



Charity No: 267039

Trustees Annual Report

For the year ended 30th September 2024



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

Trustees Annual Report

September 2024

Reference and Administration

Charity Name	Solent Rescue
Charity Registration Number	267039
Registered Address	12 Culford Avenue Totton Southampton Hampshire SO409BY

Trustees

Name	Office	Appointment
Carl Seabourne	Chair	July 2022
Bruce McKoen	Secretary	December 2022
Russell Hemmings	Treasurer	September 2022
Lee Cooper	Lifeboat Operations Manager	November 2018
Linda White	Fund Raising Manager	July 2022
Nathan Mansbridge	Trustee	December 2022



Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The charity is unincorporated and governed by a constitution, first adopted in 1972, a reviewed constitution was signed during the financial year bringing the constitution up to date and in line with the latest Charity Commission model.

Appointment of Trustees

Nominated by members/trustees at the AGM.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives

The advancement of health or saving of lives. To provide and maintain apparatus, equipment, vehicles and vessels for the saving of lives and assistance of persons in distress at sea or on land within an area of 16 miles radius of Lepe, Exbury in Hampshire.

Activities

Section 17(5) of the Charities Act and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require the trustees of a charity to have regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance would be relevant. All trustees are aware of this guidance and confirmed understanding.

Training the crew both landside and afloat is extremely important in being able to provide for the public benefit as is the correct asset maintenance.

Solent Rescue does not provide grant facilities and does not have a programme of investment. All grants and donations are solely used for the purpose of crew training, operations and maintenance.

There are no paid members of the Charity, all members of Solent Rescue are volunteers. The charity relies on these volunteers to crew the boats, maintain a landside operation within Lepe Country Park and maintain all the Solent Rescue assets.



Chairmans Report

This year Solent Rescue has reached a significant milestone however that has not been without its challenges. Organisationally, the biggest achievement we have had is gaining our probationary declared facility status. This is something we have all been working towards for many years and demonstrates the crew's determination, dedication and commitment to our aims and objectives as set out in our constitution.

Being a probationary declared facility means that we can be 'tasked' by His Majesty's Coastguard (HMCG) at any time, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, three hundred and sixty-five days of the year to emergencies at sea or on the coastline. This means that our team can be called upon at a moment's notice to respond to life threatening emergency as co-ordinated by HMCG.

It is important to highlight that this is in addition to our normal operations and in no way replaces them. Therefore, we aim to have at least one of our rescue boats on the water within our operational footprint between 09:00 and 17:00 (which is when the Solent is normally at its busiest) every weekend, to immediately respond to incidents as they happen, thus reducing the response time of awaiting a pager crew needing to assemble and launch a lifeboat. Moreover, we also provide safety cover for major events that happen on the Solent such as Round the Island Race and public holidays.



Solent Rescue has proven itself to be an adaptable and flexible service over the past 12 months, demonstrating the endless resourcefulness of our team as well as the generosity of local businesses. In early September there was significant storm damage to the beach we launch from resulting in the beach needing significant work to restore. This led to the beach needing to be closed for an extended period, meaning we would not be able to provide our life saving service.

Within hours of this news, we managed to plan for Solent Rescue One (our large rescue boat) to be relocated to a local marina (free of charge thanks to the generosity of a local business holder who owns the berth). We also planned and implemented a new process to adapt the way crew respond to pager incidents and organised a secondary and tertiary launch site for our D-Class lifeboat (Solent Rescue 2). There are many similar situations that occur that need to be rapidly implemented and thanks to the quick thinking of our management team, the generosity of our supporters and the seemingly endless adaptability of our crew, we have been able to continue to maintain our normal levels of service to the community.

Although overcoming the above successfully was indeed a challenge we do see this as one of our standout moments for the reasons highlighted. However, we would be remiss if we did not mention our biggest milestone which was our first pager tasking in our 53-year history.

On a seemingly benign Sunday evening the pager sounded for the first time which triggered a response from our boats and operational support crew to launch our D-Class lifeboat to reports of a missing vessel whereby the occupant had not been heard from for over 12 hours. Our lifeboat was quickly launched and headed out into the western Solent along with a lifeboat from the RNLI and coastguard rescue teams. The casualty vessel was located, and the lone sailor was found unwell and trapped on the vessel. The crew of our lifeboat worked alongside the RNLI and the coastguard rescue team to extract the casualty from their vessel and on to our D-class lifeboat where they were taken ashore to await the arrival of an ambulance.

This event left all members within Solent Rescue feeling extremely proud of what we had all achieved collectively and it is moments like this, where we rescue or help someone in their moment of need which motivates us to strive to be the best we can be and continue to provide a lifesaving service to our community.

In addition to our boats crew, we also have our operational support team in the country park manning a lookout to keep a watch over the many thousands of beach users, support the boat crews with launch/recovery and communications and finally provide first aid to members of the public should they need it.

Being a probationary declared facility has extended our operational reach and capability thus increasing our value for money to the public.

In the past twelve months Solent rescue had attended 36 incidents compared to 17 in the previous 12 month period, ranging from minor injuries in the country park to pulling a person from the water in pari-arrest (a critical condition). None of this would be possible without the significant amount of time being given by our team. Over the last year the total number of volunteers hours was a staggering 6,485 hours between our 41 volunteers, compared to 5,593 hours in the prior 12 month period. Of that 6,485 hours, 188 hours was time directly attending incidents. The remaining time was spent on maintenance, training, unit administration, patrols and manning the lookout.



BBC Saving Lives at Sea

Solent Rescue has been the first independent lifeboat to feature on the BBC's saving lives at sea. During which Solent Rescue collaborated with our partner agency, the RNLI, to successfully save the life of a young jet skier. This is a breakthrough achievement not just for us at Solent Rescue but for the wider independent lifeboat community and is something we are extremely proud of. This resulted in correspondence from the head of the RNLI congratulating us and recognising the value and impact of Solent Rescue.

Maintenance

During the 2023/24 financial year Solent Rescue experienced issues with the engines on Solent Rescue 1. Significant effort by volunteers as well as local companies occurred to try to diagnose and fix the issue, unfortunately the root cause was not able to be diagnosed, and Solent Rescue needed to fund the purchase of 2 new engines to get the boat operational again. Solent Rescue would like to thank Tohatsu in Lymington for their support in purchase of the 2 new engines as well as the continued maintenance of these engines.

Following some difficulties with maintenance we have been extremely lucky to have brought in two new volunteer members of crew who are both qualified marine engineers. They have already had a very positive impact in terms of both proactive and corrective maintenance of our vessels carrying out the vast majority of works in-house to industry standards which have kept costs down and we foresee significantly reduced maintenance costs going forward.

National Independent Lifeboat Association (NILA)

We are pleased to be working with the National Independent Lifeboat Association by sharing data and other information to build awareness of independent lifeboats in the public and political landscapes to develop best practice nationally. It is hoped that by taking this national approach there will be much needed funding streams developed in the form of governmental grants and a wider knowledge of sea related safety by the public.

Fundraising

As mentioned in the financial review below this year has seen a significant increase in grants and donations. Specific grants we have received include those from ExxonMobil and Hampshire County Council to cover the purchase of new drysuits and lifejackets, Charities Aid Foundation (CAFUK) to cover 50% of training costs over the next 2 years and a grant from the Lord Leverhulme Charitable Trust to help with Solent Rescue 2 repairs. Also received was a general grant from the National Lottery.

During the next financial year we will be conducting a refit of Solent Rescue One and Solent Rescue Two which will continue to ensure the safety of the crews and extend the lifetime of the rescue platforms. The refit combined with the preventative maintenance schedule will vastly reduce costs of reactive corrective maintenance going forwards.

Training

With training comes expense, and although we will conduct most of the training inhouse we do need to outsource some of it to professional awarding bodies. This type of training includes enhanced first aid capabilities via a casualty care course, professional RYA qualifications such as the intermediate and advanced powerboating qualifications, and the sea survival courses. As we also hold enhanced clinical skills, it is vital we have a very strong clinical governance framework which we outsource to a specialist, ensuring we have the appropriate expertise giving us guidance and a health care professional (HCPC advanced paramedic practitioner) as our clinical lead which also comes at a significant but necessary cost given the nature of our work.

Significant Post Year End Events

Since the end of this current financial period Solent Rescue has registered for the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS). GASDS allows Solent Rescue to claim 25% gift aid on all small donations under £30, at the time of publishing this report work is ongoing to calculate the value that can be claimed which can also be back dated 4 years.

Summary

In summary Solent rescue has experienced a challenging yet rewarding year and continues to be at the best operational state it has been in many years which in turn puts us in the best position we can possibly be to continue to work towards our outlined aims and objectives. Solent Rescue is grateful to all our members who volunteer their time and skills and the many supporters who have contributed to helping us to meet our aims and objectives.



Financial Review

Reserves Policy

To ensure that the Charity continues to be in a position to carry out the main objective of advancement of health or saving of life a cash reserve policy of £25,000 has been put in place. Taking into account the ring fenced funds this general reserve level has been breached due to the replacement cost of 2 new engines for Solent Rescue 1, given this situation the Trustees are now approving all spend until such a time where cash levels return to a level where approvals can be delegated back the operational teams. Significant effort to return to the reserves level has already occurred and at the time of writing the adjusted bank account is back to within £2k of the set reserves level, the implementation of the GASDS will further help towards a return to the reserves level. Given this the trustees consider the charity a going concern for the next financial year.

Ringfenced Funds

As at 30th September 2024 £24,098 of funds are ringfenced, the majority of this balance relates to a £10k grant from the Charities Aid Foundation to cover 50% of all training costs over the next 2 years therefore Solent Rescue has ringfenced a further £10k to be spent on training.

Income

This current year has seen a big step change in the funding receipts, returning to a level seen in previous years with 2022/23 being a significantly challenging period. Solent Rescue has seen a 70% year on year increase in the amount of donations from street collections and 298% increase in general donations, these are donations from companies or individuals to cover the general running of costs of Solent Rescue and not tied to a particular type of spend.

Profit and Loss Account

For period ending 30th September 2024

	Note	Sept 2023/24 £	Sept 2023/24 £	Sept 2022/23 £	Sept 2022/23 £
Income					
Grants		28,415		4,244	
Donations		20,180		7,699	
Total Income	1		48,595		11,943
Profit/(loss) on sale of assets			0		(218)
Expenses					
Fuel		5,050		2,750	
Maintenance		11,798		15,033	
Road Vehicle Costs		1,399		1,396	
Medical/First Aid		4,349		2,662	
Training		1,045		4,743	
Crew Gear		4,604		2,389	
Misc Costs		2,736		2,047	
Depreciation		23,978		16,197	
Total Expenditure	2		(54,959)		(47,217)
Surplus/(Deficit) for period			(6,364)		(35,492)
Operating Expenditure		54,959		47,217	
Less Depreciation		(23,978)		(16,197)	
Total Operating Cash Expenditure			30,981		31,020
Capital Expenditure		25,043		700	
Capital Disposals		0		(1,100)	
Total Capital Expenditure			25,043		(400)
Total Cash Expenditure			56,024		30,620

Balance Sheet

As at 30th September 2024

	Note	30/9/24 £	30/9/24 £	30/9/23 £	30/9/23 £
Buildings		18,060		20,977	
Boats and Vehicles		44,224		43,229	
Crew Personal Protection		2,987		0	
Total Fixed Assets			65,271		64,206
Cash In Hand and at Bank			42,047		46,459
Debtors	3		2,975		5,992
Total Current Assets			45,022		52,451
Current Liabilities	3		0		0
Total Assets and Liabilities			110,293		116,657
Capital and Reserves					
Reserves brought forward		116,657		152,149	
Surplus/(deficit) in period		(6,364)		(35,492)	
Total Capital and Reserves			110,293		116,657

Notes to Accounts

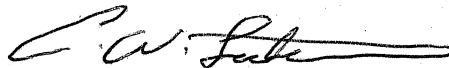
These accounts have been produced on a cash basis, and have been through the independent review process as described by the Charity Commission.

- 1 Significant increase year on year from specific grants and general donations, see Chairmans report for more detail
- 2 In line with policy the new SR1 engines have been depreciated by a full year charge.
- 3 Solent Rescue has no long term debts / liabilities at the time of the balance sheet date. Short term debt consists of VAT and fuel duty refunds due.

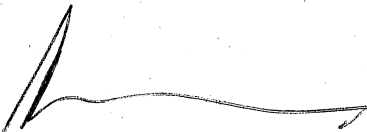
The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 24/11/25 and were signed on its behalf by:



Russell Hemmings ACMA CGMA – Treasurer



Carl Seabourne – Chairman



Bruce McKoen – Secretary

Independent Examiners Report

To the trustees and members of Solent Rescue, charity number 267039.

I report to the trustees and members on the accounts for the above charity for the year ended 30th September 2024 as set out on pages 7-8 above.

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. I report in respect of my examination of the charity 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.

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 kept in accordance of section 130 of the act and
- The accounts do 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.

Signed: 

Date: 24 January 2025

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body: ACMA, CGMA

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