

Old Town Youth Club

AN INDEPENDENT CLUB

AFFILIATED TO:
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION
SPORTED
CROYDON VOLUNTARY ACTION
REGISTERED WITH CROYDON COUNCIL

CHARLES MAJOR CENTRE

DUPPAS HILL TERRACE, CROYDON, SURREY. CR0 4BA
Telephone: 020 8688 9921

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

FOR THE PERIOD

1 APRIL 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OFFICERS
Hon. Chairman: Alan Homes
Hon. Vice Chairman: Andrew Patten
Hon. Treasurer: Helen Jones

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Ray Edwards, Paul Songer, Veronica Anglin
Dave Lawrence, Karen Barnes, Stan Fowler,

**ADVISOR TO THE
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** Tony Harris

BANKERS: Lloyds Bank, North End, Croydon

HON. SOLICITOR:

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER David Weeden, FCA, Hamilton Eddy and Co.

CUSTODIAN TRUSTEES: National Association of Clubs for Young People

**PART TIME YOUTH and
COMMUNITY WORKER** Tony Harris

PART TIME STEWARD: Tracy Shirley

Profile of Trustees/Management Committee Members during 2023/24

Chairman:	Alan Homes (85)	Joined M/C 1974 Neighbour of Tony Harris at Addiscombe Chairman to 1997, re-elected 30.1.2001
V Chairman	Andrew Patten (53)	Joined Club 1983 Joined M/C 30 September 2020 Elected Vice Chairman 25 November 2021
Treasurer:	Helen Jones (56)	Joined Club 1981 Ex Members Committee Joined M/C 10 January 2005 Elected Treasurer 10 April 2019
Members:	Stan Fowler (72)	Joined Club 1965, Chairman Members Comm. 1970, Qual. P/T Youth Worker, Joined M/C 1978 Chairman 1997 to 30.1.2001
	Ray Edwards (61)	Joined Club 1978 Joined M/C March 1996
	Dave Lawrence (68)	Joined Club 1971 Member of M/C 1997 to 2006 Re-Joined M/C 25 February 2015
	Paul Songer (65)	Joined M/C 27 January 2016 Qual. Youth Worker Long association with club as a member of SCYP Staff
	Karen Barnes (56)	Joined M/C 25 May 2016 Local Resident
	Veronica Anglin (59)	Joined Club 1977 Joined M/C 20 October 2021
	Ronny Leow (74)	Joined Club 1969 Joined M/C 17 October 2022
Advisor	Tony Harris (85)	Full Time Youth and Community Worker Old Town Youth Club July 1964 to March 1998 Joined M/C 23 April 1998 to 25 February 2004 Part Time Voluntary Youth and Community Worker April 1998 to date
Steward	Tracy Shirley (56)	Joined Club 1981 Appointed Steward September 2008 to date

CHAIRMANS REPORT

I have not been active and able to attend meetings for some time now due to family matters and feel I must now step down now and retire after 50 years as a Trustee and as Chairman.

I often reflect on my time at the club and so wish it could return to those days when it was full of young people having wonderful fun together. In the days when our local youths had somewhere to go and something to do. You have only to look at the Honour Boards to get an idea of what I am talking about and of the many competitions competed for in those years with many going on to County and National Championships. The members took part in many Local, County, National and International Events including National Association of Youth Clubs – Canoeing Dover to Calais, River Rhine and Moselle and on the Annual 100 mile Canoe Test 30 or more times. London Union of Youth Clubs provided many activities with the club sending members on 3 Expeditions to climb the Atlas Mountains in Morocco. Club trips Camping, Pony Trekking, Rock Climbing in Wales and the Lake District – the list is endless.

Volunteers and Members have achieved amazing projects – building the Floodlit Games Area, structural alterations to the club building, new ceiling in the club hall and decorating the club, etc. No Health and Safety in those days!

Our Hareswith Pond Nature Study and Outdoor Activity Centre at Storrington has provided young people with experiences they will never forget – Conservation work, building work, Zip wire, dredging the lake but the biggest achievement of all was by those members that took part in the ‘Storrington Sponsored Walk’ 6 occasions when members walked from Croydon to Hareswith 42 miles, then back, sleeping at Newdigate, and 100 miles on one year in 48 hours 7 boys and girls completed it! Stupendous!

Besides all this there were the inter club competitions in many of the indoor activities and boys and girls football teams. In those days we had twelve fully staffed Youth Clubs in Croydon which also inaugurated the Croydon Carnival!

When you look at this and understand that this was happening in Croydon and was then repeated throughout the land it makes me very upset these days that our politicians have disregarded their responsibility to the young of this nation and committed them to the streets. They can see the consequences of this and should feel thoroughly ashamed.

Throughout this time we at Old Town Youth Club have been blessed with wonderful, wonderful staff led by the legendary Tony Harris.

And not forgetting all those who have served on our Committee without whom we would not exist

All this has stemmed from the vision and the generosity of our founder ‘Boss’ Major in 1894.

To finish I thank all our current committee members and especially Andrew Patten who as Vice Chair has steered the club admirably over the past four years. I am confident he will step up and take the Chair and continue the job in his already established superb manner.

Alan Homes
Chairman

TREASURERS REPORT

The Accounts are for the financial year 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024 and show a surplus of £1291.91 with a closing bank balance of £65,245.78. The reason for this low surplus was due to many organizations still slowly coming out of recovery from Covid 19, but we have had an Afterschool Club starting up, and that lead to the Supreme Education Foundation running a Summer and a Christmas Holiday scheme, which raised our income slightly up. Unfortunately no lettings at our Hareswith Pond Nature Study and Outdoor Pursuits Centre as it is still closed due to Ash die back trees being deceased and the cost of dealing with it.

General Fund - shows that there is a £3546.72 surplus, against the surplus of £963.60 of the previous year. This increase is partly due to Covid 19 having a knock-on effect with the organization's lettings etc, slowly coming back in and building up again, so although we had some lettings in, it only just covered the running costs. The club had its Annual Pat Testing and 5 yearly Building Hard wire Test done, which required some faults being rectified. The opportunity was taken to upgrade the hall lighting from old fluorescent to Energy Saving LED Lights and the Table Tennis Club has now got the best lighting for playing in league matches etc. Ace Van Hire, based a few hundred yards from the club, continued to hire the carpark when it is not needed for club use, and has been a good regular source income.

Storrington Fund - Showed a deficit of £2254.81. This being the result of Hareswith lettings being cancelled and closed due to dangerous Ash die back deceased trees, making the site unsafe to let, and the cost of tree surgery to remove the most dangerous trees. Unfortunately, we had a tree that fell onto a neighbor's property, damaging some fence panels and a gazebo for which we had to re-imbursed them for their cost of repairs. We have regular voluntary Working Parties down at the site, and Will Fox, a qualified tree surgeon assisted by Norvin, directs the work program, but there is still around 50 or more trees still to be cut down and cleared. The voluntary work by all the Volunteers would not be taking place without their dedication to get the site safe for young people to use again. We give special thanks to Norvin owner of Allseasons Tool Hire who provides all the equipment we need free of charge as well as many days of tree felling with his tree surgery friend Will. Many thanks to the various parties who donated tools, materials, time and labour, these persons and companies being highlighted in both the Chairman's and Leaders reports.

We are thankful to both Croydon and Horsham Councils for some Rate Relief resulting in some Business Rates being paid for the Croydon Old Town premises and very little for the Hareswith premises.

Our big thanks to our volunteer Tony Backshall, an old member from the seventies, who comes in almost every week to assist Tracy with things that need to be done manually.

We would also like to thank Tom Simmonds, owner of Allsaved, who has provided the servicing and replacement of fire extinguishers at both Croydon and Storrington for the many years free of charge.

We really do appreciate and thank David and Daniel Weeden of Hamilton Eddy and Co for their continued support in providing Payroll services and Independent Examination of the Accounts and this Report free of charge.

Helen Jones
Hon. Treasurer

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY REPORT

I must start my report with a very special thank you to the retiring Chairman Alan Homes who, as my neighbour in Addiscombe, offered to come and help me at the club in 1974 and has been with us ever since 50 years of service! Having supported us in so many ways not least when we fought to keep the club going when the Council tried to close us in 1998. We are still serving the Community 26 years later and would not be here without the magnificent support given to us by all the Committee Members, Volunteers, Staff, Parents and Members.

HARESWITH STORRINGTON We found ourselves restricted by ash die back again this year. Ash die back is when the ash trees die back from the tips of their branches and the branches drop off, particularly in the wind when they knock against each other. This is of course very dangerous and we were advised to close the site after a survey showed that over 100 ash trees were on the site and one van in the car park had a branch fall on it. Working Parties of volunteers, led by Norvin, who also supplied Allseasons Hire Shop equipment free of charge, Kirsty, Philip, Paul and family, Dave, Andrew and Nicola, Jamie, Lee; Eddy Jevons, Ray Edwards(old club Members from 70/80's), Will(Tree Surgeon of Fox Forestry), Tony and Val - have carried out many weekends and many large trees have been felled during long working days at the weekends. Our thanks to all who come, and will be coming for a good time yet, before we can re-open the site.

Our thanks to local's Ruth and Allsaved Fire Extinguishers for providing free equipment and servicing. Andrew of Vice Chairman has got the Woodland Trust involved and we have their report on our Ancient Woodland Status and a Woodland Management Plan. We now know that our Lost Woods Grant Application to remove the invasive species of Laurel and Rhododendron has been successful and contractors will be carrying the work in the coming months. In the meantime we have many more trees to fell and work to do! .

CO-OPERATION WITH THE COMMUNITY AND OTHER AGENCIES

BALL GAMES AREA was used by users when on the premises.

PUPIL REFERRAL UNITS Coningsby and Moving On continued to use the premises on various days.

BABY BALLETT classes on Friday mornings has been successful and have extended their session.

CHILDRENS BIRTHDAY PARTIES bookings are taking place again.

CROYDON DROP IN CONSELLING SERVICE continued their regular staff training sessions and were planning to re-start a Girls Evening session after Easter, as they had been running before Covid.

TABLE TENNIS COACHING continues on Saturday Mornings

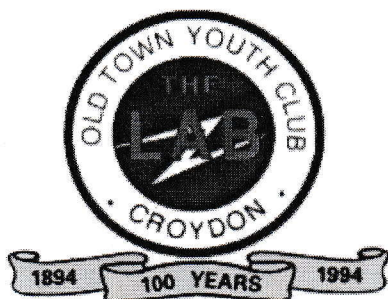
SUPREME EDUCATION ran Holiday Play Schemes in Summer and October. It was good to see so many young people using the premises again.

LL AFTER SCHOOL CLUB is in the process of getting set up after a successful trial.

I would just like to say a Special thank you to Andrew who as Acting Chairman has got things moving, particularly at Hareswith, and Tracy who, as always in her 15 years with us as Steward, has risen to every challenge and kept things running smoothly.

Last but not least may I thank all those individuals and companies that have provided support in so many ways help and advise, materials and equipment, labour to get things done when it was needed most.

Tony Harris – Youth and Community Worker



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CROYDON VOLUNTARY ACTION
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CHARLES MAJOR CENTRE

DUPPAS HILL TERRACE, CROYDON, SURREY. CR0 4BA
Telephone: 020 8688 9921

CLUB HOUSE - APPROX. 3750 SQ. FT. 2-STOREY, PURPOSE BUILT FREEHOLD - OWNED BY CLUB

GROUND FLOOR

Coffee Bar/ Games Area:	38 ft. x 15 ft. includes chairs, coffee tables, table games and catering equipment. Table Tennis Table, Pool Table, Air Hockey and Table Football.
Meetings/Activity Room:	20 ft. x 15 ft. - contains chairs and tables
Outdoor Pursuits Room/ Workshop	20 ft. x 15 ft. Storage for Camping and Canoeing Equipment. paddle, spray cover, bouyancy aid, wet suit, helmet and waterproof containers, tent, sleeping bag, bivy bag, karrimat, water-proof anorak and trousers, Mess tents, kitchen equipment. Art and Craft Equipment. Cleaning materials and equipment. Maintenance tools.
Office:	11 ft. x 8 ft.
Boiler Room Gents' Toilet	Foyer and Staircase Ladies Toilet
	Disabled Toilet

FIRST FLOOR

Hall:	55 ft. x 28 ft. 5 Table Tennis Tables. Badminton Court, Unihoc pitch.
Stage:	Storage: 100 Chairs, 80 ft. Trestle Tables and Benches. Bouncy Castle.

EXTERNAL

Floodlit Games Area	80 ft. x 40 ft. with storage bunker.
Car Park:	80 ft. x 40 ft. Canoe Trailer.

HARESWITH POND NATURE STUDY AND OUTDOOR PURSUITS CENTRE - STORRINGTON FREEHOLD - OWNED BY THE CLUB

8.5 acres of mixed woodland with 2 acres of lake and stream. Members built accommodation for 12 persons, 30 ft. x 20 ft. with two bunk bedrooms, kitchen/common room, toilets and hot shower. Brick built, elm board clad with Marley Tile Roof. Mains electricity and water. 30ft x 7ft Storage shed.

ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE AT OLD TOWN YOUTH CLUB

ACTIVITIES THAT TAKE PLACE EVERY DAY

Football	Ball Games Area
Basketball	Ball Games Area
Pool	Games Room
Table Tennis	Games Room
Air Hockey	Games Room
Table Football	Small Games Room
Badminton	Hall

ACTIVITIES THAT TAKE PLACE SOME DAYS

Chess/Draughts	Games Room
Four in a Row	Games Room
Giant Jenga	Games Room
Unihock	Hall
Bouncy Castle	Hall
Football Coaching	Hall
Birthday Parties	Hall
Polling Station	Ground Floor
Training Courses	

ACTIVITY EQUIPMENT/FACILITIES AVAILABLE IF REQUIRED

Rounders	Field
Tug of War Rope	Field
Football	Field
Short Tennis	Field or Ball Games Area
Volleyball	Ball Games Area
Skittles	Hall
Table Skittles	Games Room
Art and Crafts	Stocks of various materials and equipment
24 Canoes	of various designs/disciplines with all necessary equipment
Canoe/Box Trailer	to carry 14 Canoes and Equipment
Camping Equipment	
Mess Tents and Camp Catering Equipment	
Tables, Benches and Chairs	
Tripod Screen	
Various Country/Forestry Conservation Tools	
Various Building Maintenance Tools	

OLD TOWN YOUTH CLUB **STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**

Date from	Apr-23	Apr-22
Date to	Mar-24	Mar-23

BANK & CASH BALANCES

Cash at Bank (General A/C)	65,144.76	63,852.85
Cash at Bank (Business A/C)	0.52	0.52
Cash in Hand	100.00	100.00

Closing Balance	<u>£ 65,245.28</u>	<u>£ 63,953.37</u>
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RECEIPTS

General Funds

Club Hire	31,482.62	25,254.70
Donations/Grants	30.00	-
Jack Petchey	900.00	900.00
Party/User Deposits Received	2,340.00	500.00
Sundry Income	6.39	50.41

Storrington

Storrington Hire	435.00	180.00
Donations/Grants	90.00	-
Hire Deposits	100.00	400.00
Sundry Income	116.72	117.67

35,500.73	27,402.78
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PAYMENTS

General Funds

Salaries, NIC and Pensions	20,600.37	18,981.33
General Insurance	1,583.35	1,800.49
Utilities	2,060.07	1,567.30
Cleaning	126.97	298.42
Maintenance	3,321.73	328.00
Stationery	145.24	143.83
Telephone/Internet/Post	406.20	464.15
Jack Petchey - Table Tennis	900.00	900.00
Part/User Deposits Reimbursed	1,875.00	600.00
Sundry Expenses	193.36	657.99

Storrington

Repairs	1,810.10	999.00
Utilities	407.68	335.21
Hire Deposits Reimbursed	100.00	700.00
Sundry Expenses	678.75	475.02

34,208.82	28,250.74
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SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<u>1,291.91</u>	<u>(847.96)</u>
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BANK & CASH BALANCES AT START OF YEAR	63,953.37	64,801.33
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BANK & CASH BALANCES AT END OF YEAR	<u>£ 65,245.28</u>	<u>£ 63,953.37</u>
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OLD TOWN YOUTH CLUB **GENERAL FUND** **RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

Date from	Apr-23	April-22
Date to	Mar-24	March-23

RECEIPTS

Club Hire	£ 31,482.62	£ 25,254.70
Donations/Grants	£ 30.00	£ -
Party/User Deposits Received	£ 2,340.00	£ 500.00
Jack Petchey	£ 900.00	£ 900.00
General Income Sundries	£ 6.39	£ 50.41
Total Receipts	<u>£ 34,759.01</u>	<u>£ 26,705.11</u>

Payments

Salaries	£ 20,600.37	£ 18,981.33
General Insurance	£ 1,583.35	£ 1,800.49
Utilities	£ 2,060.07	£ 1,567.30
Cleaning	£ 126.97	£ 298.42
Maintenance	£ 3,321.73	£ 328.00
Stationery	£ 145.24	£ 143.83
Telephone/Internet/Post	£ 406.20	£ 464.15
Jack Petchey - Table Tennis	£ 900.00	£ 900.00
Party/User Deposits Returned	£ 1,875.00	£ 600.00
General Expenditure Sundries	£ 193.36	£ 657.99
Total Payments	<u>£ 31,212.29</u>	<u>£ 25,741.51</u>
Net (Payments)	<u>£ 3,546.72</u>	<u>£ 963.60</u>

OLD TOWN YOUTH CLUB **STORRINGTON DESIGNATED FUND** **RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

Date from	Apr-23	April-22
Date to	Mar-24	March-23

RECEIPTS

Storrington Hire	£ 435.00	£ 180.00
Storrington Donations/Grants	£ 90.00	£ -
Storrington Income Sundries	£ 116.72	£ 117.67
Storrington Deposits	£ 100.00	£ 400.00
Total Receipts	<u>£ 741.72</u>	<u>£ 697.67</u>

Payments

Storrington Repairs	£ 1,810.10	£ 999.00
Storrington Activities	£ -	£ -
Storrington Utilities	£ 407.68	£ 335.21
Storrington Deposits Reimbursed	£ 100.00	£ 700.00
Storrington Expense Sundries	£ 678.75	£ 475.02
Total Payments	<u>£ 2,996.53</u>	<u>£ 2,509.23</u>
Net (Payments)	<u>£(2,254.81)</u>	<u>£(1,811.56)</u>



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

OLD TOWN YOUTH CLUB

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 MARCH 2024

Charity no 286889

Set out on pages

1 to 10

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2024.

**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 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.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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 not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not 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: 15 November 2024

Name:

David Weeden

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

F.C.A.

Address:

Hamilton-Eddy & Co.

Chartered Accountant, 39 Tamworth Road, Croydon, CR0 1XU