

SKERRIES FOR SCHOOLS

England & Wales · Charity number 1162659

Details

Other names S4S, Thames Community Rowing

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2015-07-14

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

Contact

Address 14th Richmond Scout Boating Centre
Retreat Road
Richmond
Surrey
TW9 1NN

Phone 07967310310

Website www.skerries4schools.org

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF THE CIO IS:TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN AND OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS SUCH AS THE DISABLED, TO DISCOVER THE PLEASURE, TEAM SPIRIT, DISCIPLINE AND VIGOROUS EXERCISE OF ROWING.TO MAKE THESE GROUPS AWARE OF THE SAFETY ISSUES CONNECTED WITH WATER.TO MAKE THESE GROUPS AWARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THEIR INTERCONNECTION WITH IT.

Activities: To provide opportunities for school children and other community groups such as the disabled to discover the pleasure, team spirit, discipline and vigorous exercise of rowing.To make these groups aware of the safety issues connected with water.To make these groups aware of the environment and their interconnection with it.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, Amateur Sport, Environment/conservation/heritage, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

| Period end | Income | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|------------|---------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| 2024-12-31 | £36,677 | £25,749 | - | - |
| 2023-12-31 | £21,788 | £23,222 | - | - |
| 2022-12-31 | £8,552 | £4,677 | - | - |
| 2021-12-31 | £15,486 | £6,344 | - | - |
| 2020-12-31 | £28,642 | £27,133 | - | - |

Trustees

| Name | Role | Appointed |
|--|------|------------|
| Christopher Theodore Shaw Szyszkiewicz | | 2020-10-12 |
| DAVID GOLTON | | 2016-01-01 |
| Justin Stephen Richard Barratt | | 2022-03-01 |
| Stephen Christopher Rac | | 2024-03-18 |
| Vic Griffiths | | 2016-01-01 |

SKERRIES FOR SCHOOLS

England & Wales - Charity number 1162659

Accounts



CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
Registered Charity 1162659

**Trustees' Annual Report and
Financial Statements
for the year ending
31st December 2024**



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2024

Whilst 2024 has been a positive in terms of ongoing development of infrastructure and community involvement, it has been a challenging year with regard to schools engagement and number of young people on the river.

- We have increased our volunteer coaching contingent as three more became fully fledged coaches this year
- Our fleet of skerries are in good shape for the future
- We have made several capital purchases including another set of new lightweight oars that will allow younger participants to use all our boats comfortably
- We have also raised funds for training future coaches and boat maintenance

Richmond

Whilst we have engaged and delivered 48 participant-sessions to a new school to the river (Greycourt Secondary), we have lost a number of sessions in our traditional client schools as they had staffing issues and couldn't facilitate them. However they still remain "on-board", for future seasons.

This has resulted in a downturn in bookings, but given us time to engage with more schools in the area with an eye to 2025.

Our relationships with other nearby groups and organisations remain strong, including Richmond Bridge Boat Club, 14th Richmond Scout Boating Centre, St Philips School, and Master Boat Builder - Mark Edwards & his team.

Reading

Due to a change in leadership at Reading Sea Cadets, our skerry Floreat, has had limited use whilst the troop restructures itself.

Again, whilst this has meant a downturn in usage figures for the 2024 season, the Sea Cadets, with Peter Young R.V.M should be in a position to maximise usage going into 2025. Peter is a qualified Fixed Seat instructor and will bring great experience and structure to developing fixed seat rowing through our partnership with the Sea Cadets.

Recruiting an operations manager to drive the schools' model for the site has continued to prove challenging, so we are looking at potential partnership models to make the facility more accessible to the community.

Boats

Our proactive approach to boat maintenance has allowed us to identify issues at the point of 'minor repair rather than allowing issues develop to 'major problem'.

Trustees

We have welcomed Steve Rac to the Board of Trustees with responsibility for fund raising and Vice Chair.

Funding

We have successfully raised over £10,000 for specific projects and the ongoing running of the charity.

2025

Whilst the numbers for 2024 have taken a step backwards, it has allowed our team of Trustees, Ops Manager and volunteers to engage with a number of new local schools and bookings are looking towards being our best year ever in Richmond. We are also confident in our new approach to Reading yielding positive steps forward.

It has been a testing year, but each year we move forwards.



Robin Corti, 1942 - 2024

Operations Report:

2024 was a year that started like no other...

We sadly lost one of our founding members of Skerries for Schools, Robin Corti, who died from cancer in March. Robin was a huge advocate for youth rowing and as well as being Chair of S4S for many years, he was an enthusiastic and supportive coach and clearly loved providing opportunities for getting young children out on the water rowing. He will be much missed.



The Team:

In 2023 we had set about expanding the coaching team in order to meet increasing demand from the schools and at the start of this year, Keith Carr, Tony Bethell and Owen Hughes completed their final assessments and became fully fledged British Rowing Level 2 coaches. Also, at the start of the year, rower Jonathan Howard joined Marianne Geary and the team as a coaching assistant.

Coaching assistants are increasingly important as we expand our work, particularly with junior schools, helping the coaching team successfully deliver the schools sessions. They are also invaluable, helping the operations manager with boat preparation for the various events our boats are involved in during the year.



Richmond Bridge Boat Club continues to be hugely supportive of Skerries for Schools and has once again provided access to and use of their clubhouse – a vitally important part of the junior schools’ sessions. We begin and end each session in the clubhouse ensuring all the children are well briefed before we head out onto the water and to provide the obvious comfort facilities for both the school staff and children.



The schools: It proved to be a challenging year for our schools this year with several schools having to withdraw because of staffing difficulties. The river itself added to the difficulties with phenomenally high flow rates until well into May, resulting in several sessions having to be rescheduled. Twenty-one year-7 children from **Greycourt School** undertook six ‘Learn to Row’ sessions with us – twelve girls and 9 boys took to the water and in a very short space of time were showing off their newly learnt skills.



As ever, rescuing, 'Dead Fred' provided a popular and exiting end to the sessions!

Evaluation: In addition to asking teachers to evaluate their sessions with us, this year for the first time we introduced a short feedback form for children to complete - where teachers feel it's appropriate and can manage the additional administration in doing so. Grey Court School was the first to use them.

How did the sessions make you feel?



'They made me feel exhausted, but calm at the same time',

'Exited for the next one',

'It's made me feel happy because I'm learning a new skill',

'It was fun and really enjoyable'.

(Greycourt School, 2024)

Greycourt's lead teacher, Mateus, wrote that, *'In an era where physical inactivity among children ...is a growing concern, SAS recognizes the importance of providing alternative avenues for sports participation. With over 50% of children and young people failing to do an average of 60 minutes of physical activity a day (GOV, 2023), there exists an urgent need to create positive participation experiences that promote lifelong physical activity habits.'*



Head teachers conference: In July we were invited to give a talk to a conference of primary school head teachers through the organization, 'Achieving for Children'. It was a fantastic chance to talk directly to schools and our slot was followed by a heart-felt appreciation given by the Head of Lowther Primary School - he saw S4S as an excellent opportunity for schools, particularly emphasising the beneficial soft skills of team work and confidence-building that developed over a number of sessions. Following our appearance at the conference there was a flurry of contacts from schools who'd attended, with five schools new to us enquiring about sessions which bodes well for next year. Lowther too were looking to join us again for the 2025 season.

Fundraising for S4S: As always with our schools' work, the aim is not to make money, but to ensure the opportunity of working with us is as financially reasonable as possible, so the schools can afford to do it. Instead, we focus on using our skerries to raise funds through other means so we can keep the costs to schools as low as possible. The annual London Youth Rowing charity event, 'The Oarsome Challenge', again took place in July, this year expanded to a three-day event. Always an interesting experience with scratch crews who are often undertaking the gruelling row from Greenwich to Chiswick as first-time rowers.



Our boats also took part in the Great River Race (GRR) in September, the annual rowing marathon on the Thames. All five boats were hired out - two to local school, Deer Park Primary parent-teacher crews, two to an American team and one to an individual for a 50th birthday celebration. The 50th birthday crew did particularly well, winning the skerry class with a scorching time of 2 hours 25 minutes.

The Americans enjoyed their time so much they made a wonderful and unexpected donation to the charity of £600, and signed up to come again next year! All of our boats were spoken for, for the 2025 GRR before the end of the year.

The now annual row-back event of our skerry, Floreat, took place at the start of September. We bring her back from her season stay with the Sea Cadets at Blakes lock in order for her to be used in the Great River Race. As in previous years, it is a great opportunity for our coaches and assistants and for those new to us who might be encouraged to volunteer with us, to bond together over the two-day row to Richmond. Not even a downpour of biblical proportions on the first day could dampen the enthusiasm of the team!



Boats and other equipment: This year, in keeping with our now annual Autumn round of boat maintenance, as well as general upkeep on all our boats, we selected one boat for more in-depth work. John Bryant was singled out because of damage to her during an event tow.





All the boats are carefully checked over and repairs carried out to keep them in good order.

Once the repairs to two of our skerries had been completed, they were taken off to winter storage. They'll be brought back to Richmond again in the Spring.



In 2023 a plan of gradual oar replacement was agreed which would mean ultimately all four of our boats would have medium-weight macon oars, keeping our more friable, light-weight cleaver oars for use with our youngest school children (10-year-olds), and protecting them from potential damage during events.



In 2023, we were able to purchase two sets of macons and this year, through the help of one of our partner schools, we were able to purchase a third set of macons, ahead of schedule. These oars were brought into service in July, just in time for the Great River Race.



At the end of the year, a successful bid to the Tallow Chandlers meant that we were able to order the final set of new macons and we expect to take delivery of them in the new year – this will mean all our wholly-owned boats will benefit from having the more robust macon oars for use with older children and for events.

Annual Report and Financial Statements

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Governing Document

Constitution of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, whose only voting members are its charity trustees, adopted 13th July 2015

Objectives

- To provide opportunities for school children and other community groups such as the disabled to discover the pleasure, team spirit, discipline and vigorous exercise of rowing.
- To make these groups aware of the safety issues connected with water.
- To make these groups aware of the environment and their interconnection with it.

Patrons

Peter Dolan Patron

Trustees

All served from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024 unless indicated.

Details regarding recruitment/appointment and training of Trustees are shown under Governance & Management

Chris Shaw Chairman

Peter Dolan *To 18th March 2024*

Stephen Rac Vice Chairman

Patrick Ducker Secretary

David Golton Treasurer

Victor Griffiths

Justin Barratt

Advisers

Mark Edwards Master Boat Builder

Chris Leeson Operations and Administration

Charity Registration Number: 1162659

Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd., West Malling, Kent

Custodian Trustee None

Principal Address: c/o 14th Richmond Scout Boating Centre,
The Hut, Retreat Road, Richmond, TW9 1NN

Website: www.skerries4schools.org

Structure, Governance and Management

Skerries For Schools is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose only voting members are its charity trustees. Trustees are appointed by existing members. No specific training is required or given.

Day-to-day operations are in the hands of the Operations Manager for Richmond or Reading, the latter is currently vacant.

Thames Community Rowing (TCR) - During this year, the charity has been engaged in discussing and developing a longer-term strategy and to build on the ground work that was done establishing the Values and Vision & Mission for Thames Community Rowing. The first major change during the year has been to rationalise and develop the charities IT and to move to a single domain that would encompass all the charities activities; using 'Thamescommunityrowing.org' as the 'umbrella' for all the charities activities, would include the work with schools, currently under 'Skerries for Schools' and also for developing our future TCR work with adults.

Background

Skerries for School started as an unregistered charity (referred to as the “Legacy Charity”) with the same objectives seeking funding from loans, supporters and grant awarding bodies to build the skerries it needed. The CIO was registered on 14th July 2015 and the Legacy Charity transferred its assets and liabilities to the CIO on 1st January 2016 by means of a General Vesting Document dated 22nd December 2015. The transfer was accepted by the Trustees on 31st January 2016.

Statement of Trustees’ Responsibilities

Complying with the Charity’s Governing Document, the Trustees have a duty to act in the Charity’s best interest, to act with reasonable care and skill, and to ensure all regulatory requirements are met.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the CIO and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for the preparation of the Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission.

Reserves and Investment Policy

The Trustees adopted a Reserves and Investment Policy in 2022

The Trustees agreed that a reserve of £3,000 should be established to cover the risk of an unexpected fall in bookings due to major events beyond the control of the Trustees.

Financial Review

Skerries for School does not raise funds from the general public, either directly or through other people or organisations. It does seek grants from those organisations which award them and welcomes donations from organisations, and individuals, with similar aims and objectives.

The charity's trustees have elected to prepare accounts on a Receipts and Payments basis under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011. Under Guidance Note CC 16b, depreciation is precluded. While the value of the skerries have not been subjected to depreciation, the Trustees estimate that they have a ten-year useful life.

During 2024 several donations were received, both unrestricted and restricted. We were doubly pleased when Mrs Christina Gascoigne, widow of our founder Bamber, generously allowed the loan made by her husband some years ago to be released into general funds. Mrs Gascoigne also confirmed that she would be continuing the annual donation of £2,000, established by Bamber for general use. We also received a donation of £2,000 from the Dolan Family trust to cover our administration costs. Finally, we received a donation of £10,500 from the Tallow Chandlers for coach training, equipment and repairs.

As stated elsewhere in this report, due to the knock-on effects of the Covid pandemic and staffing issues at local schools, we have not been able to provide our core aims of delivering rowing sessions as we would like. As a result, our income from this source has been severely limited. We have relied on the hiring out of our boats for London Youth Rowing and The Great River Race to fund our core boating costs. The outlook for 2025 is positive with more schools coming on board.

Operations

In order to fulfil its objectives the Charity arranges the training of coaches to British Rowing Standards. All volunteers, Trustees and coaches are subject to Enhanced DBS clearance and coaches & volunteers working with children are given First Aid Training.

New Coaches are always being sought, and suitable training arranged subject to a commitment from the persons concerned. In the year in question, four further rowing coxes were put through the British Rowing L2 Coaching Course to increase both the number of coaches overall and to provide a coach specifically for the Reading operation.

Skerries are fixed seated rowboats designed for less experienced crews, with greater stability than a skiff or wherry. They carry a team of eight rowers, a coach and up to two extra passengers (e.g. teaching staff).

Participating schools are able to book coached sessions in skerries, for which they pay an hourly rate. The rate has been set to recover the Charity's marginal costs. Local Boroughs have been approached to help fund schools who might have had difficulties in meeting costs.

To enable the Charity to cover its operational costs, skerries are made available to other organisations and groups at times when schools are not using them, at more commercial rates.

The main base of Skerries For Schools is the pontoon near Richmond Bridge and as part of the post-covid re-build, the charity has consolidated relationships with other organisations to help deliver to schools. During the year, the aim to re-establish a base on the non-tidal Thames up at Kingston saw the development of a pilot with a local boatyard at Long Ditton which it is hoped will develop into a permanent arrangement.

The charity's Reading base has taken time to establish. Currently, Floreat, our boat based at Blakes Lock on the Kennet at the home of the Sea Cadets, has been used as part of coaching young cadets to row. A first step in developing a wider community-based offer has been the addition of a Reading-based coach (one of the new coaches for 2023) and the charity is still aiming to appoint an operations manager specifically for the base to develop that offer.

Public Benefit Guidance

The Trustees are confident that Skerries For Schools has been run for public benefit as evidenced by efforts to keep costs to schools as low as possible, by the provision of suitably trained and qualified coaches who give their time unpaid, and by direct contact with schools to encourage participation. Since their discussions leading to the registration of Skerries For Schools with the Charity Commission, the trustees have had due regard to the Commission’s public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Policies

Trustees have adopted policies as follows:

- Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy and Procedures
- Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Conflicts of Interest Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Disciplinary Procedure
- Equality Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Expenses Policy
- Financial Controls Policy and Procedures
- Grievance Procedure
- Reserves and Investment Policy
- Risk Management Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Safety Policy
- Volunteer Policy

Objectives, Activities, Achievements and Performance

No sessions were possible in 2020 due to Covid-19 Restrictions. The number of individual School children rowing sessions booked, and paid for, excluding the “taster” and other promotional sessions were

| Year | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| School children rowing sessions | 33 | 48 | 335 | 135 |

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

- The acquisition of suitable skerries through donations and grants.
- The training and vetting through DBS of volunteer coaches.
- Encouraging the participation of Schools and pupils in safe sporting activities on the river.
- Arranging the coached rowing sessions for Schools.

Independent Examiner's Report
to the Trustees of Skerries For Schools
A Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Registered Charity 1162659

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2024 which are set out on page 15.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

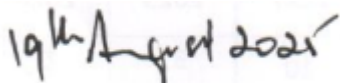
I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Paul Alexander FCA

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Accountancy Management Services Limited, 51 South Street, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 7AA



SKERRIES FOR SCHOOLS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total £ | Total 2023 £ |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Incoming Resources | | | | |
| Donations & Gift Aid Repaid | 5,080 | 12,500 | 17,580 | 13,890 |
| Write back of debt | 8,000 | - | 8,000 | - |
| Bank interest received | 81 | - | 81 | 83 |
| Use of Skerries | 11,016 | - | 11,016 | 9,829 |
| Total Incoming Resources | 24,177 | 12,500 | 36,677 | 23,802 |
| Outgoing Resources | | | | |
| Direct Activities | | | | |
| Operational Costs | 9,985 | 300 | 10,285 | 21,039 |
| Promotional Fees & Costs | - | - | - | - |
| Total for Direct Activities | 9,985 | 300 | 10,285 | 21,039 |
| Overheads & Administration | - | 643 | 643 | 6,211 |
| Total Outgoing Resources | 9,985 | 943 | 10,928 | 27,250 |
| Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources | 14,192 | 11,557 | 25,749 | (3,448) |
| | - | - | - | - |
| Net Movement in Funds | 14,192 | 11,557 | 25,749 | (3,448) |
| Funds Brought Forward | 77,549 | 24,858 | 102,407 | 105,855 |
| Funds Carried Forward | 91,741 | 36,415 | 128,156 | 102,407 |
| of which | | | | |
| Tanagible Assets | 75,923 | - | 75,923 | 75,923 |
| Current Assets | 15,818 | 36,415 | 52,233 | 26,484 |
| | 91,741 | 36,415 | 128,156 | 102,407 |

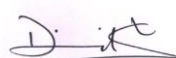
SKERRIES FOR SCHOOLS
BALANCE SHEET

| | as at 31-Dec-24 £ | as at 31-Dec-23 £ |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Fixed Assets | | |
| Tanagible Assets | 75,923 | 75,923 |
| Total Fixed Assets | 75,923 | 75,923 |
| Current Assets | | |
| Debtors | - | - |
| Cash in Hand and at Bank | 52,433 | 34,474 |
| Total Current Assets | 52,433 | 34,474 |
| Current Liabilities (due with one year) | 200 | - |
| Current Assets | 52,233 | 34,474 |
| Long Term Liabilities | - | (8,000) |
| NET ASSETS | 128,156 | 102,407 |
| represented by | | |
| Unrestricted Funds | 91,741 | 77,549 |
| Restricted Funds | 36,415 | 24,858 |
| TOTAL FUNDS | 128,156 | 102,407 |

Signed



Chris Shaw
Chairman
20 August 2025



David Golton
Treasurer
20 August 2025

SKERRIES FOR SCHOOLS

England & Wales - Charity number 1162659

Accounts



CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
Registered Charity 1162659

**Trustees' Annual Report and
Financial Statements
for the year ending
31st December 2023**



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2023

2023 has been a year of positive growth and continuing strengthening of our operational infrastructure.

Our number of users has grown through both returning, and engagement with new schools and groups.

We have grown our coaching contingent, making us future ready, and put in place a structured ongoing maintenance programme to care for our 5 skerries.

Richmond

Richmond has grown in strength both in terms of school users and operational capability.

We have successfully provided over 163 children an introduction to rowing and the river across nearly 50 hours of water time. This has been driven by our operations Manager Chris Leeson and her team of skilled and dedicated volunteers.

Recently recruited coaches have now qualified and put us in a strong position for future growth and relieved pressure on a few willing individuals who have taken the lion's share of volunteering up to now.

Our relationships with other nearby groups and organisations remain strong, including Richmond Bridge Boat Club, 14th Richmond Scout Boating Centre, St Philips School, and Master Boat Builder Mark Edwards & and his team.

Reading

In Reading, our skerry, Floreat, has had good use by the Sea Cadets. There has been a change in leadership from within the Sea Cadets at Reading, with Peter Young R.V.M taking over the unit. Peter is a qualified Fixed Seat instructor and will bring great experience and structure to developing fixed seat rowing through our partnership with the Sea Cadets.

Recruiting an operations manager to drive the schools model for the site has continued to prove challenging.

Boats

Chris Leeson (Ops Manager) has put in place an ongoing maintenance schedule for our fleet of 5 skerries, ensuring a more proactive approach to managing our primary assets.

People

We have successfully recruited a Social Media Officer (Ed Robertson) with the intent of developing our approach to publicity and marketing.

There remain a number of positions that we are looking for volunteer support with.

Trustees

Following the step down due to ill health of our Chair Robin Corti, Chris Shaw has taken the role of interim Chair whilst the right, long term, successor is found.

Funding

Our approach to boat maintenance has meant that the long term health of our assets is secured in a more cost efficient way, but in the short term means we need to change to a more proactive approach to fundraising over the next year to ensure a number of smaller donations allow the charity to function successfully.

2024

Our plans for 2024 are focussed on user engagement and fundraising.

This is across both S4S and Thames Community Rowing categories



Operations report:

The Team: At the start of the year, we ran and took part in various courses with the aim of increasing the volunteering team at S4S so our offer to schools can be enlarged and properly supported; a First Aid course geared to outdoor sports, a coxing course run by Richmond Bridge Boat club and a L2 Coaching course, the latter delivered by British Rowing. In the Spring, trainee coaches Marlene Lawrence and Alice Eastaugh, participants in last year's BR L2 Coaching course, completed their final assessment and joined the coaching team as fully fledged coaches. A further four volunteers (Joy Skipper, Keith Carr, Tony Bethell and Owen Hughes) were put through the BR coaching course during the year.

A new 'position' of S4S coaching assistant has been created with rower and cox, Marianne Geary becoming the first to join the team; the assistants are a welcome addition to the team, responsible for helping the smooth running of the schools' sessions, dealing with everything from boat preparation to setting up the clubhouse and working the pontoon.



This year we have come to an arrangement with the Richmond Bridge Boat Club to make use of their clubhouse during the day for our school sessions.

This an essential facility, particularly for our work with Junior Schools, providing a safe space for the start and end of each session and we are most grateful to them for this facility.





The school sessions: Two schools booked at Richmond for the season; returning Lowther Primary who booked their entire year group (year six) for four linked sessions, and Sheen Primary, a school new to us, who also booked the whole of their year six group, each doing two linked sessions. In all, a total 100 pupils were on the river at Richmond with 30 hours of coaching delivered by our volunteers. At the end of the Lowther sessions, the children were presented with Learn to Row certificates by master boat builder Mark Edwards at a small ceremony at the end of the final session.



This year, for the first time since pre-Covid, we have a new home for the summer term above Kingston at Barge Wharf Boatyard, Long Ditton, brokered by Neil Meers from St Phillips School. It's early days with this new relationship and we are very grateful to owner Geoff Cook for his willingness to host one of our skerries. The moorings are within the marina so safe from public access, but also with a public pontoon and close-by parking, making it ideal. This arrangement was successfully piloted for two months this year with agreement to extend to three months for the 2024 school Summer term. St Phillips school had 16 pupils on the water for four sessions as a pilot for the new arrangements and we look forward to developing this further next year.



The season ended with a hugely enjoyable visit from the International School of Verona, Italy. This was a major undertaking with all five of our S4S skerries on the water, accommodating 47, 13-year-olds (29 girls and 18 boys). A 10-strong team of coaches, trainee coaches and assistants made the event a great success with the school looking forward to repeating it in 2024.

Overall, this season we saw 163 children on the water aged between 10 and 16 (74 boys and 89 girls) and the team of 8 coaches and trainee coaches delivered over 41 hours of coaching with the help of three assistants.



Fundraising for S4S: As with last year, we make use of our skerries, hiring them to other organisations as a way to raise funds for S4S. We worked with London Youth Rowing (LYR) again this year, providing four skerries plus cox-coaches for their annual 'Oarsome Challenge' – a two-day fundraising event for LYR involving scratch teams rowing from Greenwich to Chiswick. As well as raising funds for S4S through the hire of our skerries it also increases our cox-coaches skills base by giving them valuable experience of coxing the more challenging part of the Thames on the Tideway.



At the end of August, our skerry 'Floreat' that has been based up-river at Blakes Lock with the Reading Sea Cadets since May 2021, was brought back to Richmond to be used in the annual Thames Great River Race (GRR). Rather than road-tow her back, Floreat was rowed back down to Richmond over two days. It was a great opportunity to introduce more potential rowing volunteers to the work S4S does over the two-day row. 17 volunteer rowers took part, rowing the 55 miles and passing through 18 locks on the way from Blakes lock back to Richmond.

This year, three of our boats were hired out to teams for the GRR – one to a private individual, one to a local school - Deer Park School - and the third to a charity, Kids Matter, all of whom successfully completed the GRR challenge. It's a great opportunity to raise funds for S4S and the early announcement of the date for the 2024 GRR made it easier to start the process even earlier and already, before year end, three boats were requested and holding deposits received.



Boats and other equipment: In line with increasing our insurance, this Autumn for the first time, we embarked upon what will become an annual schedule of maintenance for all our wholly-owned boats; taking them out of the water and checking them over for any issues and undertaking remedial repairs and each year, allocating one of our boats for deeper maintenance work.



This year, it was the skerry Jim

The weather in October was remarkably helpful to us, with the best part of three weeks with not only stable, but warm, dry conditions that were perfect for completing the work on all four boats at the same time which undoubtedly kept the costs down. All the boat hulls were given a new lick of paint. This regular approach to maintenance will ensure our boats are kept in good condition and any problems identified early and dealt with swiftly.

Clark receiving additional tlc.

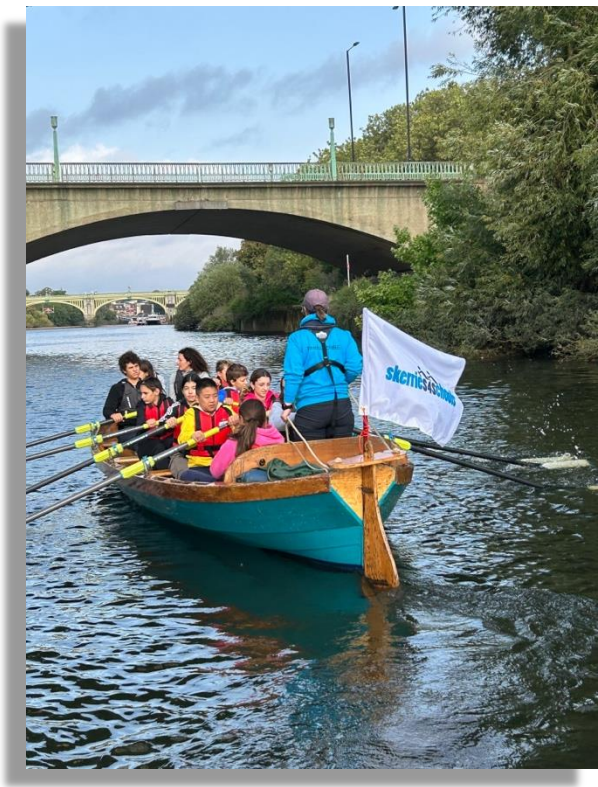
In



for

the year, as part of a plan to keep the more friable cleaver oars for use only with junior schools, two new sets of Macon oars were purchased during the year. Over the next two years, subject to finance being available, a further two sets will be purchased so all our wholly-owned boats have complete sets of the more robust macon oars that can be used both schools and also corporate events. Other purchases made in the year included four double-sided flags were made up with the S4S logo and six aluminium telescopic boathooks, leaving the original heavier-weight, 2m-length wooden boathooks, for pontoon work.

The increase in our volunteer team and all the purchases and the maintenance work on the boats mean that we will start the next season in 2024 in a very good position.



Annual Report and Financial Statements

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Governing Document

Constitution of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, whose only voting members are its charity trustees, adopted 13th July 2015

Objectives

- To provide opportunities for school children and other community groups such as the disabled to discover the pleasure, team spirit, discipline and vigorous exercise of rowing.
- To make these groups aware of the safety issues connected with water.
- To make these groups aware of the environment and their interconnection with it.

Patrons

Peter Dolan Patron

Trustees

All served from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023 unless indicated.

Details regarding recruitment/appointment and training of Trustees are shown under Governance & Management

Robin Corti to 28th September 2023 Chairman

Chris Shaw from 28th September 2023 Chairman

Peter Dolan

Patrick Ducker Secretary

David Golton Treasurer

Victor Griffiths

Justin Barratt

Advisers

Mark Edwards Master Boat Builder

Chris Leeson Administration (and Operations)

Charity Registration Number: 1162659

Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd., West Malling, Kent

Custodian Trustee None

Principal Address: c/o 14th Richmond Scout Boating Centre,
The Hut, Retreat Road, Richmond, TW9 1NN

Website: www.skerries4schools.org

Structure, Governance and Management

Skerries For Schools is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose only voting members are its charity trustees. Trustees are appointed by existing members. No specific training is required or given.

Day-to-day operations are in the hands of the Operations Manager for Richmond or Reading, the latter is currently vacant.

Thames Community Rowing (TCR) - During this year, the charity has been engaged in discussing and developing a longer-term strategy and to build on the ground work that was done establishing the Values and Vision & Mission for Thames Community Rowing. The first major change during the year has been to rationalise and develop the charities IT and to move to a single domain that would encompass all the charities activities; using 'Thamescommunityrowing.org' as the 'umbrella' for all the charities activities, would include the work with schools, currently under 'Skerries for Schools' and also for developing our future TCR work with adults.

Background

Skerries for School started as an unregistered charity (referred to as the “Legacy Charity”) with the same objectives seeking funding from loans, supporters and grant awarding bodies to build the skerries it needed. The CIO was registered on 14th July 2015 and the Legacy Charity transferred its assets and liabilities to the CIO on 1st January 2016 by means of a General Vesting Document dated 22nd December 2015. The transfer was accepted by the Trustees on 31st January 2016.

Statement of Trustees’ Responsibilities

Complying with the Charity’s Governing Document, the Trustees have a duty to act in the Charity’s best interest, to act with reasonable care and skill, and to ensure all regulatory requirements are met.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the CIO and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for the preparation of the Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission.

Reserves and Investment Policy

The Trustees adopted a Reserves and Investment Policy in 2022

The Trustees agreed that a reserve of £3,000 should be established to cover the risk of an unexpected fall in bookings due to major events beyond the control of the Trustees.

Financial Review

The CIO does not raise funds from the general public, either directly or through other people or organisations. It does seek grants from those organisations which award them and welcomes donations from organisations, and individuals, with similar aims and objectives.

The charity's trustees have elected to prepare accounts on a Receipts and Payments basis under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011. Under Guidance Note CC 16b, depreciation is precluded. While the value of the skerries have not been subjected to depreciation, the Trustees estimate that they have a ten-year useful life.

During 2023 several generous donations were received, both unrestricted and subject to restriction as to the use made.

Operations

In order to fulfil its objectives the Charity arranges the training of coaches to British Rowing Standards. All volunteers, Trustees and coaches are subject to Enhanced DBS clearance and coaches & volunteers working with children are given First Aid Training.

New Coaches are always being sought, and suitable training arranged subject to a commitment from the persons concerned. In the year in question, four further rowing coxes were put through the British Rowing L2 Coaching Course to increase both the number of coaches overall and to provide a coach specifically for the Reading operation.

Skerries are fixed seated rowboats designed for less experienced crews, with greater stability than a skiff or wherry. They carry a team of eight rowers, a coach and up to two extra passengers (e.g. teaching staff).

Participating schools are able to book coached sessions in skerries, for which they pay an hourly rate. The rate has been set to recover the Charity's marginal costs. Local Boroughs have been approached to help fund schools who might have had difficulties in meeting costs.

To enable the Charity to cover its operational costs, skerries are made available to other organisations and groups at times when schools are not using them, at more commercial rates.

The main base of Skerries For Schools is the pontoon near Richmond Bridge and as part of the post-covid re-build, the charity has consolidated relationships with other organisations to help deliver to schools. During the year, the aim to re-establish a base on the non-tidal Thames up at Kingston saw the development of a pilot with a local boatyard at Long Ditton which it is hoped will develop into a permanent arrangement.

The charity's Reading base has taken time to establish. Currently, Floreat, our boat based at Blakes Lock on the Kennet at the home of the Sea Cadets, has been used as part of coaching young cadets to row. A first step in developing a wider community-based offer has been the addition of a Reading-based coach (one of the new coaches for 2023) and the charity is still aiming to appoint an operations manager specifically for the base to develop that offer.

Public Benefit Guidance

The Trustees are confident that Skerries For Schools has been run for public benefit as evidenced by efforts to keep costs to schools as low as possible, by the provision of suitably trained and qualified coaches who give their time unpaid, and by direct contact with schools to encourage participation. Since their discussions leading to the registration of Skerries For Schools with the Charity Commission, the trustees have had due regard to the Commission’s public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Policies

Trustees have adopted policies as follows:

- Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy and Procedures
- Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Conflicts of Interest Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Disciplinary Procedure
- Equality Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Expenses Policy
- Financial Controls Policy and Procedures
- Grievance Procedure
- Reserves and Investment Policy
- Risk Management Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Safety Policy
- Volunteer Policy

Objectives, Activities, Achievements and Performance

No sessions were possible in 2020 due to Covid-19 Restrictions. The number of individual skerries booked, and paid for, excluding the “taster” and other promotional sessions were

| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 32 | 35 | 48 | 60 | 48 | None | 7 | 10 | 37 |

Sessions with schools have been growing steadily in the two years since we were forced to stop operations in 2020 due to Covid.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

- The acquisition of suitable skerries through donations and grants.
- The training and vetting through DBS of volunteer coaches.
- Encouraging the participation of Schools and pupils in safe sporting activities on the river.
- Arranging the coached rowing sessions for Schools.

Independent Examiner's Report
to the Trustees of Skerries For Schools
A Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Registered Charity 1162659

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on page 15.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Paul Alexander FCA

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Accountancy Management Services Limited, 51 South Street, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 7AA

SKERRIES FOR SCHOOLS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the Period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total £ | Total 2022 £ |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Incoming Resources | | | | |
| Donations & Gift Aid Repaid | 12,390 | 1,500 | 13,890 | 3,493 |
| Write back of debt | - | - | - | 60 |
| Bank interest received | 83 | - | 83 | 33 |
| Use of Skerries | 7,815 | - | 7,815 | 4,966 |
| Total Incoming Resources | 20,288 | 1,500 | 21,788 | 8,552 |
| Outgoing Resources | | | | |
| Direct Activities | | | | |
| Operational Costs | 19,025 | - | 19,025 | 3,950 |
| Promotional Fees & Costs | - | - | - | - |
| Total for Direct Activities | 19,025 | - | 19,025 | 3,950 |
| Overheads & Administration | - | 4,197 | 4,197 | 727 |
| Total Outgoing Resources | 19,025 | 4,197 | 23,222 | 4,677 |
| Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources | 1,263 | (2,697) | (1,434) | 3,875 |
| Change in Fixed Assets | - | - | - | - |
| Net Movement in Funds | 1,263 | (2,697) | (1,434) | 3,875 |
| Funds Brought Forward | 78,300 | 27,555 | 105,855 | 101,980 |
| Funds Carried Forward | 79,563 | 24,858 | 104,410 | 105,855 |
| of which | | | | |
| Tanagible Assets | 75,923 | - | 75,923 | 75,923 |
| Current Assets | 1,626 | 24,858 | 26,484 | 29,932 |
| | 77,549 | 24,858 | 102,407 | 105,855 |

SKERRIES FOR SCHOOLS
BALANCE SHEET

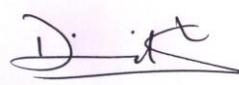
| | as at 31-Dec-23 £ | as at 1-Jan-23 £ |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Fixed Assets | | |
| Tanagible Assets | 75,923 | 75,923 |
| Total Fixed Assets | 75,923 | 75,923 |
| Current Assets | | |
| Debtors | | 180 |
| Cash in Hand and at Bank | 34,484 | 37,872 |
| Total Current Assets | 34,484 | 38,052 |
| Current Liabilities (due with one year) | - | (120) |
| Current Assets | 34,484 | 37,932 |
| Long Term Liabilities | (8,000) | (8,000) |
| NET ASSETS | 102,407 | 105,855 |
| represented by | | |
| Unrestricted Funds | 77,549 | 78,300 |
| Restricted Funds | 24,858 | 27,555 |
| TOTAL FUNDS | 102,407 | 105,855 |

Notes

Signed



Chris Shaw
Chairman



David Golton
Treasurer

SKERRIES FOR SCHOOLS

England & Wales - Charity number 1162659

Accounts



CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
Registered Charity 1162659

**Trustees' Annual Report and
Financial Statements
for the year ending
31st December 2022**



Arthur Bamber Gascoigne [CBE FRSL](#)
(24 January 1935 – 8 February 2022)

It is with considerable sadness that the Trustees report the passing during the year of our Founder Patron, Bamber Gascoigne. Bamber had lived beside the Thames in Richmond for many years and loved the Thames, its natural environment and the communities along its banks. He and his wife, Christina, along with other hardy neighbours, used to embrace the river fully by swimming in it on a daily basis. With the passage of time this enthusiasm for the river was something Bamber wanted to introduce to others and, being the generous soul he was, (he provided generous personal financial support) he wanted to involve those who might not naturally have the opportunity. He conceived the idea of Skerries for Schools (S4S) in 2014 and simultaneously collaborated with Mark Edwards the boatbuilder at Richmond Bridge to design and build a suitable craft for beginners. This collaboration led to the production of the first skerry boats, a new class, broad in the beam and hence stable, with fixed seats enabling four sets of two novice rowers to sit athwart and learn the pleasures of handling a single oar in a team effort.

Bamber was particularly keen to engage with schools but also others in the community who might have limited opportunities in life or other challenges. He recognised the manifold benefits of rowing with others, including physical exercise, team-work, accepting discipline, seeing surroundings from an unusual perspective and, most importantly, enjoying the camaraderie and fun of collaborative effort. These principles are what guide the current trustees of S4S as we strive to perpetuate Bamber's dream.

S4S is extremely fortunate in that Bamber's widow, Christina, gave her full-hearted support to Bamber in his efforts to establish this charity and she continues to do so. She is currently, coping with health issues but we are hoping that she will make a full recovery and take up the role of our senior Patron in Bamber's memory



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2022

2022 has been a year for refocusing and re-establishing following the two years of Covid and significant personnel change within Skerries for Schools.

We have welcomed Justin Barratt to the team of trustees who has helped us define our strategy and improve our portfolio of policy documents.

This structure and direction has provided us with a firm foundation to work from and fulfil our charitable commitments, and we look forward to a bright 2023.

Richmond

In our primary operation of Richmond, schools have taken some time to re-establish a post-pandemic confidence and rhythm with their main focus being, understandably, on academic achievement and classroom time.

With this in mind, our numbers of young people on the river have been lower than we would have liked, but a large amount of time and effort has been put into developing relationships within the schools and creating the coaching infrastructure to allow us to thrive in 2023, where bookings are already looking extremely encouraging.

With regard to our operational infrastructure, Chris Leeson, our Operations Manager has recruited three new coaches and developed our structured training programme. She has established a strong working partnership with Richmond Bridge Boat Club, allowing us to use their arch and facilities for dry side orientation. This provides the rowers a secure environment to ask questions and talk through the basics before getting onto the water.

Reading

In Reading, our skerry, Floreat, has had extensive use by the Sea Cadets. Whilst this fulfils our charitable remit of giving access to rowing and the river to young people who would not normally be able to, we are keen to also establish our traditional schools model.

We have recruited two new coaches who should be trained early in 2023, and we will look to develop the usage at that point.

Boats

Our boats have performed well when needed over the course of the year, although a falling tree caused considerable damage to one of our skerries (Caroline) necessitating a complete re-build that was thankfully covered by insurance.

People

As part of our strategic planning, we have identified a number of volunteer positions (non coaching) that will allow us to move the charity forward at a greater pace. This includes roles such as Marketing Officer and Schools Engagement Officer, that we hope to recruit over the coming months.

Trustees

In November, Robin Corti, our Chair was taken seriously unwell which has resulted in him taking a less active role within the charity. We invited Vic Griffiths, who had resigned on 18th August 2022, to return as a Trustee in 2023, to support the Charity and help us recruit further trustees, ideally to diversify and bring specific skill sets to the table.

Justin Barratt was appointed a Trustee on 1st March 2022

Funding

We remain financially stable due to several donations over the course of the year, and maintaining a close control on our costs.

Other plans

Due to complexities with Richmond Council's redevelopment plan, our conversations with the Habitats and Heritage fund regarding the Twickenham Boathouse have slowed whilst technical issues outside our control are addressed. We continue to watch this space with an open mind.

2023

With an eye to the future, our plans for next year are simple: We are focussed on re-establishing a client and volunteer base in both Richmond and Reading. This will allow us to refine operational procedures and grow the charity to a broader client base in 2024, including the development of the Thames Community Rowing brand. These developments will allow us to introduce more young people and disadvantaged groups to the fun and discipline of rowing, and the natural environment of the river.

Operations Report:



Like many organisations coming out of the two-year stasis that was Covid, it has been a matter of slowly building up again and taking the time to bolster the Skerries4School coaching team based at Richmond and taking care not to over-reach our ability to deliver to the schools.

At Richmond, for the second year running, Darrell Primary brought the whole of their Year 6 (10-11 Year-olds) out onto the water with us, celebrating the end of their time at Darrell before moving on to new schools and their next adventure – four skerries were out in the baking July sun with 32 children and four teachers.

Another local junior school, Lowther School, signed up to work with us for the first time this year and 8, year 6 students came out for six linked sessions. Operations Manager Chris Leeson delivered the sessions which ended with a fun mock ‘man over-board’ session and coach Ian Chappell assessing the group and presenting them with Learn to Row certificates. The school’s delight in the sessions was evident from their twitter feed.



**Lowther School
Twitter Feed May 2022
Team**

**Lowther with their
certificates**

Evaluating the sessions afterwards, the response from the school was hugely positive; when asked

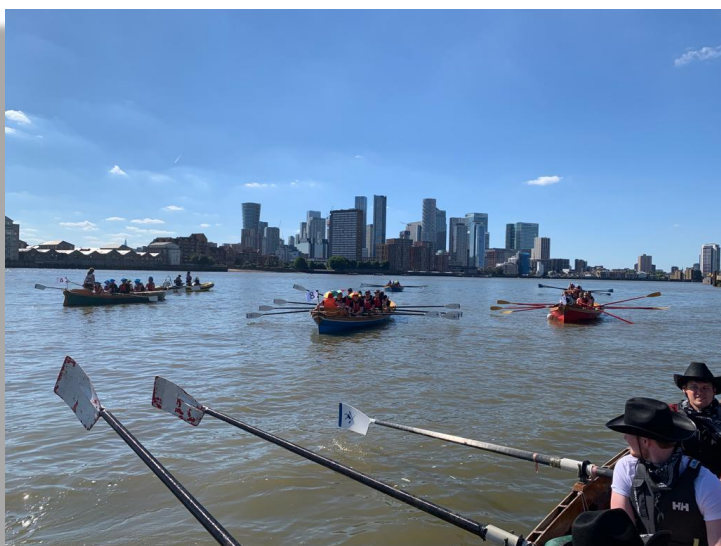


about some of the benefits to the children, as well as learning new skills and understanding the importance of teamwork, it was the soft, personal development skills that figured highly:

“(Increased self-esteem) - this was especially noticeable with 2 children, who are not always viewed positively by their peers, excelling in the sessions and being helpful and kind. These children slowly saw themselves as valued members of the rowing team and a positive camaraderie developed travelling to and from rowing over the weeks”. (Lead Teacher)

“...the sessions were such a ‘hit’ with the children, it became a source of envy”. (Lead Teacher)

They have booked their entire year group for 2023.



LYR Oarsome Challenge, 2022

We continue to support other organisations who also work with children on the river and so in 2022, two of our coaches and four of our skerries took part in London Youth Rowing’s **Oarsome Challenge 2022** – racing from Greenwich to Chiswick with mixed ability youth and adult teams to raise funds for LYR.

Taking part in such events as these, as well as being enjoyable outings for our cox-coaches, is also a helpful income stream for Skerries4Schools to support our highly-subsidised work with the schools.

This year, two of our skerries were also hired for use in the annual marathon on the Thames, The Great River Race. The parents and teachers of Deer Park School were one of the teams who worked with us to take part in the GRR, raising funds for their school, and we look forward to working with their Year 6 children next year.



Oarsome Challenge, 2022

We continue to foster our relationships with other organisations on the river, such as **Richmond Bridge Boat Club**, and this year we were able to make use of their clubhouse facilities during the day for our schools' sessions – a valuable resource, particularly with the changes that have taken place to riverside access locally at Richmond, and we're very grateful to RBBC for their continued support for the charity.

The **Osterley Sea Scouts** also kindly gave two of our skerries 'house-room' over winter this year. Keeping skerries on the tidal Thames is quite punishing to the boats, so being able to over-winter some of our boats is immensely important for their maintenance and protection.



Skerries Jim Clark and John Bryant, safely tucked up for winter

In 2023 we will be looking to expand the coaching team and be able to take on more schools and we will continue the search for a replacement base at Kingston so we can once more boat out of a base up river beyond Teddington lock.

Annual Report and Financial Statements

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Governing Document

Constitution of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, whose only voting members are its charity trustees, adopted 13th July 2015

Objectives

- To provide opportunities for school children and other community groups such as the disabled to discover the pleasure, team spirit, discipline and vigorous exercise of rowing.
- To make these groups aware of the safety issues connected with water.
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Patrons

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| The late Bamber Gascoigne | Founder & Patron |
| Peter Dolan | Patron |

Trustees

All served from 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022 unless indicated.

Details regarding recruitment/appointment and training of Trustees are shown under Governance & Management

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Robin Corti | (to 18 th August 2022) | Chairman & Secretary |
| | (from 18 th August 2022) | Chairman |
| Peter Dolan | | |
| Patrick Ducker | (to 18 th August 2022) | Treasurer |
| | (from 18 th August 2022) | Secretary |
| David Golton | (from 18 th August 2022) | Treasurer |
| Victor Griffiths | (to 18 th August 2022) | |
| Chris Shaw | | |
| Justin Barratt | (from 1st March 2022) | |

Advisers

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mark Edwards | Master Boat Builder |
| Chris Leeson | Administration (and Operations) |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Charity Registration Number: | 1162659 |
| Bankers: | CAF Bank Ltd., West Malling, Kent |
| Custodian Trustee | None |
| Principal Address: | c/o 14th Richmond Scout Boating Centre, The Hut, Retreat Road, Richmond, TW9 1NN |
| Website: | www.skerries4schools.org |

Structure, Governance and Management

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Day-to-day operations are in the hands of the Operations Manager for Richmond or Reading (currently vacant)

The development of Thames Community Rowing: Skerries for Schools has a dormant ‘second arm’ to its charitable activities – Thames Community Rowing (TCR). This secondary arm, once operational, will be used to engage with adult disadvantaged communities. During 2021, a working group was established to develop the form of TCR, and the initial work resulted in a ‘Vision and Mission’ and a set of ‘Values’ being agreed and adopted by the trustees. In 2022 higher priority was given to building our work with young people.

A small competition was also held for the development of a logo for TCR and both S4S and TCR logos and the Values statement (‘Time toShine’) will be used going forwards to market the activities of the charity; in the year this included producing polo shirts for the charities’ rowing coaches. Further work will be required to establish the scope and terms-and-conditions for work with disadvantaged and vulnerable adults.

Background

Skerries for School started as an unregistered charity (referred to as the “Legacy Charity”) with the same objectives seeking funding from loans, supporters and grant awarding bodies to build the skerries it needed. The CIO was registered on 14th July 2015 and the Legacy Charity transferred its assets and liabilities to the CIO on 1st January 2016 by means of a General Vesting Document dated 22nd December 2015. The transfer was accepted by the Trustees on 31st January 2016.

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To enable the Charity to cover its operational costs, skerries are made available to other organisations and groups at times when schools are not using them, at more commercial rates.

The main base of Skerries For Schools is the pontoon near Richmond Bridge. To enable schools in the Kingston area to use the skerries, and to make use of the non-tidal section of the Thames, the use of a second base is being sought near Kingston Bridge. An earlier arrangement had to be cancelled as a result of Covid restrictions.

A base has been established near Reading, and Floreat, newly built through sponsorship, in 2019, from the Thames Traditional Boat Society, is based at Blake's Lock Island.

Public Benefit Guidance

The Trustees are confident that Skerries For Schools has been run for public benefit as evidenced by efforts to keep costs to schools as low as possible, by the provision of suitably trained and qualified coaches who give their time unpaid, and by direct contact with schools to encourage participation. Since their discussions leading to the registration of Skerries For Schools with the Charity Commission, the trustees have had due regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

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|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 32 | 35 | 48 | 60 | 48 | None | 7 | 10 |

Sessions with schools have been growing steadily in the two years since we were forced to stop operations in 2020 due to Covid.

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- Arranging the coached rowing sessions for Schools.

**Independent Examiner's Report
to the Trustees of Skerries For Schools**

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Registered Charity 1162659

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2022 which are set out on page 12.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Paul Alexander FCA

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Accountancy Management Services Limited, 51 South Street, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 7AA

13th September 2023

Skerries For Schools
Statement of Financial Activities
for the Period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022

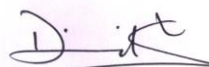
| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total £ | Total 2021 £ |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Incoming Resources | | | | |
| Donations & Gift Aid Repaid | 2,493 | 1,000 | 3,493 | 14,021 |
| Sale of Assets (Trailer) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,325 |
| Write back of debt | 60 | 0 | 60 | 0 |
| Bank interest received | 33 | 0 | 33 | 0 |
| Use of Skerries | 4,966 | 0 | 4,966 | 140 |
| Total Incoming Resources | 7,552 | 1,000 | 8,552 | 15,486 |
| Outgoing Resources | | | | |
| Direct Activities | | | | |
| Skerries etc. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Operational Costs | 3,950 | 0 | 3,950 | 5,413 |
| Promotional Fees & Costs | 0 | 0 | 0 | 240 |
| Repayment of Short Term Loans | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total for Direct Activities | 3,950 | 0 | 3,950 | 5,653 |
| Overheads & Administration | 0 | 727 | 727 | 691 |
| Total Outgoing Resources | 3,950 | 727 | 4,677 | 6,344 |
| Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources | 3,602 | 273 | 3,875 | 9,142 |
| Change in Fixed Assets | | | | |
| Sale of Trailer | 0 | 0 | 0 | (1,325) |
| Net Movement in Funds | 3,602 | 273 | 3,875 | 7,817 |
| Funds Brought Forward | 74,698 | 27,282 | 101,980 | 94,163 |
| Funds Carried Forward | 78,300 | 27,555 | 105,855 | 101,980 |
| of which | | | | |
| Tangible Assets | 75,923 | | 75,923 | 74,598 |
| Current Assets | 2,377 | 27,555 | 29,932 | 27,382 |
| | 78,300 | 27,555 | 105,855 | 101,980 |

| | | Balance Sheet | |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| | | as at 31.12.22 £ | as at 31.12.21 £ |
| Fixed Assets | | | |
| | Tangible Assets | 75,923 | 77,248 |
| | less Trailer | 0 | (1,325) |
| | Total Fixed Assets | 75,923 | 75,923 |
| Current Assets | | | |
| | Debtors | 180 | 0 |
| | Cash in Hand and at Bank | 37,872 | 34,117 |
| | Total Current Assets | 38,052 | 34,117 |
| | Current Liabilities (due with one year) | (120) | (60) |
| | Current Assets | 37,932 | 34,056 |
| | Long Term Liabilities | (8,000) | (8,000) |
| NET ASSETS | | 105,855 | 101,980 |
| | represented by | | |
| | Unrestricted Funds | 78,300 | 74,698 |
| | Restricted Funds | 27,555 | 27,282 |
| TOTAL FUNDS | | 105,855 | 101,980 |

Signed



Chris Shaw
Chairman
28th September 2023



David Golton
Treasurer
28th September 2023

SKERRIES FOR SCHOOLS

England & Wales - Charity number 1162659

Accounts



CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
Registered Charity 1162659

Trustees' Annual Report

and

Financial Statements

for the year ending

31st December 2021



CHAIRMAM'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2021



Our new Skerry FLOREAT on its maiden voyage

The year ending 31st December 2021 ended up much as was predicted, due primarily to the ongoing effect of the Covid epidemic.

For those who have forgotten the details, the Covid pandemic started with the first UK cases in January 2020, followed by a national lockdown on 23rd March 2020. A further lockdown was ordered on the 5th November 2020 and another on 4th January 2021, followed by restrictions ending on 19th July.

Towards the middle of the year 2021 some outdoor sporting activities were permitted and using guidelines provided by British Rowing, our National Governing Body, we produced the necessary Covid Risk Assessments and Method Statements that enabled a few boating activities to take place before the end of the school and academy year.

We managed to take out three boats with Darell Road primary school, including the Queen's Shallop Jubilant, loaned to us by our friends at 14th Richmond Scout Boating Centre and another two boats with our friends from St Phillip's SEN school.



Darell Road School rowing Jubilant as an appreciation of good performances during the difficult Covid year

In addition, we assisted a large not for profit Company, the Change Foundation, by loaning two of our boats for some charitable fundraising they were doing.



The effects were widespread, ranging from increased boat maintenance, due to non-use, our key client base, the primary and secondary schools and academies in our Borough, continuing in a lock down situation, skills fading of our Coaches, a worrying reduction in our income from these and inevitably some loss of volunteers owing to employment changes and location.

However, on the positive side we were able to place an order for a new Skerry boat, in respect of the very generous donation from The Thames Traditional Boat Society. We were also blessed with a sizeable donation from The River Thames Society to facilitate the setting up of a Base at Blakes Lock, on the River Kennett and River Thames junction and this enabled us to extend an existing floating pontoon at the Reading Sea Cadet Corps base and meet our obligations there which enables us to use the base for storage of PPI, oars and equipment and mooring of the boat without further cost for a period of five years.



Naming of the boat Floreat at Blakes Lock, Reading

The funding of the boat was obtained and we delayed procurement as long as possible, recognising that we were unlikely to need any new boat in the circumstances, but also taking into account the needs of the boat builder who was also experiencing a loss of income due to the pandemic and also needing to keep his specialised boat building staff employed.

The boat was built and transferred to Reading where it was launched from a nearby water centre and rowed with a crew which represented Skerries for Schools, the Reading Sea Cadet Corps, the local visually impaired community, the donors, The Traditional Boat Society, and British Rowing to its new base at Blakes Lock, where a naming ceremony took place with it being named Floreat and a toast given to all involved.

We were also fortunate to attract funding from a number of sources including our then patron, Bamber Gascoigne, the Dolan Charitable Trust through our patron Peter Dolan, The River Thames Society, The London Community Foundation and Latif Adam Karimjee, all who enabled us to endure the losses the pandemic imposed on us. The London Community Foundation grant enabling us to fund training for a few years for new coaches.

The year also found us participating in a locally run British Rowing Level 2 Club Coach course and one trustee and two new coaches completed the course after a set-back when the original was postponed due to Covid lock down.

We have continued to have discussions with Habitats and Heritage regarding the planned refurbishment of the derelict Victorian deep water boat house situated on the Twickenham embankment and the charity subsequently being chosen as a preferred tenant. The success of the project will greatly depend on the provision of a floating pontoon which, whilst it falls outside of the boat house envelope, still needs to be included in the bigger proposed Twickenham riverside development to make our use of the boathouse viable.

The Reading base essentially remained out of use due to timing and the pandemic and has been of concern to the charity not least because of the loss of our site manager, due to relocation of his work.

We have maintained a regular presence there, including visits to refit its cover and bail the boat, as and when needed.

We are intent on commencing operations in the long term at Reading and have had a number of meetings with British Rowing in order to assist us in finding a manager and staff and envisage this continuing through 2022. We are grateful to TTBS in keeping a watchful eye on the boat during the year and Reading Sea Cadet Corps.

At the Richmond Base, a major change occurred at the end of the year with the removal of the pontoon used by S4S. It is due to be refurbished and replaced in 2022, prior to the start of the new season. Once this has happened, we will need to review our risk assessment for the pontoon as it is likely to change radically with the likely return of a restaurant boat replacing the main pontoon.

The trustees have met regularly with much done on line and we have set ourselves a task to increase the number and diversity of trustees and look at reviewing our essential policies during 2022 and further develop the S4S, Thames Community Rowing (TCR) arm.

So, a difficult year likely to extend through 2022 but full of promise.

*Robin Corti
Chair of Trustees.*

Annual Report, and Financial Statements

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Governing Document

Constitution of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose only voting members are its charity trustees adopted 13th July 2015

Objectives

- To provide opportunities for school children and other community groups such as the disabled to discover the pleasure, team spirit, discipline and vigorous exercise of rowing.
- To make these groups aware of the safety issues connected with water.
- To make these groups aware of the environment and their interconnection with it.

Patrons

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Bamber Gascoigne | Founder & Patron |
| Peter Dolan | Patron |

Trustees

All served from 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021 unless indicated.

Details regarding recruitment/appointment and training of Trustees are shown under Governance & Management

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Robin Corti | Chairman & Secretary |
| Peter Dolan | |
| Patrick Ducker | Treasurer |
| David Golton | |
| Victor Griffiths | |
| Chris Shaw | |

Advisers

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Steve Kemsley | Operations Manager – to March 2021 |
| Mark Edwards | Master Boat Builder |
| Chris Leeson | Administration (and Operations – from March 2021) |

Charity Registration Number: 1162659

Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd., West Malling, Kent

Custodian Trustee None

Principal Address: c/o 14th Richmond Scout Boating Centre,
The Hut, Retreat Road, Richmond, TW9 1NN

Website: www.skerries4schools.org

Structure, Governance and Management

Skerries For Schools is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose only voting members are its charity trustees. Trustees are appointed by existing members. No specific training is required or given.

Day-to-day operations are in the hands of the Operations Manager.

From March 2021, with the resignation of the Operations Manager, Steve Kemsley, Chris Leeson took on additional Operations supporting-work for S4S.

The development of Thames Community Rowing: Skerries for Schools has a dormant 'second arm' to its charitable activities – Thames Community Rowing (TCR). This secondary arm, once operational, will be used to engage with adult disadvantaged communities. During the year a working group was established to develop the form of TCR, and the initial work resulted in a 'Vision and Mission' and a set of 'Values' being agreed and adopted by the trustees. A small competition was also held for the development of a logo for TCR and both S4S and TCR logos and the Values statement ('Time toShine') will be used going forwards to market the activities of the charity; in the year this included producing polo shirts for the charities' rowing coaches. Further work will be required to establish the scope and terms-and-conditions for work with disadvantaged and vulnerable adults.

Background

Skerries for School started as an unregistered charity (referred to as the "Legacy Charity") with the same objectives seeking funding from loans, supporters and grant awarding bodies to build the skerries it needed. The CIO was registered on 14th July 2015 and the Legacy Charity transferred its assets and liabilities to the CIO on 1st January 2016 by means of a General Vesting Document dated 22nd December 2015. The transfer was accepted by the Trustees on 31st January 2016.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Complying with the Charity's Governing Document, the Trustees have a duty to act in the Charity's best interest, to act with reasonable care and skill, and to ensure all regulatory requirements are met.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the CIO and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for the preparation of the Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission.

Investment and Reserves Policy

The Trustees have adopted an Investment and Reserves Policy.

The Trustees agreed that a reserve of £3,000 should be established to cover the risk of an unexpected fall in bookings due to major events beyond the control of the Trustees.

Financial Review

The CIO does not raise funds from the general public, either directly or through other people or organisations. It does seek grants from those organisations which award them and welcomes donations from organisations, and individuals, with similar aims and objectives.

The charity's trustees have elected to prepare accounts on a Receipts and Payments basis under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011. Under Guidance Note CC 16b, depreciation is precluded. While the value of the trailer and skerries have not been subjected to depreciation, the Trustees estimate that they have a ten-year useful life.

During 2021 several generous donations were received, both unrestricted and subject to restriction as to the use made.

Operations

In order to fulfil its objectives the Charity arranges the training of volunteers to British Rowing Standards. All coaches are subject to enhanced clearance from the DBS and are given First Aid Training.

New Coaches are always being sought, and suitable training arranged subject to a commitment from the persons concerned. In the year in question, two further rowing coxes were put through the British Rowing L2 Coaching Course to increase both the number of coaches overall (due to the recent loss of four coaches associated with the resignation of the operations manager) and also to increase the number of female coaches volunteering with the charity.

Skerries are fixed seated rowboats designed for less experienced crews, with greater stability than a skiff or wherry. They carry a team of eight rowers, a coach and up to two extra passengers (e.g. teaching staff).

Participating schools are able to book coached sessions in Skerries, for which they pay an hourly rate. The rate has been set to recover the Charity's marginal costs. Local Boroughs have been approached to help fund schools who might have had difficulties in meeting costs.

To enable the Charity to cover its operational costs, skerries are made available to other organisations and groups at times when schools are not using them, at more commercial rates.

The main base of Skerries For Schools is the pontoon near Richmond Bridge. To enable schools in the Kingston area to use the skerries, and to make use of the non-tidal section of the Thames, the use of a second base is being sought near Kingston Bridge. An earlier arrangement had to be cancelled as a result of Covid restrictions

A base has been established near Reading, and the S4S Floreat, newly built thru' sponsorship, in 2019, from the Thames Traditional Boat Society, is based there.

Sale of assets: The Trustees agreed that the double trailer owned by the charity was no longer required as the boats were not regularly moved by road. They considered that one could easily be hired if required. Consequently they sold it to London Youth Rowing in March 2021.

Public Benefit Guidance

The Trustees are confident that Skerries For Schools has been run for public benefit as evidenced by efforts to keep costs to schools as low as possible, by the provision of suitably trained and qualified coaches who give their time unpaid, and by direct contact with schools to encourage participation. Since their discussions leading to the registration of Skerries For Schools with the Charity Commission, the trustees have had due regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Policies

Trustees have adopted policies as follows:

- Volunteers Policy
- Complaints Handling Policy
- Conflicts Of Interest Policy
- Safeguarding Policy

Objectives, Activities, Achievements and Performance

The number of skerry sessions booked remained steady in 2016, but has showed an increase during 2017 and 2018 but reduced slightly in 2019. No sessions were possible in 2020 due to Covid-19 Restrictions. The number of individual skerries booked, and paid for, excluding the “taster” and other promotional sessions. – some schools use two skerries at the same time - were

| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 32 | 35 | 48 | 60 | 48 | None | 7 |

Sessions with Schools were very limited in 2021 due to Covid-19 Restrictions
Other sessions were promotional or “taster” sessions..

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

- The acquisition of suitable skerries through donations and grants.
- The training and DBS Clearance of volunteer coaches.
- Encouraging the participation of Schools and pupils in safe sporting activities on the river.
- Arranging the coached rowing sessions, detailed above, for Schools at minimum or no cost.

**Independent examiner's Report
to the Trustees of Skerries For Schools
A Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Registered Charity 1162659**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2021, which are set out on pages in this report.

Respective responsibilities of the 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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you 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 2011 Act
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.

Name: Stephen Alexander FCA



Address: 5, Cole Park View, Twickenham, TW1 1JW

7th June 2022

Skerries 4 Schools

CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

Registered Charity 1162659

Statement of Financial Activities

for the Period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total £ | Total 2020 £ |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Incoming Resources | | | | |
| Donations & Gift Aid Repaid | 5,000 | 9,021 | 14,021 | 10,545 |
| Sale of Assets (Trailer) | 1,325 | | 1,325 | - |
| Sponsorship of Skerry "Caroline" | | | - | - |
| Donation - for Skerries Purchase | | | - | 17,592 |
| Use of Skerries | 140 | | 140 | 505 |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Total Incoming Resources | 6,465 | 9,021 | 15,486 | 28,642 |
| Outgoing Resources | | | | |
| Direct Activities | | | | |
| Skerries etc. (Acquisition) | | - | - | 15,312 |
| Operational Costs | 5,413 | | 5,413 | 11,673 |
| Promotional Fees & Costs | | 240 | 240 | 88 |
| Repayment of Short Term Loans | | - | - | - |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Total for Direct Activities | 5,413 | 240 | 5,653 | 27,073 |
| Overheads & Administration | 691 | - | 691 | 60 |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Total Outgoing Resources | 6,104 | 240 | 6,344 | 27,133 |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources | 361 | 8,781 | 9,142 | 1,509 |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Change in Fixed Assests | | | | |
| Construction of S4S Floreat | | | - | 22,848 |
| Sale of Trailer | (1,325) | | (1,325) | |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Net Movement in Funds | (964) | 8,781 | 7,817 | 24,357 |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Funds Brought Forward | 74,970 | 19,192 | 94,163 | 69,806 |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Funds Carried Forward | 74,006 | 27,973 | 101,980 | 94,163 |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |
| of which | | | | |
| Tanagible Assets | 75,923 | | 75,923 | 77,248 |
| Current Assets | (1,917) | 27,973 | 26,057 | 16,915 |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| | 74,006 | 27,973 | 101,980 | 94,163 |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |

Skerries 4 Schools

CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

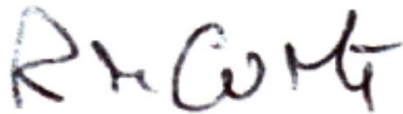
Registered Charity 1162659

Balance Sheet

| | as at 31-Dec-21 £ | as at 1-Jan-21 £ |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Fixed Assets | | |
| Tanagible Assets | 77,248 | 54,400 |
| add S4S Floreat | - | 22,848 |
| less Trailer | (1,325) | - |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Total Fixed Assets | 75,923 | 77,248 |
| Current Assets | | |
| Debtors | | 350 |
| Cash in Hand and at Bank | 34,117 | 24,625 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Total Current Assets | 34,117 | 24,975 |
| Current Liabilities (due with one year) | (60) | (60) |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Current Assets | 34,056 | 24,914 |
| Long Term Liabilities | (8,000) | (8,000) |
| | ----- | ----- |
| NET ASSETS | 101,980 | 94,163 |
| | ===== | ===== |
| represented by | | |
| Unrestricted Funds | 74,006 | 74,970 |
| Restricted Funds | 27,973 | 19,192 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| TOTAL FUNDS | 101,980 | 94,163 |
| | ===== | ===== |

Notes

Signed



Robin Corti
Chairman
18th August 2022



Patrick Ducker ACG
Treasurer
18th August 2022

SKERRIES FOR SCHOOLS

England & Wales - Charity number 1162659

Accounts



CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION
Registered Charity 1162659

Trustees' Annual Report

and

Financial Statements

for the year ending

31st December 2020



Annual report for year ending 31st December 2020



Covid 19 strikes

Like most of the UK and certainly those in the charity sector, the year ending December 2020 was a difficult one fraught with many unnecessary frustrations on the way.

We started the boating year with a much needed publicity incursion into our major client base, the schools of the Boroughs of Richmond upon Thames and Royal Kingston, with a personalised letter and flyer sent to every school head teacher detailing where we operated and what we could offer them in terms of a unique experience on the river, normally associated with elite rowing clubs, universities and public schools, where we could teach essential life skills to their pupils at minimum cost.

We also made contact with the local organisation Achieving for Children, which signpost schools to activities.

Literally, both of these approaches were making an impression with the first interested schools and academies soon responding, many of them newly formed without their own outdoor sports activity centres, when the first Covid shutdown was announced and that of course continued through the year up to July 2021 when, just a few weeks before the end of term the rules relaxed sufficiently for us to contact a few local schools and shoehorn in some sessions.

A further complication was the closing of Hammersmith Bridge, which stopped traffic under and over the bridge for safety reasons, putting an end to events like the Great River Race for which, through corporate involvement, we had trained teams, lent boats and generated funds that subsidised the school bookings.

However, the trustees had recognised at the end of the previous year that both our client footprint and income sources were far too risk adverse, relying on a single client source, schools, and a single major event, the Great River Race, for funds and that there needed to be a complete diversification of our activities in those areas.

The year was not wasted and we took the opportunity to improve our governance, updating policies and structuring our databases to comply with GDPR so that confidential matters were kept so and that our volunteers were able to access information that was pertinent to them.

We registered a further working name of Thames Community Rowing, aimed at attracting non-school participation and concentrating on areas like sensory impairment, women's only groups, fitness sessions and disadvantaged groups and we also carried out a competition for a new logo which was won by Isabella Spicer, a teenager from Twickenham with another Student, Ella Harrison, from Shepperton, a close second.

The plan agreed is to prepare the grounds for using Thames Community Rowing as an alternative name for non-school clients when the restrictions imposed by Covid 19 are relaxed in 2021.



The winning logo design by
Isabella

We continued our liaison with The Traditional Boat Society and were rewarded with a grant which was in excess of £20,000 following a long and successful presentation at their annual general meeting to build a new skerry to be located in the Reading Area.

The new Skerry Floreat under construction in Richmond.



Following our previous survey of the Reading area, we started negotiations on the use of the Sea Cadet Corps water base at Blakes Lock Reading, agreeing terms that were detailed in a memorandum of understanding the draft of which was completed for discussion in November with a view to signing off the following year that would give us tenure for the next five years against a defined

We continued to have meetings with what was known then as The Environment Trust to reinforce our interest in using a derelict Victorian deep-water boathouse on the Twickenham embankment with the provision of a floating pontoon to the east and the addition of a rear storage area and toilet arrangement. To this end we provided the architects and surveyors with a means of accessing the boat house from the river.



Thames Eyot Boat House.

During the year we supported another Charity with the free loan of a number of our boats and coaches in order that they could continue with a charity fundraising paddle, which was about to be curtailed due to the closure of Hammersmith bridge. This event occurred in a short break in the Covid shut downs and necessitated the consideration of covid risk assessments and the recording of crews for track and trace purposes.

We ended the year in a much more buoyant mood than when we started knowing we had put the year to good use, had gained funds that supported the refurbishment of our boats and also the purchase of much needed covers for all the boats to offer protection from the weather during the long periods of non-use.

ALL wrapped up and nowhere to go.

Roll on 2021!



During the year we added to our Trustees with a new and well qualified trustee, Chris Shaw, who, along with our Charity administrator, Chris Leeson, started leading us in a much-needed transition to a more viable charity with a sense of purpose for the future backed up with David Golton heading funding.

My thanks to all the other trustees that have shown commitment and guidance during the year, Vic Griffiths, Peter Dolan and Patrick Ducker as treasurer.

Thanks also to our President and founder Bamber Gascoigne and also to Peter Dolan, both Patrons of the charity, for their financial contributions to the charity which are greatly appreciated, especially in a year when clients dried up and funds also.

Robin Corti

Chair, Skerries for Schools and Thames Community Rowing.

8th August 2021

Annual Report, and Financial Statements

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Governing Document

Constitution of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose only voting members are its charity trustees adopted 13th July 2015

Objectives

- To provide opportunities for school children and other community groups such as the disabled to discover the pleasure, team spirit, discipline and vigorous exercise of rowing.
- To make these groups aware of the safety issues connected with water.
- To make these groups aware of the environment and their interconnection with it.

Patrons

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Bamber Gascoigne | Founder & Patron |
| Peter Dolan | Patron |

Trustees

All served from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020 unless indicated.

Details regarding recruitment/appointment and training of Trustees are shown under Governance & Management

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| | Robin Corti | Chairman & Secretary |
| | Peter Dolan | |
| | Patrick Ducker | Treasurer |
| To 11 th October 2020 | Matthew Ford | |
| | David Golton | |
| | Victor Griffiths | |
| From 11 th October | Chris Shaw | |

Advisers

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Steve Kemsley | Operations Manager |
| Mark Edwards | Master Boat Builder |
| Chris Leeson | Administration |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Charity Registration Number: | 1162659 |
| Bankers: | CAF Bank Ltd., West Malling, Kent |
| Custodian Trustee | None |
| Principal Address: | c/o 14th Richmond Scout Boating Centre, The Hut, Retreat Road, Richmond, TW9 1NN |
| Website: | www.skerries4schools.org |

Structure, Governance and Management

Skerries For Schools is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose only voting members are its charity trustees. Trustees are appointed by existing members. No specific training is required or given.

Day-to-day operations are in the hands of the Operations Manager.

Background

Skerries for School started as an unregistered charity (referred to as the “Legacy Charity”) with the same objectives seeking funding from loans, supporters and grant awarding bodies to build the skerries it needed. The CIO was registered on 14th July 2015 and the Legacy Charity transferred its assets and liabilities to the CIO on 1st January 2016 by means of a General Vesting Document dated 22nd December 2015. The transfer was accepted by the Trustees on 31st January 2016.

Statement of Trustees’ Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the CIO and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for the preparation of the Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission.

Investment and Reserves Policy

The Trustees’ cautious approach to risk extends to their investments; day-to-day funds are kept with a bank covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, and the Trust has no cash transactions. The Trustees do not consider that a specific Reserves Policy is necessary at this time.

Financial Review

By means of a General Vesting Document, dated 22nd December 2015 the unregistered (Legacy) charity Skerries For Schools transferred the following assets and liabilities to the new CIO on 1st January 2016:

Four skerries donated or purchased for use, by means of grants, by the Charity for training, tuition or hire & reward. All with oars:

- S4S One And All (50% owned with Mark Edwards); S4S Caroline; S4S Jim Clarke; S4S John Bryant
- One Trailer, suitable for towing on the public highway, for the transportation of up to two skerries.
All valued at £54,400.00
- Cash at Bank £11,757.09 (received 8th June 2016)
- Current Liabilities: £26,600.00
- Long Term Liability: £ 8,000.00 (Interest free loan without repayment date)

These were formally accepted at the meeting of Trustees on 31st January 2016.

The CIO does not raise funds from the general public, either directly or through other people or organisations. It does seek grants from those organisations which award them

The charity's trustees have elected to prepare accounts on a Receipts and Payments basis under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011. Under Guidance Note CC 16b, depreciation is precluded. While the value of the trailer and skerries have not been subjected to depreciation, the Trustees estimate that they have a ten-year useful life.

Operations

In order to fulfil its objectives the Charity arranges the training of volunteers to British Rowing Standards. All coaches are subject to enhanced clearance from the DBS and are given First Aid Training.

Skerries are fixed seated rowboats designed for less experienced crews, with greater stability than a skiff or wherry. They carry a team of eight rowers, a coach and up to two extra passengers (e.g. teaching staff).

Participating schools are able to book coached sessions in Skerries, for which they pay an hourly rate, through the charity's website. The rate has been set to recover the Charity's marginal costs. Local Boroughs have been approached to help fund schools who might have had difficulties in meeting costs.

To enable the Charity to cover its operational costs, skerries are made available to other organisations and groups at times when schools are not using them, at more commercial rates.

The main base of Skerries For Schools is the pontoon near Richmond Bridge. To enable schools in the Kingston area to use the skerries, and to make use of the non-tidal section of the Thames, the use of a second base has been arranged near Kingston Bridge.

A feasibility study is being conducted with a view to establishing a base in the Reading Area in 2021.

Public Benefit Guidance

The Trustees are confident that Skerries For Schools has been run for public benefit as evidenced by efforts to keep costs to schools as low as possible, by the provision of suitably trained and qualified coaches who give their time unpaid, and by direct contact with schools to encourage participation. Since their discussions leading to the registration of Skerries For Schools with the Charity Commission, the trustees have had due regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Policies

Trustees have adopted policies as follows:

- Volunteers Policy
- Complaints Handling Policy
- Conflicts Of Interest Policy
- Safeguarding Policy

Objectives, Activities, Achievements and Performance

The number of skerry sessions booked remained steady in 2016, but has showed an increase during 2017 and 2018 but reduced slightly in 2019. No sessions were possible in 2020 due to Covid-19 Restrictions. The number of individual skerries booked, and paid for, excluding the “taster” and other promotional sessions. – some schools use two skerries at the same time - were

| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 32 | 35 | 48 | 60 | 48 | None |

Sessions with Schools were not possible in 2020 due to Covid-19 Restrictions
Other sessions were promotional or “taster” sessions..

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

- The acquisition of suitable skerries through donations and grants.
- The training and DBS Clearance of volunteer coaches.
- Encouraging the participation of Schools and pupils in safe sporting activities on the river.
- Arranging the coached rowing sessions, detailed above, for Schools at minimum or no cost.

**Independent examiner's Report
to the Trustees of Skerries For Schools
A Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Registered Charity 1162659**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages 10 & 11

Respective responsibilities of the 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(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you 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:

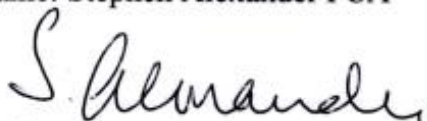
(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

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

Name: Stephen Alexander FCA



Address: 5, Cole Park View, Twickenham, TW1 1JW

Skerries 4 Schools

CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

Registered Charity 1162659

Statement of Financial Activities

for the Period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total £ | Total 2019 £ |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Incoming Resources | | | | |
| Donations & Gift Aid Repaid | 9,545 | 1,000 | 10,545 | 2,364 |
| Sponsorship of Skerry "Caroline" | | | - | - |
| Donation - for Skeries Purchase | | 17,592 | 17,592 | 7,536 |
| Use of Skerries | 505 | | 505 | 16,025 |
| Total Incoming Resources | 10,050 | 18,592 | 28,642 | 25,925 |
| Outgoing Resources | | | | |
| Direct Activities | | | | |
| Skerries etc. (Acquisition) | | 15,312 | 15,312 | 7,536 |
| Operational Costs | 11,673 | | 11,673 | 9,728 |
| Promotional Fees & Costs | - | 88 | 88 | 2,000 |
| Repayment of Short Term Loans | | - | - | - |
| Total for Direct Activities | 11,673 | 15,400 | 27,073 | 19,264 |
| Overheads & Administration | 60 | - | 60 | 79 |
| Total Outgoing Resources | 11,733 | 15,400 | 27,133 | 19,343 |
| Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources | (1,684) | 3,192 | 1,509 | 6,582 |
| Change in Fixed Assests | | | | |
| Construction of S4S Floreat | 22,848 | | 22,848 | |
| Net Movement in Funds | 21,164 | 3,192 | 24,357 | 6,582 |
| Funds Brought Forward | 53,806 | 16,000 | 69,806 | 63,224 |
| Funds Carried Forward | 74,970 | 19,192 | 94,163 | 69,806 |
| of which | | | | |
| Tanagible Assets | 77,248 | | 77,248 | 54,400 |
| Current Assets | (2,278) | 19,192 | 16,915 | 15,406 |
| | 74,970 | 19,192 | 94,163 | 69,806 |

Skerries 4 Schools

CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

Registered Charity 1162659

Balance Sheet

| | as at 31-Dec-20 £ | as at 1-Jan-20 £ |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Fixed Assets | | |
| Tangible Assets | 54,400 | 54,400 |
| add S4S Floreat | 22,848 | |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Fixed Assets | 77,248 | 54,400 |
| Current Assets | | |
| Debtors | 350 | |
| Cash in Hand and at Bank | 24,625 | 41,658 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Current Assets | 24,975 | 41,658 |
| Current Liabilities (due with one year) | (60) | (18,252) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Current Assets | 24,914 | 23,406 |
| Long Term Liabilities | (8,000) | (8,000) |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| NET ASSETS | 94,163 | 69,806 |
| | ===== | ===== |
| represented by | | |
| Unrestricted Funds | 74,970 | 53,806 |
| Restricted Funds | 19,192 | 16,000 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| TOTAL FUNDS | 94,163 | 69,806 |
| | ===== | ===== |

Signed



Robin Corti, Chairman
19th July 2021



Patrick Ducker, Treasurer
19th July 2021