

Student Robotics

Trustees' Annual Report 2025

From 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2025

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name:

Student Robotics

Charity Registration Number:

1163168

Principal Address:

Student Robotics
Lytchett House
13 Freeland Park
Wareham Road
Lytchett Matravers
Poole

Trustees:

- Diane Dowling
- David Massey (until July 2024)
- Thomas Scarsbrook
- Andrew Czismadia (co-opted July 2024)
- Andrew Busse (co-opted July 2024)

Executive Summary

Student Robotics continues to inspire and empower young people through hands-on STEM education. During the 2024-25 season, we engaged students across the UK and Europe with our hybrid competition, culminating in the successful SR2025 event. Our programme remains free to participants, broadening access to real-world engineering experiences. With a strong community of volunteers, and a focus on continuous improvement, Student Robotics is well-positioned to expand its impact and foster the next generation of engineers and innovators.

Objectives and Activities

Student Robotics exists to advance education and training for the public good, particularly in the fields of engineering, mathematics, robotics, computing, software development, and related disciplines, as set out in its constitution.

Our primary activity is the organisation and delivery of an annual robotics competition for 16 to 19-year-olds. This event challenges students to design, build, and program autonomous robots. Once the game is announced, teams have six months to develop their robots, with support provided through customised kits and mentoring. Participation is completely free of charge, ensuring accessibility - particularly for students who may lack previous exposure to engineering and robotics.

The charity continues to fulfil its aim of inspiring young people towards STEM careers. Many of our volunteers are former participants, and the competition continues to attract new schools and teams. Our vision remains *"to foster a world where engineering and artificial intelligence is accessible to young people,"* and our mission is *"to bring the excitement of engineering and the challenge of coding to young people through robotics."*

Achievements and Performance

The 2024–25 season marked another exciting year, culminating in **SR2025**. This year's game, **Urban Heights**, tasked teams with stacking pallets to own "districts", by building the tallest towers in those areas.

We continued with a hybrid model: a **virtual league** earlier in the year allowed teams to refine their programming skills remotely, culminating in a broadcast competition in February. King Edward VI Grammar School won this stage, in a close competition.

Teams were also rewarded with league points for demonstrating completion of robot-building and robot-testing challenges through the year.

At the physical competition weekend:

- **50 league matches** showcased incredible robot designs and strategies; culminating in a **knockout phase** to determine the competition winners
- Robots demonstrated agility, creativity, and autonomous decision-making.
- The final featured four top teams, with The Highfield School crowned SR2025 champions, followed by the School of St Helen and St Katherine (second place) and Ruthin School (third place).

Additional Awards:

- **Excellence in Engineering:** Queen Mary's College
- **Rookie Award:** The Highfield School
- **Robot and Team Image Award:** The School of St Helen and St Katharine
- **Online Presence Award:** The School of St Helen and St Katharine

Throughout the season, we continued to improve operations, deliver a high-quality livestream at low cost, and enhance team engagement via technical innovation and creative marketing efforts.

We are proud of the achievements of all teams, volunteers, and sponsors who made SR2025 possible, and are excited to build on this momentum.

Structure, Governance and Management

Student Robotics is a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)**, registered on 18th August 2015. Our governance is defined by our constitution, which sets out our objectives, powers, and structure.

The Board of Trustees meets regularly to discuss strategy and oversee governance. Our trustees bring professional expertise from engineering and computer science fields, alongside direct experience managing student teams providing valuable insight into the participant perspective.

Trustees are recruited from existing volunteers and, in future, from past competition participants as they progress into their professional careers. Trustees are appointed either by the charity's members or by resolution of the trustees.

We maintain a culture of openness and transparency, supported by a living Operations Manual, which documents procedures, role responsibilities, and delegated powers, and is regularly updated.

Committees oversee day-to-day operations:

- **Competition Committee:** Delivers the annual robotics competition.
- **Kit Team Committee:** Develops and maintains the robotics kit.
- **Infrastructure Team Committee:** Manages the charity's technical infrastructure.
- **Fundraising Team:** Led by trustees, focuses on securing sponsorship.

- **Marketing Team Committee:** Manages social media, the website, and team recruitment.

The charity's structure is designed for future growth, with the flexibility to expand into additional activities beyond the annual competition.

Financial Review

Our financial position remains satisfactory:

- **Year-end bank balance:** £12,039

Two liabilities, totalling £2751, were carried in to the new financial year. These were satisfied in December 2025.

Maintaining reserves enables us to plan and launch future competitions without relying on last-minute fundraising. We always budget based on available funds, and our current reserves are sufficient to support a competition in 2026, although new sources of funding are required to operate beyond then.

A financial statement has been filed alongside this report. Full accounts are available for inspection at any time.

Approval

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf:

Andrew Busse

Trustee (Treasurer)



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Student Robotics

1163168

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/07/24

To

30/06/25

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	3,004	-	-	3,004	9,428
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	3,004	-	-	3,004	9,428
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	3,004	-	-	3,004	9,428
A3 Payments					
Accounting and legal	47	-	-	47	35
Bank Fees	60	-	-	60	57
Costs of Competition	2,494	-	-	2,494	6,641
Container Rental	1,373	-	-	1,373	1,258
Digital Infrastructure	91	-	-	91	89
Insurance	483	-	-	483	473
Kit Development	-	-	-	-	474
Mail Services	225	-	-	225	150
Marketing	1,296	-	-	1,296	1,936
Sub total	6,069	-	-	6,069	11,113
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	6,069	-	-	6,069	11,113
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 3,065	-	-	- 3,065	- 1,685
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	15,104	-	-	15,104	-
Cash funds this year end	12,039	-	-	12,039	1,685

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		12,039	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	12,039	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

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

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

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

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	2025 Competition Costs		2,751	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
Andrew Busse	Andrew Busse	30/04/26