

Spectrum Gaming CIO

Trustees Report and Financial Statements

Period ended 31 March 2022



ANNUAL TRUSTEES REPORT

Spectrum Gaming CIO

Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2022

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the period ended 31 March 2022.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities and with the charity's governing documents.

Spectrum Gaming CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), and was registered with the Charity Commission on 10 March 2021. It was established to take forward the work of the registered charity, Spectrum Gaming CIO (Charity Number 1193763).

The trustees confirm that the CIO has complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. This report illustrates how the CIO delivers public benefit.

Reference and administrative details

CIO Name:	Spectrum Gaming CIO
Registered Number:	1193763
Registered Address:	9 Olsberg Close Radcliffe Manchester M26 2UZ
Trustees:	Claire Harrison - Chair (resigned Jan 2023) Claire Teague - Trustee (currently Interim Chair since Jan 23) Andrew Smith - Trustee Sarah-Jane Snape - Trustee Leah Hanlon - Trustee Caterina Radu - Trustee Rebecca Allen - Treasurer (resigned May 2022)

Advisors

Bankers	National Westminster Bank Plc 438 Barlow Moor Road Chorlton-Cum-Hardy Manchester M21 0NW
Independent Examiner	Zen Chartered Accountants ICAEW Park House 10 Park Street Bristol BS1 5HX

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Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2022

Objectives and activities

The charity's main mission is to create a world where autistic young people can reach their true potential. We aim to create a world where every autistic child knows that who they are is ok and they can be themselves, whilst still developing meaningful relationships and achieving their personal goals. We do this by providing spaces where they feel safe and accepted, amongst others with similar shared lived experiences, and opportunities to explore who they are. We want all autistic young people to have the strength and confidence to find their place in the world that works for them. In many cases this means influencing wider strategic changes to create an environment that is more understanding and equitable.

We want to provide an active support network for young people who identify as autistic (working outside any current red-tape that may exist), that can help them understand themselves and help shape the world around them.

This will be done through the following four main ideas.

Connection – We know the importance of connection with like-minded peers who understand you and who you can be yourself around. We hope to help young people to develop strong, real connections in our community.

Understanding - We have personal experience of autism and some of the challenges that autistic young people face. We can use this experience and true empathy to guide and nurture our community members who benefit from our knowledge and experiences. In addition to running our community, we become role models and mentors.

Advocacy - We want to create a movement that will have a positive influence on society through advocacy, and enable strategic change to ensure the needs of autistic young people are met across the UK.

Space - We want to create as many places as possible that empower autistic young people, not limit their experience. We will start with our own spaces and then work to change the world around us.

The Services we Offer:

Online Services - We provide a safe space online supervised by trusted adults where young people can explore, connect and grow with others.

Face-to-Face Services - We offer opportunities for young people to meet with others and undertake positive activities together.

Advocacy - We work with our young people, parents and partners to identify the priorities of young people and create proactive projects/ resources that address these priorities.

Training - We offer training and guidance to those who need it most, and build a community who share our passion and vision to create change.

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Achievements and Performance

The organisation was formed in May 2020 in response to the isolation of autistic young people during the UK coronavirus lockdown. The community started with 10 young people and quickly expanded to 100's. During this time we opened both of our online Discord servers (one for teenagers, and one for younger children), and our private Minecraft Server, all of which have now had 1000's of young people access them.

2020 saw the start of the organisation as a small community group, however 2021 was the birth of the charity and set the foundations for who we wanted to be and what we wanted to achieve.

During this year we were successful in receiving funding to further the growth of the organisation, initially from Tudor Trust to employ a Creative Director to lead the vision and direction of the charity, and a Support Lead to work directly with our young people online. Later in the year we also were successful in receiving National Lottery funding to employ 3 further staff to support the running of the charity, namely a Volunteer Manager, General Manager and a Face-to-Face Coordinator, to be employed in Q2 2022.

Further funding was received from Bury Council and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to fund both some of the charities core costs, and directly increase and improve our offer to young people. This funding allowed us to run a series of face-to-face meet-ups for young people across Greater Manchester and beyond, create additional capacity for young people to play on our private Minecraft server, and ensure our staff team can receive the best level of training and support.

Finally we were also fortunate to receive funding to continue our advocacy work for autistic young people. After several successful and widely read projects and reports, we received funding to recruit two 'Changemakers' who would lead our future advocacy projects based on the issues most relevant to our young people.

In regards to the services we offered to young people. One of the most impactful and easily measurable is that of our face-to-face service. Over this period we ran over 75 face-to-face meet-ups, accessible to members of our community from all over the UK, these included:

- 20 gaming sessions between March and July
- 26 Forest School sessions
- Trainspotting meetups
- Hikes
- Days out at the park
- A trip to an Arcade Club
- Football meetups
- Nerf gun war days
- 18 additional meetups over the Summer holidays for 102 different young people (total attendance was 215) which included rock climbing, gaming sessions, a 'fun in the wood' session and a cinema trip

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Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2022

Some feedback from our members about the meet-ups:

"They make me actually want to go outside"

"I have made friends from the server then actually met them in real life. It has been great to meet so many nice people"

"The meetups are a nice break from the stress of life, it is the one place I can relax"

The impact and reach of our online services is more difficult to measure, but over the same period our online Discord servers and Minecraft server were used by over 1000 unique young people, with hundreds of thousands of messages being sent between them, and tens of thousands of minutes of voice calls between our young people. In this community we ran 128 events online for young people which were attended by 1,100 young people.

Beyond the view of our public services hundreds of our young people have developed close personal friendships with other young people through our services, and their feedback describes Spectrum Gaming better than we ever could.

"It's impossible to put into words. Meeting other kids and feeling part of something great has had a massive impact"

"A way to get away from stress like school"

"I have a lot of fun and I make friends"

"It's life changing. Its so brilliant to find somewhere that is inclusive"

To support all these services we expanded our voluntary team, recruiting 29 volunteers to support all aspects of the charity from administration, meet-up volunteers and online support staff. They have all taken part in a wide range of training including safeguarding, suicide prevention, trauma and online safety.

Last but definitely not least we undertook a huge range of research and advocacy activities, based on what our young people told us their priorities and areas of greatest need were. One of the largest ongoing projects is the "Autism Information Project" which seeks to provide helpful and easily navigable information for autistic young people post diagnosis. Currently this process can be quite traumatic with very little practical resources or information. Around 135 young people provided their views about autism to feed into this project.

With the help of the community we've also created several youtube videos about autism from the perspective of young people such as our "Good to be Me!", "Autism in 60 seconds" and "Autism Acceptance" which have been viewed over 30 thousand times. We also started working on some large scale projects with the support of parents, professionals and young people to create updated guidance on supporting autistic young people in education, with support from several local authorities who have agreed to update their policies and practice based on our recommendations.

In summary April 2021 to March 2022 have seen an almost exponential growth in Spectrum Gaming, the number of young people we have supported and the future trajectory of the charity. We are amazingly proud and grateful for all the support we have received from the community and our funders, and are so grateful for them sharing our vision to make the world a better place for all autistic young people, and somewhere they can truly reach their own potential.

ANNUAL TRUSTEES REPORT

Spectrum Gaming CIO

Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2022

Financial Review

The CIO's results for the period show an overall surplus of income over expenditure of £123,380. The surplus this period includes income totalling £166,673 which has been donated and raised to fund the operation of the organisation and the recruitment of staff in the following financial year. The majority of the income received (£149,867) was restricted to fund specific activities of the charity, or to recruit several new staff members in 2022/23.

These results reflect the hard work and strong financial controls put in place by the trustees and management of the CIO.

Policies

Spectrum Gaming CIO has a full range of policies covering our services. Our policies are continually kept under review including the assessment of the major risks.

The trustees aim to maintain the general level of reserves (unrestricted funds) to around three months of general expenditure. The trustees consider this to be an appropriate level.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document:	Spectrum Gaming CIO is governed by its constitution dated 10th March 2021.
Trustees selection:	Trustees are nominated and seconded by parent members of Spectrum Gaming CIO
Organisation:	The board of trustees administers the CIO. The board normally meets quarterly. A Chief Officer is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the CIO. To facilitate effective operations the Chief Officer has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters.
Related parties:	None of the trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the CIO. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with any contractual relationship with a related party must be disclosed to the full board of trustees. In the current period no such related party transactions were reported.
Pay policy for senior staff:	The trustees and the Chief Officer comprise the key management personnel of the CIO in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the CIO on a daily basis. All trustees give their time freely and no trustee received remuneration in the period. Details of trustees' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 2 to the accounts. The pay of the Chief Officer is reviewed annually.
Risk management:	The board of trustees have identified the major risks to which the charity is exposed. These are reviewed continually, as are the systems established to mitigate those risks.

ANNUAL TRUSTEES REPORT

Spectrum Gaming CIO

Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2022

Responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the CIO and of the incoming resources and application of resources for that period.

In preparing those accounts the trustees are required to:-

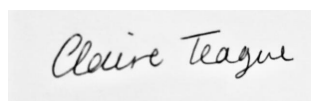
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the CIO will continue its activities.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Declaration:

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



23rd February 2023

.....
Claire Teague
Chair of Trustees

.....
Date:



23rd February 2023

.....
Caterina Radu
Trustee

.....
Date:

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Spectrum Gaming CIO

Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2022

I report on the accounts of Spectrum Gaming CIO for the period ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages seven to thirteen.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charitable incorporated organisation's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charitable incorporated organisation's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charitable incorporated organisation's gross income exceeded £150,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charitable incorporated organisation and comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Zen Chartered Accountants
ICAEW
Park House
10 Park Street
Bristol
BS1 5HX

15 November 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including Income and Expenditure Account)***Spectrum Gaming CIO****Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2022*

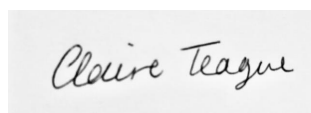
		Unrestricted <u>funds</u>	Restricted <u>funds</u>	2022 Total <u>funds</u>
	<u>Notes</u>	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:				
Donations and legacies		16,806	149,867	166,673
		-----	-----	-----
Total income	3	16,806	149,867	166,673
		=====	=====	=====
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Charitable activities		12,352	30,941	43,293
		-----	-----	-----
Total expenditure	4	12,352	30,941	43,293
		=====	=====	=====
Net movement in funds		4,454	118,926	123,380
Total funds at 10 March 2021		-	-	-
		-----	-----	-----
Total funds at 31 March 2022		4,454	118,926	123,380
		=====	=====	=====

BALANCE SHEET***Spectrum Gaming CIO****Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2022*

	<u>Notes</u>	£	2022 <u>Total</u> £
<u>Current assets</u>			
Cash at bank and in hand		126,584	-----
<u>Current liabilities</u>			
PAYE/NI		415	
Pension Control accounts		323	
Net wages payable		2,466	-----
		3,204	-----
<u>Net current assets</u>			123,380

<u>Total assets less current liabilities</u>			123,380
			=====
Represented by:			
<u>Funds:</u>			
<u>Restricted</u>			118,926
<u>Unrestricted</u>			4,454

<u>Total funds</u>	5		123,380
			=====

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

23rd February 2023

.....
Claire Teague
Chair of Trustees**Date:**

23rd February 2023

.....
Caterina Radu
Trustee**Date:**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Spectrum Gaming CIO

Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2022

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Charity information

Spectrum Gaming CIO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered in England and Wales. The principal address is 9 Olsberg Close, Radcliffe, Manchester, M26 2UZ.

Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with governing document of the CIO, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

The CIO has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the CIO. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Incoming Resources

All income is recognised once the CIO has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty or receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred and are allocated to the particular activity to which the cost relates. Governance costs include costs of the preparation and examination of the statutory accounts, the costs of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the CIO without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated funds

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the CIO for particular purposes.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are to be used for a specific purpose as laid down by the donor.

Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Spectrum Gaming CIO

Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2022

1. TRUSTEES

No trustees received remuneration for services rendered or were reimbursed travel expenses.

No trustee, or anyone connected with a trustee, has a material interest in any of the CIO's transactions.

All the trustees are parents of children and young people who have used the CIO's services and participated in events held by the CIO. All services and events were provided on the same terms and with no priority over other member's children.

One trustee's child was employed by the CIO as a support worker in this financial period. The recruitment process was the same as for all other support staff.

2. ANALYSIS OF INCOME

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	2022 <u>Total</u>
<u>Donations and legacies</u>			
Other donations	3,033	60,000	63,033
Donations	9,833	1,258	11,091
Professional services	725	-	725
Grant Income	3,215	88,609	91,824
	-----	-----	-----
<u>TOTAL</u>	16,806	149,867	166,673
	=====	=====	=====

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***Spectrum Gaming CIO****Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2022***3. TOTAL EXPENDITURE**

	Unrestricted <u>Funds</u>	Restricted funds <u>Funds</u>	2022 <u>Total</u>
Member Gifts/Prizes	663	-	663
Subcontractor Costs	213	-	213
Entry / Activity Fee	2,323	-	2,323
Other Equipment Purchase	-	1,779	1,779
Digital Media / Service	143	-	143
Minecraft Server	-	1,037	1,037
Other Gaming Service	110	-	110
Web Hosting	-	945	945
Computer Software	598	-	598
Computer Hardware	4,747	-	4,747
Office Equipment	-	1,195	1,195
Stationery	19	-	20
Licenses and Permits	1,069	-	1,069
Miscellaneous	(131)	-	(131)
Auto Expenses	77	-	77
Meals	471	-	471
Accommodation	285	-	285
Advertising and Promotion	183	-	183
Legal and Professional Fees	334	-	334
Books and Journals	189	-	189
Subscriptions	602	-	602
Bank/Finance Charges	44	-	44
Travel	412	-	412
Service Provider	-	210	210
Accountancy	-	361	361
Staff Training	-	3,496	3,496
Salary Expense	-	21,589	21,590
Pension costs	-	327	327
	-----	-----	-----
	12,352	30,940	43,294
	=====	=====	=====

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***Spectrum Gaming CIO****Report of the Trustees for the period ended 31 March 2022***4. MOVEMENT OF FUNDS**

	Balance at 10 March 2021	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2022
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>	-	16,806	12,352	-	4,454
<u>Restricted funds</u>	-	149,867	30,941	-	118,926
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
<u>TOTAL FUNDS</u>	-	166,673	43,293	-	123,380
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

5. STAFF COSTS AND NUMBERS

Staff costs were as follows:

	<u>2022</u>
Salaries and wages	21,590
Employers Pension	327

	21,917
	=====

No employees received emoluments of more than £60,000. The average number of employees during the period was 2.

6. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The charity had no contingent liabilities as at 31 March 2022.

7. RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS

Funds Held & Name	Purpose & Restriction(s)
Bury Council	Staff Training
Pathways Associates	Advocacy Projects
Encompass Psychology	Advocacy Projects
Tudor Trust	Staff Salaries
National Lottery Community Fund	Staff Salaries
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Staff Salaries & Operating Costs
Gregson Family Foundation	Advocacy Projects
CLlr Debbie Quinn	Equipment Purchases