

COURT MEADOW GROUP RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION INCORPORATING CARRIAGE DRIVING

England & Wales · Charity number 1203735

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2023-06-26

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

Contact

Address Roughwoods
High Street
Balcombe
Haywards Heath
RH17 6JY

Phone 03002010039

Email mail@courtmeadow-rda.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE THE OBJECTS OF THE RIDING FOR THE DISABLED 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 WEST/EAST SUSSEX AREA.

Activities: The Charity provides equestrian services to children and young adults with a mental or physical disability in West and East Sussex in order for them to gain therapeutic benefit and have the opportunity to achieve. The core purpose is to benefit the health and wellbeing of our riders and give them the opportunity to learn new skills, and achieve personal goals and ambitions.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- West Sussex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£9,480	£9,431	-	-
2024-03-31	£6,162	£9,704	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Michelle Dolly Hunton	Chair	2010-07-22
Barbara Malins		2015-07-02
Brenda Karkia		2017-07-04
Carolyn Susan Hawkins		2006-07-04
Christopher Black		2022-04-21
Christopher Strong		2022-04-21
Jennifer Entwisle		2019-07-04
Margaret Parnell		2017-07-06
SUSAN WELCH		2011-07-21
Sarah Walker		2022-04-21
Susan Coote		2000-07-06

Accounts

COURTMEADOW GROUP RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION

incorporating Carriage Driving

Charity No 1203735

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

We are a small Charity that was started in 1977. Our aim is to provide riding as therapy to children and young adults, aged 3 to 19. Disabilities are wide ranging, those that can be seen – these can include riders with Downs Syndrome, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, spina bifida to name a few – and those that can't – severe behavioural difficulties, autism, ADHD, ADD, to name a few.

Regardless of disability, our young riders are treated with respect and sensibility. They are encouraged to progress at their own speed in a fun and safe environment. It is well known that riding develops balance, muscle strength and self-confidence. Riding also provides a physical and emotional outlet, and improves sensory development, co-ordination, independence and self-awareness. Learning to ride gives a new dimension to otherwise restricted lives and the principal aim of our Group is to encourage and develop each and every student's skills and confidence.

Every week during term time over 40 volunteers turn out in all weathers to help, either in the indoor school, or in the small 'classroom' where our students learn about tack and horse care, or with the very young newcomers receiving their first introduction to ponies, hard hats and the new sensation of sitting on a saddle.

We do not charge for our sessions. This was decided when we were founded, and we have always maintained this stance. We currently have four sessions - one for our independent riders who come with parents/grandparents or carers - and three sessions with young riders from three different SEN schools in both East and West Sussex. These children generally stay with us for the year but there is a small number who only stay with us for a term, or at the school's insistence for half a term. This decision is taken so that as many children as possible can experience the sensation of riding. In the past we have had children riding with us for several years, entering competitions at local, regional and national level, but alas, the general school syllabus has changed so much recently and the schools now prefer that all of their students have the opportunity to ride, hence their comparatively short time with us. This of course means that we are, at present, unable to enter our riders into these competitions as they are unable to reach the necessary standard. We would dearly love this to change, but the decision is down to the individual schools. In the past we were known as a competitive Group and we are still regarded as such throughout the region.

All the children do however manage to take proficiency tests and they receive certificates and badges for their efforts. They also receive specially designed rosettes at the end of each term as a reward for their hard work. These are awarded after a fun gymkhana in the indoor school – competition is key! Father Christmas has been known to visit with presents as well.

We were seriously affected during the Covid pandemic, and as a result we could not function for some 18 months. We have slowly rebuilt our sessions and we are now giving lessons to over 50 children and young adults a year. Only months before the pandemic we had to move premises due to the fact that the previous owner had sold their land for redevelopment. We were fortunate to find another stables, and this owner is particularly supportive of us, so much so that he hasn't raised our rates since 2019.

Some 20 years ago we were fortunate to be bequeathed a sum of money. We have in general kept this amount for capital expenses, such as two new storage facilities, a horsebox and equipment. After the pandemic and coinciding with the difficulty of fund raising, the Trustees decided to use some of this capital for day to day running costs. We have maintained reserves of £40,000 which we would ideally like to keep to build a classroom, but space at our current stables is at a premium so this will have to wait.

Our largest expense (£6,940) is the hire of ponies and facilities. Our volunteers used to bring in their own ponies but unfortunately this is no longer possible.

Our Group is run by our 11 elected Trustees. We have 8 Trustees with set responsibilities, and 3 without specific roles. The attendance rate at our Trustees' meetings stands at 86.36%.

We currently have a waiting list with two schools and some ten independent riders on it. Had we the extra income and additional volunteers we believe it would be possible to run another session. Demand for riding is increasing due to the more efficient diagnosis of SEN children and young adults, and the knowledge that riding is so beneficial for their wellbeing. We see the difference in the riders over the course of a term, and the teachers at one school in particular that caters for children with severe behavioural issues are amazed by the change in the riders demeanour.

We are proud that one of our Coaches was awarded the 'Coach of the Year' award at the South East Region AGM in 2024.

Court Meadow Group Riding for the Disabled Association
(Registered Charity No; 1203735)

Statement of financial activities for the year ending 31st March 2025

	General Fund 2024-25	General Fund 2023-24
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE		
incoming resources		
Donations	£ 5,481	£ 3,907
Deposit interest	£ 2,872	£ 1,329
Fundraising	£ 1,065	£ 816
Sale of assets	£ 62	£ 63
Admin	£ -	£ 48
Total Incoming resources	£ 9,480	£ 6,162
Resources expended		
Insurance	£ 459	£ 473
Tremaines - hire of ponies and facilities	£ 6,940	£ 8,100
Subscriptions RDA Membership	£ 713	£ 681
Equipment	£ 489	£ -
Admin, gifts, AGM, training	£ 616	£ 450
Children's fun day	£ 20	
Clothing and hats for riders	£ -	
DBS Checks	£ 184	
Lloyds Bank monthly charges	£ 10	
Total resources expended	£ 9,431	£ 9,704
Net outgoing/incoming	£ 48	-£ 3,542
Balance brought forward To 1st April 2024	£ 58,982	
Balance carried forward To 1st April 2025	£ 59,030	

Accounts

COURTMEADOW GROUP RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION

incorporating Carriage Driving

Charity No 1203735

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

We are a small Charity that was started in 1977. Our aim is to provide riding as therapy to children and young adults, aged 3 to 19. Disabilities are wide ranging, those that can be seen - these can include riders with Downs Syndrome, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, spina bifida to name a few - and those that can't - severe behavioural difficulties, autism, ADHD, ADD.

Regardless of disability, our young riders are treated with respect and sensibility. They are encouraged to progress at their own speed in a fun and safe environment. It is well known that riding develops balance, muscle strength and self-confidence. Riding also provides a physical and emotional outlet, and improves sensory development, co-ordination, independence and self-awareness. Learning to ride gives a new dimension to otherwise restricted lives and the principal aim of our Group is to encourage and develop each and every student's skills and confidence.

Every week during term time up to 40 volunteers turn out in all weathers to help, either in the indoor school, or in the small 'classroom' where our students learn about tack and horse care, or with the very young newcomers receiving their first introduction to ponies, hard hats and the new sensation of sitting on a saddle.

We do not charge for our sessions. This was decided when we were founded, and we have always maintained this stance. We currently have four sessions - one for our independent riders who come with parents/grandparents or carers - and three sessions with young riders from three different SEN schools in both East and West Sussex. These children generally stay with us for the year but there is a small number who only stay for a term. In the past we have had children riding with us for several years, entering competitions at local, regional and national level, but alas, the general school syllabus has changed so much recently and the schools now prefer that all of their students have the opportunity to ride, hence their comparatively short time with us. This of course means that we are, at present, unable to enter our riders into these competitions as they are unable to reach the necessary standard. We would dearly love this to change, but the decision is down to the individual schools. In the past we were known as a competitive Group and we are still regarded as such throughout the region.

All the children do however manage to take proficiency tests and they receive certificates and badges for their efforts. They also receive specially designed rosettes at the end of each term as a reward for their hard work. These are awarded after a fun gymkhana in the indoor school – competition is key! Father Christmas has been known to visit with presents as well.

- 2 -

We were seriously affected during the Covid pandemic, and as a result we could not function for some 18 months. We have slowly rebuilt our sessions and we are now giving lessons to over 50 children and young adults a year. Only months before the pandemic we had to move premises due to the fact that the previous owner had sold their land for redevelopment. We were fortunate to find another stables, and this owner is particularly supportive of us, so much so that he hasn't raised our rates since 2019.

Some 20 years ago we were fortunate to be bequeathed a sum of money. We have in general kept this amount for capital expenses, such as two new storage facilities, a horsebox and equipment. After the pandemic and coinciding with the difficulty of fund raising, the Trustees decided to use some of this capital for day to day running costs. We have maintained reserves of £40,000 which we would ideally like to keep to build a classroom, but space at our current stables is at a premium so this will have to wait.

Our largest expense (£8,100) is the hire of ponies and facilities. Our volunteers used to bring in their own ponies but unfortunately this is no longer possible.

Our Group is run by our 11 elected Trustees. We have 8 Trustees with set responsibilities, and 3 without specific roles. The attendance rate at our Trustees' meetings stands at 88%.

(Registered Charity No; 1203735)
Court Meadow Group Riding for the Disabled Association
Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31st March 2024

	2023-24	2022-23
Fixed assets		
Defib	£ 901	£ 1,001
New small shed	£ 1,893	£ 2,103
Bench	£ 211	£ 234
Equipment	£ 726	£ 807
Arena equipment	£ 16	£ 18
New large shed	£ 2,039	£ 2,265
Total fixed assets	<u>£ 5,785</u>	<u>£ 6,428</u>

The fixed assets are being depreciated at rates varying between 10% and 14% on the reducing balance basis. A common rate of 10% has been adopted this F/Y across all assets.

Monetary assets

Lloyds Term A/C	£ 47,440	£ 51,111
Lloyds current A/C	£ 11,399	£ 11,362
Cash in hand	£ 143	£ 50
Total monetary assets	<u>£ 58,982</u>	<u>£ 62,524</u>

Represented by :

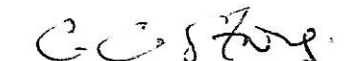
General fund	<u>£ 58,982</u>	<u>£ 62,524</u>
---------------------	-----------------	-----------------

This financial statement has been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended practice, Accounting and reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) issued in March 2005, UK Accounting Standards and Charities Act 2011.

Where donors wish to designate their donation, they are asked to authorise us to place any surplus in our general fund.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf


Michelle Dolly-Hunton (Chair)


Christopher Strong (Treasurer)

Dated 11/07/2024

Dated 11/07/2024