HATS OFF FOR BOOTSIE

Championing Mental Trauma Overcomers

Hats Off for Bootsie

Trustees' Annual Report

for year ending 31/12/2025

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registration no. 1165319

Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31 December 2025

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the consolidated financial statements of the charity for the year end 2025.

Chair's Report

Hats Off for Bootsie (HOfB) was incorporated as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 26th January 2016 under registration no. 1165319.

HOfB's objects are 'to promote and protect the good health of Combat Veterans who are homeless or who are overcoming mental trauma, in particular but not exclusively, by providing them with opportunities to rehabilitate using the arts as a medium.'

As in previous years, the major enabler in 2025 was the provision of pro-bono services, not income. Nevertheless, between 01/01/2025 and 31/12/2025, HOfB secured £212 in income, with an expenditure of £307.

2025 was a year when our relationship with the University of West London (UWL) continued to flourish, providing two valuable and substantial musical opportunities to veterans. Both opportunities were free of charge to HOfB and to a number of other veteran organisations.

The first opportunity was in music lessons: a choice of Electronic Dance Music (EDM) Composition, and Song Writing / Playing in a Band. The second opportunity offered by was for veteran arts organisations from across the southern half of England to demonstrate their work to one another. Nigel was asked in 2023 to be on both steering committees set up to guide the delivery of UWL's provision for veterans.

The pilot music sessions in the summer of last year had a brilliant outcome this year, when veterans filled the available ten-week courses in both EDM composition and in Playing in a Band. The ten-week in-house courses were followed by eight-week online courses.

Several veterans were selected and paid to be trained as mentors to the veterans. They were tasked with interfacing between UWL staff and the veterans on the music courses. Out of the four mentors chosen, two were from HOfB: Shaun Johnson and Dean Helliwell.

HOfB presented three scenes from 'The Terminus' at UWL. HOfB's actors rehearsed in detail before setting foot in UWL's theatre. At UWL, they then had the chance to work with professional stage crew in a theatre with lighting and

sound effects. The music, which is integral to the play, was played by a fine professional pianist on a world-class piano.

May I thank all those at UWL who made both opportunities so worthwhile. We are particularly indebted to Cathy Sloane for her vision and determination to make the events happen, and Greg Smith, ,whose initial warm welcome and persistent patience were significant factors in the programme of music lessons offered to veterans.

May I take this opportunity to thank once again Supporters and Friends, as well as Trustees and Ambassadors for the generous help they have given us this year. Most of our enablement was made possible by pro-bono work undertaken by them in support of our aims and activities.

Lucinda Howland

Chair

Governance

During 2025, our board consisted of five Trustees. The Trustees have a variety of backgrounds and experience pertinent to both our proposed activities and the high standards of governance of a CIO. HOfB's decisions are reached either through a majority vote at Trustees' Meetings or, as our constitution allows, through a majority vote online. The Trustees met only once in 2025. We increased the amount of preparation work done in sub-committees so we could decrease the number of full Trustee Meetings. This worked well.

Objectives and Activities

HOfB's objects are 'to promote and protect the good health of Combat Veterans who are homeless or who are overcoming mental trauma, in particular but not exclusively, by providing them with opportunities to rehabilitate using the arts as a medium.'

HOfB was established on 26 January 2016. During 2025, the initial objectives continued to be developed and pursued:

1. Establishing a plan of activities to support the longer term objective of putting on a theatrical production using military veteran actors.
2. Developing the relationships required to deliver item 1
3. Developing relationships, including our network of volunteer ambassadors, to promote a positive perception of veterans overcoming mental trauma and homelessness
4. Raising grants or other sizeable funding to deliver item 1.

Achievement and Performance

Objective 1
A costed plan previously developed continues to apply. The plan is to stage a play, *The Terminus*, which has as its central character a homeless war veteran suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and the onset of Alzheimer's.

The cast and crew will consist mostly or entirely of former servicemen and women. Objective 1 is the main plank of HOfB's strategy to achieving its charitable objects. For more details, specifically how this will be delivered and who will be involved, see Objective 2.

HOfB finished its short film, *Service No Longer Required (SNLR)* The film raises issues facing veterans overcoming mental trauma and homelessness, particularly issues concerning their value to society. Those involved in the project, and thousands of others with similar challenges will benefit from a more positive public perception of military veterans.

Objective 2
HOfB continues to develop significant relationships which enable us to give veterans quality training, experience and performance activities. In 2025, despite a small income of £212, we were busier than ever. (Please see Chair's Report on pages 2 and 3, which describes the opportunities given to us by UWL, which were entirely pro bono. Developing these relationships is essential for us to remain useful and effective.

Objective 3
HOfB's wider network of volunteer ambassadors continues to be valued. HOfB is most grateful for their enthusiasm and dedication to impact their own home and work communities – mainly by conversations and social media, but also speaking to small, local groups. The reach, effectiveness and enthusiasm of our volunteer ambassadors is more than it was pre-Covid.

Objective 4
A major dependency for achieving Objective 1 was and continues to be the ability to raise the necessary funding. The Veterans' Foundation's initial grant made our short film, SNLR possible. We will be approaching them again.
The Trustees had previously made two decisions that have a strong bearing on the fundraising activities:

1 Not to pursue actively funding from the public in general until such time that a sufficiently large grant/donation had been secured to give a realistic prospect of achieving Objective 1.

2 Until such time that such grant/corporate donation had been secured to cover a high proportion of the cost of Objective 1, no commercial commitments would be made to any partner or supplier. Specifically, the box office revenues would largely be discounted from the funds required for Objective 1.

The impact of these decisions was that a 'high entry bar to start' was created. Whilst the grant from The Veterans' Foundation covered most of the costs of producing *Service No Longer Required* the above ethos still applies and therefore a funded step-by-step approach will continue to be adopted.

A variation of Objective 1 will be discussed among the Trustees and those with practical experience and advice. Instead of a fully staged run of performances, the idea of producing a radio play with a professional podcast has been muted.

The same criteria of employing a cast and crew of mostly or entirely former servicemen and women would apply. The level of artistic achievement and opportunity to develop the cast as artists is comparable.

The great advantages are the budget for a radio recording would be a fraction of that required for a staged production, and that we are more likely to raise the money for a fully staged run, if we had a high-quality sound recording that was, in effect' publicising our original objective far and wide.

Unfortunately, UWL are not in a position to help us either with a financial contribution, or to use their facilities for rehearsing or recording. We have approached a well-known actor who is a most experienced Radio Four Play performer, and a drama trained writer who we are hoping will fundraise for us.

Crowdfunding, something we have yet to try, comes highly recommended by our web designer, Adrian Scarbrough MA MSc. He has much experience of this method of raising funds. His experience gives him confidence that we would raise the money for a radio play, but not for a fully staged play.

Financial Review

2025 saw a total income of £212, and a total expenditure of £307. HOfB continues to be volunteer lead and carries minimal overheads. The pro-bono work we receive, such as legal advice, research work and the maintenance and improvement of our website (www.hatsoffforbootsie.org.uk), plus the work of our wider network of ambassadors has gone ahead unhindered by budgetary constraints.

Trustees and Friends of HOfB have continued to abide generously to HOfB's principle that, at all times, any expenses incurred should be borne by the individuals themselves. Nigel, our Creative Director, made in excess of 30 journeys to London in 2025 to give acting and singing lessons. For this and other such expenditure, nothing was paid for by monies from our account.

The Trustees continue to be of the opinion that a major source of funding is required in order for its activities to accelerate, but consider the grant funding secured at the end of 2020, the filming in 2021 release of the film in our launch at EY, May 2023, and to present 3 scenes in UWL's theatre with live piano music, lighting and a sketched soundscape to be good progress.

Given the 'start-up' circumstances of HOfB (and given decision 2 under Objective 4) the Trustees have not felt the need to have a reserves policy at this time.

Outlook

It should also be noted that the pro-bono generosity of individuals and organisations reduces the sum we need to raise for projects. For most of our activities, we don't have to raise anything at all. For example, SNLR would cost between £25K to £30K, were it not for pro-bono contributions.

Stoll provided rehearsal space in their Community Hall and unlimited access to film on their property. A number of individuals waved their fees entirely, some reduced their fees to a bare minimum. So, a grant of under £5K proved enough to make a film which would otherwise have cost 5 or 6 times that amount.

Should the Trustees decide to produce a radio play and professional podcast, paid for principally by crowd funding the outlook will, necessarily change, and I surmise will change for the better.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees believe the benefits of HOfB's activities are:

- First, for both ex-servicemen and women, who have suffered mental trauma or experienced homelessness as a result of their service to their country, and who wish to engage with the performing arts to assist in their rehabilitation, for engagement with the wider community, to provide professional opportunities to those who have retrained in film and theatre. It would be a profound mistake not to include those with good mental health whose involvement will enable them to keep it so.

- To the wider community, initially family and friends of such veterans, but also the public in general benefiting from the knowledge that veterans who have served their country are being supported in their rehabilitation in an engaging, appropriate way ;

- The veterans themselves are combatting the stigma surrounding mental trauma and homelessness, not only in military circles, but also where it exists in the public at large. Their efforts and ours help to create a climate of two-way approachability, which is often the starting point for veterans suffering with mental trauma and homelessness to receive help and support.

Reference and administrative details

Charity number: 1165319
Principal Office: 11 Raymond Road, Maidenhead SL6 6DF
Web site: www.hatsoffforbootsie.org.uk

Our advisers

Auditors	N/A
Bankers	CAF Bank Ltd,
Legal Advice	Ashleigh Harding

Trustees

The Trustees who served HOfB during 2025were as follows:

Lucinda Howland Robin Vickers Rachael Odeniyi
Ishmael Carboo & Nigel Fair

Structure, Governance and Management

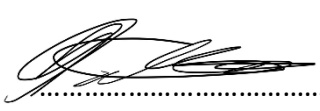
During 2025, our board consisted of five Trustees. The Trustees have a variety of backgrounds and experience pertinent to both our proposed activities and high standards of governance of a CIO. HOfB's decisions are reached either through a majority vote at Trustees' Meetings or, as our constitution allows, through a majority vote on-line. The Trustees met twice times in 2025

We continue to involve young people whenever we can. Something we could not have anticipated is the connection school attendees feel with Boney, the homeless war veteran. This help our awareness that in order to be equipped for the future, one must prepare in the present.

Governing Document

HOfB is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by its Constitution dated 17 December 2015. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission.

Approved by the Trustees of HOfB on October 29/10/2026 and signed on their behalf by Lucinda Howland (chair)



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Hats Off for Bootsie -- Financial Statements for the year ending 31st December 2025

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Income	212	1
Expenditure	307	307
Excess of Income over Expenditure	(95)	(307)
Opening balance 1st January	309	615
Closing balance 31st December	214	309

Assets and Liabilities Statement

Total assets	214	309
Total liabilities	0	0

Approved by the Trustees of HOfB on 29/10/2026 and signed on their behalf by Lucinda Howland (chair)

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HOfB Accounts TAR y e 31 / 12 2025

Date		Credit	Debit	Balance	
01/01/2025	Opening Balance			309.02	
15/01/2025	Account Fee-£5.00		5	304.02	
01/02/2025	Brought Forward			304.02	
17/02/2025	Account Fee		5	299.02	
01/03/2025	Brought Forward			299.02	
17/03/2025	Account Fee		5	294.02	
26-Mar	Interest to date	0.14		294.16	
01/04/2025	Brought Forward			294.16	
15/04/2025	Account Fee		5	289.16	
01-May	Brought Forward			289.16	
13-May	Account Fee		5	284.16	
06/06/2025	Principal Adjuster			284.16	
16/06/2025	Account Fee		5	279.16	
26/06/2025	Interest to date	0.14		279.3	
01/07/2025	Brought Forward			279.3	
15/07/2025	Account Fee		5	274.3	
01/08/2025	Brought Forward			274.3	
15/08/2025	Account Fee		5	269.3	
01/09/2025	Brought Forward			269.3	
15/09/2025	Account Fee		5	264.3	
29/09/2025	Interest to date	0.14		264.44	
01/10/2025	Brought Forward			264.44	
15/10/2025	Account Fee		5	259.44	
23/10/2025	Enthuse DD		246.95	12.49	
01/11/2025	Brought Forward			12.49	
17/11/2025	Account Fee		5	7.49	
20/11/2025	BACS Credit	£168.18		176.67	
25/11/2025	BACS Credit	43.75		220.42	
01/12/2025	Brought Forward			220.42	
15/12/2025	Account Fee		5	215.42	
29/12/2025	Interest to date	0.08		215.5	correct to here
	Totals	212	307		
			Net for year	(95)	