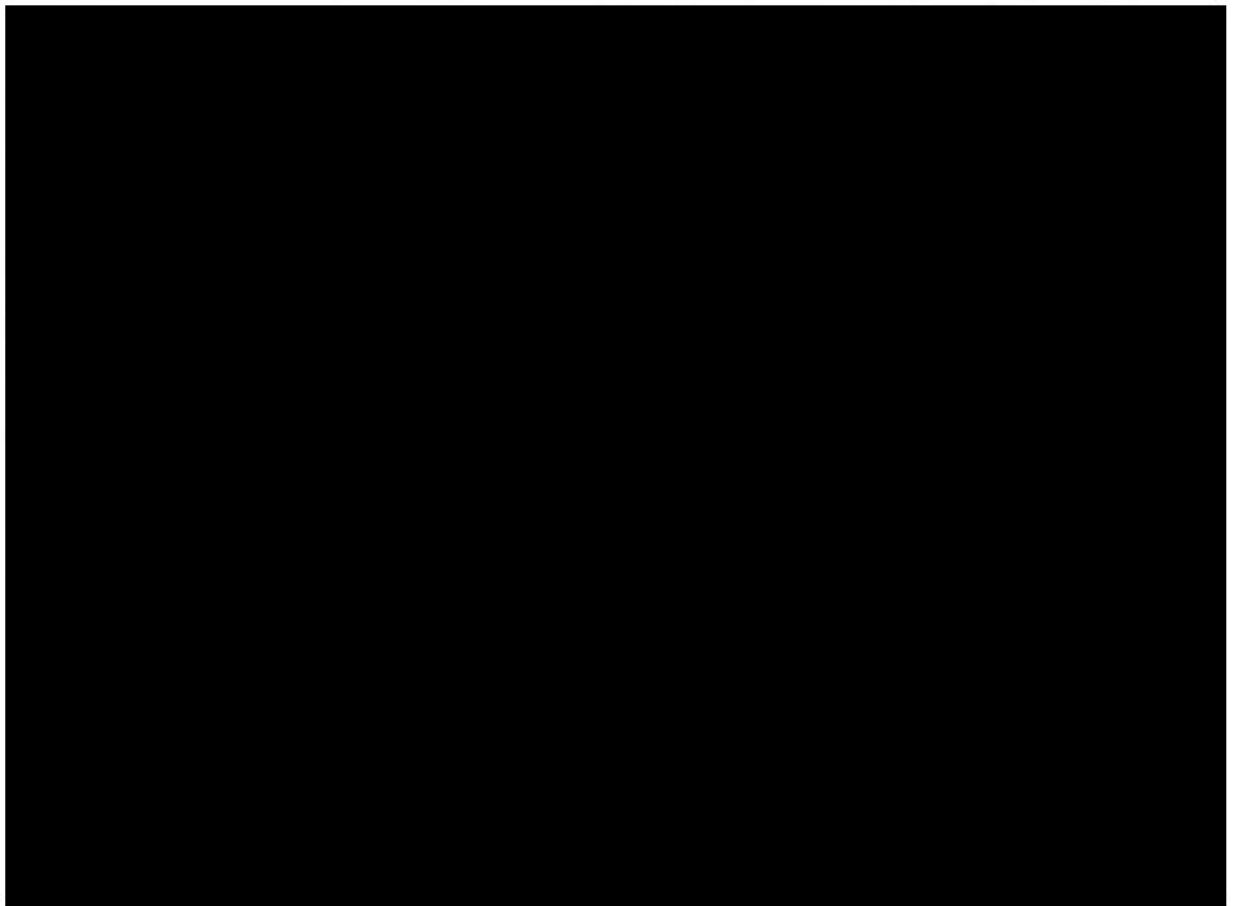




PENTLAND CANOE CLUB

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

23 APRIL 2024 – 31 MARCH 2025



"Promoting participation in paddlesport in the Thurso, West Caithness and North Sutherland area"



DETAILS & CONTACT INFORMATION

Scottish Charity Number: SC053300

Correspondence Address: c/o Sandaig, Crescent Street

Halkirk

Caithness

KW12 6XN

Website www.pentlandcanoeclub.org.uk

Facebook www.facebook.com/PentlandCanoeClub

X @PentlandCanoe

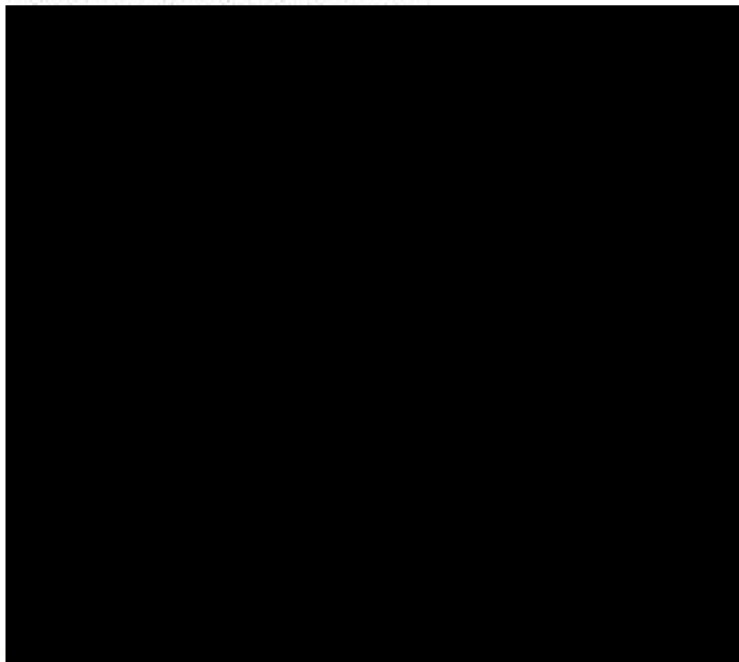


CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Club has 15 Trustees. Thirteen were appointed at the Charity's formation on 23 April 2024, with the remaining elected during the Annual Members Meeting held on 23 November 2024. All Trustees serve a three-year term, supporting the Club's governance, strategic direction and operations..

At the Annual Members Meeting held on 23 November 2024, members approved a move to a staggered rotation system of the initial Trustees. This change was to ensure continuity, support succession planning, and maintain a balanced mix of experience and fresh perspectives within the Trustee group.

The during the reporting period were:



OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Club's purposes are to promote the advancement of public participation in paddlesport in the Thurso, West Caithness and North Sutherland area. The key aims and activities are:

- to provide training and coaching; and paddling trips
- to provide opportunities for Members to try different aspects of paddlesport activities;
- to support club Members to gain paddlesport awards, this may include applying for financial assistance to other organisations;
- to provide information about paddlesport.
- work with other organisations to promote paddlesports and other related activities such as environmental awareness; access and water safety;
- financially assisting Members to attend courses and / or purchase equipment
- to run competitions and events



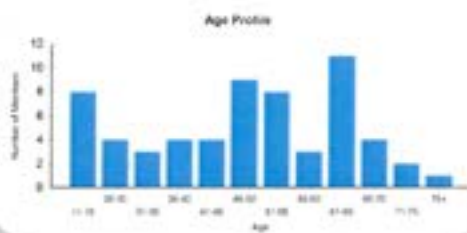
2024 MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW



Membership: **68**

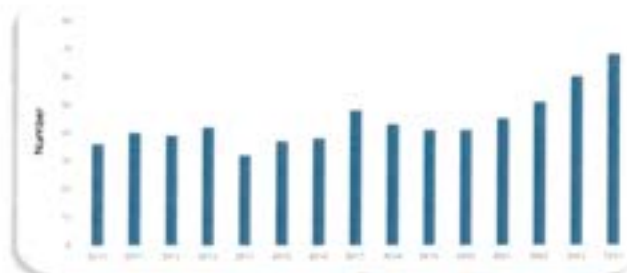
Gender Distribution

Female: **51%**



Average Age: **47**

Average Membership
(2010 – 2024):
41





THE CHAIR'S ANNUAL REVIEW OF CLUB ACTIVITIES

This has been another busy and rewarding year for the Club. Despite facing one of the wettest Summers in recent years. Our sessions remained well attended, and the enthusiasm of our members continues to be the driving force behind our success.

Governance

The Club successfully transitioned into a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). This was approved on 23 April 2024. A part of the Constitution was revised and a new Operating Procedure (Governance & Management). Special thanks to [REDACTED] for leading this process, with support from [REDACTED]

At the Annual Members Meeting held November 2024, some minor changes to the Constitution were made. OSCR was informed of these.

Key Club documentation is available on the Club website.

40th Anniversary Celebrations

2024 marked the Club's 40th Anniversary, and the Club celebrated with a series of memorable events including the Freswick Castle Paddle & Barbecue, held in July. The Club also welcomed members from Caithness Kayak Club and East Sutherland Canoe Club to the event. Three paddling groups paddled out from the castle and returned for a barbeque.

During the event [REDACTED] was presented with an award to mark his 40 years as Club Secretary. Grateful thanks to [REDACTED] for hosting and to [REDACTED] for coordinating.

Our anniversary was featured in the local press and the Scottish Paddler magazine, with thanks to [REDACTED] for her contributions.

Membership

Membership remains strong at around 60 members, with a healthy balance of male and female paddlers. During the year the Club welcomed several new members, and it's encouraging to see continued interest in paddlesport and the Club.



Training & Development

Training and development of paddlers remains at the centre of the Club's activities. During the year these included:

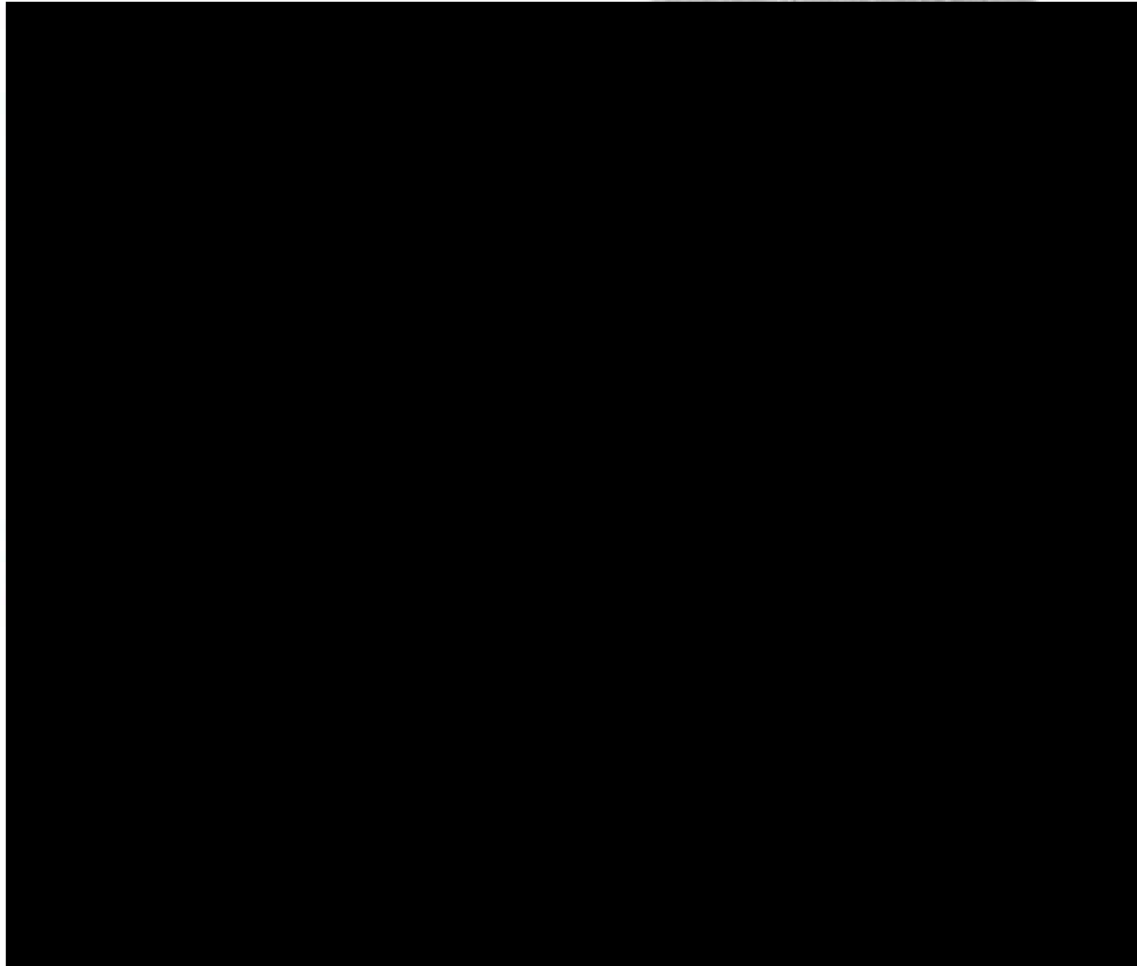
- **2024 Club Volunteer Conference.** Organised by Paddle Scotland, this was well attended by our Club volunteers. The event offers valuable opportunities to connect with professional coaches, develop skills and meet other paddlers.
- **2024 Summer evening Training Sessions:** This was our second full year at Scrabster beach. This continues to work well. Despite some unfavourable weather, which resulted in some evenings being cancelled. However, in general, the sessions were well attended. The Club records our thanks to the Scrabster Harbour Trust for their continued assistance during the sessions.
- **2024 Joint Club evening training sessions:** Led by [REDACTED] with support from [REDACTED] have helped paddlers progress toward Sea Kayak and Leadership Awards.
- **2024/25 Winter Pool Sessions:** The Club's winter pool training sessions were well attended and provided a warm, safe environment for paddlers to maintain and develop their skills. The Club is grateful to Highlife Highland and Thurso Leisure Centre for their continued support.
- **2024/25 River training Sessions:** Despite the low water levels, some Club members did manage to get onto the river.
- **British Canoeing Awarding Body (BCAB) courses:**
 - [REDACTED] on achieving their Level 3 Sea Coach Award. Congratulations to them.
 - Two navigation planning courses had been delivered during the winter month
 - The Foundation Module: Swimming Pools & Paddlesport
 - There are some members working towards their Sea Kayak Leader Award.
 - The Club always welcome new coaches and leaders—please speak to us if you're interested.
- **Future Plans:** Plans are underway to launch a Tuesday evening session dedicated to female paddlers aiming to develop skills toward awards or coaching roles.



Paddling Activities

Day and Weekend trips took place throughout the year. During the summer months, there were paddling adventures to Gairloch, the Summer Isles, the Rabbit Islands and trips along the North and East coasts. During the winter months, there were trips on the River Thurso and on local lochs.

Each of these events offered stunning venues for members to enjoy.



Club Stores

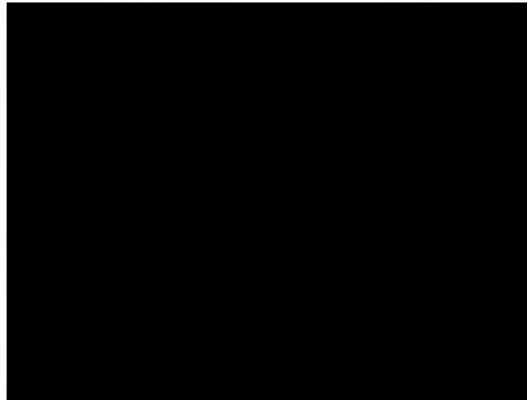
The Club currently maintains four storage containers, which received seasonal upkeep during the year, including the application of preservative coatings toward the end of summer. Sincere thanks to all members who contributed their time and effort to this essential maintenance.



Club Equipment

A significant development this year was the acquisition of a portable Automated External Defibrillator (AED), made possible with support from Caithness Sports Council. This compact, life-saving device will accompany us on trips and represents a vital enhancement to our safety provisions.

The Club is pleased to see several members invest in their own sea kayaks, reflecting a strong commitment to the sport. Looking ahead, the Club plans to expand its fleet with the purchase of additional boats in the coming year.



Honorary Membership



At the 2024 Annual Members Meeting, [REDACTED] a former GB Under-23 Sprint paddler, was awarded Honorary Membership to the Club. That year, he completed a solo kayak circumnavigation of mainland UK in 58 days, becoming the second-fastest person to do so. His journey was delayed by a 7-day storm-bound stay in Thurso, during which he connected with the Club and supported local events. Throughout the remainder of his expedition and beyond, [REDACTED] actively promoted the Club and the warm welcome he received in Caithness. He returned in September to express his gratitude.

Major Incident Exercise

During the Summer, the Club took part in a multi-agency emergency exercise simulating a helicopter crash involving multiple casualties. The scenario included participation from RNLI, Coastguard, Scottish Ambulance Service, and Police Scotland. Club kayakers were "rescued" and assessed for injuries and hypothermia as part of the coordinated response.

One key learning from the exercise was that the lifeboat does not carry a portable Automated External Defibrillator (AED), underscoring the value of our recent AED purchase—a vital addition to our safety equipment.

We extend sincere thanks to our volunteer casualties who took part in the exercise, all of whom emerged unscathed. A follow-up exercise with RNLI is scheduled for the coming season to continue strengthening our emergency response capabilities.



Community Activities

The Club continued to be involved in supporting the local Caithness community. Activities included:



- **Beach Cleans:** Beach cleans were carried out at Helmsdale and Huna, led by [REDACTED] in collaboration with Caithness Beach Cleans.

An amazing amount of rubbish was removed for the beaches. From the Huna alone 1005 kg of waste was lifted. Comprising of 42 tyres, 19 broken creels, and 13 sacks of bits of old rope, plastic, and bits and pieces.

These efforts were also highlighted in the *Scottish Paddler* magazine. Thank you to all volunteers who contributed to this important work to look after our coastlines.

- **Watersports Day:** Despite cooler weather than last year, the Club supported a Watersports Day with the Pentland Firth Yacht Club and others. This was successful. Thanks to Silvia Bonati and her team of volunteers for organising this popular "come and try" event for the community.
- **Come & Try Sessions:** The Club organised introductory kayaking session for local Scout groups at the Thurso Leisure Centre pool. These sessions provided a safe and supportive environment for young people to experience paddlesport. Many showed impressive enthusiasm and picked up skills quickly. We hope this positive introduction encourages them to pursue the sport further in the future.
- **Caithness International Science Festival:** Club members supported the Caithness International Science Festival with an engaging display and offering hands-on experiences. Throughout the day, the team answered questions about the sport and invited attendees to sit in or on a variety of boats, helping to spark interest and curiosity in paddlesport.
- **Armed Forces Day:** The Club was pleased to support the Thurso Branch of the Royal British Legion during Armed Forces Day. The Club, joined by [REDACTED] in representing our paddlesport community. The event provided a valuable opportunity to engage with the public, raise awareness of the Club's activities, and contribute to the day's success. Members also assisted with the popular duck race, adding to the community spirit of the occasion.



Paddle Scotland

Paddle Scotland (formerly the Scottish Canoe Association) has introduced new Standard for The Club successfully met all deployment requirements for key volunteers by the end of 2024. Many members completed essential training, with thanks to [REDACTED] for her efforts in encouraging participation. The Club extends its appreciation to all who contributed.

Emma Summers and Nancy Speirs continue to represent the Club on the Paddle Scotland Access & Environmental Group. Their work focuses on promoting environmental awareness among paddlers across Scotland, including efforts to prevent the spread of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS). They will maintain this involvement at the 2025 Paddle Scotland Club Volunteers Conference.

In December 2024, [REDACTED] was elected as a Director on the Board of Paddle Scotland.

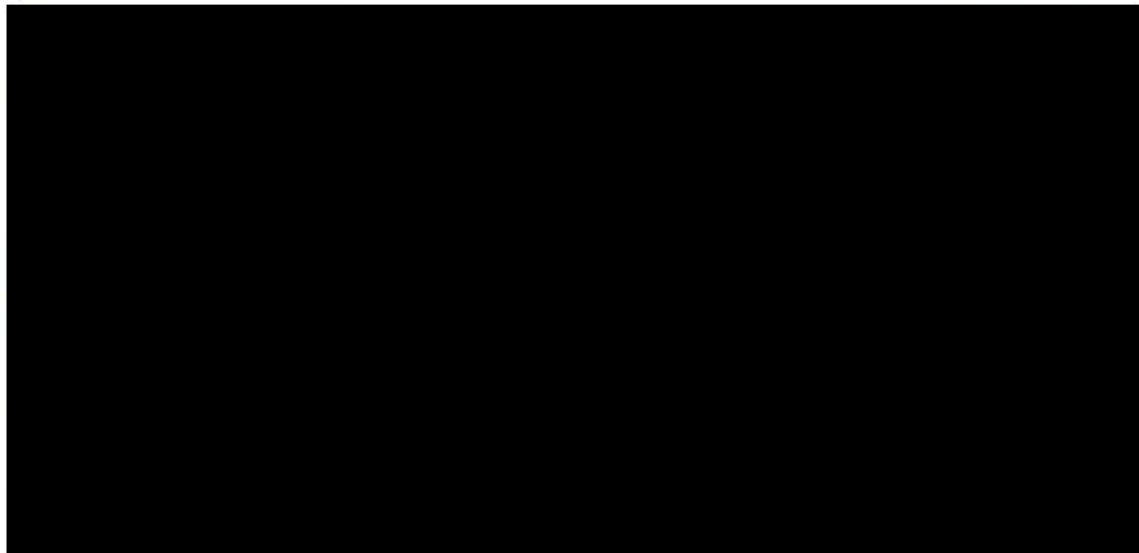
Acknowledgements

In closing, I would like to express heartfelt gratitude to our Board, volunteers, helpers, coaches, and leaders. Your dedication and commitment are the foundation of our Club's continued success. We look forward to another safe, active, and inspiring year ahead.

[REDACTED]

Chair

Pentland Canoe Club





2024/2025 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

As part of the Club's transition into a Charity, the Funds held in the previous entity, £23473.52, were transferred to the Charity.

A summary of Income / Expenditure for the reporting period (23 April 2024 - 31 March 2025) is presented in Table 1. This excludes the funds transferred from previous entity.

Table 1: Summary on Income and Expenditure for the Reporting Period

Income	£ 5720.16
Expenditure	£ 4180.47
Surplus / [Deficit]	£ 1539.69

At 31 March 2025, the Club's total funds amounted to **£25,013.21**. These funds are distributed across three designated Funds, as illustrated in Figure 1.

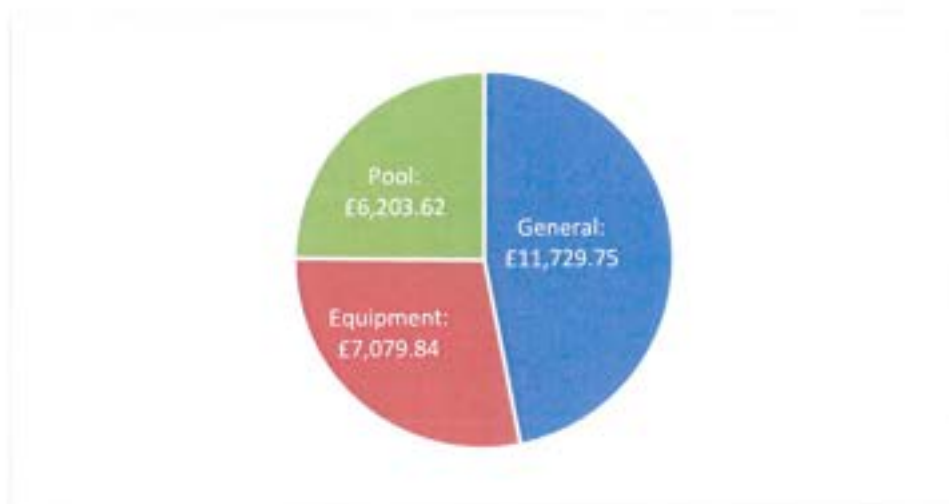


Figure 1: Fund Values at 31 March 2025

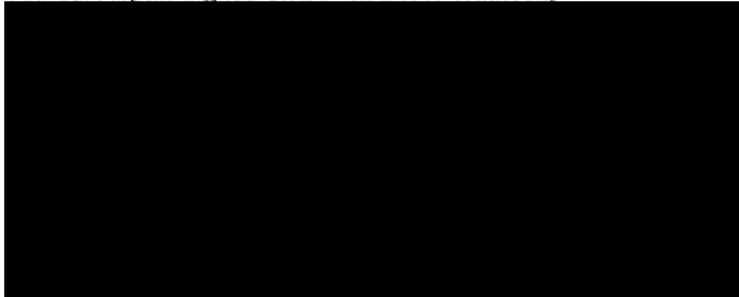
- **General:** Income into this fund is mainly from subscription fees. The fund is used to cover the general running expenses of the Club. These include memberships to organisations such as Paddle Scotland; insurance and storage maintenance.
- **Equipment [Restricted¹]:** Income from the members use of equipment is allocated to this fund. The fund is used to assist in purchasing new equipment or maintenance costs for current equipment.

¹ These funds are classified as "Restricted" for operational purposes. The Board retains the discretion to reallocate them toward other initiatives that align with the Club's objectives.



- **Pool [Restricted²]:** Income into this fund is generated from the winter swimming pool sessions. The fund is used to offset the costs of purchasing equipment solely for swimming pool training or the running costs of these sessions.

Annual Report Signed on behalf of the Trustees,



² These funds are classified as "Restricted" for operational purposes. The Board retains the discretion to reallocate them toward other initiatives that align with the Club's objectives.

SC053300



Receipts and payments accounts						
For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date	
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month
	23	April	2024		31	March

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds current period to nearest £	Total funds last period to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	5,018				5,018	
Legacies					-	
Grants	400				400	
Receipts from fundraising activities	249				249	
Gross trading receipts	-				-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings	53				53	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
					-	
A1 Sub total	5,720	-	-	-	5,720	-
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	5,720	-	-	-	5,720	-
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities	1,969				1,969	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	1,211				1,211	
Grants and donations	1,000				1,000	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Other					-	
					-	
A3 Sub total	4,180	-	-	-	4,180	-
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	4,180	-	-	-	4,180	-
Net receipts / (payments)	1,540	-	-	-	1,540	-
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds						
					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	1,540	-	-	-	1,540	-

Section B Statement of balances

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	23,474	-	-	-	23,474	
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	1,540				1,540	
						-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	25,014	-	-	-	25,014	-
	(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))						

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Market valuation to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B2 Investments				
		Total	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (if available) to nearest £	Current value (if available) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B3 Other assets					
		Total	-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B4 Liabilities				
		Total	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (estimate) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B5 Contingent liabilities				
		Total	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees
on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of
approval

17/11/25

Section C Notes to the Accounts

C1 Nature and purpose of funds (may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)

--

C2 Grants

Type of activity or project supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
Instructor Training	CSC	1	200
Equipment Purchase	CSC	1	200
Total			400

C3a Trustee remuneration

If no remuneration was paid during the period to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee cross this box (otherwise complete section 3b)	x
--	---

Authority under which paid

£

C3b Trustee remuneration - details

C4a Trustee expenses

If no expenses were paid to any charity trustee during the period then cross this box (otherwise complete section 4b)	x
---	---

Number of trustees

£

C4b Trustee expenses - details

C5 Transactions with trustees and connected persons

Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	Transaction amount (£)	Balance outstanding at period end (£)

C6 Other information

--

Analysis of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total current period	Total last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
Subscriptions, Pool, Equip, Donation, Security	5,018				5,018	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	5,018	-	-	-	5,018	-

• • • • •

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
CSC for Training	200		200	
CSC for Equipment	200		200	
			-	
			-	
Total	400	-	400	

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[illegible]

* * * * *

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Equipment Purchase/Maintenance	1,211				1,211	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	1,211	-	-	-	1,211	

• • • • •

Additional analysis (2)

5 Breakdown of unrestricted funds

	Pool	Equipment	General	unrestricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total unrestricted funds	Total unrestricted funds last period
Receipts						
Donations	801	770	3,448		5,018	
Legacies					-	
Grants		200	200		400	
Receipts from fundraising activities			249		249	
Gross trading receipts					-	
buildings			53		53	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
Sub total	801	970	3,950	-	5,720	-
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	801	970	3,950	-	5,720	-
Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities			1,969		1,969	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities		1,178	33		1,211	
Grants and donations			1,000		1,000	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Sub total	-	1,178	3,002	-	4,180	-
Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	1,178	3,002	-	4,180	-
Net receipts / (payments)	801	(208)	948	-	1,540	-
Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	801	(208)	948	-	1,540	-

Nature and purpose of funds

Pool, Equipment & General historic funds used to separate income/expenditure for reference but funds accrued not restricted for use

Additional analysis (3)**6 Breakdown of restricted funds**

	Restricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total restricted funds	Total restricted funds last period
Receipts						
Donations					-	
Legacies					-	
Grants					-	
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities					-	
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net receipts / (payments)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nature and purpose of funds						

	Independent examiner's report on the accounts v2						
Report to the trustees/members of	Charity name Pentland Canoe Club						
Registered charity number	SC053300						
On the accounts of the charity for the period	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year	to	Day	Month	Year
	23	April	2024		31	March	2025
Set out on pages	1 - 5					(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)	
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.						
Basis of independent examiner's statement	My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.						
Independent examiner's statement	In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page*]						
	<div>1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:<ul style="list-style-type: none">to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, andto prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations</div> <div>have not been met, or</div> <div>2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</div>						
Signed**:	<div></div>						
Name:							
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):							
Address:							

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

** OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures

APPENDIX 3

Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of
any items that the
examiner wishes to
disclose