

FOLLIFOOT PARK DISABLED RIDERS GROUP

Trustees Annual Report

Year end June 30th 2024

Registered Charity Name	Follifoot Park Disabled Riders Group
Charity Registration Number	1042415
Principal office	Regional Agricultural Centre Great Yorkshire Showground Railway Road Harrogate HG2 8PW
Charity Trustees	Morag Bennett Fiona Barwick Lyn Cowburn Ann Gannon Sue Oxley Peter Nelson John Haigh Jane Chennells (appointed 8 th November 2023) Peter Whatley (deceased July 20 th 2023)
Investment Managers	Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management 88 Wood Street London EC2V 7QR
Bankers	CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Chair Secretary	Morag Bennett Fiona Barwick
Independent Examiner	Hallidays Group Ltd Riverside House Kings Reach Business Park Yew Street Stockport SK4 2HD

FOLLIFOOT PARK DISABLED RIDERS GROUP

Trustees Annual Report (continued)

Year end June 30th 2024

Governing Document & Constitution

Follifoot Park Disabled Riders Group, which is also known as Follifoot Park DRG (“the Charity”) is an unincorporated charity governed by its constitution adopted on 13 July 1994 and as subsequently amended on 19 October 1994 and 20 January 2014. The Charity became registered with the Charity Commission on 28 November 1994 with number 1042415.

The constitution appoints an Executive Committee to hold the assets of the Charity and administer the Charity for the furtherance of its charitable objects. The Executive Committee are the charity trustees in accordance with Charity Law.

The Executive Committee meets 12 times a year.

Charity Trustees are nominated and elected by the membership in accordance with the constitution.

Recruitment and Appointment of the Executive Committee (Trustees)

Under the requirements of the Constitution, the members of the Executive Committee are elected to serve for a period of one year, excepting the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer who serve for three years, after which they must be re-elected at the next AGM.

The Executive Committee seeks to ensure that the needs of the group are reflected through the diversity of the trustee body. Traditional business skills, equestrian knowledge, finance, safeguarding and volunteer experience are all well represented on the Executive Committee and the areas of responsibility are allocated accordingly to specific trustees. The Chair has overall responsibility for the provision of the charitable activities and ensures that key performance indicators are met. The Secretary has responsibility for the day-to-day operational management of the charity and office. The charity does not currently have a treasurer as a trustee.

To enhance the pool of trustees, the charity has created different layers of volunteers who have responsibility for specific tasks. I.e. bookkeeping, coordinating rides, fund raising and administration. By doing this the charity aims to build the volunteer’s skills and experience, giving them the potential to become trustees in the future.

There is a scheme of delegation in place which allows the charity to identify any areas of skill or knowledge which have been lost due to retirements and to fill these positions in a timely manner. Young people are encouraged to join as volunteers so that they build an understanding of the aims of the charity.

Objectives and Activities

The Charity’s objectives (‘the objects’) are to provide or assist in the provision of social welfare, facilities for riding or other recreational facilities for disabled people with the object of improving their conditions of life.

The Charity runs 13 riding sessions every week excluding school holidays. Carriage driving operates 4 days a week from May to November and the mechanical horse Storm is used for rides on two days a week. This allows over 120 people to benefit from the activities offered. Sessions are between 30 minutes and 1 hour. Riders/drivers come primarily from the local area but may also live within a 30 mile radius. The use of the mechanical horse allows people to benefit from the movement of riding in a very predictable environment, this can be used for rehabilitation after illness and injury as well as for those who may then progress to riding a real horse. The carriage driving offers another activity for those who are unable to ride either Storm or a real horse.

The Charity is run by volunteers and they are essential in being able to provide the activities outlined. Currently there are 147 volunteers, ranging widely in age and skills, who offer an hour or two of their time each week.

Activities include an annual gymkhana open to all riders and an annual picnic for volunteers, riders, carers and families.

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities.

Reserves Policy

The Executive Committee have considered the level of reserves that the Charity needs and are of the opinion that the Charity should have sufficient funds to settle the annual governance and support costs of its charitable activities. Accordingly they have determined that the level of an unrestricted reserve should be around £20,000 but should be frequently reviewed.

At 30th June 2024, the total amount of unrestricted reserves of the charity were £311,187. The free reserves of the Charity amounted to £9,286 (2023 £10,165) and the Executive Committee considers these funds to be below the policy and are examining ways of increasing the income of Follifoot Park Disabled Riders Group so that the Charity has sufficient free reserves.

Financial Review and Investment Policy

The financial review of activities is set out in the attached financial statements. There are financial controls in place to review the finances monthly and to check expenditure.

The trustees have agreed the following investment terms, objectives and policies with the investment manager:-

- The portfolio is managed under a full discretionary service;
- The portfolio is managed on a low to medium risk basis with the aim of providing high income rather than focusing on capital growth;
- The bulk of the portfolio will be invested in medium to high income equities and fixed interest bonds through investment trusts and unit trusts;

The investment strategy is reviewed with the investment manager on a regular basis.

Chair of Trustees Report– Achievements for the year

This year has been an enjoyable year with consistency for the rides and few external distractions.

TRUSTEES

We have an effective team of 8 Trustees who look after all aspects of our charity and work hard to ensure it runs smoothly. Sadly, at the beginning of the summer we lost Peter Whatley who had been a volunteer for over 30 years and a trustee for many of those. Peter had a wealth of experience and knowledge and always ensured we honoured the values of the charity in any decisions that we made. We will endeavour to continue this and he is missed by us all.

Jane Chennells was elected as a new trustee at the AGM in November and we're delighted that she's joined us. Having worked for many years in a local private school, she brings with her a solid understanding of financial administration, safeguarding and exceptional organisational skills which are hugely beneficial to the charity and very much appreciated by us all.

We have a Scheme of Delegation in place which helps us ensure we manage all areas of the Charity and my thanks go to all trustees for their continued commitment and they are a great pleasure to work with.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer numbers have steadily increased over this year, hovering near to 150.

We have welcomed 2 new coordinators and 3 new ride leaders and we'd like to thank them for stepping into their new roles. Succession planning is key to ensuring we continue to be able to provide the rides and we're always keen if volunteers are willing to take on extra responsibilities.

Recruitment is ongoing throughout the year and although social media is a useful tool, word of mouth and the trusted old fashioned paper notices continue to have good results from supermarkets, libraries and even the local chippy!

Thank you to all the coordinators and leaders for their time behind the scenes and on the rides, safety is so important along with the welfare of the horses and looking after the volunteers and they do an amazing job. I'd also like to thank every volunteer involved, none of what we do would happen without you giving up your free time and turning up come rain or shine.

RIDING AND CARRIAGE DRIVING

This year we have been running 13 pony rides a week during term time, sessions on Storm the mechanical horse two days a week and carriage driving 4 days a week during the summer months. We have 120 people currently riding with us, some weekly and others on a rota basis and we have a waiting list of over 50. During the year our volunteers have provided over 1600 individual rides and carriage drives, with a bumper month in June when the number totalled 215.

Betty, our carriage pony has been out and about again this summer, she can be seen standing patiently in the yard 4 mornings a week and seems to enjoy her outing to the picnic too. The picnic carriage has also had a new set of wheels this year and special thanks to both Les and Ann for taking such good care of Betty and the carriage throughout the year.

In the autumn we reorganised our rides to become more age appropriate, with those riders not in education moving to daytime slots where possible, allowing more school age children to attend the evening and weekend rides. The Under 6's are also doing really well in accommodating our youngest riders, we know from parents how much this means to them, not only for the physical benefits to their child but also meeting other parents in a similar situation at a time when they most need it.

TRAINING

We held three annual safety training sessions at the stables, spread through the year, educating volunteers in the specific procedures we use as well as general horse behaviour and tacking up.

We continued our annual Ride Leader and Coordinator training which is provided by FPRC, this gives us invaluable background and information regarding horse welfare, riding techniques, care plans and any changes we need to be aware of in equine activities and is a chance to share ideas and ask questions which affect our group. The welfare of horses is vitally important and we continue to work closely with FPRC to ensure the horse's welfare is guaranteed during our rides.

A session for First Aid training took place which those who attended found very useful. We will continue to provide more later in the year.

Our training videos are now complete and on the website. New volunteers are able to view these before joining a ride and existing volunteers are asked to watch them as a refresher if they are unable to attend a training session in person because they are working or have other commitments.

We also introduced a Social Media policy in May, this is something we will continue to review as the digital world is moving at a fast pace and we need to be mindful of all that entails. We have also started the process of upgrading our website and this work will continue over the next few months.

AWARDS

We were delighted to win an award for ' Volunteer of the Year 2024 ' in March, given by Disability Sport Yorkshire. This was a group award as we don't believe any one volunteer can be singled out as it's our team effort that makes the charity so special, so congratulations to all 147 volunteers who share in this recognition.

EVENTS

The Gymkhana was very successful with 50 riders all having great fun and with plenty of competitive spirit! We appreciate the help from Virgin Media O2 and also from our regular volunteers who do such a brilliant job in organising, tacking up and getting riders around the course.

The picnic was also a very enjoyable with over 135 people attending The catering team provided a lovely spread and many people enjoyed the pony and carriage rides around the grounds. A group of volunteers from Wolsley Plumbing helped us which was most welcome. Our thanks again to James and Lucy Meysey-Thomson for hosting us in their beautiful home.

We have a small pony camp planned for the coming year which will be an addition to our usual annual events. Initially this will be a trial to see how it goes and we are looking forward offering something new to our younger riders.

FINANCIALS

FPDRG continues to be financially stable due to the generosity of local businesses, other charities, donations and legacies. Our investments continue to fluctuate given the markets at this time and we keep them under constant review. Our Investment Managers are now based in London, having closed the York office, but are still committed to meeting with us in person annually and the investments continue to provide a regular income of around 6% which is one of our main streams of income.

We have been able to maintain the cost of our rides over the last 7 years, due in part to the cost of the horse hire remaining the same. However our ride costs have now increased and we will be looking to increase the cost of the rides in the autumn in order to maintain our stability for the long term and help with cash flow.

Donations have increased on last year and we've been fortunate to have been a chosen charity by Harrogate Symphony Orchestra which has added extra funds as well as the opportunity for some volunteers to attend their concerts whilst selling raffle tickets!

Debtors have reduced significantly due to improvements in our processes and again, we keep this under regular review.

SUMMARY

People are the most important asset of our group and this year we have welcomed some new and very committed people, many with good experience with horses and several with knowledge of working with people who have a disability. This is very beneficial to the whole group as there is always something for us to learn from each other.

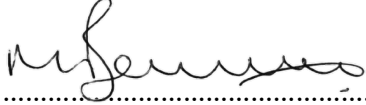
As always I'd like to thank Julie and Chris Pedley, their family and all the staff at Follifoot Park Riding Centre for providing us with a home and the horses, it's a unique relationship and continues to work very well after so many years. Finally, thank you again to all the volunteers, in whatever role they play to make this Charity what it is and here's to the year ahead.

Morag Bennett (Chair of Trustees)

Signatures

The trustees annual report was approved on 24th September 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:-

MORAG BENNETT
Trustee

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Morag Bennett', written in black ink.

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FIONA BARWICK
Trustee

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Fiona Barwick', written in black ink.

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Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	Period start date 01/07/2023	To	Period end date 30/06/2024
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations and legacies	16,828	-	-	16,828	4,826
Charitable activities	11,612	-	-	11,612	11,732
Investment income	18,131	-	-	18,131	18,085
Other trading	-	-	-	-	47
Bank interest received	26	-	-	26	23
Grant received	-	-	-	-	1,000
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	46,597	-	-	46,597	35,713
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Receipts from sale of investments	146,519	-	-	146,519	37,153
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	146,519	-	-	146,519	37,153
Total receipts	193,116	-	-	193,116	72,866
A3 Payments					
Expenditure on raising funds	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities	36,342	-	-	36,342	43,050
Investment management costs	880	-	-	880	881
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	37,222	-	-	37,222	43,931
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
Purchase of investments	149,049	-	-	149,049	43,029
Purchase of assets	4,567	-	-	4,567	392
Sub total	153,616	-	-	153,616	43,421
Total payments	190,838	-	-	190,838	87,352
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,278	-	-	2,278	- 14,486
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	15,249	-	-	15,249	29,735
Cash funds this year end	17,527	-	-	17,527	15,249

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank Accounts	14,404	-	-
	Canaccord Dealing	1,447	-	-
	Canaccord Income	1,676	-	-
	Total cash funds	17,527	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Debtors	391	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets		Canaccord Genuity	292,323	292,186
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Carriages & Tack		17,796	8,867
	Office Equipment		1,949	289
	Horses		2,500	100
	Other Equipment		459	459
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Creditors		6,611	
	Other Creditors		1,680	
	Other Creditors		341	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Follifoot Park Disabled Riders Group

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Follifoot Park Disabled Riders Group for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

We report in respect of our examination of the Trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out our examination we have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

We have completed my examination. We confirm that no material matters have come to our attention in connection with the examination giving us 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.

We 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

S Leitch-Devlin

Name: Simon Leitch-Devlin
Member of the ICAEW

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Date: 20/12/2024

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Registered in England and Wales - Company Number: 11380661
Holidays Group Limited is a subsidiary of Xeinadin Group Limited.

Xeinadin is a trading name of Holidays Group Limited. A list of company directors can be found at the registered office.
Xeinadin Group Limited is authorised and regulated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.