

COBBES MEADOW GROUP RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION

CHARITY NUMBER 1074165

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees	Mr David Hall (Chair) Mrs Christine Sladden (Secretary) Mrs Gerrie Serpell (Treasurer) Lt. Col. (Retd.) Colin Caverhill (until March 2022) Mr Richard Stilwell (until June 2021) Mrs Mary Mustafa (from June 2021) Mr Philip Harland Mrs Catherine McCully Mrs Suzi Ross Browne Mr Barnaby Swire Mrs Sally Murch Mrs Maria Conneely (until January 2022)
Registered charity number	1074165
Principal address	Candler's Way St Augustine's Chartham Canterbury Kent CT4 7TU
Governing document	Constitution
Independent examiner	Chris Lockhart FCA Chris Lockhart Limited Chartered Accountant Suite 2015 Letraset Building Wotton Road Ashford Kent TN23 6LN
Bankers	National Westminster Bank plc 20 High Street Ashford Kent TN24 8SH

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Trustees' Annual Report

Aim and organisation

1. The Cobbes Meadow Group was started in 1972 and at that time was a Group within the single national Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) charity. In 1999 the national RDA charity was broken up and the Groups within it, including Cobbes Meadow Group, became individual charities in their own right. The Group is governed by a constitution agreed at that time between RDA National and the Charity Commission on behalf of Groups across England and Wales.
2. The aim of Cobbes Meadow Group is to provide disabled people with the opportunity to ride and/or carriage drive to benefit their health and well-being.
3. The charity is managed by the Committee of Trustees which has control of the Group's property and funds. The Group's constitution requires a committee of at least 3 and no more than 11 trustees. No trustee may be a paid employee of the Group, but must be a member of the Group. Election of trustees occurs at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) usually in June each year to which nominations may be made by any member or the Committee. One third of the Committee must retire at each AGM with the longest in office retiring first. Retiring trustees are eligible for re-election. If a vacancy occurs, the Committee may appoint a replacement until the next AGM.
4. Day to day running of the Group is the responsibility of a Management Subcommittee which reports to the Trustees. The Treasurer and Secretary of the Committee of Trustees sit on this subcommittee which then appoints its own Chairman. At the AGM in June 2021, Richard Stilwell retired as chairman of the Management subcommittee and as a trustee and Mary Mustafa succeeded him as chairman and was appointed a trustee. The charity employs no paid staff.

Review of progress and achievements

5. The work of the Group focuses entirely on providing opportunities for disabled adults and children to ride and carriage drive. The coronavirus pandemic continued to affect the ability of the Group to provide riding and driving to its users because schools, in the early part of the financial year, were unable to transport children to the centre, and it was a similar issue for the adult riders who reside in care homes. Activities were limited to those parents and carers who were able to bring children and adults to the centre themselves. Another casualty of the pandemic was that the team, which operated on a Tuesday to provide riding for adults, had to cease as there were insufficient volunteer helpers able to return to run the sessions. Some of the riders from the Tuesday sessions amalgamated with the Thursday session. These factors meant that the number of users was considerably limited in the early part of the year, which adversely affected income for the Group.
6. The first riding session for over a year took place on 8th April 2021 but this could only be for "independent riders", those who are able to support themselves on a pony without assistance from the Group's volunteers. The Driving group continued to meet and hold training sessions but were unable to provide driving sessions for their participants until May 2021 when restrictions were eased to allow driving to take place with masks on. In June 2021 each of our 2 schools were able to send children to ride at the centre; 6 from one school and 9 from the other. The children were excited to be back riding and the volunteers equally delighted to see them again. The "end of term" in mid-July meant that the Centre was closed but there was a real focus to ensure that from September 2021 operations would be back to normal levels of activity. "Keep in touch" days were held with riders and in August 2021 a very successful 'family event' day was held which enabled many families to see the Group in action and to take up the opportunity to register with us. A summer drinks party was also held in August with a view to getting volunteers back together again after so many months away from each other. This was very popular, and plans have been made to repeat it in 2022. Schools returned to riding in September 2021 with still reduced numbers, but

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these increased from November. Unfortunately the Tuesday sessions were not operating then, however, due to considerable efforts by various trustees and others the sessions started again on 22 February 2022. In addition, the monthly Saturday riding sessions started up again and have been continued on the first Saturday of each month. These are important as they can be attended by children and young adults who are committed elsewhere during the week. The Carriage Driving Group, which meets on Fridays, had great success at the Royal Windsor Horse Show in July 2021 with Pat Hammond achieving 2nd and Andrew Norman gaining 4th in their respective classes. Andrew had the added bonus in August of being presented with a trophy for winning 1st place in the Novice Whips class at the South East Region RDA Driving Show back in 2019.

7. Our charitable objective is to provide disabled people with the opportunity to ride and/or carriage drive to benefit their health and well-being. It is with some sense of relief that the Trustees are able to report (as above) that riding sessions restarted early in the year, albeit on a limited basis, closely followed by carriage driving and furthermore that the level of activity increased from September and has been sustained to the year end.

Review of financial activities

8. The accounts for the last financial year show an excess of income over expenditure of £2,804, which was achieved, despite the Centre not operating for almost a year, due to the generosity of several donors and a grant of £10,000 from Canterbury City Council under the Small Business Grant Fund set up as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. In the year ended 2022 the excess of income over expenditure was slightly less at £1,922 and reflected an increase of £6,000 on expenditure due to greater costs spent on maintenance, utilities and training as the riding school was in operation on a regular basis, as well as increased costs for horse and pony care and insurance. Income was also up by £5,000 due to higher receipts from riders' and drivers' subscriptions (up £7,000 reflecting the additional level of activity) and fund raising activities at the Christmas Extravaganza, a Race Night in February and other smaller events raised £2,486. We were also most fortunate to receive a donation of £5,000 from a volunteer member of the Group, £2,500 from a local business (JSP Pumps), and a further £1,000 from the Atherton Trust at a time when expenditure was fast outstripping our income. However, it was necessary to dip into the Group's reserve savings account before these donations were received, for £5,000, when the current account dropped to a level where it might not have been able to meet anticipated expenses. As a result of those donations that sum has been repaid to the savings account. Other non-monetary gifts were also received. The charitable body 'The Purchasers' purchased a horse (Poppy) and donated her to us, avoiding the need for the Group to pay out for her. We were also very fortunate to be gifted Nutmeg, a smaller pony suitable for our young riders, by the nearby Chilham Estate. The Trustees gratefully thank these donors and everyone else who made donations or gave of their time to support the Group through another difficult year.

9. The policy of the Trustees is to have a financial reserve equal to one year's normal operating costs of about £30,000. Funds brought forward from year end 2021 amounted to £42,761, including funds of £960 allocated to the Sensory Ride project which were not spent in this financial year due to the reduced level of activities. As mentioned, it was necessary to take £5,000 from reserves due to possible cash flow difficulties on the current account. It is fortunate that our former Treasurer, Colin Caverhill, introduced this reserve during his 17 years as Treasurer. The Trustees are very sad to report that Colin died on 26th March 2022, still a serving trustee.

10. The major items of expenditure for the operation of the charity are veterinary and pony care and livery costs which this year together amounted to £16,528 an increase on the previous year's figure of £15,266. Equipment and repair costs show an increase of £800 on the previous year and insurance costs were up as well with £1,200 more for horse insurance and a further £1,000 on public liability and buildings and contents insurance. The fact that activity levels have increased and fund-raising events can be held gives the Trustees confidence for the year ahead and it is the opinion of the Trustees that the charity is

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considered to be a going concern for the next 12 months.

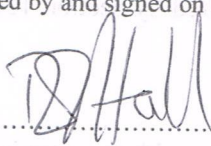
11. A significant anniversary will be reached in the next financial year as we celebrate in 2022 our 50 years of existence.

12. The Independent examiner's report (attached) has been seen and noted by the Committee of Trustees.

13. The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable the charity to lessen or mitigate these risks. Furthermore, the Trustees consider that the Group's objectives and activities comply with the Charity Commission guidance on Public Benefit.

14. The Trustees consider that the charity is in a sound financial position notwithstanding the impact of reduced operations in the early part of the year as activity levels have increased and remain positive at the year end.

Approved by and signed on behalf of the Committee of Trustees



David Hall

Date: 14th June 2022

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Independent examiner's report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Cobbes Meadow Group Riding for the Disabled Association ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Chris Lockhart FCA
Chris Lockhart Limited
Chartered Accountant
Suite 2015 Letraset Building
Wotton Road
Ashford
Kent
TN23 6LN

Signed:



Date: **14 JUNE** 2022

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	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Fund Sensory Ride	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Grants and donations	20333	-	20333	24331
Receipts from activities – note 3	10585	-	10585	3295
Fundraising activities				
Other	2486	-	2486	1572
Investment income				
Bank interest	137	-	137	42
Other income				
Sale of assets	950	-	950	-
Insurance Claim	-	-	-	-
Total income	34491	-	34491	29240
Expenditure				
Direct charitable expenditure				
Veterinary and pony care	16528	-	16528	15266
Tack and clothing	31	-	31	-
Equipment, including repairs	1668	-	1668	880
Transport	1434	-	1434	2682
Insurance (horse)	2142	-	2142	911
Purchase costs of clothing	-	-	-	-
Costs of public website	223	-	223	223
Costs of outings, events & other activities	-	-	-	-
Fundraising costs				
Other	-	-	-	344
Management and administration – note 4	10543	-	10543	6130
Purchase of horse	-	-	-	-
Purchase of equipment	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	32569	-	32569	26436
Excess of income over expenditure	1922	-	1922	2804
Cash funds brought forward	41801	960	42761	39957
Cash funds carried forward	<u>£43723</u>	<u>£960</u>	<u>£44683</u>	<u>£42761</u>

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Statement of assets and liabilities and other notes

Note 1 Monetary assets - cash and bank accounts

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Natwest Current account	17951	960	18911
Yorkshire Building Society	<u>25772</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25772</u>
	<u>£43723</u>	<u>£960</u>	<u>£44683</u>

Other monetary assets

Inland Revenue (gift aid tax refund)	£1825
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Liabilities

March invoices and expenditure claims paid in April	£408
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Note 2 Non-monetary assets - held for charity's own use

<i>All stated at original cost value</i>	<u>£</u>
Land at the Former St Augustine's Hospital, Chartham	19974
Riding school, Linnet Room and viewing gallery extension	125370
Sand school (all above insured for £340,421)	28202
Equi-Trek Super-Sonic horsebox 2010 (insured £20000)	24186
Renault Master Horsebox 2015 (Insured £30000)	30420
Hoist and associated equipment	1660
Sensory Ride	2290
Muck trailer	350

<i>All stated at insurance value</i>	
5 ponies owned at year end (Ralph insured for £1,200 and Poppy for £3,600)	4800
4 ponies loaned at year end (Rupert insured £500)	500
4 carriages plus 3 sets of harness	12650
Tack, jumps and general equipment	15427

Note 3 Receipts from activities

	2022	2021
Riders and drivers' subscriptions	8405	550
Sale of group branded clothing	-	-
Donations for use of facilities	2180	2745
	<u>£10585</u>	<u>£3295</u>

Note 4 Management and administration

	2022	2021
Property Costs including maintenance and utilities	6661	3884
Administration	351	63
Insurance (public liability/personal accident/ Building/contents)	1457	1361
Training Costs including courses	1231	12
Independent Examiner's fee	550	550
Sundry expenses	293	260
	<u>£10543</u>	<u>£6130</u>