Gex, 18th August 2022. (English Version)

Hello to all,

Some important and necessary reading before the start of the new school year, hoping that everyone had a good summer and enjoyed some holidays.

As our riding school opened in 1983, we have been through a lot of good times but also a lot of storms - the covid more recently, while waiting to celebrate (with you all I hope!) our 40th anniversary next year!

No respite! As you all know, the current 'storm' is the price increases in so many areas, due to the increase in many raw materials. I tried to resist and wait a bit, to see if it was temporary. For several months I have been paying for this difference. Unfortunately, like everyone else, I am experiencing these increases, but I am not able to absorb them any longer. I am therefore obliged to change our rates (as indicated possible under the timetable on our latest brochure) according to the extent of what I am charged. To give you an idea, shavings have gone up 20%, diesel - no need to tell you (!) but it impacts everything, feed deliveries etc. Our horse food has also increased by 20%, with a warning in June that it could be even more. Also included; electricity, water, waste, manure disposal and hay - also due to the drought.

The post Covid followed us too! The great wave of "I want to change my life" also affected us a lot. Like many sectors now, finding staff remains difficult. I'm very happy with the team that joined us last summer, but it's not enough to find them, we also need to keep them and offer them the possibility of a decent lifestyle, difficult in this region. It is therefore essential that their salaries are also adequate. Even our little "network" of Polish grooms (not as visible as the instructors, but indispensable!) with whom we have been working for 18 years is on the verge of disappearing, as their salaries are not so different now, so we have to do what’s necessary, so they choose to stay with us. Treating all our staff fairly and correctly is of great importance to us and the best way to be given the best from them in return.

To find a way to do the best for everyone - and I've been thinking about this for a while, because I'm putting myself in your shoes too... I've been trying to find the best formula for us all to get through this.

So, the planned tariffs, indicated in our Tariffs 2022/23 brochure, valid from 1 September 22 (and available on our website since April 22) will be the basis. I will set up an "exceptional adjustment" according to the evolution of the tariffs. I will continue to monitor the evolution of the tariffs and adjust them accordingly (upwards or downwards) every 3 months. This will be implemented from 1 September 2022 and will be an increase of 20%.

I am sorry to add this extra charge - which I am only passing on after all - I hope you understand that as a business owner/manager, this is not a choice, but an obligation for the sustainability of our establishment.

I thank you for your understanding and support. For those of you who wish to do so, please do not hesitate to contact us if this makes you review your commitments. We will do our best to help you find solutions.

With kind regards,

Lyn (Carolyn Stickland)