

DEVIZES CANOE CLUB

England & Wales - Charity number 1156402

Details

Other names DCC

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Company number [CE001160](#)

Registered 2014-03-27

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

Contact

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Website www.devizescanoclub.co.uk

Activities

Objects: THE PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN HEALTHY RECREATION IN PARTICULAR BY THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR THE SPORT OF CANOEING AND KAYAKING.

Activities: The promotion of community participation in healthy recreation in particular by the provision of facilities for the sport of canoeing and kayaking.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services
- **What:** Amateur Sport, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Wiltshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£46,283	£27,458	-	-
2024-03-31	£20,436	£28,007	-	-
2023-03-31	£23,383	£28,374	-	-
2022-03-31	£41,311	£38,492	-	-
2021-03-31	£27,010	£15,816	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Park		2023-11-15
Christopher Jones		2020-11-26
Hannah Snowsill		2023-11-15
LindyAnne Ehrnroth		2022-11-16
MARK BOUCH		2014-01-02
Nick Poole		2023-11-15
Nick Prichard		2023-11-15
PAUL ANTHONY PAPWORTH-SMITH FCA		2014-01-02
SUE COLBY		2014-01-02
Simon Darling		2023-11-15
Trevor Hunter		2023-11-15

DEVIZES CANOE CLUB

England & Wales - Charity number 1156402

Accounts

TRUSTEES REPORT 2024-25

Formal Report to the Charities Commission

Welcome to the tenth Trustees' report under our constitution as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This report to the Charities Commission was prepared by Mark Bouch, as Chair, on behalf of the Club's Trustees for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

This report will be circulated to members with 2024/25 accounts for approval at the Club's AGM in November 2025.

CIO Trustee Committee

Devizes Canoe Club is a "Charitable Incorporated Organisation". Our Charity number is 1156402. We were registered with the Charities Commission on 27th March 2014. Legal decisions are taken by the CIO trustees, who in 2024/25 were Mark Bouch, Sue Colby, Lindyanne Ehrnrooth, Chris Jones, Nick Prichard, Hannah Snowsill, Andrew Park, Dan Colby, Hannah Snowsill, Trevor Hunter and Simon Darling.

The CIO Trustees have a legal responsibility to the Charities Commission for effective governance and management of the CIO's assets in line with our CIO constitution and Charity Commission guidelines. CIO Trustees have six legal responsibilities, including delivering purpose, managing conflicts of interest, reporting information, safeguarding people, making decisions, managing finances and overseeing club policy. Club property, including the club's estate, is held by the CIO on behalf of the Club itself and not by any individual. Trustees meet annually and as required.

A decision of members at the Club AGM appoints trustees. At the November 2024 AGM, eleven Trustees were appointed/reappointed. No additional members stood for election as Trustees. At the forthcoming one-third of the Trustees must retire (three to four people). We have an opportunity to appoint up to twelve trustees in total, and any club member is welcome to nominate themselves, at least fourteen days before the AGM, as a CIO Trustee.

At this AGM, Trevor Hunter, Andrew Park and Nick Prichard will retire. Andrew Park and Nick Prichard intend to stand for re-election. Trevor Hunter has decided not to stand again. The Trustees and Club Members would like to thank Trevor Hunter for his guidance and support as a highly experienced Trustee over the last two years and warmly support his wish to focus on coaching. No nominations have yet been received for first-time election as Trustees.

Club Management Committee

The CIO Trustees delegate power to a management committee which meets monthly, to coordinate the operational management of the Club. The Management Committee are responsible for ensuring club operations comply with policy and best practice.

The CIO Trustees appoint the key management committee roles: Club Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer and Secretary and invite the management committee to fill other key roles necessary for effective management.

The Chair and Deputy Chair divide their roles with Chair's focus being club strategy, development and governance and the Deputy Chair's focus being club operations.

The committee has invited other members to fill important volunteer roles, including leading paddling groups, managing boat storage, delivering the coaching programme, and providing bankside support during organised sessions. These appointments do not need to attend committee meetings, but are welcome to do so.

All key volunteer appointments are recorded in the members' section on our website.

Our AGM provides the formal opportunity to approve management committee members for 2026/27. Committee membership is open to all Club members, though we will only appoint committee members to fill specific roles required to ensure the efficient management of club business.

Members wishing to stand for election to the management committee or challenge the nominations proposed should submit their names in writing to the Club Secretary at least one week before the AGM.

The Club management committee intends to meet monthly, except in August. Meetings take place face-to-face and virtually. Minutes are taken and are published on the club website. Copies of minutes are available on request to any club member without website access.

The proposed 2026/27 management committee are Sue Colby (Chair and Volunteer Coordinator), Simon Darling (Treasurer), Lindyanne Ehrnrooth (Secretary), Jenny Jones (Welfare and Safeguarding Officer), James Papworth-Smith (H&S), Stuart Colby (Facilities), James Mahoney (Coaching Group Lead), Nigel Chivers (Senior Programme Coordinator and Captain of Boats), and Charlie Mayo (Club Public Relations and Press Officer). We have vacancies for a Junior Programme Coordinator, which could be filled a parent representative from either the racing or adventure group, and for an Events & Entertainments member.

Club Purpose

The Club's purpose is **“The promotion of community participation in healthy recreation in particular by the provision of facilities for the sport of canoeing and kayaking”**. We have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. We provide identifiable benefits in advancing health and sport to the public. Our membership criteria and what we offer are inclusive and open to all members of the public without restriction. We make it clear that if anyone finds it difficult to pay our membership and coaching fees we can help, and we regularly do.

Our priorities for the current three-year period were established in the 2024 to 2027 strategy document. This consisted of an intent:

To become one of the top 10 clubs nationally judged on growing participation, competitive excellence and a varied development and activity programme that includes all age groups

Our strategy comprises seven pillars that establish high-level priorities for the club. Four priorities focus on the club's kayaking and canoeing disciplines:

1. Developing a Passion for Paddlesport – introducing young people and adults to paddlesport, using this as an opportunity to attract members and generate income.
2. Junior Talent Development – Offering junior paddlers the opportunity to progress to performance racing through a structured, coached performance programme to maximise their potential in marathon and sprint racing.

3. Competitive Marathon Racing – Offering all paddlers the opportunity to compete in flatwater racing across all marathon formats.
4. Recreational and Touring – Increasing opportunities for young people and adults to enjoy non-competitive recreational, social and adventure activities.

Three additional priorities focus on the key enablers that support all club activity:

5. Developing Paddle Skills – Delivering the coaching and leadership capability to support the club’s current and future needs.
6. Developing Paddle Fitness – Introducing members to core conditioning to support all members and all disciplines to develop paddle fitness.
7. Quality Club of Choice – Providing facilities and programme to meet or exceed Quality Club standards and maintain a supportive and cohesive club environment.

From this strategic framework, our objectives and annual development plans provide a framework for the management team to implement the strategy.

Club Accreditation

In the period covered by the last report, the Club achieved accreditation under Paddle UK’s Quality Club programme, demonstrating that we met the highest possible standards of governance and safeguarding.

Activity Report

This report summarises our activities and achievements in 2024-25 in pursuit of our paddlesport objectives. By publishing this report on the Charity Commission website, we display the benefit to club members and society.

Sprint Regattas

In 2024/25 the club sent teams to:

British Sprint National Regatta - April

The sprint season started really well for DCC at the April regatta, with two of our juniors, Mollie Ball and Philippe Ehrnrooth, selected to be on the GB Canoe Sprint Junior European Championships Team. Highlights of the British National Sprint Regatta included:

- Max Poole placing first in both the Boys U14 K1 200m and K1 500m.
- Arthur Hunter-Hopkins placed 2nd in the Boys U16 K1 500m and made the finals in both the U16 K1 1000m and U18/U16 K2 1000m. Together with Philippe, he placed 4th by 1/100th of a second in the U18/U16 K2 500m.
- Mollie Ball placed first in the Girls U18/U16 K2 500m. She also placed 3rd in the Girls U18 K1 1000m.
- Philippe Ehrnrooth won the K1 1000m and the K1 500m and 2nd in Boys U18/U16 K2 1000m.
- Regan Toop achieved the equal 2nd fastest time in the Boys U18 K1 200m.
- Alex Sheppy placed second in the Men Senior/U23 K2 200m.

The Ghent Regatta - May

A small team of DCC juniors, joined by paddlers from Worcester CC, attended and raced against paddlers from Belgium, France and Germany. As a team, we won a handful of medals

and made a number of finals. It was a great experience practising a racing routine in an international environment with warm-ups and eating plans.

National Sprint Racing Championships - June

DCC continued to perform really well at the June event. Philippe Ehrnrooth was selected to be on the Great Britain Canoe Sprint Junior World Championships Team. Highlights included:

- Philippe 1st Boys U18 K1 500m, 2nd Boys U18 K1 1000m
- Regan Toop 6th Boys U18 K1 1000m F2, 3rd Boys U18/U16 K2 500m F2
- Arthur 2nd Boys U16 K1 500m F2, 5th Boys U18/U16 K2 500m F2, 6th Boys U16 K1 1000m
- Mollie 1st Girls U18/U16 K2 500m and with Philippe 4th Mixed U18/U16 K2 500m
- Max Poole 2nd Boys U14 K2 500m, 4th Boys U14 K1 500m
- Charlie 6th in the Masters K1 1000m

Open & British National Paracanoe, Senior and Junior Sprint Championships - July

The National Championships were a huge success for DCC sprinters, who won two trophies and lots of medals. Highlights included:

- Max Poole won gold in Boys U14 K1 200m, bronze in Boys U14 K1 500m, silver in Boys U14 K2 1000m, gold in Boys U14 K2 500m, gold in Boys U14 K4 500m.
- Mollie won gold in Girls U18 K2 500m, collected a bronze medal with Philippe in the mixed U18 K2 500m and placed 4th in the Girls U18 K1 1000m
- Alex Sheppy placed 4th in the Men Senior K1 200m
- Arthur Hunter-Hopkins won the silver medal in Boys U16 K4 500m and Boys U16 K1 1000m F1 - 9th, Boys U16 K1 500m F2 - 2nd, Boys U16 K2 500m F - 6th
- Philippe Ehrnrooth won both the Rhodes Trophy for Boys U18 K1 500m and the Barry Murray Trophy for Boys U18 K1 1000m and was in the fastest U17 crew in Boys U18 K2 500m. Philippe was selected for the Great Britain Olympic Hopes Regatta team (Hungary, September 2024).

National Inter-Club Regatta - September

Highlights from the inter-club regatta included first places for Philippe Ehrnrooth in Boys A K1 1000m, Boys A K1 500m and with Arthur Hunter-Hopkins a win in Boys A K2 500m. Other club members competing included Regan Toop, Max Poole, Fred Johnson, Jared Kelly, Cameron O'Hare, Luke Mason, Simeon Kendall, Mary Johnson, Connie O'Hare, Charlie Mayo (senior masters) and Alex Sheppy (senior). Everyone did multiple events and placed well in their finals.

The 2024 Olympic Hopes Regatta in Szeged, Hungary.

Philippe Ehrnrooth represented the club and GB, and won the silver medal in the Under 17 boys K1 500m – GB's first medal at this event in 6 years. He also placed 6th in the K2 1000m A final, with a paddler from Richmond Canoe Club.

Marathon Racing

DCC Hasler Race - May

In May 2024, DCC hosted our round of the SW Hasler Series at Saltford due to issues with the venue at Chippenham. We were 3rd overall with 2 wins and 5 podium places.

SW Region Hasler Series

In 2024/25, we did not set a target for the Hasler Series qualification. Trustees do not believe it is realistic to expect paddlers to travel the length and breadth of the SW Region Hasler to collect Hasler Series points. At the end of the season DCC was placed 7th in the SW region with 73 races compared to the SW Region winners, Bradford on Avon CC, who completed 237 races.

The SW Region poses difficulties for Devizes CC as we are located at the far eastern extreme of the largest Paddle UK region in the UK. The SW Region clubs that qualify for the National Hasler Regatta tend to compete at every event. DCC tends to compete in the five nearest events in the region. There are about ten events in the calendar, fourteen active clubs, and 70% of the in-region races require four or more hours of travelling time, with the associated financial burden on paddlers and parents. DCC continues to lobby MRC for changes in the regional scoring system which in the SW now requires only the best n races to count from the series. This number will vary depending on the number of active clubs and races scheduled.

National Marathon Championships

Eight DCC paddlers went to the National Marathon Championship at Reading. Nick Poole & Pete Jones won the SC2 class.

Waterside Series 2025

The Waterside Series, run by Newbury CC in early 2024, is recognised as the classic build-up to the Devizes to Westminster Race. However, the Waterside Series presents its own challenge, and completing it, which spans around 80 miles across four races, is an achievement. Eighteen DCC paddlers competed in at least one of the four races of the series.

We had enough open canoe paddlers to enter a C1 team for the first time. Two DCC crews completed the whole series.

- Nick Poole won the C1 trophy, having come 2nd in Races A, B, and C and 1st in D.
- Ian Thackray came 3rd in the C1 class.
- Ian Tait & Daniel Tait came 2nd in the Junior/Veteran class.
- Sue Colby also completed the series in C1/C2.

Devizes to Westminster Race 2025

Six crews competed in the Devizes to Westminster Senior Doubles straight through race and three crews in the Stages race. A headwind throughout the race made for challenging paddling conditions. A summary of results confirms that DCC are amongst the most active DW clubs in the UK:

Senior Doubles

- Edd Dobson and Mike Rees-Clark paddled C2 in memory of Edd's father, DCC founding member Kevin Dobson, and came 17th overall in 23hr 09m 45s
- Pete Clarke paddled with Iain Robert (Sutton Bingham & District CC) and came 18th in 23hr 12m 45s
- James Last and Stuart Bell came 24th in 25hr 18m 30s
- Reeve Stevens and Callum King came 25th in 25hr 45m 47s
- Kevin Crabb & Neil Edgar and Tim Long & Toby Thorman retired.

Stages

- Andrew Park came 16th in Senior K1 in 23hr 48m 14
- Ian Tait & Daniel Tait came 3rd in Junior/Veteran in 25hr 01m 39s
- Nic Davey & Ros Gill completed the Endeavour class
- A special mention has to go to Reeve and Callum who changed in to running gear immediately after their straight through finish and then ran a full marathon, 26 miles, back up the Thames Path in order to raise money for the CALM charity!

Overall, our results have been excellent. They demonstrate the hard work and commitment of our paddlers, coaching team, parents and supporters throughout the year.

Membership

Our membership number at year end in March 2025 was 146, down from 158 the previous year. We experienced a lower-than-normal non-renewal rate of 7.6% overall, which was all senior non-renewals (down to 107 from 123 (-13%), whilst junior numbers increased from 35 to 39 (+11.4%). This is the second year we have not seen net growth in membership numbers.

Non-renewals were a mix of DW paddlers who intended to join for only a single year, non-paddling parents who were previously paddlers or joined to support their junior, and a few long-term members who moved from the area. A few seniors reported that work commitments prevented them from rejoining, although no one leaving the club reported that their nonrenewal resulted from dissatisfaction with the club.

Our next member survey will be conducted in early 2026 and will inform the annual development plan.

Development

We changed the way we introduced juniors in 2024 by having ad hoc sessions, which allowed parents to pay a reduced annual membership fee and then pay per session. This allowed more juniors to be members, even if they only paddled through the summer months. We ran a taster day in March 2024, and Pay-per-Play sessions were held during half-term. These events cleared our junior waiting list, allowing 18 juniors to join our expanded adventure group.

- We have formed a Racing C group for juniors interested in racing.
- We had 15 seniors complete intro courses, with six going on to join the club.

Sustainability

Sustainability is a topic of broad interest to many people in the paddling community who prefer to paddle in clean water and care about our environment. In the 2024 Quality Club review, we committed to conducting a sustainability review in 2025. Terms of Reference were agreed upon, and two volunteers were identified to lead the review and determine its scope. We intend that this review framework will be an ongoing activity, not a one-off study.

Support to external organisations

In 2023/24 our support to external organisations included:

- **Support to Dauntsey's School.** We ran weekly sessions on both Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the spring and autumn terms for approximately 20 pupils of mixed paddling ability as part of either their school games option or Moonrakers which is for the middle school adventure programme and a lower school outdoor activity programme.
- **Support to Wiltshire College.** We agreed a College/Club Partnership with two of the Wiltshire College Campuses, Salisbury, and Trowbridge. This programme started towards the end of the 2023/24 year running from January to March and provided structured development support to groups of young people on the Public Service course as an integral part of their curriculum. There is interest in further developing this programme, with the possibility of other Wiltshire College campuses getting involved.

These commitments are only possible with the enthusiastic support of our coaching team. In 2023/24 they have, once again, risen to the challenge and delivered high-quality experiences to external organisations.

Although supporting external programmes places considerable demand on our coaching team, they provide a vital income stream for the club. Our new charging structure has been in place for a year and was well-received by all educational establishments we partner with as a more straightforward basis for budgeting. We reviewed our payments to volunteers policy in 2023 and now have a predictable surplus from our external activities. Coaching capacity to deliver mid-week, daytime sessions continue challenging and stretching the team. This remains the single most limiting factor for future support to external programmes.

All support to external organisations is charged unless approved explicitly as a 'charitable purpose' to ensure we meet our costs and make a reasonable surplus for the club. This helps to keep membership fee increases to a minimum. Our Trustees are mindful that loss of income from these programmes would have significant budgetary consequences for other discretionary activities, including investment in coach development, investment in equipment replacement and support for participation in competitive events.

Financials (all figures subject to confirmation in final accounts)

Our financial accounting period runs from 1st April to 31st March 2025, so the accounts presented at this AGM relate to a period ending eight months ago. This report will provide a narrative to support the club's financial statement and a forward-looking view of the club's financial health. An informal update covering the more recent period will be reported at the AGM. At the end of the last accounting period:

8. The club held an operating surplus of £37,534, of which £27,645 are unrestricted reserves. This represents an increase of £5,932 on 2023/24. While our expenditure has remained stable in 2024/25, this masks an expected trend of rising insurance costs (to include an enlarged boat fleet) offset by reductions in maintenance costs. The main driver of the surplus is the increase in Grants, Donations and equipment sales.
9. The Club was awarded a £1000 grant from Asda for Gym equipment and £2500 was raised towards a new competition K2 for the junior team (Donations £1282, Boat sale £1600). The new boat was purchased in the current Financial Year.
10. Membership income and the related boat storage income were at the same level as last year.
11. Expenditure has increased in several areas with significant increases above 2023/24 on:
12. Insurance increase driven by insuring the club boat fleet.
13. Equipment purchases £2000 more than last year (£1000 being expenditure linked to the grant from Asda mentioned above).
14. Despite the increases mentioned above, total expenditure for the year was very similar to the previous year because of reduced spending on premises and merchandise.

The club maintains around one year's operating costs in a general reserve. Our restricted reserves included, at the end of the 2024/25 year, a £889 junior fund for the exclusive use of junior projects and bursaries and a facilities (property) reserve of £9,000. The club's trustees plan to review the club's reserve policies to assess whether the current property reserve is adequate or needs to be further built up over time.

Our expenses in 2024/25, as last year, include the payment of entry fees for all crew boat entries to incentivise crew boat entries in competitions. Although this policy is expensive and

accounts for some of our excess expenditure over income, it reduces the cost of competition and eases the burden on families of participation in regional and national events. This is changing in 25/26 for Sprint Regattas as the fee structure for these events has been changed with a one-off fee per competitor per regatta covering all boat entries.

The club received grant funding totalling £2000 in 2024/25. In addition to these successful applications, the Club was also successful in obtaining a £5000 grant from the Landfill Communities Fund representing 50% of the total cost of renovating the Gable end of the club house and the canal steps. This work was completed in September 2025.

Club trustees approved several projects to improve club facilities, including security upgrades. All these projects were delivered on time and below the approved budget. We put on hold plans to re-render the building pending development decisions.

A summary of financial recommendations for AGM 2025

1. We will continue tightening control of event budgets to ensure they deliver an overall surplus, so the overall programme is self-funding.
2. All purchases of competition equipment must be based on matched funding from grant or fundraising activities.
3. The club will continue to maximise income streams from external programmes.

We are pleased to report that the club is in robust financial shape at the end of this year.

A summary of the accounts is sent to the Members with this report before the AGM. Full accounts are submitted to the Charity Commission and are available for public scrutiny.

Post Financial Year-End Events

- Successful grant funding of the remaining 50% cost and purchase of a new Competition K2 for Juniors £5175.
- Successful application for £5000 Grant to undertake gable end and canal steps maintenance. Project complete September 2025.
- Purchase of 2 new Kayak Ergos £3400.

A summary of the accounts is sent with this report to the Members before the AGM and full accounts are submitted to the Charity Commission and are available for public scrutiny.

Strategic Development

At our last AGM we updated members about plans to develop Wadworth & Co's brewery site adjacent to the Club. In 2024/2025 we actively engaged with elected councillors to represent the club's interests in the planning process.

The planning process concluded in July 2025 when the proposed development was approved at a full planning meeting. Since then, several reserved matters have been approved, including the demolition method statement and phasing plan. We have also engaged with the development proposal for the listed part of the Wadworth & Co brewery estate, although this development has little/no impact on the club.

Demolition is now underway adjacent to the club. We have registered a dispute over party wall matters and appointed an independent Party Wall Surveyor to represent the club. The

developer will bear the cost of this. A Party Wall Award will be agreed in due course and govern the conduct of works within three meters of our boundary.

Our engagement strategy is to have conversations with critical stakeholders who are directly involved and privy to confidential information about adjacent developments. These include Wiltshire Council, and the consultants appointed to represent it, Devizes Town Council, the planning department, Wiltshire Historic Buildings Trust, and the Devizes Assize Court Trust (DACT). It remains vital to build the club's public profile over the next few years to give key stakeholders a much better understanding of our priorities and development needs.

The Club Trustees' position remains that we have no concerns about the club's long-term viability or the site we occupy. Two feasible options remain for future club development and growth:

- To remain at our Lower Wharf site for the foreseeable future and make plans to develop it further as resources, finances and available space allow.
- To relocate to another site (probably Central Wharf), provided Wiltshire Council commission a major development project to coordinate a development spanning the Central Wharf, former Police Station and empty commercial premises on New Park Street and the availability of significant funding (around £1,250,000) is available to develop a suitable facility.

At Lower Wharf we have a 125-year lease and 25-year leases on the section of Lower Wharf roadway within club boundaries and the launch area. With a legally sound right of access over the Lower Wharf roadway, this gives us a strong hand in any negotiations and unfettered ability to ensure that local development, whilst inconvenient, does not restrict club activity.



Mark Bouch
Chair, on behalf of the Trustees

Devizes Canoe Club

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period	01/04/2024	To	31/03/2025
from			

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants and donations	3,283	-	-	3,283	486
Members subscriptions	10,630	-	-	10,630	6,492
Fundraising events	3,212	-	-	3,212	2,760
Boat storage and jobs	4,827	-	-	4,827	3,412
Memberships in advance	3,270	-	-	3,270	2,016
External Courses	18,782	-	-	18,782	3,848
Equipment sale	2,050	-	-	2,050	865
Merchandise	229	-	-	229	485
Sub total (Gross income for A/R)	46,283	-	-	46,283	20,346
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	46,283	-	-	46,283	20,346
A3 Payments					
Cost of Fundraising events	9,040	-	-	9,040	9,603
Lighting and Heating	3,377	-	-	3,377	3,473
Insurance and subscriptions	4,839	-	-	4,839	2,046
Grant related expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Camp expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Premises expenditure	1,081	-	-	1,081	5,027
Welfare and training	959	-	-	959	691
Sundry	1,802	-	-	1,802	1,999
Website	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	21,098	-	-	21,098	22,840
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Equipment	6,360	-	-	6,360	5,163
Sub total	6,360	-	-	6,360	5,163
Total payments	27,458	-	-	27,458	28,002
Net of receipts/(payments)	18,824	-	-	18,824	7,556
A5 Transfers between funds	14,131	9,969	-	24,100	31,756
A6 Cash funds last year end	32,955	9,969	-	42,924	24,100
Cash funds this year end	32,955	9,969	-	42,924	24,100

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories

Details

Unrestricted funds to nearest £ Restricted funds to nearest £ Restricted funds to nearest £

B1 Cash funds

Bank	32,935	9,969	9,969
Cash	20	-	-
Total cash funds	32,955	9,969	9,969

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Cost (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Cost (optional)
Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
Stock	Unrestricted	-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	Amount due (optional)
Trade Creditors	1423	-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>S. Darling</i>	S Darling	26.11.25



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Devizes Canoe Club

On accounts for the year
ended

31/03/2025

Charity no
(if any)

1156402

Set out on pages

1

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

27/01/2026

Name:

I Willoughby

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

F.C.A.

Address:

29 Devizes Road

Swindon

SN1 4BG

DEVIZES CANOE CLUB

England & Wales - Charity number 1156402

Accounts

TRUSTEES REPORT 2023-24

Formal Report to the Charities Commission

Welcome to the tenth Trustees' report under our constitution as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Mark Bouch, as Chair, prepared this report to the Charities Commission on behalf of the Club's Trustees for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

This report will be circulated to members with 2023/24 accounts for approval at the Club's AGM in November 2024.

CIO Trustee Committee

Devizes Canoe Club is a "Charitable Incorporated Organisation". Our Charity number is 1156402. We were registered with the Charities Commission on 27th March 2014. Legal decisions are taken by the CIO trustees, who in 2023/24 were Mark Bouch, Paul Papworth-Smith, Sue Colby, Lindyanne Ehrnrooth, Chris Jones, Nick Prichard, Hannah Snowsill, Andrew Park, Dan Colby, Hannah Snowsill, Trevor Hunter and Simon Darling. Our AGM 2023 approved a larger-than-normal intake of Trustees to allow for the transition of some long-serving Trustees in the next two years.

The CIO Trustees have a legal responsibility to the Charities Commission for effective governance and management of the CIO's assets in line with our CIO constitution and Charity Commission guidelines. CIO Trustees have six legal responsibilities, including delivering purpose, managing conflicts of interest, reporting information, safeguarding people, making decisions, managing finances and overseeing club policy. Club property, including the club's estate, is held by the CIO on behalf of the Club itself and not by any individual. Trustees meet annually and as required.

Trustees are appointed by a decision of members at the Club AGM. Seven new Trustees were appointed at the November 2023 AGM, making a total of eleven. At the forthcoming AGM, one-third of the trustees must retire (three to four people), and we will have an opportunity to appoint up to twelve trustees in total. Any club member is welcome to nominate themselves as a CIO Trustee at least fourteen days before the AGM.

Paul Papworth-Smith, Chris Jones, and Mark Bouch will retire at this AGM. [Paul Papworth-Smith does not intend to stand for re-election – TO BE CONFIRMED] . Simon Darling will assume the Club Treasurer's role as his replacement, subject to approval at the AGM. No nominations have been received for first-time election as Trustees.

Club Management Committee

The CIO Trustees delegate power to a management committee that meets monthly to coordinate the club's operational management. The Committee ensures club operations comply with policy and best practices.

The CIO Trustees appoint the key management committee roles: Club Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer and Secretary and invite the management committee to fill other key roles necessary for effective management.

The Chair and Deputy Chair divide their roles. The chair focuses on club strategy, development, and governance, while the Deputy Chair focuses on club operations.

The committee has invited other members to fill important volunteer roles, including leading paddling groups, managing boat storage, delivering the coaching programme, and providing bankside support during organised sessions. These appointments do not need to attend committee meetings but are welcome to do so.

All key volunteer appointments are recorded in the members' section on our website.

Our AGM provides the formal opportunity to approve management committee members. Committee membership is open to all Club members, though we will only appoint committee members to fill specific roles required to ensure the efficient management of club business.

Members wishing to stand for election to the management committee or challenge the nominations proposed should submit their names in writing to the Club Secretary at least one week before the AGM.

The Club management committee intends to meet monthly, except in August. Meetings take place face-to-face and virtually. Minutes are taken and are published on the club website. Copies of minutes are available on request to any club member without website access.

The proposed management committee are Sue Colby (Chair and Volunteer Coordinator), Simon Darling (Treasurer), Lindyanne Ehrnrooth (Secretary), Jenny Jones (Welfare and Safeguarding Officer), James Papworth-Smith (H&S), Stuart Colby (Facilities), James Mahoney (Coaching Group Lead), Nick Poole (Junior Programme Coordinator and boat storage), and Nigel Chivers (Senior Programme Coordinator and Captain of Boats), and Charlie Mayo (Club Public Relations and Press Officer).

Club Purpose

The Club's purpose is **"The promotion of community participation in healthy recreation, in particular by the provision of facilities for the sport of canoeing and kayaking"**. We have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. We provide identifiable benefits to the public in advancing health and sport. Our membership criteria and what we offer are inclusive and open to all members of the public without restriction. We make it clear that if anyone finds it difficult to pay our membership and coaching fees, we can help, and we regularly do.

Our priorities for 2023/24 were established in the 2020-2024 strategy document. This consisted of an intent:

To become one of the top 10 clubs nationally and top 3 clubs in the SW region, judging by growing participation, competitive excellence, and a varied development and activity programme that includes all age groups.

In 2023/24, our strategy was brought to life through seven ambitions that set high-level priorities for the club. The top priorities were:

1. To conduct a fleet and equipment review to identify future requirements
2. To complete all actions identified in the Quality Club assessment process
3. To conduct a membership survey and improve the club's offer to membership groups
4. To create additional opportunities for adventure and recreational paddling
5. To strengthen the coaching cadre

The 'main effort' (top priority was to strengthen the club's long-term financial resilience and governance).

The process of developing a new strategy began in early 2024 and concludes with a presentation of the strategy to the Club AGM in November 2024.

Development plans are then developed annually, providing a framework for the management team to implement the strategy. Our annual club development plan will be renewed in Q1 2025, identifying detailed annual objectives to deliver priorities identified in the 2025 to 2028 strategy.

Club Accreditation

In the period covered by the last report, the Club achieved accreditation under Paddle UK's Quality Club programme, demonstrating that we met the highest possible standards of governance and safeguarding. In 2023/24, we consolidated three separate action plans and focused on updating policies and practices identified in the Club's Quality Club assessment process.

Activity Report

This report includes a summary of our activities and achievements in 2023-24 in pursuit of our paddlesport objectives. By publishing this report on the Charity Commission website, we demonstrate the benefit to club members and society. More information will be given at the AGM.

The 2022/23 season we concluded in August 2023.

Our club Hasler Race in the 2023 season was co-hosted with Chippenham CSC on the Wiltshire Avon in May. We achieved a second-place result overall, with several podium positions for junior and senior paddlers. In the SW region, we also scored second places at Bradford on Avon and Tewkesbury and third and fourth at Saltford and Gloucester races, but we did not attend enough events to qualify for the Hasler Finals held in Norwich in October 2023. In 2023/24, no Devizes crews contested the national marathon championships held at Elmbridge.

At the end of the reporting year, the 2023/24 season was halfway through, with the club chasing a qualification place in the SW Region. The 2023/24 Hasler Final event, due to be held in Richmond in October 2024, was subsequently cancelled due to high fluvial flow on the River Thames.

The SW Region poses difficulties for Devizes CC as we are located at the far eastern extreme of the largest Paddle UK region in the UK. The Clubs that qualify tend to compete at every event. There are now about ten events in the calendar, fourteen active clubs, and 70% of the in-region races, which require four or more hours of travelling time, with the associated financial burden on paddlers and parents. The 2024/25 strategy must address the importance and relevance of the SW Region Hasler racing series.

In 2023/24, the club sent teams to

The Ghent Regatta: A team of eight DCC paddlers with three co-opted paddlers from other clubs produced an exceptional result. The girls won gold and silver in every race they entered. Our boys amassed 16 medals and one team trophy.

The 2023 Olympic Hopes Regatta was held in Poznan, Poland. Two juniors represented the Club, and our two junior paddlers (Philippe Ehrnrooth and Mollie Ball) were among the only GB K2 crews to make the A final.

We entered all Nottingham sprints and the National Inter-Club Regatta at Nottingham in September 2023 with distinction. Highlights from that regatta included:

- Philippe Ehrnrooth: 2nd in Boys A K1 1000m, 2nd in mixed K2 500m with Mollie Ball, 6th in Boys A K2 500m
- Mollie Ball: 1st K2 200m, 2nd in mixed K2 500m with Philippe Ehrnrooth
- Regan Toop: 2nd Boys B K1 200m, 3rd Boys B K2 500m with Dylan Martin, 3rd Boys B K1 500m
- Dylan Martin: 3rd Boys B K2 500m with Regan Troop
- Max Poole: 7th in Final Boys D K1 500m and 7th in Boys D k1 200m
- Fred Johnson and Max Poole: 2nd Boys D K2 200m
- Jared Kelly: 3rd in Boys intermediate K1 500m final
- Cameron O'Hare & Max Poole were promoted to Boys C and Jared Kelly to Boys D
- Two adult paddlers competed: Charlie Mayo (senior masters) and Alex Sheppy (senior).
- Devizes Canoe Club came 13th overall

In classic marathon competition, the Waterside Series run by Newbury CC in early 2024 is recognised as the classic build-up for the Devizes to Westminster Race. However, the Waterside Series offers its own challenge, and completing the series of around 80 miles in total over four races is an achievement.

Several DCC paddlers competed in the Waterside Series marathon races with notable achievements in the series by Mark Ball and Steve Bush (overall series winners in K2 veteran) and Pete Clarke and Juliet Fooks (overall series 5th place in K2 mixed).

Other results included Edd Dobson and Mike Rees-Clark (3rd K2 Mens Waterside A), Nic Davey and Ros Gill (8th K2 Ladies Waterside A), Dan Colby (14th K1 Senior Mens Waterside A) and Ian Thackray and Martin Payne (4th C2 Waterside A, B and C), Matthew Hamblen and Craig Horrocks (6th K2 Senior Mens Waterside B and C), Dan Colby and Dan Darwall (8th K2 Senior Mens Waterside B), Peter and Abi Jones (5th C2 Waterside B and 3rd C2 Waterside C), Jenny Jones and Jill Priday (4th K2 Ladies Waterside C)

The Devizes to Westminster Race provides our focus for winter distance racing. The development programme for this race starts in September and is designed to progress novices to a standard where they have a realistic prospect of race completion in just six months.

The Devizes to Westminster Race 2024 took place on the last weekend of the year and was planned to run to Westminster, but the race was terminated for the majority at Teddington Lock due to unsafe conditions on the Tideway. Fourteen senior paddlers competed in the race with very strong finishes from Ian Thackray and Martin Payne (Senior C2), Pete and Abi Jones (Senior C2), Juliet Fooks and Pete Clark (Senior K2) and Edd Dobson and Mike Rees-Clark (Senior K2) who achieved third place overall. Pete and Abi Jones won the Canadian Trophy for being the fastest C2, Pete Clarke and Juliet Fooks came 3rd in the mixed crew class, and Pete Clarke and Juliet Fooks, Pete and Abi Jones and Ian Thackray and Martin Payne came 3rd in the Team Trophy.

Overall, our results have been excellent. They demonstrate the hard work and commitment of our paddlers, coaching team, and parents throughout the year.

Membership

Our membership number settled at 158 members on the books by year-end in 2023/24. Our pattern of 15% non-renewals was maintained, and the overall number of enquiries, members, and leavers suggests that the club may have reached a natural plateau as membership is no longer increasing on a 5% per year trajectory. Member reasons for non-renewal reflect previous years, such as moving house, job, and education commitments and competition with other sports being the most common reasons.

We concluded a member survey in early 2024, completed by a representative sample of 40% of club members. The survey concluded that members are pleased with the Club, finding it friendly, valuable for money, and well run, and they would strongly recommend it to others.

The organised paddle program generally meets the different groups' needs, focusing on junior talent development, marathon racing (including DW for some) and introductory courses. A number would like more recreational paddles, including paddles away from DCC, and an increase in our social activities.

We will use the survey results to inform our future strategy work and have published a summary for members.

Perhaps the most important conclusion was found in a standardised consumer satisfaction question called Net Promoter® Score. Our score was 78 NPS on a scale between -100 and +100. This score is in the 75th percentile of responses from 91,046 organisations, the average of which is 48 NPS. This is clear evidence of the success and commitment of paddlers, supporters and especially our hard-working volunteers.

Development

Introductory courses are a primary means of attracting new adult and junior members. Thirty-one people completed our introductory programmes in 2023, and 17 of those went on to join the club. This reflects the ongoing high demand for healthy outdoor recreation. We integrated other new members without them needing to complete introductory courses in cases where the new member had previous paddling experience.

In early 2024, we absorbed all senior and most junior adventure group membership enquiries and cleared the waiting list by creating a single 'adventure' paddling group with two dedicated coaches. We plan to build on this programme in the summer of 2024 by recruiting a new paddler cohort and expanding the racing group by adding a third group.

Support to external organisations

In 2023/24, our support to external organisations included:

- **Support to Dauntsey's School.** We support three key school programmes. Weekly school sessions ran throughout the summer and autumn terms for approximately six students who chose paddlesport at DCC as their games option. Once again we delivered the weekly Moonrakers programme for 13 middle school students between April and June and finally, we delivered the Dauntsey's lower school Challenge Week paddlesport activity with 20 students attending the club on each of the five days of the programme.
- **Support to Wiltshire College.** We formed a College/Club Partnership with two Wiltshire College Campuses, Salisbury and Trowbridge. This programme provides structured

development support to groups of young people on the Public Service course as an integral part of their curriculum. Due to weather disruption between January and March 2024 we moved the programme start to the Spring, outside the period covered by this report.

These external commitments are only possible with the enthusiastic support of our coaching team led by James Mahoney with the external programme delivery led by Juliet Fooks. In 23/24, they once again rose to the challenge and delivered high-quality experiences to external organisations.

Although supporting external programmes places considerable demand on our coaching team, they provide a vital income stream for the club. Our new charging structure has been in place for a year and was well-received by all educational establishments we partner with as a more straightforward basis for budgeting. We reviewed our payments to volunteers policy in 2023 and now have a predictable surplus from our external activities. Coaching capacity to deliver mid-week daytime sessions continues challenging and stretching the team. This remains the single most limiting factor for future support to external programmes.

All support to external organisations is charged unless approved explicitly as a 'charitable purpose' to ensure we meet our costs and make a reasonable surplus for the club. This helps to keep membership fee increases to a minimum. Our trustees are mindful that loss of income from these programmes will have budgetary consequences for other discretionary activities, including investment in coach development, equipment replacement, and support for participation in competitive events.

Financials

Our financial accounting period runs from 1st April to 31st March 2024, so the accounts presented at this AGM relate to a period ending eight months ago. This report will provide a narrative to support the club's financial statement and a forward-looking view of the club's financial health. An informal update covering the more recent period will be reported at the AGM. At the end of the last accounting period:

- The club held an operating surplus of £24,095, of which £14,211 are unrestricted reserves. This represents a decrease of £7,661 on 2022/23. The club has outstanding fees from courses delivered in the school programme which was received in 2024/25. Had it been received in 23/24 it would have resulted in a surplus for the year.
- The ongoing unresolved storage fee issue with the REME Kayak Club was resolved during the year. Their K2s stored at DCC were accepted as settlement for the outstanding fees (with a net write-off of £288 in FY 2023/24).
- Most income lines are in a healthy state despite some reductions which may reflect the cost-of-living increases:
 - Membership income and the related boat storage income were reduced slightly, reflecting the reduction in the overall number of club members.
 - As explained above, coached activities increased compared with 2022/23, all attributable to increased external courses.
- Expenditure has increased in several areas with significant increases above 2023/24 on:
 - Overall, total expenditure for the year was very similar to the previous year, with sharp increases in electricity, insurance and premises maintenance
 - Utilities costs show a significant increase over 2022/23, reflecting increased use and above-inflation increases in wholesale electricity prices.

The club maintains around one year's operating costs in general reserve. Our restricted reserves included, at the end of the 2023/24 year, a £884 junior fund for the exclusive use of junior projects and bursaries and a facilities (property) reserve of £9,000. In the coming year, in addition to the Junior fund, any monies raised for the specific purpose of purchasing competition boats will be held as a reserve, and any asset purchases will be deducted from that reserve when made. The club's trustees plan to review the club's reserve policies to assess if the current property reserve is adequate or if this needs to be further built up over time.

As last year, our expenses in 2023/24 include the payment of entry fees for all crew boat entries to incentivise crew boat entries in competitions. We also instituted a 'towing fee' to encourage larger teams to travel to events. Although this policy is expensive and accounts for some of our excess expenditure over income, it reduces the cost of competition and eases the burden on families of participation in regional and national events.

The club received no grant funding in 2023/24, although it made two unsuccessful applications. This illustrates the tough economic climate for grants, which increasingly set specific criteria for grant objectives such as economic deprivation, sustainability, or accessibility. With increased costs putting pressure on club funds, the club must emphasise securing grant income for all capital purchases. The Trustees have undertaken a thorough fleet and equipment review to identify and prioritise future needs as a basis for grant funding applications. As a result of this review, the trustees decided that future purchases of high-quality competition boats for the juniors must be funded through external grants and specific fundraising.

Club trustees approved several projects to improve club facilities, including security upgrades. All these projects were delivered on time and below the approved budget. We put on hold plans to re-render the building pending development decisions.

A summary of financial recommendations for AGM 2024

1. Trustees reviewed the affordability of the competition entry fee and towing policies and will make new recommendations at the AGM.
2. We will continue tightening control of event budgets to ensure they deliver an overall surplus so the overall programme is self-funding.
3. All purchases of competition equipment must be based on matched funding from grants or fundraising activities.
4. The club will continue to maximise income streams from external programmes.
5. Trustees will invite the AGM to approve proportionate increases in 2024/25 member fees and boat storage with appropriate adjustments to reflect the use of club boats.

We are pleased to report that, despite an operating deficit of £7,661, the club is in robust financial shape at the end of this year.

A summary of the accounts is sent with this report to the Members before the AGM, and full accounts are submitted to the Charity Commission and are available for public scrutiny.

Strategic Development

At our last AGM, we further informed members about plans, now in the public domain, to develop Wadworth & Co's brewery site adjacent to the Club.

In 2023/24, we engaged with the consultation process being undertaken by Wiltshire Council regarding the Local Plan, with local councillors and Wiltshire Council's planning department regarding the proposed adjacent development.

No tangible progress has been made to influence the proposed development, which remains undetermined, and a planning committee meeting has yet to occur.

Our engagement strategy is to have conversations with critical stakeholders who are directly involved and privy to confidential information. These include Wiltshire Council, Devizes Town Council, the planning department, Wadworth & Co and the Devizes Assize Court Trust (DACT). It remains vital to build the club's public profile over the next few years to give key stakeholders a much better understanding of our priorities and development needs.

The Club Trustees' position remains that we have no concerns about the club's long-term viability or the site we occupy. We have a 125-year lease and 25-year leases on the section of Lower Wharf roadway within club boundaries and the launch area. With a legally sound right of access over the Lower Wharf roadway, this gives us a strong hand in any negotiations and unfettered ability to ensure that development, whilst inconvenient, does not restrict club activity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Bouch', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark Bouch
Chair, on behalf of the Trustees



Charity Name Devizes Canoe Club	No (if any) 1156402
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Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2023	To	Period end date 31/03/2024
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants and donations	468	-	-	468	122
Members subscriptions	8,508	-	-	8,508	10,639
Fundraising events	2,760	-	-	2,760	9,921
Boat storage and fobs	3,412	-	-	3,412	3,071
Memberships in advance	-	-	-	-	720
Camp income	3,848	-	-	3,848	-
Equipment sale	865	-	-	865	350
Merchandise	485	-	-	485	485
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	20,346	-	-	20,346	23,868
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	20,346	-	-	20,346	23,868
A3 Payments					
Cost of Fundraising events	9,608	-	-	9,608	11,517
Lighting and Heating	3,473	-	-	3,473	2,864
Insurance and subscriptions	2,046	-	-	2,046	2,208
Grant related expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Camp expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Premises expenditure	5,027	-	-	5,027	3,903
Welfare and training	691	-	-	691	-
Sundry	1,999	-	-	1,999	1,390
Website	-	-	-	-	101
Sub total	22,844	-	-	22,844	21,983
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Equipment	5,163	-	-	5,163	6,391
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	5,163	-	-	5,163	6,391
Total payments	28,007	-	-	28,007	28,374
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 7,661	-	-	- 7,661	- 4,506
A5 Transfers between funds	85 #	- 85	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	21,787	9,969	-	31,756	36,747
Cash funds this year end	14,211	9,884	-	24,095	32,241

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	13,705	9,884	-
	Cash	506	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	14,211	9,884	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Equipment	Unrestricted	-	0
	Stock	Unrestricted	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature 	Print Name P A Papworth-Smith	Date of approval 17/01/2025
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Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Devizes Canoe Club

On accounts for the year
ended

31/03/2024

Charity no
(if any)

1156402

Set out on pages

1

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent
examiner's statement

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

Independent
examiner's statement

- In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention
1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
 2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

S Holland

Date:

17/01/2025

Name:

S Holland

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

F.C.A.

Address:

29 Devizes Road

Swindon

SN1 4BG

DEVIZES CANOE CLUB

England & Wales - Charity number 1156402

Accounts

TRUSTEES REPORT 2022-23

Formal Report to the Charities Commission

Welcome to the ninth Trustees report under our constitution as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This report to the Charities Commission was prepared by Mark Bouch, as Chair, on behalf of the Club's Trustees for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

This report will be circulated to members with 2022/23 accounts for approval at the Club's AGM in November 2023.

CIO Trustee Committee

Devizes Canoe Club is a "Charitable Incorporated Organisation". Our Charity number is 1156402. We were registered with the Charities Commission on 27th March 2014. Legal decisions are taken by the CIO trustees, who in 2022/23 were Andy Allen, Ann Slator, Mark Bouch, Paul Papworth-Smith, Sue Colby, Juliet Fooks, Lindyanne Ehrnrooth and Chris Jones.

The CIO Trustees have a legal responsibility to the Charities Commission for effective governance and management of the CIO's assets in line with our CIO constitution. CIO Trustees are responsible for setting policy and approving budgets as part of their governance responsibilities. Club property, including the club's estate, is held by the CIO on behalf of the Club itself and not by any individual. Trustees meet annually and as required.

Trustees are appointed by a decision of members at the Club AGM. At the pending AGM, two trustees must retire, and we have an opportunity to appoint up to three trustees. Any club member is welcome to nominate themselves, at least one week before the AGM, as a CIO Trustee.

At this AGM Ann Slator, Andy Allen and Juliet Fooks will retire. They do not intend to stand for re-election. The following nominations have been received for first-time election as Trustees Nick Poole, Simon Darling, Trevor Hunter, Hannah Snowhill, Andrew Park and Nick Prichard.

Club Management Committee

The CIO Trustees delegate power to a management committee which meets monthly, to coordinate the operational management of the Club. The Management Committee are responsible for ensuring club operations comply with policy and best practice.

The CIO Trustees appoint the key management committee roles: Club Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer and Secretary and invite the management committee to fill other key roles necessary for effective management.

The Chair and Deputy Chair divide their roles with Chair's focus being club strategy, development and governance and the Deputy Chair's focus being club operations.

The committee has invited other members to fill important volunteer roles, including leading paddling groups, managing boat storage, delivering the coaching programme, and providing bankside support during organised sessions. These appointments do not need to attend committee meetings but are welcome to do so.

All key volunteer appointments are recorded on our website within the members' section.

Our AGM provides the formal opportunity to approve members of the management committee for 2024/25. Committee membership is open to all Club members, though we will only appoint committee members to fill specific roles required to ensure the efficient management of club business.

Members wishing to put their names forward to serve on the management committee or challenge the nominations proposed should submit their names in writing to the Club Secretary at least one week before the AGM.

The Club management committee intends to meet monthly, except in August. Meetings take place face-to-face and virtually. Minutes are taken and are published on the club website. Copies of minutes are available on request to any club member without website access.

The proposed 2024/25 management committee are Mark Bouch (Chair), Paul Papworth Smith (Treasurer), Lindyanne Ehrnrooth (Secretary), Sue Colby (Deputy Chair and Volunteer Coordinator), Emma O'Hare (Welfare and Safeguarding Officer), James Papworth-Smith (H&S), Stuart Colby (Facilities), James Mahoney (Coaching Group Lead), Anna Overton (Junior Programme Coordinator), Nigel Chivers (Senior Programme Coordinator and Captain of Boats) and Victoria Cains (PR & Media Officer).

Club Purpose

The Club's purpose is **"The promotion of community participation in healthy recreation in particular by the provision of facilities for the sport of canoeing and kayaking"**. We have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. We provide identifiable benefits in advancing health and sport, to the public. Our membership criteria and what we offer are inclusive and open to all members of the public without restriction. We make it clear that if anyone finds it difficult to pay our membership and coaching fees we can help, and we regularly do.

Our priorities for 2022/23 were established in the 2020-2024 strategy document. This strategy will be due for review in 2024.

Development plans are then developed annually and provide a framework for the management team to implement the strategy. Our annual club development plan was renewed in Q1 2023, identifying detailed annual objectives to deliver the club's six ambitions identified in the 2020 – 2024 Club Strategy.

The main effort (our top priority) for 2022-2023 was to restore club operations to 2019 levels or better across all development activities, including indoor, novice, youth and adult programmes, competition, and recreation.

We prioritised the following activities:

- Growing more coach/paddle group leader capability
- Developing a robust cost structure for external programmes
- Overhauling the Club's website and document management system

Club Accreditation

In the period covered by the last report, the Club achieved accreditation under British Canoeing's Quality Club programme, demonstrating that we met the highest possible standards of governance and safeguarding. In 2022/23 we focused on delivering the Club's Quality Club action plan.

In our development plan we committed to a review and audit process to achieve Champion Club status for Talent Development. We are delighted to confirm that we had achieved all the objectives by Easter 2023 and were duly awarded the accreditation by the President of British Canoeing at our 2023 Awards Evening at Braeside Activity Centre.

Activity Report

This report includes a summary report on our activities and achievements in 2022-23 in pursuit of our paddlesport objectives. By publishing this report on the Charities Commission website we display the benefit to club members and society. More information will be given at the AGM.

This year, in addition to our weekly programme of supervised club sessions, we have held monthly time trials, local sprint regattas at Chippenham, Westbury and Lechlade, a Hasler marathon event at Chippenham, in conjunction with Chippenham Sailing and Canoe Club.

We sent strong club teams to SW Region Hasler Marathon events and our efforts in 2022/23 ensured that the club qualified for the Club Hasler Finals held at Runnymede. We sent a competitive team to the finals and achieved the highest place of the SW Region Clubs. We were outright winners of The Geoff Sanders Trophy, a team competition for under 14s. This series is designed to introduce younger paddlers to marathon racing in a positive, supportive environment and prepare them for the transition into the Hasler divisions once they are ready.

The club also sent teams to the national marathon championships at Worcester and the Nottingham sprints. We entered a strong junior team in the National Inter Club Regatta at Nottingham in September 2022. The DCC junior team of ten paddlers included four newly registered paddlers competing for the first time. All paddlers did extremely well in challenging windy conditions with several made A finals in their events. Highlights included:

- Mollie Ball: 1st in Final 1 Girls A/B K2 200m and 1st in Final 1 Girls A/B K2 500m and 2nd in Final 1 Girls A/B K1 500m.
- Philippe Ehrnrooth: 9th in Final 1 Boys B K1 500m and 8th in Final 1 Boys B K1 1000m.

In classic marathon competition, the Waterside Series run by Newbury CC is recognised as being the classic build up for the Devizes to Westminster Race. However, the Waterside Series offers its own challenge, and to complete the series of around 80 miles in total over four races is an achievement. Several DCC paddlers competed in the Waterside Series marathon races with notable achievements in the series by Nicola Davey/Roz Gill who were second in Senior Women's K2 and Beatrix Fooks with her partner, both paddling for Dauntsey's School, who were first in Junior Women's K2

The Devizes to Westminster Race provides our focus for winter distance racing. The development programme for this race starts in September and is designed to progress novices to a standard where they have a realistic prospect of race completion in just six months. The 2023 DW had exceptional challenges after a very wet March with 150% of the average rainfall and waterways close to flood levels with restricted navigation on the River Thames.

Although multiple crews trained for the 2023 race additional screening of competitors was introduced so that only suitably competent and experienced crews could attempt to reach Westminster. This reduced the Senior Doubles field by around half and only one of our crews was able to participate. The conditions resulted in a very fast race and some new DW race records including the DW Senior Doubles record falling after 44 years. DCC's Senior Doubles crew, Pete Clarke and Alex David completed the course in 19 hours and 28 minutes to set a new club record.

Conditions on the River Thames necessitated a decision to finish the Stages race at Wokingham on Day 2, as opposed to the normal four-day event finishing at Westminster. Ten paddlers completed the Stages Race in K2s with first finishes for Ros Gill & Nicola Davey, Georgie Ethelston & Alex Lascelles, Beth Tuke-Hastings and Jules Ward and Beatrix Fooks paddling for Dautsey's School. In addition Andrew Park, Jeff Mason and Dan Colby completed another edition of the DW race. Some of these crews also made up the mileage over the Easter weekend either paddling, running or cycling so they could complete the distance for their sponsorship efforts!

Our first full Hasler Race at Chippenham CSC in May 2022 attracted considerable support despite some biblical weather. To our team's credit, we won the team competition against some significant opposition, including our local rivals Bradford on Avon and the two big regional clubs Exeter and Gloucester. This race is now firmly established on the SW calendar and increases the opportunities for clubs based in the north of a very large region stretching from Devizes to Lands End and up to the West Midlands.

Individual paddlers achieved phenomenal results this season with promotions across the board. For the first time, at the end of 2022/23, we had eight juniors and three adults promoted in marathon, some with two promotions awarded in the season. Three junior paddlers now compete in Division 3 (marathon) and we have our first junior promoted to Boys A placing them amongst the best in UK sprint. Our success in U14 has generated a strong group of younger paddlers transitioning from Geoff Sanders and mini sprint to full racing divisions.

Overall, our results have been outstanding. They demonstrate hard work and commitment during the year by our paddlers, coaching team, and parents.

Membership

Our membership number recovered fully in 2022/23 with 162 members on the books by year-end. This was a new membership record, though this number masks an influx of new members and quite a significant number (around 15%) who did not renew. We followed up on all 'regretted losses' but no single factor was evident in their decision not to re-join. In most cases the reasons related to other activities/interests and work becoming available once more, and an inability to commit time to the club and a few cases where the paddler's decision to join the Club was motivated by their intention to compete in the Devizes to Westminster Race, rather than a long-term commitment to the sport.

Development

Introductory courses are a primary means of attracting new adult and junior members. Thirty-six people completed our introductory programmes in 2022, and 21 of those went on to join the club. This reflects ongoing high demand for healthy outdoor recreation. We integrated other new members without them needing to complete introductory courses in cases where the new member had previous paddling experience.

We were able to absorb all senior and most junior adventure group membership enquiries and a small number of racing paddlers with prior experience, but once again had to manage a junior waiting list in 2022/23 because the demand to join exceeded our ability to integrate new paddlers into the junior racing group. This reflects a lack of coaching capacity and programme time to absorb more young people due to the high level of coaching supervision required.

When potential members are on a waiting list, there is a high chance that they will switch interest to another sport or activity and will be lost to paddlesport. This is a long-term systemic challenge which requires additional coaches, additional equipment, and facilities, all of which will need to be developed to keep pace with our forecast growth. Our junior racing programme is currently at or near peak capacity, and this situation is unlikely to change soon.

Support to external organisations

In 2022/23 our support to external organisations included:

- Support to Dauntsey's School. We ran weekly sessions on both Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the spring and autumn terms for approximately 20 pupils of mixed paddling ability as part of either their school games option or Moonrakers which is for the middle school adventure programme and a lower school outdoor activity programme.
- Support to **Wiltshire College**. We agreed a College/Club Partnership with two of the Wiltshire College Campuses, Salisbury, and Trowbridge. This programme started towards the end of the 2022/23 year running from January to March and provided structured development support to groups of young people on the Public Service course as an integral part of their curriculum. There is interest in further developing this programme, with the possibility of other Wiltshire College campuses getting involved.

These commitments are only possible with the enthusiastic support of our coaching team. In 2022/23 they have, once again, risen to the challenge and delivered high-quality experiences to external organisations.

Although supporting external programmes places considerable demand on our coaching team, they provide a vital income stream for the club. We revised our charging structure this year to take account of the need to pay coach's expenses for their commitment, in line with club policy for payments to volunteers and to ensure a consistent and predictable commercial return on external activities.

However, coaching capacity, paid or otherwise, to deliver mid-week, daytime sessions continue to challenge and stretch the team. This will be the single most limiting factor for future support to external programmes.

All support to external organisations is charged unless specifically approved as a 'charitable purpose' to ensure we meet our costs and make a reasonable surplus for the club. This helps to keep membership fee increases to a minimum. Our Trustees are mindful that loss of income from these programmes will have budgetary consequences for other discretionary activities including investment in coach development, support for participation in competitive events.

Financials (all figures subject to confirmation in final accounts)

Our financial accounting period runs from 1st April to 31st March 2023, so the accounts presented at this AGM relate to a period ending seven months ago. This report will provide a narrative to support the club's financial statement and a forward-looking view of the club's financial health. An informal

update covering the more recent period will be reported at the AGM. At the end of the last accounting period:

- The club held an operating surplus of £27,157, of which £17,187 are unrestricted reserves. This represents a decrease of £4,270 on 2021/22. In 2021/22 we reported that we were running on a fine margin. Our deficit reflects increased costs to run the activity programme, invest in coach development, promote participation in competition, and increased utilities costs.
- Income still does not include REME club membership or storage fees which remain outstanding for the period in question. The REME CC must therefore be regarded as a bad debtor, though we have control over their assets in storage, which is sufficient to write-off their debt.
- Most income lines are in a healthy state despite some reductions which may reflect cost of living increases:
 - Membership income is slightly reduced despite pegging membership fees at 2021/22 levels for a year.
 - We made a slightly lower income of £5,622 from coaching and equipment hire.
 - Our event income increased to nearly £3,000 with additional activity.
 - We raised £3,000 from boat storage during the year.
- Expenditure has increased in several areas with significant increases above 2022/22 on:
 - Sundry items – these are the small everyday purchases required to help the club activities run efficiently. In 2022/23 our new financial governance policy delegated financial approval to club officers so they could approve costs for equipment and facilities maintenance.
 - Coaching and expenses decreased from a high in 2021/22 to £4,618. This reflects more consistency in the payment of expenses for programme delivery. In 2022/23 this sum was entirely offset by coaching and hire income. In 2023/24 we will review the margin on this activity to ensure it continues to make a healthy surplus.
 - Expenditure on events increased from 2021/22 which is significantly below the income from these events. This deficit results from a decision by Trustees to pay for crew boat entries and to pay all costs associated with towing the club trailer to events.
 - Utilities costs show a significant increase over 2021/22 which reflects increased use and above inflation increases wholesale electricity and gas prices.

The club maintains around 2 years' operating costs in general reserve. Our restricted reserves included, at the end of the 2022/23 year, a £969 junior fund for the exclusive use of junior projects and bursaries, and a facilities (property) reserve of £9,000.

Our expenses in 2022/23, as last year, include the payment of entry fees for all crew boat entries to incentivise crew boat entries in competitions. We also instituted a 'towing fee' to encourage larger teams to travel to events. Although this policy is expensive, and accounts for some of our excess of expenditure over income, it reduces the cost of competition, and eases the burden on families of participation in regional and national events.

During 2022/23 we applied for a £10,000 Sport England grant to support Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, but were unsuccessful. This grant would have purchased additional plastic novice K1s, Stand-Up Paddle (SUP) boards and a limited number of sit-on-top boats for less mobile paddlers.

The club received no grant funding in 2022/23. With increased costs putting pressure on club funds, the club must place increased emphasis on securing grant income for all capital purchases. The

Trustees have commissioned a thorough fleet and equipment review to identify and prioritise future needs as a basis for grant funding applications.

Investments approved by Club trustees last year in our club facilities were delivered to plan and below the approved budget. We put on hold plans to re-render the building pending development decisions.

A summary of financial recommendations for the AGM

1. The Treasurer will keep the affordability of the competition entry fee and towing policies kept under review and make new recommendations, if required, by year end 2023/24.
2. We intend to tighten controls on event budgets to ensure they deliver an overall surplus, so this policy remains affordable.
3. For 2023/24 the cost of any capital equipment purchases must be 50% met by grant or fundraising activities.
4. The club will maximise income streams from external programmes.
5. Trustees will invite the AGM to approve proportionate increases in 2024/25 member fees and boat storage.

We are pleased to report that, despite an operating deficit of £4,270, the club is in robust financial shape at the end of this year.

A summary of the accounts is sent with this report to the Members before the AGM and full accounts are submitted to the Charity Commission and are available for public scrutiny.

Strategic Development

At our last AGM we made a statement to members about plans, now in the public domain, to develop Wadworth & Co's brewery site adjacent to the Club.

In 2022/23 we engaged with the consultation process being undertaken by the brewery site developer and with Wiltshire Council, our property owner.

We published a feasibility paper based on master planning work commissioned by Wiltshire Council and explored the feasibility of three options identified in that work. These options continue to guide the club's approach. In outline they were:

1. Retain the club's current site.
2. Redevelop the club adjacent within the brewery site.
3. Relocate the club elsewhere.

After the period covered by this report the brewery's developer published a full planning application. The outcome of this will be reported in our next annual report, although at the time of writing, that application rules out option 2 above. The developer would like to acquire the club's site but does not intend to redevelop the club within the brewery site or elsewhere.

We continue to have conversations with important stakeholders that are directly involved and privy to confidential information. These include Wiltshire Council, Devizes Town Council Planning Committee, Wadworth & Co and the DACT. It remains vital to build the club's public profile over the next few years to give key stakeholders a much better understanding of our priorities and development needs.

The Club Trustees' position remains that we have no concerns about the long-term viability of the club or the site we occupy. We have a 125-year lease and 25-year leases on the section of Lower Wharf roadway within club boundaries and the launch area. This, with a legally sound right of access over the Lower Wharf roadway, gives us a strong hand in any negotiations.

Mark Bouch
Chair, on behalf of the Trustees



Charity Name Devizes Canoe Club	No (if any) 1156402
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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2022	To	Period end date 31/03/2023
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants and donations	122	-	-	122	11,422
Members subscriptions	10,639	-	-	10,639	11,899
Fundraising events	9,921	-	-	9,921	10,709
Boat storage and fobs	3,071	-	-	3,071	3,776
Memberships in advance	720	-	-	720	2,205
Camp income	-	-	-	-	350
Equipment sale	350	-	-	350	950
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	23,383	-	-	23,383	41,311
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	23,383	-	-	23,383	41,311
A3 Payments					
Cost of Fundraising events	11,517	-	-	11,517	10,760
Lighting and Heating	2,864	-	-	2,864	1,577
Insurance and subscriptions	2,208	-	-	2,208	1,443
Grant related expenditure	-	-	-	-	927
Camp expenses	-	-	-	-	221
Premises expenditure	3,903	-	-	3,903	6,873
Welfare and training	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry	1,390	-	-	1,390	768
Website	101	-	-	101	361
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	21,983	-	-	21,983	22,930
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Equipment	6,391	-	-	6,391	15,562
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	6,391	-	-	6,391	15,562
Total payments	28,374	-	-	28,374	38,492
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 4,991	-	-	- 4,991	2,819
A5 Transfers between funds	321 #	- 321	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	26,457	10,290	-	36,747	33,928
Cash funds this year end	21,787	9,969	-	31,756	36,747

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	20,060	9,969	-
	Cash	1,727	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	21,787	9,969	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Stock	Unrestricted	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		P A Papworth-Smith	20/01/2024	



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Devizes Canoe Club

On accounts for the year
ended

31/03/2023

Charity no
(if any)

1156402

Set out on pages

1

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

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

Signed:

S Holland

Date:

20/01/2024

Name:

S Holland

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

F.C.A.

Address:

29 Devizes Road

Swindon

SN1 4BG

DEVIZES CANOE CLUB

England & Wales - Charity number 1156402

Accounts

TRUSTEES REPORT 2021-22

Formal Report to the Charities Commission

Welcome to the eighth Trustees report under our constitution as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This report to the Charities Commission was prepared by Mark Bouch, as Chair, on behalf of the Club's Trustees for the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

This report will be circulated to members with 2021/22 accounts for approval at the Club's AGM in [November 2022].

CIO Trustee Committee

Devizes Canoe Club is a "Charitable Incorporated Organisation". Our Charity number is 1156402. We were registered with the Charities Commission on 27th March 2014. Legal decisions are taken by the CIO trustees, who in 2021/22 were Andy Allen, Ann Slator, Mark Bouch, Paul Papworth-Smith, Sue Colby, Juliet Fooks and Chris Jones. In December the Club appointed Lindyanne Ehrnrooth as Club Secretary. Her duties include providing secretariat support to the Trustees' Committee.

The CIO Trustees have a legal responsibility to the Charities Commission for effective governance and management of the CIO's assets in line with our CIO constitution. CIO Trustees are responsible for setting policy and approving budgets as part of their governance responsibilities. Club property, including the club's built estate, is held by the CIO on behalf of the Club itself and not by any individual. Trustees meet quarterly and when required.

Trustees are appointed by a decision of members at the Club AGM. At the pending AGM, two trustees must retire, and we have an opportunity to appoint up to three trustees. Any club member is welcome to nominate themselves, at least one week before the AGM, as a CIO Trustee.

At this AGM, Paul Papworth-Smith and Juliet Fooks will retire on rotation. Both intend to stand for re-election. Members will be invited to re-appoint Mark Bouch, Ann Slator, Juliet Fooks, Paul Papworth-Smith, Sue Colby, Andy Allen, and Chris Jones and to appoint, for the first time, Lindyanne Ehrnrooth as CIO Trustees.

Club Management Committee

The CIO Trustees delegate power to a management committee which meets monthly, to coordinate the operational management of the Club. The Management Committee are responsible for ensuring club operations comply with policy and best practice.

The CIO Trustees appoint the key management committee roles: Club Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer and Secretary and invite the management committee to fill other key roles necessary for effective management.

The Chair and Deputy Chair divide their roles with Chair's focus being club strategy, development and governance and the Deputy Chair's focus being club operations.

The proposed 2020/21 management committee are Mark Bouch (Chair), Paul Papworth Smith (Treasurer), Lindyanne Ehrnrooth (Secretary), Sue Colby (Deputy Chair), Emma O'Hare (Welfare and Safeguarding Officer), [James Papworth-Smith (H&S), Stuart Colby (Facilities), James Mahoney (Coaching Group Lead), Anna Overton (Junior Programme Coordinator), Nigel Chivers (Senior Programme Coordinator and Captain of Boats) and Victoria Cains (PR & Media Officer). We currently

have a gap for a Volunteer Coordinator and intend to fill this important role during the year. In the meantime, duties are shared between other committee members.

The committee has invited other members to fill important volunteer roles, including leading paddling groups, managing boat storage, delivering the coaching programme, and providing bankside support during organised sessions. These appointments do not need to attend committee meetings but are welcome to do so.

All key volunteer appointments are recorded on our website within the members' section.

Our AGM provides the formal opportunity to approve members of the management committee for 2022/23. Committee membership is open to all Club members, though we will only appoint committee members to fill specific roles required to ensure the efficient management of the club.

Members wishing to put their names forward to serve on the management committee or challenge the nominations proposed should submit their names in writing to the Club Secretary at least one week before the AGM.

The Club management committee intends to meet monthly. Minutes are taken, will be published on the club website and available on request to those without website access.

Club Purpose

The Club's purpose is **"The promotion of community participation in healthy recreation in particular by the provision of facilities for the sport of canoeing and kayaking"**. We have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. We provide identifiable benefits in advancing health and sport, to the public. Our membership criteria and what we offer are inclusive and open to all members of the public without restriction. We make it clear that if anyone finds it difficult to pay our membership and coaching fees we can help, and we regularly do.

Our priorities for 2021/22 were established in the 2020-2024 strategy work and the club's development plan for 2022.

With COVID having restricted our programme in 2020, 2021/22 was the year of recovery and our focus was:

- Restoring a full development programme
- Restarting introduction to paddlesport and school programmes
- Increasing participation to at or above pre-pandemic levels
- Retaining and recovering pre-pandemic membership levels
- Rebuilding the club's community spirit and ethos.

After a consultation process with committee members, including parents, members and coaches, our annual club development plan was renewed in Q1 2021, identifying detailed annual objectives to deliver the club's six ambitions identified in the 2020 – 2024 Club Strategy.

The main effort (our top priority) for 2021-2022 was the restoration of club operations and activity levels from April 2021.

Club Accreditation

The club remains accredited through Sport England's Clubmark scheme for community clubs. However, whilst the standards are relevant since August 2019 Sport England is no longer providing general support for Clubmark accreditation.

In Q1 2022, in the period covered by this report, the Club achieved accreditation under British Canoeing's Quality Club programme, demonstrating that we met the highest possible standards of governance and safeguarding. Whilst completing our Quality Club action plan over the next 12 months we will also evaluate whether the club should begin a programme of activity to achieve Champion Club status for talent development and set a timetable for this.

The Quality Club programme prompted a thorough review of our framework of policies and plans. Every club policy has been reviewed for coherence and compliance with NGB guidelines. New policies were developed in specific areas including Financial Governance, Volunteer Recruitment and Induction. A timetable for policy review has been identified.

All policies are available in the members' section of our website. As part of our overall move to digitise administration, paper copies are no longer maintained. Any club policy is available from the Chair or Club Secretary at any time upon request.

Activity Report

This report includes a summary report on our activities and achievements in 2021-22 in pursuit of our paddlesport objectives. By publishing this report on the Charities Commission website we display the benefit to club members and society. More information will be given at the AGM.

This period started after the national lockdowns and restrictions on organised activity were lifted. We restarted organised sessions in July 2021, ran a full junior programme from July and switched to a winter programme in October 2021.

This year we re-started monthly time trials, held local sprint and marathon events at Chippenham and sent big teams to the national marathon championships, Nottingham sprints and the Reading and Pangbourne Hasler races. Despite the impact of the pandemic on training, our results have been outstanding. They demonstrate hard work and commitment during the year by our paddlers, coaching team and parents. Our top junior paddler, Mollie Ball, gained a place at the Olympic Hopefuls regatta which is an amazing achievement for a young woman who started paddling in Devizes.

By September the 2021/22 marathon season started, and the club committed to increasing participation at local SW Region marathon events to ensure qualification for the Club Finals. No Club Finals took place in 2021 and the paddling calendar runs from September to August, crossing over the reporting year covered by this report. At the end of the period (March 2022), we were in fourth position in the SW region, which would subsequently earn DCC a well-deserved qualification place in 3rd position in the SW Region. Results from the 2022 National Championships and Club Finals will be featured in the 2022/23 Trustees report.

Our membership number recovered fully in 2021 with 162 members on the books by year-end. This was a new membership record, though this number masks an influx of new members and quite a significant number (around 15%) who did not renew post-pandemic. We followed up on these 'regretted losses' but no single factor was evident in their decision not to re-join. In most cases the

reasons related to other activities/interests and work becoming available once more, and an inability to commit time to the club.

Post-pandemic we experienced a high level of demand for introductory courses (a primary means of attracting new members) and support to schools. Thirty-one seniors and around 30 juniors completed our introductory programmes in 2021, reflecting high levels of demand for outdoor activity. We were able to absorb most senior and junior adventure group paddlers and some racing paddlers as members but had to institute a junior waiting list in 2021/22 because the demand to join exceeded our ability to integrate new paddlers into the junior racing group.

When potential members are on a waiting list, there is a high chance that they will switch interest to another sport or activity and will be lost to paddlesport. This is a long-term systemic challenge which requires additional coaches, additional equipment, and facilities, all of which will need to be developed to keep pace with our forecast growth.

In 2021/21 our support to external organisations included:

- Support to Dauntsey's School. We ran ten sessions on canoe and kayak for 12 students choosing paddlesport as a games option and delivered a paddlesport module for 120 students on their middle school adventure programme (known as Moonrakers).
- Support to local Primary Schools. We ran introductory sessions for Five Lanes and Thomas a Becket schools.
- Support to Devizes young people through the Lions Club sports coaching sessions. This delivers two free fun sessions for local children.

These commitments are only possible with the enthusiastic support of our coaching team. In 2021/22 they have, once again, risen to the challenge and delivered high-quality experiences to external organisations. This raises a significant amount of income from the club, and coaches generally receive payment of expenses for their commitment in line with club policy for payments to volunteers.

All support to external organisations is charged unless specifically approved as a 'charitable purpose' to ensure we meet our costs and make a reasonable surplus for the club. This helps to keep membership fee increases to a minimum.

With the club now fully back in use, membership and participation at pre-pandemic levels, our hard-working volunteer team delivering the programme, and the club well-represented at regional and national competitive events, we can say with confidence that the club has 'bounced back'

Financials

Our financial accounting period runs from 1st April to 31st March 2022, so the accounts presented at this AGM relate to a period ending seven months ago. This report will provide a narrative to support the club's financial statement and a forward-looking view of the club's financial health. An informal update covering the more recent period will be reported at the AGM. At the end of the last accounting period:

- The club held an operating surplus of £31,427, of which £19,218 are unrestricted reserves. This represents an increase of £614 on 2020/21. Our annual operating surplus of just over £113 indicates we were running on a fine margin in 2021/22 with increased costs of the activity programme and maintenance levels post pandemic.

- Income does not include REME club membership or storage fees which remain outstanding for the period in question. The REME CC must therefore be regarded as a debtor, though we have control over their assets in storage, which is sufficient to cover their debt.
- Most income lines are in a healthy state and show significant increases from 2020/21:
 - We made an income of £6,762 from coaching and equipment hire.
 - We raised £2,029 from the sale of club kit and merchandise.
 - We raised £3,660 from boat storage at full capacity throughout the year.
- Expenditure has increased in a number of areas with significant increases above 2020/21 on:
 - Coaching and expenses increasing to an all-time high of £8,057 as we resourced the activity programme by paying expenses to coaches for programme delivery. Note that this sum is mostly, but not entirely, offset by coaching and hire income. From 2022 onwards we need to ensure this remains in balance.
 - Expenditure on the built estate was £6,873 in 2021/22 and included the necessary maintenance to bring the club back into use.
 - Utilities costs show an increase over 2020/21 which reflects increased use and will increase further in 2022/23 due to wholesale electricity and gas prices.
- The club maintains around 2 years' operating costs in general reserve. Our restricted reserves included, at the end of the 2021/22 year, a £3,209 junior fund for the exclusive use of junior projects and bursaries, and a facilities (property) reserve of £9,000.

Our expenses in 2021/22 include the payment of entry fees for all crew boat entries to incentivise crew boat entries in competitions. We instituted a 'towing fee' to encourage larger teams to travel to events. By doing so, and reducing the cost of competition, we hope to ease the burden of families and increase participation. The affordability of this policy will be kept under review by the Treasurer.

Funds reserved for junior development, bursaries, and subsidising competition entries for club junior crews have been committed in the year to purchase junior development K1s and meet expenses for junior events.

During 2021/22 we secured a £10,000 Return to Play grant from Sport England. This enabled us to make a further purchase of development K1 and a K2 targeted at smaller paddlers (predominantly juniors and women). Delivery of these additional hulls was completed in 2022.

Club trustees met in mid-2021 to agree on nearly £12,000 of investment in our club facilities. The bulk of this money was and is being spent on enhancements to security and safety, including CCTV security cameras and improved main gate access. The club now has 24/7 camera surveillance and digital recording via a wireless link. A benefit of this programme is that we have Wi-Fi available at the club for the first time. We agreed to supply a digital key fob to every member for access and have work in progress to modify gate access and enhance storage to provide limited additional capacity.

We installed a semi-automatic emergency defibrillator (AED) on-site, and the Trustees allocated a budget for club boat maintenance and repair. The spend of this budget has been delegated to speed up the process of getting work done.

Some planned works, including building rendering, have been deliberately put on hold during the year pending further information about local developments directly affecting the club's site. These developments are summarised in a paragraph about the club's future.

We are pleased to report that the club is in robust financial shape at the end of this challenging year and able to invest in the future.

A summary of the accounts is sent with this report to the Members before the AGM and full accounts are submitted to the Charity Commission and are available for public scrutiny.

Achievements

National Sprint Regatta April 2022. We entered a relatively small team, with one exception all were junior paddlers, and saw many of our team reach A and B finals. We recorded some great race wins. Highlights included Mollie Ball winning the U16 girls K1 500 and 1000, and coming 2nd in the 200, and Arthur Hunter-Hopkins with a partner from another club, winning the U14 boys K2 500 & 1000.

Many DCC paddlers competed in the Waterside Series marathon races. In total 31 club paddlers competed in the Waterside Series with notable podium places in races by Dylan Martin, Will Scaplehorn, Jamie Lovell, Zoe Palmer and Edie Noble. The series results saw DCC crews winning JWK2 (Will Scaplehorn/Jamie Lovell), MMK2 and 2nd VMK2 (Kevin Crabb/Neil Edgar), 2nd place JMK2 (Dylan Martin/Fowey CC partner), 2nd SWK2 (Vanessa Colyer/Amy Colyer), 2nd SMK1 (Matt Hamblen) and 4th VMK1 (Charlie Mayo). This was our best series result ever!

Twenty-four DCC paddlers represented the club in the Devizes to Teddington (a shortened DW race) race over Easter and achieved amazing results, with an overall win for William Scaplehorn/Jamie Lovell in Junior Men K2 and Zoe Palmer/Edie Noble in Junior Women K2. With other great individual results, DCC finished with the Junior Doubles Trophy, the Combined Class Trophy (Fastest Senior K2, Junior K2 and Senior K1) and the Senior Singles Team Trophy. Yet again, this was our best team performance ever.

Our first full Hasler Race at Chippenham CSC was a success despite a challenging portage and weather. To our team's credit, we won the team competition against some significant opposition, including our local rivals Bradford on Avon and the two big regional clubs Exeter and Gloucester.

Individual paddlers achieved phenomenal results this season with promotions across the board. For the first time, at the end of 2021, we have several juniors promoted to a level where they have a realistic chance of promotion in 2022 to the top divisions in marathon and sprint, but also a strong group of younger paddlers transitioning from Lightning and mini sprint to full racing divisions.

Strategic Development

At our last AGM we made a statement to members about plans, then recently in the public domain, to develop the Assizes Court as a future home for the Wiltshire Museum and Wadworth & Co's plans to move the brewing operations to a new site in Devizes.

We do not expect (or want) short-term access to adjacent unoccupied buildings owned by Wadworth & Co and the Devizes Assizes Court Trust (DACT). We intend to find long-term solutions to accommodate our growth with development funding and security of tenure.

The Club Trustees' position remains that we have no concerns about the long-term viability of the club or the site we occupy. We have a 125-year lease and 25-year leases on the section of Lower Wharf roadway within club boundaries and the launch area. This, with a legally sound right of access over the Lower Wharf roadway, gives us a strong hand in any negotiations.

Since April 2021 we have been actively engaging with the consultation process being undertaken by both parties and with Wiltshire Council, our property owner. We successfully influenced the Wharf Development Brief Update to include the club's ambitions and the need to seize opportunities to enhance and extend the club's facilities as these projects progress. The consultation process

continues, though it remains too early to know whether we will be able to secure any of the development opportunities identified. It will be vital to build the club's public profile over the next year to give key stakeholders a much better understanding of our priorities and development needs.

We have an active working group now looking at the feasibility of three options identified in the 2022 Wharf Development Brief Update. We intend to publish a feasibility paper when the development brief itself is subject to a formal consultation process in the next few months, and we will continue to have conversations with important stakeholders that are directly involved and privy to confidential information. These include Wiltshire Council, Devizes Town Council Planning Committee, Wadworth & Co and the DACT.

Mark Bouch
Chair, on behalf of the Trustees



Charity Name Devizes Canoe Club	No (if any) 1156402
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Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 4/1/2021	To	Period end date 3/31/2022
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
Grants and donations	11,422	-	-	11,422
Members subscriptions	11,899	-	-	11,899
Fundraising events	10,709	-	-	10,709
Boat storage and fobs	3,776	-	-	3,776
Memberships in advance	2,205	-	-	2,205
Camp income	350	-	-	350
Equipment sale	950	-	-	950
	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	41,311	-	-	41,311
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	41,311	-	-	41,311
A3 Payments				
Cost of Fundraising events	10,760	-	-	10,760
Lighting and Heating	1,577	-	-	1,577
Insurance and subscriptions	1,443	-	-	1,443
Grant related expenditure	927	-	-	927
Camp expenses	221	-	-	221
Premises expenditure	6,873	-	-	6,873
Welfare and training	-	-	-	-
Sundry	768	-	-	768
Website	361	-	-	361
Sub total	22,930	-	-	22,930
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)				
Equipment	15,562	-	-	15,562
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	15,562	-	-	15,562
Total payments	38,492	-	-	38,492
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,819	-	-	2,819
A5 Transfers between funds	1,919	-	-	-
	#	1,919	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	21,719	12,209	-	33,928
Cash funds this year end	26,457	10,290	-	36,747

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	24,915	10,290
	Cash	1,542	-
		-	-
	Total cash funds	26,457	10,290
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
			-
			-
			-
			-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
	Equipment	Unrestricted	-
	Stock	Unrestricted	500
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)
			-
			-
			-
			-
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	
		P A Papworth-Smith	

CC16a

Last year

to the nearest £

13,671
9,778
3,692
2,205
- 2,336
-
950
-
27,960

-
-
-

27,960

3,594
1,341
2,008
-
-
910
-
1,681
-
9,534

6,282
6,282

15,816

12,144
-
22,734
34,878



Endowment funds

to nearest £

-
-
-
-

OK

Endowment funds

to nearest £

-
-
-
-
-
-

Current value (optional)

-
-
-
-
-

Current value (optional)

-
500
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

When due (optional)

Date of approval

1/27/2023



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of Devizes Canoe Club

On accounts for the year ended 31/03/2022 **Charity no (if any)** 1156402

Set out on pages 1 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

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

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

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: *S Holland* **Date:** 27/01/2023

Name: S Holland

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body F.C.A.

Address: 29 Devizes Road
Swindon
SN1 4BG

DEVIZES CANOE CLUB

England & Wales - Charity number 1156402

Accounts



Charity Name Devizes Canoe Club	No. (if any) 156402
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2020	To	Period end date 31/03/2021
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants and donations	13,671	-	-	13,671	15,512
Members subscriptions	9,778	-	-	9,778	10,238
Fundraising events	3,692	-	-	3,692	14,249
Boat storage and fobs	2,205	-	-	2,205	2,070
Memberships in advance	- 2,336	-	-	- 2,336	- 398
Camp income	-	-	-	-	8,312
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	27,010	-	-	27,010	49,983
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	27,010	-	-	27,010	49,983
A3 Payments					
Cost of Fundraising events	3,594	-	-	3,594	11,152
Lighting and Heating	1,341	-	-	1,341	1,795
Insurance and subscriptions	2,008	-	-	2,008	1,913
Grant related expenditure	-	-	-	-	1,000
Camp expenses	-	-	-	-	4,503
Premises expenditure	910	-	-	910	5,890
Welfare and training	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry	1,681	-	-	1,681	956
Website	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	9,534	-	-	9,534	27,209
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Equipment	6,282	-	-	6,282	19,848
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	6,282	-	-	6,282	19,848
Total payments	15,816	-	-	15,816	47,057
Net of receipts/(payments)	11,194	-	-	11,194	2,926
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,525	12,209	-	22,734	19,808
Cash funds this year end	21,719	12,209	-	33,928	22,734

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	21,093	12,209	-
	Cash	626	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	21,719	12,209	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

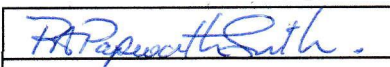
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Stock	Unrestricted	500	500
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	P A Papworth-Smith	20/01/2022



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Devizes Canoe Club		
On accounts for the year ended	31/03/2021	Charity no (if any)	1156402
	Set out on pages 1 <small>(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)</small>		

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

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

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

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: *S Holland* **Date:** 21/01/2022

Name: S Holland

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body F.C.A.

Address: 29 Devizes Road
Swindon
SN1 4BG

TRUSTEES REPORT 2020-21

Formal Report to the Charities Commission

Welcome to the seventh Trustees report under our constitution as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This report to the Charities Commission was prepared by Mark Bouch, as Chair, on behalf of the Club's Trustees for the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

This report will be circulated to members with 2020/21 accounts for approval at the Club's AGM in November 2021.

CIO Trustee Committee

Devizes Canoe Club is a "Charitable Incorporated Organisation". Our Charity number is 1156402. We were registered with the Charities Commission on 27th March 2014. Legal decisions are taken by the CIO trustees, who in 2020/21 were Andy Allen, Ann Slator, Mark Bouch, Paul Papworth-Smith, Sue Colby, Juliet Fooks and Chris Jones.

The CIO Trustees have a legal responsibility to the Charities Commission for effective governance and management of the CIO's assets in line with our CIO constitution. CIO Trustees are responsible for setting policy and approving budgets as part of their governance responsibilities. Club property, including the club's built estate, is held by the CIO on behalf of the Club itself and not by any individual. Trustees meet quarterly and when required.

Trustees are appointed by a decision of members at the Club AGM. At the pending AGM, two trustees must retire, and we have an opportunity to appoint up to three trustees. Any club member is welcome to nominate themselves, at least one week prior to the AGM, as a CIO Trustee.

On this occasion, Mark Bouch and Sue Colby intend to step down. Members will be asked to re-appoint Mark Bouch, Ann Slator, Juliet Fooks, Paul Papworth-Smith, Sue Colby, Andy Allen, and Chris Jones as CIO Trustees.

Club Management Committee

The CIO Trustees delegate power to a management committee which meets monthly, to coordinate the operational management of the Club. The Management Committee are responsible for ensuring club operations comply with policy and best practice.

The CIO Trustees appoint the key management committee roles: Club Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer and Secretary and invite the management committee to fill other key roles necessary for effective management.

From this AGM, the Chair and Deputy Chair will divide their roles with Chair's focus being club strategy, development and governance and the Deputy Chair's focus being club operations.

At this AGM our long-serving Club Secretary, Ann Slator, intends to step down. Ann has served the club with distinction since its formation in 2009 and is one of just two committee members still in place from our founding club committee. She has actively and enthusiastically supported the club's growth from a handful of people at the main wharf in Devizes to our current dedicated facilities and a membership of 150 people. Ann intends to remain a Club Trustee and has offered to manage the club's membership processes to support the new club secretary. We owe her a huge debt of thanks.

The proposed 2020/21 management committee are Mark Bouch (Chair), Paul Papworth Smith (Treasurer), VACANCY (Secretary), Sue Colby (Deputy Chair), Emma O'Hare (Volunteer Coordinator), Katie Scaplehorn (Welfare and Safeguarding), Ian Thackray (H&S), Stuart Colby (Facilities), Bev Hunter (Coaching Group Lead), Anna Overton (PR/Media and Junior Section, Nigel Chivers (Senior Section and Captain of Boats) and Sarah Cook (Junior Competition). The committee has invited several other members to fill important volunteer roles, including leading paddling groups, managing boat storage, and delivering the coaching programme. These appointments do not need to attend committee meetings but are welcome to do so.

All volunteer appointments are recorded on our website within the members' section.

Our AGM provides the formal opportunity to approve members of the management committee for 2021. Committee membership is open to all Club members, though we will only appoint committee members to fill specific roles required to ensure the efficient management of the club.

Members wishing to put their names forward to serve on the management committee or challenge the nominations proposed should submit their name in writing to the Club Secretary at least one week prior to the AGM.

The Club management committee intends to meet monthly. Minutes are taken, will be published on the club website and available on request to those without website access.

Club Purpose

The Club's purpose is **"The promotion of community participation in healthy recreation in particular by the provision of facilities for the sport of canoeing and kayaking"**. We have regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. We provide identifiable benefits in advancing health and sport, to the public. Our membership criteria and what we offer is inclusive and open to all members of the public without restriction. We make it clear that if anyone finds it difficult to pay our membership and coaching fees we can help, and we regularly do.

Our priorities for 2020/21 were established in the 2020-2024 strategy work and the club's development plan for 2021. With COVID very much influencing the shape of 2020/21 our emphasis this year was restricted to limited objectives to:

- Support club members, so far as possible, to paddle individually and in small groups as permitted by government and NGB regulations.
- To maintain COVID secure operations at the club and maintain access to individual equipment.
- To maintain the club's community spirit and ethos.

After a consultation process with committee members and volunteers, including parents, members and coaches, our club development plan was renewed in Q1 2021 for the period 2021-2024. This process established six ambitions and detailed annual objectives for 2021/22.

The main effort (our top priority) for 2020-2021 was the restoration of club operations and activity levels as lockdown restrictions eased. This started to happen in [late March] 2021 and consequently falls outside the period covered by this report.

Club Accreditation

The club remains accredited through Sport England's Clubmark scheme for community clubs. However, whilst the standards are relevant since August 2019 Sport England is no longer providing general support for Clubmark accreditation.

In Q1 2021 the Club committed to apply for recognition under British Canoeing's new Quality Club programme. This accreditation scheme aims to maintain the highest possible standards of governance and safeguarding. We intend to achieve the Quality Club standard by the end of the 2021/22 reporting year and have a plan in place to achieve Champion Club status for talent development in 2022.

We maintain a fully compliant set of up-to-date policies and plans. These include policies for:

- Club operations and safety
- Facilities management
- Welfare and safeguarding
- Code of Conduct
- Social media

New policies were approved during 2021 including policies for payments to volunteers and a disciplinary, complaints and appeals policy.

These policies are available in the members' section of our website. As part of our overall move to digitise our administration, paper copies will no longer be maintained in the clubhouse. Any club policy is available from the Chair or Club Secretary at any time on request.

Activity Report

This report includes a summary report on our activities and achievements in 2020-21 in pursuit of our paddlesport objectives. By publishing this report on the Charities Commission website we display the benefit to club members and society. More information will be given at the AGM.

The start of formal lockdown coincided with the period of this report and our membership year. As expected, we experienced a significant reduction in income as many members did not renew or renewed late. This situation was mostly recovered by the middle of the year, from July onwards, when limited activity was able to continue within government and NGB guidelines.

During the first period of lockdown we closed the club for organised activity on the water. When the Canal & River Trust suspended use of the navigation in March, the suspended all normal activity but provided opportunities for members to socialise and connect for online quiz evenings. When initial lockdown lifted in June, we were able to reopen on a limited basis and provide COVID safe access to boats and equipment for individual paddles, paddlers in family groups and bubbles. This provided a vital recreational and exercise outlet for many people, including our active junior section.

With a considerable volunteer effort to assess and mitigate risks, we were able to restart organised sessions in July 2021 with considerable success. A full junior programme ran consistently from July and switched to a winter programme in October 2021.

The effort in making some of the club's facilities available has been considerable and we owe thanks to the many volunteers who have made this possible by assessing risk, changing protocols to ensure safe and healthy operations, and adapting facilities.

Whilst our indoor facilities, changing rooms and toilets remained out of use until late 2020, we managed to restore high activity levels for individual club members, young people, and family

groups without any safety compromise. We are proud that no COVID cases occurred because of club activity.

The coronavirus pandemic curtailed all competitive activity from March 2020 to March 2021. This prevented the regional and national competitions including sprint regattas, the SW and national Hasler marathon races, the Devizes to Westminster canoe race and other classic marathons. At club level we participated in a regional 5K virtual time trial throughout the late summer and in Q1 2021 many club members participated in club running challenges in February and March and an individual virtual Devizes to Westminster 125-mile paddle challenge.

Sadly, COVID restrictions prevented us from running courses, so we were unable to offer schools programmes, development groups or integrate new members, other than on an individual basis. Despite this, by the end of the year we had a healthy waiting list and a full activity programme, including two one-week introductory programmes for our local primary schools' network, ready to launch at Easter 2021. This will be covered in the club's next report.

Financials

Our financial accounting period runs from 1st April to 31st March, so the accounts presented at this AGM relate to the period ending seven months ago. This report will also provide a summary of the impacts of coronavirus on the club's finances since April. An informal update covering the more recent period will be reported at the AGM. At the end of the last accounting period:

- The club held an operating surplus of £31,314, of which £18,605 are unrestricted reserves. This represents an increase of £5.269 on 2019/20.
- Membership income recovered by mid 2020 but remained marginally down on the previous year as the REME did not renew membership.
- We made a modest income of £2950 from club coaching and equipment hire.
- We raised over £600 from the sale of Club kit and merchandise.
- The £10,000 Sport England grant awarded in 2019 was fully delivered in 2020 and the grant completed in Q1 2021. This provides nine extra seats per session and a progression route through different craft. The grant made a high impact during COVID as we were able to offer access to club equipment to members without their own boats.
- Expenditure on the built estate was much reduced in 2020/21 although we spent, and continue to spend, additional sums on COVID security measures including disinfection and consumables.
- The club maintains around 2 years' operating costs in general reserve with around £9,000 held as a facilities (property) reserve.
- The surplus funds from the junior summer camp in 2019 remains available for junior development, bursaries, and subsidising competition entries for club junior crews due to the lack of events in 2020-21. We committed £600 to purchase junior development K1s.
- In 2020 we started to invest for a return to activity. We replaced more than half of our buoyancy aids, bought new wing paddles, and placed an order for a new boat trailer which was delivered 2021.

During 2020-21 we secured a £2,500 grant from the Sport England Community Emergency Fund to assist with funding running costs and subsequently, because the CIO is eligible for small business rates relief, successfully applied for a further grant of £10,000 which put us in a very strong financial position to invest for the future.

We are pleased to report that the club is in robust financial shape at the end of this challenging year and able to invest for the future. An extensive facilities investment proposal to improve safety, security and amenities will be made to CIO Trustees in Q3 2021.

A summary of the accounts is sent with this report to the Members before the AGM and full accounts are submitted to the Charity Commission and are available for public scrutiny.

Achievements

Despite the challenges of 2020-21 we continue to thrive as a club, with 120 members at the end of the reporting year. Even during the pandemic we've integrated several new individual paddlers (young and old) to paddlesport, provided regular Club training sessions, ran events at the Club and a youth sprint regatta on the Avon at Chippenham.

We've noticed an upsurge in the number of parents taking safe 'exercise' on the towpath whilst supervising junior paddlers and look forward to building on these social connections as soon as we can.

We also formed a new management committee at the last AGM, held online for the first time.

Chair's Notes

It's been a challenging year for many of us. The coronavirus pandemic forced us to adapt and constrain our social and competitive programme, whilst also impacting our family and working lives. Many of us experienced long periods of working from home and the realities of home-schooling for extended periods. I hope we are on the other side now!

At club level our volunteers rose to the challenge with enthusiasm and ingenuity to keep club members active and meet the challenges of COVID. Thank you to all our volunteers working in view and behind the scenes. We recognise and appreciate your efforts and commitment.

I am thrilled how quickly we bounced back after Easter with schools' programmes restarted, the club development programme in full swing by the summer and introductory courses run throughout the year. Membership levels are back to nearly 150 members and activity levels, judged by participation at the club, regional and national events are as high as they have ever been. The club achieved truly impressive results at GB national sprint and marathon events this year, which will be covered in more detail in the next report.

It would have been easy to close the doors, but your committee was relentless, meeting regularly online, constantly challenging constraints and taking individual initiative to enable safe outdoor activity to take place. As chair I am inspired by your ideas and willingness to make things happen.

At the time of writing we are seven months into 2021-22 year and still living with the challenges of COVID, despite nearly every adult member now being vaccinated. The risk increases as our winter programme is about to start in October, and we are still seeing increased cases in schools. We cannot let our guard drop just yet.

We fully achieved our aim of getting the club up and running again and are moving with confidence towards 2022.

Mark Bouch
Chair, on behalf of the Trustees