

BRISTOL ARIEL ROWING CLUB



Bristol Ariel Rowing Club

Trustees Report and Financial Statements

Period 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025

Charity Number: 1185174

The report covers the period from 1st April 2024 until the end of the club's financial year on 31st March 2025.

Reference and Administrative Details:

Charity name: Bristol Ariel Rowing Club
Alternative name: BARC

Charity registration number: 1185174

Address: Bristol Ariel Rowing Club
Pump House Lane
Brislington
Bristol
BS4 4RQ

Trustees: Emma Hall (until 09 February 2025)
Sandra Jones (from 09 February 2025)
Philip Andrew Moore Treasurer
Geoffrey Howe Lester President
Paul James Lowe Captain
Richard James Nelson

Accountants: Linden Accountants
Scrapstore House
21 Sevier Street
St Werburghs
Bristol, BS2 9LB

Report of the trustees

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 2 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements and the *Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities* (FRS102, effective from January 2015) as they apply to small charities.

Structure, governance, and management

The club is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), first registered on 5 September 2019. It is governed by a CIO Constitution which mirrors the Charity Commission template.

The club operates as a club affiliated to rowing's UK governing body: British Rowing.

Appointment of trustees

Three trustees are ex-officio: the club President, Captain and Treasurer elected at a General Meeting of the club. The remaining trustees are appointed by the current trustees and ratified at a General Meeting of the CIO.

Prospective new Trustees will be invited to complete a skills audit to maintain the breadth of experience and diversity within the board necessary to properly carry out its functions. Potential Trustees who meet the skills need will be co-opted for an induction period to ensure they are fully aware of the responsibilities before being formally proposed and voted on at the Charity's AGM.

During the reporting period one appointed trustee, Emma Hall, stood down and a further trustee, Sandra Jones was appointed.

Trustees are referred to guidance and training texts and on-line courses run by NCVO.

Club members and non-members are invited to express interest in being appointed as trustees at anytime.

Management structure and wider relationships

The trustees delegate the day-to-day functioning of the club to a committee of 7 officers elected each year at the club AGM. Some of those officers lead a team of volunteers undertaking specific areas of responsibility (e.g. the Captain leads a "Rowing Team" including volunteer lead coaches, squad captains and volunteers for boats and gym maintenance).

The club operates under rowing's governing body, British Rowing, and is part of British Rowing's Wessex, Avon, Gloucester & Somerset (WAGS) division.

Objectives and Activities

The objective of the charity as described in our constitution is “the promotion of participation in amateur sport and healthy recreation through the provision of facilities, encouragement and instruction in rowing for the community of Bristol and surrounding areas.”

The programme of activities to deliver this objective over the period is normally focussed on:

- Attracting new participants to the sport;
- Providing facilities, equipment and coaching to enable athletic development and participation in athletic competition, both on the water and indoor rowing;
- Promoting the health benefits of indoor rowing as a physical activity.

The charity is not a grant awarding body.

Trustee approach:

In conducting their scrutiny and review of club activities the trustees have given due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit as described in documents PB1, PB2, PB3, CC3 & CC4.

In pursuit of its objectives during the year the club has:

- Organised and facilitated the water activity across a wide variety of boat types and participant skills and ages including participation in a wide variety of competitive events supporting our local regattas and head races with a high number of event wins;
- Maintained the existing clubhouse, boathouses, club grounds and gym to ensure fitness for purpose and safety of users;
- Reviewed the club safety policies and procedures in line with British Rowing’s “Row Safe” standards, in particular with respect to visibility on the river;
- Organised an autumn 2024 “Learn to Row” programme in a revised format concentrating on sculling in collaboration with British Rowing’s “Olympic Activation” project;
- In collaboration with the London Youth Rowing charity’s Bristol Hub project we have facilitated delivery of indoor and water rowing sessions for a number of local schools as a proof of concept. Planning is in progress for wider delivery for the summer of 2025.

Considerations for the future

Despite running a successful *Learn to Row* course there remains a high unmet demand for experience of water rowing. To address this we are:

- Participating actively in British Rowing’s initiative for a sport activation and development hub covering Bristol and Bath;

- Considering several avenues for further fund raising to increase boat numbers to enable participants to move through from learn to row to established squads at the club. This will increase our capacity to take on more new rowers in the future;
- Working with University of Bristol to consider how the club's position and facilities might be used to provide respite and recreational opportunities for the planned large numbers of additional staff and students on the Temple Quarter campus;
- Working with the Oasis Academy group and London Youth Rowing (themselves a charity dedicated to bringing rowing to a wider and disadvantaged school age population) to explore how the club site and equipment might facilitate this;
- Planning protection of the club members, site and buildings from damage by aging or diseased trees on and adjacent to our site.

Contributions by volunteers

The club relies very heavily on the generous time, work and expertise given by volunteers for the delivery of its benefits and activities. Volunteer roles delivered during the period include:

- Squad co-ordination;
- Coaching;
- Trailer towing to training and competitive events;
- Leading on maintenance and repair of club boats, oars, gym equipment including enhanced cleaning to ensure safety of users;
- Leading on maintenance of the buildings and grounds;
- Ensuring site security;
- Financial management;
- Organisation and delivery of "Learn to Row" courses for adults new to the sport;
- Marketing and social media communications;
- Organisation of social activities.

Many other short projects and developments have also facilitated safe and secure delivery and development of the club's activities and improved its facilities.

The club trustees and committee are very grateful for the invaluable contribution of our volunteers.

Volunteers receive no remuneration other than justified expenses. The volunteer expenses policy and procedure was reviewed during the year.

Achievements and Performance

In delivery of the objective and activities programme during the period we have:

- Delivered a sculling only Learn to Row course in the spring and early summer of 2024 using the format established in 2023. This consists of a Level one and a Level two enabling the opportunity for the participant to ensure they enjoy the sport, and for Ariel to consider the capabilities of the individual, ahead of committing to the remainder of the course. Many of those completing the Learn to row course have subsequently joined the club as full members in the Novice Squad.
- Mindful of a surge in interest in an Olympic year British Rowing initiated an “Olympic Activation” project supporting Learn to Row activities during the late summer and autumn. The club engaged with this project although completion of the course took longer than intended because of poor weather and river conditions.
- Following the 2023 proof of concept we ran 14 RowSUP sessions between June and September introducing a further 32 new individuals to the sport. Some of these went on to join the autumn Learn to Row course and have become confirmed members.
- The introductory sessions run by London Youth Rowing with local schools engaged with 5 different groups including one interviewed by the local ITV news channel.
- Go Row Indoor (GRI) sessions have continued with two weekday sessions in addition to evening and weekend sessions. These are delivered by a mix of paid personal trainers and club volunteers. Participants who prefer a female lead for a session can register for an appropriate session. Classes have a distinctly high female participation and a developing social aspect which contributes to the health and well-being aspect of the activity;
- We have continued to work with British Rowing to share our Go Row experience with other clubs and organisations considering setting up their own programmes;
- During the year the stability of trees adjacent to the club property has remained a concern. In the interests of member and visitor safety and protection of the property a programme of further monitoring and tree maintenance is being developed;
- The roof damaged by a tree fall last year has now been replaced and work is in progress for a major refurbishment of this club asset with a view to making better use of the facility for the benefit of all members;
- The Club had a successful year at local and national competitive events across the range of club squads including British Rowing Indoor Championships and entered the EuroMasters regatta in Munich in July 2024.

- Training and on-the-water activities during the autumn of 2024 were severely disrupted by repeated periods of heavy rain resulting in flooding of the grounds, but not the club buildings. Physical activities therefore relied on use of the gym. The Trustees are grateful for the patience and forbearance of its members during this period and for the help of volunteers who worked to keep the impact of flooding to a minimum and keeping participants safe.

Financial Review

Review of financial position at 31 March 2025

The period from April 2024 to March 2025 is the fifth full year of Bristol Ariel Rowing Club as a CIO.

By the end of this period, the Charity held net assets of £271,953 comprised of:

Fixed assets: £179,787 with net current assets of £92,166.

The 24-25 financial year continued the return to normal operations following the pandemic, with a refocus on maintaining and upgrading the existing Club buildings and facilities.

The Club has continued to invest in the facilities and equipment to help meet its charitable objectives. This included the following spend on a mix of both water and gym equipment to serve the membership.

£5,250 – Second hand Sims Eight “Tempest”

£500 - Two Swift sculling boats, “Catch” and “Drive”

Main sources of income

Members subscriptions remain the largest source of income with land membership continuing to show good growth.

Grants and donations

The Club received £2,000 from British Rowing as part of British Rowing Summer Learn2 Row Support Grant, and a further £1,829 in respect of booking fees.

Expenditure

Gross expenditure was £9,701 lower than the previous year – £75,879 compared to £85,580.

Work continued repairing Averys with a further £10,824 spent completing the roof works, £2,640 insulating, boarding and plastering the ceiling and £302 for skip hire. £12,601 was recovered from the Club's insurance policy. The balance of building costs include £1,501 for offsite storage and a £500 voluntary contribution to repairs to the access road.

Freelance trainer expenditure increased by £1,850 with a £3,292 increase in rowing coaching offset by a £1,442 decrease in paid land based coaching.

Events include the annual dinner and attendance at the European Rowing Masters Regatta 2024 in Munich and are reported on a net basis and are budgeted to break even.

Boat repairs and maintenance reduced year on year by £6,791 to £4,082. Larger items included new riggers for Iris, cox box cables, speakers and microphones

Security alarms, trailers, defibrillator, fire extinguishers and launches were all serviced and, where appropriate, on a cost benefit basis, upgraded, in the year as part of the normal activities.

The depreciation charge increased by £829 year on year to £22,571 based on the asset costs as set out in the accounting policies.

Insurance premiums rose by 3% to £11,683.

Bristol Ariel does not employ any staff members. Two freelance, self-employed coaches are contracted to run Go Row Indoor classes and additional coaches have been contracted intermittently to provide coaching for 'water' rowers.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have put a Reserves Policy in place primarily to hold funds to mitigate unforeseen emergency and operational costs and consequent troughs in cashflow, ("designated funds").

The Reserve is sufficient to cover approximately 6 months of running costs and includes an element for timely replacement of equipment essential for the safe operation of the club activities.

The Trustees have agreed to maintain designated funds of £30,000, - £23,000 designated for contingency/running costs and £7,000 set aside for the equipment (including launch motor replacement).

The Club's land and buildings have several known risks (including the trees, riverside and landing stages) that will require further planned works and unplanned emergency works.

The Trustees have considered a prudent approach to ensuring that the ongoing viability of the charity is not compromised by the above and other risks.

Decisions about spending outside of the annual budget for routine running costs is proposed by the committee and approved by the Trustees.

Forward look

The Club continues to face an increase in overheads. The trustees are aware that the boat fleet is aging and would wish to use some club resources on additional or updated boat(s) appropriate to the needs of the membership in the forthcoming year whilst continuing to improve the safety and fabric of the club property.

The Trustees will monitor how the above develops during the course of the year 2025-2026 to ensure that the Club remains viable and that we can also accommodate members who are struggling to pay membership subscriptions.

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the report above.

Signed on behalf of the CIO trustees



Geoffrey Howe Lester
President

Date: 6/10/2025

Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bristol Ariel Rowing Club for the year ended 31st March 2025.

Responsibility 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').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of Bristol Ariel Rowing Club are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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:

1. Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of my independent examination.

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.



David Baptiste ACPA
Linden Accountant Limited
Scrapstore House
21 Sevier Street
St Werburghs
Bristol
BS2 9LB

Date: 07/10/2025

BRISTOL ARIEL ROWING CLUB

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Including Income and Expenditure Account)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	Note	£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Income from generated funds					
Rental income		4,200	-	4,200	4,350
Activities for generating funds	2	2,519	-	2,519	4,834
Grants receivable	3	3,829	-	3,829	(3,359)
Income from charitable activities	4	58,051	-	58,051	54,022
Investments income		1,634	-	1,634	665
Insurance reclaim		12,601	-	12,601	6,539
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		82,834	-	82,834	67,051
EXPENDITURE					
Expenditure on generating funds	5	25,572	-	25,572	30,631
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	50,307	-	50,307	54,949
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		75,879	-	75,879	85,580
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		6,955	-	6,955	(18,529)
Balances brought forward		264,997	-	264,997	283,527
Gross Transfers Between Funds	12	-	-	-	-
Balances carried forward		271,952	-	271,952	264,997

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above.

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 13 to 17 form part of these financial statements

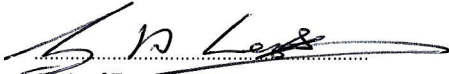
BRISTOL ARIEL ROWING CLUB

BALANCE SHEET

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS:			
Tangible assets	8	179,787	196,608
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Debtors	9	11,810	17,671
Stock		92	92
Cash at bank and in hand		90,233	58,074
		<u>102,135</u>	<u>75,837</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
Creditors: falling due within one year	10	<u>(9,970)</u>	<u>(7,447)</u>
Net current assets		92,165	68,389
NET ASSETS:		<u>271,952</u>	<u>264,997</u>
FUNDS			
General funds	12	233,845	223,030
Designated funds	12	30,000	30,000
Building funds	12	8,107	11,968
		<u>271,952</u>	<u>264,997</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 6/10/2025
and are signed on their behalf by:


Chair of Trustees

Charity Registration Number: 1185174

The notes on pages 13 to 17 form part of these financial statements

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102 SORP) issued in July 2014, and applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 2011.

Funds structure

Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have set aside resources for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or the terms of a specific appeal.

Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received and the monetary value of income can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income from donations is included when these are receivable, except as follows:

- When the donors specify that the donations given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods.
- When donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred until the pre-conditions have been met.

Income from grants, where there are performance or service deliverables required by the terms of the grant, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to payment through its performance.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that agree all costs related to the category. Support costs have been allocated 100% towards the charitable activities of the charity.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both the direct pay and non-pay costs and support costs relating to those activities.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue its operations for the foreseeable future and therefore they have continued to adopt the going concern basis when preparing the financial statements.

Governance costs

Governance cost include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity, and include its independent examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity including trustee expenses.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation has been provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value of each asset, over its expected useful life. The rates used are 2% reducing balance on freehold property and improvements and 10%-15% reducing balance on other fixed assets.

BRISTOL ARIEL ROWING CLUB
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2 ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Events	45	-	45	543
Fundraising & Donations	2,474	-	2,474	1,531
Donated Goods - Sport England	-	-	-	2,760
	<u>2,519</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,519</u>	<u>4,834</u>

3 GRANTS RECEIVABLE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
EasyRow Engagement Project	-	-	-	6,267
Development Fundraising	-	-	-	(9,826)
Hannover Exchange	-	-	-	200
British Rowing Learn2Row	3,829	-	3,829	-
	<u>3,829</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,829</u>	<u>(3,359)</u>

4 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Membership Subs	46,448	-	46,448	45,118
Racking	1,861	-	1,861	1,497
Learn To Row	4,496	-	4,496	3,780
EasyRow Income	1,283	-	1,283	-
GoRow Indoor Income	3,248	-	3,248	3,012
Sundry Income	715	-	715	616
	<u>58,051</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,051</u>	<u>54,022</u>

5 EXPENDITURE ON GENERATING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Building Costs	18,677	-	18,677	25,433
Events	-	-	-	153
Freelance Trainers	6,895	-	6,895	5,045
	<u>25,572</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,572</u>	<u>30,631</u>

BRISTOL ARIEL ROWING CLUB
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6 DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
British Rowing Fees	1,881	-	1,881	1,180
Boat Licences	1,095	-	1,095	1,000
Boat Repairs & Refurbishments	4,398	-	4,398	11,145
Equipment Maintenance	3,309	-	3,309	3,904
Training	409	-	409	76
<u>Support Costs</u>				
Telephone and Internet	1,123	-	1,123	573
Finance and Admin	947	-	947	941
Professional Fees	-	-	-	189
Advertising and Marketing	459	-	459	508
Licences and Subscriptions	376	-	376	324
Bank Fees	955	-	955	872
Other	112	-	112	170
	<u>15,064</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,064</u>	<u>20,883</u>

Governance Costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Independent Examination Fee	990	-	990	990
Depreciation	22,571	-	22,571	21,741
Insurance	11,683	-	11,683	11,335
	<u>35,243</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,243</u>	<u>34,066</u>
Total direct charitable expenditure	<u>50,307</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,307</u>	<u>54,949</u>

7 CORPORATION TAX

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

BRISTOL ARIEL ROWING CLUB
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

8 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land & Buildings £	Boats & Equipment £	Other Equipment £	Totals £
COST:				
At 1 April 2023	143,356	254,346	28,518	426,220
Additions	-	5,750	-	5,750
At 31 March 2024	<u>143,356</u>	<u>260,096</u>	<u>28,518</u>	<u>431,970</u>
DEPRECIATION:				
At 1 April 2023	13,141	202,071	14,400	229,612
Charge for the year	2,867	17,635	2,069	22,571
At 31 March 2024	<u>16,008</u>	<u>219,706</u>	<u>16,468</u>	<u>252,183</u>
NET BOOK VALUE:				
At 31 March 2024	<u>127,348</u>	<u>40,390</u>	<u>12,049</u>	<u>179,787</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>130,215</u>	<u>52,275</u>	<u>14,118</u>	<u>196,608</u>

9 DEBTORS

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade Debtors	5,412	8,795
Prepayments	1,616	1,755
Other Debtors	4,781	7,120
	<u>11,810</u>	<u>17,671</u>

10 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals	3,240	4,560
Key Deposit Creditors	1,790	1,826
Trade Creditors	67	397
Other Creditors	4,872	664
	<u>9,970</u>	<u>7,447</u>

11 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Fixed Assets	179,787	-	179,787	202,857
Current Assets	102,135	-	102,135	86,170
Current Liabilities	(9,970)	-	(9,970)	(5,500)
	<u>271,952</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>271,952</u>	<u>283,527</u>

BRISTOL ARIEL ROWING CLUB
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

12 ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE FUNDS

Analysis of Fund movements	Balance b/fwd £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Fund c/fwd £
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	223,030	82,834	(63,735)	(8,283)	233,845
Designated funds	30,000	-	-	-	30,000
Building funds	11,968	-	(12,144)	8,283	8,107
	264,997	82,834	(75,879)	-	271,952

13 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions between the charity and the trustees or persons or entities connected to them during the year.