

SHOTWICK LAKE SAILING

(A company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st December 2024

Administrative Details

Charity Name:	Shotwick Lake Sailing	
Charity Registration Number:	1110888	
Company Registration Number:	5364039	
Company Registered Address:	89 Sandy Lane Saltney Chester Flintshire CH4 8UA	
Trustees/Directors:	Jeremy Cooper	– Commodore
	Nici Spencer	– Treasurer
	John Purdie	– Trustee
	Leslie Perry	– Trustee

Bank: Lloyds TSB, Foregate Street, Chester

Structure, Governance and Management

Shotwick Lake Sailing is operated according to its memorandum and articles, as a company limited by guarantee and is a registered charity. The trustees (directors) were elected to office at an annual general meeting of the company on 6th February 2024. All financial, health & safety and long-term planning decisions are taken by the directors.

Training of directors has been by liaison with Flintshire Local Voluntary Council and self study of literature from Companies House & the Charity Commission. Most have extensive experience of managing a sailing club, being long standing members.

This has been the fortieth year of sailing at Shotwick Lake and the eighteenth full year operating as the independent sailing club, Shotwick Lake Sailing.

Objectives and Activities

The objective of the club is the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation by the provision of facilities for sailing and associated water sports. Anyone who wishes to take part in sailing or other associated water sport activity should have the opportunity to do so.

The Club has been able to hold two open meetings for the Lightning and Miracle classes, and has also been able to run RYA training sessions. The club also hosted the North Wales Youth Dragon open series.

The 'Permit Groups' including Sea Cadets and Scout Groups have been using the facilities during 2024 season.

The Club house has been open and the Galley has been operational but for a reduced period due to flood damage.

Message from the Commodore

The 2024 season has been reasonably successful we have had one RYA level 1/2 course which has proved very successful in us gaining a few members who have been actively getting involved with the club activities including the racing.

We have continued during the 2024 season to have various permit groups make use of the club.

The season started with the flooding of the clubhouse, but fortunately we managed to have the flooring replaced by the insurance company and a fantastic new galley donated, supplied and fitted by Howdens.

We held a few sessions at the club for visiting visually impaired sailors with another unfortunately cancelled due to the weather conditions. Myself, and two other members have been coordinating the visually impaired sailing in conjunction with Tranmere sailing club.

The work parties have continued throughout the year every first Saturday in the month although Decembers was postponed due to storm Darragh. We welcome as much help as possible for these work parties and offers of anyone's special skills would be appreciated.

The committee are continuing to pursue various sources of funding for improvement to the club facilities and equipment.

Report by: Jeremy Cooper (Commodore)

Membership

2024 has seen lots of change with the implementation of Sail Club Manager, whilst there have been teething issues, its true benefit should be seen by members this year. From a Membership Secretary point of view renewals should be much simpler and less time consuming.

Many of you will know I am new to the role and have been focussing on ensuring berthings are correct ready for renewal time, at the time of writing this, it is still work in progress.

Membership numbers (based on information from Sail Club Manager): -

	2024	2023
Total members	293	265m
Junior	62	48
Total memberships	147	139
Leavers	29	47
New members	57	52

The total memberships are made up as follows (based on information from Sail Club Manager): -

	2024	2023
Adult	76	73

Cadet	1	5
Family	66	59
Family with students	1	1
Honorary volunteer	1	-
Honorary member	-	-
Permit	-	-
Special	1	1
Student	1	-
total	147	139

Membership fees 2025: -

This is based on rounding to the nearest £ using CPI as at Sept each year, but with a caveat to be able to increase by an additional % should the committee feel it be beneficial to fund any agreed plans.

	2025	2024
Family	£139	£135
Adult	£98	£95
Cadet under 16	£25	£25
Cadet under 18 (new category)	£50	N/A
Under 23 (which is replacing Student)	£75	N/A
Joining fee	removed	£40
berths	£25	£20

Report by: Karen Snee (membership secretary)

Dinghy Racing

Overview:

Overall, the racing calendar has been very successful, with every series well attended. We ran monthly regattas again this year, which were generally very well received by members. This allowed for more prizes to be awarded, and there were five different winners across the six regattas.

Participation:

The average participation is down from last year (see Figure 1) and still not at the heights we saw pre-pandemic. However, the racing appears to be in a stable position, with many members attending regularly. The lower turnout could be partly attributed to inconsistent weather over the season—whether it be too much or too little wind. That said, the drop is less concerning when examining individual series, as detailed in Figure 2.

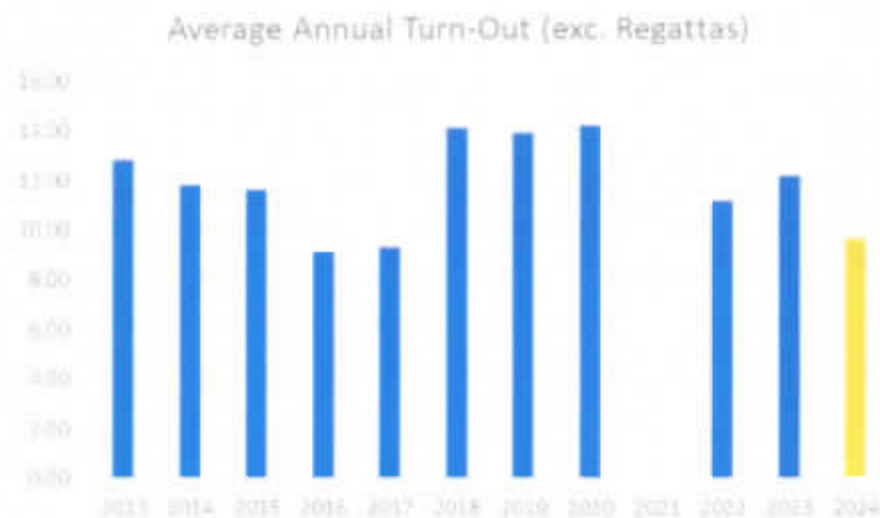


Figure 1: Average Annual Turn-Out (exc. Regattas)

Figure 2 shows the average and total racers per series across the calendar year. The most popular series remain the twilight and spring series. Afternoon series continue to be less popular, so I intend to explore ways to improve them in the future to attract more interest.

Series Adjustments:

We again ran the Summer Afternoon series as Pursuit races, which were generally well received by members. A new Autumn Afternoon series, also following the pursuit format, was introduced this year and received positive feedback despite having the lowest turnout. Pursuit racing has been popular with newer racers as it provides a quieter starting line and reduces the intimidating factor often associated with handicap racing. I believe changing this format to handicap racing would not impact attendance, so I plan to leave it as Pursuit racing for next year.

The lower numbers in afternoon series could reflect members' preference for dedicating their Sunday afternoons to other activities instead of committing a full day to club racing. As such, no significant changes are proposed for these series, as they remain enjoyable for those who participate.

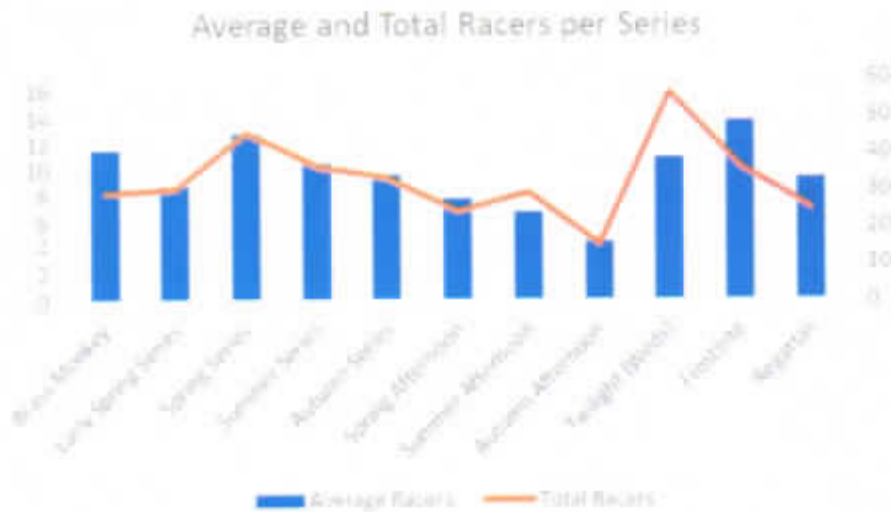


Figure 2: Average and Total Racers per Series

2025 Racing Programme:

The proposed 2025 Racing Programme will remain very similar to previous years, with two key alterations:

1. Split Twilight Series
 - a. Windward Twilight Series: Runs from 2nd April to 11th June.
 - b. Leeward Twilight Series: Runs from 18th June to 27th August.
2. Continuation of the Solstice Cup
 - a. This event will be held on the Saturday closest to the Summer Solstice. It will remain a 2-hour Pursuit race followed by a social event.

Summary:

While turnout has dipped slightly this year, the positive reception to adjustments in the racing calendar and the introduction of new events reflect a stable and engaged membership base. With the planned refinements for 2025, the club is well-positioned to continue providing enjoyable and competitive racing opportunities for all members.

Report by: Gaz Henshall (Sailing Secretary)

Windsurfing

This year has seen increased engagement by our windsurfing members with windsurfers regularly getting together on Wednesday evenings during the summer as well as the Friday club nights. Windsurf members have been actively using the club's 'windsurfsupwing' whatsapp group to co-ordinate windsurfing sessions; share kit advice and general jovial banter. We now have 26 members of the group.

Thanks to Gaz Henshall we have managed to hold a number of Saturday morning improver sessions, including introduction to harnesses and beach starts. Thank you Gaz.

Sadly, we have not moved much further with the stacked windsurfing storage although more members are using it. The main concerns being UV damage to the kit, however a temporary solution has been to use some

old discarded boards as a roof providing some protection to those beneath. Some feelers have gone out regarding a more permanent solution, and there will be more discussions moving forward.

With the growing engagement and support of the boarding community it was felt that this should be officially recognised by the club, therefore I am pleased to report that this year we awarded Liz Eastwell the new trophy for most improved windsurfer/boarder, congratulations Liz.

Finally, thanks to all the enthusiastic members of the 'windsurfsupwing' whatsapp who are helping create a supportive community and all committee members who work tirelessly to support our boarding and paddling at Shotwick lake.

If anyone wants to join the 'windsurfsupwing' whatsapp group please email membership@shotwicksailing.org

Report by: Sara Bell - Windsurfing Secretary

RYA Training

In 2024 after a late start to our training season, we ran some RYA youth sailing courses, an RYA adult Start Windsurfing course as well as an adult RYA level 1 & 2 sailing course. The courses led to several new members. Many of these new members have become very active in the club, participating on Friday evenings as well as taking part in Club racing.

Thanks go to all the hard-working volunteers we rely on that give up their time to make these courses happen.

Report by: Paul Newman (RYA Training)

During last season I was proud to be appointed by the club and the RYA as Chief instructor. I have been involved with Shotwick since 2005 as senior instructor with Chester Sea Cadets, as I now change roles, we can focus on club training. To start this year's training we are carrying out two RYA first aid courses for the instructors and members, the first on Feb 8th. We plan to start the training afloat with some power level 2 courses and a safety boat course. During the summer we will be able to conduct open courses in dinghy sailing for potential new members, this was a great success last season in promoting the club and bringing new members to the club. We also were able to achieve assistant instructor qualification for one of our members from the training sessions last year, we hope to be able to continue this development this year.

During last season we were joined by a visually impaired sailing group, who meet at Liverpool, some of their members joined us on the water at Shotwick for dinghy sailing, this has led to great links with the group, we are looking forward to further sessions afloat this year.

Tony put a lot of work into the annual RYA inspection to enable us to hold RYA training recognition and represented us for the site inspection which went well, only 2 minor recommendations were made and have already been implemented, this enables us to continue to provide course afloat under the RYA scheme. The RYA qualifications were awarded to the groups taking part in the open courses and Sea Cadets who sail from April to October.

Report by: Chris Snow (Chief Instructor) with input from Tony Forster (Training Principle)

Estates

Once again, our work-party volunteers did our club proud this year, with many new members turning out on the first Saturday of every month to help the regular, dependable crew, who turn-up religiously in all weathers to work at whatever task they are asked to do. You know who you are and a massive thank you to you all!

A few major extraordinary projects this year included clearing up after the flood we had in the clubhouse, when at the end of a hard graft moving weed, cutting back and moving trees and brambles, as we were about to pack-up it was discovered that a layer of water was trapped beneath the existing flooring in the clubhouse leaving a very pungent smell throughout.

It was decided that we cut back and lift the floor covering and move it outside onto the grass which was heavy, dirty and very smelly work, then to squeegee the substrate floor dry and apply disinfectant to block the smell coming from it. Not one person complained, shirked or left early when it would have been so easy to have done so after an already hard Morning's work!

The Blue-green algae we experienced this year was another trying time. Instead of raking the never-ending weed from the lake, this year we were instead skimming the rather repugnant scum away from the launching areas and onto the banks, as well as safeguarding sailors, involuntary swimmers and dogs!

We also experienced a massive increase in the water table level this year never seen before at Shotwick. The lake filled so much that our jetty became inaccessible and we had to build a bridge from scaffolding out of the water to provide access for our less abled and visually impaired sailors! We eventually found that the cause of the problem was a malfunction of the main pumps between our lake and the outlet into the River Dee. Fortunately, this has now been rectified and the lake is slowly emptying to a more workable level.

The work parties are a great way of getting to know each other, especially for new members, in a good humoured and sociable gathering where we keep our club and surrounding area in tip top condition, and is very rewarding to see the results.

Thanks to John Purdie, we now have a designated work-party WhatsApp page, where information can be found, and any jobs that members spot that need doing can be posted ready for future work parties!

So, here's to another successful and well supported 12 months, and thank you all for your continued support.

Report by: Les Perry (Estates)

Financial Review 2025

The trustee directors are satisfied that for the year ended 31st December 2024 the charity/company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustee directors by distribution of these accounts to the aforementioned on 16th January 2025.

Accounts prepared by: Nici Spencer,



Company Treasurer

Examined by:


STUART GUY

Member SLSC on 16/1/25

Shotwick Lake Sailing Club
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2024

Incoming Resources	note	2024	2023
Donations		155	-
Subscriptions (basic membership)	6	13,311	11,080
Subscriptions (specific activity/permits)		8,556	7,290
HM customs & Revenue (gift aid refund)	7	2,564	2,537
Training Courses		2,090	2,200
Grants	8	-	-
Bank Interest		168	84
Race entry fees		588	506
Social events & refreshments 'profit'	9	25	560
Miscellaneous income		495	167
RNLI collection by members		-	-
Boat Loan		-	-
Total Incoming resources		27,952	24,424
Resources Expended			
Lake Purchase Legal Fees		-	-
Training Costs		562	303
Insurances		3,106	3,211
Club equipment maintenance (general)		5,022	4,703
Clubhouse warden/cleaner		4,108	4,747
Safety boat fuel		535	641
Safety boat maintenance/service	10	1,781	4,413
Membership awards & race prizes		339	458
Publicity		-	-
RYA/WYA affiliation		400	365
Instructor training		25	90
Administration		4,608	1,183
Bank charges		89	91
Water supply & effluent removal	11	212	516
Safety Inspections (electrical/gas and fire)		440	660
RNLI payment of collected money		-	-
Electricity costs	12	2,746	2,414
Gas costs	12	149	224
Fun Day		-	21
Depreciation	3b	1,443	-
Total resources expended		25,567	24,040
<u>Net incoming-expended resources</u>	14	<u>2,386</u>	<u>384</u>

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st December 2024

	notes	2024	2023
Fixed Assets;			
Tangible Assets:	3a	51,108	52,551
Investments:			
Current Assets:			
Bank (deposit)		15,219	9,650
(current)		40,979	42,672
Commodores A/C			-
Cash in hand			-
Galley		179	179
		<u>56,377</u>	<u>52,501</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4	-	- 45
Liabilities:		389	388
Net Current Assets:		55,987	52,158
Total Net Assets:		107,095	104,709
General Funds:			
unrestricted		58,995	56,609
restricted	5	48,100	48,100
Total:		107,095	104,709

Notes to the Accounts for Year Ended 31st December 2024

1 Accounting Policies

Accounting Convention

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. In preparing the accounts the charity has been guided by the best practice as laid down in the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2015).

2 Taxation

As a registered sports charity, the company has been advised that it is not eligible to register for VAT and is not subject to UK corporation tax. All expenditure presented is inclusive of VAT.

3 Fixed Assets

a Tangible assets:

Lake and buildings (at cost)	47,500
Yamaha F30BETLD - Outboard	3,608
Total Tangible Assets	51,108

b Depreciation of assets:

Outboard purchased in December 2023 Year 1 of 7

4 Creditors and Liabilities

Deposits and credits totalling £389 were owed by the club at the year-end and a small positive balance with Dwr Cymru Welsh Water are carried forward.

5 Restricted funds

Lake and buildings	47,500
Volvo eco challenge – rainwater collection system	600
	48,100

6 Subscriptions

Subscription income is split into basic membership (£85 for each adult member, £20 for juniors and £105 for families) and activity costs together with any berthing costs etc. Permit income (from sea scout groups etc) is included in this category. "Gift aid" can be reclaimed from HM Revenues & Customs on the basic membership element of the subscriptions where the member has indicated compliance with the tax rules.

7 Gift Aid Refund

Claims were made to HM Revenues & Customs for 'gift aid' on the basic membership for 2023. A claim for 2024 memberships will be made in 2025.

8 Grants

No grants were received in year.

9 Social events & refreshments 'profit'

A contribution was made by the galley in year.

10 Safety Boat Maintenance

This year includes the cost of servicing and an additional cost for the purchase of a Mariner 15HP outboard from Chester Sea Cadets.

11 Water Supply and Effluent Removal

The cost of effluent removal has stabilised.

12 Electricity and Gas Costs

Fuel costs have stabilised reflecting the prices of electricity and gas.

13 Reserves Policy

Due to the seasonal nature of the income and the 'out of season' expenditure, the treasurer and trustee directors have agreed that a minimum fund reserve of £8,500 is needed at year-end 2025 to cover the club running expenses during the winter period.

14 Net incoming expended resources

After a fall in membership revenue in 2023, revenue in 2024 has returned to 2022 levels reflecting an increase in both an inflation based increase in fees for 2024 and an increase in membership.

Report by: Nicola Spencer - Treasurer



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the
trustees/directors/
members of

Charity Name:
SHOTWICK LAKE SAILING

On accounts for the year
ended

31st December 2024

Charity no.:

5364039

Company no.:

1110888

Set out on pages

10-12

(If necessary, to include the page numbers of additional sheets.)

Responsibilities and
basis of report

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended **31/12/2024**

As the charity's trustees of the Company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act).

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 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; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: Benjamin H. Morris FCA

Date: 04/02/2025

Name: Benjamin Harry Morris FCA

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): Chartered Accountant

Address: Highfield, Bull Hill,
Lt Neston
CH64 4DN

Section B

Disclosure

There were none