

Report of the Trustees and  
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 May 2023  
for  
The Birkenhead Operatic Society Trust

Corke Accountancy Services  
2 Upton Road  
Claughton  
Wirral  
CH41 0DF

# The Birkenhead Operatic Society Trust

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## The Birkenhead Operatic Society Trust

### Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 May 2023

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 May 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) (effective 1 January 2019).

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Objectives and aims**

The objects of the Trust are for the promotion or furtherance of education in, and knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the arts of, opera, ballet, mime, drama, music and singing.

##### **Significant activities**

The Trust stages shows of a near-professional standard. A concert party performs for community groups and concerts are performed for other charities.

Members receive training in stagecraft and singing and children are introduced to theatre performance.

The hall is made available for music and theatre examinations.

##### **Public benefit**

The Trust is committed to enabling as many people as possible to participate in its activities either through involvement in its productions or as its audiences.

Since the Society was formed, they've produced over 200 shows and concerts which have been enjoyed by the local community. In maintaining high standards of production, the Society, its performing members and creative teams have won multiple awards, including those issued by the National Operatic and Dramatic Association.

Throughout this period, members of all ages have benefitted from expert training in stagecraft and singing. It is well documented that taking part in groups such as choirs and dramatic societies improves participants' physical and mental well-being.

The Society engages with both local and national creative talent to ensure that the members and audience benefit from the involvement of professional artistic directors, musical directors and technical crew. Wider benefits to the local community are achieved through the public deriving much pleasure from the Trust's performances - which they're able to attend at professional venues at a far more accessible cost compared to shows produced by commercial entities.

#### **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

##### **Charitable activities**

Productions within the financial year were Shrek and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, both at the Liverpool Empire.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Financial position**

The financial transactions of the Trust continue to run satisfactorily and the position of the Trust is strong and well placed to meet its objectives. Throughout the year when planning its activities, the Trust takes in to consideration the capital reserves required to fulfil its obligations and to mitigate risk from external factors. Some of the Society's larger productions can incur costs of over £100,000, many of which need to be met before ticket income is received.

We made a net profit this year of £94,977.

Highest annual revenue in the Charity's history

Total income from members' subscriptions was £14,087 - a much-needed boost from the £5,624 received in the previous financial year

The total expenditure for the year unrelated to specific shows (i.e. the running costs of the charity, along with money spent on building improvements and other purchases) was £31,176

Our net current assets (being the total amount held in our current and savings accounts, taking into consideration any amounts due to us or owed by us) were £213,478 at 31st May this year

### **Notable Expenditure**

You may recall that in the 2021-2022 period (which was impacted by COVID and saw us stage only St George's Hall productions), we refrained from any major building maintenance and improvement works for that year. Luckily, given strong ticket sales for Shrek and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, we were able to fund various projects this year:

Extensive clear-out of the garage area and disposal of waste over the course of several months

Refurbishment of the gents' toilets - including replacement urinals, extensive plumbing work to re-route pipework and remove unused sinks, painting of walls & ceiling and new hand dryers

Installation of LED lighting throughout all areas of the building (main hall to follow this year!) along with motion sensors to reduce electricity usage

Purchase of a PAT device so that electrical appliances can be tested for safety in-house

Purchase of additional music stands

Replacement of water urn and dishwasher in the kitchen, plus installation of an electric hot water heater by the sink

Purchase of various tools for use with set building and maintenance, including a new bench saw

Repair to the rear fire exit concrete step which had deteriorated

Investment in accurate CAD plans of existing building layout

Purchase of low foggers - these produce a low-lying cloud of smoke on stage, as used in Shrek and Chitty. This will save continually hiring them for each major show

## **FUTURE PLANS**

Whilst it's likely to be several years before we're able to produce a show as financially successful as Shrek; we hope that with The Sounds of Christmas Movies concert and The Sound of Music, we'll have another strong financial year for 2023-2024 to help fund major building projects whilst retaining the cash buffer we require for producing large-scale Liverpool Empire shows.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

## The Birkenhead Operatic Society Trust

### Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 May 2023

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

The Trust is governed by its General Council who are voted in by a majority at each AGM - generally consisting of 11 trustees and up to 4 co-opted members. These roles include a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Other aspects of the day-to-day running of the charity are delegated to sub-committees who report back to the General Council at their monthly meetings. These include Fundraising, Production, Building and a Social Committee. Each sub-committee includes at least one trustee.

#### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

##### **Registered Charity number**

259306

##### **Principal address**

##### **Trustees**

K Blackwell

C Simmons

M Hoile

M Furness

L Furness

L Steventon

D McAllister

I Lockwood (resigned 22.9.22)

I Beattie

K Hoile (appointed 22.9.22)

R Rose (appointed 22.9.22)

##### **Independent Examiner**

Corke Accountancy Services

2 Upton Road

Claughton

Wirral

CH41 0DF

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 28 March 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Trustee

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Birkenhead Operatic Society Trust**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Birkenhead Operatic Society Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 31 May 2023.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of ICAEW which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Rachel Corke FCA  
ICAEW  
Corke Accountancy Services  
2 Upton Road  
Claughton  
Wirral  
CH41 0DF

28 March 2024

The Birkenhead Operatic Society Trust

Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 31 May 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31.5.23 Total funds £	31.5.22 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies		1,334	10,000	11,334	920
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Members subscriptions and donations		16,363	-	16,363	5,624
Other trading activities	2	418,922	-	418,922	37,321
Investment income	3	283	-	283	175
<b>Total</b>		<u>436,902</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>446,902</u>	<u>44,040</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
Raising funds		7,925	-	7,925	1,411
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Theatre Production		344,000	-	344,000	36,670
<b>Total</b>		<u>351,925</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>351,925</u>	<u>38,081</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>		<u>84,977</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>94,977</u>	<u>5,959</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		120,366	-	120,366	114,407
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u><u>205,343</u></u>	<u><u>10,000</u></u>	<u><u>215,343</u></u>	<u><u>120,366</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Birkenhead Operatic Society Trust

Balance Sheet

31 May 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31.5.23 Total funds £	31.5.22 Total funds £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	6	1,865	-	1,865	1,752
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Stocks	7	30	-	30	30
Debtors	8	30,723	-	30,723	-
Cash at bank and in hand		208,041	10,000	218,041	119,334
		<u>238,794</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>248,794</u>	<u>119,364</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(35,316)	-	(35,316)	(750)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>203,478</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>213,478</u>	<u>118,614</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>205,343</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>215,343</u>	<u>120,366</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>205,343</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>215,343</u>	<u>120,366</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	10				
Unrestricted funds				205,343	120,366
Restricted funds:					
Vocal Coaching				<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u>215,343</u>	<u>120,366</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 28 March 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Trustee



## **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

### **Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

### **Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

### **Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

### **Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings                      - 25% on reducing balance

### **Stocks**

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

### **Taxation**

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

### **Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

### **Hire purchase and leasing commitments**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 May 2023

**2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	31.5.23	31.5.22
	£	£
Fundraising events	8,853	2,072
Theatre ticket sales	392,456	33,860
Programmes and merchandise	13,861	440
Bar sales	3,752	949
	<u>418,922</u>	<u>37,321</u>

**3. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	31.5.23	31.5.22
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>283</u>	<u>175</u>

**4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 May 2023 nor for the year ended 31 May 2022.

**Trustees' expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 May 2023 nor for the year ended 31 May 2022.

**5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	920	-	920
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Members subscriptions and donations	5,624	-	5,624
Other trading activities	37,321	-	37,321
Investment income	175	-	175
<b>Total</b>	<u>44,040</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,040</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
Raising funds	1,411	-	1,411
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Theatre Production	36,670	-	36,670
<b>Total</b>	<u>38,081</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,081</u>

**5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued**

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
<b>NET INCOME</b>	5,959	-	5,959
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	114,407	-	114,407
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	120,366	-	120,366

**6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Fixtures and fittings £
<b>COST</b>	
At 1 June 2022	33,639
Additions	497
At 31 May 2023	34,136
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>	
At 1 June 2022	31,887
Charge for year	384
At 31 May 2023	32,271
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 May 2023	1,865
At 31 May 2022	1,752

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 May 2023

**7. STOCKS**

	31.5.23	31.5.22
	£	£
Stocks	30	30
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	31.5.23	31.5.22
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	30,723	-
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	31.5.23	31.5.22
	£	£
Other creditors	35,316	750
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 1.6.22	Net movement in funds	At 31.5.23
	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	120,366	84,977	205,343
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Vocal Coaching	-	10,000	10,000
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>120,366</u>	<u>94,977</u>	<u>215,343</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	436,902	(351,925)	84,977
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Vocal Coaching	10,000	-	10,000
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>446,902</u>	<u>(351,925)</u>	<u>94,977</u>

**10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

**Comparatives for movement in funds**

	At 1.6.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.5.22 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	114,407	5,959	120,366
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>114,407</u>	<u>5,959</u>	<u>120,366</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	44,040	(38,081)	5,959
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>44,040</u>	<u>(38,081)</u>	<u>5,959</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.6.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.5.23 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	114,407	90,936	205,343
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Vocal Coaching	-	10,000	10,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>114,407</u>	<u>100,936</u>	<u>215,343</u>

**10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	480,942	(390,006)	90,936
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Vocal Coaching	10,000	-	10,000
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>490,942</u>	<u>(390,006)</u>	<u>100,936</u>

**11. OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS**

The building used by the charity is leased and 42 months notice is required to terminate the lease .

This equates to a financial obligation of £12,341.

**12. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 May 2023.

The Birkenhead Operatic Society Trust

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 31 May 2023

	31.5.23 £	31.5.22 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>		
<b>Donations and legacies</b>		
Donations	11,334	920
<b>Other trading activities</b>		
Fundraising events	8,853	2,072
Theatre ticket sales	392,456	33,860
Programmes and merchandise	13,861	440
Bar sales	3,752	949
	<hr/> 418,922	<hr/> 37,321
<b>Investment income</b>		
Deposit account interest	283	175
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Members' subscriptions and show contributions	16,363	5,624
	<hr/> 446,902	<hr/> 44,040
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Raising donations and legacies</b>		
Fundraising costs	7,925	1,411
<b>Other trading activities</b>		
Opening stock	30	-
Closing stock	(30)	-
	<hr/> -	<hr/> -
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Insurance	1,205	858
Advertising	19,205	-
Theatre and production costs	295,687	16,328
Vocal coaching	1,260	-
Cost of bar sales	2,264	-
	<hr/> 319,621	<hr/> 17,186
<b>Support costs</b>		
<b>Management</b>		
Other operating leases	3,526	3,526
Carried forward	3,526	3,526

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

The Birkenhead Operatic Society Trust

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 31 May 2023

	31.5.23 £	31.5.22 £
<b>Management</b>		
Brought forward	3,526	3,526
Rates and water	2,447	2,351
Trustee's insurance	285	265
Light and heat	4,656	3,077
Telephone	792	737
Postage and stationery	374	633
Advertising	-	4,404
Sundries	486	360
Burglar and fire alarm	-	462
NODA subscription	286	163
Repairs and maintenance	9,758	570
Fixtures and fittings	384	309
	<hr/> 22,994	<hr/> 16,857
<b>Finance</b>		
Bank charges	355	1,101
<b>Human resources</b>		
Software licences	58	206
<b>Governance costs</b>		
Accountancy and legal fees	972	1,320
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total resources expended	351,925	38,081
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net income</b>	94,977	5,959
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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