



## **Coquet Shorebase Trust Ltd**

### **Annual Report for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2025**

#### **Management Committee (Trustees)**

James Gibson	(Chair)
Liz Lowder	(Vice Chair)
Linda Pooley	(Hon. Secretary)
Vic Brown	(Hon. Treasurer)
Sue Belshaw	
Stephen Gibson	
Aaron Hobb	
Trevor Hobb	
Richard Sill	
Ian Ridley	
Chris Robinson	
Rebecca Walker	

**Company Secretary** Linda Pooley

Registered Office: Coquet Shorebase,  
The Braid,  
Amble  
NE65 0WU

Registered Company no: 06577073

Registered Charity no: 1150215

**Auditor:** Shona Walker CIPFA  
Windscarth,  
Hillside,  
Rothbury  
NE65 7PT

**Solicitor:** Richard Twyford  
O'Neill Richmond Law Firm Ltd  
25A Bridge Street  
Morpeth  
NE61 1PE

Coquet Shorebase Trust Ltd is a not-for-profit Charitable Company limited by Guarantee.

## Aims and Objectives

Our aims are to provide affordable watersports activities and training for the local community, to encourage people to get afloat safely, to learn new skills and make friends in a supportive environment. Getting involved in these activities can change lives in so many ways. We welcome people of all ages and abilities and help them to participate at their own level of enjoyment.

A key objective for this year was to source funding to deliver free/ low-cost sessions to local community groups or charities.

## Chairman's Report

We raise money to support our aims and objectives through grants and income from affordable activities such as equipment hires, river tours and training courses.

This year has been quite challenging for raising funds, as last summer's poor weather conditions meant income was down from past years, but we still are achieving our goals.

Despite the drop in income, we still remain in a good financial position. We plan recruiting more part-time staff for the summer season, and staff training will be a priority in the spring.

We retired our old van and replaced it with a people carrier, which is more flexible for general use.

We replaced our old van with a people carrier which gives us more flexibility.

Grant applications continue to be submitted to various authorities, bearing fruit in getting even more people on the water.

Our marketing sub-committee are busy looking at new ideas, the finance committee maintain a financial balance, and we benefit from Pro Bono legal advice through contacts of Aaron Hobb.

Our affiliated clubs help us to deliver the objectives of delivering affordable access to regular watersport activities.

The Canoe Club thrives with extensive use of both the lake and the Braid facilities. There are regular Sunday kayak sessions at the Braid as well as trips on both sea and rivers.

The club has taken part in trips to the Greek Islands, Catalonia, the Western Islands of Scotland with more upcoming trips to the Summer Isles, and camping trips to the Scottish Borders, Loch Lomond and the great glen. In fact as I write, there is a group paddling in Catalonia.

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The Sailing Club continues to do well, but it is with a heavy heart that I have to report the sad loss of Peter White, who was both an active member of the Canoe Club and a staunch supporter of Andrew in his development of the Sailing Club.

He was always such a cheery, helpful chap and will be sadly missed by all that knew him.

Amble Coastal Rowing Club have been based in our compound and regularly go out training and racing.

Unfortunately, the Windsurfing Club remains rather dormant at the moment but I have every confidence this will change.

I feel confident that the Trust has a bright future thanks to all the work from everyone involved, from each individual on the Trust, to all the staff and volunteers, without your support and commitment we would not be where we are without you, and I thank you all for it.

***James Gibson, Chairman***

## **Manager's Report**

### **Activities and Clubs**

Overall activity sessions were marginally up on the previous year despite a relatively poor summer, which led to some cancellations. RYA course delivery increased, primarily due to a rise in powerboat courses, while sailing and windsurfing provision remained stable. Hire takings continued to decline, showing a shortfall of £6,000 compared to the previous season. Hire figures indicate a 30% decrease from last season. Estuary tours maintained similar participation levels, and revenue remained steady.

Overall footfall for the season increased by approximately 28% compared to the previous year. Provision for disability groups significantly improved, with attendance rising from 45 to 155. Total sales income decreased by 2.7%, despite increased participation. This was likely due to the prioritization of funded and discounted group sessions, which aligns with our mission but limited our ability to offer higher-revenue hires and tours due to staff and equipment constraints.

Due to a substantial rise in pool hire costs, winter pool sessions were not feasible, as they would likely have resulted in a financial loss. Tynemouth Sailing Club continued their Frostbite race series at the lake during winter. Only two sessions were cancelled due to adverse weather, with up to 26 dinghies participating over 20 weeks. Support was provided for the Geordiemans triathlon event in August, assisting with mark laying, course measurement, and safety cover. However, we no longer supported an earlier triathlon as the organizers were unwilling to cover costs. The Round the Island Kayak Race was successfully held with 32 paddlers participating.

The canoe club remained well-supported, hosting 110 events with 671 attendances from 85 members. The sailing club, run solely under Andrew's leadership, held 46 sessions with 183 attendances from 18 members. Amble Coastal Rowing Club is now established at the Shorebase and has been running sessions and training throughout the year. Coquet Windsurfing Club continues to decline, but still ran the annual Northeast Race event at the lake in June.



## Grants and Funding

Funding from the Ventient Sisters and North Steads Windfarm Community Benefit Fund enabled us to resume free watersports activity sessions for local primary schools (Red Row, Broomhill, Ellington, and Grangeview) in 2024. The Saturday Kids Club was not held this season due to inconsistent attendance in the previous year. Instead, the funding was redirected to support additional sessions for Hadston House Youth Club and Amble Youth Project during school holidays. However, Hadston's attendance was disappointing, as they did not attend all allocated sessions.

Amble Town Council provided a donation towards staff training costs, allowing us to certify two former work-experience students as Paddlesport Instructors to assist during the season. Lottery/Sport England funding enabled us to run weekly sessions over 30 weeks for Vision Northumberland, supporting the visually impaired community. Although greatly appreciated, attendance was lower than expected. A donation from Morrisons through Sported helped purchase a replacement training dinghy, replacing the damaged RS Vision. Our thanks go to all our supporters.





## Staff and Volunteers

Despite early-season recruitment efforts, staffing was again a challenge, particularly for managing large groups, hires, and tours simultaneously. Staffing difficulties were due to competing commitments, including exams, family holidays, and part-time work. Additionally, experienced freelancers were less willing to work with groups of children. The season was managed with relatively inexperienced instructors who required continuous supervision.

Andrew earned his RYA Senior Instructor award at the start of the season, allowing him to supervise sailing sessions independently. Neale Brown joined as a freelance instructor. A retired teacher from Alnwick with extensive paddlesport coaching experience, he was a valuable addition, assisting at short notice when available.

Special recognition goes to volunteers, especially Chris Robinson, who supported Andrew and me with the majority of the Vision Northumberland sessions and enlisted his son Tom as a hire assistant during peak times. Thanks also to canoe club members Hamish, Linda, Sue, and Richard for their contributions to Estuary tours and paddlability sessions.

## Manager's Reflections

This past season was both enjoyable and challenging. It was disappointing to finish the year with a small financial loss despite efforts to minimize costs. My primary goal was to secure funding and establish partnerships to enable disadvantaged and local community groups to participate in our activities. While attendance could have been higher, progress was made, and the upcoming season's program is shaping up well.

Looking ahead, I remain committed to expanding accessibility while ensuring financial sustainability. I appreciate the hard work of our staff, volunteers, and supporters, whose contributions make our activities

possible.  **Tim Stuart**

## Finance Report

Compared to the previous year, income was broadly the same, with the exception of hires, which were down around £6K, due to a combination of poor weather and staff shortages at weekends. Expenditure was up around £3K, which included includes £1.5K for staffing costs, £1K for vehicles and £1K for the contribution to weed clearing at the Lake,

Overall for this year we had a net loss of £20,987 (of. ( which includes £13,327 ~~isfor~~ due to depreciation).

At end of year: Current Assets: £104,900 ( Down from £129,248 in previous year.) This is broadly due to the drop in hire income (£6K) and the purchase of a new vehicle to replace our elderly van (£20K),

We have identified Allocated Reserves (£85K) as follows:

To cover expenses incurred should the Trust wind up the company (eg redundancy payments); £35,000

To cover any need to make unexpected purchases of (for example) safety equipment; £20,000

Other reserves as identified by committee, eg reserves to support salaries of staff should income be less than expenditure. £30,000

**Vic Brown, Hon. Treasurer**

Analysis		2024/25			2023/24
		Unrestricted	Restricted	£	£
Donations, legacies and Grants (Note 8)	Grants- publicly funded	1,540		1,540	3,240
	Grants- private foundations/ charities	9,135	-	9,135	7,600
	Membership Affiliation	600	-	600	600
	CST/CCC membership	250		250	580
	Other Donations	900	-	900	151
Total		12,425	-	12,425	12,171
Fees for charitable services	Activity sessions	45,066		45,066	44,266
	Fees from associated clubs	3,812		3,812	3,169
	Boat & Equipment hire	24,992		24,992	31,050
Total		73,870		73,870	78,486
Sales & Misc	Certificates & logbooks	12		12	
	Premises Hire	800		800	842
	Equipment sales	2,240		2,240	600
	Other	187		187	725
Total		3,239		3,239	2,167
Interest and dividends		1,888		1,888	460
Total		1,888		1,888	460
TOTAL INCOME		91,421	-	91,421	93,284

## Note 6

## Analysis of Expenditure

		2024/25			2023/24
		Unrestricted	Restricted	£	£
Wages, salaries, pensions and NI, and staff related costs	Employee costs	62,701	-	62,701	59,601
	Sessional staff	2,280		2,280	1,946
	Staff Training	904	-	904	82
Total		65,885	-	65,885	61,629
Fees, Affiliation and Insurance	Affiliation and membership	323	-	323	1,122
	Harbour and marina fees	1,690	-	1,690	1,530
	Pool Hire	192		192	592
	Insurance	4,560	-	4,560	4,869
	Invoiced Instructors	3,340		3,340	6,123
Total		10,105	-	10,105	14,236
Equipment, Repairs and maintenance	Repairs & maintenance: Boats & other equt	3,117	-	3,117	2,985
	Vehicle running costs	3,162	-	3,162	2,062
Total		6,279	-	6,279	5,046
Premises/ facilities costs	Druridge Bay premises	2,866	-	2,866	1,260
	Amble Braid	6,693	-	6,693	6,454
Total		9,559	-	9,559	7,714
Administration costs	Advertising	260	-	260	664
	telephone, broadband and computing	1,518	-	1,518	1,470
	office	233	-	233	179

	Card payment expenses	1,482		1,482	1,006
	Travel	118	-	118	227
	Certificates/logbooks	557	-	557	532
	Volunteer support	381	-	381	367
	Refunds	2,529	-	2,529	2,040
	Not for profit purchases	176	-	176	220
<b>Total</b>		<b>7,252</b>		<b>7,252</b>	<b>6,705</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>	Equipment	8,327	-	8,327	8,087
	Amortisation of leasehold premises	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,327</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,327</b>	<b>13,087</b>
<b>Charitable Activities</b>	Satellite Clubs				150
	Sports England Together Fund		-	-	597
<b>Total</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>747</b>
			-	-	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>112,408</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>112,408</b>	<b>109,164</b>

Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind  
Employer's National Insurance costs  
Pension costs

2024/25	2023/24
£	£
63,532	60,159
1,449	1,388
64,981	61,547

**Total staff costs**

These figures include costs of £2280 (2023/24 £1946) for sessional staff who work on a casual basis.

## 7.2 Average number of full-time equivalent employees in the year

		2024/25	2023/24
		FTE	FTE
The parts of the charity in which the employees work			
Administration		1.5	1.5
Sessional Coaching		0.3	0.3
Watersports Instructors		0.7	0.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.3</b>

## Note 8

### Grants

	2024/25			2023/24
	Unrestricted Income £	Restricted Income £	Total £	£
Amble Town Council	540	-	540	



## Grants from Public Bodies

Sports Foundation Grant	1000	-	1,000	3,240
Sport England Together Fund	-	-	-	-
	<b>1,540</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>3,240</b>
Grants from Private concerns & other bodies	Windfarm Community Grants	5,325	5,325	4,320
	Ballinger Trust	-	-	1,000
	Lottery Funding	3,810	3,810	2,280
	<b>Total All Grants</b>	<b>9,135</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,135</b>
				<b>7,600</b>

## Note 9

## Donated goods, facilities and services

a. Premises are provided by the Local Authority for the running of activities and storage of equipment used within those activities. Rate relief at 100% is also provided on these facilities, and facilities at Druridge Bay

b. General, managerial and technical advice and support is provided by Trust members and supporters. This is unpaid and is not included as an expense.


**Section A**
**Independent Examiner's Report**
**Report to the  
trustees/directors/  
members of**

Coquet Shorebase Trust Limited

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31 January 2025

**Charity no.:**

1150215

**Company no.:**

6577073

**Set out on pages**

Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet

**Respective  
responsibilities of  
trustees and examiner**

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) 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 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. [I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy].

It is my responsibility to:


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

**Basis of independent  
examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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 statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement** In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention to indicate that:

- accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;
- the accounts do not accord with such records;
- there is any matter which the examiner believes should be drawn to the attention of the reader to gain a proper understanding of the accounts.

**Signed:**  **Date:** 28 May 2025

**Name:** Shona E Walker

**Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):** Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

**Address:** Windscarth, Hillside  
Rothbury, Northumberland  
NE65 7PT

**Section B Disclosure**

There are no items of concern