

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT for Cavehill Mountainbikers Club for the year ended 31/12/24

Charity Number NIC 108585

Trustees

- Bernard McClure, Chairman
- Simon Johnston, Vice Chairman
- John O'Neill, Club Treasurer
- Alan McKinstry, Officer
- Brian Smyth, Officer
- Chris Hurn, Officer
- Stephen Cassidy, Officer
- James Cunningham, Officer
- Colin Bell, Officer

Objectives and Activities

The Cavehill Mountainbikers Club ('the Club') was formed in October 2018 primarily to engage with Belfast City Council (BCC) and other stakeholders with regard to promoting safe and sustainable mountain biking on Cave Hill, Belfast.

After many years of liaising with Belfast City Council, and other stakeholders, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was agreed in November 2021 for the formation and trial of a mountain biking trail known as 'The Middle'.

The main elements of the MOU was that construction of the trail was to be restricted to an existing natural mountain biking trail that had been in existence since the 1990's, that no building materials could be brought on site (all natural materials from within the close vicinity of the trail were used), and that no powered tools could be used. Once the trail had been inspected, signage erected by BCC and signed off, the trail entered a trial period through to November 2023. From Spring 2022, volunteers from the Club created a trail to the highest international standards using only materials on hand and manual labour.

The trail officially opened with much positive publicity in October 2022. The feedback from riders has been overwhelmingly positive and a survey carried out by Belfast City Council in November 2023 demonstrated that the trail has been very well received by the vast majority of Cave Hill Country Park users.

The trail is now permanent and governed by the MOU between Cavehill Mountainbikers Club and Belfast City Council which was approved and ratified at a meeting of the Belfast City Council People and Communities Committee on 6th February 2024. The Club has now entered a sustained period working closely with Belfast City Council and facilitating volunteer trail maintenance days for local companies. The Club also continues to carry out regular inspections and maintenance days to ensure the continued safe and sustainable enjoyment of the trail by mountain bikers.

We would also like to register our thanks to Belfast City Council for the speedy removal of some large fallen trees which blocked the trail in early December 2024 following storm Darragh.

Financial Review

The Club has no employees and is run by volunteers who undertake both administrative tasks and manual tasks maintaining the trail.

In 2024, a small loss was recorded as funding was raised solely from donations, however costs were limited to insurance and a small number of tool purchases. With the majority of trail work now complete and an adequate amount of tools held, the Club has sufficient funding to continue to maintain the trail for 2025.

Should the Club be wound up, surplus funding will be donated to a suicide prevention charity as per the club constitution.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:



Bernard McClure
Chair
Cavehill Mountain Bike Club