

Sporting Challenge: Chairman's Report April 2024 / March 2025

Sporting Challenge is a charity that provides the opportunity for adults of 18 and over with learning difficulties the chance to participate in social activities linked to sport. The provision of these activities gives the members' carers and families much needed respite with the knowledge that they are safe, understood and supported.

The trustees have decided to conduct this year's AGM electronically.

Achievements and successes over the last year:

First of all, a thank you to the trustees and officers of Sporting Challenge for the time and support that they set aside which without the charity would not be able to support the members.

Also, we must not forget the members and their families and carers that support the charity.

The charity provides a range of activities for members to attend and participate in with during the year the following core sessions having been provided on a monthly basis:

- Aerobics
- Boccia & Kurling
- Tenpin Bowling
- Disco
- Nintendo
- Pool
- Swimming

In addition the following "seasonal" activities were provided:

- Christmas Party
- Sailing
- Walks

In September 2024 we were able to take members away for a weekend break to the Calver Trust in the Lake District, using their accommodation and catering facilities this time and taking members out for the day with the support of the trust. Once again, the feedback from everyone after returning home was very positive.

As 2024 came to a close the members were able to attend a Christmas theme activity evening at The Stanley in Burscough as well as being given the opportunity to have a Christmas meal at the Toby Carvery in Ormskirk.

Grant bids prepared and submitted by the charity's Activities Officer have been more challenging to secure during the last twelve months which is supported by general comments from the wider charity community. Without the grants that we are successful in securing it would not be possible to continue to support our members.

The review and updating of the charity's policies is an important and ongoing process ensuring that the charity is managed appropriately and the safety and welfare of its members is maintained to the best of our ability.

Activities Support:

The charity buys in sessional support through EMSS who facilitate getting the members to and from the activities and provide support along with the venue staff at the activities. The trustees wish to thank the sessional support and venue staff for the work that they have undertaken this year.

Membership

Sporting Challenge is always looking for new members and one of our biggest challenges in achieving this is making that first contact with families and carers within the West Lancashire Borough area with its many isolated rural villages where community contact can be poor. To this end the charity needs to engage the support of appropriate agencies who are better placed to identify those individuals and their families that we may be able to help as well as our presence on the internet.

Trustees

A huge amount of time has been devoted to the points covered in this report and as chairman I would like to thank the Trustees, Officers and Support Staff for their support.

Looking to the future the charity needs to seek out new trustees that are able to provide some time in supporting the running of the organisation and would take the opportunity here to encourage anyone who may be interested to contact the chairman in the first instance.

Financial Review:

2024 / 2025 Accounts, the trustees of the charity took the decision to continue to employ a firm of accountants to undertake an independent examination of the Receipts and Payments and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities of the charity. We are pleased to advise that the charity received a favourable report.

Alasdair Watson
Chair
Sporting Challenge
December 2025

Sporting Challenge

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Sporting Challenge

Accounts Year Ended 31 March 2025

Contents

	Page
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees	1
Receipts and Payments Account	2
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	3
Notes to the Accounts	4-5
Restricted Reserves	6

Accountants247 Limited
Suite 201-204 Malthouse Business Park,
48 Southport Road,
Ormskirk.
L39 1QR

24 / 10 / 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of

Sporting Challenge

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 2 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- * to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
- * to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


Nigel Rees
Chartered Accountant
Accountants247
Suite 201-204 Malthouse Business Park,
48 Southport Road,
Ormskirk.
L39 1QR

24 / 10 / 2025

Sporting Challenge

Receipts and Payments Account
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025			2024
		Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
<u>Receipts</u>					
Grants and Donations Received	1	19,849.05	710.00	20,559.05	69,920.00
Contributions from Clients and Attendees	2	3,400.00	11,818.00	15,218.00	15,136.46
		23,249.05	12,528.00	35,777.05	85,056.46
<u>Payments</u>					
Charitable Activities	3	16,544.45	-	16,544.45	11,278.07
Other Costs	5	2,259.68	-	2,259.68	1,799.60
Support Costs	4	15,170.80	18,564.58	33,735.38	38,120.61
		33,974.93	18,564.58	52,539.51	51,198.28
(Deficit) / Excess of receipts over payments		(10,725.88)	(6,036.58)	(16,762.46)	33,858.18
Cash funds as at 1 April 2024		54,846.06	11,579.43	66,425.49	32,567.31
Cash funds as at 31 March 2025	6	44,120.18	5,542.85	49,663.03	66,425.49

Sporting Challenge

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 March 2025

	At 31 March 2025			2024
	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds £	
Cash at bank and in hand	44,120.18	5,542.85	49,663.03	32,567.31

Represented by:

Sundry debtors and prepayments

Liabilities

Sundry creditors and accruals	720.00	720.00
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These accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis

Approved and signed on behalf of the board on 23/10/2025

Sig 1

Charles Watson

Sig 2

Edna McCarty

Sporting Challenge

Notes to Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Note	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	
1 Grants, Donations and Contributions Received			2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
The Peter Lathom Charity	-	-	-	500.00
Lancashire C.C., Local Members Grants Scheme	-	-	-	3,570.00
Sports England	-	-	-	10,000.00
Burscough Community Fund Redrow	-	-	-	250.00
The Skelton Charity (LCVS)	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	-
Red Rose Responding Fund (CFLM)	3,000.00	-	3,000.00	5,000.00
West Lancs Borough Council (UKSPF)	14,000.00	-	14,000.00	-
Douglas Arter Foundation	500.00	-	500.00	-
Bellway Homes	300.00	-	300.00	-
Arnold Clark Community Fund	500.00	-	500.00	-
The Harris Charity	549.05	-	549.05	-
Bickerstock Music Festival	-	150.00	150.00	100.00
The Kaye Charitable Trust	-	-	-	2,000.00
The NHS Healthy Neighbourhoods Funding Scheme (WLCVS)	-	-	-	5,000.00
The Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation	-	-	-	28,500.00
The Zonchonis Charitable Trust	-	560.00	560.00	1,000.00
The Happy Charitable Trust	-	-	-	1,000.00
The Band Trust	-	-	-	5,000.00
The Forrester Family Trust	-	-	-	6,000.00
The Skipton Building Society Charitable Foundation	-	-	-	2,000.00
	<u>19,849.05</u>	<u>710.00</u>	<u>20,559.05</u>	<u>69,920.00</u>
2 Contributions from clients & attendees	Restricted	Unrestricted	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Chester Weekend Break	3,400.00	-	3,400.00	2,750.00
Sporting Challenge Members Contributions	-	11,818.00	11,818.00	12,386.46
	<u>3,400.00</u>	<u>11,818.00</u>	<u>15,218.00</u>	<u>15,136.46</u>

Sporting Challenge

Notes to Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Note	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	
3 Charitable Activities			2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Aerobics/Gym/Trampoline	360.00	-	360.00	758.60
Boccia and Kurling	925.00	-	925.00	995.00
Bowling	1,164.80	-	1,164.80	1,345.49
Dance & Drama	0.00	-	0.00	60.00
Pool	644.50	-	644.50	730.00
Golf	0.00	-	0.00	903.00
Sailing/Boat Trips/Swimming	319.20	-	319.20	104.10
Holiday Venue	13,130.95	-	13,130.95	6,381.88
	16,544.45	-	16,544.45	11,278.07
4 Support costs	Restricted	Unrestricted	2025	2024
Edward McCarthy Support Services	15,170.80	18,564.58	33,735.38	38,120.61
	15,170.80	18,564.58	33,735.38	38,120.61
5 Other Costs	Restricted	Unrestricted	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Bank Charges	68.80	-	68.80	71.60
Insurance	558.81	-	558.81	497.45
ICO fees	40.00	-	40.00	40.00
Sundry	251.68	-	251.68	290.25
Stationery	79.18	-	79.18	66.98
Accountancy	600.00	-	600.00	720.00
Web hosting	98.94	-	98.94	113.32
Christmas party	562.27	-	562.27	0.00
	2,259.68	-	2,259.68	1,799.60

Sporting Challenge

Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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Contents

	Page
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees	1
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