

# BRIGHTON EXPLORERS CLUB

England & Wales · Charity number 1156361

## Details

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**Other names** BEC

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2014-03-25

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 108 King's Road Arches  
Brighton  
BN1 2FN

**Phone** 07717793539

**Email** [chair@brightonexplorers.org](mailto:chair@brightonexplorers.org)

**Website** <http://www.brightonexplorers.org>

## Activities

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**Objects:** 2. OBJECTIVES:2.1. THE OBJECT OF THE CLUB SHALL BE:2.1.1 TO FACILITATE THE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF YOUNG PEOPLE BY EDUCATION AND INSTRUCTION THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN A WIDE VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE OUTDOORS AND PHYSICAL ENDEAVOUR; AND2.1.2 THE PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN HEALTHY RECREATION BY THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS SUCH AS CYCLING, CANOEING, WALKING, CAVING, CLIMBING, COASTEERING, WINDSURFING AND BADMINTON, BUT WITHOUT LIMITATION.2.2. IN FURTHERANCE OF THE SAID OBJECT BUT NOT FURTHER OR OTHERWISE THE CLUB THROUGH ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING POWERS:2.2.1. TO SUBSCRIBE OR AFFILIATE TO OR BECOME A MEMBER OF ANY OTHER INSTITUTIONS HAVING CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE CLUB OR PROVIDING ASSISTANCE OF ANY KIND TO THOSE PERSONS WHO WOULD BE QUALIFIED TO BE BENEFICIARIES OF THE CLUB;2.2.2. TO RAISE FUNDS AND TO INVITE AND RECEIVE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ANY PERSON OR PERSONS WHATSOEVER BY WAY OF SUBSCRIPTIONS AND OTHERWISE PROVIDED THAT THE CLUB SHALL NOT UNDERTAKE PERMANENT TRADING ACTIVITIES IN RAISING FUNDS FOR ITS OBJECTIVES;2.2.3. TO DO ALL SUCH OTHER LAWFUL THINGS AS SHALL FURTHER THE OBJECTS OF THE CLUB.

**Activities:** The Brighton Explorers Club is a multi-activity outdoors club. Activities include rock climbing, road cycling, mountain biking, walking, running, caving, kayaking, windsurfing, badminton, tennis, SUP, surfing.

Certain activities happen weekly and across the year, whilst others are seasonal, with many taking place in the summer. We host local, national and international club trips.

## Classification

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- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Amateur Sport, Recreation
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Brighton And Hove
- East Sussex
- West Sussex

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£14,376	£13,030	-	-
2024-03-31	£14,823	£18,824	-	-
2023-03-31	£14,991	£30,878	-	-
2022-03-31	£20,633	£15,129	-	-
2021-03-31	£43,306	£15,174	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Patricia Mary Morfitt</b>	Chair	2023-05-23
Aideen Carlos		2026-04-28
Alex Papworth		2026-05-11
Damian Tow		2026-05-11
Max Halliday		2026-05-11

**BRIGHTON EXPLORERS CLUB**

England & Wales - Charity number 1156361

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# Accounts

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Registered Address - 108 King's Road Arches, Brighton BN1 2FN

**Brighton Explorers Club**  
**AGM**

**Tuesday 29th April 2025 19:00**

**Venue – Brighton Sailing Club**

**Online Via Zoom Link.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86517092090>

Meeting ID: 865 1709 2090

Passcode: 515790

**Annual General Meeting 2025 of the Brighton Explorers  
Club CIO (Charity No. 1156361)**

## Tuesday 29th April 2025 at 7pm - Sailing Club

### 1. Apologies & Registration of members in attendance

#### Apologies:

Peter Green  
Susie Llewelyn  
Thom Gifford  
Guy Roebuck  
Maisie Pettifer  
Jim Russell

#### Attendees:

Tatti McNally  
Pat Morfitt  
Ciara Green  
Alice Denning  
Chetan Padia  
Rachael Fisher  
Damian Tow  
Stuart Gibbons  
Martin Packer  
Richard Smith  
Tim Perkins  
Lisa Carrington  
Elizabeth Kemp  
Hena Rohman  
Stefania Rosso  
Maria Hawton-Mead  
Steve Lucas  
Stephen Wilmot  
Judy Eaton  
Ian Newman  
Neil Harker  
Tom Harrison  
Julia Wells  
Rachel Goddard  
Dale Beesley  
Megan George  
Paul Stopples-Harris  
Cat Visor  
Anita Lower  
Aideen Carlos

#### Zoom attendees:

Mike Raffe  
Jonathan Stearn

### 2. Welcome (TM)

- a. Declarations of potential conflicts of interest
- b. Non-members attending
- c. Reminder of AGM process and etiquette

### 3.Review of nominations for the Committee, the Committee Monitor and Section Leaders (TM)

Role	Current (2023-2024)	Standing (2024-2025)
<b>Committee</b>		
Chair	Tatti McNally	Tatti McNally
Vice Chair	Pat Morfitt	Pat Morfitt
Treasurer - Bookkeeper	Ciara Green	Aideen Carlos
Treasurer - Payer	Ciara Green	Ciara Green
Club Secretary	Stuart Gibbons	Stuart Gibbons
New Members Secretary	Thom Gifford	Alice Denning
Social Secretary	Felix Embery	Judy Eaton/Ian Newman
Young Members Secretary	Alice Denning	Alice Denning
PR Secretary	Rachael Fisher	Rachael Fisher
Webmaster	Chetan Padia	Lewis Small
Committee Monitor	Damien Tow	Damien Tow
<b>Sections Leaders</b>		
Arch Managers	Guy Roebuck	Guy Roebuck
Badminton	Hena Rohman	Hena Rohman
Caving	Antonio Emmanouilidis	Antonio Emmanouilidis
Caving Deputy	Mat Budgen	Mat Budgen
Climbing	Stephen Wilmot	Stephen Wilmot
Climbing Deputy	Colin Glenny and Alastair Macgregor	Colin Glennie and Alastair Macgregor
Cycling / MTB	Lisa Carrington	Lisa Carrington
Cycling / MTB Deputy	Road – Stuart Gibbons Tue – Martin Packer Thu – Susie Llewelyn	Road – Stuart Gibbons Tue – Martin Packer
Kayaking	Peter Graham	Peter Graham
Kayaking Deputy	Thom Gifford & Pat Morfitt	Thom Gifford & Pat Morfitt
Mountain Sports	Damian Tow	Damian Tow
Running	Chetan Padia	Vacant
SUP	Stefania Rosso	Stefania Rosso
SUP Deputy	Colin Garbo	Colin Garbo
Surfing	Tim Perkins	Tim Perkins

Surfing Deputy	Cat Visor, Rufus Dummett	Cat Visor, Rufus Dummett
Tennis	Simon Gunn	Vacant
Walking	Anita Lower	Anita Lower
Walking Deputy	Elizabeth Kemp	Elizabeth Kemp
Windsurfing	Guy Roebuck	Guy Roebuck
Windsurfing Deputy	Judy Eaton	Judy Eaton

#### 4. Approval of minutes from 2024 AGM – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (TM) – Approved

#### 5. Committee Reports

##### Chair (TM)

I want to say a massive ‘**Thank You**’ for coming along this evening to our AGM. It is important that we are accountable to our members (as well as being legally quorate)

It has been another busy year for Explorers in Brighton. Despite some pretty grim weather last Summer we still managed to offer 410 activities including 22 trips. It has been really encouraging to see new faces stepping up to help with all aspects of the club and without you all, long standing and new members, young and older members, we wouldn’t have a club.

In the last year Explorers have, true to form, been exploring far and wide over rivers, seas, mountains, hills and dales. I am now going to summarise the reports kindly written by section leaders. (These can be read in full in the minutes)

**Mountain Sports** was active this year with trips including hiking in the Lake District and Skye, sky running in the lakes and walking and bothying in the Cairngorms. Thanks to Damian for his leadership and for everyone who stepped up to run trips.

The **Walking section** leader also emphasised the big contributions made by members willing to step and lead walks and trips. There has been a varied programme of regular walks of varied length and terrain suited to a lot of different people. Anita has worked with the committee to streamline the safety guidelines and produce a checklist to help prospective leaders. So do step forward and lead if you’re interested.

The **runners** have been very active – and many are alarmingly fast! However, all abilities are welcome

In the **Cycling** section there has been a really strong turn out for mtb rides throughout the year and lots of variety in routes and speeds to suit all abilities under Lisas very experienced leadership. It has been great to see the Tuesday faster rides being reinvigorated by Martin Packer and even a few road rides being organised.

The **climbing** section has been really active which is great to see. Monday nights training at High Sports is especially popular in Winter but busy all year. There were also regular Summer Friday evening trips to local crags. Trips further afield were very well attended too. There were trips to Fountain Bleu, Sicily, North Wales, North Devon, the Peak District and Portland. Members put a lot of time and effort into making this happen so a special shout out to Stephen Wilmott, Alasdair McGregor and Colin Glenny for all their hard work. Also, to Chetan Padia and Alice Denning, Gaz Hughes and Lewis Small for their valuable contribution to the section.

The **Kayaking** Section has also been very active. 27 paddlers completed a kayaking Induction and there were 25 paddles on offer during the Summer and Autumn. It was great to see multi activity trips being offered to the Alps, North Wales, Dartmoor and the Brecon Beacons. In addition, there were pool sessions and trips to Lee Valley.

Peter did a great job in leading a team looking at the thorny issue of achieving compliance with PUK standards of deployment and pulling together and implementing a cunning plan. Pat has been a ball of energy and enthusiasm and made massive contributions to sessions, sea and pool, inductions, trips and staying on top of communication. Thom has been a staple at summer sessions and a stalwart in getting boats where they need to be. Simon Fisher, Colin Glenny, Colin Sandry and Gaz have all significantly contributed to making sessions and trips happen. Emma Bains and Gil are thanked for helping with inductions and our white-water leaders, Gareth, Jon and Stef are really appreciated for facilitating white water trips.

I haven't mentioned all sections here but a massive thank you to all the section leaders who have offered leadership and encouraged participation in their sport, and to activity leaders who also give their time selflessly.

The committee has seen a few changes over the year. Val left to study in Devon and Rachel took over as PR Secretary during the year. Stef kindly deputised during this period of transition. Tom is also stepping down as new members secretary but will remain a stalwart in the Kayak section. Chetan has navigated the transition to the great new website and is has always been on hand to sort out issues as they occur. A massive thanks to Chetan. I have been privileged to chair an extremely dedicated and able group on the committee who amaze me with their talent and energy. I am aware that some of the key committee members will be stepping down in 2026 so we are going to give focus to opportunities for people interested in committee roles in the future to shadow members and observe the committee meetings. More of this anon.

This year we were very ably assisted by Cat Vizor and Emma Bain who wrote a **safeguarding and welfare policy** which is wonderfully clear, straightforward and helpful in supporting the safety of members.

We are also in the process of reviewing the **Grievance and Disciplinary Policy**. Still a work in progress I'm afraid.

I like to think that the club comprises a range of enthusiasts, underachievers, overachievers, specialists and have a go generalists coming together to learn new skills, make new friends and have fun in the outdoors. The **multidisciplinary nature of** the club is its unique strength but also its challenge. We have to balance access to experiences with safety (as the paddleboard incident in Wales so tragically illustrates) Pat continues to do an excellent job, aided by the committee and others to ensure that guidelines are in place to keep members safe without destroying fun and adventure.

I want to end by mentioning the Neil Patterson Memorial Fund that has been set up to reward outstanding contributions to the club and support members where we can. We have used the fund to thank Damian for running the successful and popular explorer's tales and I have a few small gifts to give out this evening. If you know of anyone who deserves a gift from the club, do get in touch with me or the committee.

**Thom Gifford** – the 22 to 24 chair who was never rewarded at the last AGM for this hard work in leading the club during his tenure.

**Chetan** for his exceptional contribution to club functioning and visibility through his website management over many years

A massive round of applause for committee members, sections leaders and activity organisers.

## Vice Chair Report (PM)

As I reported last year, I asked the Section Leaders and Deputies to review the **Risk Assessments and Safety Guidelines** for each section. Ideally, this should be done annually, but the Risk Assessments still had the old BEC logo and the Safety Guidelines on the website were dated 2020! The Section Leaders kindly updated the documents, but I have been very slow at checking through them all, as this task always seemed to go to the bottom of my 'to do' list!

With help from Tatti, we finally went through the risk assessments and decided that although the layout was 'old school', they contained all the relevant information, so it wouldn't be necessary to change the format drastically. Chris Linsdell has kindly helped with formatting and adding the not-so-new BEC logo and he has returned them to Section Leaders for final approval.

The good news about the delay is that as they are being re-checked again by Section Leaders after reformatting, they can be signed off with this year's date and won't need reviewing again until 2026. Tatti and I have almost finished consistency checking the updated Safety Guidelines and then the updated versions will be posted on the website. We are going to pin the safety guidelines for each section to the Signal Groups. I would like to encourage all members to read them, as they contain useful information to enable us to play safely.

We only had **3 accidents** reported this year, which were all minor injuries sustained during white water kayaking. However, it is important to report 'near-misses' as well as accidents. The purpose is to ensure that lessons are learnt and to avoid mistakes being repeated. There is a form for reporting accidents or near misses, in the Section Leaders' dashboard on the website, and the link to the form has been added to the updated Safety Guidelines. The information transfers directly to the accident log and I receive an alert. Accidents are discussed at the following Committee Meeting and any recommendations would be shared with the people involved and the Section Leader. In addition, we are going to pin the reporting form to each Signal group, to make it more accessible to all members. It is the responsibility of the activity leader or section leader to ensure that the form is completed, but we want to encourage all members to feel free to report issues.

In May, 2024, PaddleUK (the national governing body for kayaking and SUP) issued new guidance called **Standards for Deployment**, which outlines the training and qualifications that paddling leaders will require from 2026 onwards. All leaders will require an appropriate PUK qualification for the environment they lead in, 2 day Outdoor First Aid certificate, safeguarding training, relevant elearning and pay the full PUK membership fee.

Until now, PaddleUK has accepted 'equivalent experience' in lieu of qualifications. Stefania Rosso has audited the experience, training and qualifications of the paddling leaders each year and verified that each person has the equivalent experience to allow them to lead on the sea, local rivers and/or white water.

We have obtained a bursary of £1,850 from PUK and been pledged another £800 to help with the costs of obtaining qualifications. Stefania is working towards becoming a 'Provider', which, if she is successful, would allow her to award PUK qualifications. However, the standards for this are high, as most Providers work professionally in the outdoor activity industry. I would like to

thank Stefania for her effort with this and wish her good luck, as it would be a huge advantage to the club to have an inhouse Provider.

We recognise that paddle sports are costly for BEC to run, due to the cost of equipment, storage and club affiliation to PUK, and we now need to help members with the cost of obtaining qualifications. We are proposing to increase the cost of kayak and SUP inductions to £20 for new members and to add an addition fee of £20 per year to the membership fee of regular members who take part in kayaking and / or SUP (apart from low waged/unwaged). Paddle leaders will also pay this fee, but they will be able to reclaim the cost of their Paddle UK membership fees via the club bursary scheme.

Hopefully, the additional fee won't deter members from paddle sports, but we will review the impact of this change.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who contributes towards the running of the club - you are all amazing - and particularly Tatti, who much to my relief, told me yesterday afternoon that she is willing to continue as Chair for another year. Tatti brings so much relevant knowledge and experience to the role and she works really hard.

This will definitely be my last year as Vice Chair, so please give some thought to volunteering next year.

Pat Morfitt

29.04.2025

### **New members Secretary (TG)**

We've had a reasonably successful year recruiting new members - thank you to everyone who has supported the new members evenings (especially pat who has covered more than half of them while also being deputy chair!) also thanks to everyone who came to the bar and chatted to the potential new members, it is all very much appreciated!

At present, we have 272 members, a decrease of 33 on this time last year. This could be due to a number of factors but should be easy enough to rectify by increasing our social media presence.

The usual annual pattern has repeated - there is a noticeable decrease during winter and a sharp uptick in enquiries and new memberships when the sun makes an appearance.

While I am stepping down from the committee I'm excited to see Alice taking over as new members secretary and look forward to seeing her bring the same vibrant energy to it that she brings to everything else she does.

### **Young Members Secretary (AD)**

We have had a good year for the young members this year, with some successful young members socials, including one at the Dice Saloon Board Game cafe, and with a good influx of young members into the club generally. In the interests of promoting the club generally and in particular to young people, I made a flyer which I have liberally distributed around Brighton to various outdoor shops/venues, climbing walls, libraries and cafes, to spread the word! This was with the very kind help of another BEC member Alex. This year I plan to organise some more socials, including one around the Rampion Wind Farm (by popular request) and continue promoting the club to more groups of young people.

### **Club Secretary (SG)**

More work has been done this year to meet the expectations of the charity commission. We are so much closer this year than last. The safeguarding roles have been successfully setup, as the continued updated of BEC policies.

As ever, many thanks to the all the volunteers and committee members that contribute so much to make this club functional in a fun but safe and legal way.

## **PR Secretary (RF)**

This year, our PR efforts have focused on increasing visibility and engagement through our main social media channels: Instagram and Facebook. Both platforms continue to perform well, showcasing the activities and achievements of our current members while also helping to attract new interest in the club.

We have made a conscious effort to maintain regular, high-quality posts that reflect the spirit of BEC. Member contributions have been invaluable in helping us build a growing photo bank, which will support future promotions and ensure we have a strong archive of club memories.

Excitingly, BEC-branded merchandise is on the way. We anticipate that this will not only help build a stronger club identity but also serve as an additional tool for promotion and member pride.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed content, supported posts, and engaged online — your involvement is key to our success.

## **Treasurer (CG)**

# Treasurer update

## BEC AGM 2025

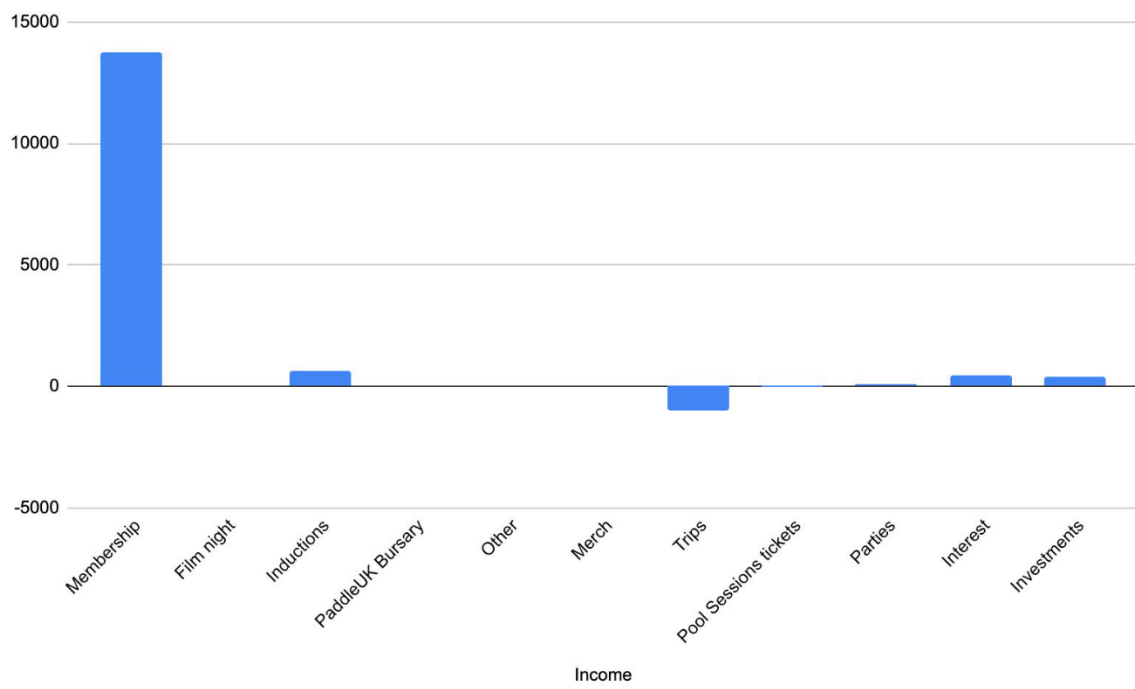
### **1. Total funds**

Current: £9,794.07
Investment: £23,441.54
Savings: £15,625.75
Total: £48,861.36

Surplus: £1346
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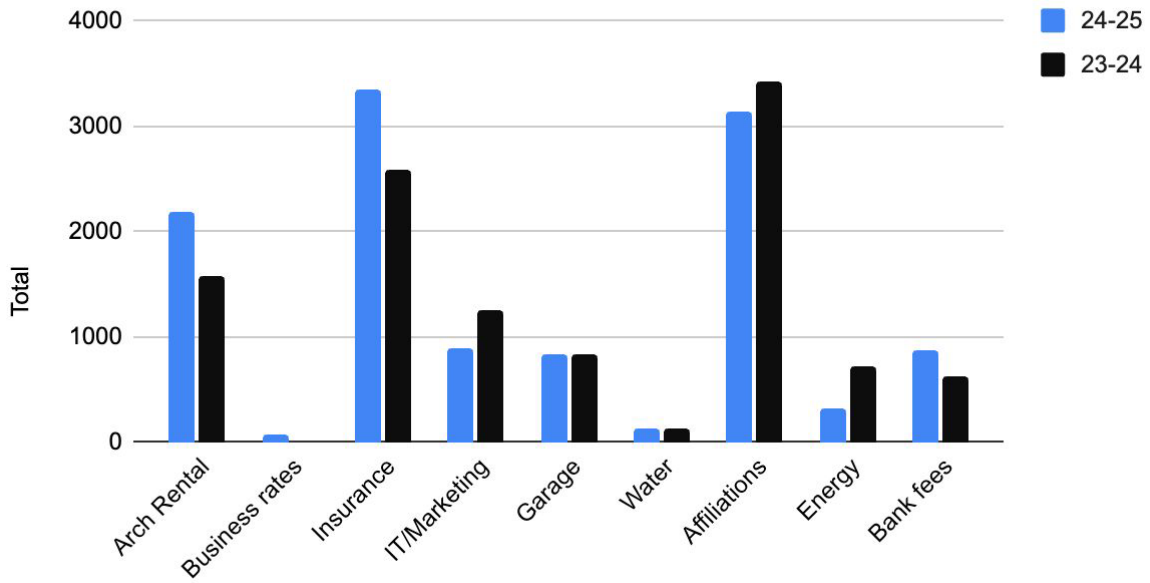
**Details :** [Shared Accounts 24/25 v2.xlsx - Google Sheets](#)

## 2. Income



## 3. What we've spent money on

## Fixed cost changes



### **Arch Rental, Insurance, and**

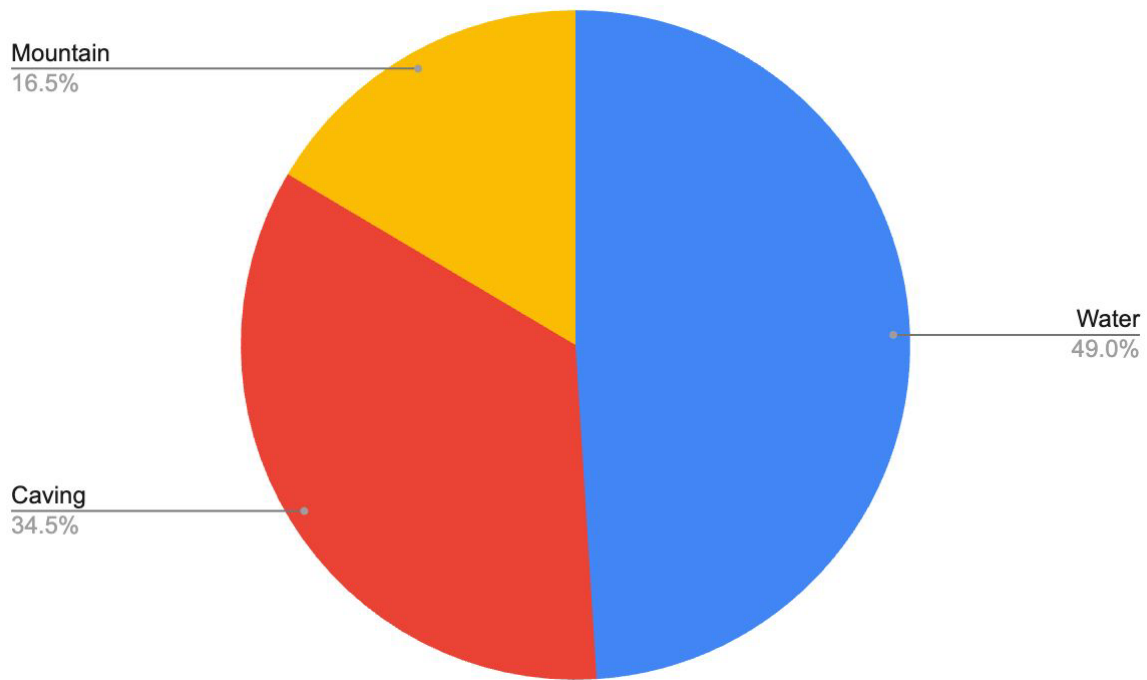
**Bank fees** have increased in the 2024-25 tax year.

**Business rates** appear as a new cost in 2024-25.

**IT/Marketing, Water, Affiliations, and Energy** costs have decreased in the 2024-25 tax year.

**Garage** costs have remained the same.

## **Gear spending across sections**



#### 4. Other updates

Since we're in a good position  
We're **not** raising our membership prices this year

#### Some Problems:

Paying invoices and reimbursements is slow  
Members pay large bills themselves (£1000+ !)  
Bookkeeping/accounts is clunky  
Risky if treasurers need to change mid-year  
The Charity Commission has requested we follow various accounting-related regular processes

#### Solution: Change to Natwest!

- Make online payments
  - Free accounting software for bookkeeping & accounts
  - Debit card for payments
- Late May/Early June

## How much will this cost?

All free for 2 years

After that 0.35 per transaction.

That would have been ~£100 for the year 24-25

DT – Maybe we should consider spending more money as we are doing so well. 9k is high for a current account

CG – Totally agree

DT – perhaps on training or equipment

CV – what is the reserve limit?

PM – 15K was decided years ago as good reserve to have, as its about 12 months running costs.

TM – Which is about 3 to 6 months income

PM – maybe over cautious, but we need to be sensible.

TM – Also, being a club reliant on another independent club, BSC, there was a feeling/fear that if the Sailing club closed, we would struggle to survive. Based on the final status of the BSC at that time.

At that point, considering all the factors, £15k seemed like a good reserve to have.

SW – we could look at what we are spending money on. The BMC bursery is a great start, and a good use of money. Maybe other sections could benefit too.

PM – look at bursery policy too. For leader etc. Like BMC now gets paid

TM – we can set up working groups to look at how funds get be best used.

## Web Master (CP)

The website continues to run mostly without issues thanks to the MyClubhouse platform. They have added a lot of new features recently and we may be able to streamline some of our operations in future with them.

The Signal groups see plenty of chat, photos and members arranging to meet up. Some maintenance issues continue with Signal from time to time and it worth the incoming committee evaluating the new Chat feature on MyClubhouse as a potential successor.

A big thanks to Lewis Small and Tatti who have worked together on the newsletter. It's been a wonderful addition to the club.

It's been a pleasure being part of the committee and working with such helpful and dedicated volunteers. Thanks all.

## Appendix:

### Climbing Section Report (SW)

BEC climbing section report 2024-2025

The BEC climbing section is anchored by Monday night training sessions at our local indoor climbing wall, High Sports, even though all the real fun happens outside at the weekend or on holiday. We usually have a dozen or more climbers on Monday nights, more in winter and fewer in summer, often comprising a mixture of longtime members and relative newcomers.

But the section is really about exploring crags in the great outdoors.

The year under review started with a weekend trip to Swanage in April 2024 for a mixture of sport and trad climbing, with 14 climbers joining, organised by section leader Stephen Wilmot. Over the second May bank holiday weekend deputy section leader Colin Glenny initiated a trip to Snowdonia that was a great success, with 17 members attending for walking, scrambling and climbing.

In May, June and July we also held Friday night sandstone sessions most weeks at Bowles or Harrison's in northeast Sussex. Attendance was variable depending on the weather, but we had some wonderful sessions running into the dusk at Harrison's, which gets the summer evening sun.

August featured what has become our incredibly popular annual trip to Europe's bouldering capital Fontainebleau in France, organised by our other deputy section leader Alasdair McGregor as well as the multi-talented Chetan Padia. It was a sellout with 20 members climbing at varying levels—not to mention swimming in the river, mountain-biking through the forest and eating too many croissants from the village bakery.

In September Alice Denning proposed a trip to Britain's sport-climbing home in Portland, Dorset. The weather wasn't ideal, which limited attendance, but by all accounts everyone had a wonderful time with a mixture of climbing when possible and trail running when the heavens opened. It's great to see Alice getting involved with organising trips.

In October some climbers joined Pat Morfitt's watersports-led trip to Appledore in North Devon to climb at Baggy Point. We had an excellent time exploring the crag and mingling socially with the kayakers, but the venue isn't beginner-friendly, so it may not be an experiment we repeat this year.

Four BEC members led by the ever supportive Colin Sandry headed to Sicily during the February half term for a week of winter climbing. Everyone had such a good time and the crag was so interesting and accessible at all levels that some of the same team are heading back in February 2026.

Finally, we kicked off the 2025 season at the end of March with a very successful trip to the Peak district. Four members, two of them new to the club, did trad-climbing courses, which means we now have a very robust cohort of climbers with the skills and gear to spearhead trips to Britain's wealth of trad crags and support members who are interested in learning by seconding their more experienced peers.

The March trip was an early sign of our intentions for the current fiscal year. Following some discussion among the section leaders over the winter, the climbing section this season is focusing more on weekend trips away, particularly to trad venues that are accessible in grade and location, with less emphasis on weekly trips to the local sandstone. We still aim to get to Portland in May for sport-climbing.

Many thanks to everyone who has got involved with organising trips or contributing their skills or simply good vibes to the climbing section. In addition to those already mentioned, shoutouts to Gaz Hughes and Lewis Small.

Onwards and particularly, upwards!

Stephen, Colin G and Alasdair

## **Running Section Report**

The running section has been going from strength to strength, mostly organising ad-hoc runs on the Signal group.

This winter saw regular sunrise runs, which was a great way to start the week.

Local trail runs have included the downs and cliff tops around Brighton, the South Downs Way to Southease, local Park Runs, a glorious snowy run to Ditchling Beacon, as well as numerous evenings around Stanmer Park, most recently to see the magnificent bluebells. An especially big thanks to Alex Zawadzki for his lifts and enthusiasm for Stanmer Park, and to Stephen Wilmot, Alice Denning, Hannah Loryman and Alasdair McGregor for their excellent company and encouragement on many of these outings.

This year's Explorathon included a tough run to Devil's Dyke. A big well done goes to everyone who did that leg, especially to those who got lost en route and had to go further.

There has also been plenty of running on trips away, including some epic trails in the Lake District, scorching hot forests in Fontainbleau, and members exploring the trails on trips to Devon and Wales.

A personal highlight was completing the Beachy Head Ultramarathon.

In February some members ran the Sussex Downs Trail half marathon in Plumpton and recorded some very competitive times. Earlier this month, some members also ran the Brighton Marathon with many others coming out to support. Well done all!

## **6.Close of Nominations for Committee, Committee Monitor and Section Leaders (TM)**

TM – Any more nominations for roles?

No

TM – Is a bulk vote for the committee roles acceptable?

DT – Propose

CV - Second

TM – All those in favour?

All in agreement - Unanimous

TM – Any more nominations for Section leaders?

No

PM – Any volunteers for tennis and running?

None.

TM – Bulk vote for Section Leaders?

PM - Propose

AL – Second

TM – All in favour?

All in agreement – unanimous

### **7.Motions (TM)**

None

### **8.Election of Committee Members, Section Leaders, and the recording of Holding Trustees (TM)**

- Damian as trustee
- Holding Trustee for Arch are the lease names to be determined.

### **9.AOB (at discretion of Chair)**

RS – Where can we learn more about the chat feature on the web site.

CP – We can discuss afterwards.

### **10.Proposed date for 2026 AGM**

April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### **Close**

TM – Thanks you all for coming, we have such a positive club at the moment.



























































**BRIGHTON EXPLORERS CLUB**

England & Wales - Charity number 1156361

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# Accounts

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Registered Address - 108 King's Road Arches, Brighton BN1 2FN

**Brighton Explorers Club**  
**Minutes of Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday 14th May 2024 19:00**

**Venue – Brighton Sailing Club**

**Online Via Zoom Link.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86165437967>

Meeting ID: 861 6543 7967

Passcode: 246019

**Annual General Meeting 2023 of the Brighton Explorers  
Club CIO (Charity No. 1156361)**

## Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 7pm - Sailing Club

### 1. Apologies & Registration of members in attendance

#### Apologies:

Steve Lucas  
Mark Fairweather  
Peter Graham  
Tom Harrison  
Mick Raffe  
Peter Wallace

#### Attendees:

Damian Tow  
Martin Allen  
Sarah Ball  
Colin Glenny  
Tom Gifford  
Pat Morfitt  
Stuart Gibbons  
Elizabeth Kemp  
Susie Llewelyn  
Guy Roebuck  
Val Yuen  
Susie Browning  
Tim Perkins  
Ciara Green  
Alice Denning  
Chetan Padia  
Stephen Wilmot  
Mark shearing  
Felix Embery  
Tatti McNally  
Hena Rohman  
Anita Lower  
Stefania Rosso

#### Zoom attendees:

Chris Lindsell  
John Williams  
Richard Smith

### 2. Welcome (TG)

- a. Declarations of potential conflicts of interest - None
- b. Non-members attending - None
- c. Reminder of AGM process and etiquette - Done

### 3. Review of nominations for the Committee, the Committee Monitor and Section Leaders (TG)

Role	Current (2022-2023)	Standing (2023-2024)
<b>Committee</b>		
Chair	Thom Gifford	Tatti McNally
Vice Chair	Pat Morfitt	Pat Morfitt

Treasurer	Ciara Green	Ciara Green
Club Secretary	Stuart Gibbons	Stuart Gibbons
New Members Secretary	Val Yuen & Lea Stracquadano	Thom Gifford
Social Secretary	Felix Embery	Felix Embery
Young Members Secretary	Alice Denning	Alice Denning
PR Secretary	Kieran O'Malley	Val Yuen
Webmaster	Chetan Padia	Chetan Padia
Committee Monitor	Damien Tow	Damien Tow
<b>Sections Leaders</b>		
Arch Managers	Guy Roebuck & Brian Orsola	Guy Roebuck
Badminton	Hena Rohman	Hena Rohman
Caving	Antonio Emmanouilidis	Antonio Emmanouilidis
Caving Deputy	Mat Budgen	Mat Budgen
Climbing	Stephen Wilmot	Stephen Wilmot
Climbing Deputy	Colin Glennie and Alastair Macgregor	Colin Glennie and Alastair Macgregor
Cycling / MTB	Susie Llewelyn	Lisa Carrington
Cycling / MTB Deputy	Road – Stuart Gibbons Tue – Martin Packer Thu – Judy Eaton	Road – Stuart Gibbons Tue – Martin Packer Thu – Susie Llewelyn
Kayaking	Pat Morfitt	Peter Graham
Kayaking Deputy	Thom Gifford & Brian Orsola	Thom Gifford & Pat Morfitt
Mountain Sports	Damian Tow	Damian Tow
Mountain Sports Deputy	Vacant	Vacant
Running	Wairimu Njuguna	Chetan PadiaMcNally
Running Deputy	Lea Stracquadano	Vacant
SUP	Stefania Rosso	Stefania Rosso
SUP Deputy	Colin Garbo	Colin Garbo
Surfing	Tim Perkins	Tim Perkins
Surfing Deputy	Cat Visor, Rufus Dummett	Cat Visor, Rufus Dummett
Tennis	Simon Gunn	Vacant
Walking	Simon Brooksbank	Anita Lower
Walking Deputy	Elizabeth Kemp	Elizabeth Kemp
Windsurfing	Guy Roebuck	Guy Roebuck
Windsurfing Deputy	Judy Eaton	Judy Eaton

4. **Approval of minutes from 2023 AGM – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 (TG) - Approved**

5. **Committee Reports**

#### **Chair Report (TG)**

Hello Explorers, and good evening to you all! It's been a very sad year for the club with 3 long standing members; Nick Harwood, Joel Colk and Neil Pattinson all sadly passing away. Their presence is deeply & sadly missed.

Can I ask you all to stand and join together in a minute's silence in their memory.

BEC members past and present attended Nick's funeral in Stanmer, we are hosting a memorial to Neil here in the arch next month and a memorial for Joel here in early July.

I am pleased to say that BEC continues to evolve and develop and while we saw a few personnel changes on the committee over the year they have all been committed, supportive and hard-working

making running the club day-to-day a largely pleasant experience. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee along with section leaders, section deputies and all other contributing members who continue to make the club a fun and welcoming place. Many thanks to you all.

Over the past year various sections organised successful trips to places like North Wales, South Wales, Mid Wales, Devon, Cornwall, Dartmoor, France, the Maldives and even further afield! The diary has been full of mountain biking, climbing, walking, kayaking, paddleboarding, surfing, social events and many more.

The website continues to operate well and a massive thanks to Chetan and the team of contributors who continue to add features, streamline processes and work through each issue as they crop up. Thanks also to those who have helped get the BEC archive sorted through making relevant parts available on the website.

BECs relationship with the Sailing Club continues well with members sharing social activities & joint parties happening over the year. We did, due to no fault of our own, miss their maintenance day this year so I hope we can make a little extra effort to help out where we can and assist in keeping their premises ready to use. Merely picking up the odd empty glass and taking it to the bar is a great place to start. I think it's worth adding a reminder that all affiliate clubs can freely use the changing facilities over the weekends (assuming you can get access) and there are other benefits that BEC members also have access to so its worth checking out the affiliate agreement if you're interested in what those might be.

The clubhouse has always played a big role in BEC and this often where trip ideas are conceived, planned and realised. Explorers can often be found here on Wednesday evenings throughout the year planning trips, greeting new members and generally socialising.

New Members meetings have once again proven consistently popular, even in the colder months. Thanks to Val and Leah for running them so well and to all the members that socialise with the prospective members afterwards. It all helps to make a friendly and welcoming introduction to the club.

Our charitable aims are to encourage people of all ages and young people in particular to participate in outdoor activities. BEC continues to meet these aims and we have made progress raising our visibility to a younger demographic and working alongside the charity Esteem. My thanks to Cat Vizor & Val for organising that.

Paddlesports continue to be popular retaining almost 100 members from year to year. Thanks to all the leads, deputies and experienced club members who work together to make BEC water sports happen and special mentions for Pat, Colin & Steph who have worked particularly hard in their sections running inductions which raised nearly £800 for the club. Many club members come forward to assist in running both Paddlesport sections and with their help we can look forward to busy year of BEC Kayak & SUP.

Kayaking trips were again popular, and we have begun to build collaborative relations with other kayaking clubs to expand our range of Paddlesport opportunities including a recent joint trip to Snowdonia with members of Martlets Kayak Club. A run of 12 swimming pool-based training sessions helped the sections stay active through the winter and saw many members improve their skills, try out rescue techniques and learn to roll in a warm and safe environment.

Stephania continues to be our representative and liaison to Paddle UK (previously British Canoeing) and has put great effort into organising training courses for our water sections, getting the club accredited as a #shepaddles and #openaccessopenwater champion club, getting funding for club development and, alongside Pat, keeping us updated with the regulatory changes that are happening within Paddlesport UK. Thank you, Steph and Pat!

Surf Section has seen a busy year with many trips including Cornwall, South Wales, Devon, the Bristol indoor wave and very recently the multi-sport trip to Pembrokeshire. Tim and Cat continue to do a great job running the section & making the trips happen and already have some in the works for this season.

In the climbing section they focused a bit more on climbing outdoors and a bit less on the regular Monday evening sessions at High Sports, valuable as they remain. They started the season with a sport-climbing weekend in Portland on 22-23rd April, and had two further weekends in Portland in August and September. In May we started heading to the sandstone in North Sussex on Friday evenings. Over the August bank holiday weekend 18 members enjoyed a wonderful few day's bouldering in Fontainebleau. There was also some climbing on a multi-activity trip to Sicily in October.

On a rainy autumn weekend we organised a visit to the Parthian climbing centre outside of Southampton. We also held a couple of film nights at the Sailing Club arch on dark Friday evenings in November and February.

Meanwhile, BEC members used the climbing Signal group as a starting point for off-platform trips and training, notably to learn trad climbing. This is turning out to be a focus of the current fiscal year. Members practised trad skills on a recent trip to Dancing Ledge near Swanage, and will do so again on an upcoming trip to North Wales.

As deputy section leaders, Colin Glenny and Alasdair McGregor were both hugely helpful. Colin provided boundless enthusiasm for climbing and patience with relative beginners, while Alasdair led the organization of the ever popular Fontainebleau trip, which is already booking up for this year. Many thanks to them and my thanks to section leader Stephen Wilmot for this report.

Caving section have started a long needed kit refresh and upgrade this year. They had a successful trip to Yorkshire and hope to run more caving trips in the near future including a planned trip to France in July that is now on the calendar. Thanks to Antonio and Matt for their continued support running the section.

As always, the mountain bike section has had a busy year despite one of the wettest & muddiest winters on record. They managed to run rides on Sundays and Thursday evenings all year round including night rides through the winter with the valiant few battling the dark and the mud. There have also been ad hoc rides on Tuesdays, both daytime and in the evenings and mountain biking is a regular feature on trips away, most recently on last weekend's trip to Pembrokeshire.

Unfortunately, as per usual, the MTB section seems to top the leaderboard with the club on the injury front with Tatti the most recent of our regular riders to come off and break her collar bone in style. Hopefully she will be back in the saddle in the not too distant future.

I'd like to thank Susie, Lisa, Stu and Judy for doing a sterling job running cycling over the last few months and years. Susie is stepping down as section leader this year but while she is handing over the reins she will remain in the background helping out and we're very grateful to her for all she has done for the club over the years.

Walking section has continued to organise regular walks locally and further afield, highlights of this year have been trips to see the Seven Sisters, the bluebells, Jack and Jill windmills and many walks in the South Downs.

Special thanks to Elizabeth, Anita Lower, Steve Lucas, Sarah and many others for organising some fabulous routes. Simon is standing down as walking section leader and Anita has agreed to step up so thank you to them both for all they've done. There is always scope for more people to lead walks so do volunteer if you have some you would like to share.

Tennis and Badminton took place this year as usual with tennis running well attended regular Saturday sessions until September when the courts were demolished for the Hove seafront

renovation. We wait to see how this will affect tennis section this year. Badminton was also particularly well attended over the winter and my thanks to Simon and Henna respectively for organising. Simon is stepping down as tennis section lead this year so if you fancy having a go do let us know.

Angus stood down as social secretary part way through the year while Felix has continued in the role and, with the help of Val and Alice, organised some excellent parties. More will be coming with the Summer Party in August and Christmas party in December so get those dates from the calendar and into your diary. BEC is now only responsible for running the bar on the second Wednesday of every month & helpers are always greatly appreciated so please reach out to myself or Felix to get bar trained and get involved. Any ideas for more parties/events are also welcomed so please pitch those too.

There have been several changes to the committee during the year. Sumitra stepped down as treasurer, Suzannah stepped down as secretary, Angus stepped down from Joint-Social Sec, Saskia left as Young Members sec to move to Reading and Leah and Keiran moved on from their posts as Joint New Members Secretary and PR Secretary to study leopards in Botswana. I'd like to thank them all for their contributions to the club and to also extend my profound thanks to those who stepped up and took on their roles mid-term. Kira took on the Treasurer's role with the help of Steve, Stu stepped up to be Secretary and Alice took on Young Members. The PR role is currently unfilled.

Committee Monitor Damian has been a great help in his role, and I am very grateful to him for agreeing to be nominated for a further year so that we can continue to rely on his advice and experience.

Arch management: After using the new arch for a season and collecting feedback from members and water leaders it has been slightly altered to accommodate some inflated SUP's and a few extra kayaks. Our thanks to Tom Harrison for carrying out the modifications.

Please remember that those on the Committee, the Section Leaders & Deputies, the trip organisers and everyone else who contributes to BEC give of their time freely and we all do our best to keep BEC running smoothly despite other commitments in our lives. BEC is a member's club and as such each and every member should try to help in some way. This could be something as simple as returning your glass to the bar, helping tidy the arch, organising a BBQ, helping to run a trip etc.

This has been my second year as Chair. While there have been some intensely sad events, and a few unexpected personnel changes, it has still been a largely enjoyable year. At those times it has been difficult I am grateful to have had such a supportive & constructive committee around me to help put in the time and energy to resolve what we can, make plans for the rest and keep BEC looking forward with positivity. I'd encourage you all to think about giving a committee role a go at some point while you're with BEC, it's certainly broadened my perspective on the club and my enthusiasm to engage with the many many activities we offer. While I am stepping down as Chair this year to focus more on my business I intend to remain engaged with the club and I am interested in sharing the New Members committee position with anyone who's up for it.

## **Vice Chair Report (PM)**

I have updated the bursary guidelines in consultation with section leaders. Bursaries are now targeted at improving leadership and safety within the club.

It became apparent when Stu (secretary) filed the annual report to the Charity Commission that we need to update or add some BEC policies to comply with the requirements of the Charity Commission, so the committee will be focussing on this over the next year to ensure that BEC is compliant.

I have asked section leaders and deputies to review and update the risk assessments and safety guidelines for their sections. The Charity Commission, the insurers and sports' governing bodies require us to have these in place. Thank you to everyone who is helping with this.

We are now required to have a safeguarding policy and we have created 2 new posts of Safeguarding Lead and Deputy, who will work with me on drafting our safeguarding policy and procedures.

### **New Members Secretary (VY)**

We've had another successful year recruiting new members - thank you to everyone who has supported with bar and chatted to the potential new members, it is all very much appreciated!

At present, we have 305 members. This year we kept track of the number of people attending the talks - there is a noticeable decrease during winter and a sharp uptake when the sun makes an appearance! In fact, our last one in May had 14 people attending for the talk!

After two years of monthly talks, it's time for a change and for someone else to chat everyone's ears off about how good to club is. It's been so lovely meeting the new members of the club! Thank you again to everyone who has supported us!

### **Club Secretary (SG)**

The secretary role has been a steep learning curve, but it's as rewarding as challenging. I had little idea of the time and effort required to keep a club like this moving forward. The committee, section leaders and numerous other volunteers are a credit to all of us.

Behind the scenes The Charity Commission have expectations from us as a registered charity. The club is required to have all sorts of policies ranging from bullying and harassment to financial control. And of course, each section has risk assessments and guidelines to keep up to date. A massive thank you for all your hard work with all of these.

The requirement for safeguarding policies plus lead and deputy roles is new to the club and it's great to see volunteers takes this on.

### **Social Secretary (FE)**

Summer party:

The summer party as always was a success had a fun late night of social activities while keeping it low key, enjoyed the sun and had a successful day

Christmas party:

Lovely to break up the winter and see people enjoying socialising down at the barely used club, nice to get everyone together before the winter period

Shutter incident:

Obviously wasn't great as we lost nearly three months and it felt like something was missing during the winter this year, but as always, we came back, and the Wednesday socials have been busy as ever

Spring party:

Very laid back and nice to enter us into the busy water sports season and get used to seeing people's faces again

Bar general:

Would appreciate if we could have a few newer members and those who haven't before to show some interest in getting bar trained and helping out with the Wednesday nights and general socials so that we're not always reliant on the same people. We're down to one night a month again so would be nice if on new members nights we could get some different volunteers.

On a lighter note, as we enter into summer here are a few dates to look forward to:

Summer Party 20th July

Explorathon 31st August

These will be advertised nearer the time.

Further announcement is that Val will be partnering up with myself as Social Secretary, as anyone who knows Val knows she's organised, which will make up for my lack of organisation. So, I look forward to working with her.

And to finish up reminder if the club is open anyone from BEC is welcome to come in when sailing club are down here, let's enjoy the summer and look forward to having a few drinks in the sun. Responsibly of course

**PR Secretary (Vacant)**

**Treasurer (CG)**

## **BEC FINANCIAL REPORT 2023/24**

*Ciara Green, treasurer*

*Steve Lucas, treasurer*

*Pat Morfitt, signatory*

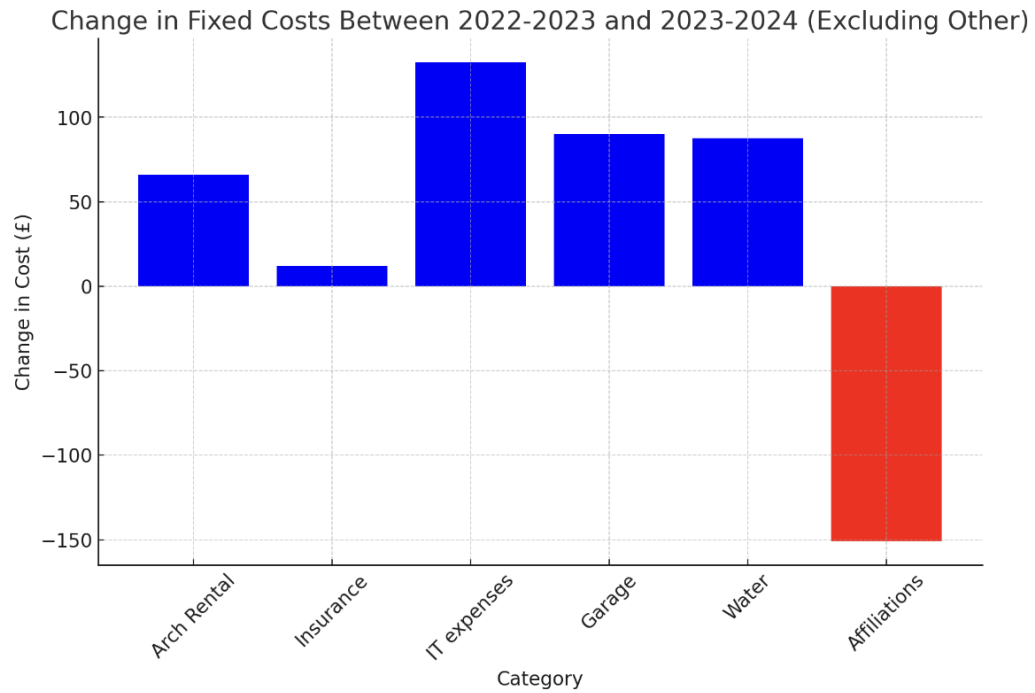
*Independent examiners: Damian Tow and Antonio Emmanouilidis*

## Money in/out

		2023-2024
		<b>Money out</b>
<b>Fixed costs</b>		
	Arch Rental	1575
	Insurance	2593.06
	IT expenses	1255.34
	Garage	840
	Water	138.51
	Affiliations	3420
	Other	1373.34
<b>Variable costs</b>		
	Training	2185
	Gear	3043.46
	Electricity	725.53
	Other	
	Pass-through costs	8160.12
	Refunds	1674.95
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26984.31</b>
		<b>Money in</b>
Operating income		
	Membership income	13,973.10
	Watersports inductions	850
	Other + pass through	13,069.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>27,892.10</b>

## Changes in fixed costs

The past year has been marked by inflation across our fixed costs, though we now pay **less** towards affiliations.

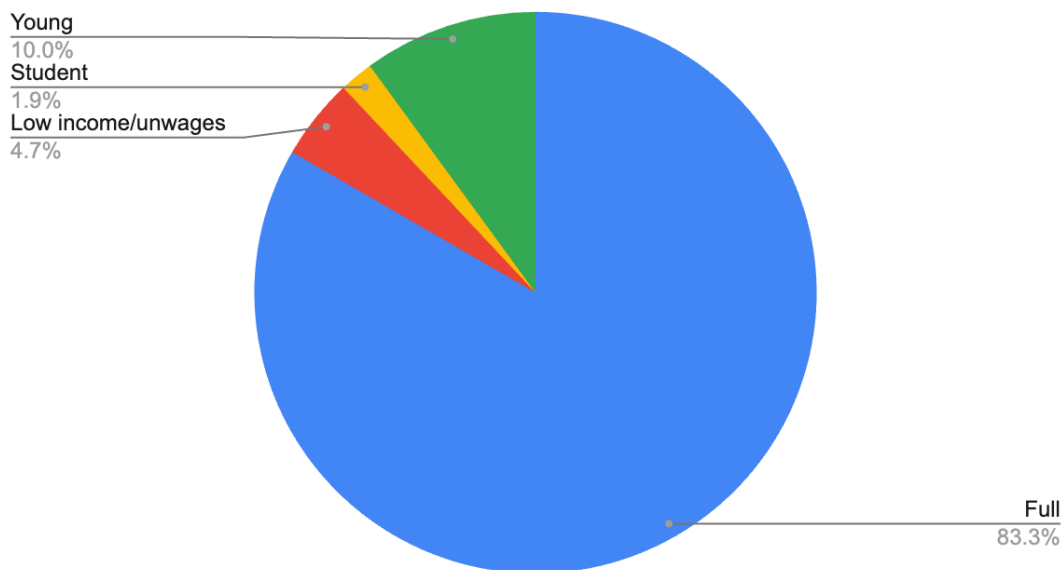


### Membership income

Membership income was £13,973.10, almost equal to £13987 the previous year.  
Full memberships accounted for 67.8% of total membership revenues.

£11,377.60	Full
£1,369	Young member
£638.60	Low income/unwaged
£266.10	Student
£321.60	Distant

## Membership income



## Transactional audit

Antonio's transactional audit shows there is no significant amount unaccounted for.

Rise in membership fees

We believe we should increase membership fees in line with the current rate of inflation 4%

Full member £60 /56.70  
Young members £36 /34  
Full student £24 /22.70  
Distant £24 /22.70

We want to keep low income / unemployed as the same - no increase to this £20.60

## Statement of assets

**Metro current account balance:**

- £10, 819.58

**Investment account with Rathbone Unit Trust Management:**

- As of 31/3/2024, the end of the last financial year, this had £22,563.47 in it.
- As of the end of last **week** it had **£23,067.01** as the valuation depends on market movements.
- The background here is that we put £20,000 into the Rathbone Active Income and Growth fund in October 2022 and have been letting any returns accumulate.

## **Savings account with Manchester Building Society (the club "reserves"):**

- As of 31/3/2024 this had **£15,152.79**. This hasn't changed since as it is in cash.

## **Financial controls**

The Charity Commission asked us in February if we have a financial control system in place. We plan to start doing this in the form of [running this check-list once per year](#) - downloaded from GOV.UK.

## **Appendix**

[Treasury update](#) list of all transactions which anyone can dig into - personal/identifiable details removed  
[BEC FINANCIAL REPORT 2022/23](#) Last year's financial report for more detailed comparison

## **Webmaster CP**

The website - managed by MyClubhouse - continues to work well despite being a little confusing in places. The committee rearranged some of the navigation which hopefully is easier for members, section leaders and the committee to find important information.

Symmetrics, the owners of MyClubhouse, continue to work in the background adding features we have been requesting; however, they have not been particularly good at letting us know what they have completed and when. The webmaster - I assume this will be me - should now see what can be streamlined with the latest features from MyClubhouse.

Thanks to Ciara and Martin (former member) for helping to plan and communicate these improvements initially.

The Signal chats seem to work well. Recently there have been a few issues with Signal not automatically adding a handful of new members to groups. This needs further investigation however, for most people, automatically adding/removing them from groups saves us a lot of time.

An idea has been raised to have an "announcements" Signal group for all members. I think this is a great idea and plan to implement in the near future.

## **Young Members (AD)**

### **6. Close of Nominations for Committee, Committee Monitor and Section Leaders (TG) - Done**

### **7. Motions (TG)**

- The complexity of producing the financial report for the AGM either requires a BEC member with bookkeeping/accountancy knowledge, or we pay for an appropriate professional to do the task for us. The motion here is for BEC to pay an appropriate professional to compile the AGM financial reports for us. This would only occur if no such person within the club processed the required level of skill to do it. - **Motion Passed**

**8. Election of Committee Members, Section Leaders, and the recording of Holding Trustees (TG)**

**2024**

**Chair** – Tatti McNally

**New Members Secretary** – Thom Gifford

**Social Secretary** – Val Yuen

**PR Secretary** – Val Yuen

**PR Deputy** – Stefania Rosso

**Cycling / MTB Leader** – Lisa Carrington

**Cycling / MTB Deputy** – Susie Llewelyn

**Mountain Sports Deputy** – Vacant

**Running Leader** – Chetan Padia

**Running Deputy** - Stefania Rosso

**Tennis** – Vacant

**Walking** – Anita Lower

**Kayak Leader** - Peter Graham

**Kayak Deputy** - Thom Gifford

**Kayak Deputy** - Pat Morfitt

**New Roles**

**Safeguarding Leader** – Cat Visor

**Safeguarding Deputy** - Emma Bain

**All positions successfully voted in unanimously**

**9. AOB (at discretion of Chair) - None**

**10. Proposed date for 2025 AGM – May 20<sup>th</sup> 2025**

## **Annual Statement January 2024**

Opening Balance 21.02.23 - £4479.49

Closing Balance 27.01.24 - £6579.21

Income - £4750.00

Expenses - £2650.22

### **Summary of Expense**

Service Charge & Commission - £81.90

EDF - £200.82

Pyne Gardens - £600.00

Insurance - £1767.50

## Annual Accounts from 21/02//23 to 27/01/24

<b>22/02/2023</b>	<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>£4,479.43</b>	
		<b>Expense</b>	<b>Income</b>
01/03/2023	N Straiton		£200.00
01/03/2023	P Schetzel		£200.00
01/03/2023	N Hastings		£200.00
01/03/2023	M Ray		£200.00
03/03/2023	Service Charge	-£7.00	
03/03/2023	S Gibbons		£200.00
16/03/2023	Insurance	-£1,767.50	
05/04/2023	Commission	-£0.35	
05/04/2023	Service Charge	-£7.00	
11/04/2023	Pyne Gardens	-£60.00	
11/04/2023	EDF	-£26.46	
27/04/2024	Pyne Gardens	-£60.00	
05/05/2023	Commission	-£0.70	
05/05/2023	Service Charge	-£7.00	
23/05/2023	Pyne Gardens	-£60.00	
01/06/2023	N Straiton		£200.00
01/06/2023	N Hastings		£250.00
01/06/2023	M Ray		£250.00
05/06/2023	S Gibbons		£250.00
05/06/2023	N Straiton		£50.00
05/06/2023	Service Charge	-£7.00	

05/06/2023	Commission	-£0.35	
09/06/2023	Pyne Gardens	-£60.00	
03/07/2023	Pyne Gardens	-£60.00	
05/07/2023	Commission	-£0.70	
05/07/2023	Service Charge	-£7.00	
26/07/2023	EDF	-£58.12	
26/07/2023	Pyne Gardens	-£60.00	
04/08/2023	Commission	-£0.35	
04/08/2023	Service Charge	-£7.00	
31/07/2023	Pyne Gardens	-£60.00	
01/09/2023	M Ray		£250.00
01/09/2023	N Straiton		£250.00
01/09/2023	N Hastings		£250.00
04/09/2023	S Gibbons		£250.00
05/09/2023	Commission	-£0.70	
05/09/2023	Service Charge	-£7.00	
29/09/2023	Pyne Gardens	-£60.00	
02/10/2023	P Schetzel		£250.00
05/10/2023	Commission	-£0.35	
05/10/2023	Service Charge	-£7.00	
25/10/2023	EDF	-£56.70	
01/11/2023	Pyne Gardens	-£60.00	
03/11/2023	Commission	-£0.35	
03/11/2023	Service Charge	-£7.00	
23/11/2023	Pyne Gardens	-£60.00	
01/12/2023	N Straiton		£250.00

01/12/2023	N Hastings		£250.00
01/12/2023	M Ray		£250.00
04/12/2023	S Gibbons		£250.00
04/12/2023	Commission	-£0.70	
04/12/2023	Service Charge	-£7.00	
29/12/2023	P Schetzel		£250.00
05/01/2024	Commission	-£0.35	
05/01/2024	Service Charge	-£7.00	
15/01/2024	EDF	-£59.54	
27/01/2024	P Schetzel		£250.00
	<b>Sum of Expense</b>	<b>-£2,650.22</b>	
	<b>Sum of Income</b>		<b>£4,750.00</b>

<b>27/01/2024</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£6,579.21</b>
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**BRIGHTON EXPLORERS CLUB**

England & Wales - Charity number 1156361

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# Accounts

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Chair

Hello and good evening, explorers! It's my pleasure to welcome you to this year's Annual General Meeting. One year on from the return from lock-down and I am pleased to say that BEC has continued to grow and evolve. I've been blessed to have seen a year with such a committed, supportive and hard-working committee along with section leaders, deputies and members who have all worked so hard to make it a truly memorable year. So, to start, big thank you to everyone that helps out, be it on a regular basis or just when you can, it all adds up to making BEC the great club we all enjoy being a part of.

Over the past year various sections organised successful trips to places like North Wales, South Wales, Devon, Cornwall, Dartmoor, France, Portugal and even further afield! The diary has been full of local mountain biking, indoor & outdoor climbing, water-sports, walking, running and social events at the club.

The (still quite new) website continues to operate well and a massive thanks to Chetan who continues to add features and patiently work through each new teething issue as they crop up. Thanks also to those on the committee who have helped (and continue to help) get the surprisingly large and disorganised BEC archive sorted through so we can make relevant parts available on the website.

BEC's relationship with the Sailing Club continues to strengthen with many members regularly socialising together & joint parties happening over the year with iSwim and beach tennis also getting involved. The Sailing Club have recently said goodbye to the Surf Lifesavers who have moved to a new home at the Sea Lanes and while it is sad to see them go this does mean that all clubs can now freely use the facilities on a Saturday and opens up the possibility of regular Saturday events at the club which I'm sure we will all take advantage of over the year.

The clubhouse has always played a big role in BEC and is often where trip ideas are conceived and realised. Many members, often including myself can be found here on a Wednesday evening throughout the year planning trips, greeting new members and generally socialising.

New Members meetings have proven consistently popular throughout the year, even in the colder months. Thanks to Val and Leah for running them so well and to all the members that socialise with the prospective members afterwards. It all helps to make them a friendly and welcoming introduction to the club.

Our charitable aims are to encourage people of all ages and young people in particular to participate in outdoor activities. BEC continues to meet these aims and we have made progress raising our visibility to a younger demographic.

Paddle-sports continue to be very popular and with the arch refreshed ahead of the start of the season we are in a great position to continue to grow this very popular arm of the club. This year saw 45 people signing up for Kayak induction and 43 for SUP induction raising £450 and £430 respectively. Thanks to all the leads, deputies and experienced club members who work together to make BEC water-sports happen and special mentions for Pat, Colin & Stef who have worked particularly hard in their sections running inductions. Many club members have come forward to assist in running the ever-expanding SUP section and with their help we can look forward to a busy year of BEC SUP. Kayaking trips were again popular and we have begun to build collaborative relations with other kayaking clubs to expand our range of paddlesport opportunities including a recent sea-kayaking trial at the Martlet Kayak Club. Swimming pool based training sessions helped the section stay busy through the winter and saw many improve their kayak skills and learn to roll.

This year we hope to be able to grow this opportunity and extend it to include SUP section too. Stef continues to be our representative and liaison to British Canoeing and has put great effort into organising and sometimes even running training courses for our water sections so thank you Stef!

Surf Section has seen a busy year with many trips including Cornwall, South Wales, Devon, the Bristol indoor wave and even Ericera in Portugal! Tim and Cat continue to do a great job making the trips happen and already have many in the works for this season. The Portugal trip also deserves a second mention as this was the highlight of several people's year and a big thanks to Judy for organising. BEC members also did a great job supporting the Surfers Against Sewage paddle-out protest last weekend with some members acting as martial's and even getting the club mentioned in news reports about the event. Thanks go to everyone who took part and Katie Wootton especially for her work organising the volunteers.

Climbing had an excellent season for top-roped sandstone climbing last summer, thanks to the bone-dry weather, and ran club sessions on most Friday evenings from June to August using the BEC sandstone kits. Many members were very helpful in sharing experience and lifts, including Colin Sandry, Colin Glenny, Susie Browning, Sue Haseltine and Alasdair McGregor.

We had enjoyable lead-climbing weekend trips to Gilwern in Wales and Portland in Dorset. Alasdair McGregor and Chetan Padia organised a long weekend of bouldering in Fontainebleau which proved very popular and may be repeated this year. There was also some climbing on the BEC multi-activity trip to the Gower peninsula last July. Over the February half-term week Alan Gornall and Colin Sandry even organised a trip to Costa Blanca in Spain. I couldn't make it but it sounded like a lot of fun.

Throughout the winter there was an active group of BEC members climbing at High Sports on a Monday evening. These evenings have proved an effective forum for BEC climbers to keep in touch and welcome new members to the club.

Turning to the new financial year, BEC's first sandstone session of 2023 ran last Friday, thanks to Susie Browning for taking the lead on organisation. We hope to continue them as long as the weather and light permit, likely until mid August. This year, despite the wet spring, we have also already had a lead-climbing weekend in Portland, and a day trip to the easier sport-climbing crags near Swanage.

There will be more to follow, we have a "BEC climbing organisers" WhatsApp group to throw trip ideas around in and will try to keep the trips coming. Thanks to Stephen Wilmot for his report.

Caving has had a slow restart after shaking off the shackles of lockdown and has had a relatively quiet year but they have recently run one beginner friendly trip, have another planned for June and hope to run more in the near future. Thanks to Antonio and Matt for their continued support.

Cycling has continued to run several sessions each week over the year. Thanks go to Susie Llewelyn, Rachel & Maisie Pettiger, Martin Packer, Judy Eaton and to everyone else who leads these regular local rides. I'm sure there is always scope for more people to lead rides so please volunteer if you can.

Running section has enjoyed its first year and was particularly active during the summer with Leah and Wairimu organising seafront and trail runs from 5km to 15km.

Walking has continued to organise regular walks locally and some further afield including a very well received trip to Madeira that also featured in this year's Explorers Tales! Thank you Bea and Elizabeth for all your hard work and I'm sure that there is always scope for more people to lead walks so please volunteer if you can.

Tennis and Badminton took place this year as usual. Thanks to Henna and David for organising and I would like to offer particular thanks to David who is stepping down as tennis section leader this year for a great job facilitating the role. If anyone could step up to lead tennis section this year that would be greatly appreciated!

Social – Angus and Felix have shared the position of Social Secretary this past year and have worked brilliantly together delivering some memorable and well attended parties. More will be coming soon with the Summer Party on the 12<sup>th</sup> August and Christmas party on the 16<sup>th</sup> December so get those dates in your diary. BEC is now responsible for running the bar on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month and helpers are always greatly appreciated so please reach out to Angus or Felix to get bar trained and come and get involved. Also any ideas for more parties/events are appreciated so please pitch those at them too.

Matt, Stephen and Wairimu are stepping down from their positions on the committee this year from the positions of Vice-Chair, Treasurer and PR Secretary respectively. Stephen and Matt have both played pivotal roles over their 3 years on the committee and their commitment and dedication will be fondly remembered as they move on to new roles within the club and a well deserved rest from committee business. I hope you both enjoy all the extra free time and I hope I can still rely on you for the odd piece of advice. Wairimu has been fantastic as PR secretary and has successfully juggled starting up a running section alongside her committee duties. You have all been a pleasure to work alongside and I'd like to thank you on behalf of myself, the committee and the club.

Committee Monitor Damian has been a great help in his role as monitor and I am very grateful to him for agreeing to be nominated for a further year so that we can continue to rely on his advice and experience. He also ran a very successful series of Explorers Tales over the winter and if you have any tales of adventure you would like to share it's never too soon to get them lined up so please contact Damien if you're interested.

I would also like to thank Sumitra for her work updating and streamlining BEC spreadsheets and other online procedures.

Arch management has been a particularly busy area this year with the implementation of the planned arch refurbishment. This has taken a great deal of time and effort over the year from meeting with suppliers and external contractors over the summer, planning and carrying out their foundational works around activities through the autumn and into the herculean effort by BEC members in finally realising the new arch design. A process that has dominated the winter months to make sure it was complete in time for the start of the water season. To celebrate the completion of these works I'd like to invite everyone to join me in thanking all those involved in making this project happen. Particular credits go to Alex Robins for his excellent design, everyone who volunteered within the build crew, and an honourable mention for Dan Richards for putting the work in every session over the months of work and, of course, the one, the only, Brian Orsola! He organised, project managed, haggled, motivated, put more physical work in than any one else, adapted to the many speedbumps that came up, led by example and remained positive and upbeat throughout! Truly inspiring and we are all indebted to your efforts so thank you Brian! We now intend to have a few months using it in its current configuration while collecting feedback from members and water leaders. We will then meet with all the relevant section leaders to discuss any potential tweaks or alterations.

Now, I would like to comment briefly on the matter of how we communicate with each other within the club. Communication in BEC can be tricky with so many messages flying around by email, Whatsapp and Signal. It hasn't escaped my attention as Chair that there have been some negative

experiences related to club communications. Please be mindful of how your messages may affect others and do reach out if you're having a tough time. The committee will do our best to support you where we can, and if necessary, enforce the code of conduct which is designed to protect our members. There is never an acceptable reason for treating any club member in a manner not befitting the code of conduct. I am sure that you all, like I do, aspire to a club that looks for constructive, collaborative solutions to any hurdles we may encounter.

Please remember that those on the Committee, the Section Leaders & Deputies, the trip organisers and everyone else who contributes to BEC give of their time freely and we all do our best to keep BEC running smoothly despite other commitments in our lives. BEC is a members club and as such each and every member should try to help in some way in the running of this fabulous club. This could be something as simple as helping behind the bar, helping tidy the arch, organising a BBQ on a Wednesday, helping to run a trip alongside someone else etc.

As I'm sure many of you know this has been my first year as Chair. Much of it has been enjoyable and those times it has been difficult I am grateful to have such a supportive & constructive group of people around me to help put in the time and mental energy to resolve those hiccups and keep BEC looking forward with positivity. I look forward to another year working with members old and new to keep BEC inclusive, exciting and fun.

# BEC FINANCIAL REPORT 2022/23

*Stephen Wilmot, treasurer*

*Independent examiners: Damian Tow and Antonio Emmanouilidis*

## Overview

At the beginning of the financial year the club had unusual financial surpluses. The pandemic reminded people of the benefits of outdoor pursuits, leading to strong subscriptions in 2021/22, but during the initial period of uncertainty former chair Denise Robins applied to various grants that gradually came through. So we started 2022/23 with total funds of £56,374, a historically high amount for the club.

Following much discussion within the committee and at the Exceptional General Meeting a year ago, we deployed these surpluses during 2022/23 in two ways.

First, in October we put £20,000 in an account with Rathbones, an investment manager. The specific fund is called the Rathbone Active Income and Growth Fund and consists of a variety of assets (stocks, bonds, commercial property, etc). We chose it because of the medium risk profile, and because Rathbones was the only fund provider we could find that offered a dual-mandate investment account for the relatively small sum of £20,000. By the end of March the fund had grown modestly to £20,524.

Second, we invested just under £14,000 in our storage arch at 108 Kings Road Arches, which we rent on a long-term basis from Brighton & Hove council. It might sound like a lot to spend on a rented property, but the kayaking section in particular accounts for a large share of club activity and a better home for our equipment was sorely needed. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of volunteer members led by Brian Orsola, the refurbishment was much less expensive than it would have been on a commercial basis. The breakdown of costs can be found later in this report.

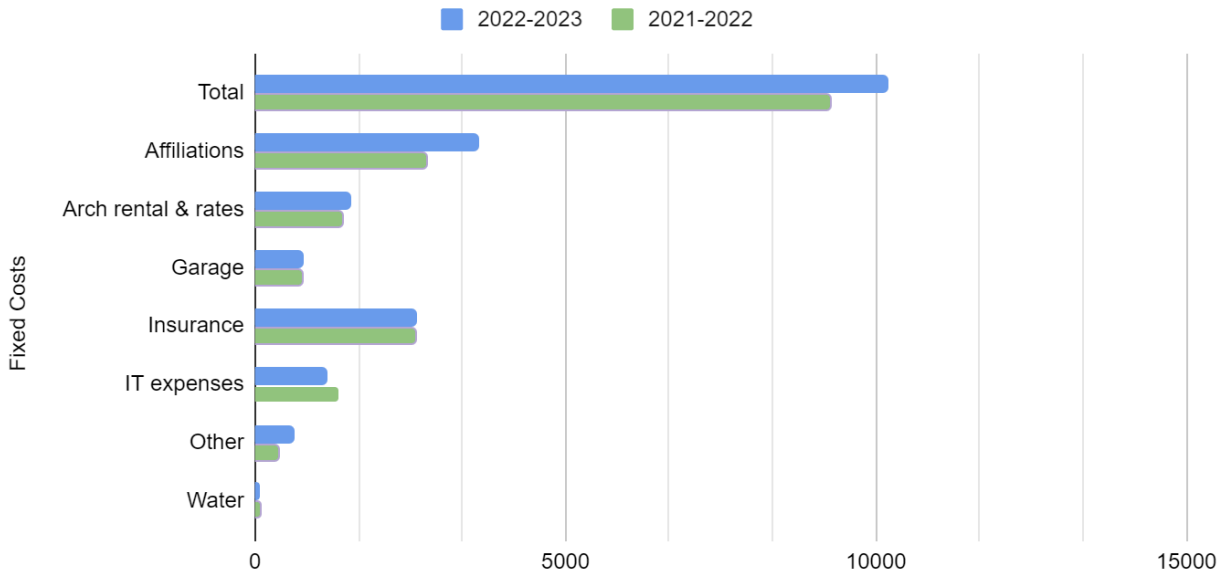
Stripping out the arch project, it was a normal year financially, with club operating income (everything except pass-through income) of £14,991 covering fixed and variable costs of £14,632.

	£	2022-2023	2021-2022
		<b>Money out</b>	
<b>Fixed costs</b>		£ 10,184	£ 9,261
Arch rental & rates	£ 1,509		£ 1,400
Insurance	£ 2,581		£ 2,584
IT expenses	£ 1,123		£ 1,330
Garage	£ 750		£ 750
Water	£ 51		£ 78
Affiliations	£ 3,571		£ 2,752
Other	£ 599		£ 368
<b>Variable costs</b>		£ 4,448	£ 5,293
Watersports gear	£ 1,536		£ 4,037
BEC-paid training	£ 2,480		£ 930
Marketing	£ 217		£ -
Climbing gear	£ 215		£ 326
<b>Arch reburishment</b>		£ 13,867	£ -
<b>Pass-through costs</b>		£ 13,832	£ 4,644
<b>Refunds</b>		£ 2,379	£ 575
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£ 44,710</b>	<b>£ 19,773</b>
		<b>Money in</b>	
<b>Operating income</b>		£ 14,991	£ 20,637
Membership income	£ 13,987		£ 14,831
Watersports inductions	£ 800		£ 519
Other income	£ 204		£ 80
Grant income	£ -		£ 5,208
<b>Pass-through income</b>		£ 15,299	£ 6,990
<b>Total</b>		£ 30,290	£ 27,627
<b>Discrepancy</b>		£ (317)	£ (5)
<b>TOTAL via bank balance</b>		<b>£ 29,973</b>	<b>£ 27,623</b>

## Fixed costs

In fixed costs, the biggest change versus the previous year appears to be the affiliation fees we pay. In fact, the change is only to do with timing. We paid for two years worth of affiliation fees to British Canoeing in 2022/23 due to a delay in the invoice for the previous year. Most fixed costs were in line with last year. "Other" expenses include supplies for the BEC maintenance day in April 2022 and the cost of the new club projector.

## Fixed costs

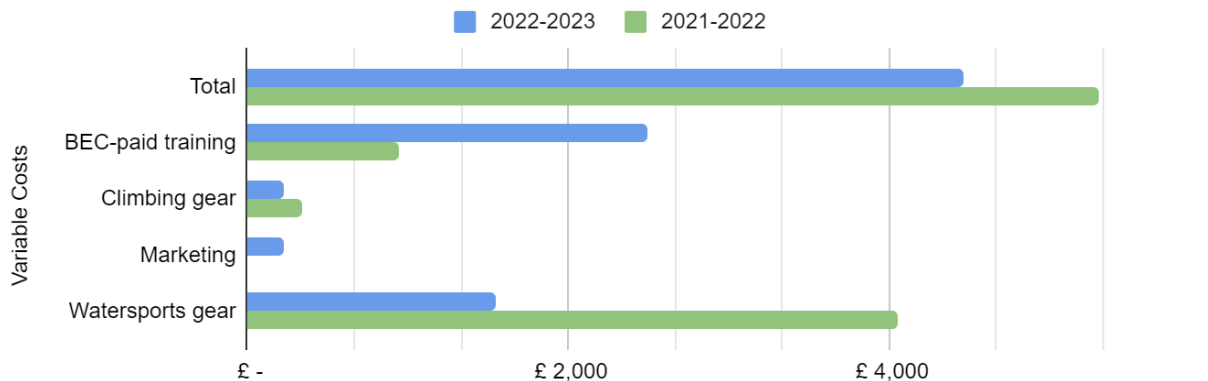


## Variable costs

In variable costs, the big changes were:

- a reduction in watersports equipment purchases. In 2021/22 we were renewing our equipment following the award of a grant specifically for watersports.
- an increase in BEC-funded training. The total for 2022/23 given below is £2,480, including £2,400 for subsidized First Aid training, excluding the contributions made by members, and £80 for caving. For the First Aid training, members who help organise activities paid 25% of the cost and other members contributed 50%. Overall, members contributed £930, bringing the net cost to the club down to £1,470.

## Variable Costs

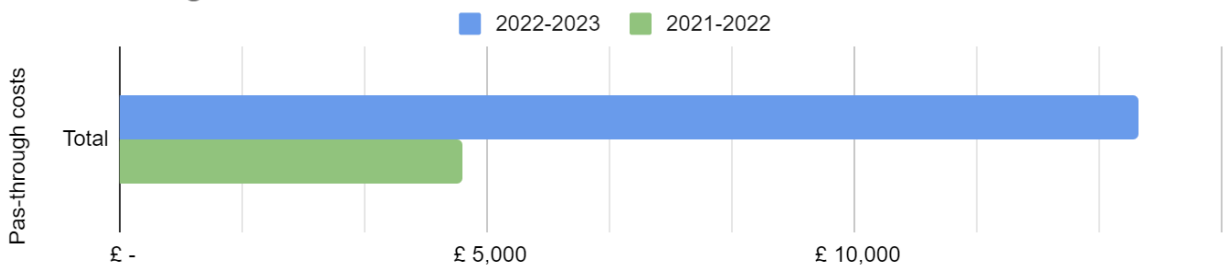


## Pass-through income and costs

Pass-through income and costs, which are excluded from the operating numbers, are the revenues taken via the website from members to cover the cost of trips or parties. Income of £15,299 covered £13,832 of costs (including refunds). The imbalances between these two are usually due to timing issues—we receive income for trips before we pay for the accommodation, for example—but in some cases also include gains and losses on trips. Ideally, members should organise trips so they cover their costs, but it doesn't always work out.

Pass-through flows were much higher than the previous year, when the dampening effect of the pandemic on activities lingered.

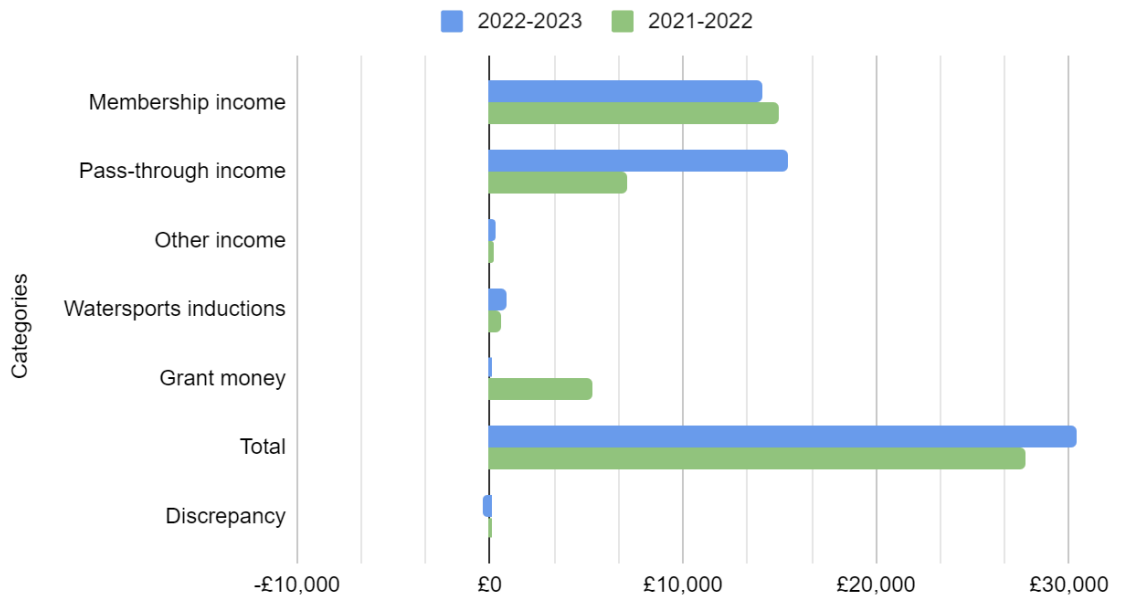
### Pass-through costs



## Revenue

In terms of revenues, membership income last year was £13,987, down slightly from £14,831 in 2021/22, when we had an unusual increase in membership. Full memberships accounted for 81% of total membership revenues. We didn't get any more grant income as during the pandemic years, but we did earn more income from watersports inductions.

## Revenue



## Arch Project

A breakdown of spending on the arch is as follows. Some further costs were incurred after the end of the financial year, but those below account for the vast majority of the likely eventual total. They are all for the refurbishment project with the exception of the electrician, whose work was mainly to separate the arch electrics from those of the Brighton Sailing Club. The project would have been much more expensive if Brian and his team hadn't given their valuable time and expertise to the club to assemble the materials listed below. We are extremely grateful for their help, without which none of this could ever have happened.

Tanking	£ 4,800
Dehumidifier	£ 3,148
Electrics	£ 2,268
Racking	£ 1,539
Metal fixings	£ 679
Wood	£ 725
Paint for doors	£ 138
Plumbing	£ 55
Screws, bolts, foam, adhesives, other	£ 514
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 13,867</b>

## Notes

Other things of note financially that happened in the last fiscal year:

- In April we moved our current account from Barclays to Metrobank. This was because Barclays didn't allow us to change the signatories on the account.
- In October we moved our website payment provider from PayPal to Stripe, a lower-cost platform.
- We negotiated a new 10-year lease with Brighton & Hove Council, due to start in September 2023. The annual cost of the new lease is £1,750 for the first five years, up from £1,400 now. The increase is in line with inflation but will add to our fixed costs in future years.

## Membership Fees

Members will be aware of the challenge posed by inflation over the past year. BEC experienced this mainly in the arch project, where costs of materials were higher than initially anticipated. Despite not having raised membership fees last year, in 2022/23 we covered our operating costs with our operating income, the vast majority of which comes from fees. However, this will become harder in the current financial year. In addition to the increase in rent discussed above, the new arch dehumidifier will add to our electricity costs. We therefore feel it is prudent to raise fees by 10% for all except low-income and unwaged members. This will take effect in June.

## Discrepancy

We had a £317 negative discrepancy between the revenue data sourced from the website and the revenue that arrived in the bank account. This is always a problem with BEC accounting. Last year we managed to get the discrepancy down to under £5 but this year was much more complex given the changes in bank account and payment platforms and the much higher volume of payments generally. There was a further £100 positive discrepancy this year between the bank data and the amount in the bank account. So in total we have £217 less in the bank than we could explain through analysis of the data (about 0.5% of "money out" last year).

## Closing Remarks

I'd like to express my thanks to Wairimu Njuguna, our retiring PR secretary, who has been the second signatory on the Metrobank account for the past year. We wouldn't have been able to process payments without her.

I too am moving on after three years as treasurer. We reached out to all members seeking potential nominees for the role as treasurer and Sumitra Sri Bhashyam indicated her enthusiasm. I provided an overview of the various processes to her as I was compiling these accounts and am confident she possesses not only the personal traits but technical prowess to

excel in this position. I therefore encourage the wider membership to approve and endorse her nomination in the role as treasurer.

## Statement of assets

	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>
<b>Financial assets at start of financial year</b>		
Building society account (reserves)	£ 14,536	£ 14,499
Current account	£ 41,839	£ 33,989
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 56,375</b>	<b>£ 48,488</b>
<b>Money In</b>		
Club operating income	£ 14,991	£ 20,637
Building society interest	£ 15	£ 37
Investment returns	£ -	£ -
Pass-through income	£ 15,299	£ 6,990
<b>Money out</b>		
Club operating costs	£ 14,632	£ 14,554
Arch refurbishment	£ 13,867	£ -
Pass-through costs and refunds	£ 16,211	£ 5,218
Transfer from current account to building society	£ 450	£ -
Transfer from current account to investment account	£ 20,000	£ -
<b>Financial assets at end of financial year</b>		
Building society account (Manchester)	£ 15,001	£ 14,536
Current account (Metrobank / Barclays)	£ 6,752	£ 41,839
Investment account (Rathbones)	£ 20,000	£ -
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 41,753</b>	<b>£ 56,375</b>
Current account balance as implied by accounts	£ 6,969	£ 41,844
Discrepancy	£ (217)	£ (5)

**BRIGHTON EXPLORERS CLUB**

England & Wales - Charity number 1156361

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# Accounts

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## Report

Another difficult year with the pandemic still in full swing. However, I am pleased to say that BEC has gone from strength to strength in so many ways. Towards the end of the year the Committee did start meeting at the Sailing Club, in person, which was a relief for most of us who were generally very tired of zoom meetings.

I'd say it's been another year of an amazing, hardworking and supportive committee along with section leaders/deputies and many BEC members who have worked hard to make it a great year. Thank you to all those that help on a regular basis. Despite the pandemic we did several weekend trips to places like North Wales, South Wales, Devon, Gower, Dartmoor and even Tenerife! The diary has been full of local mountain biking, indoor climbing, watersports, walking and social events at the club. We now have a new running section so BEC continues to grow and thrive!

We launched a new website which is generally going really well, massive thanks to Chetan who has worked tirelessly on this. There have been a few teething problems, as expected, and there is also some admin to sort out in the coming months, which involves documents stored on dropbox being sorted and made available on the new website.

BECs relationship with the Sailing Club has grown considerably. They started a programme of "Learn to Sail" for new members which has made their club a lot busier in terms of members sailing and also socialising at the clubhouse. There has been a crossover in membership leading to several sailing club members joining BEC and vice versa.

There are plans for a joint party/bbq in the summer. The clubhouse is very important to the success of BEC, I have noted how the water sports is generally what attracts members to BEC initially and it is, indeed, evenings at the clubhouse where ideas for trips etc are often hatched. I personally spend many an evening talking to members who have joined and are nervous about actually joining in with activities or need more information about how BEC actually functions. The New Members meetings are great but often people have questions after the session. Peter has put a booklet together to help with this.

Our charitable aims are to encourage people of all ages, and young people in particular to participate in outdoor activities. BEC continues to meet these aims.

**Watersports** continue to be very popular. 38 did kayak inductions which raised £380 and 16 were assessed for competence. 22 did sup inductions which raised £220 and 20 were assessed for competence. We purchased another kayak, swapped one that wasn't suitable for beginners for one that was, 10 buoyancy aids and 9 spray decks. 18 people did Foundation Safety and Rescue training and Thom and Pat did leadership training for kayak. Thanks to all the leaders and deputies but extra thanks to Pat, Colin, Thom, Stef and Sue who have worked particularly hard in their sections running inductions. Stef also continued to be our representative for British Canoeing and has continued applying and obtaining some bursaries towards training - thanks Stef.

**Climbing** After the very sad death of Graham, our lovely climbing section leader, Stephen oversaw this role for the remainder of the year. Regular climbing at High

Sports has taken place but as Boulder Brighton didn't want to attract groups, individuals used the whatsapp group to arrange slots together. The section has finally started moving outdoors with the hope of regular trips to local sandstone for top roping and sport climbing in Dorset in the coming months. We have three people offering to be deputies but it would be great if someone can please step into the leadership role tonight. Thanks to Stephen for helping with this section despite his work as Treasurer.

**Caving** One trip took place last December and we are hoping that this section takes off again in the coming months now that huts can be booked and the purchase of new equipment has been approved. Thanks to Antonio and Matt.

**Cycling** has continued to run several MTB sessions each week over the year. Thanks to Susie, Lisa, Liz and Judy as section leaders but also to all who lead these regular local rides. I'm sure there is always scope for more people to lead rides so please volunteer if you can.

**Walking** has continued to run local walks for the year and even did a trip to Tenerife! Elizabeth is standing down as section leader this year but is nominated as Deputy. Thanks to Elizabeth for all her hard work over several years. I'm sure that there is always scope for more people to lead walks so please volunteer if you can.

**Tennis and Badminton** took place this year as usual. Thanks to Henna and David for organising.

**Arch management** Thanks to both Guy and Brian but in particular to Brian for taking plans forward to improve the arch. It's all very exciting indeed!

**Social** Rachel has been social secretary for four years but has decided to step down this year. Thanks to Rachel for all her hard work over these four years keeping us all entertained with parties and social events.

**Membership Sec** Peter is stepping down, after two years, as Membership secretary. Thanks so much for the work you have done, you have been an excellent Membership secretary and really added a lot to the role.

**Vice Chair** Tatti is also stepping down as Vice Chair and has in particular done some excellent work on safety guidelines and risk assessments. So thanks go to Tatti for two years as Vice Chair.

**Monitor** Damian has been of enormous help in his role as monitor and I am very grateful to him for agreeing to be nominated for a further year so that I can have a much needed break.

I also need to thank Adam for quietly continuing in the role of assisting with the accounts, this was due to bank account difficulties that would take too long to explain here. Finally these are now sorted and Adam is free from BEC accounts at last!

Please remember that those on the Committee, the Section Leaders/Deputies, the trip organisers etc give of their time freely. We all do our best to keep BEC running smoothly despite other commitments in our lives. BEC is a members club and as such each and every member should help in some way in the running of this fabulous club. This could be something as simple as helping behind the bar,

helping tidy the arch, organising a BBQ on a Wednesday, helping to run a trip alongside someone else etc.

As all of you know I'm stepping down as Chair. Some of it has been enjoyable but sadly the pandemic overshadowed a lot and made it very hard work at times. I have achieved several of the things that I set out to try to help the club towards like obtaining grants, getting a new website, increasing membership so that we balance spending against income, working on teaming up with the sailing club more, assisting with plans to improve the arch later this year and generally trying to keep BEC the fun, inclusive, exciting club it has been for me over the years. I have also worked to enlist younger members onto the Committee who are active across several sections within the Club, I hope you have a fun and exciting time running the club in the coming year.

Oh and I forgot I also wanted to make sure I had a team that won the Exploration Challenge which I must say we did in style last summer.

**Denise Robins**

**Chair for financial year 2021-2022**

## **Accounts for the financial year 2021 / 2022**

### **Statement of assets**

	£
<b>Financial assets as of 31/03/2021</b>	
Manchester Building Society	14,499
Barclays Current Account	33,989
<b>Money In</b>	
Net operating revenues	20,633
Pass-through revenues	6,990
Building society interest	37
<b>Money Out</b>	
Net operating costs	15,129
Pass-through costs	4,644
<b>Financial assets as of 31/03/2022</b>	
Manchester Building Society	14,535
Barclays Current Account	41,839

### **Statement of income**

	£
<b>Net revenues</b>	<b>20,633</b>
Membership income	14,831
Grant money	5,208
Watersports inductions	519
Sale of gear	80
PayPal discrepancy	-5

<b>Fixed costs</b>	<b>9,261</b>
Affiliations	2,752
Insurance	2,584
Arch rental	1,400
IT expenses	1,330
Garage	750
Water	78
Other	368
<b>Gear / training</b>	<b>5,293</b>
Watersports gear	4,037
Climbing gear	326
Training	930
<b>PayPal refunds</b>	<b>575</b>
<b>Total costs</b>	<b>15,129</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>5,504</b>

**BRIGHTON EXPLORERS CLUB**

England & Wales - Charity number 1156361

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# Accounts

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## **Trustee Report 2020-2022 - Brighton Explorers Club**

- BEC policies and objectives

The principal objects of the charity is to facilitate the personal development and growth of young people by education and instruction through participation in a wide variety of activities with special reference to the outdoors and physical endeavour as well as the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation by the provision of facilities for participation in sports such as cycling, canoeing, walking, caving, climbing, stand up paddleboarding, windsurfing and badminton, tennis but without limitation.

- Activities for achieving objectives

The charity achieves its objectives by organising trips to help facilitate the personal development and growth of young people. This covers education and instruction through participation in a wide variety of activities with special reference to the outdoors and physical endeavour.

- Club activity within the reporting period

- 188 events created on the website advertising trips and activities - some were cancelled this year due to the pandemic and subsequent restrictions.
- The charity subsidised a number of courses for members in line with its objectives: first aid courses for activity leaders and members, Sea safety courses for activity leaders and members.
- The following events for beginners were set up: beginners kayaking, and beginners stand up paddle boarding.
- An affiliation with the BCU and BCA was upheld
- A variety of social activities were organised to help members to get to know each other and reduce social entry barriers for other activities (some on zoom due to pandemic restrictions)
- Equipment was purchased to better and more safely facilitate the outdoor activities
- Replacement of necessary safety critical kayaking equipment.

- Main activities undertaken to further the charity's purposes for the public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Denise Robins  
Chair, BEC

January 2022

# **Brighton Explorers Club: Treasurer's Report**

**For the financial year 1/4/2020 to 31/3/2021**

*Prepared by Stephen Wilmot, BEC Treasurer, with help from Adam Eyre-Walker, former BEC Treasurer*

*Independent examination by Antonio Emmanouilidis*

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was an extremely unusual year for Brighton Explorers Club, as it was for leisure organisations across the world. The crisis weighed slightly on the club's finances, but this was massively offset by financial support from a number of grants applied to at the initiative of our chair, Denise Robins. The accounts therefore finished the period in a healthier position than they have been for some years, with total balances of £48,488.

This puts us in a strong position to make overdue investments in the club during the 2021-2022 financial year. Projects to renew the website and related IT infrastructure, buy new equipment and fund training for members who can contribute to the club in future are the top priorities.

Membership income fell to £11,361, from £11,898 last year (-4.5%). A total of 290 members joined during the financial year, 59% of them paying the full £51.50 (see Note 1 to the financial statement). As of 11 April there were 271 ongoing members. Despite valiant efforts by many sections to revive local trips when the "rule of six" allowed last summer, activity was inevitably lower than in a typical year. As activity revives it is to be hoped membership will recover.

The club's fixed costs remained high. Those we cannot easily do without—rental of the arch and garage, insurance, sailing club membership and British Canoeing affiliation, some IT and accounting costs—totalled £8,280. We need membership income to continue covering these costs at the very least. See Note 3.

Grant income totalled £26,748. A breakdown can be found in Note 2. None of the grants came with strings attached with the exception of £5,000 from Chalk Cliff, which needs to be spent on kayaking and stand-up paddle-boarding equipment and training.

In light of the risks to our operations highlighted by the pandemic and the Club's ample financial resources, the committee decided to increase the reserve fund to £20,000.

A total of £1,282 was spent on equipment during the financial year, including £500 on kayaks. Selling kayaks also raised £334. See Note 4 for further details on equipment spending and income.

Trip spending and income was much lower than in a typical year because there were so few trips outside of the Brighton area. As usual, the amounts received and spent did not match due to timing issues. The club typically takes payments for trips in advance of their taking place.

The accounts balanced with the exception of £34, ie., the current-account balance was £34 higher at year-end than could be explained. The interplay of our current account with PayPal invariably creates anomalies that make the accounting difficult and lead to such imbalances.

## Statement of finances for the year 2020-21

All amounts are in pounds sterling

### Assets as of 31/3/2020

Current account		5,823
Building society		14,391
<b>Total</b>		<b>20,214</b>

### Income

Memberships	Note 1	11,361
Grants and rebates	Note 2	26,748
Trips & training		3,777
Watersports inductions		540
Sale of equipment		334
Miscellaneous		546
<b>Total</b>		<b>43,306</b>

### Expenditure

Overheads & admin	Note 3	10,610
Trips & training		3,282
Equipment purchases	Note 4	1,282
<b>Total</b>		<b>15,174</b>

### Assets as of 31/3/2021

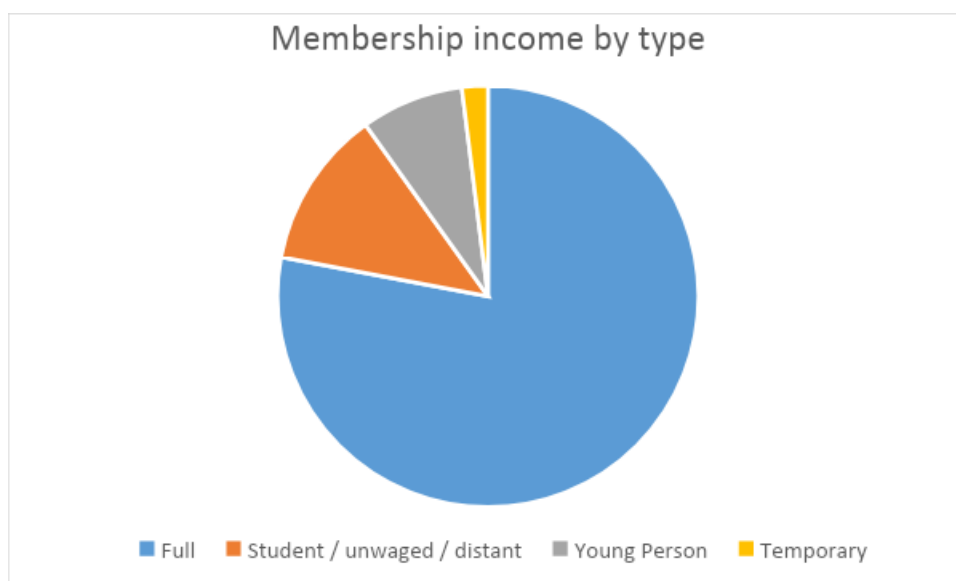
Current account		33,989
Building society		14,499
<b>Total</b>		<b>48,488</b>

## Notes to the statement of finances for the year 2020-21

### Note 1

Membership income can be broken down as follows:

<b>Memberships</b>	<b>11,361</b>
Full	8,858
Student / unwaged / distant	1,380
Young Person	896
Temporary	227



Membership numbers as of 17th May were as follows:

<b>Membership numbers</b>	<b>299</b>
Full	185
Student / unwaged / distant	76
Young Person	38

## Note 2

Grant income can be broken down as follows:

<b>Grants and rebates</b>	<b>26,748</b>
B&H City Council	17,718
Chalk Cliff	5,000
Sports England	4,030

## Note 3

Overheads can be broken down as follows:

Rent	2,358
Insurance	2,498
Social	51
Accounting (QuickFile)	72
Grant applications	1,000
Advertising (Meetup)	341
Bank charges	587
Memberships (BSC, BCU)	3,005
Covid costs	180
Utilities	72
Donations	100
Website (MailChimp)	348

## Note 4

The year's equipment spending was as follows:

Kayaking	500
SUP	96
Surf	400
Climbing	178
Other	108

The club also received £334 from the sale of kayaking equipment.

# Brighton Explorers Club: Treasurer's Report

For the financial year 1/4/2020 to 31/3/2021

*Prepared by Stephen Wilmot, BEC Treasurer, with help from Adam Eyre-Walker, former BEC Treasurer*

*Independent examination by Antonio Emmanouilidis*

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was an extremely unusual year for Brighton Explorers Club, as it was for leisure organisations across the world. The crisis weighed slightly on the club's finances, but this was massively offset by financial support from a number of grants applied to at the initiative of our chair, Denise Robins. The accounts therefore finished the period in a healthier position than they have been for some years, with total balances of £48,488.

This puts us in a strong position to make overdue investments in the club during the 2021-2022 financial year. Projects to renew the website and related IT infrastructure, buy new equipment and fund training for members who can contribute to the club in future are the top priorities.

Membership income fell to £11,361, from £11,898 last year (-4.5%). A total of 290 members joined during the financial year, 59% of them paying the full £51.50 (see Note 1 to the financial statement). As of 11 April there were 271 ongoing members. Despite valiant efforts by many sections to revive local trips when the "rule of six" allowed last summer, activity was inevitably lower than in a typical year. As activity revives it is to be hoped membership will recover.

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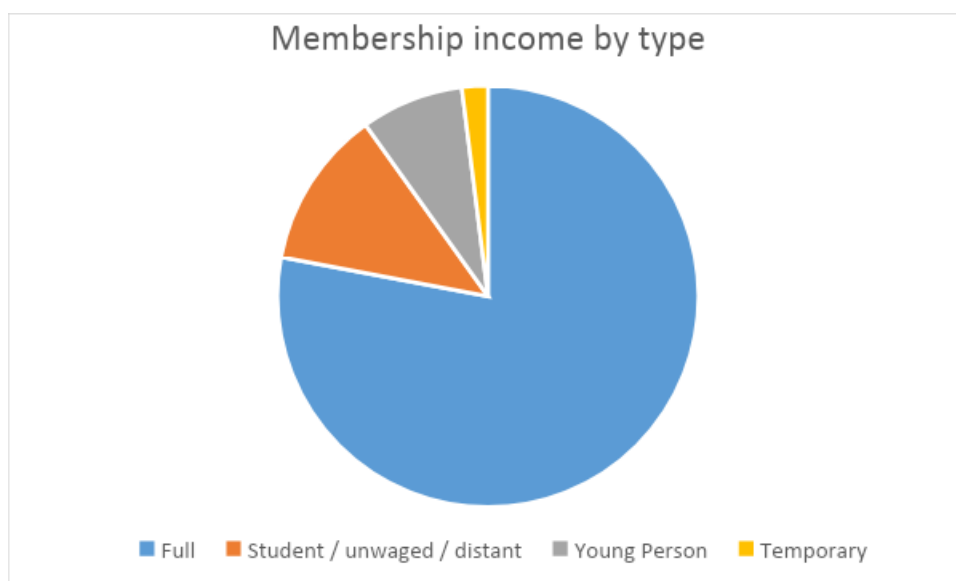
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