

Chesil Sailability

Annual Report & Accounts

1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025

Annual Report

1. Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name: Chesil Sailability

Charity Registration number: 1154416 (Registered 31st October 2013)

Principal office: Chesil Sailability, c/ 42 South Court Avenue, Dorchester, Dorset, DTI 2BZ.

Trustees:
During the year ended 31st December 2025

Trustee	Office	Original appointment	Most recent re-appointment
Michael Gill	Chair	4th November 2024	29th April 2025
Mike Clarkson	Treasurer	19th May 2014	11th October 2022
Philip Hall		31st October 2013	11th October 2022

Bankers:
Lloyds Bank, Current & Deposit Account, 1-2 High West Street, Dorchester, Dorset, DTI IUG CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Mailing, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner: Frost & Company, Poundbury, Dorset DTI 3DY.

2. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document
Chesil Sailability is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), with a constitution as its governing document, dated Tuesday 28th July 2020 (as at last amendment). The Constitution was revised during 2025 to reflect the new management structure.

Appointment of Trustees
All the Trustees in 2025 were elected by Chesil Sailability members through the Annual General Meeting. All Trustees are unpaid.

Organisational structure

The organisational structure of the charity was changed for 2025 to reduce the size of the Board of Trustees to a core who focus on the Trustee roles of Governance, and general oversight, with a larger Management Committee focusing on financial and operational management.

Affiliation

Chesil Sailability is affiliated to Royal Yachting Association Sailability and is accredited by Royal Yachting Association Sailability for disability sailing at our venue.

Risk Management

The Board of Trustees and the Committee of Chesil Sailability believe that sound risk management is integral to both good management and good governance practice, and a culture of risk management is embedded throughout the charity.

Risk management should form an integral part of the charity's decision—making and be incorporated within strategic and operational planning.

Chesil Sailability has a Risk Management policy, which identifies areas of risk, the main ones being operational risk and financial risk, and how those risks are managed.

3. Charity Objects

The charitable object of Chesil Sailabiiity is:

'To promote the equality, inclusion and relief and the rehabilitation and good health of disabled people and to improve their conditions of life through providing and assisting in the provision of activities, facilities, equipment and services to enable them to participate in healthy recreation and in particular but not exclusively in sailing and other water sports.'

Chesil Sailability implements its charitable object by providing sailing opportunities for people with disabilities (physical disabilities, learning difficulties or long-term health conditions). We provide opportunities for people to sail just for the experience and for fun, to learn to sail, and to sail competitively or to progress in any other aspect of sailing.

We are based at the Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy, which hosted the 2012 Paralympics, so has excellent accessible sailing facilities. We have a range of accessible sailing boats, the main ones being five Hansa 303s, and three Hawk 20s. We have also had access to one Hawk 20 on a loan basis.

Chesil Sailability is run entirely by volunteers;they are the backbone of what we do, and the time and skills that volunteers bring are invaluable.

Volunteers run the sailing sessions, and all the background administration, finances, funding, maintenance, etc.

The Trustees have had due regard to the guidance from the Charity Commission on Public Benefit, as our activity is in accordance with our charity's purpose and is for the public benefit.

4. **Aims & Objectives**
   Chesil Sailabilitv's Aims and Objectives are:

Aims:

- Provide opportunities for people with disabilities to sail for fun, to learn to sail, to progress to sailing competitively or any other aspect of sailing, regardless of disability.
- Provide a sailing experience which is valued by people with disabilities and becomes an important part of what they do.
- Actively support progression and personal development for sailors and volunteers in whichever area they are interested in.
- Provide access to world class sailing facilities both for local people with disabilities, and at a national level

Objectives:

- Increase our sailor numbers, through more individual sailors and with groups
- Build the numbers of sailors who sail regularly with us
- Introduce new people to sailing, as well as those who have been sailing before
- Run sailing sessions which are fun for sailors, and include challenge where appropriate
- Value volunteers, and make sure volunteering with Chesil Sailability is a fun and rewarding experience
- Develop more involvement of sailors & volunteers in the development of Chesil Sailability as a whole
- Work with partners to deliver national level events
- Provide suitable safety boat cover to undertake lifesaving and rescue activity if required.

5. **Summary of the year's activity**

Getting on the water

We continue to have a strong core of sailors who come regularly, demonstrating how sailing can become an important part of people's lives. This year again, the range of sailors was wide, with more sailors sailing independently (i.e. without carers) on the one hand, and a significant number of sailors with severe learning difficulties needing considerable carer and volunteer support. We have a continuous waiting list and this year we had 10 new sailors come and try sailing, of which 8 are now regulars, one of whom also now volunteers with us.

We are keen to enable sailors to make as much progress as they want, and we normally get everyone helming on their first trip. A core of sailors are developing their sailing skills, including working through the RYA Sailability Certificate scheme.

Although Chesil Sailability is more about the benefits for the individuals than the numbers, our overall individual sailing sessions remain at a good and consistent level. After volunteer training in April, we sailed from May to the beginning of October, with a total of 22 regular Tuesday sessions in the calendar.
We ran 16 of our planned 22 Tuesday sessions (6 others cancelled due to winds above our safety levels), providing 406 individual sails for our 36 core sailors and 22 carers. This is almost exactly the same as last year.

We planned 9 Thursday morning Group sessions specifically for Day Centre and other groups, using the Hawk 20s and the fully accessible small motorboat (the Wheelyboat). We were able to run 3 sessions for a total of 36 sailors and 9 carers, but the weather was not kind to us for many of these sessions, so we had to cancel sailing on 3 more sessions, although we were able to run onshore activities for those groups. One group, a dementia group, decided after some detailed discussion that sailing wasn't suitable for their clients, and we were not able to run 2 sessions for other reasons beyond our control. There is a strong demand from many groups for these sessions, and it has been frustrating that we were not able to deliver the full programme planned.

Our Race Team expanded with 1 new member. The Team competed in events around the country, gaining 1st and 6th places out of 10 in the double-handed class at the Hansa Nationals, and becoming the third

most represented club on the event circuit. Some members also competed in the Hansa European Championship in the Netherlands. We helped to deliver the Hansa Class National Championship, held at the Academy in June, which also included supporting a team from Oman who came over to compete.

What difference does it make?
Let's hear it directly from our sailors...

- Sailability is a very special place where my long-standing disease and my disabilities are totally accepted, where my accessibility struggles are absorbed into normality, where I can be as able as anyone else. On the boat I feel the freedom this gives, as I help with tacking, take a turn at steering, join in the conversation, watch the dolphin and the birds, and marvel at the coastline and the clouds. I come away knowing I am part of a group that accepts and values disabled sailors just as we are, and that learns how to accommodate our needs without fuss. Who would have thought I would ever be able to learn how to help sail a boat!

- When I first went out on the boat with Chesil Sailability, I didn't realise just how much it would mean to me. After an awful few years and being left housebound these last couple of years and my independence taken away from me when I should have been out enjoying life, I was completely lost. But to get in the boat and feel the freedom of being able to sail the boat, yes, I could take control, amazing, and feel my youth coming back to me when I used to sail as a teen. My memory isn't great, nor is my eyesight or mobility but that doesn't matter here as all are welcome and all are catered for.

- I really enjoy sailing with Chesil Sailability as it does my health and mental health good. I have been sailing with Chesil Sailability since I was 10 and now I am 18, so 8 seasons. I started off in the larger Hawk boat with my mum and enjoyed it so much I started to learn with an instructor from the age of 12 in the smaller Hansa dinghy, and now I am solo sailing in a Hansa all thanks to this team. Now this season I have been traveling around the country with Chesil Sailability Race Team and competing in the solo person Hansa race. It has boosted my confidence and sailing makes me feel happy.

We also had an excellent short video made which shows what we do, including interviews with some sailors. This is on our home page at https://www.chesilsailability.org.uk/

Accessible motorboat, new possibilities
We secured a wheelchair-accessible small powerboat in 2024, the Wheelyboat All Aboard, which gives people with disabilities the opportunity to try a powerboat, andif interested, progress to taking RYA qualifications through the Andrew Simpson Watersports Centre. This fully accessible powerboat also gives us extra ‘on the water’ capacity. We made real progress this year, with wheelchair user sailors now able to embark and disembark on their wheelchairs rather than being hoisted in and out. Together with other sailors, we have 2 regular Wheelyboat sailors: one is learning to drive and she plans to take the RYA Powerboat courses, and one has found it has given him a whole new way of being out on the water, genuinely widening his horizons.

Safety
The safety of our sailors and volunteers is of paramount importance to us. We work to strict criteria about wind levels, safety boat ratios, and we constantly review how we operate with feedback from volunteers and sailors. We have a clear chain of responsibility for safety when a Duty Officer is running a session, and Safety is a standing item on the Management Committee Agenda. We also get input from external partners, giving us independent feedback, which is very valuable. Our pre-season training in April included a session with the Weymouth RNLI team, who brought their boats and crew to practise emergency procedures with our boats and volunteers.

We gave one sailor with challenging behavioural issues a taster sail with their carers, but felt afterwards that we would not be able to take them out again for safety reasons; we do test our limits, and very occasionally have to say no.

Management
We restructured with a small Board of Trustees and a Management Committee covering finances and operational matters, which spread the work and responsibilities well.

Meeting the challenges

One of our Duty Officers who runs sessions wrote that:
'I sometimes think Sailability is the art of making the nearly impossible possible, and the adventure is in the 'nearly.' Each week we achieve the 'nearly impossible' to make the sport of sailing, and more recently motorboating, accessible to sailors for whom it might have been thought impossible. The reward for all is that every week we are witness to the courage and adventurous spirit of our sailors who just seem to love exceeding our, and quite possibly their own, expectations'.

Some of the challenges are as follows:
High winds. Winds above our safety limits meant 6 (27%) of our main Tuesday sessions had to be cancelled, although we did lose a higher proportion of our Thursday morning sessions. We try to make use of some cancelled sessions with indoor sailing-related activities such as boat games and knot tying for groups, and a First Aid refresher for volunteers, but it is difficult to use cancelled sessions constructively. High winds are not so much of a problem for inland Sailability groups, but they don't have our glorious open waters to sail on!

Volunteers. Our operations are constrained by volunteer availability, and we could run more sailing activities if we had more volunteers. We are entirely volunteer run and each Tuesday session needs 20+ volunteers to cover the different roles. Our volunteers bring support and commitment, an impressive mix of skills, and much valued flexibility too. We run a shift system enabling volunteers to leave early or start later e.g. due to work commitments. Many of our volunteers have also been with us since we started over 10 years ago, so are all 10 years older! So we constantly seek new ways of attracting volunteers for both on-the-water and on-shore roles.

Many Thanks
Finally, at our last sailing session of the season, 5 sailors gained RYA Sailability certificates, a brilliant way to end the season.

We couldn't continue to do what we do without enormous support: from the volunteers who make it happen, from funders who keep us going with revenue and capital support, and from local partners who help us in so many different ways.

6. **Independent Examination.**

There is no Independent Examination for the January to December 2025 Financial Period as our Independent Examiner advised that this is not necessary annually. The Board of Trustees have decided in principle to have the accounts independently examined bi-annually, with the next examination for the Financial Year January to December 2026.

Accounts

CHESIL SAILABILITY - ACCOUNTS FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2025

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Designated Funds *(note 1)*	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	*Total Funds 2024*
Receipts					
Subscriptions & session fees	2,893	0	0	2,893	*3,040*
Grants	5,000	0	4,512	9,512	*20,600*
Donations	4,516	0	0	4,516	*10,629*
Fund raising & charitable activities	842	0	0	842	*1,119*
Project Zoe	0	0	0	0	*0*
Race team	0	0	0	0	*0*
Sales	0	0	0	0	*50*
Gift Aid & bank interest *(note 2)*	72	0	0	72	*968*
Total receipts:	13,323	0	4,512	**17,835**	*36,406*
Payments					
Insurance	6,204	0	0	6,204	*6,544*
Facility fees (WPNSA, Portland Port & room hire)	50	0	3,600	3,650	*3,640*
Administration, legal & bank fees	1,553	0	0	1,553	*1,362*
Volunteer expenses	0	0	0	0	*0*
Promotion & advertising	336	0	0	336	*324*
Repairs & renewals, boat hire	4,791	0	5,093	9,884	*8,303*
Training	305	0	0	305	*0*
Fuel	391	0	0	391	*493*
Repayment of grant	0	0	0	0	*264*
Race Team	0	0	0	0	*0*
Purchase of merchandise	0	0	0	0	*0*
Equipment (excluding boats)	0	0	360	360	*345*
Sub total	13,630	0	9,053	**22,683**	*21,275*
Asset and investment purchases	372	0	2,506	2,878	*19,407*
Total payments	14,002	0	11,559	**25,561**	*40,681*
Excess of receipts over payments	-679	0	-7,047	**-7,726**	*-4,275*
Transfers between funds *(note 3)*	1,327		-1,327	0	*0*
	648	0	-8,374	-7,726	*-4,275*
Cash funds last year end	25,607	0	20,746	46,353	
Cash funds this year end	26,255	0	12,372	**38,627**	*46,353*

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT 31st DECEMBER 2025

	2025	2024
Cash Funds		
Lloyds current account	16,395	*23,426*
CAF cash account	17,066	*17,804*
Lloyds deposit account	5,166	*5,123*
Total cash funds	38,627	*46,353*
Other monetary assets	0	*0*
Investment assets	0	*0*
Assets retained for the charities own use		
Sailing dinghies	14,900	*20,230*
Rigid inflatable & power boats	88,226	*94,480*
Portable buildings	6,530	*8,020*
Sailing & office equipment	3,500	*2,245*
Total current value	113,156	*124,975*
Liabilities	(0)	*(0)*

These accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis with all revenue and expenses shown on a cash basis.

Note 1: Asset Replacement Fund
Note 2: Interest from Lloyds Bank (£43) & CAF Bank (£29)
Note 3: Transferred (within scope of awards) from Restricted to Unrestricted Fund.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Michael Gill (Chairman)

Mike Clarkson (Treasurer)

Date of approval by Trustees 7 April 2026