

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.

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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	£ 5,785	£ 6,428

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	£ 58,982	£ 62,524

Represented by:

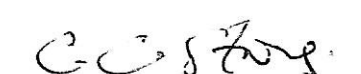
General fund	£ 58,982	£ 62,524
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This financial statement has been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended practice, Accounting and reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) issued in March 2005, UK 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

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