

CHARLTON PARK RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1174653

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2017-09-14

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 30 Abbey Road
South Croydon
CR2 8NG

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Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS FOR WHICH THE CIO IS ESTABLISHED ARE TO PROMOTE THE OBJECTS OF THE RIDING FOR THE DISAABLED ASSOCIATION INCORPORATING CARRIAGE DRIVING A CHARITY REGISTERED UNDER CHARITY NUMBER 244108 (RDA) BY PROVIDING DISABLED PEOPLE WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO RIDE AND/OR CARRIAGE DRIVE TO BENEFIT THEIR HEALTH AND WELL BEING IN THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH.

Activities: The group works with people with a range of disabilities and reasons for taking part. The group provides specialist tuition, training and support for people with disabilities to ride, or take part in equestrian vaulting . Without this support most of our participants would be unable to to take part in these activities.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** People With Disabilities

Geography

- Greenwich

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£17,171	£22,817	-	-
2024-12-31	£32,596	£29,925	-	-
2023-12-31	£19,086	£26,011	-	-
2022-12-31	£29,218	£25,424	-	-
2021-12-31	£18,877	£13,645	-	-
2020-12-31	£15,251	£14,808	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
John Furlonger	Chair	2017-09-14
Carol Ann Kendall		2021-07-30
ELERI MORGAN		2017-09-14
Hayley Elizabeth Mary Edwards		2024-06-21
James Hamilton		2017-09-14
PAULINE TOWLER		2017-09-14
ROGER GEESON		2017-09-14
Victoria Anne Ratchford		2024-06-21
Xandra Watts		2024-06-21

CHARLTON PARK RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1174653

Accounts

Annual General Meeting of The Charlton Park Group RDA May 8th, 2026 – Chairman's Report and Trustees Annual report

2025 saw the Group “kick off” for the next 50 years, following last years 50th birthday celebrations. The unequalled passion and camaraderie of all remains unchanged, to be helped along by a dollop of fun thrown in for good measure. The welfare of our beloved equines will remain inviolable during the next 50 years inspirational service to our young heroes at Charlton Park RDA.

I reported at our last AGM the intention of The Royal Borough to close the Maryon Wilson Animal Park. With strong representation around many reasons why the park should not be closed, including reminding that our RDA Group has been extant for 50 years, including stabling in the park, the proposal was not at that time taken forward. Disappointingly the Council again revived the closure issue early last year but happily the local community rallied around to finally save the animal park from closure.

On the 7th July our beloved Chief Coach and Trustee Carol Kendall, suffered an accidental and very serious fall in the animal park and was hospitalised as a result. Understandably, Carol was in a state of shock following the accident and for some time afterwards, when I kept in constant contact with her and her family.

The necessary and extensive statutory reports and documentation was acted upon, including liaising and working

with the Royal Borough of Greenwich. Subsequently both RDA National Office and the Insurers both confirmed that the Group Insurance was on a Liability Policy only and that consequently, there could be no claim for loss of earnings. With the permission of Carol, I asked RDA if there was any “Hardship Fund” for such circumstances, or no. A response was promised but was never forthcoming. I asked if there was any guidance and help available at all, they replied that they were unable to offer any assistance, as “the accident happened at the Group setting”.

Both RDA and the Insurers sometime later made an extraordinary about-turn to confirm that – “RDA do after all have Personal Accident Insurance cover, which includes cover for volunteers” - this despite the earlier confirmation of the opposite from both RDA and the Insurers. Carol has since made a claim against the policy.

There are most serious and important issues arisen from all of this. A meeting was requested between the Group Chairman and Michael Bishop, CEO RDA National Office. A further report to be made to the Trustees in due time.

The Group’s laudable self-sufficiency in remaining one of the very few Groups that do not make any charges, inevitably means that fund raising never ceases. Our happy fun raising team steered by Carol and famously backed up by Kevin Clarke, Xandra, Vicky, Kerry and Maddie and all the other team members, continued to perform remarkable fundraising feats too numerous to mention. Whatever donations, big, small or anywhere at all in between are all accepted with sincere thanks

to everybody involved. Extra special thanks are extended to Greenwich Rotary Club and The Inverlever Trust and to All Aboard Shops, and to The Royal Borough of Greenwich for ongoing support of us providing Hut and stabling over the past 50 plus years at a peppercorn rent.

The amazing and undoubted fund raising donations are happily treasured away by our hardworking Treasurer James Hamilton. Thanks are extended to him for his inspiring balancing act in keeping our Group accounts true and up to date. Sincere thanks are also extended to our Group Secretary Eleri Morgan – safely and expertly keeping our Group records in order.

Our much-celebrated Christmas Dinner was held in November. Santa was happily persuaded to make an early appearance, giving him an opportunity for some early reindeer flying training before his busy time. Kevin Clarke was of course on standby with soothing nose cream, if required by leading reindeer Rudolph. We were delighted that Her Worshipful the Mayor of The Royal Borough of Greenwich was able to join our happy throng.

In conclusion I am happy to repeat what I have said in previous years... The unstinting loyalty and sheer hard work that the dedicated Charlton Park Group volunteers and helpers including my fellow Trustees put into the everyday working of the Group remains a true wonder, working together our happy family of volunteers, donors' supporters, parents and carers, wherever and wherever they are, ensure we can continue to help local disabled children to reach their true life potential.

John Furlonger – Chairman of Trustees

Charlton Park RDA 2025 Approved at AGM (08/05/2026)		
(Receipts and Payments Method)		
	2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Receipts	Approved	Approved
Donations	6,541	8,938
Donations New Pony		3,750
Donation Head Office		
Just Giving	8,874	14,788
Fund Raising	1,472	5,119
Sales RDA Goods	284	-
Total	17,171	32,596
Payments	2025	2024
Fund Raising Expenses	302	519
Operating Expenses	1,201	2,791
Travel and Training	977	1,393
Holidays and Outings	-	167
New Ponies	-	3,250
Ponies' Welfare	10,710	10,119
Tack and Equipment	206	1,535
Insurance and Alarms	8,232	8,758
Maintenance and Décor	981	1,136
Cost of RDA Goods	208	257
Total	22,817	29,925
Surplus (Deficit)	(5,646)	2,670
Bank Balance	4,159	8,888

Notes:
1) 2025 figures reconcile exactly to the Bank Statements
2) Accrual vs Receipts and Payments methods differ due to uncashed cheques
Cheques for £ 477.91 total written in Dec2024 were uncashed till Jan 2025
Cheques for £ 916.63 total written in De 2025 were uncashed till Jan 2026
On an accrual basis 2025 deficit would be £438.72 worse
3) There are no serious incidents or other matters that trustees should have reported, but have not done so.

CHARLTON PARK RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1174653

Accounts

Annual General Meeting of The Charlton Park Group RDA
June 13th 2025 – Chairman's Report
Approved as the Trustees Annual Report at the AGM

At the last AGM I reported that the Group was to celebrate its Founding in Greenwich 50 Years ago, by Liz McDermott ...

The celebration duly took place on 21st June 2024 at the Group – happily the weather was kind to us. All were invited as special guests, including some extra special guests:

The King's Deputy Lieutenant for Greenwich: Mr Matthew Burrow

His Worshipful the Mayor of The Royal Borough of Greenwich: CLLR Jit Ranabaht and Lady Mayoress Mrs Gaumaya Ranabhat.

The CEO of RDA National Office: Mr Michael Bishop

And of course, Liz McDermott ...

All of us got access to a wonderful 2 tier celebration cake, topped off with three miniature ponies - a perfect match of our beloved equines.

For my part, I welcomed all and gave a presentation on behalf of everybody present, in which I said:

“2019 saw The Riding For The Disabled and Carriage Driving Association – RDA celebrate its 50th Birthday. Run almost entirely by volunteers, it has since evolved into a nationwide organisation. I am sure that the early pioneers who way back when recognised the therapeutic benefits of horse riding, would recognise that the RDA of today is a true exemplar of excellence in helping disabled young people to reach their true life potential.

2024 sees Charlton Group RDA celebrate its own 50th Birthday.

The Group was started in 1974 by Physio Liz McDermott for the Nursery Department in Charlton School, working on a Wednesday afternoon with one borrowed pony. Greenwich Council soon gave the Group this building, on a peppercorn rent.

We all know that the world runs on volunteers - everyone has something to give! Charlton Group is run entirely by volunteers, supported by a happy band of supporters and donors, parents and carers and certainly not least, by the Royal Borough of Greenwich without whom nothing at all could be done.

We do not make a charge on our young clients and all fundraising to meet the not inconsiderable costs to enable the Group to function so well, all comes from inhouse. Whatever was done in the past half century of Charlton Group, was always done with unequalled passion and camaraderie, a tradition that has remained unchanged to this day, helped along by a great big dollop of fun thrown in for good measure!

Covid has changed the way the world now works and certainly tested our long-established resolve, but it has not broken it. Things are getting back to normal – whatever the new normal may settle down to be – we are comforted by the certainty that the camaraderie between all the wonderful caring people, in whatever capacity they support the Group, remains unbroken, despite perhaps being a little dented at times. The welfare of our beloved equines during these very strange times remained inviolable and was yet another reminder of our unbroken resolve.

Our Group hut was recently refurbished and refreshed to a superb standard courtesy of a High Street Bank, - to stand us in good stead for the next 50 years! The much needed upgrade to the riding school arena was donated by The Supporters Club of Charlton Athletic Football Club.

The icing on the cake to all this undoubted enterprise was that HRH The Princess Royal President of RDA who last visited our Group in 1988, graciously agreed to visit us again in May 2021.

The dedication of the volunteers who whole heartedly committed themselves over the past 50 years without complaint, to 365 days a year in support of the Group. and continue to do so to this day, is to my mind a quite staggering achievement. Our happy band of volunteers continues the mantra – be of good cheer! better times to come!

Here's to the next 50 years of inspirational service by us all, to our young heroes at Charlton Park Group RDA.”

An enjoyable and inspiring day was had by all.

The Mayor of Royal Greenwich got his first ever horse ride!

The CEO of RDA National Office presented long service certificates and said lots of kind things about us!

Liz Mc Dermott happily answered questions and duly received our adulation of her, together with our heartfelt thanks!

Everybody got a slice of the celebratory cake! (the 3 miniature ponies later got a place of honour atop a display plinth in the Hut)

Later in the year, a less happy time was had when with Carol I met 2 representatives from Greenwich Council Parks and Open Spaces Department, further to a report that the Council intended to close the animal park section in the adjacent Maryon Wilson Park. A very strong representation was made to the Council representatives, outlining at length the many and varied reasons why the park should remain open, which included reminding that the RDA Group have been extant for

over 50 years, including stabling for the horses in the park without which the Group would have to be disbanded. It was emphasised further that both on-line and various public community meetings and our own Group petition not to close the park, was recorded. The Council representatives promised to report on our presentation, and that it would be added to other representations received and the whole reported to the Council accordingly.

The proposal was subsequently not taken forward by the Council.

The Group's laudable self-sufficiency in remaining one of the very few Groups (if not the only one) that do not make any charges on our clients, inevitably means that fund raising never ceases. The happy fundraising team steered by Carol in her own inimitable way, famously backed up by Xandra, Vicky, Kerry and Maddie continued to perform remarkable fundraising feats too numerous to mention.

Whatever donations, whether they be big, small or anywhere at all in between, are all accepted with sincere thanks to everybody involved. Extra special thanks are extended to The Inverlever Trust and to Greenwich Rotary Club - and to All Aboard Shops for their regular much welcomed donations and support., and to The Royal Borough of Greenwich for ongoing support of us in continuing to provide our Hut and stabling accommodation over the past 50 years, at a Peppercorn rent.

The amazing generosity shown in response to our undoubted fundraising efforts is always most happily snapped up by our grateful and hardworking Treasurer – James Hamilton. Thanks are extended to him for his uncomplaining and inspiring balancing act in keeping our Group accounts records true and up to date.

Sincere thanks are also extended our Group Secretary Eleri Morgan, for her diligence in beavering away without complaint, throughout the year, to safely and expertly keep our Group records in order.

Following determined lobbying by Santa Claus and his Elf minders, the traditional Christmas lunch festivities at Charlton Group was agreed to be held over to Easter, to the delight of the local bunny rabbit community group! Santa (through his interpreter Kevin Clarke) said that although travel might be a tad more difficult without quite so much snow around, he and his reindeer chums would very much welcome a spring break – as it was about time that they stopped being taken for granted! Invitations were subsequently sent out to amongst others, the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Greenwich and to the Lady Mayoress.

In conclusion I am happy to repeat what I have said in previous years ...The unstinting loyalty and sheer hard work that the dedicated Charlton Park Group volunteers and helpers including

my fellow Trustees put into the everyday working of the Group remains a true wonder, working together our happy family of volunteers, donors, supporters, parents and carers, whoever and wherever they are, ensure that we can continue to help local disabled children to reach their true life potential.

John Furlonger
Chairman of Trustees

Charlton Park RDA 2024 Approved at AGM

(Receipts and Payments Method)

	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Receipts	Approved	Approved
Donations	8,938	7,437
Donations New Pony	3,750	
Donation Head Office		
Just Giving	14,788	3,030
Fund Raising	5,119	7,954
Sales RDA Goods	-	366
Holidays and Outings		
Sales of Equip	-	150
Insurance Claims		
Pony Sponsors	-	150
Total	32,596	19,086
Payments	2024	2023
Fund Raising Expenses	519	316
Operating Expenses	2,791	913
Travel and Training	1,393	1,875
Holidays and Outings	167	600
New Ponies	3,250	3,200
Ponies' Welfare	10,119	8,895
Tack and Equipment	1,535	260
Insurance and Alarms	8,758	8,213
Maintenance and Décor	1,136	1,037
Cost of RDA Goods	257	703
Total	29,925	26,011
Surplus	2,670	(6,925)
Bank Balance	8,888	6,218

Notes:

1) 2024 figures reconcile exactly to the Bank Statements

2) Accrual vs Receipts and Payments methods differ due to uncashed cheques

Cheques for £404.34 total written in Dec2023 were uncashed til Jan 2024

Cheques for £447.91 total written in De 2024 were uncashed til Jan 2025

The difference between the two approaches is negligible this year

3) As the revenue is above the £25,000 threshold the accounts have been independently reviewed. Very kindly Matthew Penston has again agreed to perform this function and has approved them accordingly.

4) There are no serious incidents or other matters that trustees should have reported, but have not done so.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Charlton Park Riding for the Disabled Association Incorporating Carriage Driving C.I.O. ("the charity")

I report to the trustees of the charity on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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; or

(3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the *Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008* other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Signed:



Name

Matthew Penston

Address

98 Bramshot Avenue, London, SE7 7JN

Date

13/6/25

CHARLTON PARK RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1174653

Accounts

Charlton Park RDA 2023 Accounts. (Approved at AGM 21/6/2034)

(Receipts and Payments Method)

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Receipts	Approved	Approved
Donations	7,437	4,088
Donations New Pony		8,500
Donation Head Office		
Just Giving	3,030	4,997
Fund Raising	7,954	11,583
Sales RDA Goods	366	
Holidays and Outings		
Sales of Equip	150	
Insurance Claims		
Pony Sponsors	150	50
Total	19,086	29,218
Payments		2022
Fund Raising Expenses	316	697
Operating Expenses	913	1,797
Travel and Training	1,875	438
Holidays and Outings	600	-
New Ponies	3,200	7,968
Ponies' Welfare	8,895	8,124
Tack and Equipment	260	126
Insurance and Alarms	8,213	5,445
Maintenance and Décor	1,037	830
Cost of RDA Goods	703	
Total	26,011	25,424
Surplus	(6,925)	3,794
Bank Balance	6,218	13,143

Notes:

- 1) 2023 figures reconcile exactly to the Bank Statements
- 2) Certain items in the bank statements are netted down:
 - Transfer between the old and new bank accounts of £120
 - Erroneous credit and debit by bank same day of £2,500
 - Intra-year loan of £2,500 drawn in Sep repayed in Dec
- 3) Accrual vs Receipts and Payments methods differ due to uncashed cheques
 - Two cheques to Speedgate from 2022 or £1,090.39 total cashed in Jan 2023
 - Cheque for £837.00 to J HamIton for the AED from 2022 cashed in Jan 2023
 - Cheques for £404.34 total written in Dec 2023 were uncashed till Jan 2024
- 4) Where a Payment has been refunded in part these have been netted:
 - Of a March payment for tack of £1,000, £740 was refunded within a week
 - Also in March there was a partial refund of £155 of a payment for freezemarking
- 5) There are no serious incidents or other matters that trustees should have reported, but have not done so.

Management Accounts Approach

For management purposes, It is a useful basis of comparison to use an accrual basis and strip out the cost of new ponies and related donations
On that basis 2022 and 2023 are much ore comparable.

Charlton Park RDA 2023 Accounts			
(Receipts & Payments versus Accrual Method)			
	2023 (£)	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
	Rcpts & Pmts	Accrual	Accrual
	Ex Ponies	Ex Ponies	Ex Ponies
Receipts			
Donations	7,437	7,437	4,088
Donations New Pony	-	-	-
Donation Head Office	-	-	-
Just Giving	3,030	3,030	4,997
Fund Raising	7,954	7,954	11,583
Sales RDA Goods	366	366	-
Holidays and Outings	-	-	-
Sales of Equip	150	150	-
Insurance Claims	-	-	-
Pony Sponsors	150	150	50
	-	-	-
Total	19,086	19,086	20,718
Payments			
Fund Raising Expenses	316	316	697
Operating Expenses	913	935	1,797
Travel and Training	1,875	1,875	438
Holidays and Outings	600	600	-
New Ponies			
Ponies' Welfare	8,895	7,804	8,741
Tack and Equipment	260	260	126
Insurance and Alarms	8,213	8,213	5,445
Maintenance and Décor	1,037	583	1,667
Cost of RDA Goods	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Total	22,108	20,585	18,910
		-	
Surplus	(3,022)	(1,499)	1,808
Notes:			
It is helpful to strip out the effect of buying and fundraising for new ponies (although some costs still hit operating expenses)			

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CHARLTON PARK GROUP RDA
JUNE 21ST 2024 – CHAIRMANS REPORT

THIS YEAR SEES THE GROUP CELEBRATE ITS FOUNDING IN GREENWICH 50 YEARS AGO, BY LIZ MCDERMOTT.

I MADE MENTION IN MY REPORT OF LAST YEAR OF THE COVID PANDEMIC AND OF ITS CONSEQUENCES ON THE WORKING OF THE GROUP. ALTHOUGH COVID SEEMS TO HAVE NOW GENERALLY PASSED US ALL BY, IT HAS CHANGED FOREVER THE WAY THE WORLD WORKS. WE ARE GETTING BACK TO NORMAL, AND WHATEVER THE NEW NORMAL MIGHT SETTLE DOWN TO BE, WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN RESOLVED TO CONTINUE IN THE NEXT 50 YEARS IN THE SAME RESOLVE AS IN THE PREVIOUS 50 YEARS.

HOW EVER DIFFICULT IT HAS BEEN UNDER COVID, THE WELFARE OF OUR LOVED EQUINES HAS ALWAYS BEEN AND REMAINS FOREMOST IN OUR ACTIONS.

FUND RAISING NEVER CEASES. WE REMAIN ONE OF THE VERY FEW GROUPS (IF NOT THE ONLY) THAT DO NOT MAKE ANY CHARGE ON OUR CLIENTS COUPLED WITH ALL FUNDRAISING DONE IN HOUSE. THE HAPPY FUNDRAISING TEAM LED IN HER OWN INIMITABLE WAY BY CAROL, FAMOUSLY ASSISTED BY KERRY AND MADDY, PERFORMED REMARKABLE FUNDRAISING EXERCISES TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION. SPECIAL THANKS ALSO EXTENDED TO KEVIN CLARKE FOR HIS MARVELLOUS FUNDRAISING EFFORTS, AND TO ALLABOARD SHOPS FOR THEIR VERY MUCH APPRECIATED DONATION TO THE GROUP.

THE MAYOR OF THE ROYAL BOROUGH GREENWICH COUNCILLOR MBANG ACCOMPANIED BY THE LADY

MAYORESS, GRAICIOUSLY ATTENDED OUR FUNDRAISING CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON. CAROL AND KEVIN CLARKE, AIDED AND ABETTED BY THEIR AMAZING TEAM OF SOUS CHEFS PRESENTED A SUMPTOUS TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS MEAL. FALSE RUMOURS THAT KEVIN CLARKE WAS ABOUT TO IMPERSONATE SANTA WERE IMMEDIATLY PUT DOWN, WHEN THE REAL SANTA ARRIVED TO THE UNBRIDALLED EXCITEMENT OF ALL!

WHATEVER DONATIONS ARE FORTHCOMING, WHETHER THEY BE BIG, SMALL OR ANY WHERE AT ALL IN BETWEEN, ARE ALL ACCEPTED WITH SINCERE THANKS TO EVERYBODY INVOLVED. EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS ARE EXTENDED TO THE INVERLEVIR TRUST AND TO GREENWICH ROTARY CLUB FOR THIER REGULAR MUCH WELCOMED DONATIONS AND SUPPORT, AND TO THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF US IN PROVIDING OUR HUT AND STABLING ACCOMODATION OVER THE PAST 50 YEARS AT A PEPPERCORN RENT.

THE AMAZING GENEOROSITY IN RESPONSE OF ALL OF OUR FUNDRAISING IS ALWAYS MOST HAPPILY SNAPPED UP BY OUR GRATEFUL AND HARDWORKING TREASURER JAMES HAMILTON. SINCERE THANKS ARE EXTENDED TO HIM FOR HIS UNCOMPLAINING AND INSPIRING BALANCING ACT IN KEEPING OUR GROUP ACCONTS RECORDS UP TO DATE AND TRUE.

OUR GROUP SECRETARY ELERI MORGAN HAS BEEN WORKING HARD TO OVERCOME HEALTH DIFFICULTIES OVER THE YEAR,

BUT HAPPILY, IS MAKING GOOD PROGRESS IN RECOVERY. SINCERE THANKS ARE EXTENDED TO HER FOR HER CONTINUING DILIGENCE THROUGH OUT HER DIFFICULTY IN KEEPING GROUP RECORDS SO SAFELY AND EXPERTLY.

DURING THE PAST YEAR THE GROUP HAS BEEN BUILDING ON THE POSSIBLTY OF A MUTUALLY BENEFICAL EXCHANGE WITH THE KINGS TROOP ROYAL HORSE ARTILLARY (TKTRHA) BASED IN WOOLWICH BARRACKS. IN THIS CONNECTION IT IS HOPED THAT VISITS CAN BE ARRANGED IN THE FUTURE FOR THE GROUP AND SUPPORTERS ET AL.

IN CONCLUSION I AM HAPPY TO REPEAT WHAT I HAVE SAID IN PREVIOUS YEARS...

THE UNSTINTING LOYALTY AND SHEER HARD WORK THAT THE DEDICATED CHARLTON PARK GROUP VOLUNTEERS AND HELPERS PUT INTO THE EVERYDAY WORKING OF THE GROPU REMAINS A TRUE WONDER. WORKING TOGETHER, OUR HAPPY FAMILY OF VOLUNTEERS, DONORS, SUPPORTERS, PARENTS AND CARERS, WHOEVER AND WHEREVER THEY ARE, ENSURE THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO HELP LOCAL DISABLED CHILDREN TO REACH THER TRUE LIFE POTENTIAL.

JOHN FURLONGER – CHAIRMAN OF TRUSTEES

CHARLTON PARK RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1174653

Accounts

Annual General Meeting of the Charlton Park Group RDA April 28th 2023 - Chairman's Report

My report to last year's AGM made mention of the ravages of the Covid pandemic and our longing to get back to something resembling normal life and working, like other working RDA groups. Happily, although we generally got free of the grasp of Covid, it's lingering aftereffects still meant that adjustments were needed to get back into full gear during the year, consequently the Trustees were unable to meet formally, as frequently as was hoped. Nonetheless for that, a steady hand on the tiller ensured continuity. However difficult and frustrating our combined efforts may have been, the welfare of our equine heroes Gypsy, Willow and Tiny Tim were always uppermost in our minds and in our actions.

June saw the much-lamented departure of Gypsy in retirement, under the ever watchful and loving eye of Kerry Kendall. Gypsy with teeth and age-related health problems was perhaps older than we originally thought, so retirement was richly deserved. We managed with our two remaining stalwarts, until the happy arrival of Paddy in replacement, made us up to strength again, albeit he was not old enough to start work until early in the New Year.

All this happiness and contentment in moving forward was tempered by the very sad news in October of the passing of Peter Felgate, charismatic principal of the Bradbourne Group RDA, based in the Bradbourne Riding and Training Centre, near

Sevenoaks. A great debt of gratitude is owed to Bradbourne Group and to Peter his wife and the team for the unstinting support shown our Group over many years past supporting in many ways including, not least, wonderful summer holiday breaks for our young heroes and carers and supporters at Bradbourne in the Kent countryside. Some of us were privileged to be able to attend his funeral together with a great number of members of the RDA family.

The process of agreeing a licence agreement – Service Level Agreement SLA between the Royal Borough and our Group, put on the back burner during Covid, is now resurrected towards completion. In the meantime, the mantra of our undoubted mission of enhancing working with the Borough and the local community, in helping local disabled children to reach their true-life potential, remains the same.

Fundraising never ceases. The whole happy fund-raising team, urged on by Carol in her own inimitable way, did remarkable fundraising exercises too numerous to mention. Special fund-raising thanks go to our very own Kevin Clarke. His input to the Group in so many ways, is to be celebrated.

The arrival of new pony Paddy is due almost entirely to the generosity of The Inverliver Trust in providing a major donation and to Greenwich Rotary Club in their regular donations and support.

Whatever donations are forthcoming, whether they be big, small or anywhere at all in between, are one and all entirely and gratefully accepted with sincere thanks to everybody.

The Mayor of The Royal Borough of Greenwich Councillor Leo Chandler, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, graciously accepted an invitation to our fundraising Christmas Luncheon. Carol and Kevin together with their team of sous chefs, came up trumps with a sumptuous traditional Christmas meal with all the trimmings. Rumours were circulating that Father Christmas believed to be tidying and lightly dusting his Grotto at the time, was however expecting to make an appearance - sufficient snow allowing ... Notwithstanding, Kevin Clarke graciously offered himself as a standby Santa as he claimed, he had a new - fangled electric plug-in sleigh!

The amazing generosity of all our fundraising is always most happily snapped up by our grateful and hardworking Treasurer James Hamilton. Thanks are extended for his uncomplaining and inspiring balancing act, in keeping our accounts Group records up to date and true.

Our long-suffering Group Secretary Eleri Morgan is to be congratulated on her amazing ability and diligence, without

complaint, in keeping up to date Group records so safely and expertly.

In conclusion I am happy to repeat what I said last year and in previous years; The unstinting loyalty and sheer hard work that the dedicated Charlton Park Group volunteers and helpers put into the everyday working of the Group remains a true wonder. Working together, our happy family of volunteers, donors, supporters, parents and carers, whoever and wherever they are, ensure that we can continue to help local disabled children to reach their true life potential.

ends

John Furlonger – Chairman of Trustees

**Charlton Park RDA 2021 Annual Accounts
(Receipts and Payments Method)**

	2021	2020
Receipts	Approved	Approved
Donations	8,054.50	5,897.89
Donation Head Office (2)		4,025.00
Just Giving	5,136.14	4,192.33
Fund Raising	5,436.49	1,135.77
Sales RDA Goods		
Holidays and Outings		
Sales of Equip		
Pony Sponsors	250.00	
Total	18,877.13	15,250.99
Payments	2021	2020
Fund Raising Expenses	709.62	564.38
Operating Expenses	1,719.20	761.23
Travel and Training	-	424.70
Holidays and Outings		-
New Ponies		
Ponies' Welfare (3)(4)(5)	6,787.14	6,806.59
Tack and Equipment	80.01	1,994.06
Insurance and Alarms	4,149.34	4,247.62
Maintenance and Décor	200.00	9.70
Total	13,645.31	14,808.28
Surplus (Deficit)	5,231.82	442.71

Notes:

- 1) 2021 figures reconcile exactly to the Bank Statements
- 2) The 2020 figure is net of the annual fees of £975
- 3) A cheque to Speedgate for £473.36 issued in Dec 2021 was not cashed till 2022
- 4) A Speedgate payment of £483.96 incurred in 2019 was paid in 2020
- 5) Also included in Ponies's Welfare are Ponies' Holidays
- 6) There are no serious incidents or other matters that trustees should have reported, but have not done so.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Charlton Park Riding for the Disabled Association Incorporating Carriage Driving C.I.O. ("the charity")

I report to the trustees of the charity on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st January 2022

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees 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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the *Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008* other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Signed:

M. Baker

Name

Matthew Penston

Address

98 Bранshot Avenue, London, SE775N

Date

25/5/23

CHARLTON PARK RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1174653

Accounts

Annual General Meeting of the Charlton Park Group RDA October 14th, 2022 - Chairman's Report

In my report for last year's AGM, I said that due to the ravages of the Covid pandemic, we were exempted like most other charitable organisations from holding an AGM in 2020. I went on to say that by 2021 we hoped to be getting to something resembling normal life and working again. Like most other RDA groups, we did gradually try to get back into the swing of things, as previously enjoyed. The Trustees met in deliberation, avoiding a suggestion that we might meet virtually. Enquiries from potential new volunteers started to pick up again. During this continuing difficult time the welfare of our equine heroes, Willow, Tiny Tim and Gypsy were always uppermost in our minds.

Our efforts to try to get back to that longed for normality was marvellously enhanced by the visit on 5 May 2021 of HRH The Princess Royal-President of the RDA, when Group long service certificates were presented by her Royal Highness. Despite some Covid restrictions still being in place the visit was a memorable and happy occasion enjoyed by all.

An invitation was extended to the Mayor of The Royal Borough of Greenwich - Cllr Linda Bird. I took the invitation as an opportune moment to set out for the record a resume of the Group's history and day-to-day working in Greenwich – a suggestion avidly taken up, received and applauded by the Royal Borough.

The legend read thus:

“The Group was started in 1974 by physio Liz McDermott for the nursery department in Charlton Park School on a Wednesday afternoon, one pony was borrowed to do this. Early on Eileen Usher helped with training the riders (she was 17 years old). Eileen is being presented on the day as a Group founding member and will also receive a long service certificate from her Majesty. Greenwich Council then gave the Group the present hut building which had been a playgroup, along with stabling in Maryon Wilson Park and said that it would be on a peppercorn rent. Nearly 50 years on they have never collected rent from us.

Charlton Park Group when running at capacity offers up to 12 rides for disabled children living or schooling in the Royal Borough of Greenwich, each weekday morning but presently we are only operating Monday to Thursday with 9 riders each day due to having to space each ride for Covid cleaning. We have 3 ponies owned and cared for by the Group which is run entirely by volunteers with the unstinting support of volunteers, donors and supporters. During Covid a few volunteers remained caring for the ponies. No revenue was lost as we don't charge for riding, and we didn't have a wage bill as we don't pay anyone.

We offer safe progressive riding sessions weekly. We enter regional dressage competitions and occasional site visits such as

The Kings Troop and were meant to go on a visit to Park Lane Group who came for a day trip to us, but Covid has postponed the visit.

Every year we take six children on a residential week's camp to Bradbourne in Kent, missed last year and this year, due to Covid.

The present arena riding surface was donated five years ago or so, by The Supporters Club of Charlton Athletic Football Club.”

The process of agreeing a licence agreement - Service Level Agreement SLA-between The Royal Borough and our Group was still on the back burner due to Covid difficulties.

Notwithstanding, by taking up the opportunity of setting out the Group history to The Royal Borough it was hoped that it would both celebrate and confirm with the Borough our undoubted mission of enhancing the welfare of the local community in helping local disabled children to reach their true life potential.

Fundraising of necessity never ceases. The whole happy fundraising team, urged on by Carol and Kerry did remarkable things too innumerable to mention them all, both on and off site. At Christmas time we were joined by The Royal Borough Mayor-

Cllr Denise Hyland at one of our sumptuous Christmas Dinners expertly and deliciously prepared in house.

There was later some talk that the real Father Christmas who had flatly refused to leave his Grotto, was in fact Kevin Clarke, although this was doubted by many!

Funds raised are always gleefully received by our grateful and hardworking Treasurer James Hamilton in his marvellous balancing act! Grateful thanks go to James for his work.

Grateful thanks are also extended to our long-suffering Secretary Eleri Morgan, for her uncomplaining diligence in keeping the Group records up to speed.

In conclusion I am happy to repeat what I said last year: The unstinting loyalty and sheer hard work that the dedicated Charlton Park Group volunteers and helpers put into the everyday working of the Group remains a true wonder. Working together our happy family of volunteers, donors, supporters, parents and carers, whoever and wherever they are, ensure that we can continue to help local disabled children to reach their true life potential.

John Furlonger - Chairman of Trustees

**Charlton Park RDA 2021 Annual Accounts
(Receipts and Payments Method)**

	2021	2020
Receipts	Approved	Approved
Donations	8,054.50	5,897.89
Donation Head Office (2)		4,025.00
Just Giving	5,136.14	4,192.33
Fund Raising	5,436.49	1,135.77
Sales RDA Goods		
Holidays and Outings		
Sales of Equip		
Pony Sponsors	250.00	
Total	18,877.13	15,250.99
Payments	2021	2020
Fund Raising Expenses	709.62	564.38
Operating Expenses	1,719.20	761.23
Travel and Training	-	424.70
Holidays and Outings		-
New Ponies		
Ponies' Welfare (3)(4)(5)	6,787.14	6,806.59
Tack and Equipment	80.01	1,994.06
Insurance and Alarms	4,149.34	4,247.62
Maintenance and Décor	200.00	9.70
Total	13,645.31	14,808.28
Surplus (Deficit)	5,231.82	442.71

Notes:

- 1) 2021 figures reconcile exactly to the Bank Statements
- 2) The 2020 figure is net of the annual fees of £975
- 3) A cheque to Speedgate for £473.36 issued in Dec 2021 was not cashed till 2022
- 4) A Speedgate payment of £483.96 incurred in 2019 was paid in 2020
- 5) Also included in Ponies's Welfare are Ponies' Holidays
- 6) There are no serious incidents or other matters that trustees should have reported, but have not done so.

CHARLTON PARK RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1174653

Accounts

Annual General Meeting of the Charlton Park Group RDA
July 30th, 2021

Chairman's Report

Along with most other Charitable bodies operating under the status as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) laid low by the ravages of the Covid 19 emergency, we sought and were granted an exemption from the need to hold an AGM in 2020. Notwithstanding, my Report for the year ending 31st December 2019 is on record and the accounts are adjusted accordingly for the year.

During the last bizarre year and this year, I am certain that all of us will have experienced at least some things that have been opposite to the unnatural behaviours imposed upon us by the pandemic: being a dazzling reminder of a reality, which before the events of last year and this year would have seemed quite unremarkable. By this time next year, it will – one must hope – all become unremarkable again, but it may yet still well be a while before we forget what an extraordinary thing ordinary life can be. The Trustees continued to meet albeit on an ad hoc basis, avoiding Zoom meetings which were generally agreed not to be the same reality.

Happily, there has been nothing at all ad hoc about the loyalty and unfailing commitment of our Charlton Park family of volunteers, helpers and supporters whoever they may be. Their extraordinary steadfastness during the seemingly

endless and at times frightening pandemic is manifest in the Group coming through it all and being able to get started up again, led by our hero equines – Willow, Tiny Tim and Gypsy. The ponies welfare is always uppermost in whatever we do and has not waned one little bit.

The Group will eventually return to the world of ordinary. The journey will undoubtedly be helped along by working with benefit of the stunning complete refurbishment of the Hut, courtesy of a High Street Bank. The project was excitingly “topped out” by the visit of HRH The Princess Royal – RDA President. The visit had been set down for last year but of necessity was postponed until May of this year when it was one of the very first of her new visit programme. Her Royal Highness remembered her previous visit to us in 1988 and was intrigued to see some of our album photographs of that event, and to meet one of our founding members. There were lots and lots of happy smiling children, parents and carers, volunteers, supporters and donors. A seemingly endless stream of Rosettes and long service certificates were awarded, the visit ending in the unveiling of a commemorative plaque to accompany the one for the first visit, the signing of our Visitors book and the presentation of a marvellous flower posy.

Fund raising had of necessity to continue despite the ongoing difficulties and continues to do so remarkably well led by both Carol and Kerry with their team of stalwarts, helping to put our treasurer in a relatively happy place. Grateful thanks continue to be extended to James for his remarkable efforts in guiding us through the added complications of in effect,

morphing two years accounts into one year, in anticipation of normality returning.

The process of agreeing a licence agreement between The Royal Borough of Greenwich - Service Level Agreement (SLA) - and our Group has like most other similar things, by necessity had to go on to the back burner. Despite that, it is still very much alive and simmering, waiting to be brought back to the boil as soon as circumstances allow.

I am happy to report that potential new volunteers and Trustees continue to come forward, including Carol who has put forward her name for consideration of returning as a Trustee.

As recorded in my report of last year: The dedicated and unstinting loyalty and sheer hard work slog that the dedicated Charlton Park Group volunteers and helpers put into the everyday working of the Group remains a true wonder. Working together our happy family of volunteers, donors, supporters, parents and carers, whoever and wherever they are, ensure that we can continue to help local disabled children to reach their true life potential.

John Furlonger
Chairman of Trustees

Charlton Park RDA Accounts for the Calendar Year 2020

(Receipts and Payments Method)

	2020	2019
Receipts		
Donations	£5,898	£6,545
Donation Head Office (2)	£4,025	
Just Giving	£4,192	£2,476
Fund Raising	£1,136	£5,990
Sales RDA Goods		£0
Holidays and Outings		£1,343
Sales of Equip		
Insurance Claims		
Pony Sponsors		
Total	15,251	16,354
Payments		
Fund Raising Expenses	£564	£1,001
Operating Expenses	£761	£2,162
Travel and Training	£425	£176
Holidays and Outings	£0	£2,293
New Ponies		£0
Ponies' Welfare (3) (4)	£6,807	£5,557
Tack and Equipment	£1,994	£135
Insurance and Alarms	£4,248	£4,513
Maintenance	£10	£354
Total	£14,808	£16,192
Surplus (Deficit)	£443	£162

Background Information

Calendar Year History	Income	Spending	Surplus/(Deficit)
31/12/2020	£15,251	£14,808	£443
31/12/2019	£16,354	£16,192	£162
31/12/2018	£23,577	£21,947	£1,630
31/12/2017	£15,559	£22,284	(£6,725)
31/12/2016	£26,770	£19,621	£7,148

Notes:

- 1) 2020 figures reconcile exactly to the Bank Statements
- 2) This figure is net of the annual fees of £975
- 3) Includes a Speedgate payment of £483.96 incurred in 2019
- 4) Also included in Ponies's Welfare are Ponies' Holidays
- 5) There are no serious incidents or other matters that trustees should have reported, but have not done so.
- 6). If you adjust for (3) and (4) above the accrual picture would be

Calendar Year History	Income	Spending	Surplus/(Deficit)
31/12/2020	£16,226	£15,299	£927
31/12/2019	£16,354	£16,676	(£322)