



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

1st January 2023 - 31st December 2023

SECTION A – Reference and administration details

Charity name	Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team (Tavistock)
Registered charity number	1201527
Charity's principal address	The Rescue Centre Abbey Rise Tavistock PL19 9FD

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Mark Schofield	Chair	
2	Heather Smyly	Secretary	
3	Paul Hudson	Team Leader	
4	Tom Layland	Treasurer	29th March 23 - 31st December 23
5	Paul Johnson	Equipment Officer	
6	Chris Bunney	Fundraising Officer	29th March 23 - 31st December 23
7	Steve Mortimer	Treasurer	1st January 23 - 29th March 23
8	Al Reid	Training Officer	
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SECTION B – Structure, Governance and Management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution adopted 29th March 2004
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How the charity is constituted	Association consisting of team members
Trustee selection methods	Trustees are appointed or reappointed annually by the members at the Annual General Meeting in March

Additional governance issues
<p>Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team (Tavistock) is one of four teams in the Dartmoor Rescue Group, a member of the regional Peninsula Mountain and Cave Rescue Association and one of 48 teams nationally in Mountain Rescue England and Wales.</p> <p>All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or other benefits.</p>

SECTION C – Objectives and activities
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Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document	The objective of the Team is to relieve suffering and distress amongst persons endangered by accidents or natural hazards primarily within moorland areas and to provide arrangements for the secure and efficient search and rescue of any person or persons so endangered and to encourage moorland safety instruction and awareness through all sections of the community.
Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)	Our services are entirely voluntary and in particular demand in situations where weather conditions are poor and the location of the missing person is unknown. Team members are highly trained in a variety of skills including search techniques, navigation, first aid, swift water rescue, radio operation and working with helicopters. Individual search teams are coordinated through a team leader who is in constant radio contact with the controller coordinating the search effort. We work closely with the police who initiate calls to us in situations where our services may be required. The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the commission's public benefit guidance.

SECTION D – Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year	<p>2023/4 was a pretty ‘normal’ year after the freneticism of previous ones. Operationally call outs were perhaps a little low, we completed ongoing projects or moved them along the path completion, we remain financially sound -though no cause for complacency- and we continued to upgrade and improve our skills sets, equipment and procedures.</p> <p>There was significant turnover of personnel within the team. Three of the new intake from Jan 23 have been badged and we are completely confident the fourth will do so soon. As ever we had a difficult job sifting through and assessing some quality candidates to join the team. We have taken the unusual step of taking on 8 trainees. They have settled in well and we look forward to supporting their progression into the team.</p> <p>We are pleased to record that the Garage project has been completed, with thanks to all involved. There is some follow up work required on the painted floor but plans for that are in hand. It is great news too that we have a new control vehicle to put in our new garage. This has proved to be something of a Herculean task and we owe a great deal of gratitude to those involved.</p>
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SECTION E – Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	The charity has a reserve account which is used to build up the level of funding necessary to ensure the charity's sustainability and provide funds for long term projects.
Details of any funds materially in deficit	None

SECTION F - Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures



Full Name

Emily Woodhouse

Tom Layland

Position

Secretary

Treasurer

Date

27th October 2024

27th October 2024