



# Exploding Dice

Charity Number 108201

## Trustees Report for Year ending 28th February 2025

Stephen Surgenor (Chairperson)  
Peter Pratt (Treasurer)  
Sharon Surgenor (Secretary)  
Connie Munnis  
Simon Brackenridge

## **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 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 the mental health of our service users and promote socialisation.

The direct public benefits which flow from our 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. By doing so we 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 necessary space or equipment at home
- Don't have the relevant experience
- 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. Secondly we make introductions and help people to arrange games. Thirdly we host events in our club space during which our patrons can socialise and enjoy refreshments with other people with shared interests.

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



## **Committee and Volunteers**

As we began the new year Robby Wright stepped back from his position on the committee of trustees as he no longer felt he had the free time necessary to contribute. The club thanks him for all the work he has put into helping us make possible all we have achieved over the years. While he is no longer part of the committee Robby will continue to be a member of the club and will still help to run our club Bloodbowl leagues and events.

In his place we were joined by Simon Brackenridge as a new committee member. Simon is a regular attendee at the club and we were very pleased that he could bring his knowledge and skillset to help us steer the direction of the organisation.

In addition we also welcomed several new volunteers at the club. Mark Chapman will be helping supervise in the club on Tuesday evenings while Connor Glover and Nicky Forsythe will be giving their time to run our Middle Earth leagues and events.

## **Club Facilities**

The trustees are pleased to report that last year's relocation has proven to be a major success. Our new premises are much warmer in the winter, cooler in the summer and the larger unit size has been crucial as we continue to grow. Overall we now have a much more comfortable and welcoming space and this has been reflected by the positive feedback we have received from our membership.

One negative aspect to having a larger space and increasing membership however was the increased workload with respect to cleaning and waste management. While in the past this was managed by volunteers the committee recognised we had reached a point that help was required. As such we agreed that it was prudent and acceptable to pay a cleaner to come in once a week. This removed the responsibility from volunteers and let us focus on more important tasks.

## **Objectives and Activities**

Having successfully made it through our first year in a new premises, the committee recognised that income relative to overheads was stable and favourable enough that we could begin a process of updating and refreshing our collection of terrain. Many of our sets were old and in need of repair or replacement and this required investment of both time and money to resolve. In addition we needed to implement a better system to organise and store our assets so they are less likely to be damaged and easier to access.



As in previous years we recognised that “organised play” fills an important role in creating opportunities for existing members to mingle and to encourage new members to participate. We had a successful schedule of events in the previous year and a good group of volunteers in place to facilitate them so we committed to repeating it this year and providing any resources necessary for continued success.

In addition to the above it was also recognised that we should do more to increase the public visibility of the club beyond our current social media efforts. To achieve this we created flyers to leave in local gaming shops and took a stall at local railway and modelling shows to reach a new audience of potential members.

## **Performance and Achievements**

This year, across multiple game systems, we organised:

- 4 Gaming leagues
- 52 Tournaments and campaign event days
- 3 demonstration days
- 4 board game evenings

Weekend events continue to be well attended and with an average of one event per week we are operating at near our maximum current capacity.

Midweek club nights are regularly busy and we now have about 100 members, most of whom attend at least once per week. Our club Discord and Facebook groups are very active with people supporting each other and helping new faces to find games,

We have trialled a new monthly board game evening on Friday nights to encourage people to try different games. This has unfortunately not proven popular but we suspect this is mainly due to it being at the end of the week. We will consider trying again in the future on a different evening.



## Testimonials

As we reached the end of the year we asked our members to give us their thoughts on the services we provide and what effect it has on their lives. Below are some examples:

*"The club is an environment where anyone who attends feels welcome. New players are encouraged and introduced to other people with similar interests. I've made numerous friends through the club with people from all walks of life"*

James McKelvey

*"Exploding Dice is a great place to relax and play games. Since I started coming over the last few years I've met dozens of new people I can call friends and get to explore my interests in different games with them. "*

David Orr

*"My job is demanding and life can be stressful with young kids. Getting back into warhammer has been tremendously cathartic and Exploding Dice has allowed me to engage more easily with the community of gamers in this hobby. The volunteers and members are kind and welcoming, very helpful to new players."*

Rory Conniffe

*"Exploding Dice has enabled me to meet lots of fantastic people that inspire and encourage me to grow as a hobbyist and gamer. The club is very friendly and warm and the volunteers really help bring everyone together under one roof with a common love for the hobby. Long may it continue."*

Graeme Aiken

*"I don't have a space big enough to play at home so it's great having Exploding Dice local to me. Their facilities and equipment for wargaming are great and attending the club with my friends has let us meet new people with shared interests ."*

Stewart Riley



Exploding Dice NIC:108201

## **Fundraising**

Our total gross income for the financial year was £32,788

The primary source of income continues to be via club memberships, table booking fees and tickets for events. This year we have managed to start updating our wargaming terrain and made some other quality of life improvements while maintaining enough cash on hand 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 £500 from them thanks to the time and efforts of committee member Mr Robby Wright..

## **Expenditure**

Our total gross expenditure for the financial year was £26,242

The largest source of expenditure for the organisation continues to be property rental plus the associated service charges.

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



Some of the larger purchases for the club this year included new gaming mats to extend our collection and replace worn and damaged ones. In addition we expanded our range of terrain suitable for Warhammer Fantasy and Middle Earth game systems and started purchasing new storage boxes to better organise and store our collection.

We also had some banners and advertising materials printed to allow us to attend conventions and modelling shows. The aging automatic hand dryers in the bathroom were replaced and we bought a new fridge for cold drinks in our tuck shop.

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 in case 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

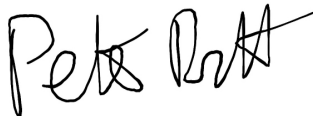
In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees gave careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

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 1st December 2025 and signed on their behalf.



Peter Pratt  
Treasurer

