

COBBES MEADOW GROUP RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION

CHARITY NUMBER 1074165

ANNUAL REPORT,

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT AND

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

COBBES MEADOW GROUP RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION
Annual Report and Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2023

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Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees	Mr David Hall (Chair) Mrs Marguerite Heath (Secretary - appointed 19 th April 2022) Mrs Gerrie Serpell (Treasurer) Mrs Mary Mustafa Mr Philip Harland Mrs Catherine McCully Mrs Suzi Ross-Browne Mr Barnaby Swire Mrs Sally Murch Mrs Christine Sladden Mrs Teresa Whitehead (appointed 19 th April 2022)
Registered charity number	1074165
Governing document	Constitution
Principal address	Candlers Way St Augustine's Chartham Canterbury Kent CT4 7TU
Independent examiner	Bay Tree Accountancy Chartered Accountants Stelling Minnis Canterbury Kent CT4 6AA
Bankers	National Westminster Bank PLC 20 High Street Ashford Kent TN24 SSH

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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. The charity employs no paid staff. Maria Conneely retired as a trustee in January 2022 and former Treasurer and trustee, Colin Caverhill, sadly died in March 2022 leaving 2 vacancies on the Committee of Trustees. Teresa Whitehead and Marguerite Heath agreed to serve as trustees and were appointed at a Committee Meeting on 19th April 2022 with Marguerite Heath agreeing to stand as Secretary to the Group. Both positions were ratified by the AGM on 14th June 2022.

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 year under review was significantly different to the year ended March 2022 which had been adversely affected for the first 6 months by the pandemic lockdowns. By the beginning of April 2022 the Group was again providing riding for children on Mondays and Wednesdays and riding for adults on Tuesdays and Thursdays with carriage driving sessions on Fridays. The Tuesday sessions restarted after the pandemic with a new leader and a small group of volunteers providing riding sessions to a few riders but by the end of the year the group had increased to 18 volunteers and 14 riders. This was an excellent outcome to what had been of considerable concern to the trustees in losing a day of providing riding to adult riders. In addition the riding sessions on the first Saturday of the month for both children and adults continued during the year with strong leadership from the coaches and great support from our volunteers. The trustees would like to see if it is possible to have an additional Saturday session during the month. These are important as they can be attended by children and young adults who may be at school or have other commitments during the week.

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6. A source of income for the Group comes from donations for the use of our facilities which are an indoor and an outdoor riding school and meeting room. A long standing supporter, who ran dog training sessions at the Centre on various evenings in the week, sadly died and this ended a useful stream of income. Furthermore, it was noticeable that expenses and outgoings had increased and from the start of the year the Trustees and those on the Management Committee were looking at attracting additional sources of income to cover the increasing costs. Details are to be found under the heading "Review of Financial Activities".

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. The Trustees are pleased to be able to report that riding sessions during the year returned to a level close to numbers achieved in 2019-2020. Carriage driving sessions were more limited in the number of participants who could be accommodated because the Group was not able to use its carriage adapted for loading a wheelchair as the pony used for this carriage was injured. However, 5 participants were able to drive each week in the periods from April to July and September to December. The Trustees can report that the pony is fit and well and the wheelchair carriage is back in action and used by an additional 3 to 4 users each week.

Review of financial activities

8. The accounts for this financial year show an excess of income over expenditure of £20,565 compared to £1922 in the previous financial year ended 2022. This is mainly due to an increase of £18,000 in donations from our riders and drivers reflecting a much higher level of activity than the previous year. Although income from use of our facilities was down nearly £1,500, other fund raising activities raised over £7,000, an increase of £4,833 on the previous year. Sources of income were from a diverse range of activities and donors. £958 came from volunteers shaking buckets for small cash donations at the end of the Aldington point-to-point races in April 2022, £500 from Waitrose supermarket, a collection at Chartham Vineyard raised £643 and a "fun dog day" raised £501 from local people. Thanks must be extended to Richard Baines of City Awards who donated trophies and rosettes for that event. The East Kent Ploughing Match committee donated £500 to the Group and a similar sum was donated by the Lower Hardres Gardening Society with £1,000 received from the Sir John Swire Foundation again. Our Christmas Fair raised £2,000 and will be repeated in 2023. Particular thanks must be given to a member of Canterbury Sunrise Rotary Club who personally donated £4,200 in sponsoring "Poppy", a new horse we had recently acquired. This donation, with gift aid, will cover the livery costs for Poppy for a whole year and we are extremely grateful for this very generous donation. We submitted a funding application to the Kent Community Fund and received a most welcome donation of £2,000 from Hornbeam Charitable Fund – Community First and a further generous donation of £4,000 from The Kent Reliance Provident Society Community Fund both of which have been used for the care of our other horses and ponies. Thanks are due to all our supporters who kindly donated funds to us and whom I have not publicly thanked by name.

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9. On the expenses side our costs were up by just over £9,000 overall with the main increase being for the livery and care of our horses and higher costs being incurred in the running and maintenance of our 2 horse boxes which are used to transport horses from their "homes" to the Centre 4 days per week. We had some savings on property repairs and maintenance from the previous year. It is noticeable that our electricity costs have increased since July 2022 when our fixed term at a lower tariff ended. Our overall expenditure was £41,758 for the year, up from £32,569 in the previous year; however thankfully more than covered by the additional income of £27,000 received in the year.

10. The policy of the Trustees is to have a financial reserve equal to one year's normal operating costs. This had been in the order of £30,000 but in the light of the increased livery costs and other expenses the Trustees will need to review this, although funds brought forward from year end 2022 amounted to £44,683, which proved to be an appropriate sum.

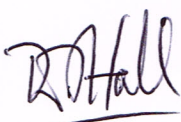
11. The major items of expenditure for the operation of the charity are veterinary and pony care and livery costs which this year together amounted to £26,373, an increase on the previous year's figure of £16,528. The other item of expenditure which also increased was for transport which was incurred for repairs to the 2 horse boxes, for additional fuel due to increased usage and for increased insurance costs. The fact that activity levels have increased and several fund-raising events have been held and also planned for next year, gives the Trustees confidence for the year ahead and it is the opinion of the Trustees that the charity is considered to be a going concern for the next 12 months.

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.

Approved by and signed on behalf of the Committee of Trustees

Signed:  Chairman

Date: 30th October 2023

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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 2023.

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(5Xb) 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:

- a. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- b. 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.

Bay Tree Accountancy
Chartered Accountants
Stelling Minnis
Canterbury
Kent
CT4 6AA

Signed:



Date: 1st November 2023

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Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Grants and donations	22,958	4,200	27,158	20,333
Receipts from activities - note 3	27,310	-	27,310	10,585
Fundraising activities				
Other	7,319	-	7,319	2,486
Investment income				
Bank interest	536	-	536	137
Other income				
Sale of assets	-	-	-	950
Total income	58,123	4,200	62,323	34,491
Expenditure				
Direct charitable expenditure				
Veterinary and pony care	22,173	4,200	26,373	16,528
Tack and clothing	747	-	747	31
Equipment, including repairs	280	-	280	1,668
Transport	4,804	-	4,804	1,434
Insurance (horses)	2,293	-	2,293	2,142
Purchase costs of clothing	-	-	-	-
Costs of public website	228	-	228	223
Costs of outings, events & other activities	390	-	390	-
Management and administration - note 4	6,643	-	6,643	10,543
Purchase of horse	-	-	-	-
Purchase of equipment	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	37,558	4,200	41,758	32,569
Excess of income over expenditure	20,565	-	20,565	1,922
Cash funds brought forward	43,723	960	44,683	42,761
Cash funds carried forward	64,288	960	65,248	44,683

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Statement of Assets and Liabilities and other notes

Note 1 Monetary assets - cash and bank account

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
NatWest Current account	27,981	960	28,941
Yorkshire Building Society	36,307	-	36,307
	<u>64,288</u>	<u>960</u>	<u>65,248</u>

Other monetary assets	£
Inland Revenue (Gift Aid tax refund)	4,138
Donation from East Kent Ploughing Match Association	500

Liabilities

	£
March 2023 expenditure, paid in April 2023	427

Note 2 Non-monetary assets - held for charity's own use

<i>All stated at original cost value</i>	£
Land at the Former St Augustine's Hospital, Chartham	19,974
Riding school, Linnet Room and viewing gallery extension	125,370
Sand school (all above insured for £385,289)	28,202
Equi-Trek Super-Sonic horsebox 2010 (insured £20,000)	24,186
Renault Master Horsebox 2015 (Insured £20,000)	30,420
Hoist and associated equipment	1,660
Sensory Ride	2,290
Muck trailer	350

<i>All stated at insurance value</i>	
4 ponies owned at year end (Ralph insured for £1,200 and Poppy for £3,600)	4,800
4 ponies loaned at year end (Rupert insured £500)	500
4 carriages plus 3 sets of harness	12,650
Tack, jumps and general equipment	15,427

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Statement of assets and liabilities and other notes - continued

Note 3 Receipts from activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Riders and drivers' subscriptions	26,614	8,405
Sale of merchandise	6	-
Donations for use of facilities	690	2,180
	27,310	10,585

Note 4 Management and administration

	2023	2022
	£	£
Property Costs including maintenance and utilities	3,523	6,661
Administration	95	351
Insurance (public liability/personal accident/building/contents)	1,730	1,457
Training Costs including courses	845	1,231
Independent Examiner's fee	450	550
Sundry expenses	-	293
	6,643	10,543