

Exploding Dice

Northern Ireland · Charity number 108201

Details

Status Received

Registered 2021-12-10

Register [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

Contact

Address Flat 1
90 Dufferin Ave
Bangor
Bt20 3ad
BT20 3AD

Phone 07801290492

Email explodingdicetabletop@gmail.com

Website <https://explodingdicetabletop.com/>

Activities

Purposes: To provide quality facilities for the learning and playing of tabletop games for the benefit of the residents of Bangor and surrounding areas with the object of positively impacting mental health and improving conditions of life.

What the charity does: Other charitable purposes

How the charity works: Community development,Cultural,Sport/recreation

Who the charity helps: General public,Men,Mental health,Women,Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-02-28	£32,788	£26,242	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Connie Slevin Munnis		
Mr Glenn Crangle		
Mr Peter Pratt		
Mr Simon Brackenridge		
Mr Stephen George Surgenor		

Exploding Dice

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108201

Accounts

Profit and Loss

Exploding Dice

For the year ended 28 February 2025

	2025	2024
Turnover		
Club Membership	4,486.30	6,003.10
Sales	27,801.40	24,560.54
Total Turnover	32,287.70	30,563.64
Cost of Sales		
painting Supplies	458.92	173.36
Prizes	3,117.28	3,297.97
Tuck Shop	4,174.87	2,986.14
Total Cost of Sales	7,751.07	6,457.47
Gross Profit	24,536.63	24,106.17
Administrative Costs		
Advertising & Marketing	484.42	-
Audit & Accountancy fees	360.00	360.00
Bank Fees	29.70	-
Charitable and Political Donations	-	120.00
Cleaning	2,030.01	796.46
Depreciation Expense	2,037.00	1,501.00
General Expenses	20.97	-
Insurance	760.36	901.96
IT Software and Consumables	-	53.94
Light, Power, Heating	874.17	868.84
Painting and Terrain Supplies / sundries	94.34	-
Printing & Stationery	10.78	132.63
Rates	-	1,471.09
Rent	11,184.00	9,784.00
Repairs & Maintenance	382.99	1,684.74
Subscriptions	86.04	207.94
Volunteer Costs	136.29	147.91
Total Administrative Costs	18,491.07	18,030.51
Operating Profit	6,045.56	6,075.66
Other Income		
Donations	500.00	2,035.00
Total Other Income	500.00	2,035.00
Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	6,545.56	8,110.66
Profit after Taxation	6,545.56	8,110.66

Balance Sheet

Exploding Dice

As at 28 February 2025

	28 FEB 2025	29 FEB 2024
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets		
Computer Equipment	379.00	379.00
Depreciation on Wargaming terrain	(1,381.00)	(581.00)
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Computer Equipment	(152.00)	(76.00)
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Office Equipment	(2,417.00)	(1,256.00)
Office Equipment	5,806.82	5,086.84
Wargaming Terrain	4,001.23	2,041.08
Total Tangible Assets	6,237.05	5,593.92
Total Fixed Assets	6,237.05	5,593.92
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand		
09012938013283	14,777.82	9,160.62
Cash On Hand	608.49	323.26
Total Cash at bank and in hand	15,386.31	9,483.88
Other debtors	2,400.00	-
Prepayments	-	2,400.00
Total Current Assets	17,786.31	11,883.88
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	17,786.31	11,883.88
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	24,023.36	17,477.80
Net Assets	24,023.36	17,477.80
Capital and Reserves		
Current Year Earnings	6,545.56	8,110.66
Unrestricted funds brought forward	17,477.80	9,367.14
Total Capital and Reserves	24,023.36	17,477.80

Exploding Dice

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108201

Accounts

Balance Sheet

Exploding Dice

As at 29 February 2024

29 FEB 2024

28 FEB 2023

Fixed Assets

Tangible Assets

Computer Equipment	379.00	-
Depreciation on Wargaming terrain	(581.00)	(173.00)
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Computer Equipment	(76.00)	-
Less Accumulated Depreciation on Office Equipment	(1,256.00)	(239.00)
Office Equipment	5,086.84	1,194.00
Wargaming Terrain	2,041.08	866.72
Total Tangible Assets	5,593.92	1,648.72

Total Fixed Assets	5,593.92	1,648.72
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Current Assets

Cash at bank and in hand

09012938013283	9,160.62	5,138.14
Cash On Hand	323.26	180.28
Total Cash at bank and in hand	9,483.88	5,318.42

Prepayments	2,400.00	2,400.00
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Total Current Assets	11,883.88	7,718.42
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Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	11,883.88	7,718.42
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Total Assets less Current Liabilities	17,477.80	9,367.14
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Net Assets	17,477.80	9,367.14
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Capital and Reserves

Current Year Earnings	8,110.66	6,646.43
Unrestricted funds brought forward	9,367.14	2,720.71
Total Capital and Reserves	17,477.80	9,367.14

Profit and Loss

Exploding Dice

For the year ended 29 February 2024

	2024	2023
Turnover		
Club Membership	6,003.10	3,915.76
Sales	24,560.54	14,822.54
Total Turnover	30,563.64	18,738.30
Cost of Sales		
painting Supplies	173.36	-
Prizes	3,297.97	1,602.04
Tuck Shop	2,986.14	1,404.12
Total Cost of Sales	6,457.47	3,006.16
Gross Profit	24,106.17	15,732.14
Administrative Costs		
Audit & Accountancy fees	360.00	120.00
Charitable and Political Donations	120.00	-
Cleaning	796.46	364.66
Depreciation Expense	1,501.00	412.00
General Expenses	-	88.28
Insurance	901.96	684.66
IT Software and Consumables	53.94	17.34
Light, Power, Heating	868.84	1,696.73
Printing & Stationery	132.63	53.21
Rates	1,471.09	-
Rent	9,784.00	7,800.00
Repairs & Maintenance	1,684.74	-
Subscriptions	207.94	119.85
Travel - National	-	8.98
Volunteer Costs	147.91	-
Total Administrative Costs	18,030.51	11,365.71
Operating Profit	6,075.66	4,366.43
Other Income		
Donations	2,035.00	2,280.00
Total Other Income	2,035.00	2,280.00
Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	8,110.66	6,646.43
Profit after Taxation	8,110.66	6,646.43

Exploding Dice

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108201

Annual report



Explosion Dice

Charity Number 108201

Trustees Report for Year ending 29th February 2024

Stephen Surgenor (Chairperson)
Peter Pratt (Treasurer)
Sharon Surgenor (Secretary)
Connie Munnis
Robert Wright

Introduction

The trustees of Exploding Dice are pleased to present this report, along with independently verified accounts, to meet our annual monitoring requirements. This document aims to provide information on our activities and achievements as they relate to our purpose and the public benefits attained.

Purpose and Benefit Statement

As a charitable organisation Exploding Dice aims to provide quality facilities for the learning and playing of tabletop games. This is for the benefit of residents of Bangor, North Down and surrounding areas. Our objective is to positively impact mental health and improve conditions of life.

The direct public benefits which flow from this purpose include improved mental wellbeing, reduced levels of stress/anxiety and a reduction of social isolation through a sense of community.

Exploding Dice has no employees. Management and direction of the organisation is facilitated by a committee of volunteer trustees who have a duty to follow the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that all of our activities and decisions help to achieve the charity's purpose and provide a benefit to our beneficiaries.

Day to day operation of the organisation is further facilitated by a small but dedicated group of volunteers overseen by the trustees.

Beneficiaries

The intended beneficiaries of our organisation are members of the public who enjoy, or are curious about, tabletop games but:

- Don't have the space, equipment or experience necessary
- Don't know any other people to play with

We meet our purpose firstly by providing a permanent facility, with a high standard of equipment, for people to use. Secondly we help them to arrange games and organise events in our club space where patrons can socialise and enjoy refreshments with other people with a shared interest.

Our beneficiaries come from a wide range of backgrounds and we are an inclusive organisation. However our core demographic tends to be male and between 20 to 50 years of age.



Relocation

As the year began we found ourselves in a period of upheaval as we relocated from High Street in Bangor to a newly leased unit in Balloo Industrial Estate. We received keys for the new premises in the first week of March and immediately began the building, decorating and cleaning work required to prepare the space for our needs. All of the work was undertaken by volunteers within our membership, who very generously donated their time and expertise to keep costs down.

While that endeavour was underway the club continued to operate in High Street so as not to leave a gap in our services. Once Balloo was ready we enlisted an army of volunteers to move all of our furniture and equipment across town and into the new building.

The new location opened for the first time on 25th April 2023. In addition to a more spacious gaming area the larger unit meant we could add a large dedicated club room for socialisation, a private room for meetings and a small kitchen area.



Objectives and Activities

The main aim for the committee this year was to consolidate on our previous years work and ensure the club is in a stable financial position after the commitment of our new lease and the expense of moving. As such there were no plans for significant expansion of our terrain or game collections and we wanted to increase our cash on hand so we would be able to cover any unexpected expenses or interruption of our activities.

We recognised the growth in club attendance that flowed from the previous year's successful programme of "organised play". By running and hosting regular formal events we created more opportunities for attendees to make new connections and widen their circle of friends. This in turn increased the number of casual games being played on open club nights.

An objective was set to maintain the momentum in this area. As such our week to week activities would focus on attempts to increase the frequency and variety of leagues and events on offer.

While the club now has the extra space and improved facilities needed to host a larger volume of events, we recognised that the biggest limiting resource was the free time our organisers had to volunteer.

A secondary objective therefore became identifying more experienced members that would have the skills and knowledge to run events, encourage them to become volunteers and offer them the support and information they would need.

Performance and Achievements

This year, across multiple game systems, we organised:

- 5 Gaming leagues
- 45 Tournaments and campaign event days
- 6 demonstration days
- 14 casual/new player evenings

Weekend events continue to be well attended and as a result of this programme of activities there was another marked rise in attendance of mid week club nights this year. As of the end of year we now have approximately 70 people who attend midweek club nights regularly (3+ times per month). The majority of those are from the Ards and North Down area but a significant number travel from the Greater Belfast area.

A large part of this success has been down to club members stepping into volunteer roles as "system champions". In this capacity they helped to promote and administer our leagues and events therefore allowing us to expand our organised play programme.



The new building has been a great success and well received by everyone attending. There is more space around the gaming tables and lighting is improved. Both insulation and ventilation are better so conditions are considerably more comfortable in both summer and winter. Having the new club room area has led to members staying in the club longer after games finish to chat and relax. We also have more people just dropping in to hang out and there is an increasing sense of community within the club.

Consideration has been given to extending opening times to include an extra evening every week. While there has been interest expressed in this by members it would obviously come with increased strain on volunteer hours. The decision has therefore been taken to maintain our current schedule and we will reassess at a later date.

Testimonials

Throughout the year we asked for and received feedback from people on what they think of the services we provide and what effect it has on their lives. Below are some examples:



"We are incredibly lucky to have Exploding Dice in our community. It has become a regular safe haven and hangout for so many in the local hobby scene. The team makes an effort every year to improve the facilities and as such continues to have an incredible impact on people like myself who want a safe and friendly environment."

Connor Glover

"My enjoyment of the hobby has been accelerated tenfold thanks to the guys that run the club. They provide a great venue and outstanding support to new and old players alike. Relaxing and meeting new friends is what this hobby is all about and thanks to Exploding Dice we have that opportunity every week "

Stefan Colhoun



Exploding Dice NIC:108201



“I had heard good things about the club and organisers, and seen the website but nothing prepared me for how great it was. I flew over from England to take part in an AOS event and was made to feel welcome in the group straight away. The facilities are some of the best I’ve seen and wish I had a club like this where I lived. This is a real community asset and long may it continue.”

Peter Brizio

“I’ve been going to Exploding Dice at least once a month this year and it’s been nothing short of a great place to be. As someone who has struggled with social anxiety the community of people there have been good to have in my life”

Stevie McCrystal

“Exploding Dice has been my go to place to meet my friends and play games. I travel down from Larne and I’ve never regretted the trip. It offers an amazing place to escape from everyday stresses for just a few hours and have some fun gaming.”

Gareth Moore

“As a veteran with PTSD, the club has been the perfect place to socialise with friends and like minded hobbyists, to relax and take my mind off everyday problems.”

Richard Eddon



Exploding Dice NIC:108201

Fundraising

Our total gross income for the financial year was £32,599

The primary source of income continues to be via club memberships, table booking fees and tickets for events. A significant increase in attendance this year has meant that we have been able to shoulder the expense of relocating the club and still increase the amount of cash we have on hand. We now have enough funds in reserve to cover 4 to 5 months of our fixed overheads should any unforeseen circumstances stop us from opening.

Affordability and access to our services is important to us and is reflected in our pricing policy. We did not increase our prices this year and our event tickets continue to be 30% to 40% less expensive than those for similar events in other parts of the country. On club nights concession rates are available for those in full time education and on benefits. In addition the monthly membership option provides a substantial saving of almost 50% for those who attend the club every week.

In evaluating public benefit the trustees note that our services should be open to all and that poverty should not be a barrier to benefiting from our purpose. In accordance with this we offer further concessions and free memberships to those in unfortunate circumstances. In addition we have a collection of books, games, and gaming equipment available for use free of charge.

The Halifax Foundation (<https://www.halifaxfoundationni.org>) Matched Giving Scheme continues to be an additional source of funding for us. They provide grants based on staff members who volunteer their time to charitable organisations. In this financial year we received a total of £2035 from them thanks to the time and efforts of committee member Mr Robby Wright and volunteer Mr Michael Brough.

Expenditure

Our total gross expenditure for the financial year was £24,488

The largest source of expenditure for the organisation continues to be property rental plus the associated service charges. These have risen from last year having moved to the new larger unit. Insurance costs for the new premises are higher but marginally so. The costs for heating and lighting are however significantly reduced. Better insulation, gas central heating instead of Economy 7 and LED lighting have all had a positive impact.

The Balloo premises was reassessed by Land and Property Services to take into consideration our charity status. However there was a 3 month crossover period in which we saw out the end of our old lease while operating in the new building. For this period we were required to pay rates on the old space for a total of £1471.



Other regular expenditure comes in the form of:

- Purchasing trophies and prizes for our tournament events
- Purchasing cleaning supplies
- Purchasing office/IT supplies
- Purchasing supplies for our tuck shop
- Maintenance of club equipment

Some of the larger purchases for the club included new furniture and building supplies needed to make the most of our new larger space. Sofas and a pool table were acquired for the new club room, new tables for board gaming and new chairs for the gaming room.

No payments were made to any volunteer or trustee except for reimbursement of out of pocket expenses incurred in the process of carrying out club business or purchasing supplies for the club.

Risk of Harm

All committee members and volunteers are instructed on health and safety policies and procedures. Locations of fire extinguishers and exits are clearly marked and a roll of attendance is kept to track who is in the building incase of evacuation. Any damaged furniture or equipment is either replaced or repaired promptly so as to avoid accidents or injury,

By following the above the committee judges that there is no risk of harm directly flowing from the activities we undertake in meeting our purpose.

Private Benefits

The club has good working relationships with several local suppliers. They provide us with discounts and sponsorship by way of donated event prize support. In doing so there is often cross promotion via social media.

As such there may be small private benefit to those businesses however it is purely incidental to the purposes of our work and we believe any relationships with them are ultimately to the benefit of our members.



Summary


In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees gave careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

These benefits are evidenced through engagement with our beneficiaries, positive feedback from events, comments posted on our social media and high demand for club services.

Financial accounts have been independently verified by:

*PMB Chartered Accountants
7 The Square
Comber
Newtownards
BT23 5DX*

This report was approved by all the trustees during a meeting on 9th December 2024 and signed on their behalf.



Peter Pratt
Treasurer



Exploding Dice

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108201

Annual return

Independent examiner's Report to the Trustees of Exploding Dice - 108201

I report on the accounts of Exploding Dice for the period ended 29 February 2024, which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the account. The trustees consider that a full audit is not required for this year and an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the organisation is not subject to Audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts.
- Follow the procedure laid down in the General Direction given by the Charity Commission with regard to independent examinations.
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

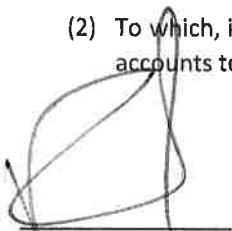
Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material aspect the requirements:
 - To keep accounting records.
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice.
- (2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



PETER BOND FCA
PMB ACCOUNTANTS LIMITED

Dated: 28 December 2024

7 The Square
Comber
Newtownards
BT23 5DX

Exploding Dice

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108201

Accounts

Receipts and Payments

Exploding Dice

For the year ended 28 February 2023

2023

Turnover

Club Membership	3,915.76
Sales	14,822.54
Total Turnover	18,738.30

Cost of Sales

Prizes	1,602.04
Tuck Shop	1,404.12
Total Cost of Sales	3,006.16

Gross Profit

15,732.14

Administrative Costs

Audit & Accountancy fees	120.00
Cleaning	364.66
Depreciation Expense	412.00
General Expenses	88.28
Insurance	684.66
IT Software and Consumables	17.34
Light, Power, Heating	1,696.73
Printing & Stationery	53.21
Rent	7,800.00
Subscriptions	119.85
Travel - National	8.98
Total Administrative Costs	11,365.71

Unrestricted income

4,366.43

Other Income

Donations	2,280.00
Total Other Income	2,280.00

Income on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation

6,646.43

Income after Taxation

6,646.43

Balance Sheet

Exploding Dice

As at 28 February 2023

28 FEB 2023

Fixed Assets

Tangible Assets

Less Accumulated Depreciation on Office Equipment	(239.00)
Office Equipment	1,194.00
Wargaming Terrain	693.72
Total Tangible Assets	1,648.72

Total Fixed Assets	1,648.72
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Current Assets

Cash at bank and in hand

09012938013283	5,138.14
Cash On Hand	180.28
Total Cash at bank and in hand	5,318.42

Prepayments	2,400.00
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Total Current Assets	7,718.42
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Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	7,718.42
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Total Assets less Current Liabilities	9,367.14
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Net Assets	9,367.14
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Funds

Current Year Earnings	6,646.43
Unrestricted funds brought forward	2,720.71
Total Funds	9,367.14

Exploding Dice

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108201

Annual report



Exploding Dice

Charity Number 108201

Trustees Report for Year ending 28th February 2023

Stephen Surgenor (Chairperson)

Peter Pratt (Treasurer)

Sharon Surgenor (Secretary)

Connie Munnis

Robert Wright

Introduction

The trustees of Exploding Dice are pleased to present this report, along with independently verified accounts, to meet our annual monitoring requirements. This document aims to provide information on our activities and achievements as they relate to our purpose and the public benefits attained.

Purpose and Benefit Statement

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The direct public benefits which flow from this purpose include improved mental wellbeing, reduced levels of stress/anxiety and a reduction of social isolation through a sense of community.

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Day to day operation of the organisation is further facilitated by a small but dedicated group of volunteers overseen by the trustees.

Beneficiaries

The intended beneficiaries of our organisation are members of the public who enjoy, or are curious about, tabletop games but:

- Don't have the space, equipment or experience necessary
- Don't know any other people to play with

We meet our purpose firstly by providing a permanent facility, with a high standard of equipment, for people to use. Secondly we help them to arrange games and organise events in the club space where patrons can socialise and enjoy refreshments with other people with a shared interest.

Our beneficiaries come from a wide range of backgrounds and we are an inclusive organisation. However our core demographic tends to be male and between 20 to 50 years of age.



Objectives and Activities

Emerging from several years of Covid restrictions the committee recognised that it would be more important than ever for people to leave their homes and socialise to tackle the issues of isolation and anxiety. To facilitate this we ran open club nights several times a week and organised events across multiple weekends per month.

To play tabletop games you need opponents and/or teammates. Reaching out to people you don't know to arrange these games is something many are reluctant to do due to anxiety, shyness and nervousness. It was determined that there were two key actions we could take to address this:

- Increase both the frequency and variety of "organised play" events
- Provide a means for people to meet and communicate with others

Tournaments and campaign days run on weekends have always proven to be popular. For these events participants don't need to reach out to strangers by themselves to organise anything. By signing up to an event you are guaranteed a set number of games where the club will provide opponents for you and you get to meet new people.

Running more organised events, including during our midweek club nights, became our primary focus for the year. These would give more opportunity for mixing within our membership and help to foster new connections and friendships. This year, across multiple game systems, we organised:

- 3 long term gaming leagues
- 22 tournaments
- 11 free demonstration days
- 10 casual/new player evenings

In addition to this we created a Discord server to supplement our existing social media platforms. This gave people a place to keep in touch with those they would meet at events. On the server they could chat about the gaming hobby and arrange further games amongst themselves.

Performance and Achievements

As a result of our programme of activities through the year we have observed a marked rise in attendance of club nights, more socialising between members and an increased sense of community within the club.

As of the end of February 2023 we have grown to approximately 50 people who attend midweek club nights regularly (3+ times per month). The majority of those are from the Ards



and North Down area but a significant number travel from the Greater Belfast area or further afield. In addition there are a further 20 or 30 people who have regularly travelled from all across Northern Ireland to participate in our weekend events across the year.

At the start of the year our midweek club nights took place on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. However, with the success of our various organised play projects, attendance had grown high enough that all of our gaming tables were often fully booked. This meant that by the end of May we needed to expand our opening hours to include a third club night on Tuesdays to accommodate the growing numbers.

Throughout the year we asked for and received feedback from people on what they think of the services we provide and what effect it has on their lives. Below are examples from just some of the many positive comments we received:

“Exploding Dice has been a lifeline for my mental health before covid and since. Suffering from a chronic pain condition it is easy to get wrapped up in the pain and lose touch with the outside world but this club and the people involved have been a godsend.”

Kevin Harrington

“During Covid lockdown, I, like many, became a bit of a hermit, and was happy to just sit at home watching TV or playing video games. When Exploding Dice offered a free beginner's night to learn how to play Middle Earth (MESBG), I decided to give it a try, and as it was free of charge, and I thought if I learned it play it I might actually put effort every now and again to play it. Fast forward less than a year, and I am regularly out playing MESBG, usually at ED, with some new friends I met through that beginner's evening. I am also part of a very active social media group made up of local players, where we all chat every day. I can guarantee that had I not gone to that event in ED, I would still be sat at home every night doing nothing socially, which long term would have been detrimental to my mental wellbeing for sure.”

Chris Baird

“The Club utilises its excellent facilities to promote a wholesome and supportive atmosphere. The excellent community spirit that Exploding Dice fosters has really benefited my mental health, and I don't believe I'm alone in that sentiment. It provides a place where I can feel I fit in, am surrounded by good and caring people, and can expand my social circles by meeting people face to face at the club who share similar gaming and hobby tastes.”

Michael Bradford



Exploding Dice NIC:108201

Lease of Premises

The lease agreement for our premises at 69A High Street, Bangor was set to expire at the end of July 2023. The landlord required a notice period of 6 months which placed a deadline of end of January 2023 for a decision on whether to renew or seek an alternative location.

The High Street building, while suitable in the early days of the organisation, came to present several issues which made us hesitant to renew:

- Thermal insulation was very poor and the building got very cold and damp.
- Heating was provided by Economy 7 storage heaters that were both expensive to run yet ineffective at heating the space properly.
- There were recurring leaks in the flat roof of the property.
- The layout of the unit was awkward and restricted the usable space which stunted our potential to grow.
- The stairway into the unit was unsuitable for the installation of a wheelchair lift and improving accessibility is a long term goal for the committee.

Taking all of that into account the committee decided it would be in the best interests of the organisation and to the benefit of our users if we found a better location. After a short search a suitable unit was found in Dunlop Industrial Units on Balloo Drive, Bangor.

This unit is almost double the size of the High Street unit with gas central heating, insulated roof and double glazed windows with the option to add LED lighting throughout the building. In addition there is plentiful car parking and a wide staircase and large bathrooms which could be easily adapted for wheelchair accessibility when funds become available.

While the rent and service charges represented a 30% increase on those of the High Street unit the committee agreed that there would be significant savings on energy bills that would offset that and was within budget. Some minor building work would be required to create a partition wall and install lighting but it was judged that this would fall within our means.

A contract was negotiated for Unit 17-18 Dunlop Industrial Units and the decision was taken to sign a lease for 3 years starting on 1st March 2023. A 5 month rent free period was included that would let us complete our lease on High Street, undertake any necessary work and transition operations of the organisation to the new location. A deposit of £2400 was paid to secure the lease.

The required notice was given to the High Street landlord at the end of January 2023 and the committee looks forward to the improved environment and facilities we can provide in our new space moving into next year.



Fundraising

Our total gross income for the financial year was £21,018

As an organisation our primary source of income continues to be via club memberships, table booking fees and tickets for events. Affordability and access to our services is important to us and is reflected in our pricing policy. Our event tickets continue to be 30% to 40% less expensive than those for similar events in other parts of the country. On club nights concession rates are available for those in full time education and on benefits. In addition the monthly membership option provides a substantial saving of almost 50% for those who attend the club every week.

In evaluating public benefit the trustees note that our services should be open to all and that poverty should not be a barrier to benefiting from our purpose. In accordance with this we offer further concessions and free memberships to those in unfortunate circumstances. In addition we have a collection of books, games, and gaming equipment available for use free of charge.

A further source of fundraising has become available to us this year through the Halifax Foundation (<https://www.halifaxfoundationni.org>). Their Matched Giving Scheme encourages Halifax/Lloyds employees to get involved in the voluntary sector and to help fundraise through personal participation in events and giving their time freely to support the work of charities. They will match every pound an employee fundraises or donate £8 per hour of voluntary time given (to a maximum of £500 for fundraising events and /or £500 for voluntary time given)

In this financial year we received a total of £2220 from the Halifax Foundation thanks to the time and efforts of committee member Mr Robby Wright and volunteer Mr Michael Brough.

Expenditure

Our total gross expenditure for the financial year was £14,372

The largest source of expenditure for the organisation continues to be property rental plus the associated charges and utilities. During the year the High Street property was reassessed by Land and Property Services to take into consideration our charity status. During the assessment period we were required to pay rates instalments but those payments were reimbursed once the assessment was completed.

Other regular expenditure comes in the form of:

- Purchasing trophies and prizes for our tournament events
- Purchasing cleaning supplies



- Purchasing office/IT supplies
- Purchasing supplies for our tuck shop
- Maintenance of club equipment

There was relatively little expenditure this year on adding to the equipment and assets of the club as we focussed on building up funds for moving to a new premises. The few purchases made were:

- A new vacuum cleaner £280
- 4 new tables of warhammer terrain to facilitate the running of tournaments £364.80
- New stronger storage boxes for terrain £266

No payments were made to any volunteer or trustee except for reimbursement of out of pocket expenses incurred in the process of carrying out club business or purchasing supplies for the club.

Risk of Harm

All committee members and volunteers are instructed on health and safety policies and procedures. Locations of fire extinguishers and exits are clearly marked and a roll of attendance is kept to track who is in the building incase of evacuation. Any damaged furniture or equipment is either replaced or repaired promptly so as to avoid accidents or injury,

By following the above the committee judges that there is no risk of harm directly flowing from the activities we undertake in meeting our purpose.

Private Benefits

The club has good working relationships with several local suppliers. They provide us with discounts and sponsorship by way of donated event prize support. In doing so there is often cross promotion via social media.

As such there may be small private benefit to those businesses however it is purely incidental to the purposes of our work and we believe any relationships with them are ultimately to the benefit of our members.



Summary


In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees gave careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

These benefits are evidenced through engagement with our beneficiaries, positive feedback from evaluation forms, comments posted on our social media and high demand for club services.

Financial accounts have been independently verified by:

*PMB Chartered Accountants
7 The Square
Comber
Newtownards
BT23 5DX*

This report was approved by all the trustees during a meeting on 19th December 2023 and signed on their behalf.



Peter Pratt
Treasurer



Exploding Dice

Northern Ireland - Charity number 108201

Annual return

Independent examiner's Report to the Trustees of Exploding Dice - 108201

I report on the accounts of Exploding Dice for the period ended 28 February 2023, which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the account. The trustees consider that a full audit is not required for this year and an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the organisation is not subject to Audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts.
- Follow the procedure laid down in the General Direction given by the Charity Commission with regard to independent examinations.
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Exploding Dice as required by section 63(1) and (2) of the Regulations; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.


PETER BOND FCA
PMB ACCOUNTANTS LIMITED

Dated: 28 December 2023

7 The Square
Comber
Newtownards
BT23 5DX