

Registered Charity no. 1155164

The Waddington Flying Club

Operating as

The Waddington Flying School

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2025

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The Waddington Flying Club

Annual Report for year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. 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 Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and Activities

The Royal Air Force Waddington Flying Club was established in 2003 and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission as The Waddington Flying Club in 2013. In 2021 the overseeing body, The Royal Air Force Flying Clubs Association (RAFFCA) was superseded by a new organisation, The Royal Air Force Sport Aircraft (RAFSA). As a result, the operating name of the club was changed to the Waddington Flying School (WFS) but the charity remains The Waddington Flying Club.

The object of the Waddington Flying School is:

‘The promotion of efficiency of the armed forces of the Crown by the provision and support of facilities and activities for the efficiency and well-being of Service personnel’.

This object presents the Trustee with wide powers, enabling them to provide charitable assistance to all elements of the Royal Air Force Community. The Waddington Flying School (WFS) has a main aim set by the Trustee:

‘To be respected for our professional and safe approach to flying training, management and airmanship, and to be admired for our friendly and welcoming atmosphere’.

Specifically, the aims of WFS are:

- a) To provide effective flying training for Service and associated personnel in a professional manner, at the lowest possible cost.
- b) Offer flying instruction leading to the award of a civil flight crew licence or rating.
- c) Provide facilities that enable members to engage in flying related activities.
- d) Encourage and promote an interest in aviation and aviation competition.

The charity delivers public benefit as it assists in providing Royal Air Force personnel with the necessary skills to carry out the Royal Air Force contribution to the defence of the United Kingdom and its interests.

Service Funds are established for the benefit of Service personnel to promote military efficiency which underpins esprit de corps and team working, and they help to encourage personnel to develop the character, spirit and attitude to face challenges associated with military service.

As a result, the Fund delivers a benefit to the general public in helping to provide personnel who are motivated, have high morale and are willing to serve the needs of their country and that of its public, at all times

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Achievements and Performance

The Waddington Flying School has largely maintained its configuration and structure from last year, with a small decline in membership. A significant factor in the decline in membership has been the reduction in airfield access associated with sanitisation of the ATZ during Red Arrows activity, exacerbated by difficulty in obtaining volunteers to act as Duty Member during periods of airfield closure (weekends, bank holidays etc.).

Following a lengthy repair, G-RFCB was returned to flying condition in mid-2024; however, RAFSA subsequently made the decision to sell both WFS controlled Tecnams. WFS is now operating one PA-28 (G-CLDK), plus one resident privately owned aircraft¹. WFS flying² in 2024 has totaled circa 328 hours (BOBO), with 53% / 47% split between instruction and private hire respectively.

Instructor availability has been a major pressure on WFS output within the period, with 89% of instructional flying being conducted by Andrew Rake (28%) and Chelvin Hibbert (61%). Sqn Ldr Mark Discombe is expected to expand the scope of his instructional availability, primary duties permitting, however the reliance on Mr Rake and Mr Hibbert remains a key vulnerability for WFS. Paucity of FIs is a national issue, RAFSA have committed to looking into financial means of recruiting/generating additional instructional capacity across the organization.

The Junior Rank and Officer Pilot Scholarship Scheme (JROPSS) remains a key deliverable. Two incomplete scholarships from 2023 were carried forward into 2024, both of whom successfully completed their scholarships to solo standard. Three additional scholarships were allocated to WFS in 2024, with two of these completed. Of note, AS1 Deborah La Porta made a creditable contribution to both RAFSA and WFS during her scholarship period; contributing to her receiving a Beyond Solo Scheme top-up scholarship to be completed in FY24/25.

In May, WFS were represented by Flt Lt Dan McHugh in the Tony Ayre Aerobatics Competition at Peterborough-Conington Airfield. A successful event, publicised by British Forces News, RAFSA have a desire to expand the scope of sporting activities further, this would give greater breadth in the offer to WFS members going forward.

Now settled into the new operating site at RAF Waddington, WFS have successfully passed their Fuels and Gas Safety Assurance Assessment; assuring the Head of Establishment that fueling operations are being conducted safely and legally. Furthermore, on behalf of the airfield operator, WFS provides an AVGAS provision to 2Excel Aviation when conducting trials activity with their PA-31 Navajo aircraft. This activity has brought unforecasted profit to WFS from fuel sales and assists in the turnover of bowser contents to avoid wastage. It is expected that this activity will continue in 2025 and beyond, although actual activity is unpredictable and should not be considered in the context of long-term financial planning.

Financial Review

Total incoming resources decreased by 12% in the year to £77,152 (2024: £87,678). Income from flying fees and instruction held at £48,567 (2024: £48,050), but subscriptions decreased to £10,245 (2024: £12,915), and grant income fell significantly to £2,374 (2024: £14,980).

Total operating expenses fell by 16% to £59,253 (2024: £70,546). Management and administration costs rose slightly to £13,839 (2024: £12,597). As a result WFS reported an operating surplus of £4,061 (2024: £4,535).

At 31 March 2025 WFS had total liquid funds of £47,249 (2024: £37,530).

Principle funding is received from subscriptions and flying activities from School members.

Some additional funding, for specific equipment or activity, is obtained from the RAF Central Fund and the RAF Charitable Trust through the over-arching organisation – the RAF Sports Aircraft Association.

¹ G-BEZG

² Not including G-BEZG flying.

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All expenditure is made for the ultimate benefit and provision of services to School members.

The WFS needs a relatively low level of reserves, mainly to cover for the fluctuating aviation supplies market, principally due to the volatile nature of the price of oil. Additional reserves are created and held from time to time when future liabilities and expenditure is identified and the trustees consider it prudent to earmark funds to cover the outlay.

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Structure, Governance and Management

As an approved RAF Sport, overall governance of the Waddington Flying School (WFS) falls to the RAF Sport Aircraft Association (RAFSA). RAFSA is itself a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). However, the day-to-day management and control of the WFS falls to the Trustees and general management committee.

The Managing Trustee, Principal Trustee (also appointed as the Chairman) and the committee members are appointed by the membership of the School. The WFS Officer in Charge heads the general committee. However, all management decisions, acquisitions and expenditure are subject to the Principal Trustee's approval.

Committee/Board of Trustee meetings take place every three months. The budget for the next financial year is set in April by the School Executive Committee for approval by the Members at a General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting ratifies the annual audited accounts of the School. Minutes are taken at each Committee and General meeting and are circulated electronically to reach the Trustee within 10 working days of the meeting for their approval.

The Trustees have continued a programme of work to identify procedures to mitigate risk and to minimise potential impact should risks materialise.

Administrative Information

The company is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales – Charity number 1155164

The correspondence address is: RAF Waddington Flying Club, RAF Waddington, Lincoln, LN5 9NB

The charity is governed by its constitution which was adopted on 4 September 2013

Trustees

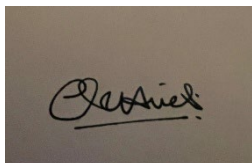
The trustees who served from 1 April 2024 to the date of this report are:

Air Cdre (retd) A Seymour

Sqn Ldr C Hives

Flt Lt N Whitehead

Approved by the Trustees on the 13th day of October 2025 and signed on its behalf by

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to be 'C Hives' written in a cursive style.

Sqn Ldr C Hives

The Waddington Flying Club

Independent Examiner's report to the trustees

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Waddington Flying Club for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). 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 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

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 statement below

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention:

a) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep the accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act.

have not been met; or

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

J A D Mumby FCA
Mumby Heppenstall, Chartered Accountants
Wellingore Hall
Wellingore
Lincoln
LN5 0HX

The Waddington Flying School

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	2	46,693	-	46,693	46,693
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stock - fuel		1,875		1,875	7,909
Debtors		-		-	
Prepayments		-		-	
Bank	5	47,249		47,249	40,452
		<u>49,124</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>49,124</u>	<u>48,361</u>
CREDITORS	6	12,419		12,419	21,820
Amounts falling due within one year					
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>36,704</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,704</u>	<u>26,541</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		83,397	-	83,397	73,234
CREDITORS: amounts falling due in more than one year					
NET ASSETS		<u>83,397</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>83,397</u>	<u>73,234</u>
RESERVES	7				
Operational Reserve		12,000		12,000	12,000
Engine Replacement Reserve		-		-	-
Project Reserves		-		-	-
General Reserve		66,207		66,207	61,234
		<u>78,207</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>78,207</u>	<u>73,234</u>

The Waddington Flying Club

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared 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)'. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery - 20% on reducing balance

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

The Waddington Flying School

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

2. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Buildings £	Plant & Equipment £	TOTAL £
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	60,440	25,910	86,350
Additions			-
Disposals			-
	<u>60,440</u>	<u>25,910</u>	<u>86,350</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	14,749	24,908	39,657
Disposals	-	-	-
Charge for year	- 251	251	-
	<u>14,499</u>	<u>25,159</u>	<u>39,657</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2025	<u>45,942</u>	<u>752</u>	<u>46,693</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>45,691</u>	<u>1,002</u>	<u>46,693</u>

3. ANALYSIS OF INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	2024 £
a) Charitable Activities				
Flying/instruction fees	48,567		48,567	48,050
Exam fees	743		743	1,056
Subscriptions	<u>10,245</u>		<u>10,245</u>	<u>12,915</u>
	<u>59,555</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,555</u>	<u>62,021</u>
b) Trading				
Sales - fuel and oil	15,223		15,223	10,677
Other			-	-
	<u>15,223</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,223</u>	<u>10,677</u>
c) Grants and Donations				
RAFSA/RAFCT	-		-	8,500
Gift-Aid receipts	2,374		2,374	2,916
Closed ELC	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>	<u>3,563</u>
	<u>2,374</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,374</u>	<u>14,979</u>
d) Investments				
Bank interest	912		912	655
	<u>-</u>			
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>78,065</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>78,065</u>	<u>88,332</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

4. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	2024 £
a) Raising Funds				
Functions	-	-	-	-
b) Charitable Activities				
Fuels	25,790		25,790	21,038
Aircraft Hire	19,037		19,037	15,380
Aircraft maintenance	6,315		6,315	17,821
Insurance	-		-	5,116
Instruction costs	7,711		7,711	9,155
Training	375		375	137
Hangar relocation costs	-		-	818
Other direct costs	24		24	1,081
Depreciation	-		-	-
	<u>59,253</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,253</u>	<u>70,546</u>
c) Management and Administration				
Manager	6,622		6,622	6,548
Sundry admin exps	899		899	486
Cleaning & maint	1,323		1,323	90
IT, software	1,899		1,899	1,741
Telephone, internet etc	90		90	120
Travel & sub	-		-	25
Professional and consultancy	-		-	-
Independent Examiner Fee	800		800	810
Insurance	226		226	158
RAFFCA Subscription	1,190		1,190	1,464
Bank charges	790		790	1,155
	<u>13,839</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,839</u>	<u>12,597</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	<u>73,092</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>73,092</u>	<u>83,143</u>

5. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	2024 £
HSBC Current	15,201		15,201	6,394
Reserve	22,048		22,048	21,135
Bond	10,000		10,000	10,000
Engine Replacement Fund	-		-	-
Cash	-		-	-
	<u>47,249</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,249</u>	<u>37,529</u>

The Waddington Flying School

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

6. CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS: Falling due within one year

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	TOTAL 2025 £	2024 £
Creditors	-		-	-
Accruals	810		810	810
Payments received in advance	11,609		11,609	10,748
	<u>12,419</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,419</u>	<u>11,558</u>

7. MOVEMENT ON RESERVES

	Operational Reserve £	Project Reserves £	Engine Replacement £	General Reserve £	TOTAL £
Balance at 1 April 2023	12,000	7,814	27,943	67,838	115,595
Transfers to/(from)		(7,814)	(27,943)	7,814	(27,943)
Deficit for year				(14,418)	(14,418)
Balance at 1 April 2024	<u>12,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>61,234</u>	<u>73,234</u>
Transfers to/(from)					
Surplus for year				4,973	4,973
Balance at 31 March 2025	<u>12,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>66,207</u>	<u>78,207</u>