

Black Trail Runners

Charity registration number: 1194094

Trustees annual report and accounts for the period ended 6 April 2023

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Contents

Trustees report	Page 1
Independent examiner's report	Page 7
Receipts and payments accounts	Page 8
Statement of assets and liabilities	Page 9
Notes to the accounts	Page 10

Black Trail Runners**Trustees annual report and accounts for the period ended 6 April 2023****Trustees annual report****Section A: Reference and administration details**

Charity registration number	1194094	
Principal address	68 Cainscross Road Stroud GL5 4HB	
Trustees	Mr Sonny Peart Mrs Sabrina Pace-Humphreys Mr Phil Young Mrs Grace Natoli Mr Malc Allen Mr Simbarashe Mugomba	<i>Chairman</i> <i>Financial Trustee</i>
Professional advisors	Baljit Chohan Kirsty McDonald	<i>Legal advisor</i> <i>Independent examiner</i>

Section B: Structure, governance and management*Governing document*

Black Trail Runners (“the charity”) is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), not having share capital. It operates in accordance with a constitution adopted 15 April 2021.

If the charity is wound up, the members have no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.

Management

The trustees make the key decisions about the conduct of the charity. The trustees give their time voluntarily and do not receive any remuneration for services to the charity.

The day-to-day management of the charity is carried out by the trustees of the charity along with support from a community administrator and a self employed social media manager. In order to deliver on its objectives to encourage the participation of members of the Afro-Caribbean community in trail running, the charity has the services of four England Athletics qualified run leaders who lead on community social runs on a self employed basis.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the charity’s governing document which states that there must be a minimum of five charity trustees. Members and trustees are responsible for the appointment of new trustees.

Black Trail Runners**Trustees annual report and accounts for the period ended 6 April 2023****Trustees annual report (continued)**

The trustees have complete control of the application of funds and how the budget is apportioned and spent. Each trustee is made aware of their duties as a trustee upon appointment and accepts their responsibility to keep up to date with changes in statutory requirements that affect the role and responsibilities of trustees. Upon appointment a new trustee will be provided with:

- a copy of the current version of the constitution;
- a copy of the charity's latest report to the Charity Commission and the statement of accounts; and
- the charity's business plan

Risk management

Business decisions and the associated risk factors are discussed and considered at monthly meetings. As part of this process the internal controls that are in place are reviewed. Internal control risks are minimised by a clear system of delegated authority and control, and procedures for the authorisation of all financial transactions. The trustees are satisfied that these are currently adequate to manage and reduce the risks identified.

Section C: Objectives and activities*Charity objectives*

The object of the CIO is the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation for members of the Afro-Caribbean community by the provision of facilities for trail running.

The charity does this by addressing three critical areas that create barriers to inclusion and participation for our members. These are in the fields of: **Access, Skills, and Representation.**

Activities undertaken to meet charity objectives

The main activities undertaken during the 2022/2023 financial year which address the charity's objects and critical areas include:

Trail Taster Days – Members were invited to join a group led by a running coach. During these day sessions there is a mix of opportunities that may include elements about navigation, nutrition, kit, activism and strength and conditioning. There is always a trail run together in the afternoon. During this period we held 2 days, in the Peak District and in Epping Forest.

Kit Loan Scheme – The financial resource in purchasing trail running kit is a barrier to entry and we were able to secure funding to purchase products which are available for members to loan for trail events. Kit contains a tent, poles, rucksack, head torch, compass etc. This scheme is promoted to members via social channels. This was used during this period.

Black Trail Runners**Trustees annual report and accounts for the period ended 6 April 2023****Trustees annual report (continued)**

Race Entry Scheme – A trail event bursary scheme is available to members on application. Due to the financial outlay of participating in some trail events – access, kit, registration – being high, we offer our members a contribution to partial, or full, costs. We continued to invite applications to be made and allocated funds accordingly.

Partner Races – We benefited from partnerships with various race organisers. We are offered discounted and free entry places which have been offered to members based on various criteria such as ability, ethnicity or if they have benefited from the scheme in the past.

The Checkpoint Podcast – We continued to research and host an occasional podcast with community leaders and individuals spanning the outdoors and sporting space. These leaders were mainly from Black, Asian and Minority ethnic communities including names such as Miranda Brawn (Philanthropist), Sophia Danenberg (Climber).

Black Trail Runners Social Runs – We hosted a variety of social runs, led by England Athletics qualified BTR social run leaders, which provided an opportunity for both existing - and new - members of our community to explore the trails together at various locations. In total 26 Black Trail Runners social runs were held in London, Birmingham, Ruslip, Bristol, Cardiff and Bath.

Speaking Engagements – Members and trustees were invited to speak about the objective of the charity, initiatives worked upon and future objectives at a variety of festivals and shows including Kendal Mountain Festival.

LiRF and CiRF Qualifications – Data shows that there is a lack of representation when it comes to Run Leaders and Run Coaches of colour. We promoted the opportunity for our members to request financial support to undertake UK Athletics Leadership in Running Fitness (LiRF) and Coach in Running Fitness (CiRF) qualifications. The aim being to upskill our members to increased representation within the sector but also to enable them to apply to become a BTR Social Run Leader (a paid for position) lending their skills to BTR community members looking for expert advice. During 2022/2023 one member qualified as a LiRF, and one as a CiRF.

Black Trail Runners Merchandise – A selection of 'original' t-shirts, vests, hoodies, socks and head wraps were made available to members to purchase via our website. As part of our partnership with Adidas TERREX, we were also able to offer branded BTR merchandise via a 3rd party website which was linked to www.blacktrailrunners.run. These goods allow our members to further represent the charity when at trail running events and promote the importance of community cohesion and representation.

Infinite Trails – An international mountain trail event and the flagship European trail race funded by BTR main sponsor Adidas TERREX. A BTR team is invited each year as a guest of TERREX to test the ability of the BTR community against elite global talent. In 2022 Black Trail Runners sent an all male team of 3 members to Austria to take part in this event.

Black Trail Runners**Trustees annual report and accounts for the period ended 6 April 2023****Trustees annual report (continued)**

Black to the Trails – Black to the Trails is the only trail running event designed and run by people of Black ethnicity for people of colour and white allies who want to see a more diverse outdoors. A trustee led working group spent much of 2022 planning for the inaugural event which was scheduled to take place on 11th September 2022 but, due to Queen Elizabeth II dying, the event was postponed until the following May. Work was resumed and, on 12th May 2023, the groundbreaking event - the UK's most ethnically diverse trail running event - took place.

Public benefit statement

The trustees of the charity have given due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have taken reasonable steps to ensure that this guidance has been considered in the activities undertaken by the charity to deliver its charitable purposes.

The charity delivers a benefit to the public through the pursuance of its principal objects: To promote the activity of trail running to members of Afro Caribbean descent by working on initiatives that address Access, Skills and Representation barriers.

Financial period

2022/2023 was the charity's second financial period. It's focus was to continue building its community of members and, through positive promotion of the mission and objectives, to continue to ignite and build relationships with potential funding bodies, sector organisations and private entities who might want to allocate funding to the charity and therefore play an important role in encouraging more people of Afro Caribbean descent to the activity of trail running.

Section D: Achievements and performance

The trustees consider the key achievements to include the following:

Membership Numbers – Our membership continues to grow year-on-year. This is seen through the increase in charity members and social media followers. In the period 2022/2023 we saw an increase of 169% in registered members of our community and campaigning charity and 94% combined growth across our social media platforms including Instagram, Strava, Facebook and TikTok.

Access – Through our activities we have enabled members to explore outdoor spaces never visited before due to issues with access, skills and representation. Our two trail taster days gave further opportunity for our members to do this.

Black Trail Runners**Trustees annual report and accounts for the period ended 6 April 2023****Trustees annual report (continued)**

BTR Partner Events – We have continued to work with race organisers who have offered gifted/discounted places for our members and, owing to this, have represented at 29 trail events such as London Revolutions Trail Run, Ultra X, Infinite Trails, Forest Runner, The Spine Race and Highland Ultra to name but a few. We know that this has inspired people of Afro-Caribbean descent both nationally and globally. At the Forestry Commission 10k in Wye Valley on 20th November 2022 we had a great turnout with people travelling from London and Birmingham, and more locally too. Great joy was expressed, at the run itself, and the amazing landscape through which we passed. For many, it was their first time to the Wye Valley and the Forest of Dean.

Skills – We continue to be led by our members to understand barriers to participation in trail running when it comes to skills development. During social runs and trail taster days we addressed skills barriers such as kit choice, nutrition and confidence with navigation. If expertise did not exist within our community then, where possible, we employed the assistance of experts within their field to address these gaps for our members.

Representation – Black Trail Runners continue to generate opportunities to represent. Be it trail events, speaking opportunities or across traditional and social media. The success of this work is seen in the variety of global brands seeking to partner with us and lend their resources to help us address barriers to access.

Brand partnerships – In 2022 we commenced a three year community partnership with global sports brand, Adidas TERREX with monies from this funding being allocated to core charitable work including project expenses, staff and infrastructure costs. We also received funding from global sports tech company, STRAVA, ring fenced for our inaugural Black to the Trails Event.

Section E: Financial review*Reserves policy*

The level of reserves is monitored and reviewed by the trustees at least annually. Funding in the DEI space is very volatile, and the trustees believe that the charity should target to hold unrestricted financial reserves equivalent to a minimum of twelve month's operating costs.

The surplus for the year was £29,371 (2022 - £2,861). As of April 2023, the charity's unrestricted reserves were £25,145 (2022 - £2,589) and restricted reserves were £4,226 (2022 - £272).

Black Trail Runners
Trustees annual report and accounts for the period ended 6 April 2023

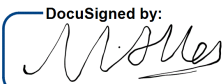
Trustees annual report (continued)

Unrestricted reserves at the year end were high as a result of core funding received prior to the year end which was not spent until post year end. A large portion of this unrestricted funding has been designated by Trustees to be spent on events, including assisting with costs of the partially funded Black to the Trails community event held post year end. Approximately £12,000 of unrestricted reserves are designated for this event.

The Trustees are confident that the current level of reserves is in line with the reserves policy and is sufficient to cover twelve months of operating costs.

Declaration

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

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Signed

Malc Allen

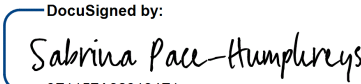
Print name

Malc Allen

Position

7/6/2024

Date

DocuSigned by:

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Signed

Sabrina Pace-Humphreys

Print name

Trustee

Position

Black Trail Runners**Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Black Trail Runners**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Charity") for the year ended 6 April 2023 which are set out on pages 8 to 10.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Basis of independent examiner's report

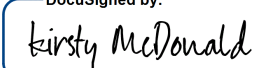
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or 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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

DocuSigned by:

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Signed

7/7/2024

Date

Kirsty McDonald CA
40 Canal Terrace
Inverness
IV3 8QQ

Black Trail Runners**Trustees annual report and accounts for the period ended 6 April 2023****Receipts and payments accounts**

	2023			2022
	<i>Unrestricted funds</i>	<i>Restricted funds</i>	<i>Total funds</i>	<i>Total funds</i>
	£	£	£	£
A1 Receipts				
Donations and legacies	3,650	-	3,650	6,037
Grants and sponsorship	28,650	19,875	48,525	17,752
Entry fees	2,410	-	2,410	703
Sub total A1	34,710	19,875	54,585	24,492
A2 Asset and investment sales				
Receipts from sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Sub total A2	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	34,710	19,875	54,585	24,492
A3 Payments				
Cost of events	1,507	13,690	15,197	6,825
Event travel and subsistence costs	2,696	2,231	4,927	3,690
Grants and donations paid	-	-	-	4,000
Kit Loan Scheme	-	-	-	1,143
Marketing expenses	533	-	533	-
Media (podcasts and video)	294	-	294	1,209
Software and web costs	917	-	917	-
Storage costs	1,389	-	1,389	-
Subscriptions	715	-	715	665
Training and certifications	710	-	710	255
Wages	2,560	-	2,560	-
Audit and accountancy	550	-	550	-
Sundry expenses	283	-	283	965
Sub total A3	12,154	15,921	28,075	18,752
A4 Asset and investment purchases				
Purchase of fixed assets	-	-	-	2,879
Sub total A4	-	-	-	2,879
Total payments	12,154	15,921	28,075	21,631
Reconciliation of cash balances:				
<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	22,556	3,954	26,510	2,861
A6 Cash funds last year end	2,589	272	2,861	-
Cash funds this year end	25,145	4,226	29,371	2,861

Black Trail Runners**Trustees annual report and accounts for the period ended 6 April 2023****Statement of assets and liabilities****B1 Cash funds**

<i>Details</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>Total current year £</i>	<i>Total prior year £</i>
Bank current account	25,145	4,226	29,371	2,861
Total cash funds	25,145	4,226	29,371	2,861

B2 Other monetary assets

<i>Details</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>Total current year £</i>	<i>Total prior year £</i>
Other debtors	-	-	-	379
Total other monetary assets	-	-	-	379

B3 Investment assets

No investments assets held as at 6 April 2023 or 6 April 2022.

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

<i>Details</i>	<i>Fund to which asset belongs</i>	<i>Cost current year</i>	<i>Cost prior year</i>
Podcast equipment	Unrestricted funds	2,879	2,879

B5 Liabilities

<i>Details</i>	<i>Fund to which liability relates</i>	<i>Amount due current year</i>	<i>Amount due prior year</i>
Independent examination fee accrual	Unrestricted funds	550	550
Event cost accruals	Unrestricted and restricted funds	9,087	-

Signed on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date

Black Trail Runners**Trustees annual report and accounts for the period ended 6 April 2023****Notes to the accounts****C1 Trustees remuneration**

No remuneration was paid to any trustee or any person connected with a trustee during the current or prior period.

C2 Trustees expenses

Expenses totalling £3,509 were reimbursed to 3 trustees during the period (2022 - £4,147 reimbursed to 3 trustees).

C3 Restricted funds breakdown

<i>Fund</i>	<i>Fund description</i>	<i>Opening balance at 6 April 2022</i>	<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Payments</i>	<i>Closing balance at 6 April 2023</i>
Kit loan scheme	<i>A kit loan initiative for BTR members to loan trail running kit.</i>	57	-	-	57
SPPED/TSP	<i>A trail running event taking place in the USA that members of BTR participated in.</i>	215	3,575	(2,746)	1,044
BTTT	<i>The charities highlight, mass participation, event of the year.</i>	-	16,300	(13,175)	3,125
		272	19,875	(15,921)	4,226