Report of the Trustees of Wood Green RDA

After last year passing relatively benignly with little major change, this year has seen much more alteration in the dynamics of the group. The main development was to move the children's sessions from Northbrook Equestrian Centre to Hilltop Equestrian Centre in Yelling. While this change had been mooted for some time – indeed some of the trustees visited Hilltop prior to the pandemic with a view to possibly moving- the final decision was made primarily due to the uncertainty prevailing at Northbrook. We were initially told that the centre was closing and that we would have no choice but to go elsewhere before the proprietor changed her mind and decided to continue but with considerably fewer horse available to us. We continued on this basis for a while but then we reached a situation in which we were not happy with the equines available, both intrinsically but also on at least one occasion because of their condition. After discussion with Spring Common we decided to move and run our sessions on Friday lunchtimes. This we have done and the transition has been very successful despite the change in time and the reduction in the weight limit we have had to impose.

At this juncture it is appropriate to formally thank Angie Pollard for taking the lead in our move in terms of organization and liaison both with Hilltop and RDA Head Office, as well as to many other Trustees who carried out site visits, risk assessments etc.

While the adult element of the group still has concerns about Northbrook, for many of the same reasons as the children's element, they have remained at Northbrook for the time being, primarily because Hilltop can not accommodate us. This is something which will continue to be monitored.

The group remains in a secure financial position although we do need to start thinking in a more structured way about raising funds and the hope if the Chair is that a member of the group will volunteer to take the lead in this regard so that are efforts can be better targeted and coordinated. There is a lot of public support and admiration for what we do and we need to tap into this. Our financial affairs continue to be managed with great efficiency and patience by Peter Daum and the group is enormously grateful to him for this as well as his annual appearance as Father Christmas!

Whilst we have been in a bit of a state of flux with venues we have been very consistent with our excellent group of volunteers, both on a Monday and a Friday. We have a considerable amount of equine expertise available which means that the sessions are both efficient and flexible, and there is a general spirit of cooperation and positivity amongst both groups: we are very lucky.

Our coaching provision has undergone, and is undergoing, considerable change and development. The adult group has been run with real dedication by Jo Cordell and Roz Brown, both of whom are now stepping down. They have seen the group through many changes, with Roz in particular having brought her expertise to the group in a wide variety of

roles and functions for many years, ant their flexibility and adaptability has been invaluable. The adults have also lost the coaching of Jeanette Soer who decided to step down and is now volunteering with the children's session. Balancing these three losses, Sally Bowes is now qualified and she will take the lead with the group and we are very grateful for her navigation of the labyrinthine RDA process of becoming a coach. The children's group continues to be led by Angie Pollard and Fiona Baylis and they will soon be joined by Paula Salvi and so we are in very capable hands. At this point it is appropriate to thank Fiona for finding such a lovely new home for Splash when we discovered that he could not stay ant Northbrook and to Angie for liaising with his owner.

The coaches reports are recorded separately but we have given something in the region of 300 individual riding sessions and, remarkably, we still do not charge our riders. Relations with Spring Common are good and the partnership is working well.

There are definite challenges ahead and I am sure the next year will see more changes but we leave 2025 in a sound and positive state and we know that we have added a lot of benefits to a lot of people's lives, not least our own as involvement with RDA is something which, despite occasional frustrations, we all find incredibly rewarding.

# WOOD GREEN RDA INC CARRIAGE DRIVING GROUP

(Registered charity1074365)

# Accounts for period 1 October 2024 to 31 October 2025

## Balance Sheet at 31st October 2025

| | |
|---|---|
| Capital Account at 30th September 2024 | £93,431.22 |
| Minus Deficit | £5665.16 |
| Capital Account at 31st October 2025 | £87,766.06 |

## Fixed Assets

| | |
|---|---|
| B/forward 30th September 2024 | £2627.36 |
| Add | None |
| Less Depreciation | £1282.66 |
| **Total** | **£1344.70** |

## Current Assets

| | |
|---|---|
| Skipton BS | £50,000 |
| Virgin Money | £36,727.24 |
| Barclays | £1038.82 |
| Fixed Assets | £1344.70 |
| **Total** | **£89,110.76** |

## INCOME

| | |
|---|---|
| Skipton BS Interest | £725.00 |
| Virgin Money Interest | £569.45 |
| Gifts | £2132.70 |
| **T0TAL** | **£3427.15** |

## EXPENDITURE

| | |
|---|---|
| Equestrian centres | £6976.24 |
| Training | £771.26 |
| Membership & Insurance | £522.00 |
| Miscellaneous | £822.81 |
| | **£9092.31** |

**Deficit** **£5665.16**

### DEPRECIATION

| | |
|---|---|
| Halter Straps | £8.64 |
| Weigh Scales | £566.40 |
| Fish Sticks | £95.40 |
| Halters | £18.20 |
| Hat Silks | £28.20 |
| Ann Items | £244.42 |
| Jump Poles | £79.20 |
| Alice Reins | £26.00 |
| Mount Block | £198.00 |
| Halter Straps | £18.20 |
| **TOTAL** | **£1282.66** |