in Edinburgh. She believes that RDA in Scotland benefits from strong community support and enthusiastic, skilled volunteers who are keen to learn and grow. She is passionate about RDA's work and hopes to continue helping it thrive in Scotland's equine community.



RDA UK Trustees



Lindsay Correa

RDA Trustee responsible for Volunteering since 2018, Lindsay is also Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead, and Chairs the Remunerations and Nominations and the Volunteer Appointments Committees.

A professional recruiter and former managing director, with over 35 years experience in designing and implementing recruitment and professional development programs, she enjoys the challenge of adapting commercial business and recruitment techniques to attract and retain RDA volunteers.

A qualified RDA Coach, on a Thursday morning Lindsay can be found at Sandhurst RDA within the historic grounds of the Royal Military Academy.

Lindsay is a Local Authority-appointed school governor and a director at Sophie Christiansen Ltd, a non-profit organisation whose purpose is to leverage Sophie's profile as one of Britain's most successful Paralympians, to impact the next generation across para-dressage, women in tech and the broader disability agenda.



RDA UK Trustees



Ellie Orton, OBE

Ellie is passionate about RDA and has been involved at her local group, Lowlands Farm RDA for over 10 years where her autistic daughter rides weekly. As someone who grew up in the area, Ellie even had dressage lessons at Lowlands as a young person herself when she was in the Pony Club. Although, at her own admission, this is not something she excelled at.

Ellie brings 30 years of working and leading in the Voluntary Sector and is currently the Chief Executive of NHS Charities Together, the national charity caring for the NHS and membership body to the UK's NHS charities. She was at the helm of the charity's Covid-19 urgent appeal in 2020, which raised £162m to support NHS staff, volunteers, and patients impacted by the pandemic.

Ellie was awarded the Outstanding Individual Achievement Award by the Charity Times in 2021, the Outstanding Achievement Award 2021 by APM, Charity Times most pioneering CEO's, the Health Service Journal's top 100 CEO's, and an OBE by Her Majesty The Queen for her contribution to the NHS during Covid.



New Trustees Proposed



Rosie Scott-Ward

Rosie brings over 25 years of experience in education and the equine world to the RDA. Her passion for horses started when she began riding at age 7 at an RDA centre in Cumbria, despite coming from a non-horsey family. This love for horses led her to compete in British Eventing while earning a degree in Equine Science, followed by a Master's in Equine Science. Her research focused on how water-based exercises affect horse movement.

In 2002, Rosie joined Hartpury and has since held various academic and commercial roles, including Equine Director. She has strong experience in managing change, having led Hartpury's transition to University status. As Deputy Vice Chancellor, she is responsible for overseeing all academic work and the equine activities at Hartpury. Recently, Rosie chaired the Hartpury Horse Advisory Board, which developed the Hartpury Happy Horse Principles and the Hartpury Horse Charter, promoting evidence-based best practices for horse care.

Rosie is a founding director of the Equine Assisted Services Partnership and a trustee of Community Action Nepal. She also serves as the Executive Event Director of the Hartpury International Horse Trials.



New Trustees Proposed



Paul Maynard

Paul brings wide-ranging experience from the public sector both as an advisor and an experienced politician. He has been involved in parliament for 14 years and was MP for Blackpool North & Cleveleys between 2010 and 2024, with time spent as a Government Minister focusing on pensions and transport.

During his time in Government, he chaired the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Cerebral Palsy, and campaigned on disability rights, supporting his connection to RDA where he was a regular participant when young. In 2016, he played an active role in improving the accessibility of apprenticeships for people with learning disabilities.

Paul has maintained his connection to local RDA groups and has regularly supported the national charity, including appearing as a speaker at the RDA National Conference.

Having represented one of the most deprived towns in the country, he is enthusiastic about supporting RDA to achieve its goal of increasing participation across all of society.



New Trustees Proposed



Kelly Barnes

Kelly has been passionate about horses from a young age, riding ponies through to racehorses. With lived experience of the therapeutic benefits of horses, equine engagement had a profoundly positive impact on her well-being as a young person, resulting in a strong connection with the RDA mission.

Alongside a professional background in equestrianism, attending the British Racing School and leading the national marketing and PR activity at the British Horseracing Authority, Kelly's career has specialised in international marketing, brand and revenue generation. She has worked across National Governing Bodies, E-Commerce, leisure and financial services, bringing significant experience in brand and marketing roles supported by a Chartered Institute of Marketing Diploma in Professional Marketing.

In addition to her expertise in brand and marketing, most notably in developing compelling storytelling, Kelly offers a breadth of both advisory and hands-on experience in governance, regulatory compliance, and innovation. She is excited to contribute to our passionate, purpose-led, RDA community to further enable positive change, and continue to enrich peoples lives through horses.

