CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

Registered Charity: 1162659

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial statements For the year ending

31st December 2025

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2025

2025 has been a great success, with numbers back on track and a strong foundation in place for 2026.

- Strong user numbers in Richmond
- New strategy in Reading
- Regular maintenance puts our fleet of skerries in good shape for the future
- We have recruited and trained more coach-volunteers
- The future of our base at Richmond Bridge remains uncertain as the planning permission appeal goes to an enquiry for final resolution in early 2026

Skerries for Schools remains entirely volunteer based, with all funds raised going to support the access to rowing and the river for young people who would not normally have that opportunity.

Richmond - Our core operation at Richmond has once again been a great source of pride. The schools that we lost for the 2024 season returned allowing us to deliver over 250 row sessions, across 4 schools, giving young people in the Richmond area a new skill set and confidence on and around the river and boats.

This success was driven by our fantastic operations volunteers, led brilliantly by our operations manager Christine Leeson.

Our relationships with other nearby groups and organisations remain strong, including Richmond Bridge Boat Club, 14th Richmond Scout Boating Centre, St Philips School, and Master Boat Builder - Mark Edwards & and his Team.

We await the outcome of the planning appeal on the Richmond Bridge pontoon- Investigations are continuing for alternative access points to the river should the outcome be unfavourable.

Reading - We have taken a strategically different approach to Reading this year and engaged with a nearby college directly rather than looking for a local Ops Manager. This approach has paid dividends as Reading College are keen to commit to an ongoing partnership with us.

This year we have introduced 30 of their teaching staff to the river, with the intent to engage with their students next year. We then intend to train their staff to coach the students directly to create a self-contained unit.

Boats - Our proactive approach to boat maintenance has allowed us to identify issues at the point of 'minor repair rather than allowing issues develop to 'major problem', leaving our fleet in good shape for the 2026 season with only minor repairs.

We also completed a major, planned overhaul to 'John Bryant' as funded by the Tallow Chandlers.

Trustees - Sadly we have lost Patrick Ducker to retirement this year. We thank him for his many years' service and support.

Funding - We have successfully raised over £10,000 for specific projects and the ongoing running of the charity.

2026 - The numbers for 2025 have taken a great step forward, and this success is already rolling forward to bookings for 2026. This should be bolstered by Reading coming online.

It has allowed our team of Trustees, Ops Manager and volunteers to engage with a number of new local schools and bookings are looking towards being our best year ever in Richmond. We are also confident in our new approach to Reading yielding positive steps forward.

Operations Report:

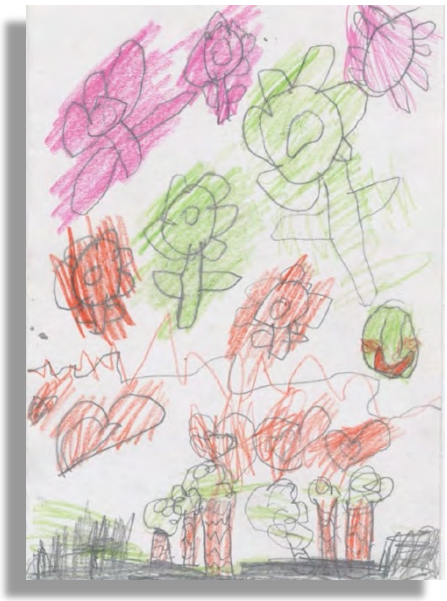


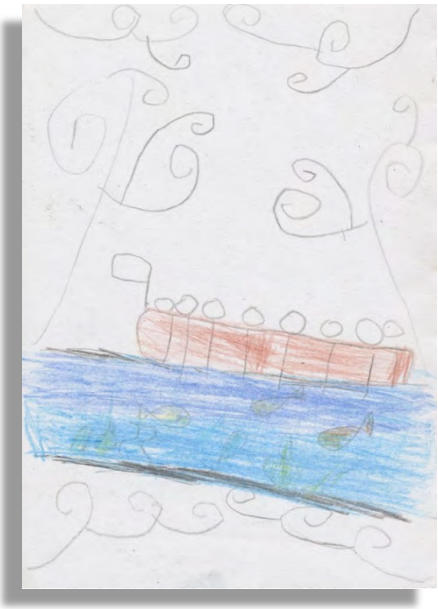
This year we had seventy children from four different schools heading on to the water with us for the summer term. Pupils from **Deer Park School, Chase Bridge School, St Phillips School** and for the second year running, a group of twenty students from the **Verona International School, Italy**, proving that language is no barrier to learning to row.



Perhaps one of the most memorable of the season was the session with the **St Phillips Special Educational Needs school** based at Chessington. St Philips is a single combined SEN school covering children aged 9 to 19 and in the past, we have worked with their secondary school-age children, but this year, for the first time we were asked to work with their younger 9-11, year-old pupils.

All the children have particular and often multiple and challenging needs, so for S4S this was quite an undertaking. Unlike our usual rowing sessions for 10 to 11, year-olds where one coach and an assistant work with 8 children in one of our skerry boats, in this instance, the level of care and precise management required, meant that every child needed to be partnered, either by a St Phillips member of staff, or by one of our coaches or assistants. Six S4S coaches and assistants partnered with six St Phillips staff to take the twelve children out in two boats.





It was an extraordinary experience for all of us and the children's obvious delight at doing something very different, clearly had a lasting impact – several weeks later the charity received a number of hand-made cards in the post.

Chase Bridge Junior School worked with us for the first time this year – eight, ten-year-olds joining us for six 'Learn to Row' sessions. By the end of the sixth session, the transformation for some of the pupils, was remarkable. For their teacher….

> *"I could clearly see their progress week-on-week. The way they supported each other – helping with the oars; getting on and off the boat; overcoming physical challenges and co-ordination difficulties; showing great resilience when trying to row in time with each other; learning new terminology…I also witnessed their sheer delight when achieving more than 100 consecutive strokes!"* Teacher, Marion, Chase Bridge Junior

> *"I think these sessions have shown the children they are capable of taking on and succeeding at completely new challenges – a skill that will stand them in good stead when they move to secondary school"* Teacher, Marion, Chase Bridge Junior





Asked what they enjoyed the most about the sessions ….

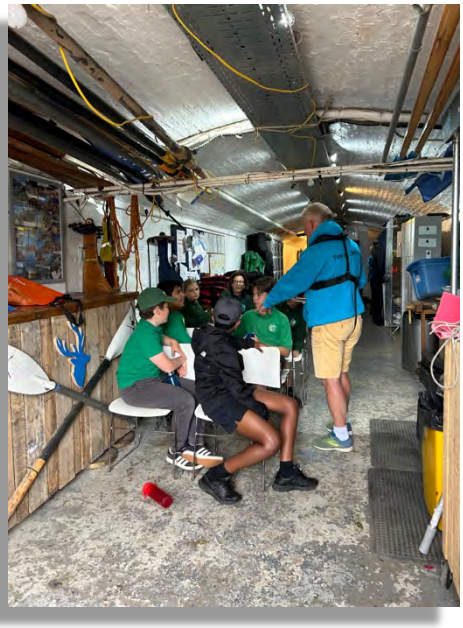
"*Being on the river and going under the bridge. Roman was scared at first but then he rowed and was really good*!" Omer, pupil, Chase Bridge Junior

> "*Learning how to handle the oars and the whole thing. Teamwork, everyone was smiling and happy, no one gave up even when it went wrong*." Roman, pupil, Chase Bridge Junior

> "*Learning how to use the oars properly and if we made mistakes, Chris showed us how to do it again*." Gabi, pupil, Chase Bridge Junior

> "*Everything, learning how to row, being on the river, teamwork, being happy*." Charlie, pupil, Chase Bridge Junior

Deer Park Junior School also joined us for the first time this year. In previous years, the parents and teachers have hired a skerry from us to take part in the Great River Race, but this was the first year when we worked with the children as well. Thirty, Year Six children took part in six 'Learn to Row' sessions.













With junior school age children, learning to row starts in the classroom, then with the boat tied to the pontoon learning how to handle the oars, and then finally, being let loose onto the open water… For the team it was quite a challenge managing the timings of back-to-back sessions so the children weren't late back to school, but this year with the help of two assistants, Marianne and Jonathan working with the coaches, the turnround was managed very slickly.



The Verona International School joined us again this year and we had twenty, twelve to thirteen-year-olds and their teachers, all out on the water in three of our boats. The hot weather was a little challenging but everyone enjoyed the session and we look forward to welcoming them again to what has become a regular annual event.











Boats and equipment: As we reported last year, we were delighted that a bid to the Tallow Chandlers had been successful and that we had been able to purchase the fourth and final set of eight macon oars for our wholly-owned boats. This had been part of our planned oar-replacement schedule and this final set of oars were delivered in February, ahead of the 2025 schools season start.



However, as the year progressed it proved to be a little challenging on the maintenance front...

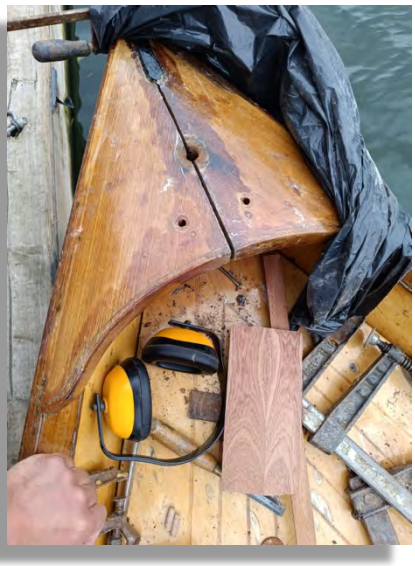
There is always an element of risk when we hire out our skerries in order to raise funds for the charity. For the first time, one of our skerries suffered significant damage during an event; our skerry Caroline was holed below the water line and three of her oars were broken by another participating boat. Fortunately, the schools' season was over when this happened. This is also where our relationship with Richmond-based Boat Builder, Mark Edwards comes into its own as it was not long before she was repaired and back on the water again.

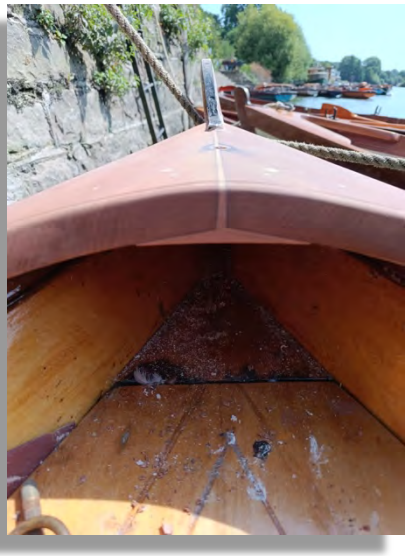
Replacing the broken oars took a little longer, but all was in order in time for the September Great River Race 2025 (GRR).

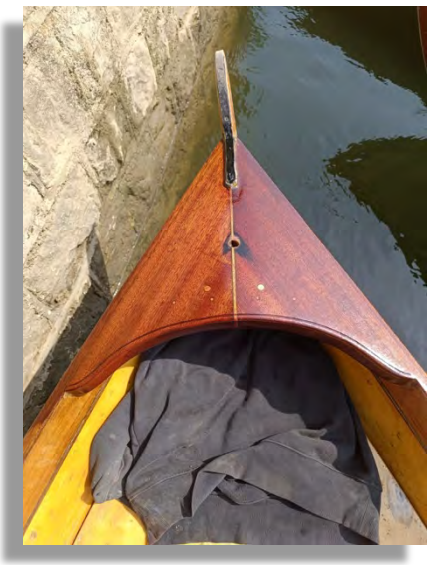




The regular Autumn inspection found rot in one of our other boats which was repaired and to improve the life of the floorboards, they were painted instead of varnished – it's hoped this will last more than a single season.









Apart from the oars, the most friable parts of the boats are the floorboards, which take quite a lot of punishment and are high-maintenance. It's not unusual for several boards to be broken in any one year.



Temporary fixes are done at the time, but next year, we will be looking to experiment with hard wood boards that are stronger and so should have a longer life and rather than varnishing, will only need oiling at year end.

As with previous years, two of our boats were over-wintered in a field at the Osterley Scouts just down river from Richmond. They were towed down in the Autumn of 2024 and then towed back again several months later in the Spring before the start of the 2025 schools' season. They're heavy boats so it's quite a performance getting them off the water and into the field but worth the effort – chocked up and covered they're protected from the worst excesses of the winter. Living permanently on-water on the Thames increases the risk of damage, particularly during the winter with high flows from up-river bringing with it all sorts of debris. This year it was S4S skerries Jim Clark and Floreat that were rested up at Osterley.





Richmond Bridge Boat Club: We continue to enjoy a mutually beneficial relationship with the club.







As with previous years, the use of the RBBC's clubhouse for our junior school sessions is a valuable part of our work.

This year the charity was able to help the club out when they were hosting a visiting rowing club from Fontainebleau, France. Two of our skerries joined the event so 16 French rowers in four skerries could pair up with their English club counterparts for a morning social row up to Kingston and back to the clubhouse for lunch. The skerry design once more proving their worth for children and adults alike.

Fundraising during the year: We once again worked with **London Youth Rowing** (LYR) on their Oarsome Challenge events this year – for the first time LYR expanded the event to three days, with various scratch corporate and charity crews rowing from Greenwich to Chiswick.

A number of our coaches took part as cox-coaches, along with four of our skerries and despite Caroline being damaged on the first day, in the main it was as usual an enjoyable event and the hire fees for our boats will contribute to the cost of their maintenance.



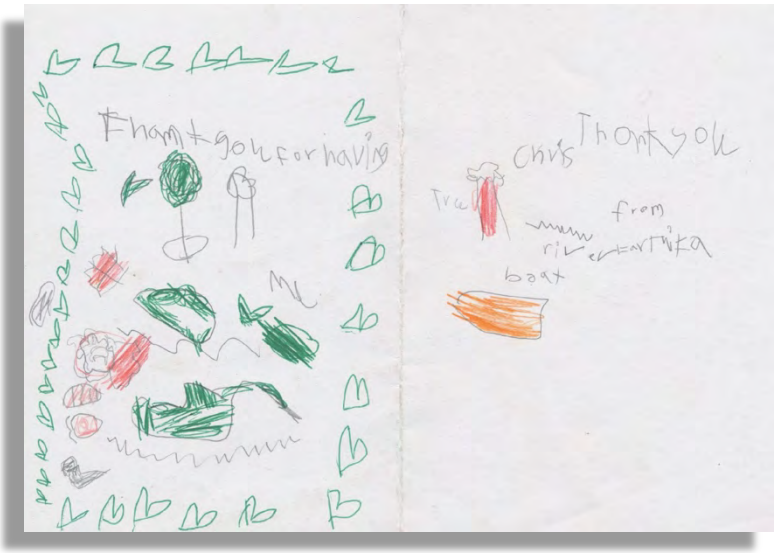


The Great River Race is always an important opportunity for us to raise funds and this year was no exception. All five of our skerries were hired out well before Christmas last year; the Americans who hired from us last year hired two skerries again; Deer Park School Parents and Teachers hired one skerry from us and two private hirers, Tim Pitt and Ally Elliott each hired a skerry. We were delighted that Tim Pitts crew (a 50th Birthday challenge) in Caroline did so well that they won the skerry class of 2025.

But we are particularly grateful to the American teams brought over by Don Dufault who, once again, having thoroughly enjoyed their GRR experience, donated their returnable damage deposits for the boat hire to the charity – six hundred pounds – a welcome boost to the funds and gratefully received.







Annual Report and Financial Statements

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Governing Document

Constitution of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, whose only voting members are its charity trustees, adopted 13th July 2015

Objectives

- **To provide opportunities for school children and other community groups such as the disabled to discover the pleasure, team spirit, discipline and vigorous exercise of rowing.**
- **To make these groups aware of the safety issues connected with water.**
- **To make these groups aware of the environment and their interconnection with it.**

Patrons

Peter Dolan	Patron

Trustees

All served from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024 unless indicated.
Details regarding recruitment/appointment and training of Trustees are shown under Governance & Management

Chris Shaw		Chairman
Stephen Rac		Vice Chairman
Patrick Ducker	**to 6th October 2025**	Secretary
David Golton		Treasurer
Victor Griffiths		
Justin Barratt		

Advisers

Mark Edwards	Master Boat Builder
Chris Leeson	Operations and Administration

Charity Registration Number:	1162659
Bankers:	CAF Bank Ltd., West Malling, Kent
Custodian Trustee	None
Principal Address:	c/o 14th Richmond Scout Boating Centre, The Hut, Retreat Road, Richmond, TW9 1NN
Website:	www.skerries4schools.org

Structure, Governance and Management

Skerries For Schools is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose only voting members are its charity trustees. Trustees are appointed by existing members. No specific training is required or given.

Day-to-day operations are in the hands of the Operations Manager for Richmond or Reading, the latter is currently vacant.

Thames Community Rowing (TCR) - During this year, the charity has been engaged in discussing and developing a longer-term strategy and to build on the ground work that was done establishing the Values and Vision & Mission for Thames Community Rowing. The first major change during the year has been to rationalise and develop the charities IT and to move to a single domain that would encompass all the charities activities; using 'Thamescommunityrowing.org' as the 'umbrella' for all the charities activities, would include the work with schools, currently under 'Skerries for Schools' and also for developing our future TCR work with adults.

Background

Skerries for School started as an unregistered charity (referred to as the "Legacy Charity") with the same objectives seeking funding from loans, supporters and grant awarding bodies to build the skerries it needed. The CIO was registered on 14th July 2015 and the Legacy Charity transferred its assets and liabilities to the CIO on 1st January 2016 by means of a General Vesting Document dated 22nd December 2015. The transfer was accepted by the Trustees on 31st January 2016.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Complying with the Charity's Governing Document, the Trustees have a duty to act in the Charity's best interest, to act with reasonable care and skill, and to ensure all regulatory requirements are met.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the CIO. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the CIO and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are also responsible for the preparation of the Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission.

Reserves and Investment Policy

The Trustees adopted a Reserves and Investment Policy in 2022

The Trustees agreed that a reserve of £3,000 should be established to cover the risk of an unexpected fall in bookings due to major events beyond the control of the Trustees.

Financial Review

Skerries for School does not raise funds from the general public, either directly or through other people or organisations. It does seek grants from those organisations which award them and welcomes donations from organisations, and individuals, with similar aims and objectives.

The charity's trustees have elected to prepare accounts on a Receipts and Payments basis under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011. Under Guidance Note CC 16b, depreciation is precluded. While the value of the skerries have not been subjected to depreciation, the Trustees estimate that they have a ten-year useful life.

During 2025 several donations were received, both unrestricted and restricted. We were doubly pleased when Mrs Christina Gascoigne, widow of our founder Bamber, generously confirmed that she would be continuing the annual donation of £2,000, established by Bamber for general use. We also received a donation of £2,000 from the Dolan Family trust to cover our administration costs. Finally, we received a donation of £1,000 from Lord Lee.

As stated elsewhere in this report, we have been able to provide our core aims of delivering rowing sessions as we would like. As a result, we can consider 2025 a success. However, we have continued to rely on the hiring out of our boats for London Youth Rowing and The Great River Race to fund our core boating costs. The outlook for 2026 is positive with more schools coming on board.

Operations

A full summary of Operations is contained elsewhere in this report.

Public Benefit Guidance

The Trustees are confident that Skerries For Schools has been run for public benefit as evidenced by efforts to keep costs to schools as low as possible, by the provision of suitably trained and qualified coaches who give their time unpaid, and by direct contact with schools to encourage participation. Since their discussions leading to the registration of Skerries For Schools with the Charity Commission, the trustees have had due regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Policies

Trustees have adopted policies as follows:

- Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy and Procedures
- Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Conflicts of Interest Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Disciplinary Procedure
- Equality Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Expenses Policy
- Financial Controls Policy and Procedures
- Grievance Procedure
- Reserves and Investment Policy
- Risk Management Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Safety Policy
- Volunteer Policy

Objectives, Activities, Achievements and Performance

No sessions were possible in 2020 due to Covid-19 Restrictions. The number of individual School children rowing sessions booked, and paid for, excluding the “taster” and other promotional sessions were

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025
School children rowing sessions	48	335	135	250

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

- The acquisition of suitable skerries through donations and grants.
- The training and vetting through DBS of volunteer coaches.
- Encouraging the participation of Schools and pupils in safe sporting activities on the river.
- Arranging the coached rowing sessions for Schools.

Independent Examiner's Report

to the Trustees of Skerries For Schools

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Registered Charity 1162659

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on page 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Paul Alexander FCA

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Accountancy Management Services Limited, 51 South Street, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 7AA

10th August 2026

SKERRIES FOR SCHOOLS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the Period 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Donations & Gift Aid Repaid	3,000	2,000	5,000	17,580
Write back of debt	-	-	-	8,000
Bank interest received	106	-	106	81
Use of Skerries	11,993	-	11,993	11,016
Total Incoming Resources	15,099	2,000	17,099	36,677
Outgoing Resources				
Direct Activities				
Operational Costs	8,666	5,803	14,469	10,285
Promotional Fees & Costs	-	-	-	-
Total for Direct Activities	8,666	5,803	14,469	10,285
Overheads & Administration	-	2,582	2,582	643
Total Outgoing Resources	8,666	8,385	17,051	10,928
Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources	6,433	(6,385)	48	25,749
	-	-	-	-
Net Movement in Funds	6,433	(6,385)	48	25,749
Funds Brought Forward	91,741	36,415	128,156	102,407
Funds Carried Forward	98,174	30,030	128,204	128,156
of which				
Tangible Assets	75,923	-	75,923	75,923
Current Assets	22,251	30,030	52,281	52,233
	98,174	30,030	128,204	128,156

SKERRIES FOR SCHOOLS
BALANCE SHEET

	as at 31-Dec-25	as at 31-Dec-24
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Tanagible Assets	75,923	75,923
Total Fixed Assets	75,923	75,923
Current Assets		
Debtors	1,085	-
Cash in Hand and at Bank	52,446	52,433
Total Current Assets	53,531	52,433
Current Liabilities (due with one year)	1,250	200
Current Assets	52,281	52,233
NET ASSETS	128,204	128,156
represented by		
Unrestricted Funds	98,174	91,741
Restricted Funds	30,030	36,415
TOTAL FUNDS	128,204	128,156

Notes

Signed Chris Shaw, Chairman, 10th August 2026

David Golton, Treasurer