



DOUBLE FUNDING SUCCESS FOR BRISTOL RIDING CHARITY

Staff, riders and volunteers at the Avon Riding Centre for the Disabled are looking forward to a period of exciting developments following the award of over £15,000 in grants.

The Henbury-based charity received a grant of £6,900 from the Local Network Fund, only a month after it was awarded £10,000 from Awards for All.

With assistance from redevelopment and funding experts, Sports Solutions GB, Avon Riding Centre for the Disabled will use the grants to maximise the facilities it has and to increase the number of young people involved at the centre, both as riders and volunteers.

As a registered charity the Avon Riding Centre needs funds to ensure that it can continue to function as a valuable place for disabled people in the area to enjoy the opportunities and independence that learning to ride a horse will bring.

The funding will be used in four key areas:

- A new pony will be purchased that is suitable for younger people to allow more people to take part at the centre.
- Light-weight jumps will also be purchased to encourage more people to be involved; the current jumps are solid wood and so only a few people have the strength to move and put them up.
- Tuition at the centre is provided by enthusiastic volunteer instructors but teaching times are restricted by instructor availability, so some of the fund will be put towards paying for some sessional instructors.

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- Avon Riding Centre will also be working with the local School Sports Partnership and local Colleges to train young people to become qualified BEF (British Equestrian Federation) instructors.

Peter Warren, a trustee of Avon Riding Centre, said: “Historically we have been lucky because we have attracted large numbers of volunteers but this is getting harder. This money will enable us to continue to recruit volunteers and ensure that we are sustainable.

“Our work to train young people as instructors is especially important because the more people that we train, the more instructors there are in the market at a fair price.

“We are very grateful for Sports Solutions GB’s hard work in applying for these funds because they are essential to subsidise our continuing improvements to make Avon Riding Centre the best it can be.”

James Coney, project development manager for Sports Solutions GB said: “We are delighted to help Avon Riding Centre secure this worthwhile funding and are looking forward to working with the charity on a number of other community and building projects.”

ENDS

For all media enquiries please contact Charli Palmer or Ruth Jones on 0117 9200155 or email charlotte.palmer@ontracpr.co.uk

Notes to editors:

- Sports Solutions GB can provide a total turnkey solution to clubs, delivering relocation, redevelopment and new investment on a one-stop-shop basis, providing proven models and an experienced team.

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Alternatively, the company offers access to a comprehensive range of specialist services, ranging from feasibility studies, land searches and site acquisition to grant aid, design, costing, procurement and construction of buildings.

Sports Solutions GB was responsible for the highly successful redevelopment and relocation of Cirencester Town FC.

- Avon Riding Centre is one of the largest purpose built riding centres for disabled people in the UK. It is situated in 60 acres of Woodland in Henbury, Bristol. Over 200 children and adults receive tuition each week using the Centre's 25 horses and ponies.

As well as supporting disabled riders, the Centre contributes to the local community by welcoming individuals on work experience, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Community Service Orders and others who have particular needs.

- The Local Network Fund for Children and Young People supports small voluntary and community groups to improve outcomes and opportunities for children and young people aged 0-19.

The object of the fund is to enable communities, with limited opportunities or access to services that many young people take for granted, to develop projects and activities for children and young people.

Advice and support is available to groups for project development, establishing and running community projects and developing safeguarding procedures. The fund offers grants between £250 and £7000.

For more information visit

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/strategy/localnetworkfund/>