



Wooden Spoon
The children's charity of rugby

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Changing
children's lives
through the
power of
rugby



www.woodenspoon.org.uk

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CHAIR'S REPORT



“

We have a dedicated and experienced Board of Trustees, with broad professional and commercial expertise, whose guidance, creativity and oversight have been vital.”

This year marks an important milestone for Wooden Spoon as we breathe life into a five year strategic plan for growth and development. It was heralded in last year's annual report and we have made strong progress over the past 12 months establishing the scale of need, planning, resourcing and embarking on action in the key areas of income generation, support for beneficiaries, community engagement and governance. Detail is in this Report.

Across the UK and Ireland, we continue to see inspiring organisations, and community-led initiatives, applying for Wooden Spoon grants. It is a testament to Wooden Spoon's success and profile but for every ten applications we receive, currently, we are only able to fund one. Each application is based upon a powerful idea, a pressing local need and the potential for real change. We are determined to meet the need for many more projects by scaling up: raising more funds, forging stronger/wider partnerships, resourcing appropriately and investing in the systems, and people, that will drive sustainable change.

We have a dedicated and experienced Board of Trustees, with broad professional and commercial expertise, whose guidance, creativity and oversight have been vital. Their input ensures that our work remains focused, accountable and aligned with our long-term goals. Their commitment and energy play a key role in driving our mission forward.

Wooden Spoon's highly motivated and tireless executive teams have embraced the challenge. The charity continues to rely upon its devoted volunteers, members, supporters and partners who share Wooden Spoon's vision and values. The challenge for growth is underpinned by a collective and collaborative effort to deliver even more communities get the help they need.

Hope you enjoy the report. Visit the website for further information. Feel free to comment and please join in!



Quentin Smith, Chairman
Wooden Spoon

CEO'S REPORT



“

Together, we are building a more inclusive future for children and young people through the power of rugby. Thank you for being part of this incredible journey.”

It is a privilege to lead Wooden Spoon, the children's charity of rugby, and I am incredibly proud of the impact we have made together over the past year. At the heart of everything we do are our dedicated volunteers and donors, whose passion and commitment continue to drive meaningful change. I would like to thank each and every one of them for their unwavering support.

This year has been a step forward in our mission. As part of our commitment to making rugby and live sport more inclusive, we have funded sensory rooms at **Allianz Stadium and Murrayfield Stadium**, ensuring that children and young people with neurodiversity can experience the thrill of live matches in a supportive environment, opening the entire experience up to many families who would never get to attend a game at a stadium without this provision. This milestone exemplifies our dedication to breaking down barriers and ensuring rugby is a sport for all.

We also proudly marked our first-ever **National Wooden Spoon Day on 19th March**, and it was truly inspiring to see our social media channels overflowing with love and support. This special day highlighted the incredible work of our volunteers, fundraisers, and beneficiaries, reinforcing the life-changing impact of our charity.

A further highlight of the year was **Tag Fest**, which shone a spotlight on some remarkable young people – many of whom may have previously been left on the sidelines. Events like this reinforce our belief that every child deserves the opportunity to thrive through sport.

As we continue to align all our efforts with our **five-year strategy**, we remain focused on delivering sustainable, impactful projects that transform young lives. Our partnership with **The Lions Trust** is a testament to this commitment, as we work alongside like-minded organisations that share our values.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to our all our corporate supporters and especially Young's Pubs, whose extraordinary fundraising efforts have raised over £200,000 for Wooden Spoon. Their generosity and dedication are making a profound difference in the lives of so many young people.

Together, we are building a more inclusive future for children and young people through the power of rugby. Thank you for being part of this incredible journey.



Sarah Webb, CEO
Wooden Spoon



ABOUT US

VISION

Through the power of rugby, every child and young person has access to the best life opportunities, no matter what their background.

MISSION

To positively transform the lives of vulnerable children and young people through the power of rugby.

VALUES



Fun



Passion



Teamwork



Integrity

OUR WORK

Wooden Spoon is a dynamic and impactful charity dedicated to transforming the lives of children and young people through the power of the rugby community.

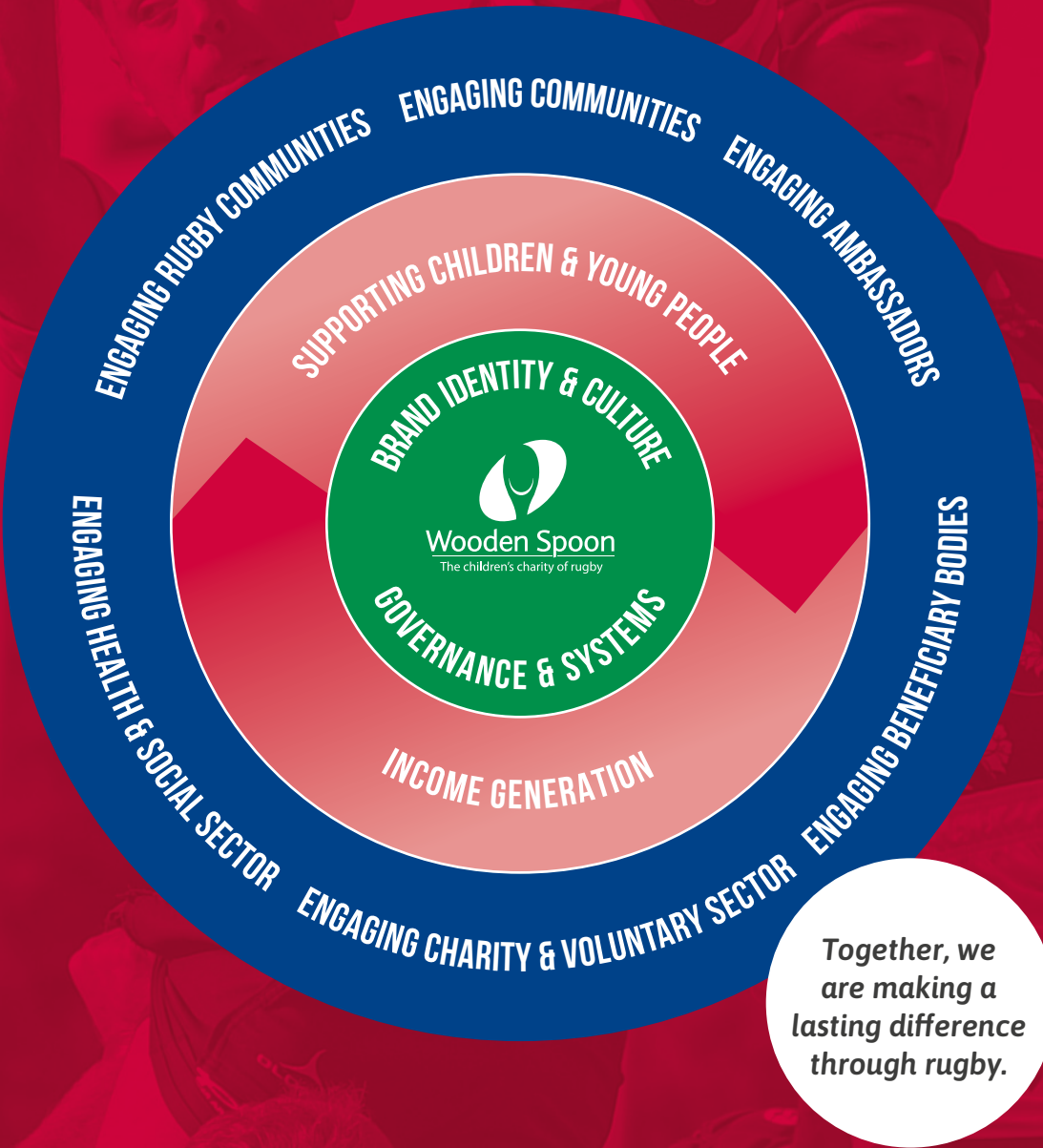
We provide grants to local charities and organisations who work to give the best life opportunities to children and young people living with disabilities, those disadvantaged and those disengaged from society.



STRATEGIC VISION & GOVERNANCE

Our strategic vision is founded on three core pillars, each designed to advance our mission while being underpinned by a strong governance framework. This governance structure is not merely a support system but a fundamental component that enables us to equip our staff, volunteers, and grant recipients with the most effective tools and systems. It also ensures that our financial operations are conducted with the highest standards of transparency, excellence, and efficiency.

This comprehensive approach underscores our commitment to creating a meaningful and lasting impact on the lives of young people through the transformative power of rugby. Looking ahead, we remain confident that, with the continued support of our members, donors, and volunteers, we will achieve our ambitious objectives and further strengthen our reach and influence.



LOOKING BACK & LOOKING AHEAD

GOVERNANCE

Looking Back:

- ✓ Implemented Salesforce Marketing Cloud to enhance membership database management and communication.
- ✓ Launched online Expression of Wish grant application process to streamline access and efficiency.
- ✓ Aligned governance board papers with strategic priorities for improved clarity and oversight.
- ✓ Increased volunteer engagement through:
 - Live Team Talk webinars.
 - Regular updates and communications.

Looking Ahead:

- ✓ Continue refining membership management using advanced tools.
- ✓ Launch a volunteer recognition programme to celebrate their contributions.
- ✓ Explore added benefits for staff, including training and development opportunities.



INCOME GENERATION

Looking Back:

- ✓ Appointed a dedicated Individual Giving Officer to support regular donors and fundraisers.
- ✓ Introduced a membership box to increase member value and engagement.
- ✓ Launched a new challenge series to offer diverse fundraising opportunities.
- ✓ Recruited a Head of Corporate Partnerships to strengthen existing partnership and dive new business development

Looking Ahead:

- ✓ Implement an uplift in monthly membership donations (first increase in 6 years).
- ✓ Launch a Legacy Campaign to promote long-term giving.
- ✓ Develop a strategy to attract new corporate partners and identify more major donors





SUPPORTING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Looking Back:

- ✓ Gained deeper insight into the emerging needs of young people, particularly around mental health.
- ✓ Surpassed last year's project spend, enabling greater reach and impact.

Looking Ahead:

- ✓ Continue sourcing and supporting impactful projects aligned with evolving needs.
- ✓ Commit to transparent reporting on project outcomes and societal impact.

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

Looking Back:

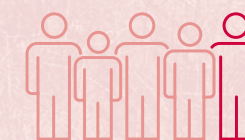
- ✓ Continued our partnership with the Lions Trust Charity Partner, leading to collaboration with LooseHeadz on:
 - The Longest Game – a Guinness World Record rugby fundraiser.
- ✓ Held the first-ever National Wooden Spoon Day, uniting supporters and beneficiaries online.
- ✓ Strengthened partnerships and community engagement through:
 - Tag Fest featuring ambassador Jodie Ounsley.
 - New partnership with the Inter-Services Championship to engage Armed Forces audiences.

Looking Ahead:

- ✓ Deepen engagement with partner and grassroots rugby clubs to expand community reach.
- ✓ Build relationships with schools and educational institutions to:
 - Promote awareness of our mission.
 - Encourage youth-led fundraising efforts.



"Tag Fest shone a spotlight on some remarkable young people – many of whom may have previously been left on the sidelines."



1 IN 5

CHILDREN IN THE UK ARE NEURODIVERGENT*

Wooden Spoon has funded over 100 sensory spaces across the UK and Ireland, totalling over £4.6 million helping over 202,000 beneficiaries.



3 IN 4

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES DON'T PLAY SPORT AT SCHOOL*

The Wooden Spoon International tag rugby festival (Tag Fest) gives players with mild and severe learning difficulties the opportunity to be a rugby player.



THE CHALLENGES WE FACE



1 IN 5

CHILDREN HAVE A MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE*

Wooden Spoon supports The Wave Project that enhances confidence, reduces isolation and increases the wellbeing of young people through surf therapy.

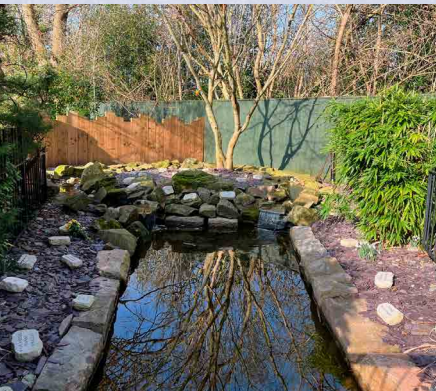


1 IN 3

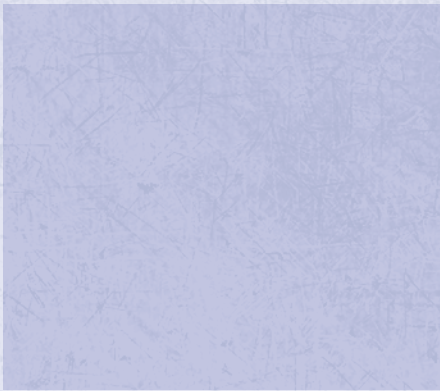
CHILDREN LIVE IN POVERTY*

Wooden Spoon supports The Boathouse Youth in Blackpool who work with children and young people from socio-economically deprived communities, to help tackle the challenges they're experiencing





110
PROJECTS SUPPORTED



PROJECTS IN
30
REGIONS



OUR WORK IN NUMBERS



£1.5
MILLION APPROVED
FOR PROJECTS*



“Looking ahead, we remain confident that, with the continued support of our members, donors, and volunteers, we will achieve our ambitious objectives and further strengthen our reach and influence.”

WE HAVE SUPPORTED
239,645
CHILDREN

FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

£1,804,807
RAISED BY OUR REGIONAL
VOLUNTEERS



£222,495
RAISED BY YOUNG'S PUBS



£97,621
RAISED AT VETS FEST 24

£86,535
RAISED AT THE 2024
LONDON MARATHON



£18,000
RAISED BY THE TUK TUK CHALLENGE

OUR CORPORATE & RUGBY SUPPORTERS

Our corporate and rugby supporters have helped us raise our profile and go above and beyond with our fundraising enabling us to support more children who need our help.



THE PROJECTS WE FUND

Wooden Spoon allocates funds to support its charitable mission: *“Our objective is to positively impact the lives of children and young people through our dedication to high-quality charitable initiatives.”*

To qualify for funding, projects must aim to enhance and support the lives of children and young people (under 25 years old or those with a cognitive age under 25) who face physical, mental, or social challenges.

All projects must agree to provide clear information on the impact of the grant two and five years after completion, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Eligible projects must directly engage with children and young people, offering activities or services that positively influence their lives. Beneficiaries of the grant should be located in the UK or Ireland.

Organisations seeking funding must demonstrate the implementation of policies that safeguard and promote the well-being and development of children and young people in their care. Additionally, proof of financial stability is required.

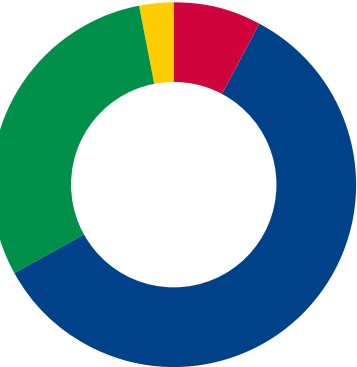


“Through the power of rugby, every child and young person has access to the best life opportunities, no matter what their background.”

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED

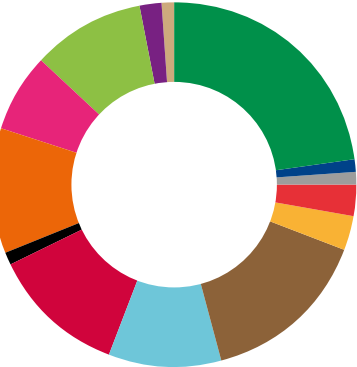


Age range
The chart below shows project approved by value in 2025:



- 0-4 years 9%
- 5-11 years 52%
- 12-18 years 31%
- 19-25 years 8%

Beneficiaries supported
We support children with a range of needs and conditions:



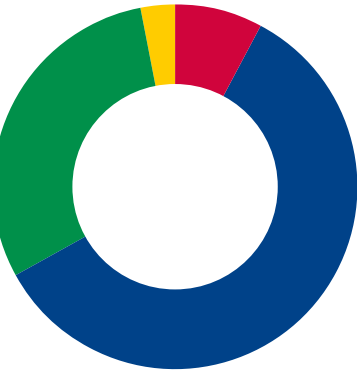
- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Autism 23% | Multiple disabilities 12% |
| Blindness 1% | Orthopaedic impairment 1% |
| Brain injury 1% | Other health impairment 11% |
| Deafness 3% | Speech and language 7% |
| Deprived 3% | Specific learning difficulties 10% |
| Emotional difficulties 15% | Visual impairment 2% |
| Intellectual disability 10% | Hearing impairment 1% |



HEALTH & WELLBEING

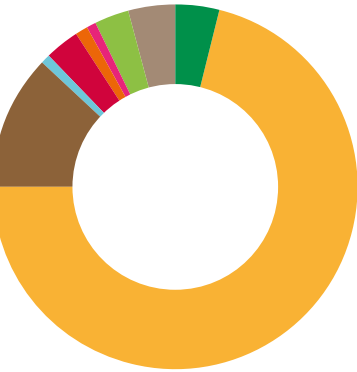


Health & Wellbeing projects approved by age range (years)



- 0-4 years 4%
- 5-11 years 28%
- 12-18 years 67%
- 19-25 years 1%

Health & Wellbeing projects approved by conditions supported



- Autism 4%
- Blindness 0%
- Brain injury 0%
- Deafness 0%
- Deprived 71%
- Emotional difficulties 12%
- Intellectual disability 1%
- Multiple disabilities 3%
- Orthopaedic impairment 0%
- Other health impairment 1%
- Speech and language 1%
- Specific learning difficulties 3%
- Visual impairment 1%
- Hearing impairment 4%

CASE STUDY: IT'S SO MUCH MORE THAN RUGBY



TAG FEST | GRANT AWARDED £55,000 | NATIONAL



There was an atmosphere of joy and inclusivity at Broadstreet RFC, in Coventry, as the Wooden Spoon International Tag Festival kicked off for a rugby-packed day full of team spirit.

Supported by rugby star Jodie Ounsley, the festival marked the start of our broader initiative to expand the disability rugby scene across the UK and Ireland.

Connor's mum, Helene tells us what a difference Tag Fest has made to her son: *"Connor feels like he doesn't fit in at school and is used to being left out."*



When I found out about Tag Fest I knew it was the perfect opportunity to help him feel like part of a team and I wasn't wrong – but what I wasn't aware of was how incredible an experience it would be.

"It was utterly heart-warming to see not tens, but hundreds of children, who might not otherwise get the opportunity to enjoy rugby, come together in mutual acceptance and harmony."

"It was a breath of fresh air to be in the company of others who don't judge and understand the challenges that come with parenting a child with additional needs."

"Words can barely describe the feeling. What we have experienced at Tag Fest was a holiday for my soul and something I thought my son would never get the chance to do."

My son told me that he loves his life now. We feel like we are part of something very special."

With 23 teams for Under and Over 15s with mild and severe learning disabilities, the festival was a tremendous success, bringing together players, families and supporters for a day celebrating the spirit of rugby and the power of inclusivity. Wooden Spoon Rugby Manager, Matt Mitchell, said:

"Tag Fest is a really joyful event focusing on building connections between individuals with different abilities who typically struggle with communication. They flourish when rugby is involved."

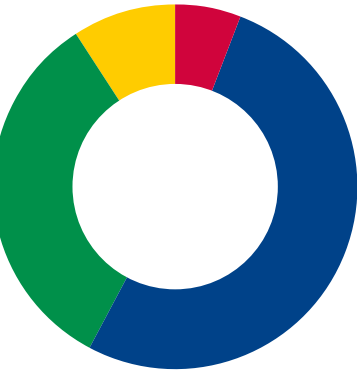
We thank all our teams, volunteers and supporters including Omerta and Valencia Waste Management for making this incredible event happen.

SPECIALIST EQUIPMENT



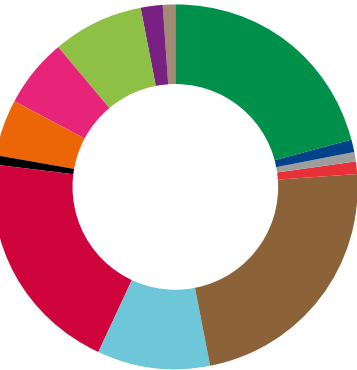
We provide firm foundations for brighter futures by building and funding specialist facilities.

Specialist equipment & facilities projects approved by age range (years)



- 0-4 years 6%
- 5-11 years 52%
- 12-18 years 33%
- 19-25 years 9%

Specialist equipment & facilities projects approved by conditions supported



- Autism 21%
- Blindness 1%
- Brain injury 1%
- Deafness 1%
- Deprived 0%
- Emotional difficulties 23%
- Intellectual disability 10%
- Multiple disabilities 20%
- Orthopaedic impairment 1%
- Other health impairment 5%
- Speech and language 6%
- Specific learning difficulties 8%
- Visual impairment 2%
- Hearing impairment 1%

CASE STUDY: BICYCLE MADE FOR TWO



WARMLEY WHEELERS | GRANT AWARDED £5,000 | BRISTOL, BATH & SOMERSET

Warmley Wheelers offers specialist equipment and a safe, friendly environment to support individuals who might otherwise find it challenging to ride a bike.

Wooden Spoon's donation enabled the Wheelers to add a side-by-side tandem with an electric motor to their fleet of specially adapted bicycles.

Service Coordinator John Simmons explained the significance of the tandem: *"The young people are sitting next to their carer. It's a chance to exercise in a controlled and safe way, allowing everyone to explore as much as they can."*

The cycle scheme utilizes a 4km stretch of the Bristol to Bath railway path, as well as a quieter area in Warmley Forest Park, to bring the freedom of cycling to everyone, regardless of ability. John has observed the benefits riders experience from the tandem: *"The bike allows them to put effort into the ride and gives riders a focused, positive experience that has benefits both during and after the ride."*



The new Vanraam tandem bike is the most used, most popular, and most requested of all the bikes we have." The surrounding scenery enhances the experience, adds John: *"It's beautiful; there are trees and nature. It's an old railway line, so there are a few tunnels. The tandem bike allows people to be out and about, watching the world go by and the seasons change. Some days it rains, some days it's sunshine – it's just nice to experience it all. It's good for mental wellbeing."* The children and young people also have the opportunity to improve their cycling skills. *"They might start with the Vanraam to get them moving and cycling. Then we progress them onto a solo trike and then onto a classic bicycle,"* said John.



SENSORY ROOMS & GARDENS



We aim to excite, engage and educate young minds by stimulating children's senses.

Sensory Rooms and Gardens projects approved by age range (years)



- 0-4 years 15%
- 5-11 years 64%
- 12-18 years 14%
- 19-25 years 7%

Sensory Rooms and Gardens projects approved by conditions supported



- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Autism 29% | Multiple disabilities 8% |
| Blindness 1% | Orthopaedic impairment 1% |
| Brain injury 2% | Other health impairment 4% |
| Deafness 2% | Speech and language 9% |
| Deprived 0% | Specific learning difficulties 13% |
| Emotional difficulties 12% | Visual impairment 3% |
| Intellectual disability 14% | Hearing impairment 2% |

CASE STUDY: AMBITIOUS ABOUT AUTISM



AMBITIOUS ABOUT AUTISM | GRANT AWARDED £20,000 | SURREY

Across the UK, a shortage of specialist school placements means that many children with autism miss out on the education they deserve.

Ambitious about Autism's mission is to stand with autistic children and young people, champion their rights, and create opportunities. They provide expert autism education in their London-based schools and college, as well as offering wide-ranging support beyond the classroom.

Children and young people with autism often have difficulty processing information, which can lead to sensory overload and severe anxiety. Sensory regulation is not only important for the young person's well-being but also enables them to learn. Wooden Spoon provided funds for a break-out space called The Cubbie, an immersive sensory experience.

The school is short of space, and The Cubbie offers a compact solution for pupils who need to regulate and reset away from others. Students have their own login with specific programmes. For example, if a child is interested in nature, their programme will have a nature theme.

The project was opened by rugby star Marcus Watson: *"The Cubbie is awesome. I really like the idea; it's going pretty well with the kids, which is great to hear."*

Executive Head Andy Nowak added: *"We have children here who weren't happy in their other school placements; mainstream school doesn't work for them. We try to create a nurturing, inclusive environment, but we're doing that in a building that wasn't designed for us."* The Cubbie fits into a small space in the existing school. Andy continues: *"We have lots of young people who use it for their everyday routine and regulation. The kids love it. It makes a difference every day of the week."*



PLAYGROUNDS & OUTDOOR SPACES

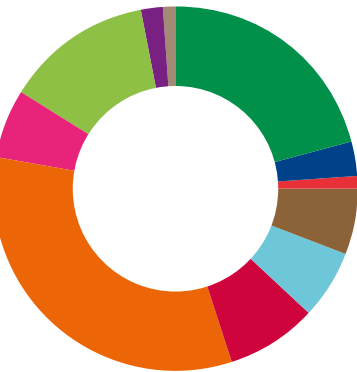


Playgrounds & Outdoor Activities approved by age range (years)



- 0-4 years 15%
- 5-11 years 50%
- 12-18 years 29%
- 19-25 years 6%

Playgrounds & Outdoor Activities approved by conditions supported



- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Autism 21% | Multiple disabilities 8% |
| Blindness 3% | Orthopaedic impairment 0% |
| Brain injury 0% | Other health impairment 33% |
| Deafness 1% | Speech and language 6% |
| Deprived 0% | Specific learning difficulties 13% |
| Emotional difficulties 6% | Visual impairment 2% |
| Intellectual disability 6% | Hearing impairment 1% |

CASE STUDY: ALL ABOARD! SAYS CAPTAIN BILL

PARK COMMUNITY ACADEMY | GRANT AWARDED £25,000 | LANCASHIRE



Sir Bill Beaumont took to the captain's bridge to launch Park Community Academy's new pirate ship, much to the delight of the school children.



The school caters to a wide range of needs, including autism, Down syndrome, sensory needs, social, emotional, and mental health challenges, speech, language, and communication difficulties, and physical disabilities.

Funded by Wooden Spoon, the pirate ship will help pupils develop gross motor skills and further enhance their imagination and creativity.

Assistant Headteacher Ben Whittaker said: "The pirate ship climbing frame will give our pupils the opportunity to be active, play, and develop social skills both independently and with support. They love it already; it's very popular."

Ben has also observed that children who previously didn't engage in traditional sports during breaks and lunchtimes are now using the pirate

ship—and, by being more active, are forming good life habits. With obesity rates in children rising, it is important for schools to ensure there are more opportunities for physical activity.

For the pupils, sensory and physical activities are also key to ensuring they can focus and succeed at their own level. Jensen, aged 11, has just started his second year at Park Community Academy. His mum, Catherine, explained: "Jensen can be boisterous. He also has epilepsy and needs monitoring. If Jensen bangs his head, there is a high possibility that he will have a seizure. Jensen now has opportunities for movement breaks when he needs to and is in a setting that is greater suited to meet his needs."

Jensen added: "It's amazing! The best climbing frame ever!"

EDUCATION



Engaging socially disadvantaged children and young people not in education, training or employment (NEET).

Education projects approved by age range (years)



- 0-4 years 0%
- 5-11 years 0%
- 12-18 years 100%
- 19-25 years 0%

Education projects approved by conditions supported



- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Autism 0% | Multiple disabilities 0% |
| Blindness 0% | Orthopaedic impairment 0% |
| Brain injury 0% | Other health impairment 0% |
| Deafness 96% | Speech and language 0% |
| Deprived 0% | Specific learning difficulties 4% |
| Emotional difficulties 0% | Visual impairment 0% |
| Intellectual disability 0% | Hearing impairment 0% |

CASE STUDY: TURNING POINT: HOW THE SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS TRANSFORMED FREDDIE'S PATH THROUGH SPORT AND MENTORSHIP



SoHK PROGRAMME | GRANT AWARDED £25,000 | NATIONAL



Freddie (name changed), a 15-year-old student, was referred to the School of Hard Knocks (SoHK) program due to persistent behavioural challenges, poor school attendance, and frequent internal exclusions. His disruptive attitude, lack of engagement in learning, and habitual lateness were significant concerns. Without a positive outlet or structured support, Freddie struggled to find motivation and direction in school.

Since joining SoHK, Freddie has made remarkable progress. The program has helped him improve his relationships with teachers and peers, manage his behaviour in the classroom, and increase his attendance—particularly on days when SoHK sessions were held. Through structured mentoring and the discipline of sport, Freddie has

developed a greater sense of responsibility and self-awareness, allowing him to engage more positively in school life. Reflecting on his experience, Freddie shared, *“SoHK helps me with day-to-day life. If something is going on, the staff encourage us to speak to them and we can have 1:1s.”*

The supportive environment and emphasis on personal development have given Freddie the tools to navigate challenges more effectively. His journey highlights the profound impact of sport and mentorship in empowering young people to overcome difficulties, make positive choices and look ahead to a brighter future.



OUR FINANCES

Structure, Governance and Management

Wooden Spoon was established in 1983 and registered as a charity in England and Wales in October 1984 (Charity Registration 326691). In February 2008 Wooden Spoon also registered in Scotland (Charity Registration SC039247). It is a company limited by guarantee, registered in September 1984 in England and Wales number 01847860 and latest Articles of Association amended in October 2007.

The charity comprises of a Council of Trustees, a national office headed up by a Senior Management team based in Hampshire, 38 volunteer Regional Committees and a subscribing social membership of over 7,000. The charity has a 100% owned subsidiary company WSS Events Ltd.

The Constitution of the Charity and the Council of Trustees

Wooden Spoon is governed by its Articles of Association. These provide that the charity will be overseen by the Trustees who are both the only full members of the charity and its directors. Together, the Trustees comprise the Council.

New Trustees are appointed by the Council which seeks to ensure that there is a broad range of relevant skills, encouraging diversity whilst giving due consideration to the range of experience required. The Trustees serve a three year term but can be reappointed for up to a further two succeeding terms.

The Trustees provide their time at no charge to the charity. The charity has no share capital and hence the Trustees have no disclosable interests in the company. No dividends may be paid to any members. Trustees are provided with details of their responsibilities as charity Trustees upon their appointment and receive training in the role of Trustee as part of their induction. Trustees are encouraged to continue to attend training events to brief them on their legal and other obligations under charity and company law whilst also assisting them in their role as a Council member.

The Council of Trustees meets at least four times each year. It is responsible for the effective governance of the charity and for safeguarding the charity's assets. The Trustees approve the commissioning of projects and the awarding of grants. In addition to sitting on the four sub-committees, Trustees are encouraged to help organise events, support the regions and attend project openings.

The Trustees who have served in the year and the Governance and Administrative information on page 53 form part of the Trustee Report.

Project Grants, Governance, Audit and Investment Committees

In order to promote good governance and best practice, the Council of Trustees has four committees.

Projects Grants Committee

The Projects Grants Committee responsibilities are to review all the charity's project proposals whether submitted by the regional committees or the national team, to ensure that the charity's projects comply with its charitable purposes and to approve the projects that meet its criteria. In line with criteria, grants for projects are made to institutions or charities only and the senior management team carry out due diligence on each application prior to submission to the committee. Regional committees are involved in project nomination and review, the project grant is made from the charity but it will be denoted as a project from the Wooden Spoon region where the local fundraising took place. All Trustees receive advance copies of all the projects to be approved and are invited to join the monthly meetings. The committee has delegated powers to the Committee Chair and the Director of Projects & Systems for projects below an agreed level, however, all projects are considered at the monthly meeting and if appropriate full approval is given. On issue of the grant letter the charity is then committed to the project and it is identified as a liability.

Governance Committee

The Governance Committee is responsible for ensuring that all matters of good governance and best business practice are effective throughout the entire charity, both at the national administrative office and in the Regions. The Committee maintains a risk register, reviews the execution of all delegated responsibilities with management and monitors the practical application of internal controls.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is responsible for overseeing the charity's preparation of annual accounts, considering reports from the auditor and advising the Council on financial control and accounting matters, in liaison with the Director of Finance & Operations.

Investment Committee

The Investment Committee considers investment policy and considers the risk of investment of free cash resources in liaison with information from external advisors.

Management

The Council of Trustees ensure that all activities are undertaken to further charitable purposes.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise of the Senior Management Team. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible to the Council of Trustees for the day to day running and execution of strategy and policy and is supported by the Director of Projects & Systems, the Director of Finance & Operations until December 2024 and the Director of Fundraising & Marketing. A Chief Operating Officer was appointing in January 2025 and takes up the position in April 2025.

The terms and pay of all staff is reviewed in April annually and recommendations are made to the Board. Pay for staff and reviews are benchmarked to similar organisations. The charity encourages fairness and respect, equal opportunity and ensures that everyone’s contribution is recognised and valued. It actively implements family friendly policies for its staff and encourages training and personal development.

The performance of the charity is measured by the Council against the approved annual budget on a quarterly basis.

Regional Committees

The charity is very much a regional organisation in its method of operation. Currently there are 38 Regional Committees operating across the UK, including Wales as one region, 3 in Scotland, 1 in Northern Ireland and 33 in England. These are staffed entirely by volunteers (there are 260 volunteers recorded) who are drawn from its social members and led by a ‘Chair’ along with a committee formed of varying roles such as treasurer, projects lead, events officer, social media officer etc. The constitution of the Regional Committees is established by the Trustees and is set out in the charity’s Administration Manual. The national office communicates with the regions through the regional team offering timely support with admin, events and fundraising etc as well as offering central services support such as marketing & finance to ensure the smooth running of their regional activities. There is a ‘National Volunteers Conference’ annually which our committee members are invited to attend which is a key event for the charity to communicate and share our vision to our regions. Regular communications from our regional team out to our committee members via a monthly newsletter and monthly online Team Talk meetings.

Fundamental to the charity’s culture is that all funds raised in a particular Region are, to the extent possible, then invested in operational or capital projects in that Region; “local funds for local projects”. In addition,

national fundraising, is where possible, used to provide further support for projects in the Regions. Each region has a page on the main website detailing their events and projects and this is co-ordinated with our national calendar.

Charity Volunteers

We acknowledge the tremendous dedication provided to the charity by all its volunteer supporters whose fundraising activities take place across much of the United Kingdom, in the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands and the Republic of Ireland.

Risk Management

The Trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed. The risk register, which includes strategic and operational risk, is reviewed and updated at quarterly Governance and Trustee meetings with appropriate actions identified. Specific areas of activity are reviewed on a monthly basis.

The financial year has seen activity increasing in all the fundraising areas, the considerable input made by our regional volunteers and the national fundraising team. As the pace of activity and support for these efforts increased a resource risk had been identified and put in place.

Throughout the year consideration has also been given to the longer term as the economic and fundraising environment changes and impacts our supporters.

In addition particular attention has been paid to the charity’s ability to continue to reach its beneficiaries. During the year the charitable grant giving activities increased from £1.3m to £1.5m and the grant process takes due care and consideration so the grants will benefit those most in need.

The Trustees are confident that reasonable systems have been established to manage and identify new and existing risks, steps are put in place to mitigate risks and with forward planning for the charity to be better prepared for future eventualities. These systems include monthly review of the financial results, diligent preparation and regular review of budget and regular reforecasting throughout the financial year.

Wooden Spoon is involved in funding and participating in numerous activities and projects involving children and vulnerable young adults. The charity considers the welfare of children and vulnerable young adults to be of the utmost importance. Wooden Spoon’s rules and procedures ensure that all staff and volunteers who may have contact with children and young adults are DBS checked, and this is recorded and monitored at the head office.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the charity Commission. The Annual Report highlights the significant activities undertaken to carry out our aims for the public benefit and our achievements measured against those aims.

Charity Governance Code

Wooden Spoon has adopted the charity Governance Code and benchmarked the charity’s effectiveness against the seven principles that make up the Code. The Code’s principles have been revisited and reflected upon and where appropriate have led to new or updated policies. As an example of actively considering the Code the recent recruitment of a new Trustees carefully considered the need to secure a broader range of relevant skills and a more diverse board.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The charity’s staff continue to work closely with the Governance Committee to ensure the charity is compliant with the data protection legislation. The charity does not sell or give data to third parties.

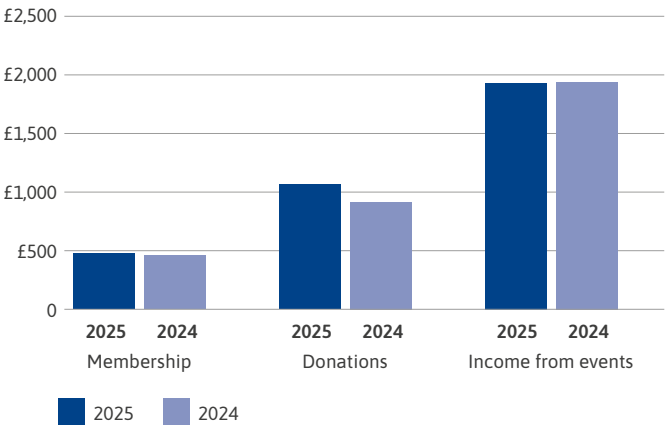
All supporters and donors have been contacted to ensure they are happy to continue to receive updates and materials from us. There have been no breaches or complaints to report to the Information Commissioners Office.

Financial performance for the year ended 31 March 2025

The charity has built on fundraising income and generated an increase to £3,623,133 (2024: £3,366,877).

The charity’s fundraising levels as set out in the Operational Review on page 32. Head office costs were increased to £608,926 (2024: £566,308) as resource risk was identified and increased resources were needed to support all fundraising, on-going digital upgrade work and regional activity. The overall costs have reduced slightly to £1,655.691 (2024: £1,683,508).

Gross income by Type 2025 v 2024 (£000's)



Expenditure on charitable activities has increased in the year to £1,506,730 (2024: £1,314,360). The pace of grant giving has increased compared to the prior year and the commitment to grants made but not yet drawn is set out in the Note 12 to the Financial Statements which has reduced.

Wooden Spoon ended the year with an overall surplus of £460,712 (2024: £369,009). This surplus is added to brought forward reserves and will also enable significant charitable grant making in the year ahead.

The year has returned a full programme of social events and the regional engagement and the resourcefulness of our volunteers has seen a regional net income of over £1m. This has followed several years of reduced fundraising post pandemic and is a notable achievement. Our membership has shown a slight decline although there remains the opportunity to sign new members at the events.

The charity has set out its strategic aims for the next five years but will continue with a clear goal to further improve the margin on its total income through a combination of sensible investment in efficiencies and a focus on growing higher margin sources of revenue.

Code of Fundraising Practice

Wooden Spoon complies with the standards set in the Fundraising Regulator’s Code of Fundraising Practice and is also a member of the Institute of Fundraising. Wooden Spoon staff and volunteers carry out the charity’s fundraising activities and do not employ external agencies to carry out fundraising on its behalf. Our fundraising staff are aware of the need to be sensitive and careful when engaging with vulnerable people and if people do not want to give or wish to stop giving their decision is fully respected. Any complaints received are recorded and investigated. There have been no fundraising complaints recorded in the past year.

Our Fundraising

The Trustees and the Senior Management Team aim to ensure that Wooden Spoon’s fundraising is respectful, open, honest and accountable to the public. The charity considers the objects and the beneficiaries of the organisation when fundraising is planned.

The charity’s primary income sources in this financial year include:

Subscriptions: We enjoy the support of around 7,000 members who donate an annual subscription to the charity. This significant regular giving every year supports Wooden Spoon’s work and notably allowed sustainability. Members receive Spoonews (our in-house magazine) twice per year, invitations to regional and national events when staged, the opportunity to win national and international rugby tickets and the opportunity to wear the charity’s distinctive tie or broach in the colours of the England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland rugby teams.

Campaign and Donations: Donations have remained at a consistent level for several years and the generous support of major donors has allowed continued support of the charity’s work and project grant giving.

Legacy: The charity has received funds from legacies is supporters wills that amount to £59,000. (2024: Nil)

Major Gifts: Wooden Spoon has benefited from a number of major gifts this year from an individual supporter.

Events: The charity’s ability to stage events in the financial year has been without restrictions. The national team were able to support the London Marathon fundraising in April 2024 and an expanded Veterans Rugby Festival which including teams from across the regions, took place in September 2024. Fundraising has continued at a local level with regular golf days, cycle rides and individual pursuits. Events including sporting dinners and lunches, with the frequent help of high-profile members of the rugby community, have been taking place throughout the year and many regions held events around the men’s Rugby World Cup in the autumn and both men’s and women’s Six Nations events remaining very popular. Our objective is always to maximise the funds generated at each event and the vast majority of our events are run by the regional volunteer committees whose hard work and commitment are at the heart of the charity. Their enthusiasm and incredible efforts have contributed significantly and our regional fundraising is now over £1m.

Corporate Engagement: Our engagement continues with the corporate community.

Youngs Pubs have engaged in fundraising events for the year including multiple pub events and initiatives, Player at the Pump evenings and an on-going commitment to fundraise in the forthcoming year for which we are grateful.

We are enormously grateful to Rugbytots, Youngs Pubs, Omerta and all of the other corporate supporters and their employees and associates for their hard work and generosity.

Donated Goods and Services: The charity receives donations of services from both corporate supporters. We are very grateful to all donors and in particular to FedEx for providing their services on a pro bono basis.

The charity is fortunate to have incredible regular supporters and donors who have continued to donate despite all the economic pressures and disruption over the last few years.

Operational Review

The aim for the year has been to continue to build and focus the fundraising efforts achieved over the last few years and to accelerate our grant giving. A five year strategy plan has now been approved building the charity further forward.

Alongside this we had identified a need to enhance our support for our regions and volunteers and refresh our offering to rugby, communities and individual givers through our membership journey.

The Veterans Festival in September 2024 is now part of the annual calendar and has helped to introduce new volunteers and providing support to the regions who enter and fundraise for their teams. The incredible support of players, volunteers and regional input has been heartwarming, and the event goes from strength to strength with over £100k raised between regionally and nationally including shirt sponsorship.

Hybrid working continues and operational management of all areas of activity is carried out using remote IT services and video conferencing. The year has seen an upgrade in our customer relationship system and the external development team has worked with the Director of Projects & Systems to minimise any impact of the upgrade. Throughout the year all other IT services to the charity remained stable and all of the charity’s management and internal controls were maintained.

The charity has improved the office space available and our staff well-being remains of highest importance.

There are allocated team days and regular all-in team days to ensure teams are communicating. Meetings have taken place alongside continued provision of an employee counselling service.

Reserves Policy

The charity’s objective is to donate its surplus over the medium term, subject to maintaining reserves in accordance with good accounting and business practices.

The Council is aware of the Charity Commission’s guidance concerning reserves policies. The policy is reviewed on an annual basis and the Trustees updated the policy relating to unrestricted reserves to better reflect current best accounting practice, and to align the reserves policy more logically with the charity’s operations.

A significant part of the charity’s unrestricted reserves are generated through regional activities. The charity’s policy has always been, and continues to be, to release such funds where possible for grants to charitable projects in the financial year following that in which they were raised. The Trustees have previously considered that the reserve policy should explicitly recognise this practice and the reserve policy now sets a target level of free unrestricted reserves at the year-end date, of an amount equal to the unrestricted funds raised through the regional network in the year ending on that date.

The Trustees consider that this policy provides an amount of year end reserves of a scale which should permit the charity to continue its normal style of operation, whilst not being an excessive restriction on the swift deployment of charitable funds to public benefit.

Restricted Funds: The reserve covers all funds received by the charity for named specific purposes that have yet to be spent.

Unrestricted Funds: The reserve represents the funds available to the charity for investment in new charitable projects without restriction.

The table shows the value of these reserves at the end of the financial year.

	31 March 2025 £	31 March 2024 £
Restricted Funds	237,360	41,377
Unrestricted Funds	2,819,522	2,578,917
	3,056,882	2,620,294

Free reserves which represent unrestricted reserves less fixed assets at the year-end total £2,779,233. The charity will utilise reserves in excess of its policy noted above in approving grants for projects in the year ahead.

The Trustees consider the financial position of the charity to be satisfactory and are of the view that the charity is financially secure and is a going concern

Free reserves represent funds available for the charity for commitment to new projects. The total amount of this reserve is £2,779,233. The Trustees have agreed that £2,440,081 will be allocated to projects in 39 different areas across the UK and Ireland. The amount of £339,152 is currently not allocated..

Auditor

Crowe U.K. LLP have indicated their willingness to continue in office.

In preparing this report, the directors have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

By order of the Council of Trustees

The annual report has been approved by the Council of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Quentin Smith
Chairman

Date: 16 June 2025

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also Directors of Wooden Spoon Society for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions, disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the provisions of the charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of Information to Auditors

Insofar as each of the Trustees and Directors of the charity at the date of approval of this report is aware there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the charity's auditor in connection with preparing the audit report) of which the charity's auditor is unaware. Each Trustee/Director has taken all of the steps that he/she should have taken as a Trustee/Director in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information.

By order of the Council

Quentin Smith

Quentin Smith
Chairman

Date: 16 June 2025



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF WOODEN SPOON SOCIETY

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Wooden Spoon Society for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities and Trustee Investments (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulations 6 and 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (amended).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's

ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the Trustees' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the Trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 29, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1) (c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Details of the extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations are set out below.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements from irregularities, whether due to fraud or error, and discussed these between our audit team members. We then designed and performed audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks within which the charitable company operates, focusing on those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The laws and regulations we considered in this context were the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, together with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). We assessed the required compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which might be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. We also considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the charitable company for fraud.

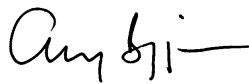
Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

We identified the greatest risk of material impact on the financial statements from irregularities, including fraud, to be within the accuracy of legacy income and the override of controls by management. Our audit procedures to respond to these risks included enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, designing audit procedures over legacy income, sample testing on the posting of journals, reviewing accounting estimates for biases and reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and to the charitable company's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Guy Biggin, Senior Statutory Auditor,
for and on behalf of
Crowe U.K. LLP
Statutory Auditor
4th Floor, St James House, St James Square,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 3PR

Date: 03 July 2025



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Including Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
INCOME					
Membership, Donations and Legacies	1	1,256,963	332,508	1,589,471	1,336,733
<i>Income from other trading activities</i>					
Income from events and other activities	2	1,830,901	95,014	1,925,915	1,941,780
Investment Income		107,747	–	107,747	88,364
Total Income		3,195,611	427,522	3,623,133	3,366,877
EXPENDITURE					
<i>Cost of raising funds</i>					
Membership, Donations and Legacies	3	608,332	594	608,926	566,308
Cost of Events and other activities	4	1,046,765	–	1,046,765	1,117,200
		1,655,097	594	1,655,691	1,683,508
<i>Expenditure on Charitable activities</i>	5	1,275,785	230,945	1,506,730	1,314,360
Total Expenditure		2,930,882	231,539	3,162,421	2,997,868
Net Income before investment gains (losses)		264,729	195,983	460,712	369,009
Net gains/(losses) on investments		(24,124)	–	(24,124)	19,346
Net Income/Expenditure		240,605	195,983	436,588	388,355
Net Movement in Funds		240,605	195,983	436,588	388,355
Total funds brought forward 1 April 2024		2,578,917	41,377	2,620,294	2,231,939
Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2025	14,15	2,819,522	237,360	3,056,882	2,620,294

The notes on pages 44 to 52 form part of these financial statements.

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

Company number: 01847860

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets	9		
Tangible Assets		40,289	46,781
Investment	10	502,877	523,549
Total Fixed Assets		543,166	570,330
Current Assets			
Debtors	11	289,985	122,761
Cash at Bank and in hand		3,217,982	3,090,127
Total Current Assets		3,507,967	3,212,888
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due with one year	12	(994,251)	(1,162,924)
Net Current Assets		2,513,716	2,049,964
Net Assets		3,056,882	2,620,294
The Funds of the charity:			
Restricted Funds	14	237,360	41,377
Unrestricted Funds	15	2,819,522	2,578,917
Total Charity Funds	16	3,056,882	2,620,294

These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.

The financial statements on pages 1 to 56 were authorised and approved by the Council on 16 June 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



Quentin Smith
Chairman

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Cash generated from operating activities	21	38,074	681,862
Cash flow from investing activities			
Interest Income		107,747	88,364
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(14,513)	(38,983)
Purchase of investments		(3,453)	(523,546)
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities		89,784	207,697
Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		127,855	207,697
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		3,090,127	2,882,430
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		3,217,982	3,090,127

PRINCIPLE ACCOUNTING POLICIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Charity Information

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee (company no. 01847860) and a registered charity in England and Wales (charity no. 326691), and in Scotland (Scottish registered charity no. SC039247) which is incorporated and domiciled in the UK. The address of the registered office is Sentinel House, Harvest Crescent, Fleet, England, GU51 2UZ.

Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulation 2006 and the Companies Act 2006.

Wooden Spoon Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The charity reported a cash inflow of £38,071 from operating activities for the year. The charity has continued project grant commitments and these are recognised at the time that Trustees agree the support. The Trustees are of the view that the charity is financially secure and that on this basis the charity is a going concern. The Trustees confirmed the adverse impact of the Covid-19 epidemic in the last few years is concluded. In particular they have noted the level of free reserves carried forward will be continually monitored to ensure that the future awarding of project grants takes into account the financial position of the charity and the charity is responding to current situations promptly.

Group Financial Statements

The charity has a wholly owned subsidiary WSS Events Ltd. The financial statements to 31 March 2024 and 2023 have been prepared as a single entity as the subsidiary has been dormant.

Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met and it is probable the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income comprises membership, donations, income receivable from events held during the year and interest receivable. Donations are recognised when received and comprise amounts received which are not connected to fundraising events. All other income is accounted for on a receivable basis. Income principally arises within the United Kingdom. Related gift aid is recognised when a donation is received.

Legacy entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor’s intention to make a distribution.

Income from grants, including government grants, whether ‘capital’ grants or ‘revenue’ grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred

Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of the supporter is not recognised. Please refer to the Trustees’ annual report for more information.

Donated professional services and donated facilities are valued on the basis of the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain the services on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised as expenditure in the same period.

Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are those funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for a particular purpose. The details of which are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds comprise accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds. They are available for use at the discretion of the Council in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Charitable activities

Charitable activities comprise grants and donations paid or committed to charitable projects. Committed charitable expenditure shown in note 11 represents the total value of the charitable projects for which approval has been granted. Payment of funds to the beneficiary organisation is contingent on specific performance criteria being met. When grant applications are approved by the Trustees the grant and a grant letter is issued to a beneficiary organisation and the charity recognises a liability for the amount approved as based on experience it is more probable than not the grants will be paid.

Raising funds

Fundraising and costs of fund raising include the expenses of fundraising events, promotional activities, staff and other costs directly involved in the relevant activity. Membership and donations costs are covered by staff costs involved in the operation of the Charity.

Expenditure

All expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay. Costs have been attributed to one of the financial categories of expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA).

Governance costs

Governance costs relate to the compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and included within support costs.

Apportionment of costs

Where costs cannot be directly attributed to a particular heading, they have been apportioned to each functional category of expenditure. The allocation is based on several criteria including an assessment of time spent.

Pension contributions

Pension contributions are made to either the employees’ group arranged Auto Enrolment scheme, the staff members own pension scheme or cash for the employee to make their own pension contributions. The amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in respect of pension costs is the contributions payable in the year. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments in the balance sheet.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value on a straight line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:-

Other equipment	33 1/3%
Computer equipment	33 1/3%
Assets costing less than £500 are not capitalised.	

Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at cost. Provision is made for any impairment in the value of fixed asset investments.

Irrecoverable VAT

All irrecoverable VAT on revenue costs is charged to the statement of financial activities.

Debtors

Trade debtors, other debtors and accrued income are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any discount.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised when the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after any trade discounts are due.

PRINCIPLE ACCOUNTING POLICIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (CONT)

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and immediately accessible deposits with financial institutions.

Taxation

The company is a registered charity, and as such is entitled to tax exemptions on all its income and gains properly applied for its charitable purposes.

Financial instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are measured at settlement value.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity’s accounting policies, which are described above, Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates, and assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant.

- Depreciation – The charity depreciates its assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight-line basis over the expected useful economic lives.
- Impairment of debtors – The charity makes an estimate of trade debtors and other debtors. When assessing the impairment of trade debtors and other debtors, management considers factors including the credit rating of the debtor, the ageing profile of debtors and historical experience.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 March 2025

Detailed below is the breakdown of the Income and Expenditure expended by the charity in the various areas of operation. Further breakdown of the staff and support costs, with the allocation to different activities is detailed in the subsequent pages.

Note 1	Membership, Donations and Legacies	2025	2024
		Total £	Total £
	Membership	472,564	450,462
	Donations and Legacies	1,111,479	881,263
	Gifts in Kind	5,428	5,008
		1,589,471	1,336,733
Note 2	Income from other trading activities	2025	2024
		Total £	Total £
	Income from Events	1,925,915	1,941,780
		1,925,915	1,941,780

Events and Other Activities

Note 3	Cost of raising funds		Staff	Support	Other	2025	2024
			Note 6	Note 7		Total	Total
			£	£	£	£	£
			403,159	101,729	104,038	608,926	566,308
Note 4	Cost of Events and other activities	Notes	Staff	Support	Other	2025	2024
			Note 6	Note 7		Total	Total
				£	£	£	£
	Events Costs		29,542	34,408	840,872	904,882	967,117
	Administration Costs		43,279	54,243	–	97,522	106,286
	Governance Costs	8	17,511	26,910	–	44,421	43,797
			90,332	115,561	840,872	1,046,765	1,117,200
Note 5	Cost attributed to Charitable activities		Staff	Support	Charitable	2025	2024
			Note 6	Note 7	activities	Total	Total
			£	£	£	£	£
			133,095	18,708	1,354,927	1,506,730	1,314,360

All grants have been made to institutions.

Significant grants made in the year are set out below:

Dogs for Good	£35,000	Health and Wellbeing
The Nurture Project Northumberland	£29,985	Sensory Rooms and Gardens
Park Community Academy Lancashire	£25,000	Playgrounds and Outdoor Activities
Saltersgate School Edinburgh	£40,000	Specialist Equipment and Facilities
Whitecote Primary School Yorkshire	£25,000	Specialist Equipment and Facilities
Haberton School Ulster	£26,000	Sensory Rooms and Gardens
Cancer Focus NI Ulsyrt	£40,000	Specialist Equipment and Facilities
Maddys Mark	£35,000	Health and Wellbeing
Pass the Plate	£34,000	Health and Wellbeing
The Wave Project 4 locations	£45,000	Health and Wellbeing/Specialist Equipment

Note 6	Staff Costs	2025 £	2024 £
	Membership and Fundraising	403,159	392,948
	Events Costs	29,542	20,862
	Administration Costs	43,279	42,251
	Governance Costs	17,511	16,681
	Charitable Activities	133,095	122,019
	Total Staff Costs	626,586	594,761

	2025 £	2024 £
Salaries	536,764	507,836
Social Security Costs	54,149	54,842
Pension Costs	23,686	23,583
Other Benefits	11,987	8,500
	626,586	594,761

The average number of people employed by the Charity during the year was as follows;

	2025	2024
Charitable Activities	2	1
Events and Fundraising Activities	8	8
Administration and Governance	4	4
	14	13

	2025	2024
Employees within the Charity received emoluments		
£80,000-£90,000	1	1
£60,000-£70,000	1	1

The total employee benefits of the key personnel of the charity were £254,713 (2024: £281,875). During 2025 the key personnel included the Chief Executive Officer, the Director of Projects and Systems, Director of Finance and Operations and the Director of Fundraising and Marketing.

No Trustee received any emoluments during the year ended 31 March 2025 (2024: £nil). During the year expenses totalling £841 were incurred by 4 Trustees (2024: £2,915 incurred by 3 Trustees) which mainly relate to travel.

The charity provides a contribution to the pension schemes of all staff. In the current financial year £23,309 has been paid (2024: £23,583).

No staff were made redundant in the year (2024: £10,717 one member of staff).

Note 7	Support Costs	2025 £	2024 £
	Membership and Fundraising	101,729	105,111
	Events Costs	34,408	34,672
	Administration Costs	54,243	62,848
	Governance Costs	26,910	26,915
	Charitable Activities	18,708	13,170
	Total Support Costs	235,998	242,716

	2025 £	2024 £
Rent, Repairs and Maintenance	33,982	23,241
Office Costs	3,802	6,577
Communications	54,627	86,142
Operational Expenses	12,183	11,866
Depreciation	21,005	19,814
Professional Fees	49,288	51,634
Other Support Costs	61,111	43,442
	235,998	242,716

Support costs incurred in the operation of the charity are detailed above. These costs are apportioned to each category of expenditure. The apportionment is based on the people committed to delivering the income related to these categories.

FedEx provide delivery services on a pro bono basis and the market value of these services is included above and has also been included in income to recognise these services were kindly donated free of charge.

Note 8	Governance Costs	2025 £	2024 £
	Auditors – Fees	26,069	24,000
	Trustee Travel Expenses	841	2,915
		26,910	26,915

No legal and professional costs were incurred in connection with Governance matters during the year.

Note 9	Tangible Fixed Assets	Equipment	Computer equipment	Total
		£	£	£
	Cost			
	At 1st April 2024	19,165	65,309	84,474
	Disposals in the year	-	-	-
	Additions in the year	8,795	5,718	14,513
	At 31st March 2025	27,960	71,027	98,987
	Accumulated depreciation			
	At 1st April 2024	17,127	20,566	37,693
	Disposals in the year	-	-	-
	Charge for the year	7,719	13,286	21,005
	At 31st March 2025	24,846	33,852	58,698
	Net book values			
	At 31st March 2025	3,114	37,175	40,289
	At 31st March 2024	2,038	44,743	46,781
	Note 10	Investments	2025	2024
		£	£	
WSS Events Limited		2	2	
Esher Rugby Club		1	1	
Murrayfield Debenture		1	1	
CCLA Investment Fund		502,873	523,545	
		502,877	523,549	
CCLA Investment Fund				
		2025	2024	
		£	£	
Investment value at start of year		523,545	0	
Investment made		3,453	504,199	
Revalue of investment re change in market	(24,125)	19,346		
	502,873	523,545		

The Society has an investment of £2 being the share capital of WSS Events Ltd. The investment represents 100% of the ordinary share capital of WSS Events Limited (a company registered in England and Wales) comprising two ordinary shares of £1 each. WSS Events Ltd has been dormant since March 2021.

The charity invested the CCLA Ethical Fund in 2024 and a further investment has been made during the year of the income received.

In previous years the charity received a donation of shares in Esher rugby club and a Class A Debenture in Murrayfield (Scottish Rugby) which will expire in 2045. These assets are recorded as an investment at a notional value of £1 each.

Note 11	Debtors	2025	2024
		£	£
	Trade Debtors	200,470	49,677
	Other Debtors	0	7,500
	Prepayments	89,515	65,584
		289,985	122,761

Trade debtors are stated after impairment provision totalling £nil (2024: £nil).

Note 12	Creditors	2025	2024
		£	£
	Trade Creditors	74,675	41,637
	Other Creditors	0	372
	Social Security and Taxes	14,878	16,907
	Accruals	25,000	31,455
	Committed Charitable Expenditure	718,985	866,643
	Deferred Income	160,713	205,910
		994,251	1,162,924

	Creditors	2025	2024
		£	£
	Reconciliation of Grants Payable		
	Commitments at 1 April 2024	866,643	588,900
	Grants and donations approved in the year	1,415,642	1,183,515
	Grants and donations paid in the year	(1,495,856)	(895,242)
	Grants withdrawn in the year	(67,444)	(10,530)
	Commitments at 31 March 2025	718,985	866,643

Note 13	Deferred income	2025	2024
		£	£
	At 1st April 2024	205,910	109,508
	Amount Received in year	160,713	205,910
	Income utilised in year	(205,910)	(109,508)
	At 31st March 2025	160,713	205,910

Deferred income has arisen as there are events which are taking place in the financial year to 31 March 2025 for which some revenue has been received in the current year.

Note 14

Restricted Funds	Balance at 1st April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	Balance at 31st March 2025 £
Community	-	-	-	-	-
Other Restricted Funds	41,377	427,522	(231,539)	-	237,360
Total Restricted Funds	41,377	427,522	(231,539)	-	237,360

Restricted Funds	Balance at 1st April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	Balance at 31st March 2024 £
Comparative Figures for 2024					
Community	-	-	-	-	-
Other Restricted Funds	29,977	92,000	(80,600)	-	41,377
Total Restricted Funds	29,977	92,000	(80,600)	-	41,377

Other Restricted Funds
During the year the charity has granted restricted donations where the funds have been applied to the specific requirements of the donor or their representatives.

Note 15

Unrestricted Funds	Balance at 1st April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	Balance at 31st March 2025 £
Unrestricted	2,578,917	3,195,611	(2,955,006)	-	2,819,522
Total Unrestricted Funds	2,578,917	3,195,611	(2,955,006)	-	2,819,522

Unrestricted Funds	Balance at 1st April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	Balance at 31st March 2024 £
Comparative figures for 2024					
Unrestricted	2,201,962	3,294,223	(2,917,268)	-	2,578,917
Total Unrestricted Funds	2,201,962	3,294,223	(2,917,268)	-	2,578,917

This represents the amount available to be donated or expended at the discretion of the Trustees, for purposes consistent with the charity's charitable aims.

Note 16

Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets £	Total £
Restricted Funds			
Restricted Funds	-	237,360	237,360
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	40,289	2,779,233	2,819,522
Net Assets	40,289	3,016,593	3,056,882

Analysis of Net Assets between Funds	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets £	Total £
Comparative Figures for 2024			
Restricted Funds			
Restricted Funds	-	41,377	41,377
Unrestricted Funds			
General Fund	46,781	2,521,136	2,567,917
Net Assets	46,781	2,562,513	2,609,294



Note 17:
Donated Goods And Services

Donations in kind are included in income when the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable and measurable. They are valued by the Trustees at the amount the charity would have been willing to pay for the goods or services on the open market.

The donations in kind received in the year recognised in the statement of financial activities within donations totalled £5,428 (2024: £5,008).

These represented postal delivery services of £5,428 (2024: £5,008) included in the Cost of Raising Funds.

Donations in kind of time and services given to the charity by all its volunteers and supporters are of great value. As the value of these services is not capable of quantification with reasonable certainty, no amounts have been included in the financial statements for these valuable contributions.

The charity is extremely grateful for the support it receives from its numerous unpaid volunteers and other supporters.

Note 18:
Financial Commitments

Grants made by the charity are payments to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objects of the charity. In the case of a grant offer being made this is accrued once the recipient has been notified of the grant award and a grant letter issued. The notifications give the recipient a reasonable expectation that they will receive the grant. Grants awards that are subject to the recipient fulfilling performance conditions are only accrued when the recipient has been notified of the grant and any remaining unfulfilled condition attaching to that grant is outside of the control of the benefitting charity.

Note 19:
Legal status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of a winding-up is limited to £1.

Note 20:
Related Party Transactions

Trustees are deemed related parties to the charity and as such reporting of donations made directly to the charity is required. The Trustees are volunteers and donate their time at no cost to the charity. There were no donations from Trustees. (2024: Nil).

Note 21	Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities	2025	2024
		£	£
	Net movement in funds	436,588	388,355
	Add back depreciation Tangible Assets	21,005	9,097
	Add back revaluation of Investments	24,125	–
	Deduct interest income	(107,747)	(88,364)
	(Decrease) increase in debtors	(167,224)	59,820
	(Increase) decrease in creditors	(168,673)	312,954
	Net Cash used in operating activities	38,074	681,862



LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Patrons
Her Royal Highness,
The Princess Royal KG, KT, GCVO, CD, QSO

The Rugby Football Union
The Scottish Rugby Union
The Welsh Rugby Union
The Irish Rugby Football Union

Life President
Peter Scott

President
Nigel Timson

Trustees
Adrian Alli
Ali Gilbert
Becca Brackwell-Slade (Resigned 22nd January 2025)
Brett Bader
Christine Braithwaite
Graham Allen (Resigned 14th September 2024)
Jane Harwood
Joanna Coombs
John Gibson
Mark McCafferty
Quentin Smith
Rufus Hack
Sarah Wight
Victoria Sparkes

Company Secretary
Barry Monahan

Registered Office
Sentinel House
Ancells Business Park
Harvest Crescent
Fleet
Hampshire GU51 2UZ

Independent Auditor
Crowe U.K. LLP
4th Floor
St James House
St James Square
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire GL50 3PR

Principle Bankers
Barclays Bank PLC
Town Gate House
Church Street East
Woking
Surrey GU21 6AE

Solicitors
Clifford Chance LLP
10 Upper Bank Street
London E14 5JJ

THANK YOU

Wooden Spoon thanks our volunteers, supporters and the rugby community who all work with us to help vulnerable children and young people in the UK and Ireland.

Here are just some of them:

Our regional volunteers

Our corporate supporters

Our major donors

Our individual supporters

Our challengers and fundraisers

Our partners including the British Lions Charitable Trust





w: woodenspoon.org.uk
 e: charity@woodenspoon.org.uk
 t: 01252 773720

