

Charity Number: 1179191

The Electronics Club CIO

Report and Accounts

For the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

Charity Information

Registered Charity Number	1179191
Contact Address	39 Borough Close Kings Stanley Gloucestershire GL10 3LJ
Principal Objects	To provide teaching materials to children and young people in order for them to learn electronics.
Trustees	Luke Briner (appointed July 2018) Naomi Briner (appointed July 2018) David Hughes (appointed July 2018) Lindsay Heaven (appointed June 2021)

Trustees Report

The Trustees hereby submit the Report and Accounts of The Electronics Club CIO (“the CIO”) for the period of 1st January 2023 until 31st December 2023. The accounts have been prepared on an income and expenditure basis and have not been independently examined.

Background

The Electronics Club was formed due to a lack of educational resources aimed at children and young people in the subject of electronics. Luke Briner and David Hughes as electronics and practical engineers along with Naomi Briner, a primary Headteacher decided that we could produce these resources for relatively little money and produce a large benefit to both the UK and globally.

The Charity was registered as a CIO in July 2018, a CIO being chosen as a vessel that would maximise the ability to sell certain resources at a later date in order help with income. As a charity we would also be able to receive donations from appropriate trusts or individuals.

As a small charity, currently not generating much content, we have considered 4 Trustees to be a reasonable number for the time being but once some momentum has been achieved, we would like to increase the number to reflect the size of the organisation as it might grow.

Review of Activities

Not much has been achieved this year in the charity due to a number of reasons mainly related to a lack of focus and the inability to arrange a larger team of people to help coordinate things. Having some basic lesson plans is not enough to make a big impression in UK education but a number of other avenues would also be necessary, although each of which is more time and work: for example, a well-maintained and comprehensive website; animations/videos/computer games to provide interactive learning; coaching and support for teachers who want to use the materials we provide.

The original aim of the Trust was to fill a gap where UK education did not have enough support for Electronics but we are not much closer to allowing that to happen. Some research has been done and some other educators have been contacted to try and coordinate what is actually missing but this has been haphazard and not always received a response.

Luke Briner has applied to be a Stem Ambassador, which might help with the aim of coordinating and sharing resources and knowledge since the Stem Learning Organisation only has a limited amount of specific Electronic resources.

Public Benefit

The public benefit of the charity should be fairly evident from the Principal Objects but we see a important gap in the education market which is not currently being met by the Department for Education and anywhere where an individual teacher might have the skills and interest, this is not apparent across the country. Instead of bemoaning this situation, we intend to provide the resources that will enable schools particularly to run lessons or even after-school clubs to get children both interested and proficient in electronics design and manufacture. We don't want to sit back and watch an even bigger gap between the skills market and education.

It would be our long-term goal to inspire the education industry to re-create an electronics curriculum and make it a significant part of science or a subject in its own right so that young people do not have to wait until A Level to get their first chance to do anything useful with electronics.

Financial, Fund-raising and Grant-making policies

Currently, the CIO has existed with the financial support of its Trustees only. We are close to the point where an injection of cash would be useful, particularly related to high quality video production and we will shortly be approaching some grant-awarding Trusts for this. There are a number of high-wealth organisations and individuals in the UK who have a vested interest in a larger skills supply in electronics who would hopefully provide grants to purchase equipment, perhaps pay people part-time etc. Initially, we are not looking to recruit staff but once we get past launch, the need for an administrator is the most likely need and to be able to pay them at least a nominal wage provides some security for us as an organisation.

There is an opportunity also in the longer term to make money from either sponsored visits (sponsored by commercial organisations or by e.g. schools or events) or otherwise to sell products – perhaps branded electronic kits, that would benefit both the recipients – who could then carry out all of the electronic projects and don't have to source components themselves – but also the CIO who could make some markup on the reselling of these.

Money is not solicited from the general public although as a public-focused CIO, we would accept donations from people who see the work we do as valuable.

We did secure an unsolicited donation of unused electronic components owned by a recently deceased man, whose wife wanted it to go to good use instead of being discarded and who found us using an internet search.

The CIO does not have any outstanding guarantees or secured debts.

Reserves Policy

There are no current ongoing creditors to the CIO that would present a risk to the finances. The Trustees are financially supporting the CIO in its birth stage but as time moves on and we hope to grow significantly, it is a point of regular review to see what finances are like in order to help direct decisions.

Risk Management

With significant experience across a number of industries, the current Trustees are very familiar with risk assessment. Due to the current nature of work, which largely takes place privately and is uploaded to the web, there are very few risks that require any remediation. However, as the work extends to possibly include school visits etc. we will re-evaluate our Standard Operating Procedures to protect both us and others.

We have produced an initial release of the following documents:

- 1) Building a safe culture
- 2) Complaint handling procedures
- 3) Financial Risk Management
- 4) Safe recruiting procedures
- 5) Safe working procedures
- 6) Safeguarding policy statement

Three of the current Trustees are currently DBS-checked but with Naomi Briner as a Trustee and a Headteacher, we would use her experience and knowledge to draft appropriate practices for contact with children when the need arises.

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We do not currently have a social media presence so there is currently no abuse risk there.

Summary of Finances

Some small expenditure has been made to get some equipment but most of our income remains in the bank account. Trustee Luke Briner is no longer making regular tax-efficient gifts to the charity bank account, since there is enough cash on-hand and without a good understanding of next steps, it is not worth continuing to increase that amount.

Statement of Trustees

Charity law requires us as trustees to prepare accounts for each accounting year which record the receipts and payments of the charity for the year. The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable us to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. The trustees also have a responsibility to safeguard the assets of the charity and to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud or any other irregularities.

The trustees confirm that to the best of their knowledge these accounts comply with applicable law.

BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES

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Date

Luke Briner (Chairman)

Receipts and Payments Account

	Restricted	Endowment	Unrestricted
Opening balance	0	0	1911.65
Receipts			
Grants	0	0	0
Sales	0	0	0
Donations	0	0	1200.00
Other Income	0	0	3.12
Total Receipts	0	0	1203.12
Payments			
Utilities inc bank charges	0	0	60.00
Equipment	0	0	1151.38
Web and hosting	0	0	0
Staff costs	0	0	0
Sundry	0	0	0
Materials	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	0	0	1211.38
Net of Receipts	0	0	0
Closing Balance	0	0	1903.39

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment
Cash funds			
Bank account	1903.39		
Other monetary	0		
Investment assets	0		
Retained assets	0		
Liabilities	0		