

Charity number: 1123559

Company number: 06496769

(England and Wales)

ABC Training Trust

Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

ABC Training Trust
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ABC Training Trust
Report of the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements for the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2024. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

ABCTT strategic objectives:

"To develop climbers through quality coaching." The ABC Training Trust seeks to provide a syllabus for climbers to use on artificial climbing structures for all types of climbing, and to support this syllabus by supporting coaches and structures in best practice.

The principal objectives of the charity are to:

- Promote safety and community participation in healthy recreation and sport.
- Advance the education of the public with a non-exclusive focus on climbing and associated activities by, in particular (but without limitation to), providing nationally recognised accreditation schemes to individuals participating in climbing on artificial climbing structures.
- Provision of such facilities or items for education at school (not provided from statutory funds) as the board shall from time to time determine.

The Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission guidance by developing an ongoing strategy to maximise support and knowledge of the National Indoor Climbing Award Schemes and in particular they have considered how all the charity's activities will contribute to its charitable aims and objectives.

The Trust has carried out its objectives through the NICAS schemes in accordance with the objects of its governing document. It has introduced over 250,000 people to indoor climbing and coached their development in the sport in a structured manner. It has advised and trained staff from many climbing centres in coaching techniques as well as promoting the benefits of the sport to the general public. The Trust has also liaised with other national governing and training bodies to develop a coherent national coaching structure in the sport. The implementation of the moderation process has ensured the quality of the delivery of the NICAS schemes to the candidates. The introduction of additional complementary schemes further expands the reach and impact of the ABCTT in achieving its charitable aims. The variety of schemes offered enables access to climbing for a wider range of people.

Statement on public benefit

The trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

ABC Training Trust
Report of the Trustees Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

This financial year has seen significant progress for our organisation despite a challenging global and domestic economic environment. The ongoing geopolitical conflicts, including the prolonged war in Ukraine, have contributed to rising inflationary pressures, and economic uncertainty. These conditions are expected to maintain upward pressure on costs, making cost control a key priority for the year ahead.

Climbing remains elevated in the public eye, bolstered by the outstanding achievements of GB Climbing athletes on the world stage. Their success continues to inspire new generations of climbers and raises the profile of our sport, which we hope will encourage more learners to take up climbing.

This growth period for climbing is further evidenced by:

- Continued growth in new wall construction, with bouldering walls taking prominence, however there are a notable number of large scale, tall wall projects in planning or construction.
- A versatile product suite that supports climbing centres in achieving strong commercial revenues while also enabling them to deliver opportunities for hard-to-reach communities.

We continue to collaborate closely with national governing and representative bodies to increase participation and retention in indoor climbing. Our work has been supported by investment from Sport England, enabling us to enhance the level of support we provide to the sector. This includes the successful launch of NICAS Pro, a sector leading platform that provides marketing, coach training and online learning resources alongside being the learner database.

None of our achievements would have been possible without the dedication and loyalty of the accredited centres delivering our programmes, as well as the coaches and Technical Advisors who support them. Their excellent delivery of our products makes them ambassadors for climbing, ensuring its ongoing growth and success.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The ABCTT holds funds within its trading reserves. While the current financial risk is low, the Trust maintains a Reserves Policy that is reviewed annually to ensure an appropriate level of operating cost coverage.

The Board has enhanced the depth and frequency of financial reporting, utilising both budget and forecast models to guide decisions on reinvesting surpluses into strategic development projects. This prudent approach has resulted in consecutive years of income growth, with reserves remaining unused.

This year's financial performance reflects significant investments in the development of the NICAS Pro platform, directly funded by NICAS. Additionally, further investment has been directed towards resolving long-standing governance issues, strengthening the Trust's operational foundation.

The product suite for NICAS is now largely completed so we expect revenues to benefit significantly from these and we will be adding resource to the executive team to ensure all opportunities are maximised.

The Board has reviewed the current level of reserves and considers it appropriate for the present circumstances and the year ahead. All bank accounts held by the ABCTT are secured up to £85,000 under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

ABC Training Trust
Report of the Trustees Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Structure and Governance

The ABCTT is a charitable company limited by guarantee, set up in 2008. It is an independent charity established with its main object, as stated above, to provide structured coaching and a syllabus for climbers at registered artificial climbing structures. It is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association which were last amended at the Annual Election Meeting in September 2014 and further work will be undertaken in 2023 to ensure the Articles reflect current law and best practice.

The Board of Trustees will see a number of Trustees completing their maximum terms of office over the next two years and, we will employ a system of managed retirement ensuring we both retain valued experience and add an even greater depth and breadth of experience to the team.

Risk management

The ABCTT's systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against materials mis-statement or loss. They include:

- A strategic plan approved, and an annual budget regularly reviewed by the Trustees
- Regular consideration by the Trustees of financial results, non-financial performance indicators and benchmarking reviews
- Identification and management of risks

The revised Trustee Risk Register is reviewed at least annually, and the Operational Risk Register is considered by the Trustees quarterly or whenever circumstances arise.

The ABCTT has 4.0 FTE employees and holds no material assets other than logbooks, which are insured. We commission some executive, technical, administrative, legal and financial services as well as a range of freelance technical experts with robust contracts and Service Level Agreements. Our other main expenses are the purchase of logbooks and the delivery of training which is priced to maximise value for walls investing in their teams with expert coaching.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees can be co-opted throughout the year to the board when vacancies arise. They are formally elected into post at the ABCTT's annual election meeting.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees, who are also the directors of ABC Training Trust for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the trust and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the trust will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Trust and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the trust and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name of Charity	ABC Training Trust
Charity registration number	1123559
Company registration number	06496769
Registered address	Ground Floor 66

ABC Training Trust
Report of the Trustees Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2024

High Street
Lewes
BN7 1XG

Trustees

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Edwin (Dean) Straw
(Resigned: 16 August 2023)
Jeremy Tapping
Ian Taylor
Kenneth Garner
Jill Cowley
Juan Avendano
Matthew Bird
Rotimi Odukoya
Rebecca Chong
(Appointed: 13 July 2023)

Independent examiner

Tom Wilcox
Bank Chambers, Main Street,
Hawes,
North Yorkshire
DL8 3QL

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by


.....
Matthew Bird

18 December 2024

ABC Training Trust
Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees
For the year ended 31 March 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity Trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, 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 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 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 examiners statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.



.....
Tom Wilcox
Bank Chambers, Main Street,
Hawes,
North Yorkshire
DL8 3QL

20 December 2024

ABC Training Trust
Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)
For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	-	43,000	43,000	43,000
Charitable activities	3	164,465	-	164,465	151,460
Other trading activities	4	13,275	-	13,275	8,179
Investments	5	1,574	-	1,574	1,485
Total		179,314	43,000	222,314	204,124
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6/7	(213,916)	(47,023)	(260,939)	(227,466)
Total		(213,916)	(47,023)	(260,939)	(227,466)
Net expenditure		(34,602)	(4,023)	(38,625)	(23,342)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		117,701	8,382	126,083	149,425
Total funds carried forward		83,099	4,359	87,458	126,083

ABC Training Trust
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	2,397	2,042
		2,397	2,042
Current assets			
Stocks	14	16,385	13,297
Debtors	15	14,049	23,184
Cash at bank and in hand		62,417	92,656
		92,851	129,137
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(7,790)	(5,096)
Net current assets		85,061	124,041
Total assets less current liabilities		87,458	126,083
Net assets		87,458	126,083
The funds of the charity			
Restricted income funds	17	4,359	8,382
Unrestricted income funds	17	83,099	117,701
Total funds		87,458	126,083

For the year ended 31 March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476,
- The trustees 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.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board and signed on its behalf by:



Matthew Bird
Trustee

18 December 2024

ABC Training Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for investments which are included at market value and the revaluation of certain fixed assets and in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

ABC Training Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Going concern

The financial statements are prepared, on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention.

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:

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred. Income received in advance for the provision of specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended when there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to the expenditure.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the Trusts artistic programmes and activities.

Taxation

As a registered charity, the company is exempt from income and corporation tax to the extent that its income and gains are applicable to charitable purposes only. Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the company, and is therefore included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Plant and machinery	25% Straight line
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Stocks and work in progress

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving items. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

ABC Training Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2024

2. Income from donations and legacies

	2024	2023
	£	£
Restricted funds		
Grants received	43,000	43,000
	43,000	43,000

Analysis of grants received

	2024	2023
	£	£
Sport England	43,000	43,000
	43,000	43,000

3. Income from charitable activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Unrestricted funds		
<i>Operations</i>		
Primary centre registration	10,850	8,850
Awarding centre registration	18,475	11,583
Logbook sales	135,140	131,027
	164,465	151,460
	164,465	151,460

4. Income earned from other activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Unrestricted funds		
Other trading activities	13,275	8,179
	13,275	8,179

ABC Training Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2024

5. Investment income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Unrestricted funds		
Bank interest receivable	1,574	1,485
	<u>1,574</u>	<u>1,485</u>

ABC Training Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2024

6. Costs of charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Direct cost				
Staff costs - wages & salaries	46,935	30,450	77,385	81,552
Staff costs - social security costs	-	2,947	2,947	3,497
Staff costs - pension contributions	-	914	914	508
Logbook costs	19,571	-	19,571	44,373
Carriage	3,134	-	3,134	4,001
Seminar costs	1,324	314	1,638	1,404
Training costs	7,632	510	8,142	6,694
Consultancy fees	105	-	105	285
Administrator costs	10,089	1,584	11,673	4,653
Telephone	394	288	682	573
	89,184	37,007	126,191	147,540
Support costs				
Operations				
Management				
Staff costs - wages & salaries	49,688	-	49,688	25,938
Staff costs - social security costs	4,568	-	4,568	2,331
Staff costs - pension contributions	1,434	-	1,434	1,292
Depreciation - owned assets	1,026	-	1,026	680
Travel	11,057	6,486	17,543	15,000
IT costs	18,285	848	19,133	14,567
Legal fees	9,875	-	9,875	1,558
Advertising	15,489	2,345	17,834	8,964
Postage and stationery	715	108	823	796
Sundry	3,656	81	3,737	611
Insurance	2,954	148	3,102	2,556
Bank charges	192	-	192	428
Governance costs				
Accountancy fees	3,089	-	3,089	2,900
Cost of trustees' meetings	2,704	-	2,704	2,305
	124,732	10,016	134,748	79,926
	213,916	47,023	260,939	227,466

ABC Training Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2024

7. Costs of charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Support costs				
Operations	126,191	134,748	260,939	227,466

8. Analysis of support costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Operations		
Management	128,955	74,721
Governance costs	5,793	5,205
	134,748	79,926

9. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	1,026	680
Accountancy fees	3,089	2,900
Staff pension contributions	2,348	1,800

ABC Training Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2024

10. Staff costs and emoluments

Total staff costs for the year ended 31 March 2024 were:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries and wages	127,073	107,490
Social security costs	7,515	5,828
Pension costs	2,348	1,800
	<u>136,936</u>	<u>115,118</u>

No employee earned more than £60,000 during the year (2023:£nil).

The total employee benefits including pension contributions of the key management personnel were £48,825 (2023:£46,500).

	2024	2023
Services	4	4
	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

11. Trustee remuneration and related party transactions

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2023:£nil).

Trustees' expenses represents the payment or reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs totalling £2,224 (2023:£2,305).

During the year payments of £5,215 were made to J. Chittenden, a trustee for IT provision in delivering NICAS Pro. A payment of £450 was made to Juan Avendano for neuro-diversity content creation.

In 2023: £2,436 were made to Band of Birds Ltd for photography services. Matthew Bird, a trustee, is also a director of Band of Birds Ltd.

ABC Training Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2024

12. Comparative for the Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 £
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	-	43,000	43,000
Charitable activities	151,460	-	151,460
Other trading activities	8,179	-	8,179
Investments	1,485	-	1,485
Total	161,124	43,000	204,124
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	(192,848)	(34,618)	(227,466)
Total	(192,848)	(34,618)	(227,466)
Net income/expenditure	(31,724)	8,382	(23,342)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	149,425	-	149,425
Total funds carried forward	117,701	8,382	126,083

13. Tangible fixed assets

Cost or valuation	Plant and machinery £
At 01 April 2023	5,562
Additions	1,381
At 31 March 2024	6,943
Depreciation	
At 01 April 2023	3,520
Charge for year	1,026
At 31 March 2024	4,546
Net book values	
At 31 March 2024	2,397
At 31 March 2023	2,042

14. Stocks and work in progress

	2024 £	2023 £
Stocks of raw materials	16,385	13,297
	16,385	13,297

ABC Training Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2024

15. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts due within one year:		
Trade debtors	13,637	21,965
Other debtors	412	1,219
	14,049	23,184

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	3,084	1,361
Other creditors	3,706	2,735
Accruals and deferred income	1,000	1,000
	7,790	5,096

17. Movement in funds

Unrestricted Funds

	Balance at 01/04/2023	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance at 31/03/2024
	£	£	£	£
<i>General</i>				
General	117,701	179,314	(213,916)	83,099
	117,701	179,314	(213,916)	83,099

Unrestricted Funds - Previous year

	Balance at 01/04/2022	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance at 31/03/2023
	£	£	£	£
<i>General</i>				
General	149,425	161,124	(192,848)	117,701
	149,425	161,124	(192,848)	117,701

ABC Training Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2024

Purpose of unrestricted Funds

General

General funds are applied to the general aims of the charity.

Restricted Funds

	Balance at 01/04/2023	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance at 31/03/2024
	£	£	£	£
Sport England	8,382	43,000	(47,023)	4,359
	8,382	43,000	(47,023)	4,359

Restricted Funds - Previous year

	Balance at 01/04/2022	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance at 31/03/2023
	£	£	£	£
Sport England	-	43,000	(34,618)	8,382
	-	43,000	(34,618)	8,382

Purpose of restricted funds

Sport England

Sport England funds have been awarded for use for specific development projects.

18. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets	Net current assets / (liabilities)	Net Assets
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
<i>General</i>			
General	2,397	80,702	83,099
Restricted funds			
Sport England	-	4,359	4,359
	2,397	85,061	87,458

ABC Training Trust
Notes to the Financial Statements Continued
For the year ended 31 March 2024

Previous year

	Tangible fixed assets	Net current assets / (liabilities)	Net Assets
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
<i>General</i>			
General	2,042	115,659	117,701
Restricted funds			
Sport England	-	8,382	8,382
	2,042	124,041	126,083