

**SOUTH & MID WALES CAVE RESCUE TEAM/
TIM ACHUB OGOF AU DE A CHANOLBARTH CYMRU**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER 2022**

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1016463

**SOUTH & MID WALES CAVE RESCUE TEAM/
TIM ACHUB OGOF AU DE A CHANOLBARTH CYMRU**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022**

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**SOUTH & MID WALES CAVE RESCUE TEAM/
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CHARITY INFORMATION

Holding Trustees

J Carter
S Drew
G Evans
A Garman
B Jopling

Treasurer

S Drew

Bankers

Barclays Bank
Bristol Corn St 9
Leicester
LE87 2BB

Scottish Widows
PO Box 883
Leeds
LS1 9TY

Charity Registration Number

1016463

SOUTH & MID WALES CAVE RESCUE TEAM/ TIM ACHUB OGOFAU DE A CHANOLBARTH CYMRU

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022

The South & Mid Wales Cave Rescue Team (the 'Team') is an unincorporated charity, registered with the charity number 1016463 and is governed by its constitution. The Team was previously called West Brecon Cave Rescue Team/Tim Achub Ogofau Gorllewin Brycheinog and was renamed to its current name in 2010. It became a registered charity in January 1993 and the constitution was last updated on 20th January 2019.

Trustees

The charity is managed and administered by an elected Executive. The members of the Executive will assume the role of Management Trustees (as defined by charitable law). A full list of the Executive can found on the contact us page of our website, www.smwcrct.org.

The charity also currently has five Holding Trustees who are:-

	Date of Appointment in the year	Date of Resignation in the year
J Carter	-	-
S Drew	-	-
G Evans	-	-
A Garman	-	-
B Jopling	-	-

The Holding Trustees are responsible for assets and liabilities of the charity and they are elected by a general meeting and, if appointed, shall hold office until death or resignation unless removed by a resolution of a general meeting.

The Chairman of the Executive is nominated as the person to appoint new Holding Trustees within the meaning of section 36 of the Trustee Act 1925. The Trustees shall be indemnified by the members of the Team for all expenses and other liabilities properly incurred by them in the discharge of their duties, and provided they act in accordance with the lawful directions of the Executive, the Trustees shall not be held liable for the acts and defaults of the members

Objectives and Activities

The object of the charity shall be to relieve suffering and distress amongst persons or animals endangered by accident or natural hazards underground by the provision, at the request of the police, of search and rescue for any persons or animals endangered.

The charity is operated by volunteers to an extremely high standard. The service provided is professional and as such proves a valuable addition to police resources in their response to SAR underground and on land and major disaster. In addition to the above, the team has also been requested to respond to international rescues including the recent Thailand incident. These services are provided to any member of the public, without charge.

Achievements and Performance

During 2022 we have welcomed 14 new members to the Team and a lot of training has been undertaken which has enabled us to comfortably maintain full operational capability throughout the year, responding to all incidents without delay.

Despite a particularly hectic start to the year (in which we attended 3 incidents in the space of one week), 2022 eventually turned out to be a fairly average year in terms of call outs. The Team attended a total of 7 incidents in 2022, involving the rescue of 7 people and 3 dogs.

This does not however mean it has been a quiet year for the Team overall, not least due to the continuing fallout from the record breaking OFD rescue that we carried out in November 2021 (the longest underground stretcher carry in UK history). An incident of that scale inevitably generates a huge amount of follow-on work, including the repair and replacement of equipment, implementation of the many lessons learnt, not to mention a seemingly endless flow of media requests to be dealt with.

The most significant piece of media work was the production of the BBC documentary “The Rescue: 54 Hours Under the Ground” which told the story of the OFD rescue from start to finish via underground reconstructions and interviews with the Team Members who had been involved. A huge number of hours went into the production of this programme, with filming taking place across a period of several weeks and involving many of our Team Members. The programme was aired on BBC Wales in July 2022 and again on national BBC2 (UK-wide) in November 2022. It was seen as a resounding success, of which all Team Members should be very proud. Rarely has Cave Rescue been given such a high profile in the public eye, and this is testament to the fantastic work and professionalism of all involved.

A consequence of the additional work generated by the 2021 OFD rescue is that various other ongoing projects have taken a bit of a hit this year, with some tasks having to be put on hold until quieter times. We have however made good progress in many areas, including making ongoing improvements to our Digital Control equipment and processes as we continue to learn valuable lessons from their use.

Other major projects in the pipeline are the Vehicle Replacement project (the current Landrover Ambulance is due to be retired in the next couple of years), Team Future Planning (looking at options to ensure our base and equipment stores remain fit for purpose as the team develops into the future), and a major IT project to rebuild the team’s Callout Database using modern technology that can be integrated with our Digital Control setup. Together these future planning and modernisation projects will set the Team up for many years into the future.

Training wise, we ran several well-attended practices this year, plus additional focussed training days covering specific skills and equipment. Training is integral to our capability as a rescue team, not only as a way of developing and maintaining our skills, but also as a way of getting to know our fellow Team Members so that we can work together most effectively when it comes to a real rescue.

74 members of SMWCRT were presented with Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Medals this year, to commemorate 70 years since the late Queen Elizabeth II’s accession to the throne. The medals were awarded to Team Members who had contributed at least 5 years’ continuous service to Cave Rescue, and a presentation ceremony was held at Penwyllt for those who could make it, with the medals being presented by Chief Inspector Andy Pitt of Dyfed Powys Police.

There have been further developments concerning the relationship between Mountain Rescue England & Wales (MREW) and Cave Rescue teams this year, and in particular a reduction in the financial support MREW provides for elements of our insurance provision. Significantly we have been advised that MREW can no longer commit to funding our Vehicle Insurance, which will be a hit for us financially. For the time being we retain our 'Associate Member' status within MREW, but we anticipate further changes in the near future.

Independent Examiner

The charity has elected to dispense with an audit of the accounts. Ian Ross, a director in the firm Lowndes Halsden & Partners Limited, is appointed as Independent Examiner of the charity.

Financial Review

Total income for the year was £40,302 (2021: £63,923). Donations have substantially increased from the exposure the team has had since the November Ogof Ffynnon Ddu (OFD) rescue. The final monies have now been received regarding the H Farr bequeath and this has been allocated to the H Farr Reserve.

Total expenses for the year was £13,628 (2021: £18,658). Lower costs than last year due to timing of equipment replacement and gratefully received donations of equipment which has helped to keep the expenses down. The general fund at the year end has increased to £16,817 (2021:£7,571) and the Emergency Reserve has increased which equates to two years minimum estimated annual running costs of the Team.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



Spencer Drew FCA, Trustee

25/3/2023

**SOUTH & MID WALES CAVE RESCUE TEAM/
TIM ACHUB OGOF AU DE A CHANOLBARTH CYMRU**

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2022**

	(General Fund £	2022 Vehicle Fund £	(Total Funds £	2021 Total Funds £
Receipts				
Donations Received	17,832	-	17,832	5,788
Fundraised Income	1,810	-	1,810	32,301
Grants Received	3,823	-	3,823	1,206
First Aid Course Income	640	-	640	1,325
Bank Interest	19	99	118	3
VAT Refund	2,345	-	2,345	3,297
Expenses reclaimed	404	-	404	-
H Farr bequeth	13,329	-	13,329	20,003
Total	40,203	99	40,302	63,923
Payments				
Equipment Purchased	7,179	-	7,179	11,763
Medical & Food Expenses	349	-	349	418
Vehicle Costs	841	-	841	639
Headquarters & WW Costs	1,724	-	1,724	1,984
Administration Costs	284	-	284	72
First Aid Course Costs	754	-	754	1,543
Rescue Communications Costs	450	-	450	169
Other Course & Meeting Costs	2,047	-	2,047	2,070
Total	13,628	-	13,628	18,658
Net Receipts/(Payments) Before Transfers For The Year	26,575	99	26,674	45,265
Transfers Between Funds	-	-	-	-
Net Receipts/(Payments)	26,575	99	26,674	45,265
Total Funds Brought Forward	39,574	50,000	89,574	44,309
Total Funds Carried Forward	66,149	50,099	116,248	89,574

The notes on pages 5 form part of these financial statements.

**SOUTH & MID WALES CAVE RESCUE TEAM/
TIM ACHUB OGOFAU DE A CHANOLBARTH CYMRU**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2022**

	Note	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	2		-		-
Current Assets					
Debtors			-		-
Cash at bank and in hand		116,248		89,574	
		<u>116,248</u>		<u>89,574</u>	
Creditors					
Amount falling due within one year	3	-		-	
		<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>	
Total Current Assets/(Liabilities)			116,248		89,574
Total Net Assets/(Liabilities)			<u>116,248</u>		<u>89,574</u>
Funds of the Charity					
General Fund			16,817		7,571
Vehicle Fund			50,099		50,000
H Farr bequeath Reserve	3		33,332		20,003
Emergency Reserve (2yrs ann exp costs)	3		16,000		12,000
			<u>116,248</u>		<u>89,574</u>

This statement was approved by the Chairman and the Treasurer of the Executive Committee on behalf of the Executive Committee.



Chairman

Dan Thorne

25/3/2023



Treasurer

Spencer Drew

25/3/2023

**SOUTH & MID WALES CAVE RESCUE TEAM/
TIM ACHUB OGOFAU DE A CHANOLBARTH CYMRU**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
SOUTH & MID WALES CAVE RESCUE TEAM**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I 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.



Ian Ross DIP PFS
Independent Examiner