



ARROW RIDING CENTRE

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ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

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TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

Although we increased the price of our services during the year – costs of essential supplies rose faster and with a fall in donations we incurred a deficit of £18,613. As in previous years since “covid” this sum will be covered by our reserves.

With the services we provide for our riders every effort is made to keep prices at an affordable level. Unfortunately with the budget changes which came into effect from 1st April 2025 – namely the substantial increase in the National Living Wage. This resulting in us having to make further increases in the cost of therapy and riding lessons as well as the price of other services we offer. The increase in Employer’s National insurance should largely be off-set by the increase in the small business relief.

The other services we provide - include hiring out our facilities for meetings, examinations, elections, dog club, horse events, pony days, tea with a pony and special events for Easter, school holidays and Christmas. We still look to provide our facilities for other uses that increase our income.

During the year our equine team lost “Jack” who died suddenly and “Dolly” who has gone into retirement. With the earlier loss of “William” leaving the rest of the team having to work harder. Once again charity Shelby Newstead came to our rescue and purchased “Eric” for us with the promise of help for a second horse or pony.

We are extremely grateful to them and would also like to thank Dartford Borough Council, Kent Masonic Lodges, many other organizations and individuals for their financial and help with projects. Not forgetting the essential work and dedication of our volunteers, staff and yard manager/chief instructor Natalie Scott.

Our condolences to the family of a long time member of Arrow – Joan Styles who died suddenly

Ken Blake hon. chairman/treasurer

Establishment and property

2024/25

The Centre was founded in 1982 by the Dartford Lions. This following permission being given by the Local Health Authority for Arrow to use for riding for the disabled, free of charge, the old farm buildings and land which formed part of the original Darenth Park hospital complex.

During the 1990's a Public Finance Scheme was established whereby the District Health Authority agreed to release land for housing in exchange for the construction of a new hospital – Darent Valley

The grounds and buildings which we had been using being transferred to Dartford Borough Council (DBC) under a 99 year lease from the Secretary of State for Health. This document stipulating that the property can only be used as public open space/country park and associated uses with the exception of the existing cemeteries and riding school or for agricultural use. No rental sum being charged.

With grants DBC obtained from English Countryside and the Millennium Fund, together with not insignificant sums raised by ourselves through the Bluewater contractors golf day, a loan, other donations and matched funding, DBC has upgraded the parkland areas, our indoor arena, main building and barn

To remain in occupation, however, DBC required us to enter into a lease to include the reconstructed main building, indoor riding arena, barn, some grazing together with two stable wings originally built in 1875

We now hold the property under a lease from DBC for a term of 30 years from 1st April 2007. The current rent is £3,000 a year subject to five yearly rent reviews. We are responsible for insurance of the buildings and repairs to the reconstructed parts. With the restrictions on the use of the property being reflected by the rental charge. We also hold under licence from DBC around 20 acres of grazing at a rent of £1 a year. With our being responsible for the internal fencing

DBC makes small grants to local charities run by volunteers. Since 2000 we have been fortunate enough to benefit from such awards for which we are extremely grateful. The sums having completely off-set any rent due.

In addition this year DBC have awarded us a community grant of £5,000 and we are also upgrading our electrics from a further grant of £5,000 instigated by DBC.

As HRH the Princess Royal commented on a visit to us – “you are really lucky to have a Council that gives you so much support”

Objects of the Centre

2024/25

To help children and adults with physical or learning difficulties by the following:-

Improve head – spine control – eye and hand co-ordination – circulation and muscle relaxation using the pony/horse to provide a unique form of therapy (Hippotherapy).-

Teaching to horse or pony ride. With the opportunity to progress in dressage to competing at National and International levels.

Increase confidence and self-esteem and for us to see that every one who finds a visit to the Centre to be both physically beneficial and enjoyable.

To comply with our health & safety policy and liability insurance – every rider must first have completed an application form. This can be downloaded from our website.

Rider`s safety

We are licenced by DBC under the Animal Welfare Regulation 2018. We have been given a 5 star rating.

We employ a small team of very capable people who have RDA or British Horse Society teaching qualifications as well as considerable equine experience. Also we have two experienced RDA volunteer instructors who give their time to us.

We are also very fortunate to have an extremely talented volunteer Chartered Physiotherapist who gives her services to us and arranges programmes of therapy for both mature and our youngest from 18 months of age.

It is necessary in nearly all lessons to have volunteer horse leaders and side helpers. Each has undergone RDA training and both volunteers and staff have been cleared under our Safeguarding Policy.

Employer and public liability risks are covered under a group policy implemented by the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA)

Ponies and horses

Our team have been specially trained for the work we do and are:-

Beline Bertie Blue Champ Eric Mia Truffles Wilma Rosa and Jeremy (our mechanical horse)

Membership**2024/25**

Membership is made up from people involved with our development. Currently we have 7 members who are entitled to attend and vote at general meetings either in person or by proxy.

Of that number we have a committee of five persons (trustees) who are responsible for the day-to-day running of the Centre. Each being a volunteer who is “hands on” assisting with lessons, taking care of our ponies and horses – various tasks on the yard – repairs – administration – fund raising etc. The current members being as follows:-

Kenneth Blake	FCG	hon chairman/treasurer	Marilyn Stapley
Valerie Blake	BEM	hon group organizer	Patricia McMillen
Noelle Basten		hon secretary	

During the year none of the committee members received any honorarium, attendance allowance or payment of any kind

Insurance

Of buildings based upon valuations made by Chartered Surveyors acting for DBC (Landlords) who currently insure the buildings and our tack and other equipment with Zurich Insurance plc

Our ponies and horses are not insured the average cost of each being £6,000

Liability insurance is covered under an RDA group policy. The RDA provides us with support and training including safeguarding where our staff and volunteers have been security cleared. In addition none of our trustees are barred or prevented by legislation from acting in that capacity.

During the financial year there were no serious accidents or incidents leading to claims under our policies.

Continuance

Our accounts are prepared on the basis that we shall continue to operate in the future despite the present difficulties. In the event of our closure any remaining assets would have to be transferred to another charity with similar objects to our own.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

<u>2023/24</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2024/25</u>
48,226	Donations & sponsorships (note 1)	44,748
23,465	Fund raising (note 2)	27,005
49,156	Riding lessons	61,132
27,221	Donations from stabling	28,528
7,022	Miscellaneous income (note 3)	6,851
<u>155,090</u>	<u>TOTAL INCOME FOR THE YEAR</u>	£ <u>168,264</u>

<u>2023/24</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2024/25</u>
116,406	Salaries & NIC instructors & grooms (note 4)	127,953
3,248	Buildings & liability insurance	4,782
13,081	Heat, light & water	13,539
3,453	Repairs & renewals	5,328
1,635	Stationery, telephone, broadband	1,846
1,600	Training, transport & subscriptions	2,008
12,378	Horse/pony – feed and bedding	10,797
11,301	Veterinary & farrier services	11,847
<u>3,168</u>	<u>Tack, hygiene & yard expenses</u>	<u>3,777</u>
166,270		181,877
<u>7,950</u>	<u>Special expenditure</u> (note 5)	<u>5,000</u>
174,220	<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR</u>	186,877
<u>(19,130)</u>	<u>DEFICIT FOR YEAR</u>	£ <u>(18,613)</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

<u>2023/24</u>	<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		<u>2024/25</u>
112,372	Bank accounts	(note 6)	£ 94,920
50	Cash in hand		101
<u>6,527</u>	Debtors	(note 7)	<u>5,143</u>
118,949	TOTAL ASSETS		100,164
16,812	Creditors & accruals	(note 8)	16,640
<u>80,000</u>	Reserves	(note 9)	<u>70,000</u>
<u>96,812</u>			<u>86,640</u>
<u>22,137</u>	<u>ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		£ <u>13,524</u>
Represented by:-			
16,867	Accumulated funds at 31 st March 2021		22,137
<u>(19,130)</u>	Deficit for year		<u>(18,613)</u>
(2,263)			3,524
4,400	Balance of RDA loan waived	(note 10)	—
<u>20,000</u>	Transfer from reserves	(note 7)	<u>10,000</u>
<u>22,137</u>			£ <u>13,524</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

NOTE 1 DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIPS OF £25 AND ABOVE

2024/25

Adams	Jackie	400
Barclays	Thames & Gateway	150
Barnes	Ron & Eileen	400
Blake	Ken & Val	600
Bexley	Group Therapeutic Riding	595
Bluewater	Forum	238
Bowles	Charitable Trust	1,000
Bramwell	Michael & Henrietta	240
Bristow	Lynn	120
Buttress	Alan	35
CBRC	Chelsham & Bromley Riding Club	1,090
City	Central Cleaning Company	1,000
Crossways	Limited Dartford	405
Currans	Rosanna	31
Dartford	Borough Council community funding	5,004
	Borough Council low emissions funding - upgrading electrics	5,000
	Cricket Club	120
	Ladies Probus	162
Fox	Estate Agents - Dartford	25
Healthcare	Retirement Group	122
Hunnisett	Derek and Linda	100
Jefferies	Diane	30
Kennedy	Celia	980
KRB	Consultant Ltd	100
LAMBARA	Longfield	1,992
Lock	Jackie	100
Maison	Maurice Ltd	600
Mannion	Michael & Mary	7,895
Mathews	Brian	1,000

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

NOTE 1 DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIPS OF £25 AND ABOVE (continued)

			<u>2024/25</u>
Masonic Lodges	Burnt Ash	No 6285	489
	Beauchamp	1422	500
	Chapter of Emulation	299	250
	Grand Mark Lodge Kent	857	675
	Ideal Endeavour	7379	150
	London Borough of Woolwich	6610	80
	Mark Mason & Mariners	1494	150
	Meridian	9202	1,500
	Richard of Bordeaux	8333	240
	Saye & Seal	1973	250
	Walsingham	2148	200
	Westwood Chapter Rose Croix	764	250
Rooke	Jodie		148
Sheldon	Charlotte		150
Sittingbourne	& Milton Regis Ladies Golf Club		50
Smithy's	Mobile café		1,067
Southfleet	WI		60
Three Pillars	Gravesend		464
Vaughan	Joan		25
Wanstall	Mike & Sally		500
Ward	Trina		1,000
Warren	Helen		100
Whelan	Mrs Elizabeth		150
White	Debbie		30
Write	Trak Ltd		5,200
Other Donations	via Kindlink - towards hay, raffles etc		330
	Small sums		162
In Memory of	Maurice Barlow		500
	Carol Larbey		290
	Much Beloved	anon	254
	TOTAL DONATIONS		<u>£44,748</u>

ARROW RIDING CENTRE FOR THE DISABLED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

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NOTE 1 DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIP CONTINUED

	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2024/25</u>
Total Donations	£ <u>48,226</u>	£ <u>44,748</u>

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NOTE 2 FUNDRAISING

Carol concert, dressage, shows, events etc	£ 5,158	£ 5,219
Hiring – out our facilities	19,632	22,396
Collection boxes/collections	<u>346</u>	<u>1,126</u>
	25,136	28,741
Less: cost of fund raising	<u>1,671</u>	<u>1,736</u>
	<u>23,465</u>	<u>27,005</u>

NOTE 3 MISCELLANEOUS INCOME

Gift aid recovery	£ 4,163	£ 3,742
Bank interest (net of chgs)	2,859	3,074
Sale of sundry items	<u>---</u>	<u>35</u>
	<u>7,022</u>	<u>6,851</u>

NOTE 4 SALARIES & NIC

Salaries	£ 112,601	£ 122,583
Employers NIC	3,200	4,765
Work place pension	<u>605</u>	<u>605</u>
	<u>116,406</u>	<u>127,953</u>

During the year we employed an average of three full-time and three part-time instructors/horse carers
Employers NIC was only payable on sums due to HMRC above £5,000 in the 2024/25 tax year.
All employees are paid above the National Living Wage.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2024/25</u>
NOTE 5 SPECIAL EXPENDITURE		

Purchase of Rosa	<u>£ 7,950</u>	Upgrading of electrics	<u>£ 5,000</u>
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NOTE 6 BANKING

Current account with CAF Bank Ltd	32,372	24,920
Charity Deposit account	<u>80,000</u>	<u>70,000</u>
	<u>£ 112,372</u>	<u>£94,920</u>

NOTE 7 DEBTORS & REPAYMENTS

Gift Aid	634
Hire of Facilities	1,020
Fund raising	210
Interest on deposit account	1,330
March receipt banked April	1,007
Sundry Debtors	<u>942</u>
	<u>£ 5,143</u>

NOTE 8 CREDITORS & ACCRUALS

HM Revenue & Customs	1,986
Nest pension scheme	118
Marjorie Mc Clure lessons	5,000
Feed & bedding	1,716
Electricity	695
Building insurance	964
Stabling in advance	1,150
Sundry creditors	<u>5,011</u>
	<u>£16,640</u>

NOTE 9 CHANGE IN RESERVES

Building fund	20,000	General reserve	80,000
Transfer above from reserve	(20,000)	Transfer from above	(10,000)
General reserve	<u>80,000</u>		
	<u>£ 80,000</u>		<u>£ 70,000</u>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION SINCE COVID

Deficit 2020/21	£23,603
21/22	23,946
22/23	10,098
23/24	19,130
24/25	<u>18,613</u>
	95,390
Covid reserve created 20/21	<u>45,243</u>
Balance of deficit to date	£ <u>50,147</u>

ASSETS

Ponies & Horses at cost	£32,946	(2023/24 £29,796)
Saddles at yard manager's valuation	6,250	(2023/24 £ 6,000)
New Holland Tractor purchased 2014/15	18,995	(Major part of funding donation from QBE European Insurance Group UK)
Mechanical horse at cost 2018/19 -including Mounting blocks and installation	47,194	(purchased from various donations)

Other assets – mainly s/h furniture and tack

All of the above assets have been purchased from donations and gifts. With our charitable status the Trustees do not see any purpose in their inclusion within the balance sheet and having to provide provision for depreciation. In the case of our ponies and horses – this would necessitate write-offs in the event of retirement or the death of an animal.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1ST APRIL 2024 TO 31ST MARCH 2025

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ARROW RIDING CENTRE FOR THE DISABLED:

The charity trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act). Under Section 145(1) (a) of the Act the trustees have elected for the accounts to be examined by an independent examiner. I have been appointed by the trustees to undertake that task.

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(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 Alan Buttriss

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Darenth
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