



Charity No: 267039

Trustees Annual Report

For the year ended 30th September 2025



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

Trustees Annual Report

September 2025

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	March 2023
Nathan Mansbridge	Trustee	December 2022
Sarah Peachey	Trustee	February 2025

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 previous 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

During this financial year Solent Rescue has passed its probationary period as a declared facility with His Majesty's Coastguard (HMCG). This has included a comprehensive review of our equipment, training, readiness and radio communication, this is to ensure we are fully equipped and ready to assist in a search and rescue operation. This status means a great deal to Solent Rescue as it demonstrates our level of commitment and professionalism. To maintain our declared facility status involves regular reviews with HMCG.

Being a declared facility means that we can be tasked by 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, Cowes Week and public holidays.

Solent Rescue has a total of 47 volunteers, 39 of these volunteers are operational either on the boats or landside, sometimes both. Solent Rescue has recruited 7 new volunteers in the year with a paramedic, student paramedic and ex RNLI crew amongst them. We have recorded a total of 6,708 hours over the past 12 months, compared to 6,485 during the prior 12 month period, this includes responding to incidents, training, fundraising and the admin work that goes on in the background.

This year Solent Rescue has responded to 50 incidents, up from 36 the previous year. 46 of these have been as sea and 4 were first aid incidents within the Lepe Country Park

Maintenance

Maintenance has always been a priority for Solent Rescue but even more so as a declared facility, being on call 24/7. Both boats have benefited from the skills and knowledge of our volunteer maintenance team, a few of which are qualified marine engineers. Solent Rescue is extremely grateful for their skills and knowledge to help minimise the time the boats are out of service and the cost of maintenance, like all crew at Solent Rescue they volunteer their time. Solent Rescue 1 (SR1) our larger lifeboat has been kept at almost constant readiness with only a few short periods of downtime in the year. This is an older boat though and at some point this will need to be replaced.

Solent Rescue 2 (SR2) is a D-Class boat and during this latest financial year has had a refit which took just over 2 weeks to complete. Both SR1 and SR2 have benefited from a proactive maintenance schedule with the aim to minimise down time and being off call with HMRC.



Fundraising

During this financial year a total of £32,190 has been raised to cover the cost of running Solent Rescue. Nearly £8,000 has come from generous donations from the public when we have been out collecting in various local areas and we are very grateful to those that regularly donate via these collections and also to those that give each month directly. As in previous years we have also received vital funding from The National Lottery.

We should also mention the Hythe Social Club, Lord Leverhulme Charitable Trust, Royal Southern Yacht Club and the Waterside Christmas Fire Engine for their very generous donations over the year.

All fundraising goes directly to the charity and helps Solent Rescue to keep the boats afloat as well as providing a lookout and first aid service at Lepe Country Park. Solent Rescue is 100% run by volunteers.

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.

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 £20,000 has been put in place, this was reduced from £25,000 at the latest AGM which took into account the brand new engines purchased for SR1 and the now lower risk of having to replace them.

Ringfenced Funds

As at 30th September 2025 £15,153 of funds are ringfenced, the majority of this balance relates a training grant received in the prior financial year.

Income

A total of £32,190 has been raised this year. If the one-off ringfenced grants from the previous financial year are removed this current year is similar to last year.

Profit and Loss Account

For period ending 30th September 2025

	Note	Sept 2024/25 £	Sept 2024/25 £	Sept 2023/24 £	Sept 2023/24 £
Income					
Grants		13,500		28,415	
Donations		18,690		20,180	
Total Income	1		32,190		48,595
Profit/(loss) on sale of assets			1,320		0
Expenses					
Fuel		4,864		5,050	
Maintenance		6,456		11,798	
Road Vehicle Costs		250		1,399	
Medical/First Aid		4,128		4,349	
Training		6,337		1,045	
Crew Gear		32		4,604	
Misc Costs		2,943		2,736	
Depreciation		17,085		23,978	
Total Expenditure	2		(42,096)		(54,959)
Surplus/(Deficit) for period			(8,586)		(6,364)
 Operating Expenditure		42,096		54,959	
Less Depreciation		(17,085)		(23,978)	
Total Operating Cash Expenditure			25,010		30,981
Capital Expenditure		5,700		25,043	
Capital Disposals		(4,210)		0	
Total Capital Expenditure			1,500		25,043
 Total Cash Expenditure			26,510		56,024

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As at 30th September 2025

	Note	30/9/25 £	30/9/25 £	30/9/24 £	30/9/24 £
Buildings		15,392		18,060	
Boats and Vehicles		31,597		44,224	
Crew Personal Protection		4,016		2,987	
Total Fixed Assets			51,005		65,271
Cash In Hand and at Bank		48,589		42,047	
Debtors	3	2,113		2,975	
Total Current Assets			50,702		45,022
Current Liabilities	3		0		0
Total Assets and Liabilities			101,707		110,293
Capital and Reserves					
Reserves brought forward		110,293		116,657	
Surplus/(deficit) in period		(8,586)		(6,364)	
Total Capital and Reserves			101,707		110,293

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 The main driver year on year is the one-off training grant received in the year 23/24
- 2 A more expensive SR1 electrical refit in 23/24 compared with a lower value refit of the D-Class in the current year. During the current year there has been higher spending on training which includes a Casualty Care course and putting 3 crew through a powerboat course.
- 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 7/2/26 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 2025 as set out on pages 6-7 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: *HM Baxendale*

Date: *02/02/2026*

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body: *CIMA*

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