



## **Trustee Annual Report 2024**

Charity Name: Foyle Sailability

Registered Charity Number: NI 101212

This report relates to financial year 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

The principal address of the Charity is:

c/o Cable and Accessories  
6 Balliniska Business Park  
Springtown  
Londonderry BT48 0LY

The following individuals were the Charity trustees on the date the report was approved.

1. Garry Crothers
2. Kieran McAllister
3. Ken Curry

The following individuals served as Charity trustees during the year:

1. Garry Crothers
2. Kieran McAllister
3. Ken Curry

The Charity was formed in 2015. The Charity is governed by a constitution.

The Charitable purposes of the Charity are:

Foyle Sailability is a cross-border voluntary organisation which aims to deliver opportunities for sailing and other water-based activities to people with disabilities from across the North West region of Ireland.

We make these sports accessible with the help of specialised equipment, such as a hoist at Foyle Port Marina; accessible boats; access to the water via pontoons at Foyle Port Marina and Greencastle Co Donegal; and support from trained and qualified volunteers.

To further these purposes for the public benefit, we carried out the following activities:

Fortnightly on the water group boating experiences and individual sail training sessions and annual regattas together with classroom-based training.

The main achievements of the Charity in the year were:

The trustees have read the Commission's Public Benefit requirement statutory guidance and have had regard to this when running the Charity.

A review of the Charity's financial position at the end of the year:

**INSERT TEXT**

In the financial year 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024 the Charity had an income of **£21,370.52** and an expenditure of **£7,200.93**

There are no funds held by the Charity that are materially in deficit.



## FOYLE SAILABILITY SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2024

The first two months of the year were quiet enough for us all in Foyle Sailability. Our chairman Garry did a talk at Portrush Yacht Club about his solo transatlantic trip. This would prove to be worthwhile for us all later in the year. The RYA released a podcast featuring Marty Ansfield from Lough Erne Sailability.

We started some maintenance in March at Prehen. Marty Haire fitted a new winch on the Hawk trailer and there were lots of smaller jobs carried out. With more poor weather there was no sailing and the only event was our annual AGM.

April was a mixed bag of good news and bad news for us. After some sterling work from Catherine and Padraig, we received news of funding from Supporting Communities and the National Lottery Fund. This will enable us to support training, help pay insurance and carry out essential maintenance. A visit from the committee of Supporting Communities was a clear display of support for the work carried out by Catherine and Padraig. Unfortunately, shortly later, we received the terrible news that Marty Ansfield had passed away very suddenly. Marty was a great friend to us and provided some vital First aid and Powerboat training. We did get out on the river but again not much sailing took place. The month ended with good news again, with the receipt of a cheque for £500 from Portrush Yacht Club for the talk that Garry had given.

May continued with more maintenance and preparation for the upcoming Regatta at Lough Erne in June.

One of the highlights of 2024 was the Lough Erne Sailability regatta on 16<sup>th</sup> June. Despite having just lost Marty, and with John Macrae ill as well, it is a credit to Jenny and everyone at LEYC that this event was such a success. It was an emotional event, but everyone had a thoroughly good time.

Some of our members enjoyed some great sailing in Rathlin sound in July. We attended the maritime festival and launched one of our Hawks on both days. In tough conditions, we had two fantastic days sailing on the sea off the north coast. The Belfast Lough Sailability regatta was a huge success as usual. The conditions proved difficult for everyone with very light winds, but nevertheless, the races were very competitive. Another great day and night was enjoyed by us all. A busy month ended with two very busy days introducing a lot of people to boating on the river at the Foyle Maritime festival. We also managed a day of just messing about



between Culmore up to the Foyle bridge, with a rare stop in the wilds below the old Thornhill College.



September was another busy month for FS as we attended the Greencastle Regatta which was part of their festival week. Tricky conditions tested our sailors who enjoyed two days fresh sailing in the Hawk 20. Only a few weeks later, back in Greencastle, we hosted a provincial sailability regatta for the first time. After much hard work and worry, the weather gods smiled on us all. In glorious weather we had hawk racing out on the river and within the shelter of the new wall we had loads of Hanse 303s racing. It was a wonderful sight and a huge relief for all of us who had worked so hard to make this event a success. Particular mention must go to Seamus Snr and Jnr, The Maritime Museum, The Ferryport Bar, Moville Boat Club, and Lough Foyle Yacht Club. Many people complimented us on a great event with many compliments on the food provided on arrival, at lunch and the BBQ afterwards. Of course Catherine always feeds us well, but with the help of her whole family, we were treated to an amazing array of food. To finish the month Garry and I talked to Eglinton Classic Club with the hope that they might choose us as their charity for 2025. Unfortunately, their committee decide on another worthy local charity, but very generously donated £500 to us as well.

October saw Garry I attend the RYA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner, where Garry was on a question and answer panel. Our friend Bob Harper was also inducted into the RYA Hall of Fame, and deservedley so too. The Loughs Agency very kindly funded two days of boat trips provided by Foyle sailability, for different groups from the local area. With help from Reggie Downey (Foyle Ventures) we showed loads more people the beauty of the river. 6 of our volunteers completed their RYA First Aid training with Ivor Neill at Portrush Yacht Club.

We ended 2024 in December with the start of our members sailability training at Lough Foyle Yacht Club at Culmore.

Signed : 

Secretary Foyle Sailability

Signature	Name	Date
	<b>Ken Curry</b> Secretary	20/1/25
	<b>Garry Crothers</b> Chairperson	20/1/25