THE SOUTHSEA SKATEPARK COMPANY LIMITED

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Opening hours and user numbers: in this, its fifteenth year of operation, the charity has experienced a higher than usual number of sessions cancelled due to wet weather (the skatepark cannot open if the riding/skating surfaces are wet) this has had a significant impact upon income during the year.

Safety: the regular inspections of the park and equipment continued to be carried out, including the annual ROSPA inspection:the report again praised the park operators for their continuous improvements. The company successfully applied for CIL funding to enable maintenance and refurbishment of the majority of ramps, which suffer deterioration from exposure to the weather.

Users: the majority of users continued to be aged under 16 while the proportion of over 16 users stayed at 20%. We continue to encourage an environment of mutual support and comradeship and have received feedback from parents about the benefit their children have received from the park. The special sessions for under 10 year olds, to support the new generation of young riders and skaters, continued on Saturday mornings and a new partnership with the Shred Academy on Sunday mornings has further encouraged young user participation. We also continue to welcome groups such as Young Carers and disability groups for special / supported sessions.

Events: we organised a number of special events including King of Concrete, BMX and scooter jams and continue to build on this programme. Declan Brooks - bronze BMX medal winner at the 2022 Olympics and an alumni of Southsea Skatepark - visited us to cut the ribbon on our new resi.ramp and spoke encouragingly to the young people attending.
We were again included within the Victorious area for the three days of the August bank holiday weekend. This gives people an opportunity to take part in short roller disco sessions, have a go at various sports and watch the park display team perform.

Coaching: in small groups ran throughout the dryer months and the coaching vouchers were still popular as birthday and Christmas gifts.

Out of Hours usage: this has much reduced as parents have opted to hold their children's parties in the Under Cover Skatepark which is not weather dependent.

Equipment for hire: the availability for hire of BMX bikes, helmets, skateboards, skates continue to provide an opportunity for beginners to try the park without having to invest in the cost of buying equipment.

Publicity and promotion: our website, facebook and Instagram pages were kept up to date, enabling staff to give users regular information on opening days and times and information on forthcoming events.

Rained-off tickets: the park is unsafe to ride or skate when wet; if rain starts during a session and the park has to close, users are given a 'rained-off ticket' which gives them entry to a future session at a reduced cost. We maintained this concession during the year.

The Café: is runs under a licence agreement by independent operators. Following the departure of the previous operator, the park has provided a hot and cold drinks and sweets service until the new operator can take over in spring with a revamped menu, with an emphasis on healthy eating.

The Shop: our wholly owned trading company operates the Skatepark shop and all trading profits are transferred to the charity to support the running of the skatepark. We sell spares, skates, boards, scooters, helmets and clothing, including our own brand items. We have initiated a partnership agreement with Dogg scooters and started to stock bikes on a sale or rerurn basis.

Photoshoots: the park was available during the year as a venue for photoshoots by skateboarders, BMX riders and others, student film makers and young fashion designers.

Staffing

There was some turnover of staff during the year, mainly as student members finished their courses at the university. The charity continued to ensure that all staff are first aid trained and DBS checked at enhanced level.

Future plans

Roof project - a roof over the rink area would enable opening even in wet weather, as well as providing new indoor space for education and activity rooms. Following lengthy discussion with the planning department the revised drawings formally submitted and planning permission given. Detailed costings are now awaited

Appreciation and thanks

This Annual Report gives the Board an opportunity to offer public thanks to the many people who have supported their work to date. Special thanks go to the following:

- The band of volunteers who work on the ramp repair and maintenance and help out at events
- Ashford Press for the printing of posters and vouchers
- Portsmouth City Council for their funding support for the roof plans
  Jay Ricketts of JLR Services for the provision of skips to remove gash wood from ramp repairs
- Individual donors in cash and kind

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The trustees continue to keep expenditure under tight control whilst seeking to maximise income.

The day to day recording of income, the invoicing and the payment of bills is carried out on site by one of the trustees and all records are passed to an external bookkeeper who produces the monthly management accounts for the Board. The bookkeeper also prepares the books for the year-end examination and production of accounts in the form required by Companies House and the Charity Commission. These accounts are on the following pages.

There has been some impact on usage from the opening of an indoor skatepark in the city centre, particularly affecting roller discos (which we have discontinued) and party bookings. However, people are using both facilities, we are in liaison with the operating group and relationships are positive.

The last winter and spring have been very wet and our number of lost days has been the highest of any year since we opened. This has resulted in an overall loss for the year and the trustees are currently developing a contingency plan against continuing losses. A strategy to promote additional use and activities is being developed.

Reserves policy
The charity has an agreed Reserves Policy and following Charity Commission recommendations had allocated to the Reserves the equivalent of three months operational costs. The loss of earnings due to bad weather required us to use the reserves to sustain the park and a priority is now to restore the reserves to the required level.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document
The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Background
Following an unsuccessful attempt to put the skatepark out to tender in 2005/06, Portsmouth City Council proposed reducing the opening of the park to the summer months only. This was widely seen by the users and others as a step towards closure and provoked a vociferous campaign of objection. In response, the Leader of the Council threw out a challenge to the park's supporters to come up with a new body to take over the park operation.

A number of individuals came together, registered as a not-for-profit company and subsequently as a charity and negotiated the transfer of the park to the new charitable company on 1st April 2011. The Southsea Skatepark Company, working name Southsea Skatepark Trust, has a 60 year lease on the park at a peppercorn rent. Its first five years of operation were under a formal Agreement with the Council covering minimum hours of opening and various quality and safety issues in return for year on year reducing revenue funding from the Council. This Agreement expired and the funding ceased on 31st March 2016 since when the Trust has been wholly self-funding.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The Board regularly reviews the skills and experience required to operate efficiently and effectively and has put in place a process for the recruitment of additional trustees. Potential trustees are required to outline what they feel they can contribute at an informal interview with the Board. A trustee induction pack has been produced and training is made available. We have been fortunate to recruit some new trustees this year with important and relevant skills but we continue to seek additional members for the Board.

Risk Management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The trustees have in place the necessary policies and procedures for the operation of the skatepark and they meet monthly to oversee policy and finance matters, with the park manager in attendance as the professional advisor.

The dependence of the park upon the weather has been identified as a major risk to its long term sustainability and trustees are working on ways to address this.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
6679416 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1141066

Registered office
Southsea Skatepark
Clarence Esplanade
Southsea
Portsmouth PO5 3NZ

Trustees
Christine Richards
Paul Gonella
Victoria Wenyon
Sam Tuffnell
Martin Northern
Matthew Cole

Independent Examiner
Paul Underwood
Morris Crocker
Chartered Accountants
Station House
North Street
Havant PO9 1QU

Bankers
Co-operative Bank
1 Balloon Street

Manchester M60 4EP

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 17th July 2026and signed on its behalf by

Chris Richards Trustee