

## **Annual General Meeting 2024**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for Thornton Rose RDA will take place on:

- *Saturday, the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2024, 1 pm at Thornton Rose RDA, Thornton Farm, Rosewell, EH24 9EF.*

### **Agenda**

**Meeting start time 13:11 with 'social reception'**

#### **1 Welcome to Members (Kay)**

**Members welcomed by current chair, Kay**

#### **2 Attendance and Apologies (Charlotte)**

**Apologies from Maria, Johan and Mags**

#### **3 Minutes of the last AGM, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 (Charlotte)**

**Approved by kay and charlotte**

#### **4 Chair's Report for 2023/24 (Kay)**

**Kays 8<sup>th</sup> and final chairpersons report**

As I stand here giving you my 8<sup>th</sup> and final Chairperson's report, I am delighted to open with it has been another fabulous year at Thornton Rose.

Our RDA Sessions continue on a Wednesday and a Saturday. Wednesdays are the busier of the two with both ridden and on the ground offerings. The Wednesday team is very strong, and they keep growing from strength to strength each week. It really is amazing to see how well they have grown together and continue to strive to make each session fun and interactive for the participants.

Saturdays are quieter and a little more complex due to the younger & lesser experienced team. We have really tried to focus on this in the last year and feel we have made considerable progress; the stars have stepped up and are shining brighter than ever and we continue to bring more through the ranks as we go. We have recently also picked up a few more adult volunteers which makes all the difference as well. If this continues there will be no doubt that we can start bringing in new participants to expand Saturday's offering.

We have had a few visits from Regional Coaches and Chairpersons this year which have gone utterly brilliantly. In fact, they have gone so well Fiona & I were even a little emotional about it. TR was complimented on it's friendly, warm & relaxed atmosphere. The comradery, teamwork & dedication shown by the volunteers and that the participants they observed seemed to be having an amazing time. We were a perfect example of how an RDA should work!!

Now in reflection – what I've just said makes all the stress and work behind the scenes of those visits

worthwhile. Thanks so much to every one of you that stepped up to make them possible and a massive thanks to Becca for making that happen and to Fiona and her paperwork squirrels in particular.

During one of those visits Fiona & I were reassessed as Group Coaches. This is something that should have happened during the Pandemic but was repeatedly postponed. So to say it was long overdue is an understatement and to say that meant the pressure had mounted would be an even bigger understatement. Anyway..... we both passed with perfect scores and remarkably good feedback – cue more tears!! Yay, go us!! Charlotte reassessment is in the diary and we are 100 percent confident that she will ace it too.

Our Trainee Coaches have yet again proved their weight in gold this year, we really couldn't do it without them. Mock assessments are looming and we are hoping to get a few qualifications in the bag this year. Keep the fingers crossed folks.

#### Funding –

Funding will always remain a huge focus for us, we owe a massive thank you to Nikki our treasurer who has won us many grants this year, when we say grants we really mean Lifelines, that's how important they are to our continued survival.

Nikki will go into more details of these in her treasurer's report in a jiffy.

Fundraising is equally as important and this year we have to thank Sheila for all her efforts sorting us out with this fab new kit and for the Disco & Raffle she organised which brought everyone together for an amazing night in April and drew in some much-needed funds.

Becca's friend Caroline who works for Ooni has donated us 2 pizza ovens, one of which we have already raffled off in a very popular competition earlier this year. Watch out for the next one in 2025!! Huge thanks to Becca & Caroline.

#### Ponies –

In my report last year I mentioned that it was time for Amber & Shadow to move on. I can now tell you that Shadow is enjoying his retirement and has settled very well into the quiet life.

Amber is now at Fiona's in Fife being from what I've heard "a Right Madam" which means she's enjoying it greatly and learning a lot from Misty one of our other retirees. Panda has had a hard year, but the Horse welfare team have done a phenomenal job with him and have got to the bottom of his health issues and are now working him through a treatment & re-training programme with Charlotte at the helm. He is gently and slowly coming back into RDA work as well which we are all delighted about.

Pie is Pie, She's doing her Pie thing and still surprising us with whatever mood she's in, but RDAwise she's been better than ever recently.

Ollie is our newest lad, black & white obviously, and he is doing so well. Nikki & the Horse Team have done a lot with him since he joined us and he is moving in all the right directions and proving his worth in many ways. Outside RDA Nikki and him have taken part in fun rides and pass wide & slow campaigns.

We have the gorgeous Girls Willow & Rinca on loan from the main yard and both bring smiles to many. Rinca is a little choosy of which people she likes around her but is

incredibly fond of a couple of our riders. Willow is a firm fave of all – it's just love!! The smallest horse on the yard with the biggest attitude.

We are now in a position where we are looking for a New Horse (possibly 2) so watch this space for exciting news.

#### Conclusions

As life at Thornton Rose continues, we will be finding & filling gaps within our sessions but this can only be done with the continued growth & development of our 100% voluntary team. We will be doing this by providing as much training and support as possible, this means more fundraising and keeping on pushing for grants. We are trying hard to push our online presence and keep up on “the socials”, we're revamping the website and catching up with the times – any help with this would be greatly appreciated.

So, this brings be to the Congratulations & the Thank Yous!

A Huge Congrats to Sheila who represented us at the RDA National Championships and won 6 accolades for her efforts, 2 1sts, 3 2nds & a 3rd – Just wow!! We are ridiculously proud of you and thank you very much for taking TR to the big stage. A huge thank you to all those that supported

Shelia on this journey too.

Our very own Fiona celebrated 20 years of volunteering with the RDA this year!! We had a wee prize giving for her a couple of weeks ago which yes, you guessed it got a little emotional. I keep saying it but not all heroes wear capes. Thanks for everything you've done and continue to do.

I'll start the thank yous with a big one to the RBS Team that have already completed 1 volunteer day with us and have a second one in the diary before the end of the month.

Essential repairs & maintenance have never been so fun.

I simply can't thank my fellow trustees enough, it is tough, time consuming, difficult decisions need made, hard conversations need to be had but its all so worth it and you guys deserve a pat on the back.

As always though here's my biggest thanks of all. It goes to every one of you involved in TR RDA. Everyone from the volunteer teams that support every session, the silent behind the scenes helpers, the pony “lookafterers” & the care givers, the members, participants, parents & carers.

Without you – none of this is possible! Thank you again & again for all you do and for all we achieved in the last 12 months.

Finally, I conclude with it has been an honour to serve you and this wonderful charity that means so much to me as your Chairperson since 2016. I thank you all for your support, hard work and dedication. You are literally AMAZING.

Over & Out.

**Kay McBride**  
**Group Chair**

## **5 Treasurer's Report (Nikki and Carol)**

Reserve Account is still at £13291.92

Current Account is lower than I have ever seen at £6679.80 BUT this also includes horse contributions from Amber at £1700 and £1450 fund raising for a new horse. So we need the monthly incoming and outgoing to balance better.

Robertson Grant has been paying the trustees Milage this year, but it is now finished.

The Screwfix Grant we have spent £976 so still £794 to spend on the barn renovations. This is happening on 21 st October

Midlothian Grant £1195 for the summer mental health

TKMaxx donation of £500

Wooden Spoon Grant of £7250 is for a weight carrying horse which need to be purchased before March 24

Heather Robinson is donating approx. £2-£3k for a very safe horse

We currently have 18 participants which we need to increase and we ( I ) need to start to create a cost centre for each horse and their costs/ income per month.

Rinca has 2 sharerers bringing in £162 and 2 participants at£45 each her livery is £247 as an example, and Ollie should have sharer contracts staring soon

**Questions from Kay E regarding going forward with increased revenue from various sources eg monetisation of riders outside of RDA sessions, grant funding for training, grants for running mental health sessions, Decathlon collaboration.**

**Fundraising initiatives to start up in the coming months including pony sponsorship and selling of calendars.**

**Collaboration with coop stores coming to an end in the near future.**

The Treasurer's report / annual accounts will be available online via the links at the bottom of the page. The accounts are audited and will be submitted to OSCR for the financial year February 2023 to February 2024.

## **6 Election of Trustees (Kay)**

We thank all our Trustees for their service over the last year. Our charity's rules over the election of Trustees are contained in our constitution. All Trustees step down at the AGM and seven are appointed by the members. At the moment we have ten existing Trustees, three of whom will stand down. The remaining seven have been nominated and agree to stand for election for another year. Once formed the new Board may appoint up to four additional Trustees.

**Resolution 2021.1 proposed by Rebecca Maitland and seconded by Nicola Crane: We the members of Thornton Rose RDA, SCIO SC028617, resolve to re-elect the Trustees Kay McBride, Mags Gallagher, Carol Perry, Fiona Buchanan, Charlotte Smyth, June Gay and Helena Wood.**

**Jonanne standing down, sends apologies and thanks for her time within the committee and the remaining trustees thank her for her service and involvement.**

**9 Close of meeting (Kay)**

**Meeting closed at 1345**