

Governing Council Report- 2022/23

Charitable Objectives

Monthly work parties along the Dudley No2 canal continued using our workboats Hawne and Stratford. In addition to the regular work parties, rescue operations for stranded boats took place as the need arose. Approximately 330 hours of work was carried out, by a regular group of volunteers. Much effort was expended on the removal of large quantities of tyres which were found to be regularly dumped in the canal. A great deal of time was also spent upon the removal of logs left by contractors after tree felling operations, which too found their way into the canal; thus impeding navigation. Restoration work on our dredger, Stoa, has made good steady progress, at its monthly work parties, and in the coming year it is envisaged that restoration of the hydraulic systems will be undertaken. Plans are at an advanced stage for our Heritage Boats Atlas and Malus, along with a large contingent of other boats from Coombeswood Canal Trust, to be present at a large rally in August in central Birmingham, supporting the Inland Waterways Association's (IWA) campaign for more Government funding for the waterways

The Trading Company continued to perform well and has been able to covenant further funds towards our charitable objectives.

Provision of safe moorings and services at Hawne Basin continues to promote boat movements along the Dudley No2 Canal. We have had an increasing number of visiting boats, approximately 170 of whom stayed overnight, many of these return.

Community Outreach

We have been able to restart our Community Outreach programme this year. In June we welcomed 60 students from Olive Hill Primary School over a two day period. On each day the children undertook a wide variety of activities including, as a highlight, a trip on our workboat Hawne. Subsequently a number of the parents expressed an interest in attending our forthcoming Open Weekend.

With regard to the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, discussions are ongoing with a view to attracting a suitably qualified Youth Worker to assist with this endeavour. A meeting at Dormston Secondary School was also held with the aim of developing plans in this regard. In addition we have committed Trust funds to ensure continuity of the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme

Discussions have started with representatives of the Coombeswood Green Wedge project to examine the possibility of reinstating the old boat dock of Stewarts and Lloyds Tube Works, and the erection of signage and artwork explaining the history of this area.

We are continuing our partnership with Halesowen in Bloom. The Trust's two planters featured prominently in the Britain in Bloom competition, and undoubtedly contributed to the success of Halesowen in winning their section of the competition. These two planters in the shape of canal boats continue to be maintained by members of the Trust and the local community.

Heritage Boats

Our partnership with the Birmingham Canal Navigation Society (BCNS) to operate the Heritage boats Atlas and Malus continues. Both Atlas and Malus attended the Black

Country Boating Festival in Sept 2022 and Atlas went on to the Stourbridge Festival in October and then to the BCNS November celebrations. It is planned that Atlas and Malus will be taken to a number of boating festivals during the summer season 2023.

Dudley No 2 Canal restoration

During the course of the year the Trust re-committed itself to adopting the length of canal from Windmill End to Hawne Basin. The certificate to this effect is displayed in the Cabin.

A meeting has taken place between representatives of Coombeswood Canal Trust and a representative of Canal and River Trust examining the possibility of extending the navigation beyond the present closed off section (the Stank). The project would involve significant expenditure of Trust funds, in conjunction with other funding bodies. In the long term it is hoped to be able to promote restoration of the canal into Leasowes Park (a site of Special Scientific Interest and listed as Grade 1 on the English Heritage list of historic parks). In this respect the Trust is also attending meetings of the Leasowes Green Gateway Project, which is supportive of canal restoration through the park. Further discussions are ongoing.

Two years ago the Trust voted to support Halesowen Abbey Trust in its quest to refurbish Coombs Bridge (across the canal near to our Basin). After discussions, the Trust offered to “match fund” the project with Dudley MBC. Dudley MBC have appointed a contractor and permission from Canal and River Trust is awaited.

Volunteering

The volunteer scheme continues to be a success. In addition to the volunteer hours spent on maintaining the Dudley No2 canal (mentioned earlier) approximately 3,200 hours have been contributed during the course of the year. This included community engagement, maintenance and other activities around the Basin, and provision of catering for both members and outside organisations.

A great deal of work, involving many volunteers, took place to prepare for our first Open Weekend in 4 years. This was to take place on 2nd and 3rd of September 2023, and would be the first time since the lifting of lockdown restrictions that we would be able to admit large numbers of the public to the Basin.

The Cabin continues to be used by outside groups, more such groups having started to use the facility during the year. The pool/ table-tennis, and Northamptonshire Skittles table (as mentioned in Tom Rolt’s book “Narrow Boat”) have proved to be very popular.

The Bar and Kitchen have recovered well following the restrictions of the pandemic, and thanks go to the stalwart volunteers who have made this possible.

Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

for

Coombeswood Canal Trust

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for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

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Coombeswood Canal Trust

Income Statement
for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

	31.7.23 £	31.7.22 £
TURNOVER	91,612	93,371
Other income	310	9
Cost of raw materials and consumables	(686)	(50)
Staff costs	(21,380)	(19,752)
Other charges	(58,769)	(43,685)
Taxation	-	-
SURPLUS	<u>11,087</u>	<u>29,893</u>

Balance Sheet

31 July 2023

	31.7.23	31.7.22
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
	384,897	384,897
CURRENT ASSETS	286,981	268,325
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year	(9,996)	(2,427)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	276,985	265,898
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	661,882	650,795
RESERVES	661,882	650,795

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Coombeswood Canal Trust is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address are as below:

Registered number: 04181961

Registered office: Hawne Basin
Hereward Rise
Halesowen
West Midlands
B62 8AW

2. AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

The average number of employees during the year was 2 (2022 - 2).

Balance Sheet - continued
31 July 2023

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 July 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 9 December 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

D C OWEN - Director

Coombeswood Canal Trust

Report of the Accountants to the Directors of
Coombeswood Canal Trust

As described on the Balance Sheet you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2023 set out on pages one to three and you consider that the company is exempt from an audit.

In accordance with your instructions, we have compiled these unaudited financial statements in order to assist you to fulfil your statutory responsibilities, from the accounting records and information and explanations supplied to us.

Groundbreakers Ltd
Shop 1 @ 83 High Street
Kinver
Stourbridge
West Midlands
DY7 6HD

9 December 2023

Coombeswood Canal Trust

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account
for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

	31.7.23		31.7.22	
	£	£	£	£
Turnover				
Charitable covenants	32,617		38,314	
Other donations	499		979	
Hardstanding	534		620	
Mooring fees	51,719		49,814	
Membership fees	3,094		1,265	
Electricity	3,149		2,379	
		91,612		93,371
Cost of sales				
Open weekend expenditure	86		-	
Youth project expenditure	600		50	
		686		50
GROSS SURPLUS		90,926		93,321
Other income				
Deposit account interest		310		9
		91,236		93,330
Expenditure				
Rent and rates	12,514		12,920	
Licences and insurances	2,877		2,962	
Electricity	18,309		10,702	
Gas	2,999		1,408	
Site services and cleaning	5,481		5,018	
Wages and national insurance	21,191		19,531	
Pensions	189		221	
Telephone and internet	1,130		1,109	
Office running expenses	1,615		873	
Publicity expenses	546		-	
Other repairs and maintenance	5,903		2,155	
Workboat expenses	880		350	
Sundry expenses	491		208	
Accountancy	800		700	
Legal and professional fees	4,521		4,700	
		79,446		62,857
		11,790		30,473
Finance costs				
Bank charges		703		580
NET SURPLUS		11,087		29,893

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Coombeswood Canal Trust

Detailed Balance Sheet
for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

	31.7.23 £	31.7.22 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Freehold property	176,000	176,000
Plant and machinery	208,000	208,000
Computer equipment	897	897
	<hr/> 384,897	<hr/> 384,897
CURRENT ASSETS		
Trade debtors	7,518	-
Amount owed by CCC Ltd	87,890	64,501
Amount owed by HBSC Ltd	8,901	9,674
Shares in group undertakings	1	1
Listed investments	326	326
Bank deposit account	59,258	60,265
Bank current account	97,660	104,406
Bank current account	25,427	29,152
	<hr/> 286,981	<hr/> 268,325
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	(9,246)	(1,727)
Accrued expenses	(750)	(700)
	<hr/> (9,996)	<hr/> (2,427)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<hr/> 276,985	<hr/> 265,898
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	<hr/> 661,882	<hr/> 650,795
NET ASSETS	<hr/> 661,882	<hr/> 650,795
RESERVES		
Membership reserve	278,637	278,637
Revaluation reserve	35,706	35,706
Income and expenditure account	347,539	336,452
	<hr/> 661,882	<hr/> 650,795

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Coombeswood Canal TrustReport of the Accountants to the Directors of
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