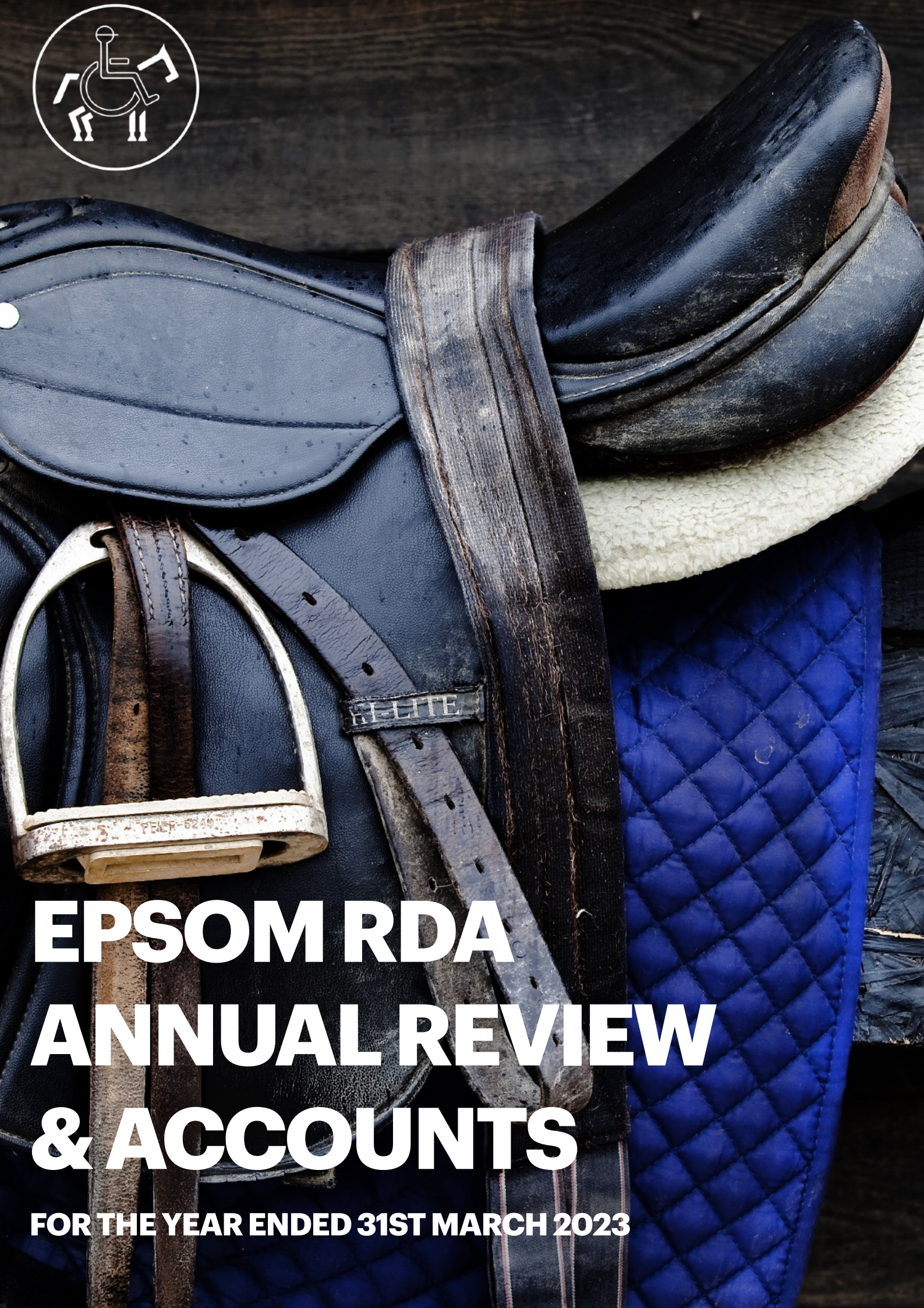

EPSOM RDA ANNUAL REVIEW & ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

VISION & OBJECTIVES

Epsom RDA's vision is to improve health and well-being through the therapeutic power of horses.

We are a thriving charity providing therapy, fun and achievement for nearly 200 disabled participants delivered by a team of over 150 volunteers and our own herd of ponies. We hold riding sessions every day; each one is unique in terms of the people we support, and coaching is adapted to the needs of each participant.

The therapeutic benefits of interactions with horses are well recognised. Riding helps exercise and strengthen muscles, mobilises joints, and helps participants develop their balance, independence, and sensory perception. Being able to spend time caring for horses also has a positive impact on confidence levels, relationship building, and communication skills be it for riders or our team of dedicated volunteers. Each session, whether it is riding or learning about caring about horses, is planned to encourage our participants to enjoy themselves and from that enjoyment gain emotional, social, educational, and physical benefits.

Our over-arching ambition for the coming year is to increase the number of people we support, broaden our offer and increase our impact. We will do this by offering more opportunities to ride for people on our waiting list as well as developing more non-ridden activities including tea with a pony and hippotherapy.

Our goal is to ensure that even more disabled people benefit from the therapeutic power of horses.

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CHAIR FOREWORD

It has been an exceptionally busy and productive year at Epsom RDA.

On a sad note, 2022 brought the news of the deaths of two of our long-serving colleagues and former session leaders: Hazel Ransome in March, and Mary Clarke in July. In April of this year, we were able to honour Hazel and Mary, along with their fellow trustee, Pauline Humphries, who died in April 2017, by dedicating to their memory new trees in Northside field, recycled from the Hampton Court Flower Show. Together, Pauline, Hazel and Mary contributed over 100 years of service to Epsom RDA.

Trustees have been thinking hard about our priorities. There is a lot we do very well at Epsom RDA as well as so much more that we could do. In 2022 we considered our top priorities and are pleased to have set out the following three:

- To deliver a varied and worthwhile experience to enhance health and well-being; this includes ensuring participants have activities suitable to their level and opportunities to progress, broadening our offer to include non-ridden activities and improving the volunteer experience;
- To maximise the number of participants able to benefit from being with horses; this includes improving the management of our waiting list, maximising the number of riders at each session and investing in volunteer recruitment, training and retention;
- To be an excellent organisation that is financially robust with a mixed revenue funding model; this includes developing a fundraising strategy, ensuring that we meet our obligations on governance and health & safety, communicating effectively and committing to being a diverse and inclusive charity.

2022 also saw the return of our events programme which included tack sales, pole clinics and lectures. We held a fascinating lecture on biomechanics, and animal behaviour with Sarah Sjoholm Patience. This was fantastic opportunity for our coaches and volunteers to learn more about how to get the most from horse and rider. Open to the public, it also raised awareness and funds for our charity. A carol concert was held in December which saw a number of our riders and equines perform in a nativity. We even had snow! We owe a big thanks to the fundraising team for all the effort they have put in.

Investment in our facilities continued and we completed our new car and cycle parking. The facilities are already proving to be essential in terms of accommodating participants as well as guests for our successful events. Safety is also improved by separating cars, riders and the horses. Our thanks to the Peter Harrison Trust and Epsom and Ewell Borough Council for their contributions.

A team of volunteers has also transformed our sensory track. The planting, weeding and painting has turned the space into a highly valued additional activity for our riders.

Laura Hales - Chair

PARTICIPANTS

In 2023-2023 we delivered 2,017 sessions of therapy for 197 people[1]. This is both a reason to celebrate as well as something to improve upon as we look to increase our impact. We currently have 309 people on our waiting list and so must think differently, challenge ourselves and increase our ambition if we are to get closer to meeting this demand over the years ahead.

We were delighted for our participants that were able to compete this year. Epsom RDA had the highest number of qualifiers at the Southeast Region Dressage competition that took place in May 2022 at Plumpton College. Five of our riders won their classes and another two came second and qualified for the National Championships at Hartpury in Gloucestershire. Unfortunately, the extreme heat in July forced the National Championships to be suspended on the Sunday which meant that many of our riders could not take part. Nonetheless, we saw great success on the Saturday with one of our riders being placed 12th in the highly competitive dressage class and another winning the arts and crafts competition and coming second in the photography competition.

Whether competing or not, we are proud of all of our participants and their achievements over the last year.

VOLUNTEERS

As our participants returned, so too did our volunteers and the number of volunteers continues to grow. We are very grateful for the enthusiasm and commitment of all our volunteers.

We have rolled out a series of training sessions which have been well attended by both experienced and new volunteers. We have had full stage one and two training sessions and hosted special lectures on biomechanics, equine behaviour and an equine chiropractic demonstration.

We were delighted to be able to acknowledge the commitment and achievements of our volunteers during our Annual Prize Giving in November. Our Long Service awards included six wonderful volunteers who have each provided over 25 years of devotion and one who has volunteered for an amazing half century! We presented Over and Above Awards to several volunteers in recognition of them taking on far more than we normally ask of volunteers. This included looking after horses when they were unwell, to ensuring that all our ponies receive

[1] RDA National Annual Return 2022-23

the best possible care and attention. Those same volunteers were also willing to help at fundraising events and corporate days.

We aim to keep recruiting volunteers; we still need more help with maintenance roles and have a couple of trustee positions to fill. In return for their hard work, we aim to l ensure that our excellent volunteers receive the recognition and training they deserve and require.

HORSE & PONIES

This year has seen the continuing challenge of finding new horses to join our herd. We have spent the year actively looking for new horses to buy or loan and in particular, for a weight carrying horse to help out Romeo and Spice. Despite having a few horses on trial from two different dealers, we haven't yet managed to secure that perfect weight carrier to join us. We will continue the search.

Tom

We did find Tom this year. Tom is a 15 hh, 15-year-old cob who joined us in January 2023. Tom was previously used in the riding school at Lower Morden Equestrian Centre and is absolutely brilliant with our lead rein riders, providing a safe, steady ride. Off the lead rein he is a little slow but with some encouragement he can be persuaded to join in!

In March, we said a very sad farewell to Moss. Moss had been a part of Epsom RDA for 16 years and at 29 years old was one of the oldest members of the herd. Moss will be missed by everyone and remembered for all the joy he brought to so many lives, from those just starting out and learning to ride to those who had progressed to the National Championships, where he represented us many times and became a national dressage champion.

In May 2022, we took a team of riders and four horses to the Regional Dressage Competition at

Plumpton College and several of our riders qualified for the National Championships. Unfortunately, due to the heatwave in July, the National Championships were cut short by one day resulting in many of our riders competing in a virtual competition instead, but Romeo still made the trip to Hartpury College (along with Dazz as his companion, because who wants to travel without a friend) and both were superstars.

The schooling and hacking teams continue to keep our ponies exercised so that they are fit and ready for their jobs. The schooling team of volunteers work with the ponies weekly and have regular lessons with external instructors to build their knowledge and to make sure the ponies are all benefitting as much as possible from the sessions. Phyl Cambridge, who had been our external instructor for many years, decided to retire this year and we would like to extend our thanks to Phyl for all the work she has done over the years to keep our ponies fit. We were pleased to welcome Becca Vincent as our new schooling team instructor. Becca used to be a Saturday volunteer so knows us well and we are sure that she will keep up the good work that Phyl started. We also continue to work with Sarah Sjoholm-Patience. Sarah is an International Grand Prix dressage rider and is experienced in working with para riders and RDA groups. Her wealth of experience is a great asset to the team.

GROUNDS & PROPERTY

A number of upgrades and investments were delivering in 2022-23 and it continued to be a busy year for our volunteer maintenance and gardening team.

In December 2022 we received a donation of 600 trees from Epsom and Ewell Tree Advisory Board. The idea is to provide shade for the horses as well as screening along our boundary. We were fortunate to have secured the help of around 60 volunteer women and girls from the Ahmadiyya Women's Association who helped us plant the trees on a very cold and wet Sunday afternoon in January.

Summer 2022 saw the completion of our new car park, lighting and cycle racks. Having the car park separate from where our riders and equines move around has improved the safety on site. We are also pleased to be able to offer secure, accessible and dry cycle parking for our participants and volunteers who cycle to Epsom RDA.

Work on our sensory track ramped up in 2022 with a group of volunteers, both existing and new to Epsom RDA swinging into action. We now have a team of around 12 volunteers who regularly work on the track. In addition to weeding, planting, painting and building, they have also secured

donations of materials from local businesses. All of this work will ensure that our riders have a stimulating and interesting space in which to improve their riding skills.

With parts of our site being over 100 years old and with the harsh British weather some of our infrastructure is struggling to cope. Summer saw our water pipes burst, possibly due to the extreme heat and in winter, we had another pipe burst, during a cold spell. A huge thank you to our maintenance volunteers who laid new pipes with characteristic efficiency and competence.

Thank you to all of our maintenance and gardening volunteers who keep our grounds safe and in good working order and a delight to be around.

FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

Just as we were starting to recover from the financial challenges of Covid we have had to face rising prices bought on by the cost-of-living crisis. As ever, Epsom RDA has risen to the challenge in the form of the new Funding Raising Team. Over the last year we have seen the return of our events programme which included tack sales, pole clinics and lectures. The events not only were a fantastic opportunity for our coaches and volunteers to learn more about how to get the most from horse and rider, but they were open to the public which raised funds for the charity. A carol concert was held in December which saw a number of our riders and equines perform in a nativity. We even had snow! We owe a big thanks to the Fund-Raising Team for all the effort they have put in.

Our strategy to fund projects that are in addition to our day to day running costs through grant making bodies and trust funds is still paying dividends as we have received sponsorship from the Peter Harrison Trust and Epsom and Ewell Borough Council who contributed to the new car park and cycle facility. In addition, we received funding from James Jar of Gifts (JJoG) who sponsored the team that attended the National dressage competition at Hartpury.

We are also continually thankful for the donations we receive from various organisations and individuals. In particular, we were offered the opportunity recently to collect donations at the end of a concert by Soundbytes Choir at the Peace Hall in Ashtead. We were so pleased to find that we collected over a £1000.

In August, a team of young people from the National Citizenship Service (NCS) raised over £1,600 for us by doing a sponsored walk from London to Epsom as well as holding a cake sale in the town centre. They also spent a day on site gardening, weeding and tidying the grounds. A huge thanks to the team for this remarkable contribution. We continue to have an on-line fundraising presence including the Easy Fundraising portal, which enables shoppers to raise donations whilst shopping online. We have also had success with the Just Giving portal which gives our supporters an efficient means of donating money from several different sources including sponsored events and memorial collections. We will be continuing to further develop our fundraising partnerships and explore more opportunities for trust and grant funding.

COMMUNICATIONS

The aim of our communications is twofold; the first is looking externally, to encourage support for our activities including on volunteer recruitment and fundraising by telling the story of what we do and how we help to a wide audience. Secondly, within ERDA, our volunteers have told us they want to be more up to date with what is going on within Epsom RDA and to feel part of one ERDA community. We have started to prioritise internal communications, re-launching the volunteer survey and establishing a monthly update from the trustees email to all volunteers. We also welcomed our first dedicated social media and communications manager who is engaging people from all walks of life to help us achieve our participation, development and fundraising goals.

In March 2023, our marketing and communications trustee resigned. Recruitment for her replacement is ongoing and we aim to join up our fundraising and events and communications activities further in 2023

HEALTH & SAFETY

Throughout the year essential training has continued for our volunteers. We have introduced Fire Marshals to our sessions, with training being held for our session leaders and coaches. We continue to review our processes and procedures to endeavouring to follow best practice in all of our health and safety measures.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

2023 will see the start of our work in terms of delivering on our strategic objectives which are to:

- ★ To deliver a varied and worthwhile experience to enhance health and well-being; this includes ensuring participants have activities suitable to their level and opportunities to progress, broadening our offer to include non-ridden activities and improving the volunteer experience;
- ★ To maximise the number of participants able to benefit from being with horses; this includes improving the management of our waiting list, maximising the number of riders at each session and investing in volunteer recruitment, training and retention;
- ★ To be an excellent organisation that is financially robust with a mixed revenue funding model; this includes developing a fundraising strategy, ensuring that we meet our obligations on governance and health & safety, communicating effectively and committing to being a diverse and inclusive charity.

With work on the new car and cycle parking facilities complete, we are in a much better position to expand and offer more community and fundraising events.

As ever, our focus in 2023 will be on getting the most from, and increasing the herd so that we can improve the quality of experience for our riders.

Measuring and increasing our impact will be a focus for 2023, as will listening to our existing participants and volunteers so that we can offer an even better service in 2023 and beyond.

FINANCIAL REVIEW & ACCOUNTS

The financial year ended 31st March 2023 has Epsom RDA returning to our usual level of participation following the return of all riders since Covid.

Overview

For the year ended 31st March 2023 the charity showed an annual operating surplus of c.£30k (£563 loss in 2021-22). These figures do not include any income or expenditure related to the Indoor School project (now renamed as Future Strategy costs to recognise the rising costs of building work and reprioritisation of future developments) which is classed as non-operating expenses and income. The total loss for the year, which reflects the completion of the car park (cost of c.£96k), was c.£59k (against a surplus of c.£26k in 2021-22) This comprised total operating income of c.£98k (c.£59k in 2021-22) with operating expenses of c.£29k (c.£520k in 2021-22).

In addition, we have received a sum of £8K from the Epsom and Ewell Community Fund which has been awarded for the building of the new car park. The grant received last year from the Peter Harrison Trust (£30k) has been fully utilised in funding the car park which was phase 1 of the future strategy plan and secures our current planning permission. Related to the same project there were non-operating expenses, of c.£96k (c.£6k in 2021-22).

This reflects the support we have had from donors, participants, Epsom and Ewell Community fund, the legacy of Pauline Humphries and the policy of the Trustees to limit expenditure in the year to essential expenses for the upkeep of the herd and buildings and to limit major works spend to those related to safety.

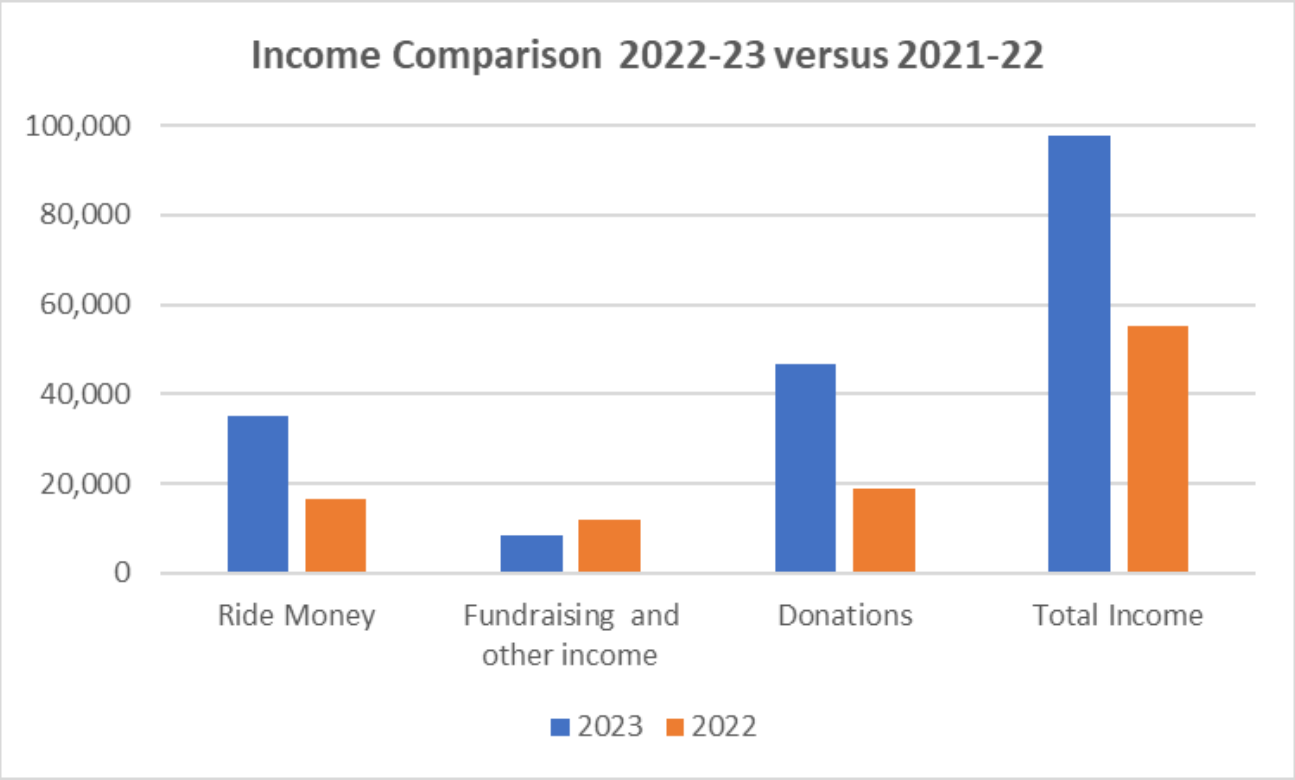
Income

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic funds had decreased in the prior 2 financial years. The trustees took the opportunity to review the fee level for 2022-23. The current cost of delivering a session for a participant, be that riding or a pony care session, is c.£30. The trustees agreed that we would increase the fee to £10 for 2022-23. The policy was also updated so that institutions pay a minimum fee a term in advance. This ensures that the charity recoups expenses and funding is more stable.

The total income for the year is standing at c.£98k which is higher than the c.£59k in 2021-22. This is in contrast with our last full year of riding of c.£79K in 2019/20 and reflects the effect of the increased fee. There was an increase in service fees (ride money) from c.£17k in 2021/22 to c.£35k in 2022-32. Donations for 2021-22 were c.£25k and after a drop from the previous year we have seen donations increase to c.£47k which reflects our ability to be able to hold on site fundraising events as well as participating in other locally arranged events.

Tack sales continue to attract good levels of interest contributing c.£5k in 2022-23. Donations of goods for the tack sales remains strong and the trustees have agreed to repurpose space at the yard to enable Carol Reyes and the team to have a permanent home for tack sales.

We remain grateful to all the individual participants who returned to access our services and were happy to pay the updated fee. Our thanks too to Papillon House School who donated funds over and above the service fee due.



We have also received support from generous donors including: -

- The Thompson Family Trust
- St Mark's and Mitcham Buffalos
- Ewell Club Inner Wheel of Kingston
- HOGGS golf club
- Papillon School
- Leumi Bank
- The family of Joyce Hill a former session leader and volunteer who donated in her memory
- The Ladies from Ruxley Lane Methodist Church
- Probus Club
- Soundbytes choir and all the people who donated
- Former Participants who continue to donate monthly
- Annette Emery Gemstone Jewellery who continues to make and sell jewellery with the profits used to buy items we need for our ponies
- Clare Cooper – after what she described as a "milestone birthday" Clare signed up to the challenge of running a half marathon and raised £1050 for us.

Of course, we are also grateful for all the donations we receive from volunteers, friends and relations of participants, the local allotments and gardeners who donate when collecting our quality manure, hot chocolate reindeers and pocket money as these unrestricted funds go directly to supporting the upkeep of the herd and their home to the benefit of our participants. We are also grateful for the volunteers who never claim expenses, and organisations who give us time and labour.

Expenditure

The upkeep of the herd forms a major part of our outgoings. This year our herd (12 ponies at year end – 11 of which are part of our active herd with Tandi being on a one-year loan for re-schooling) cost c.£27k (c.£18k in 2021/22 when we had 13 ponies) which includes expenses for feed, hay, farriers, dentist, vet, and various equipment including tack. The increase in expenditure is due the rising costs of hay and feed and services. Vet's bills of c.£3k for the care of Moss have been covered by a generous donation from the Thompson Family fund o have also agreed to cover the bill for the remainder of his treatment. A further c.£1.3k was donated by JJoG for a new saddle for Shannon. This excludes the cost of purchasing new herd members. (21/22 purchases of c£15K less sale of c. £1k versus c£12K in 22/23). Following the year end, we have returned a pony that came on trial and a refund of c.£9k has been received.

The average cost of keeping a herd member during the last year was £2,150, an increase from the previous year where it was £1,384 per annum. This is the equivalent of £41 per week which is ac. 60% increase on the prior year. So, a donation of £6 can buy a bale of hay, £30 pays for a pony to be visited by the farrier and £25 pays for a visit from the equine dentist.

Our next expense is in keeping the site safe, secure, and well maintained. The cost of maintaining the buildings and grounds in 2022/23 was c. £22K with an additional c.£96k for the car park build (which included £6k on the future strategy) of which c.£3k (c.£9k in 2020/21) was for major works where investment from previous years led to us being in a position of general maintenance rather than constant upgrading. In January the safety regulations regarding riding hates changed which meant we had to update all our riding hats to ensure rider safety. National RDA secured a discount with a major retailer but, as we have to have a mix of sizes and shapes of

hat, the total charge for renewing all hats was c.£5k. With special thanks to the Thursday session and Annette Emery Gemstones for raising an additional £600 to allow them to have the right hats for their session.

Other expenses include insurance, utilities, training, security, and general office expenses. All essential to our operation but the rise for 2022-23 reflect the general economic position as all costs have increased during the year. To mitigate this the trustees have ensured all contracts for maintenance of the site have been reviewed to ensure best value for money. As always, we are grateful to Steve and the maintenance team for all their hard work keeping our site safe and well maintained. Also, to the gardening team for maintaining the sensory track and general garden spaces.

Reserves

As a charity we are in the fortunate position that we have always been prudent with our use of incoming funds versus expenditure. At the end of 2022/23 we had c £211K cash in hand in various bank accounts (c.£268k in 2021/22).

The Trustees have several ring-fences in place on this money:

Future Strategy Fund (formerly Indoor School Project) - £100k in 2021-22 now £0

Having received several legacies, the Trustees agreed to contribute £100k of funds to the work needed to build the new indoor school. Initial spending was on planning fees and related surveys. The car park, which was due to be completed in 2021/22, was delayed by the need for an additional drainage survey. This has now been completed and the future strategy fund was used to build the car park in 2022/23. During 2021/22 we received a grant of £30k from the Peter Harrison Trust towards the indoor school project which was also used for the car park build. A grant of £8k was received from Epsom and Ewell Community Funds to allow us to provide lighting for the car park but the remainder of the costs were met through using the remainder of the designated funds as stated in the financial statements. In recognition of the changing economic conditions, the trustees have decided not to continue with the indoor school project. The remaining funds will instead be invested in existing assets, and as a result the project funds have been renamed “the future strategy fund”. Trustees have re-prioritised the updating and improving of the site so we can have dedicated fund raising and maximise our service provision by investing in smaller projects.

Minimum Reserves as required by the Charity Commission - £120K

All charities have a statutory duty to set minimum reserves to ensure their continued status as a going concern. Our minimum reserves were set some years ago to be held at a year running costs. This was initially set at £50k but has increased to £60k in 2021/22 to recognise rising costs. Given the current economic climate the trustees have agreed that this should be raised to c.£120k and it

will be reviewed during the year so that it reflects current costs. These funds are there for dire emergencies and can only be utilised for general running costs should our status change and we need to use them to remain a going concern.

Funds available for use – c.£91k

This is the cash we have in hand that we can use to keep our herd fed and well, to maintain our land and buildings and to make improvements for the safety, wellbeing, and enhancement of our offer to our participants. We also keep a further amount to funds in the designated funds account mentioned above for major works to ensure our site is safe and secure for our herd and our participants.

During 2020/21 the Trustees delegated authority to the Finance committee to manage the running of the charity by allocating budgets to designated Trustees who have the responsibility for property management, health, safety and cleaning, the upkeep of the herd and general running costs (e.g., insurance, rubbish removal, utilities, professional services including the bank account, audit fees etc). The Finance committee have full authority to spend within their budgets and there is a procurement process which was agreed by the Trustees which gives us a framework to ensure we spend wisely and get the best value for money we can. This is all part of our enhanced Governance and has continued to work well during 2022/32. The committee has reviewed its terms of reference and is now the Finance, Performance and Governance Committee (FPGC).

In addition, the FPGC have set up a major works (capital expenditure rather than general running costs which are operational costs) list which logs all the non-essential work needed to improve our environment. They can recommend to the Trustees any major spend e.g., in 2022/23 this included the renewal of riding hats, updating emergency lighting, undertaking a full electrical and fire safety survey of the site. This list is split into those works that will become essential, other work that would be good to do in the right economic climate and projects that could be funded by donors. This list is helpful when we are approached by organisations who express an interest in funding us but wish but wish to invest in a specific project or item.

In addition, Epsom RDA owns:

- The freehold of St Ebba's Farm, which cost £84,657 (inclusive of legal fees).
- Equipment including two tractors, a trailer, three harrows, a grass cutter and sundry other tractor attachments,
- A hand operated motor mower, a strimmer and various workshop tools, competition fences, poles, and games
- equipment with an approximate current value of £15,000 (2021 - £15,000)

Notes to the accounts

Restricted Funds

We have had £13,490 added to our restricted funds during the year. This consisted of £1,828 from JJoG for attendance at Hartpury and a new saddle for Shannon; £315 from Annette Emery Gemstones for a sheepskin saddle; £2,747 from the Thompson Family trust for Moss's vet's bill; £8,000 from Epsom and Ewell Community Fund for the car park; £600 from the Thursday session for new riding hats. During the year these funds have all been fully utilised and we end the year with no restricted funds.

Designated Funds

The Designated Fund is £44,595 (closing balance as at 31st March 2022 £138,764). The trustees designated £20,000 (total of £11,947 spent in the year all from designated funds of which £8,700 has been refunded in April 2023) towards the purchase of new herd members and the costs related to said purchases. A further £49,645 was invested in the car park build. £3,614 was designated to the purchase of new riding hats. The remaining £4,875 was used to provide maintenance to the site including tree removal, new stable roof and other essential site work. This designated fund represents amounts set aside by the trustees out of the general fund to meet the cost of future improvements to the property and the purchase of new herd members. The interest on the balance in the Fund provides income for general purposes to help meet the Group's running expenses.

The following projects have been identified by the Trustees, for implementation as and when funds become available: -

- ★ To purchase equipment necessary for maintaining the estate.
- ★ To maintain or expand our herd which, although it has been added to over the past year, will need to be expanded further as participants return and in recognition of the age of the some of the current herd members.
- ★ Future Strategy initiatives have been identified and the trustees have agreed these will be funded through specific fundraising

During the year the Finance committee carried out work as held on the capital project list. This included:

- ★ essential maintenance work needed to ensure the safety and upkeep of our buildings and ground
- ★ provision of equipment for the herd and participants
- ★ The building of the car park

as well as a list of other projects where donors require a specific use for the funding being offered.

Assurance of Financial position

As Laura Hales stepped up as chair on 1st March 2023 then assurance on the true and fair view of Ray Lee as previous chair was sought on the accuracy of the financial position as well as his assurance that the correct financial processes had been observed.

EPSOM RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023 TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the accounts of Epsom Riding for the Disabled Association for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 3 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner
The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts, under Section 145 of the Charities Act, following the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners, (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act) and to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

(b) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

T W Slater ACA,CTA
Harmer Slater Limited
Chartered Accountants
79a High Street
Teddington
Middlesex TW11 8HG

18 May 2023

Receipts and Payments Accounts
Income and Expenditure
Epsom Riding for the Disabled Association inc Carriage Driving
For the year ended 31 March 2023

	General Purposes	Restricted Funds	Designated Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Income	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Ride Money	35,238.00			35,238.00	16,066.00
Livery Fees	5,450			5,450	5,048.00
Use of School	1,875			1,875	1,375.00
Sale of ponies	0			0	1,200.00
Interest income	617			617	1,264.00
Total Regular Income	**43,180**			**43,180**	**24,953.00**
Gross Income					
Plus Other Income					
Donations	22,300.00			22,300.00	17,185.00
Online donations	18,696.00			18,696.00	8,353.00
Ring fenced Donations		5,490.00		5,490.00	0.00
Tack sale	5,072.00			5,072.00	4,223.00
Events	1,226.00			1,226.00	1,616.00
Other revenue	2,000.00			2,000.00	5,933.00
Total Other Income	**49,294.00**	**5,490.00**		**54,784.00**	**37,310.00**
Total Income	**92,474.00**	**5,490.00**	**0.00**	**97,964.00**	**62,263.00**
Less Herd Upkeep Costs					
Pony care	10,117.00	2,747.00		12,864.00	9,330.00
Pony costs-equipment	487.00	1,390.00		1,877.00	1,083.00
Pony feed	9,652.00			9,652.00	6,736.00
Pony purchase	0.00		11,947.00	11,947.00	14,889.00
Pony schooling	785.00			785.00	250.00
Total Herd Upkeep Costs	**21,041.00**	**4,137.00**	**11,947.00**	**37,125.00**	**32,288.00**
Gross Profit	**71,433.00**	**1,353.00**	**-11,947.00**	**60,839.00**	**29,975.00**

Expenses					
Cost of running site					
Maintenance of grounds	1,646.00			1,646.00	2,940.00
Repairs & maintenance - building	1,314.00			1,314.00	3,800.00
Light, Power, Heating	1,236.00			1,236.00	1,617.00
Cleaning and sanitary costs	2,920.00			2,920.00	2,785.00
Fuel costs and servicing	559.00			559.00	0.00
Motor vehicle expenses	243.00			243.00	1,867.00
Gardening	834.00			834.00	492.00
Health, Safety and Safeguarding	857.00	600.00	3,614.00	5,071.00	99.00
Insurance	2,283.00			2,283.00	2,162.00
New Works	332.00		4,877.00	5,209.00	9,207.00
Telephone and Internet	461.00			461.00	644.00
Total Cost of Running Site	**12,685.00**	**600.00**	**8,491.00**	**21,776.00**	**25,613.00**
Other Running Costs					
Fundraising					
Competition costs	524.00			524.00	0.00
Event costs	2,001.00	753.00		2,754.00	1,325.00
Fundraiser Partner costs	216.00			216.00	290.00
Advertising & Marketing	77.00			77.00	0.00
Communications	98.00			98.00	0.00
Total Fundraising	**2,916.00**	**753.00**	**0.00**	**3,669.00**	**1,615.00**

Income and Expenditure Continued
Epsom Riding for the Disabled Association inc Carriage Driving
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Finance and Legal costs					
Audit & Accountancy fees	2,049.00			2,049.00	1,897.00
Bank fees	220.00			220.00	224.00
Subscription costs	340.00			340.00	295.00
Total Finance and Legal cost	**2,609.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**2,609.00**	**2,416.00**
Training					
Training - coaching and bursary	27.00			27.00	74.00
Training - first aid	1,380.00			1,380.00	0.00
Staff Training	11.00			11.00	0.00
Total Training	**1,418.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**1,418.00**	**74.00**
Other Administrative and Misc costs					
IT Software and consumables	295.00			295.00	702.00
Printing & stationery	247.00			247.00	118.00
General expenses	0.00			0.00	0.00
Total Other Administrative and Misc costs	**542.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**542.00**	**820.00**
Total Other Running Costs	**0.00**	**753.00**	**0.00**	**8,238.00**	**4,925.00**
Total Operating Expenses	**20,170**	**1,353**	**8,491**	**30,014**	**30,538**
Operating Surplus (Loss)	**51,263**	**0**	**-20,438**	**30,825**	**-563**
Future Strategy Costs and Income					
Indoor School Project					
Indoor School costs	0	46,842	49,645	96,487	6156
Indoor School funding	0	-8,000	0	-8,000	-30000
Total Indoor School Project	**0**	**38,842**	**49,645**	**88,487**	**-23,844**
Total Non-operating Expenses	**0**	**38,842**	**49,645**	**88,487**	**-23,844**
Net Surplus (Loss)	**51,263**	**-38,842**	**-70,083**	**-57,662**	**23,281**
Transfer of funds					
Balance at 1st April 2022	**90,510**	**38,842**	**138,764**	**268,116**	**244,835**
Balance at 31st March 2023	**141,773**	**0**	**68,681**	**210,454**	**268,116**

Receipts and Payments Accounts
Balance Sheet
Epsom Riding for the Disabled Association inc Carriage
For the year ended 31 March 2023

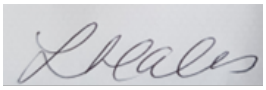
Bank Accounts	Opening Balance	Cash Received	Cash Spent	Closing Balance
ERDA CIO current account	39,119	125,108	129,426	34,801
ERDA old charity	1,922	790	0	2,712
ERDA Virgin	382	0	0	382
National Counties Building Soc	95,748	387	0	96,135
Accessible savings account	129,820	225	55,626	74,419
Metrobank savings account	2,000	5	0	2,005
Metrobank credit card	-875	875	0	0
Total	**268,116**	**127,390**	**185,052**	**210,454**

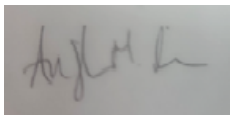
Receipts and Payments Accounts
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
Epsom Riding for the Disabled Association inc Carriage Driving
For the year ended 31 March 2023

	General Purposes	Restricted Funds (note 1)	Designated Funds (note 2)	2022
	£	£	£	£
Bank Balances at 31st March 2022 held by Epsom Riding for the Disabled (1180061)	**90,510.00**	**38,842.00**	**138,764.00**	**268,116.00**

	General Purposes	Restricted Funds (note 1)	Designated Funds (note 2)	2023
Net Receipts/ (payments) in year	51,263.00	-38,842.00	-70,083.00	-57,662.00
Bank Balances at 31st March 2023	**141,773.00**	**0.00**	**68,681.00**	**210,454.00**

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 18 May and signed on their behalf by:





L Hales

Chair

For and on behalf of the Management Committee

A Wilson

Trustee

Treasurer

Receipts and Payments Accounts
Notes to the Accounts at 31st March 2023
Epsom Riding for the Disabled Association inc Carriage Driving
For the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Restricted Funds

	Donor	Fund as at 1st April 2022	Received	Spent	Fund as at 31st March 2023
		£	£	£	£
Sound System for the riding school	Oxshott Ladies	1,742	0	1,742	0
Lighting	The Livingstone Trust	2,300	0	2,300	0
Lighting for School	Love of Learning	4,800	0	4,800	0
Indoor school project	Peter Harrison Foundation	30,000	0	30,000	0
Hartpury attendance and saddle for Shannon	JJOG	0	1,828	1,828	0
Sheepskin saddle	Annette Emery	0	315	315	0
Vets' bills for Moss	Gemstones	0	2,747	2,747	0
Bicycle sheds and lighting for the new car park	Thompson Family Trust	0	8,000	8,000	0
New riding hats	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council	0	600	600	0
	Thursday session	38,842	13,490	52,332	0

2. Designated Funds

	£
Opening balance	**138,764.00**
Additional funding from donations	0.00
Transfer of funds	0.00
Less	0.00
Removal of rotting trees	-1,980.00
Purchase of new herd	-11,947.00
replacement of fences	-400.00
Roofing of stables	-625.00
Emergency Plumber for tap	-120.00
New riding hats to meet updated standards	-3,614.00
Japanese knotweed treatment	-1,752.00
Car park	-49,645.00
Total spent	**-70,083.00**
Closing balance	**68,681.00**

Receipts and Payments Accounts
Notes to the Accounts at 31st March 2023 continued
Epsom Riding for the Disabled Association inc Carriage Driving
For the year ended 31 March 2023

3. New Works (Improvements and Equipment) Purchased in year

New Works (Improvements)	£	
Water pump repair	332	
Removal of rotting trees	1,980	(designated)
Replacement of fences	400	(designated)
Roofing of stables	625	(designated)
Emergency plumber for tap in stables	120	(designated)
Japanese knotweed treatment	1,752	(designated)
Total New Works (Improvements)	**5,209**	

Equipment		
Saddles	1,538	(part restricted)
Girths	45	
Other equipment costs	294	
Total Equipment	**1,877**	

Total new works (Improvements and equipment)	**7,086**

GOVERNANCE

Epsom RDA is managed by ten elected trustees including the Chair. Within the group there is a wide range of skills and experience bringing well rounded expertise to manage the charity on a day-to-day basis and plan and deliver for the future.

There have been some changes to Trustees during the year:

- We welcomed one new Trustee in November: Laura McArthur who brings secretariat experience to our list of skills.
- We also saw a change in Chairs with Ray Lee stepping down as chair but remaining an active member of the trustees taking on a new role as fundraising trustee.
- Laura Hales was elected as chair from March 2023.
- Trustees also moved to recruit a new communications trustees following the resignation of Jane Sanders who had held the role for the past 3 years.
- The Board now operates in a hybrid fashion meeting remotely and in person. The Board met five times during the year and held one strategy meeting. The Annual General Meeting was held on 20 November 2022. Our thanks to the kind support of Epsom Downs Racecourse who once again hosted our meeting.

The Finance committee reformed in 2022 – taking on enhanced role in financial governance and performance reporting. It is now the Finance, Performance and Governance Committee (FPGC). It is chaired by the treasurer and comprises secretary, property trustee, fundraising trustee and 1 other trustee as elected.

SAFEGUARDING

Everyone within Epsom RDA has the right to report any issues which cause concern about another person in confidence, this can be done to the appointed Safeguarding Officer or direct to our National body, RDA UK.

At Epsom RDA we have a

- ★ Safeguarding Policy Statement
- ★ Safe recruitment – standardised application form, requirement for two references and disclosure checks
- ★ An appointed Safeguarding Officer who can be contacted by email: safeguarding@epsomrda.org.uk

All in the Group are aware of who to contact if there is a safeguarding concern with the details sign posted on our coffee room noticeboard as well as detailed on our website.

All Coaches that run Sessions have a current (within 3 years) safeguarding certificate and are required attend a formal training course provided by RDA UK to renew their certificate.

More information on safeguarding guidelines and policy can be found at RDA National Safeguarding.

TRUSTEES AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

Ray Lee, Chair re-elected at AGM on 27 September 2020 - resigned as chair on 2nd March 2023 but stays on as fundraising trustee

Angela Wilson, Treasurer re-elected at AGM on 27 September 2020

Tessa Kelly, Secretary elected 17 November 2019 resigned 20 November 2022

Laura McArthur, Secretary elected 16 January 2023

Liz Clark, Volunteering, appointed 14 February 2022

Rebecca Courtman, Health, and Safety and Safeguarding re-elected 21 November 2021

Laura Hales, Property & Grounds, re-elected 21 November 2021, appointed Chair on 2nd March 2023

David Hart appointed 14 February 2022

Jo Lee, Horse and Pony, at AGM on 27 September 2020

Jane Sanders, Communications re-elected at AGM on 27 September 2020 resigned 2nd March 2023

ADMINISTRATION & CONTACT DETAILS

Formal name: Epsom Riding for the Disabled Association
Charity Registered Number: 1180061
Registered Office: St Ebba's Farm, Hook Road, Epsom, Surrey, KT19 8Q

Honorary Officers:

Chair – Ray Lee until 2nd March 2023 Laura Hales from that date

Treasurer – Angela Wilson

Secretary – Tessa Kelly resigned 20 November 2023, Laura McArthur elected 16 January 2023

Objects:
Providing disabled people with the opportunity to ride and/or to carriage drive to benefit their health and well- being in the Surrey / Southeast area

A Member of the Riding for the Disabled Association incorporating Carriage Driving
Registered Company No 5010395 Registered Charity No 244108

For more information:

Website: www.epsomrda.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/epsomrda

Instagram: www.instagram.com/epsomrda

Twitter: www.twitter.com/epsomrda

Enquiries:

info@epsomrda.org.uk