

# THAMES SAILABILITY

England & Wales · Charity number 1189796

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2020-06-05

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Ladye Place Cottage  
Ferry Lane  
Shepperton  
Middlesex  
TW17 9LQ

**Phone** 01932220024

**Email** [info@thamessailability.org.uk](mailto:info@thamessailability.org.uk)

**Website** [www.thamessailability.org.uk](http://www.thamessailability.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR DISABILITY WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE, IN PARTICULAR BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO ENJOY BOATING ACTIVITIES ON THE RIVER THAMES AND ITS ADJOINING WATERWAYS.

**Activities:** We provide boat trips for disabled children and the elderly, using our specially adapted boat the "Impossible Dream". We can accommodate up to 10 passengers or 3 wheelchair users and up to six others. We currently operate on the River Thames and are based at Shepperton Marina.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities

## Geography

- Area of benefit: LOCAL
- Surrey

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£14,623	£8,461	-	-
2023-12-31	£11,400	£6,992	-	-
2022-12-31	£14,742	£12,097	-	-
2021-12-31	£6,381	£4,615	-	-
2020-12-31	£17,366	£2,937	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Colin William Brown	Chair	2020-06-05
DEREK WILLIAM BEAKE		2020-06-05
David Edmund Jillings		2020-06-05
Nigel Jeremy Horsfield		2020-06-05

**THAMES SAILABILITY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1189796

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# Accounts

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# Thames Sailability

## Annual Report 2024



**[www.thamesailability.org.uk](http://www.thamesailability.org.uk)**

**A Charity Run Entirely by Volunteers**  
**Registered Charity Number 1189796**

## Who we are:

**Thames Sailability** was established in June 2020 as a charity to assume ownership and management of the vessel, Impossible Dream, from its previous owner, Sporting Activities for the Disabled (SAD). Since 2015, Impossible Dream had been serving the local community; however, SAD was preparing to cease operations. They extended an offer to the existing crew of Impossible Dream to continue its operation independently. The crew accepted this offer, formed a management team, and thus Thames Sailability was founded.



We provide accessible boating for wheelchair users, individuals with reduced mobility, and those with learning disabilities. Located on the Thames, we operate from Shepperton Marina. Our specially adapted motorboat, Impossible Dream, can accommodate up to 10 passengers, including three wheelchairs. Trips are available throughout the year.

Most of our excursions serve organised groups such as SEN schools and day care clubs for young adults. Additionally, outings for families and social groups are available.

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*“Believe me my young friend, there is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.”*

## Chairman's Welcome

The year 2024 began much like 2023 ended, with river conditions continuing to hinder our usual services. The frequent presence of RED boards at locks indicated a year marked by weather events that limited our capacity to maintain consistent operations throughout the year.



**CAUTION  
STRONG  
STREAM**

These warnings, issued by the Environment Agency, advise all boat users to avoid navigation due to the strong flows that render it challenging and hazardous. Given that safety is our top priority, we consistently cancel trips when Red Boards or Yellow Increasing Boards are active. Consequently, our passenger numbers were somewhat lower than we would have liked. Thames Sailability extends apologies to our users for any inconvenience this has caused, but we trust they understand that this precautionary measure was necessary and beyond our control.

SEN schools and day care clubs for children and young adults now dominate our service. However, Impossible Dream also welcomed many seniors from local care homes for river trips. Regular operations increased to two or three excursions on three days a week, with additional trips as needed.

The recent recruitment campaign has successfully brought in several new volunteers, making our operations more sustainable given the current demand. Several additional, fully trained skippers have joined the team. However, due to increasing demand, the campaign needs to continue as we still require more volunteers to conduct additional trips on the river. Impossible Dream can only deliver trips when trained, qualified crew members are available. Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering and contributing to this initiative.

Thames Sailability is run entirely by unpaid volunteers. We owe our unique experiences on the river to their dedication. A heartfelt 'thank you' to all volunteers for their ongoing support and availability.

Colin Brown. Chair of Trustees

## We're here to make a difference.



The calming effect of water is well-documented, promoting tranquility and a sense of well-being. These therapeutic benefits are especially significant for individuals with disabilities and life challenges. When combined with fresh air, close-up encounters with wildlife, social

interaction, and opportunities to assist in steering the boat, the experience becomes highly beneficial for our special passengers. Their appreciation is evident in their positive behavior, smiles, and frequent requests to return. Additionally, this experience provides caregivers with a moment of relaxation and respite from their demanding responsibilities.

## What we did last year

The extremely wet weather has significantly impacted our ability to deliver all booked journeys this year. Consequently, we had to cancel approximately half of our scheduled and fully resourced trips. While our boat is well equipped to handle adverse conditions, we adhere to the advice provided by the Environment Agency.

Year	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Trips completed.	130	122	174	110	32	127
Passengers carried.	791	696	1060	617	134	837

## Our special boat, “Impossible Dream”

In addition to our dedicated volunteers, Impossible Dream is our primary asset, and we take great pride in maintaining and enhancing her condition. In recent years, we have invested significantly in refurbishments and upgrades, resulting in lower maintenance costs this year.



Operating throughout the year sometimes necessitates managing a vessel in freezing conditions. Crew members must arrive early to ensure that Impossible Dream remains safe and presentable. Ice frequently forms on both sides of the glass; however, our investment in onboard heating has proven effective. This enhancement has facilitated easier screen clearing and improved safety for all involved.

## Safety will always be our TOP priority.

We comply with all safety and legal requirements for operating our craft. Our license from the Environment Agency mandates adherence to the MCA Small Boat Code. Additionally, we have implemented policies for areas not covered by the code, such as safeguarding.

Safety is prioritised. All skippers are qualified and undergo specific training on procedures, boat operations, and safety equipment. Our safeguarding policy and basic risk assessments are available for clients to integrate into their own documents if needed.

Prior to each trip, the operating skipper assesses river conditions and weather forecasts to decide if the trip can proceed. This year, several trips were cancelled due to unsuitable river conditions based on advice from the Environment Agency and our understanding of the river. Trips operate

throughout the year, with cancellations happening only when conditions are deemed unsafe, typically with sufficient notice.

Impossible Dream is equipped with necessary safety and rescue equipment, including various buoyancy aids for passengers. Access ramps ensure safe boarding for wheelchair users and individuals with limited mobility.

## Where the money came from in 2024

We are grateful for the donations we receive from our clients, which help cover some of our operating costs. However, support from local organizations is crucial for the sustainability of Impossible Dream. Securing grants is an ongoing task that our team diligently pursues. We have successfully obtained funding from several local bodies, which is essential for covering the remaining operational costs, including maintenance and repairs. We acknowledge our supporters by allowing them to display their logos on Impossible Dream. With the continued support of these major benefactors, our operations can achieve significantly more and reach a broader audience.

Spelthorne Borough	£3,000.00
Central Surrey Voluntary Services	£2,000.00
Sunbury & Shepperton Rotary Club (PF)	£1,713.00
Shepperton Marina	£1,738.38
Shepperton Aurora Rotary Club	£500.00
Runnymede Ramblers	£339.61
Mark Gubbins Gig	£309.03





**Our treasurer Chris and Trustee Derek accepting the first instalment of the Sunbury and Shepperton Rotary President's Fund.**

**Sunbury & Shepperton Rotary Club presenting us with the final instalment of the President's Fund at the Shelterbox event.**



**Trustee David receives a cheque from Shepperton Aurora Rotary**

## Local Community Event Support.



**Shepperton Aurora Rotary event to celebrate their support for Shelterbox.**

**We gave their guests the opportunity of a cruise around D'Oyly Carte Island.**

**The Mayor of Spelthorne was attending.**

**Shelterbox arrives at Shepperton Lock.**



As a local charity, participation in community events and river celebrations is of paramount importance to us. Since our inception, we have actively engaged in numerous events and will continue to do so whenever feasible.



**Impossible Dream ready to for river celebration events**

## How we spend your money.

Any boat owner knows that boating is an expensive undertaking. Thames Sailability is no different in that respect. Most of our money is used for:

- Mooring - Our year-round berth in Shepperton Marina, which is generously subsidised by the marina itself.
- Maintenance - The two outboard engines need regular maintenance, an every so often the boat must be craned out of the water inspect and clean below the waterline.
- Fuel - Although we cruise at low speeds, we cover a lot of miles in a year.
- Safety - Lifejackets and safety equipment have 'use-by' dates and must be replaced regularly to ensure they are effective.
- Legal - We carry all the necessary insurances and licences.

- Administration We market ourselves to ensure as many people and organisations as possible can enjoy a trip on the Thames. We support this effort through our website and email accounts.

## The year ahead.

- The boat is still in good condition after its major refit two years ago, enabling us to focus on our service.
- The crew recruitment campaign will involve investments in substantial training events.
- Enhancing the skills of our team is crucial for enabling Impossible Dream to operate on additional days. Therefore, we will persist in encouraging our volunteers who aspire to become qualified skippers to complete the RYA Power Boat 2 courses.
- All our safety equipment, especially life jackets and buoyancy aids, will be serviced and replaced wherever necessary.
- We will have our outboard motors serviced.
- The project to replace the canopy with a more comfortable and watertight alternative arrangement will proceed as planned.

### Celebrating 10 years of Serving the Local Community.

In 2025, Thames Sailability will mark its 10th anniversary. Over the years, we have continually expanded our capacity and services, driven by the growing demand for our offerings. This achievement has been made possible through the generous support of our local community benefactors and the dedication of our volunteer crews.

As we look forward to sustained growth, it is essential to focus on maintenance, repair, and eventual replacement plans for Impossible Dream. Additionally, we must develop a succession plan for our crew and management team.



## The Management Team

Our Management Team are all unpaid volunteers, and crew Impossible Dream. We welcomed Mark Gubbins to the team this year who took on the task of attracting new volunteers. The remainder of the team are all founder members of Thames Sailability. They all work tirelessly to keep our operation safe and reliable.

- President Vivienne Leighton
- Chairman: Colin Brown
- Secretary & Recruitment: Mark Gubbins
- Treasurer: Chris Bound
- Bookings Administrator: Nigel Horsfield
- Fundraising Derek Beake
- Without Portfolio: David Jillings

## Trustees' Report and Financial Statement

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

## Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the Charity as per the Constitution are:

***to provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their disability with the object of improving their conditions of life, by providing opportunities to enjoy boating activities on the Thames and its adjoining waterways.***

- ✓ The objectives are met by providing river trips in a safe environment on the boat Impossible Dream.

- ✓ The Charity operates entirely with volunteers, using professional services only for specialised tasks like major engine and hull maintenance.
- ✓ The Charity does not employ professional fundraisers.
- ✓ The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and believe the charity's activities are fully compliant (FRS102: 1.18).

## Structure, Governance and Management

Thames Sailability, founded in 2015 and registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on June 5, 2020, is managed by a Board of four trustees. The trustees regularly meet and appoint a Management Team to handle daily operations and financial matters.

### Trustees Selection and Appointment

Trustees are selected by the Management Board and require confirmation by Members at the Annual General Meeting. Currently, no other organisation has the authority to select or appoint a trustee.

### Trustees

Mr. Colin William Brown (Chairman)

Mr. Derek William Beake

Mr. Nigel Jeremy Horsfield

Mr. David Edmund Jillings

All the trustees were founders of the Charity and remained in post at the end of the year.

## Related Parties

The Charity has no subsidiaries. There are no related parties in the Charity.

The Charity is affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association and operates in a manner which ensures that the body's standards continue to be maintained.

We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator. This registration demonstrates that we operate all fundraising activities in accordance with The Code of Fundraising Practice.



## Financial Review and Results

The Charity ended the year in a healthy financial state.

Due to two periods of bad weather, passenger numbers and donations dropped significantly. While fuel costs decreased, mooring fees, insurance, and licenses increased as expected.

We were successful in many of our fund-raising initiatives, and we received ongoing support from several local organisations, all of which allowed us to meet our increased outgoings and return a small surplus.

## Financial Summary

The income of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 was £14,622, with expenditure amounting to £6,161. The net surplus for the year was £8,461.

The overall net assets of the Charity at the end of the year were £41,708, including Unrestricted Reserves of £8,708.

The Charity does not hold any investments.

Although the Charity is exempt from examination under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011, the accounts have been reviewed by an independent examiner and found to be accurate.

The trustees confirm that the Charity remains a going concern.

## Reference and Administrative Details

<i>Registered Charity Number</i>	1189796
<i>Registered Charity Address</i>	13 Richmond Drive, Shepperton, TW17 9EB.
<i>Charity Secretary</i>	Mark Gubbins
<i>Independent Examiner</i>	David Wilkinson, FCA

The report of the trustees was approved by the board on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and signed on its behalf by



Colin Brown – Trustee.



# THAMES SAILABILITY - 2024

## Balance Sheet

	Notes	2024	2023
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Impossible Dream	1	10,000.00	10,000.00
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash in hand		214.57	182.21
Cash at Bank:			
(1) Current Account		6,886.74	2,099.06
(2) "Liquidity Manager" 35 Day Account		20,471.53	17,861.21
		<u>37,572.84</u>	<u>30,142.48</u>
<b>Debtors</b>			
CAF (Donation & Gift Aid Pending)		17.80	16.94
Freemantles School		450.00	170.00
Walton Leigh School		470.00	0.00
Whitestone Care Home		40.00	0.00
<b>Pre-payments</b>			
Insurance, Licence & Moorings for 2024		3,157.97	2,918.14
<b>Creditors</b>			
None		0.00	0.00
<b>Nett Assets</b>		<u><b>41,708.61</b></u>	<u><b>33,247.56</b></u>
<b>RESERVES</b>			
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Fixed Assets (Impossible Dream)	1	10,000.00	10,000.00
<b>Restricted Reserves</b>			
Reserves Carried forward	2	23,000.00	15,000.00
<b>Unrestricted Reserves</b>			
Reserves Brought Forward		8,247.56	8,839.74
Surplus from Income & Expenditure		8,461.05	4,407.82
Transfer to Restricted Reserves		-8,000.00	-5,000.00
Total of Unrestricted Reserves		<u><b>8,708.61</b></u>	<u><b>8,247.56</b></u>
<b>Total</b>		<u><b>41,708.61</b></u>	<u><b>33,247.56</b></u>

### Notes on the Balance Sheet

- The Bill of Sale shows a price of £1 having been paid by Thames Sailability to SAD for "Impossible Dream". For accounting purposes only, a nominal value of £10,000 is included here. This is not intended to reflect market value or replacement cost and is not related to the value for which the boat is insured.
- The Trustees consider it vital for the future of the Charity that provision is made for the eventual replacement of "Impossible Dream" and/or its engines. During the year, the trustees have passed a resolution to increase the Restricted Reserves by £8,000.

# THAMES SAILABILITY - 2024

## Summary of Income & Expenditure

Income	Notes	2024		2023	
<b>Subscriptions</b>					
Subscriptions received (net of fees)		263.38		242.64	
<b>Passenger Donations</b>					
Receipts from passengers/clients		2,679.66		2,652.94	
<b>Grants &amp; Other Donations</b>					
<u>Government or Local Authority</u>					
Spelthorne Borough Council		3,000.00		2,500.00	
Central Surrey Voluntary Services		2,000.00		0.00	
<u>Other</u>					
Walsingham Care		0.00		500.00	
Egham United Services Club		0.00		1,000.00	
Shepperton Aurora Rotary Club		500.00		1,100.00	
Sunbury & Shepperton Rotary Club		1,713.00		80.00	
Shepperton Marina		1,738.48		1,654.36	
Mark Gubbins Gif		309.03		417.73	
Men in Sheds (Greeno Centre)		100.00		0.00	
Runnymede Ramblers		339.61		0.00	
Laleham Evening WI		100.00		0.00	
Attic Self Storage		185.00		0.00	
Personal donations (via CAF, net of fees)		482.00		445.24	
Other Personal Donations		351.50		322.87	
		10,818.62		8,020.20	
<b>Gift Aid</b>					
Gift Aid recovered via CAF, net of fees)		250.59		176.56	
<b>Sales</b>					
None		0.00		0.00	
<b>Interest</b>					
Interest on savings		610.32		307.53	
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>14,622.57</b>		<b>11,399.87</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			<b>2024</b>		<b>4407.82</b>
<b>ID Running Costs</b>					
Fuel		600.43		614.79	
Boat Insurance		555.89		501.61	
Environment Agency Licence		120.70		118.35	
Boat Safety Examination		0.00		172.59	
Mooring Fees		3,357.25		3,094.24	
Sundry Maintenance		468.75		42.18	
		5,103.02		4,543.77	
<b>ID Maintenance &amp; Repairs</b>					
Engine Service		0.00		1,100.93	
Heating & Shore power		0.00		682.57	
Replacement of Buoyancy Aids		473.84		0.00	
		473.84		1,783.50	
<b>Crew Training</b>			0.00		0.00
<b>Administration Costs</b>					
RYA, RTS and FR Subscriptions		235.00		215.00	
CIO Insurance		283.89		227.66	
Printing & Admin		10.57		171.79	
Internet & Web-hosting		55.20		50.33	
		584.66		664.78	
<b>Total Expenses</b>			<b>6,161.52</b>		<b>6,992.05</b>
<b>Surplus</b>			<b>8,461.05</b>		<b>4,407.82</b>



**Contact Us:**

**[Info@thamesailability.org.uk](mailto:Info@thamesailability.org.uk)**

**THAMES SAILABILITY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1189796

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# Accounts

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# THAMES SAILABILITY

## Annual Report 2023



[www.thamessailability.org.uk](http://www.thamessailability.org.uk)

A Charity Run Entirely by Volunteers

Registered Charity Number 1189796

## Who we are:

**Thames Sailability** is a charity set up in June 2020 to take over the ownership and management of the boat, Impossible Dream, from its previous owner, Sporting Activities for the Disabled (SAD). Impossible Dream had been serving the local community since 2015 however SAD were about to close its operations and offered the existing crew of Impossible Dream the opportunity to continue independently. The offer was accepted, the crew formed a management team and Thames Sailability was born.

We remain here primarily to provide accessible boating for wheelchair users, people with reduced mobility, and those with learning challenges.

We are based on the Thames and operate out of Shepperton Marina. Our specially adapted motorboat, Impossible Dream, takes up to 10 passengers, including up to three wheelchairs. Trips take place all year round.

Most of our excursions are for organised groups such as SEN schools and day care clubs for young adults, but outings for families and social groups are also popular.



HELM - CLEAR TO ALLOW WHEELCHAIR ACCESS



FUN ON THE HELM

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*“Believe me my young friend, there is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.” \*\**

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\*\* Ratty to Mole in Kenneth Grahame's classic novel 'The Wind in the Willows'.

## Chairman's Welcome

2023 was a more stable year, all be it punctuated by weather events which reduced our overall capacity to deliver year-round operations. Heavy rain at the beginning of the year and again from early October to the end of 2023 saw the river in flood and Red Boarded. These warning notifications issued by the Environment Agency advise users of all boats not to navigate as strong flows make it difficult and dangerous. As safety is our top priority, we always cancel trips when Red Boards or Yellow Increasing Boards are in place. Consequently, our passenger numbers were somewhat down on last year's record. Thames Sailability apologised to our users for the disappointment this caused but we believe they understood this was the correct action and is out of our control.

It has become the norm that SEN schools and day care clubs for children and young adults to dominate our service. But Impossible Dream continued to welcome many senior residents to river trips from several local care homes. Regular operations increased to two or three excursions on three days a week with ad hoc trip conducted as requested.

Impossible Dream also had a major improvement project completed in August. We had a windshield de-frosting and cabin heating system installed. Full details of this vital safety and reliability project will be given later in the report.

With demand increasing again this year we embarked on a recruitment campaign to attract additional volunteer crew. Mark Gubbins was invited to join the management team to lead the campaign. I'm pleased to say he was extremely successful, and we have several new, enthusiastic helpers undergoing familiarisation training as I write this report. Impossible Dream is only able to deliver trips when trained, qualified crew are available, so please do contact us if you would like to help and take the opportunity to make a difference in such a unique way.



**MAYOR VIVIENNE - 2017**

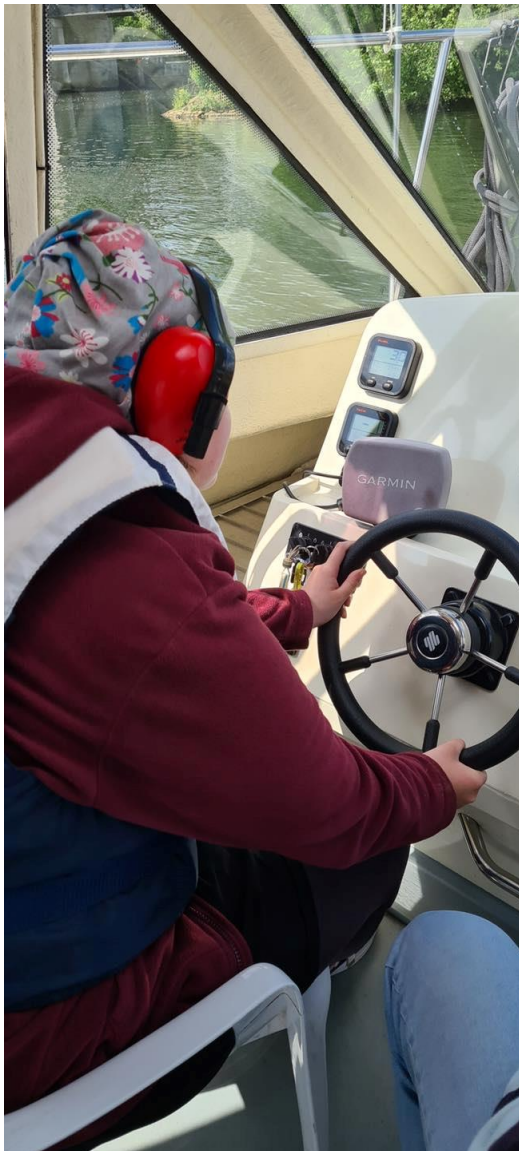
We were delighted to announce in July this year that former Mayor of Spelthorne, Vivienne Leighton, had agreed to become our President. Vivienne will bring a wealth of experience to our team and will help us promote our charitable work in the community. Vivienne was elected a Borough Councillor for Spelthorne in 2003. She served as Leader of the Council in 2011 and was appointed Mayor in 2017. Ever since Thames Sailability started its operations, Vivienne has been an ardent supporter of our work, and we are honoured that she has accepted the role of President.

Thames Sailability is managed and operated entirely by unpaid volunteers and our special encounter with the wildlife, sights and sounds along the river is only possible with their dedication. Therefore, on behalf of all this year's passengers I express a huge 'thank you' to them, for their continued support and availability throughout the year and into the future.

Colin Brown.

Chairman of Trustees

## We're here to make a difference.



The tranquillity of the water is well known to promote calmness and feelings of well-being. These effects are therapeutic for everyone but especially for people with disabilities and life challenges. Adding fresh air, close-up views of wonderful wildlife, social interaction, encouragement to help steer the boat and the result is an experience that is truly beneficial to our very special passengers.

Their appreciation can be seen in positive behaviour, smiles, and the repeated requests “can we come back again”. It also provides the carers a little relaxation and a break from their challenging role.



## What we did last year

If we were able to operate all our scheduled trips, we would have beaten our 2022 record year. However, the unfortunate impact of the poor weather and other unavoidable events had an enormous effect to this year's delivery. In fact, we cancelled around half of our scheduled and fully resourced capability. Our boat is extremely well equipped to deal with inclement conditions however we respectfully comply with Environment Agency advice.

Year	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Trips completed.	122	174	110	32	127
Passengers carried.	696	1060	617	134	837

## Our special boat, “Impossible Dream”

Apart from our fantastic volunteers, Impossible Dream is our only asset, and we take immense pride in looking after and improving her.

Operating throughout the year brings with it the challenge of dealing with a frozen boat. Crew need to arrive early at the marina to ensure Impossible Dream is in a safe condition and aesthetically acceptable to our passengers. We often encountered ice on both sides of the glass. The task of clearing the screens on frosty winter mornings was not only difficult but unsafe as access to the foredeck was extremely slippery.

Trying to warm the cabin and hence start to clear the screens was achieved by use of a fan heater plugged into the shore power pontoon receptacle. This solution was only partly effective and obviously only available when moored up in the marina. It was also considered a little unsafe!

It was decided we needed a better solution, and various options were explored. Following extensive research, we finally requested the advice of a specialist company, SubZero.

Following an onsite inspection by a SubZero specialist it was recommended we install a 4Kw diesel heater with ducting to the screen and cabin together with a shore power system with smart battery charger. Negotiations on cost and installation commenced and resulted in SubZero providing us with an outstanding offer.

SubZero were able to obtain the heater unit free of charge from the manufacturer and offered to cover the cost of installation. This offer was gratefully accepted.

We are extremely grateful to SubZero and Autoterm for their generosity and support which has transformed our cold weather operations.



You will see from the accounts later in this report that maintenance is a major cost for the charity. We need to repeat some of these service tasks annually and most other items on a three-to-four-year cycle depending on the condition. Accordingly, we completed an annual outboard motor service in October. This service was carried out by D&R Engineering at Walton Marina, and

we were delighted with their a very special preferential rate.



NOTE. – SCREEN HOT AIR VENTS

## Safety will always be our TOP priority.

I am very pleased to confirm that we comply and, in many ways, exceed all the necessary safety and legal requirements of operating a craft such as ours. The Environment Agency, who issue our licence, require compliance with the MCA Small Boat Code and we supplement this with policies and procedures based on recognised practice in areas not covered by the code such as safeguarding.

With safety as our top priority, all our skippers hold recognised qualifications, but must then complete our own programme of training which is specific to our procedures, boat, and its safety equipment.

Our safeguarding policy and basic risk assessments are available for clients to use or supplement their own documents.

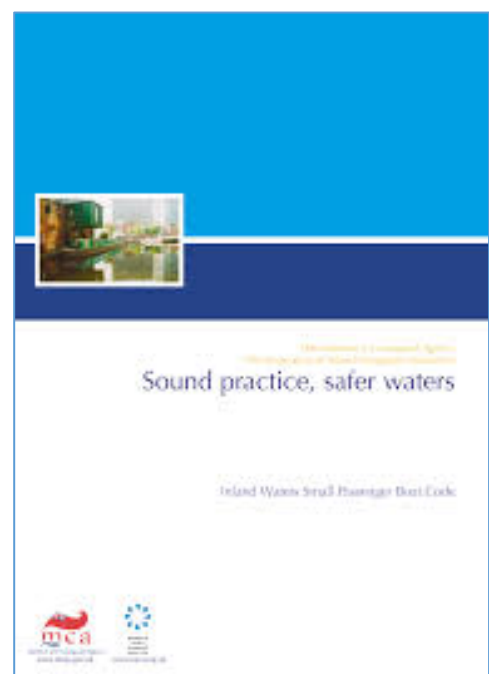
Before every trip the operating skipper will check river conditions and weather forecast and make the final decision on the viability of the trip. As reported elsewhere in this report river conditions were particularly poor this year and our crews unfortunately needed to cancel many trips. This decision is



not taken lightly and is based on Environment Agency advice and our own extensive knowledge of the river. Operating all year round, cold, wet, windy weather doesn't stop us. It's only when conditions become unsafe will we cancel, normally with plenty of notice.

Impossible Dream carries all the necessary safety and rescue equipment. A selection of buoyancy aids is available for passengers to be equipped appropriately. The access ramps make her safe to board for wheelchair users and anyone with limited mobility.

A safe ramp is available to allow wheelchair access to the main deck.



## Where the money came from in 2023

Donations we receive from our clients cover some of our operating cost for which we are extremely grateful. However, without the support from local organisations Impossible Dream would not be sustainable. As any charity would tell you, successfully attracting grants is an ongoing task which our team needs to continually explore. We have again been successful in securing funding from several local bodies without which the remaining operational costs, including maintenance and repairs would not be possible.

Shepperton Aurora Rotary	£1,100.00
Spelthorne Borough	£2,500.00
Egham United Services Club	£1,000.00
Shepperton Marina	£1,654.36
Walsingham Care	£500.00
Mark Gubbins Gig	£417.73

We recognise supporters by allowing them to display their Logo on Impossible Dream. We appreciate that with the ongoing support of these major benefactors our operation achieves so much more and reaches many more people.



## How we spend your money.

Any boat owner knows that boating is an expensive undertaking. Thames Sailability is no different in that respect. Most of our money is used for:

- Mooring - Our year-round berth in Shepperton Marina, which is generously subsidised by the marina itself.
- Maintenance - The two outboard engines need regular maintenance, and every so often the boat must be craned out of the water to inspect and clean below the waterline.
- Fuel - Although we cruise at low speeds, we cover a lot of miles in a year.
- Safety - Lifejackets and other safety equipment have components with 'use-by' dates which must be replaced, as well as keeping all equipment up to scratch and fit for purpose.
- Legal - We carry all the necessary insurances and licences.
- Administration - We market ourselves so that as many people and organisations as possible can get to enjoy a trip on the Thames. We have a website and email accounts to support.



**IMPOSSIBLE DREAM READY FOR RIVER CELEBRATIONS**



**READY FOR ACTION AT COWEY SALE**

## The year ahead.

- With the boat still in good shape following its major refit last year we hope to be able to concentrate on delivering our service.
- Our successful crew recruitment campaign will see us invest in significant training events.
- Growing the capability of our team is essential to allow Impossible Dream to operate on more days. So, we will continue to encourage our volunteers who wish to become qualified skippers to complete RYA Power Boat 2 courses.
- All our safety equipment, especially life jackets and buoyancy aids, will be serviced and replaced wherever necessary.
- We will have our outboard motors serviced.

## The Management Team

Our Management Team are all unpaid volunteers, and crew Impossible Dream. We welcomed Mark Gubbins to the team this year who took on the task of attracting new volunteers. The remainder of the team are all founder members of Thames Sailability. They all work tirelessly to keep our operation safe and reliable.

- Chairman: Colin Brown
- Secretary: Derek Beake
- Treasurer: Chris Bound
- Bookings Administrator: Nigel Horsfield
- Without Portfolio: David Jillings
- Recruitment: Mark Gubbins



Some of our management team – Colin, Derek, Nigel, and Chris (L2R)

# Trustees' Report and Financial Statement

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

## Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the Charity as per the Constitution are:

***to provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their disability with the object of improving their conditions of life, by providing opportunities to enjoy boating activities on the Thames and its adjoining waterways.***

- ✓ The objectives are met by providing river trips in a safe environment on the boat Impossible Dream.
- ✓ The Charity has no paid staff, and all activities and their organisation are undertaken by volunteers. Professional services are used only in specialised areas, such as major engine and hull maintenance.
- ✓ The Charity does not employ professional fundraisers.
- ✓ The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and believe the charity's activities are fully compliant (FRS102: 1.18).

## Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity was set up as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) established under a constitution which sets out the objects of the Charity and its governance. Thames Sailability was founded in 2015 and was registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales on 5 June 2020.

The Charity is governed by the Board of four trustees, which meets on a regular basis. The day-to-day operations of the Charity are managed by a Management Team appointed by the trustees, who themselves are all members of the Management Team and who support and advise on all financial matters.

## Trustees Selection and Appointment

Trustees are selected and appointed by the Management Board and are appointed subject to confirmation by a vote of the Members at the Annual General Meeting.

There are currently no trustees selected as representatives of any other organisation, nor is any other organisation entitled to appoint a trustee.

## Trustees

Mr. Colin William Brown  
(Chairman)

Mr. Nigel Jeremy Horsfield

Mr. Derek William Beake  
(Secretary)

Mr. David Edmund Jillings

All the trustees were founders of the Charity and remained in post at the end of the year.

## Related Parties

The Charity has no subsidiaries. There are no related parties in the Charity.

The Charity is affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association and operates in a manner which ensures that the body's standards continue to be maintained.

We became registered with the Fundraising Regulator this year. This registration demonstrates that we operate all fundraising activities in accordance with the The Code of Fundraising Practice.



## Financial Review and Results

The Charity ended the year in a healthy financial state.

The operation was affected by two periods of inclement weather therefore passenger numbers were significantly reduced leading to a subsequent reduction in passenger donations. Accordingly, fuel costs were somewhat down, however other operating costs such as mooring fees, insurance and licenses saw the expected increases.

Our major refit last year ensured maintenance and repair expenditure was significantly reduced.

We were successful in many of our fund-raising initiatives, and we received on-going support from several local organisations, all of which allowed us to meet our increased outgoings and return a small surplus.

### Financial Summary.

The income of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 amounted to £11,399, against which was set our expenditure of £6,992. The net surplus for the year was £4,407.

The overall net assets of the Charity at the conclusion of the year were £33,247, of which Unrestricted Reserves amount to £8,247.

The Charity does not hold any investments.

Although the Charity is entitled to exemption from examination under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011, the accounts have been reviewed by an independent examiner and found to be in order.

The trustees are satisfied that the Charity continues as a going concern.

## Reference and Administrative Details

Registered Charity Number	1189796
Registered Charity Address	13 Richmond Drive, Shepperton, TW17 9EB.
Charity Secretary	Mr. Derek William Beake
Independent Examiner	David Wilkinson, FCA

The report of the trustees was approved by order of the board on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and signed on its behalf by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Brown', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Colin Brown – Trustee



## BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Impossible Dream	1	10,000.00	10,000.00
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash in hand		182.21	144.88
Cash at Bank:			
(1) Current Account		2,099.06	4,908.40
(2) "Liquidity Manager" 35 Day Account		17,861.21	11,053.68
		<u>30,142.48</u>	<u>26,106.96</u>
<b>Debtors</b>			
CAF (Donation & Gift Aid Pending)		16.94	1.22
Freemantles School		170.00	190.00
<b>Pre-payments</b>			
Insurance, Licence & Moorings for 2024		2,918.14	2,541.56
<b>Creditors</b>			
None		0.00	0.00
<b>Nett Assets</b>		<u><b>33,247.56</b></u>	<u><b>28,839.74</b></u>
<b>RESERVES</b>			
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Fixed Assets (Impossible Dream)	1	10,000.00	10,000.00
<b>Restricted Reserves</b>			
Reserves Carried forward	2	15,000.00	10,000.00
<b>Unrestricted Reserves</b>			
Reserves Brought Forward		8,839.74	6,194.15
Surplus from Income & Expenditure		4,407.82	2,645.59
Transfer to Restricted Reserves		-5,000.00	0.00
Total of Unrestricted Reserves		<u><b>8,247.56</b></u>	<u><b>8,839.74</b></u>
<b>Total</b>		<u><b>33,247.56</b></u>	<u><b>28,839.74</b></u>

### Notes on the Balance Sheet

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | The Bill of Sale shows a price of £1 having been paid by Thames Sailability to SAD for "Impossible Dream". For accounting purposes only, a nominal value of £10,000 is included here. This is not intended to reflect market value or replacement cost and is not related to the value for which the boat is insured. |
| 2 | The Trustees consider it vital for the future of the Charity that provision is made for the eventual replacement of "Impossible Dream" and/or its engines. During the year, the trustees have passed a resolution to increase the Restricted Reserves by £5,000.  |

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Income	Notes	2023		2022	
<b>Subscriptions</b>					
Subscriptions received (net of fees)		242.64		85.98	
<b>Passenger Donations</b>					
Cash & Cheques		795.00		310.00	
Via CAF		322.94		848.32	
Accounts		1,535.00		2,550.00	
			2,652.94		3,708.32
<b>Grants &amp; Other Donations</b>					
RTS & Thames Heritage Trust		0.00		4,000.00	
RYA		0.00		1,950.00	
Accent Services		0.00		500.00	
Jubilee Pageant		0.00		100.00	
Walsingham Care		500.00		0.00	
Shepperton Aurora Rotary Club		1,100.00		500.00	
Sunbury & Shepperton Rotary Club		80.00		0.00	
Spelthorne Borough Council		2,500.00		1,000.00	
Shepperton Marina		1,654.36		1,803.64	
Egham United Services Club		1,000.00		0.00	
Mark Gubbins Gig		417.73		0.00	
Personal donations (via CAF, net of fees)		445.24		632.65	
Other Personal Donations		322.87		140.58	
			8,020.20		10,626.87
<b>Gift Aid</b>					
Gift Aid recovered via CAF, net of fees)			176.56		248.41
<b>Sales</b>					
Sale of Cristmas Cards			0.00		20.00
<b>Interest</b>					
Interest on savings			307.53		52.60
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>11,399.87</b>		<b>14,742.18</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
<b>ID Running Costs</b>					
Fuel		614.79		819.72	
Boat Insurance		501.61		456.76	
Environment Agency Licence		118.35		113.80	
Boat Safety Examination		172.59		0.00	
Mooring Fees		3,094.24		2,887.58	
Sundry Maintenance		42.18		303.82	
			4,543.77		4,581.67
<b>ID Maintenance &amp; Repairs</b>					
Annual Service		1,100.93		6,583.47	
Heating & Shore power		682.57		0.00	
Sundries		0.00		138.00	
			1,783.50		6,721.47
<b>Crew Training</b>					
			0.00		80.00
<b>Administration Costs</b>					
RYA, RTS and FR Subscriptions		215.00		205.00	
CIO Insurance		227.66		215.66	
Printing & Admin		171.79		251.99	
Internet & Web-hosting		50.33		40.80	
			664.78		713.45
<b>Total Expenses</b>			<b>6,992.05</b>		<b>12,096.59</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>			<b>4,407.82</b>		<b>2,645.59</b>

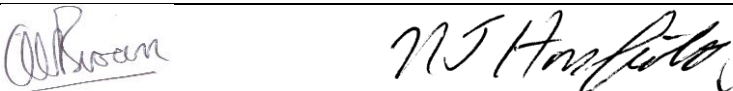
## ACCOUNTS GENERAL INFORMATION.

<b>TREASURER</b>	The Trustees have appointed Christopher John Bound to act as Treasurer.
<b>INDEPENDENT EXAMINER</b>	Thames Sailability is grateful to David Wilkinson FCA, who has acted as Independent Examiner and has approved the Accounts for 2023.
<b>AFFILIATIONS &amp; MEMBERSHIPS</b>	Thames Sailability is affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association and is a member of The River Thames Society.
<b>THE FUNDRAISING REGULATOR</b>	Thames Sailability is registered with The Fundraising Regulator, the independent regulator of charitable fundraising in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and is committed to fundraising in a way that is legal, open, honest and respectful in line with the Code of Fundraising Practice.
<b>HMRC</b>	Thames Sailability is registered with HMRC and is eligible for Gift Aid.
<b>CAF</b>	Thames Sailability has appointed the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) to handle all donations and subscriptions paid online via our website. CAF have authority to collect Gift Aid on our behalf. CAF charges processing fees, which are included in these accounts.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustee's report above:

### Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

**Signature (s)**



**Full name (s)**

Colin William Brown

Nigel Horsfield

**Position**

Chairman

Trustee

**Date**

7<sup>th</sup> April 2024



***[www.thamessailability.org.uk](http://www.thamessailability.org.uk)***

**A Charity Run Entirely by Volunteers**

***Registered Charity Number 1189796***

**THAMES SAILABILITY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1189796

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# Accounts

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# THAMES SAILABILITY

## Annual Report 2022



[www.thamessailability.org.uk](http://www.thamessailability.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number 1189796



## Who we are:

**Thames Sailability** is a charity set up in June 2020 to take over the ownership and management of the boat, Impossible Dream, from its previous owner, Sporting Activities for the Disabled (SAD). Impossible Dream had been serving the local community since 2015 however SAD were about to close its operations and offered the existing crew of Impossible Dream the opportunity to continue independently. The offer was accepted, the crew formed a management team and Thames Sailability was born.

We remain here primarily to provide accessible boating for wheelchair users, people with reduced mobility, and those with learning challenges.

We are based on the Thames and operate out of Shepperton Marina. Our specially adapted motorboat, Impossible Dream, takes up to 10 passengers, including up to three wheelchairs. Trips take place all year round.

Most trips are for organised groups such as schools, but outings for families and social groups are also popular.



**Boat helm showing clear space for wheelchair access.**

## Chairman's Welcome

As I closed last year's report I wished to be able to report on this year as being 'normal'. Well, that is not going to be possible as no one can suggest that 2022 was 'normal'. Who would believe another world event would impact on our lives so soon after the Covid pandemic. The rising cost of energy influenced the cost of our operations and likewise the lives of our clients. However, Thames Sailability was able to keep afloat, and Impossible Dream was operating almost every week of the year come rain or shine. In fact, as you will see later in the report, we have had a record year carrying over 1000 passengers, that's 200 more than our previous best year!

During the summer months Impossible Dream welcomed back our local senior residents to river trips after two years of shutdown. Our regular voyages for children and young adults from special schools returned and quickly increased to two excursions on three days a week. We also achieved the honor of being a lead boat in the Queens Platinum Jubilee River Pageant from Shepperton to Molesey and back.

Impossible Dream also went through a major refit. (Full details later) She was taken out of the water, thoroughly cleaned and polished, and several necessary repairs and maintenance tasks completed.



She is back, looking smart and operating superbly well.

We were again fortunate to attract a few more volunteer crews into our team which allows us to accept the growing number of requests. Impossible Dream has more capacity to deliver further trips but trained, qualified crew is the limiting factor. So please do contact us if you would like to help and take the opportunity to make a difference in such a unique way.

Thames Sailability is managed and operated entirely by unpaid volunteers and our special encounter with the wildlife, sights and sounds along the river is only possible with their dedication. Therefore, on behalf of all this year's passengers I express a huge 'thank you' to them, for their continued support and availability throughout the year and into the future.

I close my report with the extremely sad news that we lost both of our founding fathers during this year. Mike Browne and Alan Woolford both passed away and the world of sailing and sporting for the disabled will forever be grateful for their outstanding contributions. Later in this report you will find commemorative reports on both Mike and Alan.

Colin Brown.                      Chairman of Trustees

## We're here to make a difference.



The tranquillity of the water is well known to promote calmness and feelings of well-being. These effects are therapeutic for everyone but especially for people with disabilities and life challenges. Adding fresh air, close-up views of wonderful wildlife, social interaction, encouragement to help steer the boat and the result is an experience that is beneficial to our very special passengers.

Their appreciation can be seen in positive behaviour, smiles and the repeated requests “can we come back again”. It also provides the carers a little relaxation and a break from the challenging role they have. Below is the text from letter we

received from one of our regular clients. It speaks for itself!

### A letter of thanks.

*My name is xxxxxxx and I work as a teacher and 14-19 Coordinator at xxxxxxx school, that provides education for secondary and FE students with severe learning difficulties and also profound and multiple learning difficulties.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation of the services of Impossible Dream Sailability over many years. Our students have had the amazing opportunity to experience and participate in river boat trips. These experiences have been extremely inclusive and valuable and enabled so many of our students to develop their independence skills as well as enjoying the unique moments. For many of our students this remains the most memorable experience for many years. We have always felt welcomed, respected, and valued.*

## What we did last year

Operations bounced back to pre-pandemic levels very quickly and continued to accelerate, culminating in the best year of service since the boat started activities in 2015. We were able to deliver to every request only cancelling trips when the river was in flood and the Environment Agency advising not to navigate. We ran two regular trips on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays most weeks of the year with additional one-off trips on other days. Realistically we are almost at capacity without additional crew so a priority for the coming months is recruitment.

Year	2022	2021	2020	2019
Trips completed.	174	110	32	127
Passengers carried.	1060	617	134	837

## Our special boat, “Impossible Dream”

Apart from our fantastic volunteers, Impossible Dream is our only asset, and we take great pride in looking after and improving her. Having been in constant operation since 2015 it needed a major refit to put it in a condition to operate reliably into the future. So, this year we executed the refit we had been planning for some months. Three weeks in August were chosen as our regular school trips are not conducted during school holidays. The list below details what we achieved.

- ✓ Lift out, block up and bottom Jet Wash to provide clean all-round access.
- ✓ Bilge-clean in preparation for other tasks.
- ✓ Replace port outboard motor gearbox assembly. (Suffered damage from fishing tackle)
- ✓ Replace fuel hoses.
- ✓ Both outboards serviced including oils and filters.
- ✓ Replace batteries.
- ✓ Repairs to minor hull and top side damage.
- ✓ Refurbish hull and top side with a full deep clean and polish.
- ✓ Underside anti-foul replaced.
- ✓ Cabin floor refinished with nonslip paint.
- ✓ Increased fendering, new fixed fenders fitted to aft corners.
- ✓ Crew Lifejackets replaced with upgraded items.
- ✓ Canopy refurbishment. Repair transparent panels, replace zips, clean and reproof.

The above work was carried out at Bates Wharf, Chertsey Bridge and we thank them for providing favorable rates and an excellent service.

You will see from the accounts later in this report that maintenance is a major cost for the charity. We need to repeat some of these service tasks annually and most of the other item on a three-to-four-year cycle depending on condition. You may also notice we have installed goose scares on the roof. The local flock has decided they like to sit on our roof but they are not very hygienic visitors! An outstanding upgrade to our boat is to improve how we clear the screens and de-frost the boat during winter operations. We would like to install a more permanent method to replace our temporary solution of shore and a fan heater.

In common with all charities, we only exist with the generosity and support of local organisations, individuals and of course the commitment of our volunteer crew. We actively pursue all opportunities to raise the much-needed funds to carry out these tasks and maintain Impossible Dream in a truly presentable condition.



## Safety will always be our TOP priority.

The Environment Agency introduced a requirement to comply with the MCA Small Boat Code of Practice, a 50 plus page document detailing the construction, use, maintenance and crewing of craft such as ours. I am very pleased to say that we were able to confirm our compliance very easily as we had, apart from a few minor items, everything already in place.

With safety as our top priority, all our skippers hold recognised qualifications, but must then complete our own programme of training which is specific to our procedures, boat, and its safety equipment.

Our safeguarding policy and basic risk assessments are available for clients to use or supplement their own documents.

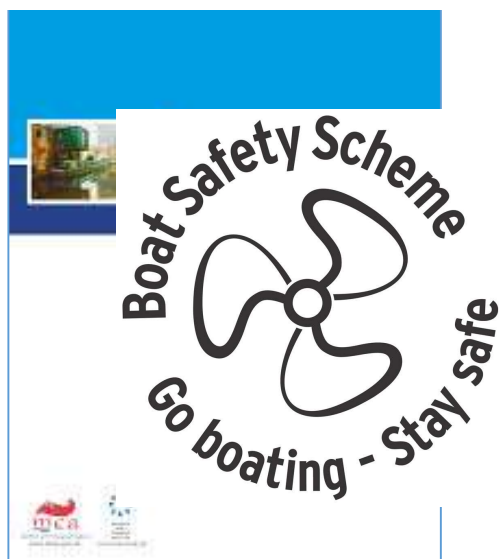
The evening before every trip the operating skipper will check river conditions and weather forecast and make the final decision on the viability of the trip. This year we cancelled just a few trips due to river conditions. This decision is taken when the Environment Agency advises against navigation



because of strong flows which are due normally to heavy rain fall upstream. Otherwise, the weather doesn't stop us, Impossible Dream is fully enclosed, and we operate all year round. (No marina freeze-ups to report this year)

Impossible Dream carries all the necessary safety and rescue equipment. A selection of buoyancy aids are available for passengers to be equipped appropriately. The access ramps make her safe to board for wheelchair users and anyone with limited mobility.

As safe ramp is available to allow wheelchair access to the main deck.



## Where the money came from in 2022

Apart from the regular and very significant donations we receive from our clients we were successful in attracting the following grants from local organisations. Without these grants, for which we are enormously grateful, we would not have been able to carry out the refit this year and our continued operation would have been put under risk of suspension.







Shepperton Aurora Rotary	£500
Spelthorne Borough	£1000
River Thames Society	£1000
Thames Heritage Trust	£3000
Shepperton Marina	£1804
The RYA Foundation Trust	£1950
Accent Services (Shepperton)	£500

We recognise supporters by allowing them to display their Logo on Impossible Dream. We appreciate that with the ongoing support of these major benefactors our operation achieves so much more and reaches many more people.



## How we spend your money.

Any boat owner knows that boating is an expensive undertaking. Thames Sailability is no different in that respect. Most of our money is used for:

-  Mooring - Our year-round berth in Shepperton Marina, which is generously subsidised by the marina itself.
-  Maintenance - The two outboard engines need regular maintenance, and every so often the boat must be craned out of the water to inspect and clean below the waterline.
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-  Legal - We carry all the necessary insurances and licences.
-  Administration - We market ourselves so that as many people and organisations as possible can get to enjoy a trip on the Thames. We have a website and email accounts to support.



Impossible Dream Ready for Platinum Jubilee

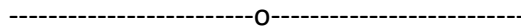
## Remembering our Founding Fathers.

**Alan Woolford** was the founder and first Chair of Thames Sailability, in 2015. It was Alan who, when offered the use of a motor launch, suggested that it be based at Shepperton. He commissioned the alterations to the boat, arranged its mooring, set up the first team of crew and helpers, and obtained funding to get everything started. This was typical of Alan who was one of life's great organisers, and



who loved nothing better than to be at the centre of a busy team. He had been equally instrumental in the formation of the Sailability group at Queen Mary reservoir along with Mike Browne (below). Even when he stepped aside from an active role to become President of Thames Sailability, Alan would wave to the passengers and crew as they cruised past his riverside house.

Alan was a governor of Walton Leigh school, a life-long sailor, and a keen Harlequins supporter. The latter may have something to do with the distinctive rugby shirt "uniform" worn by Impossible Dream crew, which of course was Alan's design. He was an inspirational character whose ability and dedication to making things happen produced wonderful opportunities for hundreds of local disadvantaged adults and children. His amazing networking ability means that he will be missed by many in the community.

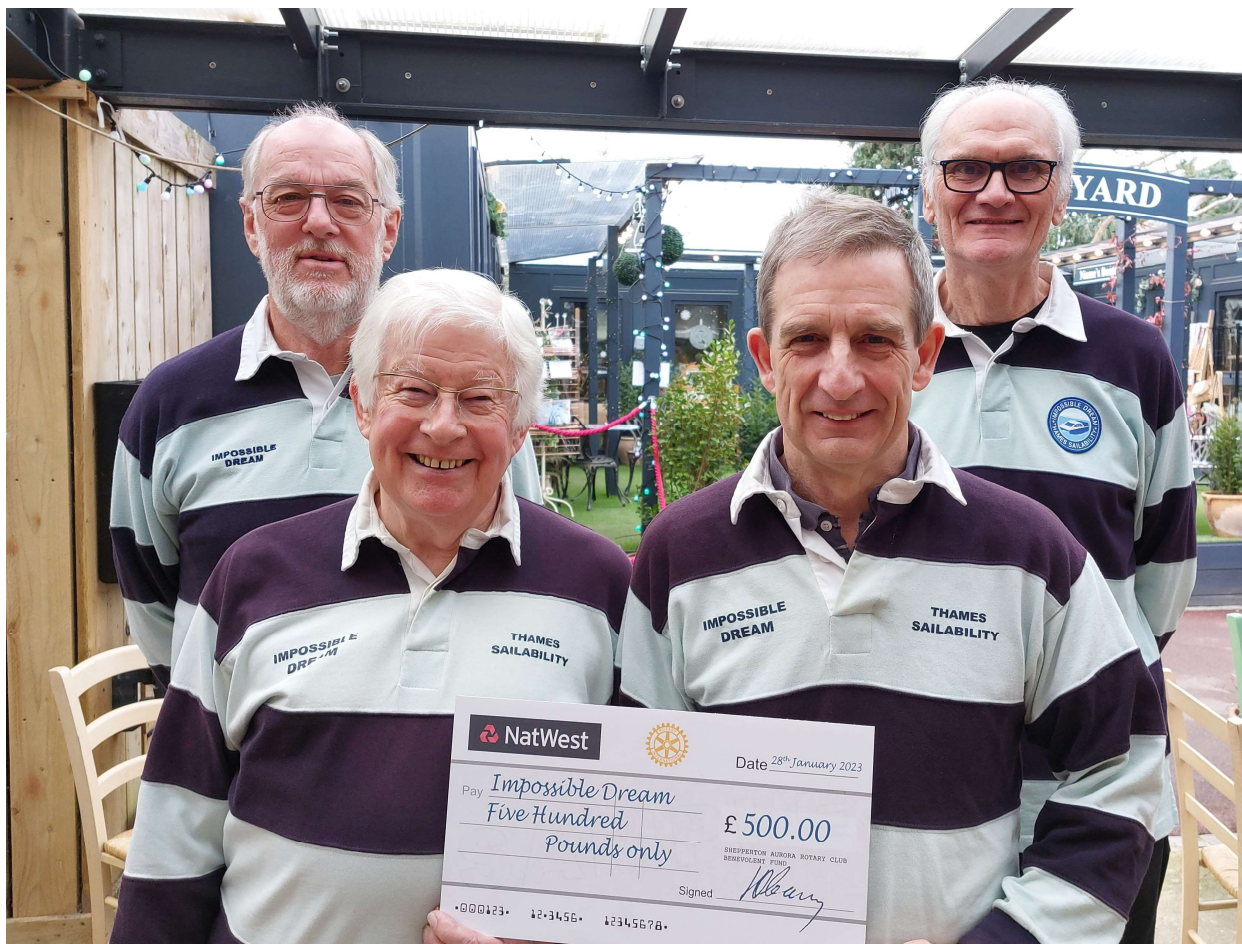


**Mike Browne** was a local businessman who, along with Alan Woolford, set up Queen Mary Sailability to have somewhere to sail. He offered Impossible Dream to Queen Mary when he no longer needed it and that was where our story begins. Mike was an extremely driven and determined man, who brought the insight and energy that made him a success in business to the pursuit of disabled sports after a skiing accident left him confined to a wheelchair. Mike formed the charity Sporting Activities for the Disabled and configured Impossible Dream to accommodate wheelchairs before passing the boat on to us.



## The year ahead.

- Following our major refit this year we hope to be able to concentrate on delivering our service and beating last years' record.
- Growing the capability of our team is essential to allow Impossible Dream to operate on more days. So, we will continue to encourage our volunteers who wish to become qualified skippers to complete RYA Power Boat 2 courses.
- The canvas canopy will need a clean and reproofed to keeping us dry and protected from the worst of the winter weather.
- All our safety equipment, especially life jackets and buoyancy aids, will be serviced and replaced wherever necessary.
- If funds allow, an upgrade to our cabin window defogging / defrosting systems will be explored.



The management team – Colin, Derek, Nigel, and Chris (L2R) receiving a donation from Arora Rotary

# Trustees' Report and Financial Statement

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2022.

## Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the Charity as per the Constitution are:

***to provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their disability with the object of improving their conditions of life, by providing opportunities to enjoy boating activities on the Thames and its adjoining waterways.***

- ✓ The objectives are met by providing river trips in a safe environment on the boat Impossible Dream.
- ✓ The Charity has no paid staff, and all activities and their organisation are undertaken by volunteers. Professional services are used only in specialised areas, such as major engine and hull maintenance.
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The Charity was set up as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) established under a constitution which sets out the objects of the Charity and its governance. Thames Sailability was founded in 2015 and was registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales on 5 June 2020.

The Charity is governed by the Board of four trustees, which meets on a regular basis. The day-to-day operations of the Charity are managed by a Management Team appointed by the trustees, who themselves are all members of the Management Team and who support and advise on all financial matters.

## Trustees Selection and Appointment

Trustees are selected and appointed by the Management Board and are appointed subject to confirmation by a vote of the Members at the Annual General Meeting.

There are currently no trustees selected as representatives of any other organisation, nor is any other organisation entitled to appoint a trustee.

## Trustees

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(Chairman)

Mr. Nigel Jeremy Horsfield

Mr. Derek William Beake  
(Secretary)

Mr. David Edmund Jillings

All the trustees were founders of the Charity and remained in post at the end of the year.

## Related Parties

The Charity has no subsidiaries. There are no related parties in the Charity.

The Charity is affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association and operates in a manner which ensures that body's standards continue to be maintained.

We became registered with the Fundraising Regulator this year. This registration demonstrates that we operate all fundraising activities in accordance with the The Code of Fundraising Practice.



## Financial Review and Results

Despite the residual challenges of the pandemic, the Charity ended the year in a healthy financial state.

The season did not get under way until late, but record passenger numbers were achieved, leading to increased levels of donations. Fuel costs jumped dramatically, but other significant operating costs such as mooring fees, insurance and licenses only saw modest increases.

A costly programme of maintenance and repairs was carried out in late Summer, resulting in a spike in our expenditure, compared with the previous year.

We were successful in many of our fund-raising initiatives, and we received on-going support from several local organisations, all of which allowed us to meet our increased outgoings.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The income of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 amounted to £14,742, against which was set our expenditure of £12,097. The net surplus for the year was £2,646.

The overall net assets of the Charity at the conclusion of the year were £28,840, of which Unrestricted Reserves amount to £8,840.

The Charity does not hold any investments.

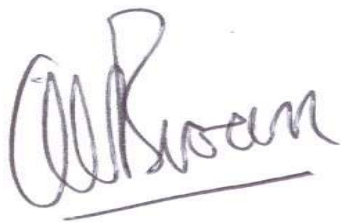
Although the Charity is entitled to exemption from examination under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011, the accounts have been reviewed by an independent examiner and found to be in order.

The trustees are satisfied that the Charity continues as a going concern.

## Reference and Administrative Details

<i>Registered Charity Number</i>	1189796
<i>Registered Charity Address</i>	13 Richmond Drive, Shepperton, TW17 9EB.
<i>Charity Secretary</i>	Mr. Derek William Beake
<i>Independent Examiner</i>	David Wilkinson, FCA

The report of the trustees was approved by order of the board on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and signed on its behalf by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Brown', with a horizontal line underneath.

Colin Brown – Trustee



## BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Notes	2022	2021
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Impossible Dream	1	10,000.00	10,000.00
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash in hand		144.88	168.60
Cash at Bank:			
(1) Current Account		4,908.40	5,809.89
(2) "Liquidity Manager" 35 Day Account	2	11,053.68	7,501.08
		26,106.96	23,479.57
<b>Debtors &amp; Pre-payments</b>			
CAF (Donation & Gift Aid Pending)		1.22	79.53
Freemantles School		190.00	240.00
Insurance & Mooring Fees for 2023		2,541.56	2,395.05
<b>Creditors</b>			
None		0.00	0.00
<b>Nett Assets</b>		<b>28,839.74</b>	<b>26,194.15</b>
<b>RESERVES</b>			
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Fixed Assets (Impossible Dream)	1	10,000.00	10,000.00
<b>Restricted Reserves</b>			
Reserves Brought Forward	3	10,000.00	10,000.00
<b>Unrestricted Reserves</b>			
Reserves Brought Forward		6,194.15	4,428.67
Surplus from Income & Expenditure		2,645.59	1,765.48
Total of Unrestricted Reserves		<b>8,839.74</b>	<b>6,194.15</b>
<b>Total Reserves</b>		<b>28,839.74</b>	<b>26,194.15</b>

### Notes on the Balance Sheet

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | The Bill of Sale shows a price of £1 having been paid by Thames Sailability to SAD for "Impossible Dream". For accounting purposes only, a nominal value of £10,000 is included here. This is not intended to reflect market value or replacement cost and is not related to the value for which the boat is insured.  |
| 2 | This is a "35 Day Notice" account which pays interest. Funds which are not expected to be required for use in the medium term will be transferred to this account at the discretion of the Treasurer.  |
| 3 | The Trustees consider it vital for the future of the Charity that provision is made for the eventual replacement of "Impossible Dream" and/or its engines. As well as transferring ownership of the boat, the Charity which previously operated Impossible Dream donated the sum of £10,000. The Trustees regard this as "Restricted Reserve" to be used as the basis of a fund-raising campaign when the time comes to replace the boat or its engines. |

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Income	Notes	2022		2021	
<b>Subscriptions</b>					
Subscriptions received (net of fees)			85.98		84.82
<b>Passenger Donations</b>					
Cash & Cheques		310.00		584.75	
Cheques		0.00		75.00	
Via CAF		848.32		120.00	
Accounts		2,550.00		1,310.00	
			3,708.32		2,089.75
<b>Other Donations</b>					
River Thames Society		1,000.00		0.00	
Spelthorne Borough Council		1,000.00		0.00	
Thames Heritage Trust	1	3,000.00		0.00	
RYA Foundation		1,950.00		0.00	
Vivienne Leighton Jubilee Pageant		100.00		0.00	
Shepperton Aurora Rotary Club		0.00		1,000.00	
Shepperton Aurora Rotary Club	2	500.00		500.00	
Staines 10k Road Race		0.00		500.00	
Shepperton Marina	3	1,803.64		1,719.52	
Accent Services		500.00		0.00	
Personal donations (via CAF, net of fees)		632.65		395.16	
Other Personal Donations		140.58		0.00	
			10,626.87		4,114.68
<b>Gift Aid</b>					
Gift Aid recovered via CAF, net of fees)			248.41		90.52
<b>Interest</b>					
Interest on savings			52.60		1.08
<b>Sales</b>					
Sale of Christmas Cards			20.00		0.00
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>14,742.18</b>		<b>6,380.85</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
<b>ID Running Costs</b>					
Fuel		819.72		485.70	
Boat Insurance		456.76		417.05	
Environment Agency Licence		113.80		175.12	
Boat Safety	4	0.00		0.00	
Mooring Fees		2,887.58		2,933.14	
Sundry Maintenance		303.82		44.38	
			4,581.67		4,055.39
<b>ID Maintenance &amp; Repairs</b>					
Work carried out by Bates Wharf		6,583.47			
New lifejackets		138.00			
			6,721.47		183.17
<b>Crew Training</b>					
			80.00		0.00
<b>Administration Costs</b>					
RYA Affiliation		140.00		130.00	
RTS and Fundraising Regulator Subscriptions		65.00		0.00	
CIO Insurance		215.66		212.01	
Name Badges		6.99		0.00	
Printing		245.00		0.00	
Internet & Web-hosting		40.80		34.80	
			713.45		376.81
<b>Total Expenses</b>			<b>12,096.59</b>		<b>4,615.37</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>			<b>2,645.59</b>		<b>1,765.48</b>

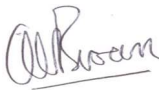

## NOTES TO THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1	Thames Sailability was winner of The Thames Heritage Trust Annual Award for 2021.
2	Shepperton Aurora Rotary Club donated £500 to cover the cost of providing boat trips for students of Manor Mead School, in Shepperton. Trips started in 2022 and will continue through 2023.
3	Shepperton Marina returned a substantial part of our mooring fees in the form of a donation and also donated part of the proceeds of their annual berth-holders raffle.
4	Our Boat Safety Scheme Certificate is due for renewal on 3rd October 2023.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustee's report above:

### Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

**Signature (s)**

	
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**Full name (s)**

Colin William Brown	Nigel Horsfield
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**Position**

Chairman	Trustee
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**Date**

1st April 2023
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**THAMES SAILABILITY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1189796

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# Accounts

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# THAMES SAILABILITY

## Annual Report 2021

[www.thamessailability.org.uk](http://www.thamessailability.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number 1189796



## Who we are:

**Thames Sailability** is a charity set up in June 2020 to take over the ownership and management of the boat, Impossible Dream, from its previous owner, Sporting Activities for the Disabled (SAD). Impossible Dream had been serving the local community since 2015 however SAD were about to close its operations and offered the existing crew of Impossible Dream the opportunity to continue independently. The offer was accepted, the crew formed a management team and Thames Sailability was born.

We remain here primarily to provide accessible boating for wheelchair users, people with reduced mobility, and those with learning challenges.

We are based on the River Thames and operate out of Shepperton Marina. Our specially adapted motorboat, Impossible Dream, takes up to 10 passengers, including up to 3 wheelchairs. Trips take place all year round.

Most trips are for organised groups such as schools, but outings for families and social groups are also popular.



**Boat helm showing clear space for wheelchair access**

## Chairman's Welcome

As we approached 2021, we all thought life would start to return to a little more like normal but how wrong we were! Our operation was again in limbo due to Covid19. With the marina closed even care and maintenance became difficult. Trips on Impossible Dream



were once again cancelled. Fortunately, following the mass take up of vaccines things gradually improved and our operation was up and running again in April and slowly returned to something resembling normal. Our priority will always be the health and safety of our team and passengers so we continued to take the appropriate precautions.

We were also fortunate to attract additional crew into our team during the year. They have completed our training requirements and are now helping us deliver the Impossible Dream experience. Please do contact us if you would like the opportunity to make a difference in such a unique way.

As we leave 2021, no one can say what the next 12 months will bring however, our client list is growing and trips are taking

place regularly three day a week with multiple sessions on some days. Hopefully this trend will continue.

Clearly, our particularly special provision for people who would otherwise not be able to experience the wildlife and natural beauty along the river is only possible thanks to our volunteer crew and benefactors. Therefore, on behalf of all this year's passengers I express a huge 'thank you' to them, for their continued support and availability throughout these uncertain times.

Hopefully this time next year I can truly report on a 'normal' year.

Colin Brown.            Chair of Trustees

## Our special boat, “Impossible Dream”

Impossible Dream is based on a Powercat 695-day fishing boat which has a stable twin-hull design with two 40hp outboard engines.

This was adapted with flat decking, side access and a boarding ramp on the starboard side suitable for wheelchairs, powered chairs, and anyone with reduced mobility. It has a safe covered area with fixed and moveable seating and a canvas canopy which provides for all weather operations.

We continue to adapt the boat to improve safety and convenience, and this programme has further upgrades planned. The latest improvement was to introduce ramp access on the port side which allows greater operating capabilities. This was made possible following a generous grant from The River Thames Society.

As any owner of a boat will tell you, maintenance and renovations are a constant challenge. Impossible Dream leads a busy life though-out the whole year and needs regular cleaning, repairs and servicing.

The port outboard motor propeller shaft has recently suffered damage from fishing tackle which caused the gearbox to be unrepairable. It is currently on borrowed time and at the next service will most likely need to be replaced. The blue finish on Impossible Dream’s hull is becoming very tired. It has lost its gloss and really needs to be refinished. We wish to plan a lift out for underside clean and anti-foul during this winter and would like to have the hull refinished during this period. The canvas canopy is in need of a thorough clean, reproofing and some minor repairs. With the boat in regular use, several times a week, there is always another job to add.

In common with all charities, we only exist with the generosity and support of local organisations, individuals and of course the commitment of our volunteer crew. We actively pursue all opportunities to raise the much-needed funds to carry out these tasks and maintain Impossible Dream in a truly presentable condition.



## We're here to make a difference.

The tranquillity of the water is well known to promote calmness and feelings of well-being. These effects are therapeutic for everyone but especially for people with disabilities and life challenges. Adding fresh air, close-up views of wonderful wildlife, social interaction, encouragement to help steer the boat and the result is an experience that is really beneficial to our very special passengers.

Their appreciation can be seen in positive behaviour, smiles and the repeated requests to “come back again”. It also provides the carers a little relaxation and a break from the challenging role they have.



## What we did last year

Our activities in 2021 were heavily disrupted by Covid, but we were able to resume operations in April and started a slow but steady recovery. 2019 figures show how extensive the disruption to our service was over the last two years but 2021 data indicates a definite recovery. (Note: in the first 3 months of 2022 we have already completed more trips than the whole of 2021)

Year	2021	2020	2019
Trips completed.	110	32	127
Passengers carried.	617	134	837

## Safety will always be our TOP priority.

With safety as our top priority, all our skippers hold recognised qualifications, but must then complete our own programme of training which is specific to our procedures, boat and its safety equipment.

Our safeguarding policy and basic risk assessments are available for clients to use or supplement their own documents.

The evening before every trip the operating skipper will check river conditions and weather forecast and make the final decision on the viability of the trip. This year we cancelled just



a few trips due to river conditions. This decision is taken when the Environment Agency advises against navigation because of strong flows which are due normally to heavy rain fall upstream. Otherwise, the weather doesn't stop us, Impossible Dream is fully enclosed and we operate all year round. (No marina freeze ups to report this year)

Impossible Dream carries all the necessary safety and rescue equipment. A selection of buoyancy aids are available for passengers to be equipped appropriately. The access ramps make her safe to board for anyone with limited mobility and wheelchair users.

## Our supporters make it possible. Thank You!

- ✚ Shepperton Marina, who looked after Impossible Dream whilst it was locked in.
- ✚ Shepperton Aurora Rotary, for their ongoing support of Impossible Dream.
- ✚ The River Thames Society, for funding the port side ramp project.
- ✚ Staines 10K Road Run, for thinking of us.
- ✚ Everybody who made a Gift Aid declaration.
- ✚ The Royal Yachting Association, especially the Sailability team.
- ✚ Alan Woolford, our founder and President who started off Thames Sailability.
- ✚ All our volunteers and their and families.



Members of Aurora Rotary at the unveiling of their supporter's plaque

## Where the money came from in 2021

Apart from the regular and very significant donations we receive from our clients we received the following grants and donations, for which we are enormously grateful:

Shepperton Aurora Rotary	£1500
River Thames Society	£1000
Staines 10K Road Run	£500
Shepperton Marina	£1720

We recognise supporters by allowing them to display their Logo on Impossible Dream. We appreciate that with the ongoing support of these major benefactors our operation achieves so much more and reaches many more people.



## How we spend your money

Any boat owner knows that boating is an expensive undertaking. Thames Sailability is no different in that respect. Most of our money is used for:

Mooring	Our year-round berth in Shepperton Marina, which is generously subsidised by the marina itself.
Maintenance	The two outboard engines need regular maintenance, and every so often the boat has to be craned out of the water to inspect and clean below the waterline.
Fuel	Although we cruise at low speeds, we cover a lot of miles in a year.
Safety	Lifejackets and other safety equipment have components with use-by dates which have to be replaced, as well as keeping all equipment up to scratch and fit for purpose.
Legal	We carry all the necessary insurances and licences
Other	We market ourselves so that as many people and organisations as possible can get to enjoy a trip on the Thames.

## A busy year ahead.

- ✚ We have a number of new volunteers who wish to become qualified skippers and will complete RYA Power Boat 2 courses in 2022. Growing the capability of our team is essential to allow Impossible Dream to operate on more days.
- ✚ We plan a major refurbishment next year including a lift out deep clean and full service of the outboard motors.
- ✚ The canvas cover will be repaired, cleaned and reproofed keeping us dry and protected from the worst of the winter weather.
- ✚ We will be reviewing all our safety equipment, especially life jackets and buoyancy aids, and replacing wherever necessary.



The management team – Chris, Derek, Nigel and Colin

# Trustees' Report and Financial Statement

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2021.

## Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the Charity as per the Constitution are:

***to provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their disability with the object of improving their conditions of life, in particular by providing opportunities to enjoy boating activities on the River Thames and its adjoining waterways.***

- ✓ The objectives are met by providing river trips in a safe environment on the boat Impossible Dream.
- ✓ The Charity has no paid staff, and all activities and their organisation are undertaken by volunteers. Professional services are used only in specialised areas, such as major engine and hull maintenance.
- ✓ The Charity does not employ professional fundraisers.
- ✓ The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and believe the charity's activities are fully compliant (FRS102: 1.18).

## Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity was set up as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) established under a constitution which sets out the objects of the Charity and its governance. Thames Sailability was founded in 2015, and was registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales on 5 June 2020.

The Charity is governed by the Board of four trustees, which meets on a regular basis. The day-to-day operations of the Charity are managed by a Management Team appointed by the trustees, who themselves are all members of the Management Team and who support and advise on all financial matters.

## Trustees Selection and Appointment

Trustees are selected and appointed by the Management Board, and are appointed subject to confirmation by a vote of the Members at the Annual General Meeting.

There are currently no trustees selected as representatives of any other organisation, nor is any other organisation entitled to appoint a trustee.

## Trustees

Mr. Colin William Brown  
(Chairman)

Mr. Nigel Jeremy Horsfield

Mr. Derek William Beake  
(Secretary)

Mr. David Edmund Jillings

All of the trustees were founders of the Charity, and remained in post at the end of the year.

## Related Parties

The Charity has no subsidiaries. There are no related parties in the Charity.

The Charity is affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association, and operates in a manner which ensures that body's standards continue to be maintained.

## Financial Review and Results

The Charity has ended this financial year in a sustainable financial state.

Donations from passengers in 2021 were again significantly reduced by the effect of the Coronavirus pandemic, which reduced and curtailed activities for periods of the year. Running costs (mostly fuel) were also reduced, but the more significant operating costs such as mooring fees, insurance and licenses still had to be paid. However, we continued to be supported by a few previously recognized local organisations which resulted in us remaining solvent with an operating profit of a little over £1,700.

## Financial Position

The income of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2021 amounted to £6,381 whereas costs for charitable activities were £4,615. The net surplus for the year was £1,765.

The overall net assets of the Charity at the conclusion of the financial year are £23,480.

The Charity does not hold any investments.

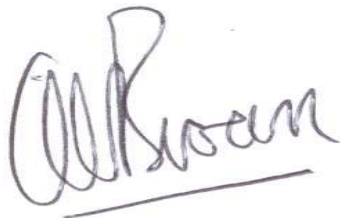
The Charity is entitled to exemption from examination under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 for the year ended 31 December 2021. Nevertheless, the accounts have been reviewed by an independent examiner and found to be in order.

The trustees are satisfied that the Charity continues as a going concern.

## Reference and Administrative Details

<i>Registered Charity Number</i>	1189796
<i>Registered Charity Address</i>	13 Richmond Drive, Shepperton, TW17 9EB.
<i>Charity Secretary</i>	Mr. Derek William Beake
<i>Independent Examiner</i>	David Wilkinson, FCA

The report of the trustees was approved by order of the board on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and signed on its behalf by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Brown', with a horizontal line underneath.

Colin Brown – Trustee



Port outboard motor propeller shaft – fishing line damage!

## Balance Sheet for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021	2020
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Impossible Dream	1	10,000.00	10,000.00
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash in hand		168.60	149.43
Cash at Bank:			
(1) Current Account		5,809.89	11,343.80
(2) "Liquidity Manager" 35 Day Account	2	7,501.08	0.00
		23,479.57	21,493.23
<b>Debtors &amp; Pre-payments</b>			
CAF (Donation & Gift Aid Pending)		79.53	56.74
Freemantles School		240.00	315.00
Walton Leigh School		0.00	96.00
Insurance & Mooring Fee Pre-payments for 2022		2,395.05	2,467.70
<b>Creditors</b>			
None		0.00	0.00
<b>Nett Assets</b>		<b>26,194.15</b>	<b>24,428.67</b>
<b>RESERVES</b>			
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Fixed Assets		<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>
<b>General Reserves</b>			
Reserves Brought Forward		14,428.67	0.00
Surplus from Income & Expenditure		1,765.48	14,428.67
		16,194.15	14,428.67
Transferred to "Prudent Reserves"		-10,000.00	0.00
<b>Total of General Reserves</b>		<b>6,194.15</b>	<b>14,428.67</b>
<b>Prudent Reserves (see notes)</b>	3		
Transferred from General Reserves		10,000.00	
<b>Total of Prudent Reserves</b>		<b>10,000.00</b>	
<b>Total Reserves</b>		<b>26,194.15</b>	<b>24,428.67</b>

## Income and Expenditure for financial year ended 31 December 2021

Income	Note	2021		2020	
<b>Cash held at date of incorporation</b>					
Pre-incorporation Donations		0.00		644.01	
<b>Subscriptions</b>					
Subscriptions received (net of fees)		84.82		85.10	
<b>Passenger Donations</b>					
Cash & Cheques		584.75		235.00	
Cheques		75.00		0.00	
Via CAF		120.00		0.00	
Accounts		1,310.00		582.00	
			2,089.75		817.00
<b>Other Donations</b>					
SAD Legacy		0.00		10,000.00	
SAD Boat Insurance, Licence & RYA		0.00		705.44	
Personal donation (Direct)		0.00		2,000.00	
Personal donations (via CAF, net of fees)		395.16		467.54	
Shepperton Aurora Rotary Club		1,000.00		0.00	
Shepperton Aurora Rotary Club		500.00		0.00	
Staines 10k Road Race		500.00		0.00	
Shepperton Marina		1,719.52		1,485.64	
Voluntary Support North Surrey		0.00		500.00	
Other Cash Donations		0.00		30.00	
			4,114.68		15,188.62
<b>Gift Aid</b>					
Gift Aid recovered via CAF, net of fees)		90.52		601.37	
			90.52		601.37
<b>Interest</b>					
Interest on savings			1.08		0.00
<b>Sales</b>					
Sale of 2 buoyancy aids			0.00		30.00
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>6,380.85</b>		<b>17,366.10</b>

## Income and Expenditure for financial year ended 31 December 2021, continued

Expenses		2021		2020	
<b>ID Running Costs</b>					
Fuel		485.70		104.82	
Boat Insurance		417.05		184.76	
Environment Agency Licence		175.12		175.12	
Boat Safety	1	0.00		0.00	
Mooring Fees		2,933.14		857.10	
Sundry Maintenance		44.38		129.68	
Engine Servicing		0.00		1,172.49	
Anti-Covid Measures & Sundries		0.00		80.82	
Signwriting		0.00		20.00	
		4,055.39		2,724.79	
<b>ID Improvements</b>					
Port side gate		183.17		0.00	
<b>Administration Costs</b>					
RYA Affiliation		130.00		130.00	
CIO Insurance		212.01		73.04	
Internet & Web-hosting		34.80		9.60	
		376.81		212.64	
<b>Total Expenses</b>			<b>4,615.37</b>		<b>2,937.43</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>			<b>1,765.48</b>		<b>14,428.67</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

<b>Balance Sheet</b>	
1	<p>Impossible Dream was donated free of charge by Mike Browne and Sporting Activities for the Disabled and is now registered in the name of Thames Sailability. The Bill of Sale shows a price of £1 having been paid by Thames Sailability to SAD, but this has been ignored in these accounts.</p> <p>For accounting purposes only, a nominal value of £10,000 has been included under the heading of "Assets". This is not intended to reflect market value or replacement cost and is not related to the value for which the boat is insured.</p>
2	<p>A second bank account was opened during 2021. This is a "35 Day Notice" account which pays interest. Funds which are not expected to be required for use in the medium term will be transferred to this account at the discretion of the Treasurer.</p>
3	<p>The Trustees consider it vital for the future of the Charity that provision is made for the eventual replacement of Impossible Dream and/or its engines.</p> <p>As the boat ages, the likelihood of expensive repairs and replacement increases and the decision has therefore been made to transfer a significant part of our reserves into what is known as a "Prudent Reserve".</p> <p>Although neither the Constitution nor the Charities Commission place any legal restrictions on the expenditure of the Prudent Reserve, the Trustees have agreed that every opportunity will be taken to build the sums held, in anticipation that major expense is inevitable at some time in the future.</p>
<b>Income and Expenditure</b>	
1	<p>Boat Safety Examination - A boat safety examination was carried out prior to the incorporation of Thames Sailability. The next examination will be due in October 2023.</p>

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustee's report above:

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

**Signature (s)**



**Full name (s)**

Colin William Brown

**Position**

Chairman

**Date**

20<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**THAMES SAILABILITY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1189796

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# Accounts

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# THAMES SAILABILITY

Annual Report 2020

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## Who we are

Thames Sailability is a new charity set up in June 2020. The new charity took over activities which had already been running for several years. The new charity was able to take ownership of the boat Impossible Dream and run its finances independently.

The charity trustees all had experience of operating the boat and providing the service while under the auspices of the boat's previous owner, Sporting Activities for the Disabled (SAD). All the trustees were involved in preparing for the Charity to take over ownership and ensuring it could do so in a fit and proper manner.

## What we are here for

Thames Sailability provides accessible boating for wheelchair users, people with reduced mobility, and those with learning challenges.

We are based on the river Thames at Walton on Thames and Shepperton. Our specially adapted motorboat, Impossible Dream, takes up to 10 passengers, including up to 3 wheelchairs. Trips take place all year round.



The photograph shows the boat decked out for the Lord Mayor's river procession in 2018.

Most trips are for organised groups such as schools, but outings for families and social groups are also possible.

## Chairman's Welcome



One of the joys of preparing our first Annual Report should have been celebrating what has been accomplished. Unfortunately and in common with most organisations we have experienced a year where our normal operation has been all but wiped out. However, the achievement of officially becoming a charity should not be forgotten and thanks must be given to those members of the team involved in this enormous task. Thames Sailability is now fully established with all the required documents, bank account, policies and web site ready to commence operating when the time comes.

Even though we have only achieved a fraction of our expected annual trips Impossible Dream still needed regular maintenance and cleaning to prevent deterioration and keep it ready should a trip opportunity arise. Clearly, our unique provision for people who would otherwise not be able to experience the tranquility and sights along the river is only possible thanks to our volunteer crew and benefactors. Therefore I would like to express a huge 'thank you' to them for their continued support and availability throughout these difficult times.

Hopefully it won't be long before we can return to delivering memories to our ever expanding list of clients. The Thames Sailability team and Impossible Dream are ready and waiting.

Colin Brown

Chair of Trustees

## Our boat, “Impossible Dream”

Impossible Dream is based on a Powercat 695 day fishing boat that was adapted by its previous owner, the charity Sporting Activities for the Disabled (“SAD”), with all-flat decking and side access suitable for wheelchair use. She has a stable twin-hull design with two 40hp outboard engines (normally used one at a time when cruising).

When SAD had no further use for her they lent the boat to the adaptive sailing group at Queen Mary Sailing Club in west London. A spin-off group, which called itself Thames Sailability, was formed to operate Impossible Dream on the Thames as the river was felt to be more suitable than the reservoir.



A further series of modifications was undertaken by the new group. Impossible Dream has a boarding ramp suitable for wheelchairs and powered chairs, and anyone with reduced mobility. It has a safe covered area with fixed and moveable seating, and a canvas canopy which can be adjusted to suit the weather. The founders of Thames Sailability all had extensive experience both of boating and of adaptive and special needs boating. Impossible Dream started taking passengers in 2015.

We have continued to adapt the boat to improve safety and convenience, and this programme continues with further upgrades planned for 2021.

## What we do with your money

Any boat owner knows that boating is an expensive undertaking. Thames Sailability is no different in that respect. Most of our money is used for:

Mooring	our year-round berth in Shepperton Marina, which is generously subsidised by the marina itself.
Maintenance	the two outboard engines need regular maintenance, and every so often the boat has to be craned out of the water to inspect and clean below the waterline.
Fuel	although we cruise at low speeds, we cover a lot of miles in a year.
Safety	lifejackets and other safety equipment have components with use-by dates which have to be replaced, as well as keeping all equipment up to scratch and fit for purpose.
Legal	we carry all the necessary insurances and licences
Other	we market ourselves so that as many people and organisations as possible can get to enjoy a trip on the Thames.

## Why we make a difference

*“There is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats”.*

(“The Wind in the Willows” by Kenneth Grahame).

Being on or near the water promotes calmness and feelings of well-being which are beneficial to everyone (including the crew). Our trips also provide fresh air and close-up views of the wonderful wildlife.

An important element of our trips for Special Needs passengers is the opportunity for social interaction with people outside their usual family/school/carer bubble and to adapt to a new environment. We encourage participation where appropriate, i.e. by helping steer the boat. The relative peace and relaxation that comes with an hour cruising up and down the river is also greatly appreciated by teachers and carers.



You can find out more about sailing or motor-boating from the RYA at <https://www.rya.org.uk/programmes/rya-sailability/Pages/hub.aspx>

## What we did last year

Of course our activities in 2020 were heavily disrupted by Covid, but we were able to keep going during the less drastic lockdowns because most of the boat is “outside” and is big enough to maintain social distancing.

*We ran 32 trips in 2020.  
(This compares with 127  
in 2019.)*

*We carried 134 passengers  
in 2020. (This compares  
with 837 in 2019.)*

*In 2020 Impossible Dream sailed about 160 miles.  
That is 21,440 passenger-miles!*



*We didn't count, but  
in 2019 our skippers  
made approximately  
100  
circumnavigations of  
Desborough Island.  
Nearly all were anti-  
clockwise!*

## Safety

Safety is our top priority. All our skippers hold recognised qualifications, but must then complete our own programme and training days which are specific to the boat and our use of it. Our Safety Policy is extensive and is constantly under review.

Every trip on the water is preceded by a risk assessment, starting with the weather and river conditions forecast at least one day before. The only time we were not able to notify our passengers in advance of a cancellation was when Impossible Dream could not break through the ice that trapped her in her berth (we have since moved to a different berth!)



In 2018 we took Impossible Dream down the Thames to the RNLI station at Chiswick to liaise and discuss safety matters.

Impossible Dream carries a wide selection of life jackets and buoyancy aids to ensure passengers can be equipped appropriately. Her specially-made access ramp makes her safe to board for anyone with limited mobility including wheelchair users.

## Our people

At the time of writing we have 7 skippers and 3 crew. All have extensive experience across all types of boats, from ocean sailing to dinghy racing, commercial river cruiser captains to maritime police. Many already have a background in adaptive and special needs boating from Queen Mary Sailability, and we are able to draw on the comprehensive training programme and operational experience at QMS, which is one of the largest and most successful Sailability centres in the country.



## Thank You

Thank You to our supporters ...

- ✚ Shepperton Marina,
- ✚ Everybody who made a Gift Aid declaration,
- ✚ The Royal Yachting Association, especially the Sailability team
- ✚ Mike Browne and Sporting Activities for the Disabled,
- ✚ Alan Woolford, our founder and President who started off Thames Sailability,
- ✚ All our volunteers and their supporters.







Raising funds and awareness at Shepperton Marina

## Where the money came from in 2020

We received grants and donations (included above) from the following, for which we are enormously grateful:

Sporting Activities for the Disabled	10,000
Shepperton Marina	£1,500
Voluntary Support North Surrey	£500

## Plans for next year and beyond

-  We have a number of new volunteers for skipper and crew who are keen to be trained up. Growing our team will allow the boat to be operated on more days.
-  We can increase options for physical access to the boat by modifying the Port side access point so it replicates the one on the Starboard side.
-  The canvas cockpit cover needs cleaning and repairing or replacing.
-  We will be reviewing all our safety equipment, especially life jackets and buoyancy aids, and replacing wherever necessary

## Trustees' Report and Financial Statement

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2020.

### Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the Charity as per the Constitution are:

***to provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their disability with the object of improving their conditions of life, in particular by providing opportunities to enjoy boating activities on the River Thames and its adjoining waterways.***

The objectives are met by providing river trips in a safe environment on the boat Impossible Dream.

The Charity has no paid staff, and all activities and their organisation are undertaken by volunteers. Professional services are used only in specialised areas, such as major engine and hull maintenance.

The Charity does not employ professional fundraisers.

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and believe the charity's activities are fully compliant (FRS102: 1.18).

### Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity was set up as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) established under a Constitution which sets out the objects of the Charity and its governance. Thames Sailability was founded in 2015, and was registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales on 5 June 2020.

The Charity is governed by the Board of four trustees, which meets on a regular basis. The day to day operations of the Charity are managed by a Management Team appointed by the trustees, who themselves are all members of the Management Team and who support and advise on all financial matters.

### Trustees Selection and Appointment

Trustees are selected and appointed by the Management Board, and are appointed subject to confirmation by a vote of the Members at the Annual General Meeting.

There are currently no trustees selected as representatives of any other organisation, nor is any other organisation entitled to appoint a trustee.

## Trustees

Mr. Colin William Brown  
(Chairman)

Mr. Derek William Beake  
(Secretary)

Mr. Nigel Jeremy Horsfield

Mr. David Edmund Jillings

All of the trustees were founders of the Charity, and remained in post at the end of the year.

## Related Parties

The Charity has no subsidiaries. There are no related parties in the Charity.

The Charity is affiliated to the Royal Yachting Association, and operates in a manner which ensures that body's standards continue to be maintained.

## Financial Review and Results

The Charity has ended its first financial year in a healthy financial state. Donations already received and held as petty cash and on behalf of Thames Sailability were received into the new bank account, as well as a large donation from Sporting Activities for the Disabled which forms our operating reserve. The boat Impossible Dream was acquired as a donation free of charge by Sporting Activities for the Disabled.

Donations from passengers in 2020 were significantly reduced by the effect of the Coronavirus pandemic, which curtailed activities. Running costs (mostly fuel) were also reduced, but the more significant operating costs such as mooring fees still had to be paid. Nevertheless, as the result of extensive fundraising by the Charity's management and members, a modest operating profit of over £1,000 was made (not counting exceptional income when the books were first opened).

### Financial Position

The income of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2020 amounted to £16,660 whereas costs for charitable activities were £4,700. The net surplus for the year was £11,961.

The overall net assets of the Charity at the conclusion of its first financial year are £21,961.

The Charity does not hold any investments.

The Charity is entitled to exemption from examination under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 for the year ended 31 December 2020. Nevertheless, the accounts have been reviewed by an independent examiner and found to be in order.

The trustees are satisfied that the Charity continues as a going concern.

### **Reserve Policy**

It is the policy of the trustees to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the Charity, at the minimum level of £10,000.

### **Reference and Administrative Details**

<i>Registered Charity Number</i>	1189796
<i>Registered Charity Address</i>	13 Richmond Drive, Shepperton, TW17 9EB.
<i>Charity Secretary</i>	Mr. Derek William Beake
<i>Independent Examiner</i>	David Wilkinson, FCA

The report of the trustees was approved by order of the board on 10 March 2021 and signed on its behalf by



David Jillings - Trustee

## Balance Sheet for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020	2019
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Impossible Dream	1	10,000.00	
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash in hand		149.43	
Cash at Bank		<u>11,343.80</u>	
		21,493.23	Not applicable
<b>Debtors &amp; Pre-payments</b>			
CAF (Gift Aid Pending)		56.74	
Freemantles School		315.00	
Walton Leigh School		96.00	
Insurance & Mooring Fee Pre-payments		2,467.70	
<b>Creditors</b>			
None		0.00	
<b>Nett Assets</b>			
		<u><u>24,428.67</u></u>	
<b>Reserves</b>			
Fixed Assets		10,000.00	
Other Reserves		0.00	
Income & Expenditure Account		14,428.67	
<b>Members Funds</b>			
		<u><u>24,428.67</u></u>	

## Income and Expenditure for financial year ended 31 December 2020

		2020	2019
<b>Income</b>	<b>Note</b>		
<b>Cash held at date of incorporation</b>			
Pre-incorporation Donations		644.01	
<b>Subscriptions</b>			
Subscriptions received (net of fees)		85.10	
<b>Passenger Donations</b>			
Cash Receipts		235.00	
Accounts	1	<u>582.00</u>	
		817.00	Not applicable
<b>Other Donations</b>			
SAD Legacy		10,000.00	
SAD Boat Insurance, Licence & RYA		705.44	
Personal donation (Direct)		2,000.00	
Personal donations (via CAF, net of fees)		467.54	
Shepperton Marina		1,485.64	
Voluntary Support North Surrey		500.00	
Other Cash Donations		<u>30.00</u>	
		15,188.62	
<b>Gift Aid</b>			
Gift Aid on subscriptions		18.23	
Gift Aid on Donations		<u>583.14</u>	
		601.37	
<b>Sales</b>			
Sale of 2 buoyancy aids		30.00	
<b>Total Income</b>		<u>17,366.10</u>	

## Income and Expenditure for financial year ended 31 December 2020, continued

	2020	2019
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>ID Running Costs</b>		
Fuel	104.82	
Boat Insurance	2 184.76	
Environment Agency Licence	3 175.12	
Boat Safety	4 0.00	
Repairs & Maintenance	129.68	
Mooring Fees	5 857.10	
Engine Servicing	1,172.49	
Anti-Covid Measures & Sundries	80.82	
Signwriting	20.00	
	2,724.79	
<b>Administration Costs</b>		
RYA Affiliation	6 130.00	
CIO Insurance	73.04	
Internet & Web-hosting	9.60	
	212.64	
<b>Sundries</b>		
Crew training	0.00	
Other	0.00	
	0.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,937.43</b>	
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>14,428.67</b>	Not applicable

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

### Balance Sheet

1. Impossible Dream was donated free of charge by Mike Browne and Sporting Activities for the Disabled and is now registered in the name of Thames Sailability. The Bill of Sale shows a price of £1 having been paid by Thames Sailability to SAD, but this has been ignored in these accounts. For accounting purposes only, a nominal value of £10,000 has been included under the heading of "Assets". This is not intended to reflect market value or replacement cost and is not related to the value for which the boat is insured.

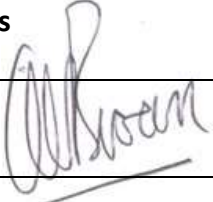

### Income & Expenditure

1. The accounts include a payment made by Freemantles School in respect of passenger trips made during 2019. Although a donation was requested early in 2020 (prior to Thames Sailability being incorporated), payment has only reached us in January 2021 due to administrative issues. The sum of £315.00 is therefore included here.
2. Boat Insurance - The premium for 2020 is included here but was paid in advance by SAD prior to the incorporation of Thames Sailability. The payment from SAD is treated as a donation for the purposes of these accounts. The insurance premium for 2021 is due in July 2021 will appear in the accounts for that year.
3. Environment Agency Licence - The Licence for 2020 is included here but was paid in advance by SAD prior to the incorporation of Thames Sailability. The Licence for 2021 will appear in the accounts for that year.
4. Boat Safety Examination - A boat safety examination was carried out prior to the incorporation of Thames Sailability and was paid for by SAD. The next examination will be due in October 2023.
5. Mooring Fees - Shepperton Marina has changed its policy regarding discounts this year. In the past, we have received a discount of 50% for our annual moorings. This year we have been charged at the full published rate but we have been granted a donation equivalent to 50%.
6. RYA Affiliation - The fee for our affiliation to the RYA was paid in advance by SAD.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustee's report above:

### Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature (s)

	
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Full name (s)

Colin Brown	Nigel Horsfield
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Position

Chair	Trustee
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Date

31 March 2021
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