



THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH RIFLE CLUB

CLUB ROW, BISLEY CAMP, BROOKWOOD, SURREY GU24 0NY

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 216504

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023

The British Commonwealth Rifle Club (Charity No: 216504)

Objectives and Activities

The objects of the Club are to promote interest and skill in rifle shooting within the Commonwealth, including by assisting teams and individuals from the Commonwealth competing at prize meetings of the National Rifle Association and the National Small-bore Rifle Association, the better to enable them to take part when required in the defence of their Countries and the Commonwealth.

Main Activities

In typical years the Club holds various events:

- A two-day annual prize meeting in early July which generates most of the Club's surplus for the year.
- A team match in mid-July where club teams compete against teams from the various visiting Commonwealth countries.
- A Club Championship and other trophies which are based on scores made in the National Rifle Association's Imperial Meeting.
- A reception to welcome all our overseas visitors during the National Rifle Association's Imperial Meeting.

These events are timed to give our Commonwealth visitors the opportunity for appropriate 'warm-up' practice before the start of the National Rifle Association's Imperial Meeting.

The Club house is made available to our visitors from the Commonwealth to use as a base and to provide secure equipment storage.

In 2023 the Club was able to run a full programme of events with restrictions from COVID-19 and availability of ammunition in 2022 as the initial shortages due to the war in Ukraine is now behind us. We were delighted to be able to welcome our friends from overseas, with national teams from Jersey, Guernsey, Kenya, Canada, and Australia along with individual competitors from South Africa and New Zealand. Although the Club house was open to members and visitors, the kitchen remained closed.

In planning our activities for the year, we kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings. The events we organise are all focused on our Commonwealth visitors, directly by providing opportunities for competition to aid performance, or indirectly by raising funds to provide that support.

Grants & Grant Policy

The charity has not previously made grants and has no current plans to do so.

Contributions made by Volunteers

The Club is run entirely by volunteers and would like to thank all those who give their time on behalf of the Club's activities as it is recognised that it could not function without their support. Whilst every contribution is important, it would be wrong not to recognise that of David Rose for his immense efforts (yet again) for promoting and organising the Prize Meeting which is now second only to the NRA Imperial meeting for participation.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of Main Achievements

The Club's Open Prize Meeting took place as normal with strong demand for places including overseas competitors from the Commonwealth. With ammunition shortages of the previous year behind us we ran a full programme of 7 ranges across two days. Using the NRA Imperial GGG 2023 ammunition gave all competitors, especially those from overseas the opportunity to shoot with the "meeting ammo". A total entry of 194 competitors enjoyed competing over the weekend.

The Club's annual Overseas Teams match (hosted by the Club to provide our overseas visitors with valuable match practice in preparation for the international matches during the Imperial meeting), was well attended with teams from Australia, Canada, and Kenya competing.

Achievements against main objectives

Retaining the tenancy of our clubhouse at Bisley is considered by the Trustees as being central to delivery of our charitable objectives. Consequently, we are pursuing a strategy of retaining the Club house tenancy on expiry of the current lease in December 2024. We have had constructive discussion with our Landlord (the NRA) and remain confident of a successful conclusion in 2024. To enable us to take on a new lease at higher rent will require the club to generate additional income. To this end we have issued a licence for regular usage of the building to a third party and continue to seek other groups from within the shooting community. We are mindful that any third-party usage should not impact the Club's own activities and are setting limitations accordingly within any usage agreement.

The building repair work identified previously has been completed and very little additional work was undertaken in 2023. We are confident the state and repair of the building is adequate to meet the current needs of the club whilst also meeting our requirements at the end of the current lease.

Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set

The Charity does not explicitly run fundraising activities. It does turn a modest excess of income over expenditure from the annual prize meeting, although overall entries were back to a normal level, the shortage of ammunition and sharp rise in costs (due to the war in Ukraine) limited the surplus achieved.

Investment performance against objectives

The Club does not have substantial funds. The club funds are held in a COIF account and our bank account.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period

The Club delivered a surplus for the year, despite a significant increase in competition costs. Income from third party use of the clubhouse continues to be a welcome and important income stream. As no significant building work was undertaken in the year the expenditure on this activity remained low.

The activities generate an appropriate level of surplus over expenditure that allow the Club to fulfil its charitable objectives and maintain an appropriate level of reserves.

Policy and Justification for holding reserves

Reserves need to be maintained to protect against reduced entries or surplus from the Open Prize Meeting as annual subscription income does not cover the full running costs of the Club. This revenue is not guaranteed and can be impacted by many external factors outside the Club's control (e.g. COVID-19 and rising costs and availability of ammunition due to the war in Ukraine).

Building maintenance and dilapidation costs are also unpredictable (as winter storms have proved previously), so adequate reserves need to be maintained to perform immediate emergency repairs as well as longer term reparations.

The Club house is leased on a 21-year full repairing basis which ends in late December 2024 and requires that the building is brought back to a similar state to the start of the lease. The professional survey we commissioned revealed that extensive work was required to achieve this. Our ongoing approach of managing revenue streams appropriately has ensured that the Club could meet those repair costs out of the reserves rather than having to put out an emergency call for donations or increase subscriptions significantly.

Reserves held

£30,386

Principal Sources of Funds

- The annual Open prize meeting is the primary source of income and contributed a surplus of £2,755 this year.
- Building hire to 3rd parties decreased in 2023, generating £3,000.
- Annual membership subscription income of £1,675 was slightly higher than 2022.
- Donations tend to vary year on year, with 2023 (£245) slightly lower than 2022.
- Overall income was up by £1,602 compared to 2022, with a net surplus of £1,109.

Investment Policy and Objectives

The Club has a cautious attitude to investment both to protect and provide timely access to reserves.

Principal Risks facing the Charity

The Clubhouse is leased on a 21-year full repairing basis from the National Rifle Association (NRA); the current lease ends in late December 2024. Discussions with the NRA regarding renewal have been very positive, and terms have been agreed. We expect the contract will be signed and completed in the autumn of 2024.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:

The charity is constituted as an unincorporated association and is governed by its rules which were amended in 2020 at the Annual General Meeting.

Trustee Selection Methods

The number of Club officials, committee and trustees, their respective roles and any conditions regarding election and tenure are set out in the Club constitution (which may only be changed at a General Meeting of the members).

Fundamentally, no-one has the right to appoint any of the charity trustees – all members of the committee are elected annually by the membership for limited terms and those elected become the charity trustees.

The Club rules regarding officials are as shown below:

Officials and Committee

Officials

18.

(a) The officials of the Club shall consist of a Patron, President, Vice-Presidents not exceeding 20 in number, a Captain, Vice-Captain, Honorary Secretary, and Honorary Treasurer.

(b) The Committee shall have power to invite any person to accept office as Patron of the Club for such period as the Committee see fit.

(c) The President, Vice-Presidents, Captain, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Independent Examiner shall retire at each Annual General Meeting and shall be eligible for re-election.

(d) The Vice-Captain shall be appointed by the Captain, from amongst the members of the Committee.

(e) No official (other than the Patron, President and Vice-Presidents) shall be eligible for election or appointment to the same office for more than three successive years.

19.

Vice-Presidents shall, while holding that office, be exempted from payment of the annual subscription.

Committee

20.

The Committee shall consist of the Captain, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and eight members of the Club elected at the Annual General Meeting. The officials and members of the Committee shall take office on the 1st January in the year after their election and retire on the ensuing 31st December.

None of the eight members of the Club elected to the Committee shall be eligible to be re-elected as an ordinary member of the Committee for more than three successive years.

Election of officials, Etc.

21.

(a) Nominations to the offices of Captain, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer and to the Committee shall be notified to the Honorary Secretary not later than noon of the third day before that appointed for the Annual General Meeting. Any member may propose himself for a specified office by notifying the Honorary Secretary that he is willing to serve if elected. As soon as possible after the closing of nominations, the Honorary Secretary shall post a list of the names of the members proposed for the various offices and in any case where the number proposed exceeds the vacancies a ballot will be taken at the Annual General Meeting.

(b) Any member desiring to propose for election as President, Vice-President or Honorary Independent Examiner any person other than the retiring holder of each office respectively shall give notice as aforesaid to the Honorary Secretary.

Otherwise notice shall not be required for elections to the offices of President, Vice-President or Honorary Independent Examiner.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

The Charity Commission's own trustee guidance is used as the starting point, with further reference to the guidance and best practice information available from organisations such as the NRA or NCVO.

Peer support is provided by the other trustees (of whom approximately half are also current or former trustees of other charities).

The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works

The committee are the Trustees. The Club is affiliated to the National Rifle Association. The Club has links to rifle shooting governing bodies throughout the Commonwealth with vice presidents of the club appointed (by members vote at the AGM) from all relevant Commonwealth countries.

Relationships with related parties

The National Rifle Association is the Club's landlord.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	British Commonwealth Rifle Club
Registered charity number	216504
Charity's principal address	The British Commonwealth Rifle Club, Bisley Camp, Brookwood, Woking, Surrey GU24 0NY

Name of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	John Warburton	Captain		
2	Peter Bromley	Vice-Captain	1 st July – 31 st Dec	
3	Stephen Penrose	Secretary		
4	Will Steward	Treasurer		
5	Simon Belither	Committee member		
6	Emma Cannings	Committee member		
7	David Rose	Committee member		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

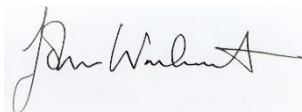
Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year
CM Brooks	
GMLN Gilpin	

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Warburton', is written on a light blue rectangular background.

Full name(s)

John David Warburton

Position

Club Captain/Chairman of Trustees

Date

18th August 2024

The British Commonwealth Rifle Club

Income & expenditure for the year ended 31st December 2023

Income	2023	2022
Competitions – Income	49,729	43,714
Subscriptions Collected	1,675	1,660
Locker Rents	-	10
Interest received	420	95
Facilities and teas income	3,000	4,925
Other income	198	2,600
Donations		
- Building Maintenance Fund	245	661
- Hospitality Fund	-	-
- Total donations	245	661
Ammunition sale	-	-
Total income	55,267	53,665
Expenditure		
Competitions – expense	46,974	37,101
Catering	694	4,004
Rent, Services, Insurance, etc	5,283	5,602
Upkeep of Clubhouse and Garden	765	3,816
Affiliation Fees	442	396
Administration and Sundries	-	252
Total expenditure	54,158	51,173
Surplus / (deficit)	1,109	2,492
<u>Distributed between</u>		
Surplus / (deficit) in the General Reserve Fund	1,630	5,647
Transfer to / (from) the Building Maintenance Fund	(520)	(3,155)
Transfer to / (from) the Hospitality Fund	-	-
Transfer to / (from) the Milton Tucker Memorial Fund	-	-
Total transfers to club funds	1,109	2,492

Balance sheet

Assets	31st December 2023	31st December 2022
Cash at bank and in hand:		
- Charity Deposit Account	10,255	9,835
- Other bank accounts	14,635	11,624
- Cash in hand	100	100
- Total cash	24,991	21,559
Prepayments and Accrued income	2,581	3,435
Debtors	1,900	3,436
Stock	2,441	2,867
Total assets	31,913	31,297
Liabilities		
Accounts payable / creditors	(1,296)	(1,245)
Accruals	(230)	(775)
Net assets	30,387	29,277
<u>Distributed between</u>		
General Reserve Fund brought forward	25,979	20,332
General Reserve Fund surplus/deficit for the year	1,630	5,647
General Reserves transferred to Building Maintenance Fund		
General Reserve Fund	27,609	25,979
Building Maintenance Fund brought forward	2,602	5,757
Building Maintenance Fund surplus/deficit for the year	(520)	(3,155)
General Reserves transferred to Building Maintenance Fund		
Building Maintenance Fund	2,082	2,602
The Doug Cornish Prize Fund	100	100
Hospitality Fund	150	150
Milton Tucker Memorial Fund	124	124
Freddie Payne Memorial Fund	142	142
Life Members Fund	180	180
Total of club funds	30,386	29,277

The British Commonwealth Rifle Club is registered with the Charity Commission as a charity under the Charities Act 2011, with registration number 216504.

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Report of the Independent Examiner:

I have been presented with accounting records for the Charity and I am satisfied that these accounts have been prepared from them.

There are no matters arising therefrom which I wish to bring to the attention of the membership.

Paul AE Charlton, Hon.Independent Examiner, , 2024