



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st April 2023 To 31st March 2024

Charity name: Accessible Boating Thames
Trading as: Accessible Boating Thames (ABT)

Charity registration number: 1181307

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To meet the needs of people by the provision of accessible boating opportunities on open water.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	The main activities centre on the objective of providing access to various types of boating experience to people of all ages who would not otherwise be able to access mainstream boating activities because of some form of disability. ABT has a very wide definition of disability and accepts people with mental, physical and behavioural issues; the only limitation being to always ensure the safety of the participant. The boating experience is built around three types of boats. Sailing Craft ABT has three types of craft, one more suited to training and the other for single handed sailing. The third is a NEO495 sailboat that provides for two people to sit side by side and will further widen the range of disabilities we can accommodate. For those in a wheelchair there is a hoist for lifting the sailor from their chair into and out of the boat. Bell Boats Bell boats are effectively a catamaran made from two long open canoes seating up to 10 or so people and steered by a qualified helm. They are very stable and are therefore ideal for all participants including those with reduced coordination. The boat is large enough to allow carers to support the participants if required.

		Wheelyboat The Wheelyboat is a purpose designed open motorboat that is ideal for anybody who wants to get on the water but is unable or unwilling to paddle or sail for whatever reason. The design is such that a wheelchair can be rolled from the shore directly into it. The steering console is designed so that a person in a wheelchair can (subject to training) take full control. It is therefore ideal for small groups who either just want to enjoy the river or a disabled sailor who wants to cruise the river independently.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees of Accessible Boating Thames have complied with their duty to have due regard to the commission's public benefit guidance.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	The charity is highly dependent upon a small, dedicated team of volunteers who undertake a range of activities including: • Helming the Wheelyboat • Helming the Bell Boats • Operating the Safety Boat • Boat cleaning and maintenance • Client support The volunteers when appropriate and, in many cases, have RYA Powerboat 2, RYA Inland Waterways, RYA Sailing and/ or RYA First Aid qualifications.
Other		Accessible Boating Thames was established in December 2018 to take over and develop the accessible boating activities that had previously been run by the Rivertime Boat Trust (RBT). The charity is operationally independent and uses a range of boats that it either owns or loans. In the latter case the arrangements are subject to Memoranda of Understanding with RBT.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	In 2023 the charity provided bellboat sessions for SEND schools and regular opportunities for disabled individuals and groups to access water sport through sailing, motorboat and bellboat sessions. In addition, ABT with its accessible picnic tables enabled visits from special groups who had the opportunity to have a social gathering and the option of using our boats for outings on the river Thames. During the year ended 31st March 2024, ABT operated 18 bellboat sessions, with 20 to 30 participants on average and up to 6 people on the Wheelyboat during the sessions. It operated 5 picnic sessions for groups involving between 9 and 25 people each time, where they are taken out on the river on the Wheelyboat in groups of 6 people at a time; and there were also 14 individual and family Wheelyboat trips out for between 2 to 3 hours at a time, and 6 family and smaller group bellboat sessions. In addition, ABT also conducted 21 sailing sessions.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	As at the year ending 31st March 2024, the charity had income of £15,834 and expenditure of £7,882 giving a surplus for the year of £7,952. The reserves carried forward as at the 31st March 2024 totalled £47,292, therefore Accessible Boating Thames has sufficient reserves to ensure its continued operation.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The reserves policy requires that there are sufficient unrestricted funds to run the charity for 6 months. The reserves will be increased gradually to enable the purchase of replacement boats where necessary.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	As at 31 st March 2024, the reserves held totalled £47,292.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	There are no zero reserves.
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	There are no funds in deficit.

Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	There are no uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern. Accessible Boating Thames has sufficient reserves to ensure its continued operation.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The charity's principal sources of funding are Trusts and Foundations, private individuals and clubs. The key items of expenditure are: • Maintenance of powerboats (Wheelyboat and safety boat) • Maintenance of unpowered boats (sailing craft and bell boats) • Purchase of professional boating services (trainers and helms) • Insurance Further funds are required, and the charity will continue to seek support from generous donors and grant making bodies to ensure the charity is able to develop its service offering in the coming years.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	The charity does not have any investments.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Appointed by the existing Trustees

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	Accessible Boating Thames (ABT) was formed from the participatory boating activities of Rivertime Boat Trust (RBT) that runs a fully accessible trip boat on the River Thames. ABT retains a close working relationship with RBT. The boating activities predominantly take place at Bisham Abbey near Marlow using professional services provided by Bisham Abbey Sailing and Navigation School.
Other		The Board comprises Trustees who have the experience and relevant skills to carry out the functions of managing the charity. The Trustees meet quarterly and can make the relevant decisions.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Accessible Boating Thames
Other name the charity uses	Accessible Boating Thames (ABT)
Registered charity number	1181307
Charity's principal address	Grovefield House 24 Furze Platt Road Maidenhead SL6 7NN

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Person entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Gavin Tisshaw	Chairman		
2	Gregory Wilkinson		Resigned 5 th December 2023	
3	Christopher Humphris			
4	Stephen Illman		Resigned 22 nd April 2023	
5	Stephen Betts			
6	Hilary Spiers		Appointed 18 th July 2023	
7	Emma-Jane Cornwell		Appointed 17 th September 2024	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Technical Advisor	Peter May	Bisham Abbey Sailing and Navigation School National Sports Centre, Marlow Road, Bisham, SL7 1RR

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Gavin Tisshaw	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairman	

Date 30th January 2025

Accessible Boating Thames
Period ending 31st March 2024

Income and Expenditure

	Period Ending 31/03/2024	Period Ended 31/03/2023
Income	15,834	9,845
Expenditure	6,036	4,136
Depreciation	1,845	1,795
Surplus for the Period	<u>7,952</u>	<u>3,913</u>

Balance Sheet

Fixed Assets	12,780	14,376
Current Assets	34,512	24,965
Creditors due within 1 year	0	0
Net Current Assets	<u>47,292</u>	<u>39,340</u>
Net Assets	<u>47,292</u>	<u>39,340</u>
Capital Account		
B/fwd balance	39,340	35,427
Current Year Earnings	<u>7,952</u>	<u>3,913</u>
Total Capital and Reserves	<u>47,292</u>	<u>39,340</u>