

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 Branshot Avenue, London, SE77JN

Date

25/5/23