

**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**

<b>Charity number</b>	1109858	
<b>Business address</b>	c/o University of Huddersfield Queensgate Huddersfield HD1 3DH	
<b>Trustees</b>	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
<b>Accountants</b>	SMH Howard Matthews Limited Queensgate House 23 North Park Road Harrogate North Yorkshire HG1 5PD	
<b>Bankers</b>	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

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

**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 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
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
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<u>275,448</u>	<u>59,622</u>	<u>335,070</u>	<u>420,726</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Charitable activities	5	188,834	29,591	218,425	197,960
Governance costs	7	7,366	-	7,366	5,237
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>196,200</u>	<u>29,591</u>	<u>225,791</u>	<u>203,197</u>
<b>Net income for the year</b>		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>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<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.

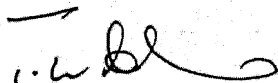
The notes on pages 9 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

# **The RFL Benevolent Fund**

## **Balance sheet as at 31 December 2024**

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

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 Number	2023 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	<u>6,383</u>	<u>4,823</u>
	<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	<u>522,633</u>	<u>481,619</u>

#### 13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

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