

THE RFL BENEVOLENT FUND

England & Wales · Charity number 1109858

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Trust

Registered 2005-06-03

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address University Of Huddersfield
Queensgate
Huddersfield
HD1 3DH

Phone 07597098111

Email nigel.hansford@outlook.com

Website www.rflbenevolentfund.co.uk

Activities

Objects: FOR THE RELIEF OF PEOPLE (AND THEIR DEPENDANTS) WHO PLAY, ASSIST, OR WHO HAVE PLAYED OR ASSISTED IN THE GAME OF RUGBY LEAGUE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM OR FOR A TEAM AFFILIATED TO AN ASSOCIATION PRIMARILY BASED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND WHO ARE IN HARDSHIP OR DISTRESS AS A RESULT OF INJURY THROUGH PLAYING OR TRAINING FOR THE GAME OF RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE OR WHEN TRAVELLING TO OR FROM A GAME OR TRAINING SESSION.

Activities: Established in 2005 in order to raise funds to support players whose lives are affected by serious injuries sustained playing Rugby League. This can be in the form of providing rehabilitation beyond that offered by the state, or improving the quality of life when unfortunately rehabilitation is no longer an option.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty
- **Who:** People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THE UNITED KINGDOM.
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£335,070	£225,791	-	-
2023-12-31	£420,726	£203,197	-	-
2022-12-31	£201,532	£258,319	-	-
2021-12-31	£426,513	£334,323	-	-
2020-12-31	£437,855	£355,974	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
TIMOTHY LAWRENCE ADAMS	Chair	
David Martin Hinchliffe		
GARY HETHERINGTON		
Jane Walton		2023-12-01
John Heritage		2025-08-14
KEVIN SINFIELD		2023-06-01
Karen Elizabeth Moorhouse		2020-01-30
Stuart John Taylor		2023-08-09
neville smith		2023-06-01

THE RFL BENEVOLENT FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1109858

Accounts

Charity number: 1109858

The RFL Benevolent Fund
Trustees' report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

The RFL Benevolent Fund

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The RFL Benevolent Fund

Legal and administrative information

Charity number	1109858
Business address	c/o University of Huddersfield Queensgate Huddersfield HD1 3DH
Trustees	Tim Adams MBE Gary Hetherington David Hinchliffe Karen Moorhouse Beth Sutcliffe Kevin Sinfield CBE Neville Smith Jane Walton Victoria Sinicola Stuart Taylor John Heritage
	Resigned 14 August 2025
	Resigned 30 April 2024
	Appointed 14 August 2025
Accountants	SMH Howard Matthews Limited Queensgate House 23 North Park Road Harrogate North Yorkshire HG1 5PD
Bankers	National Westminster Bank plc PO Box 154 8 Park Row Leeds LS1 1QS

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2024

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024. The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Charity was formed by a Deed of Trust dated 4 February 2005 and is registered with the Charity Commission - Registration number 1109858.

Organisational structure

The Trustees are appointed and removed from office by a 75% majority of the Trustees of the RFL Benevolent Fund.

New trustees are chosen with a view to ensuring that the Board contains an appropriate balance of experience relevant to the requirements of the operations of the Benevolent Fund.

The Board of Trustees aims to meet quarterly to meet the on-going commitments of the Benevolent Fund and to appraise grant applications. Day to day management of the Benevolent Fund was handled by its general manager, Stephen Ball, who retired on the 30 June 2025 and was replaced by Francis Stephenson. The Trustees act as key management personnel for the Charity, and are responsible for significant decisions made.

All new trustees are trained as appropriate and all existing trustees receive updates from the Charity Commission.

Risk management

During the year, the trustees have reviewed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, particularly those related to the finances of the Charity. The Trustees have considered the appropriate policies, procedures and systems and are confident that they are adequate to mitigate the Charity's exposure to the major risks.

The Trustees ensure internal financial control is maintained by having a system of periodic management information reports, clear administrative and financial procedures and clear lines of accounting. No fundamental weaknesses in systems and controls have been identified in the year.

The Trustees consider that an internal audit function is not required based on the relative size of the Charity, the risks identified, and controls in place to mitigate these risks.

In the opinion of the Trustees, the Charity has ensured that under normal conditions, risks are mitigated to an acceptable level in its day to day operations.

Objectives and activities

Objectives

The objectives of the RFL Benevolent Fund ("the Benevolent Fund"), as set out in the trust deed dated 4 February 2005, are to provide for the relief of people (and their dependents) who play, assist, or who have played or assisted in the game of Rugby League in the UK or for a team affiliated to an association primarily based in the UK, and who are in hardship or distress in particular as a result of injury or death through playing or training for the game of Rugby Football League or when travelling to or from a game or training session.

The key financial objectives in the period were to raise at least £200,000 and to retain at least 50% of available funds for beneficiaries. This policy is adopted by the Trustees to keep funds available in the event that funding is needed in respect of major injuries which require significant medical support.

Volunteers

All the Trustees of the Benevolent Fund are volunteers, in addition, other volunteers are used in the raising of funds.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2024

Grant making policy

The Benevolent Fund ensures the grants awarded contribute to the delivery of its objectives and priorities by the application of a review and assessment process designed for purpose.

All the applicants are reviewed to ensure eligibility of the applicant. Applications which fit the eligibility criteria are taken into assessment where analysis of the applications and all relevant supporting documents is undertaken.

All applications are reported to the Trustees for decisions. Trustees consider the assessment reports, risk factor and recommendations in deciding which applications to support.

Public benefit

The Trustees are aware of the Charity Commission's advice on Charities and Public Benefit.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities for the year.

The Benevolent fund aims to improve the lives of all players who have been seriously injured whilst involved in the playing of Rugby League. Typical areas of support include physiotherapy, improvements to homes and vehicles and provision of household appliances and holidays, although other forms of support are given if deemed appropriate. Each request for support is considered on a case-by-case basis and support is open to all players without restriction.

Achievements and performance

During 2024 the activities of the Charity were similar to that in 2023. Fortunately, there was no permanent serious injury to any player but demand from our existing beneficiaries remained high.

Fundraising in 2024 was once again derived mainly from RFL; The Steve Prescott Foundation and from the RFL Presidents Ball and GB Lions lunch events. The Brain Health Fund activities extended in its second year of operation and at the end of the financial year there was £111,069 in the Fund.

The Benevolent Fund continues to be much respected within the game of Rugby League and remains well thought of by many outside the game.

Financial review

The Benevolent Fund generated income of £335,070 (2023: £420,726) during the year. Since the Benevolent Fund was established, £3,927,276 has been distributed to beneficiaries, representing 60% of the £6,582,756 generated during the same period.

The surplus for the year was £109,279 (2023: £217,529) leaving the Benevolent Fund with net assets of £1,101,982 (2023: £992,703). The results for the year are set out in the Statement of Financial activities on page 7.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2024

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the Trustees to maintain unrestricted funds which are the free reserves of the Charity at a level to provide sufficient funds to cover administration and support costs and working capital of the Charity. In addition, the Trustees have adopted a policy of keeping funds available if funding is needed in respect of major injuries which require significant medical support. The Trustees have set target levels of £50,000 for administration and support costs and £100,000 for working capital of the Charity. The balance is to cover the eventuality of major injuries requiring significant medical support. The long-term target level of free reserves is set at £1,000,000 including the £50,000 for administration and support costs and £100,000 for working capital of the Charity. At the year end free reserves £929,746 (2023: £850,498). It is the aim of the Benevolent Fund to build up its reserves so it has funds available to make support payments, even if the funds generated in the year are at a low level.

Investment powers

The Trustees have powers to deposit or invest funds in any manner but to invest only after obtaining advice from a financial expert and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification. The options for alternative investment strategies are currently being progressed by the Trustees.

Plans for future periods

The Trustees are confident that the value of donations and fundraising will continue in future years so that the Trustees can maintain and increase the value of all grants as and when required.

The Fund works closely with its sister charity, Rugby League Cares, which raises awareness of its activities by promoting its fundraising activities through leaflets, Rugby League Cares and the RFL websites, and by including articles about the Benevolent Fund in their central events programmes and newsletters.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

**Report of the trustees
for the year ended 31 December 2024**

The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board of trustees



**Tim Adams MBE
Chairman**

22 September 2025

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The RFL Benevolent Fund.

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The RFL Benevolent Fund for the year ended 31 December 2024 set out on pages 2 to 14.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.



.....
Howard Matthews BA FCA
ICAEW
Independent examiner
SMH Howard Matthews Limited
Queensgate House
23 North Park Road
Harrogate
HG1 5PD

10 September 2025

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Voluntary income	2	168,139	59,622	227,761	308,400
Activities for generating funds	3	45,086	-	45,086	68,546
Investment income	4	62,223	-	62,223	43,780
Total incoming resources		<u>275,448</u>	<u>59,622</u>	<u>335,070</u>	<u>420,726</u>
Resources expended					
Charitable activities	5	188,834	29,591	218,425	197,960
Governance costs	7	7,366	-	7,366	5,237
Total resources expended		<u>196,200</u>	<u>29,591</u>	<u>225,791</u>	<u>203,197</u>
Net income for the year		79,248	30,031	109,279	217,529
Total funds brought forward		<u>850,498</u>	<u>142,205</u>	<u>992,703</u>	<u>775,174</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>929,746</u>	<u>172,236</u>	<u>1,101,982</u>	<u>992,703</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

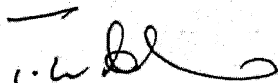
The notes on pages 9 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2024

	Notes	£	2024	£	£	2023	£
Current assets							
Debtors	11	30,425			39,818		
Investments	12	522,633			481,619		
Cash at bank and in hand		575,305			479,126		
		<u>1,128,363</u>			<u>1,000,563</u>		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(26,381)</u>			<u>(7,860)</u>		
Net current assets			1,101,982			992,703	
Net assets			<u>1,101,982</u>			<u>992,703</u>	
Funds	14						
Restricted income funds	16		172,236			142,205	
Unrestricted income funds	15		929,746			850,498	
Total funds			<u>1,101,982</u>			<u>992,703</u>	

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 22 September 2025 and signed on its behalf by



Tim Adams MBE
Trustee

The notes on pages 9 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year.

1.1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK GAAP as it applies from 1 January 2015.

1.2. Cashflow

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS1 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement because it is a small charity.

1.3. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Gifts donated for resale are included as incoming resources within activities for generating funds when they are sold.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

1.4. Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

1.5. Investments

Current asset investments are at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

1.6. Defined contribution pension schemes

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the charity during the year.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

2. Voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Donations unrestricted	28,139	-	28,139	10,163
Donations restricted	-	25,052	25,052	13,048
The Rugby Football League	100,000	-	100,000	100,000
Steve Prescott foundation	40,000	-	40,000	42,250
Logan and Gary's Lions Heart fund	-	3,942	3,942	33,193
Brain health fund	-	30,628	30,628	109,746
	<u>168,139</u>	<u>59,622</u>	<u>227,761</u>	<u>308,400</u>

3. Activities for generating funds

	Unrestricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
President's ball	26,816	26,816	42,119
Lions lunch	18,270	18,270	26,427
	<u>45,086</u>	<u>45,086</u>	<u>68,546</u>

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Income from UK investments	41,014	41,014	34,728
Bank interest receivable	21,209	21,209	9,052
	<u>62,223</u>	<u>62,223</u>	<u>43,780</u>

5. Costs of charitable activities - by fund type

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Benevolent fund	156,023	29,591	185,614	167,633
Presidents ball	15,825	-	15,825	18,200
Lions lunch	16,986	-	16,986	12,127
	<u>188,834</u>	<u>29,591</u>	<u>218,425</u>	<u>197,960</u>

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

6. Costs of charitable activities - by activity

	Activities undertaken directly £	Grant funding activities £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Benevolent fund	164,103	21,511	185,614	167,633
Presidents ball	15,825	-	15,825	18,200
Lions lunch	16,986	-	16,986	12,127
	<u>196,914</u>	<u>21,511</u>	<u>218,425</u>	<u>197,960</u>

7. Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Professional - Accountancy fees	3,600	3,600	3,382
Professional - Other	2,461	2,461	1,370
Just giving costs	562	562	360
Bank charges	132	132	125
Other governance costs	611	611	-
	<u>7,366</u>	<u>7,366</u>	<u>5,237</u>

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

8. Employees

Employment costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	43,368	48,843
Pension costs	18,300	9,200
Car allowance	4,800	4,800
Other costs	227	545
	<u>66,695</u>	<u>63,388</u>

No employee received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 (2023 : None).

Number of employees

The average monthly numbers of employees (including the trustees) during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Delivery of services	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Trustees received no salaries or expenses in the year (2023 : None)

10. Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the charity and was as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Pension charge	<u>18,300</u>	<u>9,200</u>

11. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other debtors	24,042	34,995
Prepayments and accrued income	6,383	4,823
	<u>30,425</u>	<u>39,818</u>

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

12. Current asset investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Managed investments	522,633	481,619

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other taxes and social security	376	714
Accruals and deferred income	26,005	7,146
	<u>26,381</u>	<u>7,860</u>

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2024 as represented by:			
Investment assets	522,633	-	522,633
Current assets	433,494	172,236	605,730
Current liabilities	(26,381)	-	(26,381)
	<u>929,746</u>	<u>172,236</u>	<u>1,101,982</u>

15. Unrestricted funds

	At 1 January 2024	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£
Benevolent Fund	<u>850,498</u>	<u>275,448</u>	<u>(196,200)</u>	<u>929,746</u>

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

16. Restricted funds

	At 1 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	At 31 December 2024 £
Defibrillator Fund	12,313	2,152	(6,511)	7,954
Bruce Fund	8,178	22,900	(15,000)	16,078
Brain Health Fund	88,521	30,628	(8,080)	111,069
Logan and Gary's Lions Heart Fund	33,193	3,942	-	37,135
	<u>142,205</u>	<u>59,622</u>	<u>(29,591)</u>	<u>172,236</u>

17. Related party transactions

The Rugby Football League Limited is a debtor to the charity for £16,667 (2023: £8,333) at the year end.

Rugby League Cares, which has common trustees, is a creditor of the charity for £17,540 (2023: £26,661 debtor) at the year end.

THE RFL BENEVOLENT FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1109858

Accounts

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The RFL Benevolent Fund
Trustees' report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

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Trustees	Tim Adams MBE Philip Clarke Gary Hetherington David Hinchliffe Karen Moorhouse Beth Sutcliffe Kevin Sinfield OBE Neville Smith Jane Walton Victoria Sinacola Stuart Taylor	Resigned 1 June 2023 Appointed 28 April 2022 Appointed 1 June 2023 Appointed 1 June 2023 Appointed 1 June 2023 Appointed 9 August 2023; Resigned 30 April 2024 Appointed 9 August 2023
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The RFL Benevolent Fund

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The RFL Benevolent Fund

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023

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Achievements and performance

During 2023 the problems associated with Covid 19 had reduced and the Fund in the main reverted back to its traditional way of working. Fortunately there was no permanent serious injury to any player but demand from our existing beneficiaries remained high.

Fundraising improved in 2023 with the reintroduction of the Presidents Ball. Funds were received from RFL and once again from the Steve Prescott foundation. 2023 also saw the introduction of the Brain Health Fund, a far reaching education and support programme for both current and retired rugby league players.

The Benevolent Fund continues to be much respected within the game of Rugby League and remains well thought of by many outside the game.

Financial review

The Benevolent Fund generated income of £420,726 (2022: £201,532) during the year. Since the Benevolent Fund was established, £3,816,437 has been distributed to beneficiaries, representing 61% of the £6,247,686 generated during the same period.

The surplus for the year was £217,529 (2022: £56,787 deficit) leaving the Benevolent Fund with net assets of £992,703 (2022: £775,174). The results for the year are set out in the Statement of Financial activities on page 7.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2023

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the Trustees to maintain unrestricted funds which are the free reserves of the Charity at a level to provide sufficient funds to cover administration and support costs and working capital of the Charity. In addition, the Trustees have adopted a policy of keeping funds available if funding is needed in respect of major injuries which require significant medical support. The Trustees have set target levels of £50,000 for administration and support costs and £100,000 for working capital of the Charity. The balance is to cover the eventuality of major injuries requiring significant medical support. The long-term target level of free reserves is set at £1,000,000 including the £50,000 for administration and support costs and £100,000 for working capital of the Charity. At the year end free reserves £850,498 (2022: £766,181). It is the aim of the Benevolent Fund to build up its reserves so it has funds available to make support payments, even if the funds generated in the year are at a low level.

Investment powers

The Trustees have powers to deposit or invest funds in any manner but to invest only after obtaining advice from a financial expert and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification. The options for alternative investment strategies are currently being progressed by the Trustees.

Plans for future periods

The Trustees are confident that the value of donations and fundraising will continue in future years so that the Trustees can maintain and increase the value of all grants as and when required.

The Fund works closely with its sister charity, Rugby League Cares, which raises awareness of its activities by promoting its fundraising activities through leaflets, Rugby League Cares and the RFL websites, and by including articles about the Benevolent Fund in their central events programmes and newsletters.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

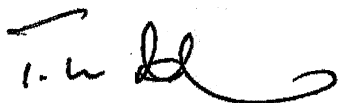
The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

**Report of the trustees
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board of trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Adams', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

**Tim Adams MBE
Chairman**

12 September 2024

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The RFL Benevolent Fund.

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The RFL Benevolent Fund for the year ended 31 December 2023 set out on pages 2 to 14.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.



.....
Howard Matthews BA FCA
ICAEW
Independent examiner
SMH Howard Matthews Limited
Queensgate House
23 North Park Road
Harrogate
HG1 5PD

19 September 2024

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Voluntary income	2	152,413	155,987	308,400	188,620
Activities for generating funds	3	68,546	-	68,546	11,960
Investment income	4	43,780	-	43,780	952
Total incoming resources		<u>264,739</u>	<u>155,987</u>	<u>420,726</u>	<u>201,532</u>
Resources expended					
Charitable activities	5	175,185	22,775	197,960	207,709
Governance costs	7	5,237	-	5,237	50,610
Total resources expended		<u>180,422</u>	<u>22,775</u>	<u>203,197</u>	<u>258,319</u>
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		84,317	133,212	217,529	(56,787)
Total funds brought forward		<u>766,181</u>	<u>8,993</u>	<u>775,174</u>	<u>831,961</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>850,498</u>	<u>142,205</u>	<u>992,703</u>	<u>775,174</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 9 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Notes	£	2023	£	2022	£
Current assets						
Debtors	11	39,818			61,770	
Investments	12	481,619			446,891	
Cash at bank and in hand		479,126			301,607	
		<u>1,000,563</u>			<u>810,268</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year						
	13	<u>(7,860)</u>			<u>(35,094)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>992,703</u>		<u>775,174</u>	
Net assets			<u>992,703</u>		<u>775,174</u>	
Funds	14					
Restricted income funds	16		142,205		8,993	
Unrestricted income funds	15		850,498		766,181	
Total funds			<u>992,703</u>		<u>775,174</u>	

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 12 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by



Tim Adams MBE
Trustee

The notes on pages 9 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year.

1.1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK GAAP as it applies from 1 January 2015.

1.2. Cashflow

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS1 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement because it is a small charity.

1.3. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Gifts donated for resale are included as incoming resources within activities for generating funds when they are sold.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

1.4. Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

1.5. Investments

Current asset investments are at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

1.6. Defined contribution pension schemes

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the charity during the year.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

2. Voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Donations unrestricted	10,163	-	10,163	30,010
Donations restricted	-	13,048	13,048	8,610
The Rugby Football League	100,000	-	100,000	100,000
Steve Prescott foundation	42,250	-	42,250	50,000
Logan and Gary's Lions Heart fund	-	33,193	33,193	-
Brain health fund	-	109,746	109,746	-
	<u>152,413</u>	<u>155,987</u>	<u>308,400</u>	<u>188,620</u>

3. Activities for generating funds

	Unrestricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
President's ball	42,119	42,119	-
Lions lunch	26,427	26,427	11,960
	<u>68,546</u>	<u>68,546</u>	<u>11,960</u>

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Income from UK investments	34,728	34,728	-
Bank interest receivable	9,052	9,052	952
	<u>43,780</u>	<u>43,780</u>	<u>952</u>

5. Costs of charitable activities - by fund type

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Benevolent fund	144,858	22,775	167,633	200,323
Presidents ball	18,200	-	18,200	-
Lions lunch	12,127	-	12,127	7,386
	<u>175,185</u>	<u>22,775</u>	<u>197,960</u>	<u>207,709</u>

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

6. Costs of charitable activities - by activity

	Activities undertaken directly £	Grant funding activities £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Benevolent fund	166,083	1,550	167,633	200,323
Presidents ball	18,200	-	18,200	-
Lions lunch	12,127	-	12,127	7,386
	<u>196,410</u>	<u>1,550</u>	<u>197,960</u>	<u>207,709</u>

7. Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Professional - Accountancy fees	3,382	3,382	3,430
Professional - Other	1,370	1,370	1,994
Just giving costs	360	360	450
Bank charges	125	125	74
Amounts written off investments	-	-	26,662
Other governance costs	-	-	18,000
	<u>5,237</u>	<u>5,237</u>	<u>50,610</u>

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

8. Employees

Employment costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	48,843	44,967
Pension costs	9,200	9,489
Car allowance	4,800	4,800
Other costs	545	545
	<u>63,388</u>	<u>59,801</u>

No employee received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 (2022 : None).

Number of employees

The average monthly numbers of employees (including the trustees) during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Delivery of services	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Trustees received no salaries or expenses in the year (2022 : None)

10. Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the charity and was as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Pension charge	<u>9,200</u>	<u>9,489</u>

11. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other debtors	34,995	50,000
Prepayments and accrued income	4,823	11,770
	<u>39,818</u>	<u>61,770</u>

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

12. Current asset investments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Managed investments	481,619	446,891

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other taxes and social security	714	166
Accruals and deferred income	7,146	34,928
	<u>7,860</u>	<u>35,094</u>

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2023 as represented by:			
Investment assets	481,619	-	481,619
Current assets	376,739	142,205	518,944
Current liabilities	(7,860)	-	(7,860)
	<u>850,498</u>	<u>142,205</u>	<u>992,703</u>

15. Unrestricted funds

	At 1 January 2023	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	At 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£
Benevolent Fund	766,181	264,739	(180,422)	850,498

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

16. Restricted funds	At			At
	1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	31 December 2023 £
Defibrillator Fund	815	13,048	(1,550)	12,313
Bruce Fund	8,178	-	-	8,178
Brain Health Fund	-	109,746	(21,225)	88,521
Logan and Gary's Lions Heart Fund	-	37,193	(4,000)	33,193
	<u>8,993</u>	<u>159,987</u>	<u>(26,775)</u>	<u>142,205</u>

17. Related party transactions

The Rugby Football League Limited is a debtor to the charity for £8,333 (2022: £25,000) at the year end.

Rugby League Cares, which has common trustees, is a debtor to the charity for £26,661 (2022: £25,000) at the year end.

THE RFL BENEVOLENT FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1109858

Accounts

Charity number: 1109858

The RFL Benevolent Fund
Trustees' report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022

The RFL Benevolent Fund

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Trustees report	2 - 5
Independent examiners' report	6
Statement of financial activities	7
Balance sheet	8
Notes to the financial statements	9 - 14

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Legal and administrative information

Charity number 1109858

Business address c/o University of Huddersfield
Queensgate
Huddersfield
HD1 3DH

Trustees

Tim Adams MBE	
Philip Clarke	Resigned 1 June 2023
Gary Hetherington	
David Hinchliffe	
Karen Moorhouse	
Beth Sutcliffe	Appointed 28 April 2022
Kevin Sinfield OBE	Appointed 1 June 2023
Neville Smith	Appointed 1 June 2023
Jane Walton	Appointed 1 June 2023

Accountants Howard Matthews Partnership
Queensgate House
23 North Park Road
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 5PD

Bankers National Westminster Bank plc
PO Box 154
8 Park Row
Leeds
LS1 1QS

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2022

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022. The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Charity was formed by a Deed of Trust dated 4 February 2005 and is registered with the Charity Commission - Registration number 1109858.

Organisational structure

The Trustees are appointed and removed from office by the Rugby Football League or a 75% majority of the Trustees of the RFL Benevolent Fund.

New trustees are chosen with a view to ensuring that the Board contains an appropriate balance of experience relevant to the requirements of the operations of the Benevolent Fund.

The Board of Trustees aims to meet quarterly to meet the on-going commitments of the Benevolent Fund and to appraise grant applications. Day to day management of the Benevolent Fund is handled by its general manager, Stephen Ball. The Trustees act as key management personnel for the Charity, and are responsible for significant decisions made.

All new trustees are trained as appropriate and all existing trustees receive updates from the Charity Commission.

Risk management

During the year, the trustees have reviewed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, particularly those related to the finances of the Charity. The Trustees have considered the appropriate policies, procedures and systems and are confident that they are adequate to mitigate the Charity's exposure to the major risks.

The Trustees ensure internal financial control is maintained by having a system of periodic management information reports, clear administrative and financial procedures and clear lines of accounting. No fundamental weaknesses in systems and controls have been identified in the year.

The Trustees consider that an internal audit function is not required based on the relative size of the Charity, the risks identified, and controls in place to mitigate these risks.

In the opinion of the Trustees, the Charity has ensured that under normal conditions, risks are mitigated to an acceptable level in its day to day operations.

Objectives and activities

Objectives

The objectives of the RFL Benevolent Fund ("the Benevolent Fund"), as set out in the trust deed dated 4 February 2005, are to provide for the relief of people (and their dependents) who play, assist, or who have played or assisted in the game of Rugby League in the UK or for a team affiliated to an association primarily based in the UK, and who are in hardship or distress in particular as a result of injury or death through playing or training for the game of Rugby Football League or when travelling to or from a game or training session.

The key financial objectives in the period were to raise at least £200,000 and to retain at least 50% of available funds for beneficiaries. This policy is adopted by the Trustees to keep funds available in the event that funding is needed in respect of major injuries which require significant medical support.

Volunteers

All the Trustees of the Benevolent Fund are volunteers, in addition, other volunteers are used in the raising of funds.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2022

Grant making policy

The Benevolent Fund ensures the grants awarded contribute to the delivery of its objectives and priorities by the application of a review and assessment process designed for purpose.

All the applicants are reviewed to ensure eligibility of the applicant. Applications which fit the eligibility criteria are taken into assessment where analysis of the applications and all relevant supporting documents is undertaken.

All applications are reported to the Trustees for decisions. Trustees consider the assessment reports, risk factor and recommendations in deciding which applications to support.

Public benefit

The Trustees are aware of the Charity Commission's advice on Charities and Public Benefit.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities for the year.

The Benevolent fund aims to improve the lives of all players who have been seriously injured whilst involved in the playing of Rugby League. Typical areas of support include physiotherapy, improvements to homes and vehicles and provision of household appliances and holidays, although other forms of support are given if deemed appropriate. Each request for support is considered on a case-by-case basis and support is open to all players without restriction.

Achievements and performance

During 2022 the problems associated with Covid and the economic climate continued to impact on the Fund and its beneficiaries. Fortunately, there was no permanent serious injury to any player but demand from our existing beneficiaries remained high due to the above.

Fundraising continued to be difficult with the cancellation of the Presidents Ball, our main fundraiser, and the temporary diminution of our investments of £26,662. Nevertheless, we continue to receive support from the Steve Prescott Foundation and the Mackay Charitable Foundation albeit at a lower rate than in 2021.

The Benevolent Fund continues to be much respected within the game of Rugby League and remains well thought of by many outside the game.

Financial review

The Benevolent Fund generated income of £201,532 (2021: £426,513) during the year. Since the Benevolent Fund was established, £3,613,240 has been distributed to beneficiaries, representing 62% of the £5,826,960 generated during the same period.

The deficit for the year was £56,787 (2021: £92,191 surplus) leaving the Benevolent Fund with net assets of £775,174 (2021: £831,961). The results for the year are set out in the Statement of Financial activities on page 7.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2022

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the Trustees to maintain unrestricted funds which are the free reserves of the Charity at a level to provide sufficient funds to cover administration and support costs and working capital of the Charity. In addition, the Trustees have adopted a policy of keeping funds available if funding is needed in respect of major injuries which require significant medical support. The Trustees have set target levels of £50,000 for administration and support costs and £100,000 for working capital of the Charity. The balance is to cover the eventuality of major injuries requiring significant medical support. The long-term target level of free reserves is set at £1,000,000 including the £50,000 for administration and support costs and £100,000 for working capital of the Charity. At the year end free reserves £766,182 (2021: £809,648). It is the aim of the Benevolent Fund to build up its reserves so it has funds available to make support payments, even if the funds generated in the year are at a low level.

Investment powers

The Trustees have powers to deposit or invest funds in any manner but to invest only after obtaining advice from a financial expert and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification. The options for alternative investment strategies are currently being progressed by the Trustees.

Plans for future periods

The Trustees are confident that the value of donations and fundraising will continue in future years so that the Trustees can maintain and increase the value of all grants as and when required.

The Fund works closely with its sister charity, Rugby League Cares. It raises awareness of its activities by promoting its fundraising activities through leaflets, Rugby League Cares and the RFL websites, and by including articles about the Benevolent Fund in their central events programmes and newsletters.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

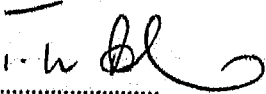
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The RFL Benevolent Fund

**Report of the trustees
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board of trustees



.....
Tim Adams MBE
Chairman

9 August 2023

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The RFL Benevolent Fund.

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The RFL Benevolent Fund for the year ended 31 December 2022 set out on pages 2 to 14.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.



.....
Howard Matthews BA FCA
ICAEW
Independent examiner
Howard Matthews Partnership
Queensgate House
23 North Park Road
Harrogate
HG1 5PD

9 August 2023

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Voluntary income	2	180,010	8,610	188,620	395,557
Activities for generating funds	3	11,960	-	11,960	-
Investment income	4	952	-	952	30,956
Total incoming resources		<u>192,922</u>	<u>8,610</u>	<u>201,532</u>	<u>426,513</u>
Resources expended					
Charitable activities	5	185,778	21,931	207,709	311,587
Governance costs	7	50,610	-	50,610	22,735
Total resources expended		<u>236,388</u>	<u>21,931</u>	<u>258,319</u>	<u>334,322</u>
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		(43,466)	(13,321)	(56,787)	92,191
Total funds brought forward		809,648	22,313	831,961	739,770
Total funds carried forward		<u>766,182</u>	<u>8,992</u>	<u>775,174</u>	<u>831,961</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

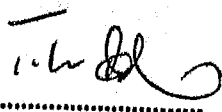
The notes on pages 9 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Notes	£	2022	£	2021	£
Current assets						
Debtors	11	61,770		18,300		
Investments	12	446,891		373,553		
Cash at bank and in hand		301,607		466,755		
		810,268		858,608		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year						
	13	(35,094)		(26,647)		
Net current assets			<u>775,174</u>			<u>831,961</u>
Net assets			<u>775,174</u>			<u>831,961</u>
Funds						
Restricted income funds	14					
Unrestricted income funds	16		8,992		22,313	
	15		766,182		809,648	
Total funds			<u>775,174</u>			<u>831,961</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 9 August 2023 and signed on its behalf by



.....
Tim Adams MBE
 Trustee

The notes on pages 9 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year.

1.1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK GAAP as it applies from 1 January 2015.

1.2. Cashflow

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS1 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement because it is a small charity.

1.3. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Gifts donated for resale are included as incoming resources within activities for generating funds when they are sold.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

1.4. Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

1.5. Investments

Current asset investments are at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

1.6. Defined contribution pension schemes

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the charity during the year.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

2. Voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Donations unrestricted	30,010	-	30,010	139,452
Donations restricted	-	8,610	8,610	86,105
The Rugby Football League	100,000	-	100,000	100,000
Steve Prescott foundation	50,000	-	50,000	70,000
	<u>180,010</u>	<u>8,610</u>	<u>188,620</u>	<u>395,557</u>

3. Activities for generating funds

	Unrestricted funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Lions lunch	11,960	11,960	-
	<u>11,960</u>	<u>11,960</u>	<u>-</u>

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Income from UK investments	-	-	30,921
Bank interest receivable	952	952	35
	<u>952</u>	<u>952</u>	<u>30,956</u>

5. Costs of charitable activities - by fund type

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Benevolent fund	178,392	21,931	200,323	311,587
Lions lunch	7,386	-	7,386	-
	<u>185,778</u>	<u>21,931</u>	<u>207,709</u>	<u>311,587</u>

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

6. Costs of charitable activities - by activity

	Activities undertaken directly £	Grant funding activities £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Benevolent fund	178,392	21,931	200,323	311,587
Lions lunch	7,386	-	7,386	-
	<u>185,778</u>	<u>21,931</u>	<u>207,709</u>	<u>311,587</u>

7. Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Professional - Accountancy fees	3,430	3,430	2,958
Professional - Other	1,994	1,994	839
Just giving costs	450	450	567
Bank charges	74	74	371
Amounts written off investments	26,662	26,662	-
Other governance costs	18,000	18,000	18,000
	<u>50,610</u>	<u>50,610</u>	<u>22,735</u>

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

8. Employees

Employment costs	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	44,967	42,280
Pension costs	9,489	14,056
Car allowance	4,800	4,800
Other costs	545	545
	<u>59,801</u>	<u>61,681</u>

No employee received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 (2021 : None).

Number of employees

The average monthly numbers of employees (including the trustees) during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	2022	2021
	Number	Number
Administration	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Trustees received no salaries or expenses in the year (2021 : None)

10. Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the charity and was as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Pension charge	<u>9,489</u>	<u>14,056</u>

11. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other debtors	50,000	15,000
Prepayments and accrued income	11,770	3,300
	<u>61,770</u>	<u>18,300</u>

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

12. Current asset investments

	2022 £	2021 £
Managed investments	446,891	373,553

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	-	2,623
Other taxes and social security	166	868
Accruals and deferred income	34,928	23,156
	<u>35,094</u>	<u>26,647</u>

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Fund balances at 31 December 2022 as represented by:		
Investment assets	446,891	446,891
Current assets	363,377	363,377
Current liabilities	(35,094)	(35,094)
	<u>775,174</u>	<u>775,174</u>

15. Unrestricted funds

	At 1 January 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	At 31 December 2022 £
Benevolent Fund	809,648	192,922	(236,388)	766,182

16. Restricted funds

	At 1 January 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	At 31 December 2022 £
Defibrillator Fund	10,135	8,610	(17,931)	814
Bruce Fund	12,178	-	(4,000)	8,178
	<u>22,313</u>	<u>8,610</u>	<u>(21,931)</u>	<u>8,992</u>

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

17. Related party transactions

The Rugby Football League Limited is a debtor to the charity for £25,000 (2021: NIL) at the year end.

Rugby League Cares, which has common trustees, is a debtor to the charity for £25,000 (2021: £15,000) at the year end.

THE RFL BENEVOLENT FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1109858

Accounts

Charity number: 1109858

The RFL Benevolent Fund
Trustees' report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021

The RFL Benevolent Fund

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Statement of financial activities	7
Balance sheet	8
Notes to the financial statements	9 - 14

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Legal and administrative information

Charity number 1109858

Business address c/o University of Huddersfield
Queensgate
Huddersfield
HD1 3DH

Trustees Tim Adams MBE
Philip Clarke
Gary Hetherington
David Hinchliffe
Karen Moorhouse
Beth Sutcliffe

Appointed 28 April 2022

Accountants Howard Matthews Partnership
Queensgate House
23 North Park Road
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 5PD

Bankers National Westminster Bank plc
PO Box 154
8 Park Row
Leeds
LS1 1QS

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2021

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021. The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Charity was formed by a Deed of Trust dated 4 February 2005 and is registered with the Charity Commission - Registration number 1109858.

Organisational structure

The Trustees are appointed and removed from office by the Rugby Football League or a 75% majority of the Trustees of the RFL Benevolent Fund.

New trustees are chosen with a view to ensuring that the Board contains an appropriate balance of experience relevant to the requirements of the operations of the Benevolent Fund.

The Board of Trustees aims to meet quarterly to meet the on-going commitments of the Benevolent Fund and to appraise grant applications. Day to day management of the Benevolent Fund is handled by its general manager, Stephen Ball. The Trustees act as key management personnel for the Charity, and are responsible for significant decisions made.

All new trustees are trained as appropriate and all existing trustees receive updates from the Charity Commission.

Risk management

During the year, the trustees have reviewed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, particularly those related to the finances of the Charity. The Trustees have considered the appropriate policies, procedures and systems and are confident that they are adequate to mitigate the Charity's exposure to the major risks.

The Trustees ensure internal financial control is maintained by having a system of periodic management information reports, clear administrative and financial procedures and clear lines of accounting. No fundamental weaknesses in systems and controls have been identified in the year.

The Trustees consider that an internal audit function is not required based on the relative size of the Charity, the risks identified, and controls in place to mitigate these risks.

In the opinion of the Trustees, the Charity has ensured that under normal conditions, risks are mitigated to an acceptable level in its day to day operations.

Objectives and activities

Objectives

The objectives of the RFL Benevolent Fund ("the Benevolent Fund"), as set out in the trust deed dated 4 February 2005, are to provide for the relief of people (and their dependents) who play, assist, or who have played or assisted in the game of Rugby League in the UK or for a team affiliated to an association primarily based in the UK, and who are in hardship or distress in particular as a result of injury or death through playing or training for the game of Rugby Football League or when travelling to or from a game or training session.

The key financial objectives in the period were to raise at least £200,000 and to retain at least 50% of available funds for beneficiaries. This policy is adopted by the Trustees to keep funds available in the event that funding is needed in respect of major injuries which require significant medical support.

Volunteers

All the Trustees of the Benevolent Fund are volunteers, in addition, other volunteers are used in the raising of funds.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2021

Grant making policy

The Benevolent Fund ensures the grants awarded contribute to the delivery of its objectives and priorities by the application of a review and assessment process designed for purpose.

All the applicants are reviewed to ensure eligibility of the applicant. Applications which fit the eligibility criteria are taken into assessment where analysis of the applications and all relevant supporting documents is undertaken.

All applications are reported to the Trustees for decisions. Trustees consider the assessment reports, risk factor and recommendations in deciding which applications to support.

Public benefit

The Trustees are aware of the Charity Commission's advice on Charities and Public Benefit.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities for the year.

The Benevolent Fund aims to improve the lives of players in Rugby League who have been injured. The normal areas of support include improvements to homes and vehicles, holidays, household appliances and physiotherapy, although other areas of support are also covered. As this support is open to all players there is no geographical restriction. The Charity does not charge for the services it provides. Each request will be considered on a case by case basis and will be supported if they are deemed in line with the Charity's objectives.

Achievements and performance

During the past year problems associated with the pandemic continued to impact on the Fund and the wellbeing of the beneficiaries. The various lockdowns have left beneficiaries even more vulnerable due to isolation and loneliness. The Fund has continued to be in contact with all its beneficiaries during this difficult time. While matches and new injuries have been limited, the demand for the Fund's services have increased due to keeping the mental wellbeing of beneficiaries as high as achievable.

Fundraising has been extremely difficult which has led to the cancellation of major income generating activities. These include the President's Ball and the British Lions Lunch. We have welcomed new donors in particular the Mackay Charitable Foundation, together with the continued support of the Steve Prescott Foundation has provided added financial stability to the Fund.

The Fund continues to be much respected within the game of Rugby League and remains well thought of by many outside the game.

Financial review

The Benevolent Fund generated income of £426,513 (2020: £437,855) during the year. Since the Benevolent Fund was established, £3,472,718 has been distributed to beneficiaries, representing 62% of the £5,625,428 generated during the same period.

The surplus for the year was £92,190 (2020: £81,871) leaving the Benevolent Fund with net assets of £831,961 (2020: £739,771). The results for the year are set out in the Statement of Financial activities on page 7.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2021

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the Trustees to maintain unrestricted funds which are the free reserves of the Charity at a level to provide sufficient funds to cover administration and support costs and working capital of the Charity. In addition, the Trustees have adopted a policy of keeping funds available if funding is needed in respect of major injuries which require significant medical support. The Trustees have set target levels of £50,000 for administration and support costs and £100,000 for working capital of the Charity. The balance is to cover the eventuality of major injuries requiring significant medical support. The long-term target level of free reserves is set at £1,000,000 including the £50,000 for administration and support costs and £100,000 for working capital of the Charity. At the year end free reserves £809,648 (2020: £668,492). It is the aim of the Benevolent Fund to build up its reserves so it has funds available to make support payments, even if the funds generated in the year are at a low level.

Investment powers

The Trustees have powers to deposit or invest funds in any manner but to invest only after obtaining advice from a financial expert and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification. The options for alternative investment strategies are currently being progressed by the Trustees.

Plans for future periods

The Trustees are hopeful that the value of the donations will continue in future years to enable the Trustees to increase the value of grants paid.

The Fund works closely with its sister charity, Rugby League Cares. It raises awareness of its activities by promoting its fundraising activities through leaflets, Rugby League Cares and the RFL websites, and by including articles about the Benevolent Fund in their central events programmes and newsletters.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

**Report of the trustees
for the year ended 31 December 2021**

The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board of trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Adams', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

**Tim Adams MBE
Chairman**

28 July 2022

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The RFL Benevolent Fund.

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The RFL Benevolent Fund for the year ended 31 December 2021 set out on pages 2 to 14.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.



.....
Howard Matthews BA FCA
ICAEW
Independent examiner
Howard Matthews Partnership
Queensgate House
23 North Park Road
Harrogate
HG1 5PD

28 July 2022

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 December 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Voluntary income	2	309,452	86,105	395,557	337,202
Activities for generating funds	3	-	-	-	56,131
Investment income	4	30,956	-	30,956	44,522
Total incoming resources		<u>340,408</u>	<u>86,105</u>	<u>426,513</u>	<u>437,855</u>
Resources expended					
Charitable activities	5	176,516	135,071	311,587	338,323
Governance costs	7	22,736	-	22,736	17,661
Total resources expended		<u>199,252</u>	<u>135,071</u>	<u>334,323</u>	<u>355,984</u>
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		141,156	(48,966)	92,190	81,871
Total funds brought forward		668,492	71,279	739,771	657,900
Total funds carried forward		<u>809,648</u>	<u>22,313</u>	<u>831,961</u>	<u>739,771</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

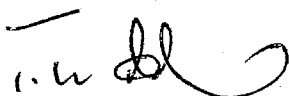
The notes on pages 9 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2021

	Notes	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
Current assets					
Debtors	11	18,300		27,123	
Investments	12	373,553		342,632	
Cash at bank and in hand		466,755		375,582	
		<u>858,608</u>		<u>745,337</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(26,647)</u>		<u>(5,566)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>831,961</u>		<u>739,771</u>
Net assets			<u>831,961</u>		<u>739,771</u>
Funds	14				
Restricted income funds			22,313		71,279
Unrestricted income funds			<u>809,648</u>		<u>668,492</u>
Total funds			<u>831,961</u>		<u>739,771</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 28 July 2022 and signed on its behalf by



Tim Adams MBE
Trustee

The notes on pages 9 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year.

1.1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK GAAP as it applies from 1 January 2015.

1.2. Cashflow

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS1 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement because it is a small charity.

1.3. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Gifts donated for resale are included as incoming resources within activities for generating funds when they are sold.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

1.4. Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

1.5. Investments

Current asset investments are at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

1.6. Defined contribution pension schemes

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the charity during the year.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

2. Voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Donations unrestricted	139,452	-	139,452	34,918
Donations restricted	-	86,105	86,105	199,784
The Rugby Football League	100,000	-	100,000	62,500
Steve Prescott foundation	70,000	-	70,000	40,000
	<u>309,452</u>	<u>86,105</u>	<u>395,557</u>	<u>337,202</u>

3. Activities for generating funds

	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
President's ball	-	35,421
Lions lunch	-	20,710
	<u>-</u>	<u>56,131</u>

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Income from UK investments	30,921	30,921	44,105
Bank interest receivable	35	35	417
	<u>30,956</u>	<u>30,956</u>	<u>44,522</u>

5. Costs of charitable activities - by fund type

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Benevolent fund	176,516	135,071	311,587	312,969
Presidents ball	-	-	-	14,378
Lions lunch	-	-	-	10,976
	<u>176,516</u>	<u>135,071</u>	<u>311,587</u>	<u>338,323</u>

The RFL Benevolent Fund

**Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021**

6. Costs of charitable activities - by activity

	Activities undertaken directly £	Grant funding activities £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Benevolent fund	166,516	145,071	311,587	312,969
Presidents ball	-	-	-	14,378
Lions lunch	-	-	-	10,976
	<u>166,516</u>	<u>145,071</u>	<u>311,587</u>	<u>338,323</u>

7. Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Professional - Accountancy fees	2,958	2,958	2,850
Professional - Other	839	839	1,600
Office expenses - Other	-	-	101
Just giving costs	567	567	562
Bank charges	372	372	548
Other governance costs	18,000	18,000	12,000
	<u>22,736</u>	<u>22,736</u>	<u>17,661</u>

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

8. Employees

Employment costs	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	42,280	41,320
Social security costs	-	2,634
Pension costs	14,056	11,944
Car allowance	4,800	-
Other costs	545	545
	<u>61,681</u>	<u>56,443</u>

No employee received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 (2020 : None).

Number of employees

The average monthly numbers of employees (including the trustees) during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Administration	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Trustees received no salaries or expenses in the year (2020 : None)

10. Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the charity and was as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Pension charge	<u>14,056</u>	<u>11,944</u>

11. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Other debtors	15,000	20,833
Prepayments and accrued income	3,300	6,290
	<u>18,300</u>	<u>27,123</u>

The RFL Benevolent Fund

**Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2021**

12. Current asset investments

	2021	2020
	£	£
Managed investments	<u>373,553</u>	<u>342,632</u>

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,623	1,000
Other taxes and social security	868	1,171
Accruals and deferred income	<u>23,156</u>	<u>3,395</u>
	<u>26,647</u>	<u>5,566</u>

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2021 as represented by:			
Investment assets	373,553	-	373,553
Current assets	462,742	22,313	485,055
Current liabilities	<u>(26,647)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(26,647)</u>
	<u>809,648</u>	<u>22,313</u>	<u>831,961</u>

15. Unrestricted funds

	At 1 January 2021	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	At 31 December 2021
	£	£	£	£
Benevolent Fund	<u>668,492</u>	<u>340,408</u>	<u>(199,252)</u>	<u>809,648</u>

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

16. Restricted funds	At 1 January 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	At 31 December 2021 £
Defibrillator Fund	17,365	4,738	(11,968)	10,135
Bruce Fund	12,178	-	-	12,178
Masoe Fund	41,736	81,367	(123,103)	-
	<u>71,279</u>	<u>86,105</u>	<u>(135,071)</u>	<u>22,313</u>

17. Related party transactions

The Rugby Football League Limited, of which a director is also a trustee of the RFL Benevolent Fund, was a debtor to the charity for £8,333 last year, there is no balance outstanding at the 2021 year end.

Rugby League Cares, which has common trustees, was a debtor to the charity for £15,000 at the year end, (2020: £12,500).

THE RFL BENEVOLENT FUND

England & Wales - Charity number 1109858

Accounts

Charity number: 1109858

The RFL Benevolent Fund
Trustees' report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020

The RFL Benevolent Fund

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The RFL Benevolent Fund

Legal and administrative information

Charity number	1109858
Business address	c/o University of Huddersfield Queensgate Huddersfield HD1 3DH
Trustees	Tim Adams MBE Philip Clarke Gary Hetherington David Hinchliffe Karen Moorhouse Francis Stephenson Appointed 30 Jan 2020 Resigned 30 July 2020
Accountants	Howard Matthews Partnership Queensgate House 23 North Park Road Harrogate North Yorkshire HG1 5PD
Bankers	National Westminster Bank plc PO Box 154 8 Park Row Leeds LS1 1QS

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2020

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020. The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Charity was formed by a Deed of Trust dated 4 February 2005 and is registered with the Charity Commission - Registration number 1109858.

Organisational structure

The Trustees are appointed and removed from office by the Rugby Football League or a 75% majority of the Trustees of the RFL Benevolent Fund.

New trustees are chosen with a view to ensuring that the Board contains an appropriate balance of experience relevant to the requirements of the operations of the Benevolent Fund.

The Board of Trustees aims to meet quarterly to meet the on-going commitments of the Benevolent Fund and to appraise grant applications. Day to day management of the Benevolent Fund is handled by its general manager, Stephen Ball. The Trustees act as key management personnel for the Charity, and are responsible for significant decisions made.

All new trustees are trained as appropriate and all existing trustees receive updates from the Charity Commission.

Risk management

During the year, the trustees have reviewed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, particularly those related to the finances of the Charity. The Trustees have considered the appropriate policies, procedures and systems and are confident that they are adequate to mitigate the Charity's exposure to the major risks.

The Trustees ensure internal financial control is maintained by having a system of periodic management information reports, clear administrative and financial procedures and clear lines of accounting. No fundamental weaknesses in systems and controls have been identified in the year.

The Trustees consider that an internal audit function is not required based on the relative size of the Charity, the risks identified, and controls in place to mitigate these risks.

In the opinion of the Trustees, the Charity has ensured that under normal conditions, risks are mitigated to an acceptable level in its day to day operations.

Objectives and activities

Objectives

The objectives of the RFL Benevolent Fund ("the Benevolent Fund"), as set out in the trust deed dated 4 February 2005, are to provide for the relief of people (and their dependents) who play, assist, or who have played or assisted in the game of Rugby League in the UK or for a team affiliated to an association primarily based in the UK, and who are in hardship or distress in particular as a result of injury or death through playing or training for the game of Rugby Football League or when travelling to or from a game or training session.

The key financial objectives in the period were to raise at least £200,000 and to retain at least 50% of available funds for beneficiaries. This policy is adopted by the Trustees to keep funds available in the event that funding is needed in respect of major injuries which require significant medical support.

Volunteers

All the Trustees of the Benevolent Fund are volunteers, in addition, other volunteers are used in the raising of funds.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2020

Grant making policy

The Benevolent Fund ensures the grants awarded contribute to the delivery of its objectives and priorities by the application of a review and assessment process designed for purpose.

All the applicants are reviewed to ensure eligibility of the applicant. Applications which fit the eligibility criteria are taken into assessment where analysis of the applications and all relevant supporting documents is undertaken.

All applications are reported to the Trustees for decisions. Trustees consider the assessment reports, risk factor and recommendations in deciding which applications to support.

Public benefit

The Trustees are aware of the Charity Commission's advice on Charities and Public Benefit.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities for the year.

The Benevolent Fund aims to improve the lives of players in Rugby League who have been injured. The normal areas of support include improvements to homes and vehicles, holidays, household appliances and physiotherapy, although other areas of support are also covered. As this support is open to all players there is no geographical restriction. The Charity does not charge for the services it provides. Each request will be considered on a case by case basis and will be supported if they are deemed in line with the Charity's objectives.

Achievements and performance

During the past year problems associated with the pandemic continue to impact on the Fund and the wellbeing of the beneficiaries. The various lockdowns have left beneficiaries even more vulnerable due to isolation and loneliness. The Fund has continued to be in contact with all its beneficiaries during this difficult time. While matches and new injuries have been limited, the demand for the Fund's services have increased due to keeping the mental wellbeing of beneficiaries as high as achievable.

Fundraising has been extremely difficult which has led to the cancellation of major income generating activities. These include the President's Ball and the British Lions Lunch. We have welcomed new donors and the continued support of the Steve Prescott Foundation has provided added financial stability to the Fund.

The Fund continues to be much respected within the game of Rugby League and remains well thought of by many outside the game.

Financial review

The Benevolent Fund generated income of £437,855 (2019: £248,263) during the year. Since the Benevolent Fund was established, £3,228,012 has been distributed to beneficiaries, representing 62% of the £5,198,915 generated during the same period.

The surplus for the year was £81,871 (2019: £25,658) leaving the Benevolent Fund with net assets of £739,771 (2019: £657,900). The results for the year are set out in the Statement of Financial activities on page 7.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 December 2020

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the Trustees to maintain unrestricted funds which are the free reserves of the Charity at a level to provide sufficient funds to cover administration and support costs and working capital of the Charity. In addition, the Trustees have adopted a policy of keeping funds available if funding is needed in respect of major injuries which require significant medical support. The Trustees have set target levels of £50,000 for administration and support costs and £100,000 for working capital of the Charity. The balance is to cover the eventuality of major injuries requiring significant medical support. The long-term target level of free reserves is set at £1,000,000 including the £50,000 for administration and support costs and £100,000 for working capital of the Charity. At the year end free reserves £668,492 (2019: £615,778). It is the aim of the Benevolent Fund to build up its reserves so it has funds available to make support payments, even if the funds generated in the year are at a low level.

Investment powers

The Trustees have powers to deposit or invest funds in any manner but to invest only after obtaining advice from a financial expert and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification. The options for alternative investment strategies are currently being progressed by the Trustees.

Plans for future periods

The Trustees are hopeful that the value of the donations will continue in future years to enable the Trustees to increase the value of grants paid.

The Fund works closely with its sister charity, Rugby League Cares. It raises awareness of its activities by promoting its fundraising activities through leaflets, Rugby League Cares and the RFL websites, and by including articles about the Benevolent Fund in their central events programmes and newsletters.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that year. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

**Report of the trustees
for the year ended 31 December 2020**

The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board of trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Adams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Tim Adams MBE
Chairman**

29 July 2021

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The RFL Benevolent Fund.

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The RFL Benevolent Fund for the year ended 31 December 2020 set out on pages 2 to 14.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.



.....
Howard Matthews BA FCA
ICAEW
Independent examiner
Howard Matthews Partnership
Queensgate House
23 North Park Road
Harrogate
HG1 5PD

29 July 2021

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Voluntary income	2	137,418	199,784	337,202	185,243
Activities for generating funds	3	56,131	-	56,131	50,171
Investment income	4	44,522	-	44,522	12,849
Total incoming resources		<u>238,071</u>	<u>199,784</u>	<u>437,855</u>	<u>248,263</u>
Resources expended					
Charitable activities	5	167,696	170,627	338,323	204,998
Governance costs	7	17,661	-	17,661	17,607
Total resources expended		<u>185,357</u>	<u>170,627</u>	<u>355,984</u>	<u>222,605</u>
Net income for the year		52,714	29,157	81,871	25,658
Total funds brought forward		<u>615,778</u>	<u>42,122</u>	<u>657,900</u>	<u>632,242</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>668,492</u>	<u>71,279</u>	<u>739,771</u>	<u>657,900</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 9 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2020

	Notes	£	2020	£	£	2019	£
Current assets							
Debtors	10	27,123				19,426	
Investments	11	342,632				99,928	
Cash at bank and in hand		375,582				559,062	
		<u>745,337</u>				<u>678,416</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year							
	12	(5,566)				(20,516)	
Net current assets				<u>739,771</u>		<u>657,900</u>	
Net assets				<u>739,771</u>		<u>657,900</u>	
Funds							
	13						
Restricted income funds				71,279		42,122	
Unrestricted income funds				668,492		615,778	
Total funds				<u>739,771</u>		<u>657,900</u>	

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 29 July 2021 and signed on its behalf by



Tim Adams MBE
Trustee

The notes on pages 9 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year.

1.1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK GAAP as it applies from 1 January 2015.

1.2. Cashflow

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS1 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement because it is a small charity.

1.3. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Gifts donated for resale are included as incoming resources within activities for generating funds when they are sold.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

1.4. Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

1.5. Investments

Current asset investments are at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

1.6. Defined contribution pension schemes

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the charity during the year.

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

2. Voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Donations unrestricted	34,918	-	34,918	17,856
Donations restricted	-	199,784	199,784	27,387
The Rugby Football League	62,500	-	62,500	100,000
Steve Prescott foundation	40,000	-	40,000	40,000
	<u>137,418</u>	<u>199,784</u>	<u>337,202</u>	<u>185,243</u>

3. Activities for generating funds

	Unrestricted funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
President's ball	35,421	35,421	36,101
Lions lunch	20,710	20,710	14,070
	<u>56,131</u>	<u>56,131</u>	<u>50,171</u>

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Income from UK investments	44,105	44,105	12,058
Bank interest receivable	417	417	791
	<u>44,522</u>	<u>44,522</u>	<u>12,849</u>

5. Costs of charitable activities - by fund type

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Benevolent fund	142,342	170,627	312,969	181,143
Presidents ball	14,378	-	14,378	14,804
Lions lunch	10,976	-	10,976	9,051
	<u>167,696</u>	<u>170,627</u>	<u>338,323</u>	<u>204,998</u>

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

6. Costs of charitable activities - by activity

	Activities undertaken directly £	Grant funding activities £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Benevolent fund	140,206	172,763	312,969	181,143
Presidents ball	14,378	-	14,378	14,804
Lions lunch	10,976	-	10,976	9,051
	<u>165,560</u>	<u>172,763</u>	<u>338,323</u>	<u>204,998</u>

7. Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds £	2020 Total £	2019 Total £
Professional - Accountancy fees	2,850	2,850	2,720
Professional - Other	1,600	1,600	1,789
Office expenses - Other	101	101	-
Just giving costs	562	562	562
Bank charges	548	548	536
Other governance costs	12,000	12,000	12,000
	<u>17,661</u>	<u>17,661</u>	<u>17,607</u>

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

8. Employees

Employment costs	2020	2019
	£	£
Wages and salaries	35,320	34,500
Social security costs	2,634	3,629
Pension costs	17,944	16,804
Other costs	545	545
	<u>56,443</u>	<u>55,478</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2019 : None).

Number of employees

The average monthly numbers of employees (including the trustees) during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	2020	2019
	Number	Number
Administration	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

9. Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the charity and was as follows:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Pension charge	<u>17,944</u>	<u>16,804</u>

10. Debtors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Other debtors	20,833	8,333
Prepayments and accrued income	6,290	11,093
	<u>27,123</u>	<u>19,426</u>

11. Current asset investments

	2020	2019
	£	£
Managed investments	<u>342,632</u>	<u>99,928</u>

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

12. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,000	12,101
Other taxes and social security	1,171	1,455
Other creditors	-	2,676
Accruals and deferred income	3,395	4,284
	<u>5,566</u>	<u>20,516</u>

13. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 December 2020 as represented by:			
Investment assets	342,632	-	342,632
Current assets	331,426	71,279	402,705
Current liabilities	(5,566)	-	(5,566)
	<u>668,492</u>	<u>71,279</u>	<u>739,771</u>

14. Unrestricted funds

	At 1 January 2020	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	At 31 December 2020
	£	£	£	£
Benevolent Fund	615,778	238,071	(185,357)	668,492
	<u>615,778</u>	<u>238,071</u>	<u>(185,357)</u>	<u>668,492</u>

15. Restricted funds

	At 1 January 2020	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	At 31 December 2020
	£	£	£	£
Defibrillator Fund	31,009	3,683	(17,327)	17,365
Stephenson Fund	-	50,000	(50,000)	-
Bruce Fund	11,113	4,365	(3,300)	12,178
Masoe Fund	-	141,736	(100,000)	41,736
	<u>42,122</u>	<u>199,784</u>	<u>(170,627)</u>	<u>71,279</u>

The RFL Benevolent Fund

Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

16. Financial commitments

At 31 December 2020 the company had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Other	
	2020	2019
	£	£
Expiry date:		
Within one year	-	3,666
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

17. Related party transactions

The Rugby Football League Limited is a debtor to the charity for £8,333 (2019: £8,333) at the year end.

Rugby League Cares, which has common trustees, is a debtor to the charity for £12,500 (2019: £12,000 creditor) at the year end.