

Western Beacons Mountain Rescue Team

Annual Report for year ended 31st March 2023

Registered Charity No 1180863

CHARITY NAME: Western Beacons Mountain Rescue Team

REGISTERED OFFICE:

Western Beacons Mountain Rescue Teams whose registered address is Western Beacons Mountain Rescue team are based out of council garages in Adams Avenue, Sarn Bridgend CF32 9RX however all communication should be directed the Charity Secretary

The team is a charity registered with the Charity Commissioners, No. 1180863. The Charity is a member of the regional body of South Wales Search & Rescue Association, it is also a member of Mountain Rescue England and Wales who are both representative bodies for mountain search and rescue.

The Trustee board for the financial year were:

Chair	Mr Mark Songhurst
Secretary	Mr Nicholas McAllister
Treasurer	Mr M Lewis
Trustee	Mr M Jeffery
Trustee	Miss K Murray
Trustee	Mr R Wallis
Trustee	Mr P Williams

The objects of the Charity, as specified in the constitution, are to assist in the relieving of suffering and distress amongst persons endangered by accidents or natural hazards in South and Mid Wales geographical area, but also without geographical limitation, and to provide adequate arrangements for the secure and efficient search and rescue of any persons so endangered. We are now equipped and trained to offer search and rescue in natural disasters.

The team comprises up to 60 volunteers who live across our operational area. As well as being on call in all weather, 24 hours a day and 365 days a year, there is a significant amount of on-going training in advanced first aid, mountain and water rescue. This can only be achieved through the dedication of our volunteers and the generosity of their employers.

During the year, the team responded to a total of 52 incidents. The Team callouts involved providing assistance to both South Wales, Dyfed Powys Police and the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust in conducting searches for missing, vulnerable, and injured persons. 16 % of the calls were for casualties with lower leg injuries

The team has worked closely with helicopters from the Coastguard, Air Ambulance, and National Police Air Support. Invaluable Joint medical working with the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust and the Hazardous Area Response Team has proved vital to all services. We continue to work closely with our neighbouring Mountain and Cave Rescue teams offering mutual aid when required.

Whilst dealing with Inland waterways incidents the team has worked jointly with both South Wales FRS and Mid and West Wales FRS.

Training

Following the Covid pandemic training returned to normal face to face with members having to upskill their training. The team trains every Monday and a full weekend each month.

During this period:

14 members attended an advanced driving course and gained either gold or silver RoSPA awards

13 members successfully completed a Blue Light Driving Course

3 members successfully upskilled their rope rescue training at a regional training course

5 members completed a 4x4 driving course run internally by our 4x4 trainer.

7 members either renewed or completed various recognised water training courses.

4 members attended the Mountain Rescue casualty care training courses.

Team Medical training continued to be of great importance within the training calendar of all members.

During this year we recruited and trained 7 new members who successfully completed their training and are now on the call out list.

We thank the 1st Ynyscedwyn Scout Group and Coelbren Miners Welfare and Community Hall for allowing us to use their facilities for our accommodation on training weekends.

Finance

The biggest expenditure remains with the running of 4 vehicles of £9,449.82

Our fleet consists of a Toyota Hilux based at Pontardawe fire station. Our Landrover 130, Mobile control vehicle and dedicated water rescue vehicle are kept at our headquarters in Bridgend. They are maintained and serviced by Gotboost Ltd in Pyle, we would like to thank Stef and his team for their hard work keeping the vehicles on the road.

Income remains low with a running loss of £862.11. Post Covid we are facing challenges with fundraising as many in the voluntary sector are. Our income from organised events and grants have decreased this year, whilst we have funds to run the day-to-day activities of the team, large investments such as vehicle and specialised equipment replacement are more uncertain.

Restricted Income

During the year, the charity received a Nominet Members Givehub grant of £10,000 from Nominet as a result of a successful grant application. The purpose of the grant was to fund radio communication equipment and networking. During the year there was one payment for equipment of £3,500, with the remaining balance expected to be spent during the next financial year.

Related Party Transactions

Payments to Trustees - The payment of £3,500 referred to above was made to Mr. Mark Lewis, a Trustee and Treasurer of the Charity, for two Simoco repeaters and duplexers. These had originally been loaned to the Charity, and the Trustees agreed to purchase them when the restricted income Nominet grant funds became available.

Transactions between Western Beacons Mountain Rescue Team charity 1180863 ("WBMRT") and the Western Beacons Mountain Search and Rescue Team charity 500652 ("WBMSART"). This organisation was formed as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), and it took on similar charitable aims to the WBMSART charity which now no longer operates. The Trustees of the WBMSRT are Mr Marcus Neal, Mr Selwyn Keenan, Mr Robert Wallis, and Mr Antony Lloyd. The administrative process of transferring assets and liabilities from the previous charity to the current CIO, and for donors transferring their standing orders for donations, has taken some time. Consequently, some prior-year comparative figures look low because in the prior year they were paid by the old charity, and the old charity continued to receive income which it donated to the new CIO in 2022/23.

Independent Examiners Report

The accounts have been subjected to an independent examination by Mr. R D S Jones BSc ACMA (retired), and his report will be submitted to the Charities Commission with the accounts following their approval by the Trustees at the AGM

VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The trustees would like to acknowledge and thank all the members for their hard work and commitment this year, the team officers, and the party leaders for making sure operations and training run smoothly. It is also important to recognise the families of our volunteers who support the team by supporting members to undertake the training and callouts throughout the year.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT The Trustees confirm they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission including public benefit guidance.

Approved by the Trustees on the 18th December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Mr. Songhurst

Chairman



Mr. Mark Lewis

Treasurer

For the statements of our financial activities please see the details on the Charity Commission website.

Management Report

Western Beacons Mountain Rescue Team (CIO)

The following needs to be considered when looking at these accounts

The accounts shows a loss of £862.11 however;

- £10,000.00 of the income is for a grant redistricted to radio spend (£6,500.00 carried over)
- VAT reclaim of £4,626.59 from 5 years was received during this period
- There are invoices that were late arriving for this period and will be in next years accounts

Therefore the actual loss is far more than it appears

Prepared on

19 November 2023

Table of Contents

Financial Activities3

Balance Sheet5

Financial Activities

April 2022 - March 2023

	Total
INCOME	
Donations and legacies	7,987.58
Subs	735.00
Team Weekend	1,411.16
Total Donations and legacies	10,133.74
Fundraising	
Event Income	1,500.00
Fundraising Amazon	97.04
Just Giving	1,209.72
Lottery Income	371.60
Total Fundraising	3,178.36
Restricted Funds	10,000.00
Total Income	23,312.10
TOTAL	
23,312.10	
EXPENDITURES	
Equipment	
Radio	3,500.00
Total Equipment	3,500.00
Insurances	1,058.61
Medical	
Control Drugs	183.68
Total Medical	183.68
Office/General Administrative Expenses	386.00
Phone Costs	297.01
Printing, Postage and Stationery	130.78
Raising funds	404.09
Training	630.19
Accommodation	1,260.00
Driver Training	1,100.17
Rope Rescue	615.00
Search Training	730.00
Team Weekend Food	513.13
Water Training	548.00
Total Training	5,396.49
Uncategorised Expense	1,963.30
Utilities	
SSE	1,354.43
Total Utilities	1,354.43
Vehicles	
Bravo Juliet	293.05
Bravo Mike	997.05
Bravo Oscar	388.99
Bravo Romeo	2,872.93

	Total
Fuel	4,947.80
Total Vehicles	9,499.82
Total Expenditures	24,174.21
NET OPERATING INCOME	-862.11
OTHER INCOME	
Asset Transfer from (WBMSRT 500652)	13,247.32
Interest Earned	2.54
Total Other Income	13,249.86
NET OTHER INCOME	13,249.86
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	£12,387.75

Balance Sheet

As of March 31, 2023

	Total
FIXED ASSET	
Total Fixed Asset	
CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	
Current Account For CIO	36,362.63
Savings	1,158.85
Total Cash at bank and in hand	37,521.48
NET CURRENT ASSETS	37,521.48
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)	37,521.48
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	37,521.48
TOTAL NET ASSETS (LIABILITIES)	£37,521.48
CHARITY FUNDS	
Opening Balance Equity	25,133.73
Retained Earnings	
Surplus/(Deficit)	12,387.75
Total Charity funds	£37,521.48



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Western Beacons Mountain Rescue Team

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1180863

Set out on pages

3 and 4

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/03/2023**.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

R. Denison

Date:

11 January 2024

Name:

Robert Denis Samuel Jones

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

ACMA (Retired)

Address:

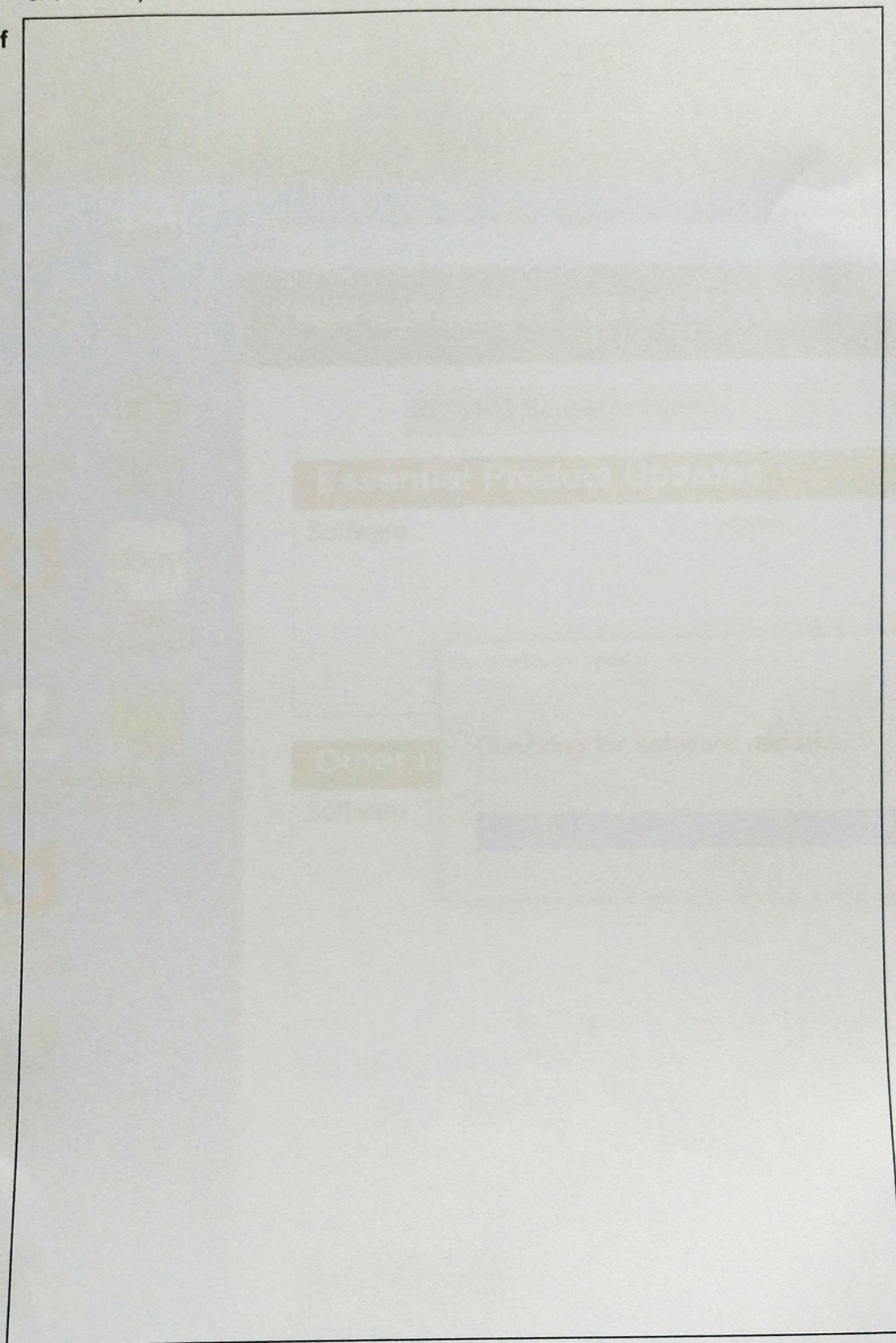
5 James Stephens Way

Chepstow

NP16 5GE

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01-Apr-22		31-Mar-23

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	13,312	10,000	-	23,312	23,113
Donation / transfer from Western Beacons Mountain Search and Rescue Team	13,247	-	-	13,247	-
Interest received	3	-	-	3	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	26,562	10,000	-	36,562	23,113

A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	26,562	10,000	-	36,562	23,113

A3 Payments					
Vehicles	4,552	-	-	4,552	5,650
Equipment	-	3,500	-	3,500	7,474
Communications	-	-	-	-	115
Insurance	1,058	-	-	1,058	1,671
Base	1,218	-	-	1,218	20
Training	5,397	-	-	5,397	3,111
Fuel	4,948	-	-	4,948	-
Other	184	-	-	184	251
Utilities	1,354	-	-	1,354	-
VAT to be reclaimed in future period	1,963	-	-	1,963	-
Sub total	20,674	3,500	-	24,174	18,292

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	20,674	3,500	-	24,174	18,292

Net of receipts/(payments)	5,888	6,500	-	12,388	4,821
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	25,133	-	-	25,133	20,312
Cash funds this year end	31,021	6,500	-	37,521	25,133

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	Current account	29,863	6,500	-
	Deposit account	1,159	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	31,021	6,500	-

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

B2 Other monetary assets

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

B3 Investment assets

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

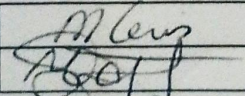
**B4 Assets retained for the
charity's own use**

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

B5 Liabilities

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

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	MARY LEWIS	17/12/23
	MIRIAM JONATHAN	18/12/23