

Bristol Ariel Rowing Club

Trustees Report and Financial Statements

Period 01 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

Charity Number: 1185174

The report covers the period from 1st April 2025 until the end of the club's financial year on 31st March 2026.

Reference and Administrative Details:

Charity name:	Bristol Ariel Rowing Club
Alternative name:	BARC
Charity registration number:	1185174
Address:	Bristol Ariel Rowing Club Pump House Lane Brislington Bristol BS4 4RQ
Trustees:	Sandra Jones Geoffrey Howe Lester (President) Paul Lowe (until 11-10-2025) (Captain) Philip Andrew Moore (Treasurer) Richard James Nelson Christopher Thomas (11-10-2025 to 06-07-2026) (Captain)
Accountants:	Linden Accountants Scrapstore House 21 Sevier Street St Werburghs Bristol, BS2 9LB

Report of the trustees

The trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 2 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements and the *Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities* (FRS102, effective from January 2015) as they apply to small charities.

Structure, governance, and management

The club is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), first registered on 5 September 2019. It is governed by a CIO Constitution which mirrors the Charity Commission template.
The club operates as a club affiliated to rowing's UK governing body: British Rowing.

Appointment of trustees

Three trustees are ex-officio: the club President, Captain and Treasurer elected at a General Meeting of the club. The remaining trustees are appointed by the current trustees and ratified at a General Meeting of the CIO.

Prospective new Trustees will be invited to complete a skills audit to maintain the breadth of experience and diversity within the board necessary to properly carry out its functions. Potential Trustees who meet the skills need will be co-opted for an induction period to ensure they are fully aware of the responsibilities before being formally proposed and voted on at the Charity's AGM.

During the reporting period one appointed trustee, Paul Lowe stood down and one, Christopher Thomas, was appointed ex officio as the Captain elected at an AGM on 11-10-2025.

Trustees are referred to guidance and training texts and on-line courses run by NCVO.

Club members and non-members are invited to express interest in being appointed as trustees at anytime.

Management structure and wider relationships

The trustees delegate the day-to-day functioning of the club to a committee of officers elected each year at the club AGM. Some of those officers themselves lead a team of volunteers undertaking specific areas of responsibility (e.g. the Captain leads a "Rowing Team" including volunteer lead coaches, squad captains and volunteers for boats and gym maintenance).

The club is affiliated to and operates under rowing's governing body, British Rowing, and is part of British Rowing's Wessex, Avon, Gloucester & Somerset (WAGS) division.

Objectives and Activities

The objective of the charity as described in our constitution is "the promotion of participation in amateur sport and healthy recreation through the provision of facilities, encouragement and instruction in rowing for the community of Bristol and surrounding areas."

The programme of activities to deliver this objective over the period is normally focussed on:

- Attracting new participants to the sport;
- Providing facilities, equipment and coaching to enable athletic development and participation in athletic competition, both on the water and indoor rowing;
- Promoting the health benefits of indoor rowing as a physical activity.

The charity is not a grant awarding body.

Trustee approach:

In conducting their scrutiny and review of club activities the trustees have given due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit as described in documents PB1, PB2, PB3, CC3 & CC4.

In pursuit of its objectives during the year the club has:

- Organised and facilitated the water activity across a wide variety of boat types and participant skills and ages including participation in a wide variety of competitive events supporting our local regattas and head races with a high number of event wins;
- Purchased additions to the club's fleet of racing boats and other equipment;
- Maintained the existing clubhouse, boathouses, club grounds and gym to ensure fitness for purpose and safety of users;
- Reviewed the club safety policies and procedures in line with British Rowing's "Row Safe" standards, in particular with respect to visibility on the river and safety when the river is flowing fast or in adverse conditions;
- Under the leadership of the London Youth Rowing charity's Bristol Hub project, we have facilitated further increased delivery of indoor and water rowing sessions for a number of local schools.

Considerations for the future

Despite running a successful *Learn to Row* course there remains a high unmet demand for experience of water rowing. To address this we are:

- Participating actively in British Rowing's initiative for a sport activation and development hub covering Bristol and Bath;

- Considering several avenues for further fund raising to increase boat numbers to enable participants to move through from learn to row to established squads at the club;
- Developing a clear, agreed strategy for future boat and equipment purchases;
- Working with University of Bristol to consider how the club's position and facilities might be used to provide respite and recreational opportunities for the large numbers of additional staff and students on the Temple Quarter campus (opening Sept 2026);
- Working with the Oasis Academy group and London Youth Rowing (themselves a charity dedicated to bringing rowing to a wider and disadvantaged school age population) to explore how the club site and equipment might further facilitate this;
- Continuing to consider the logistical feasibility of setting up an open access junior section;
- Planning protection of the club members, site and buildings from damage by aging or diseased trees on and adjacent to our site;
- In view of the impact of global warming, appoint a "Sustainability Officer" to advise on reducing the club's environmental impact and help care for our river;
- Purchasing additional equipment to meet the needs of members across the club.

Contributions by volunteers

The club relies very heavily on the generous time, work and expertise given by volunteers for the delivery of its benefits and activities. Nothing that happens at the club happens without someone volunteering to do it. Volunteer roles delivered during the period include:

- Squad co-ordination;
- Coaching;
- Trailer towing to training and competitive events;
- Managing race entries;
- Leading on maintenance and repair of club boats, oars, gym equipment including enhanced cleaning to ensure safety of users;
- Leading on maintenance of the buildings and grounds;
- Ensuring site security;
- Financial management;
- Organisation and delivery of "Learn to Row" courses and "EasyRow" sessions for adults new to the sport;
- Marketing and social media communications;
- Organisation of social activities;
- Club environmental sustainability.

Many other short projects and developments have also facilitated safe and secure delivery and development of the club's activities and improvement of its facilities.

The club trustees and committee are very grateful for the invaluable contribution of our volunteers.

Volunteers receive no remuneration other than justified expenses.

Achievements and Performance

In delivery of the objective and activities programme during the period we have:

- Delivered a sculling Learn to Row course in the spring of 2025 using the format established in 2023. This consists of a Level one and a Level two enabling the opportunity for the participant to ensure they enjoy the sport, and for Ariel to consider the capabilities of the individual, ahead of committing to the remainder of the course. Many of those completing the Learn to Row course have subsequently joined the club as full members in the Novice Squad. Of the 8 participants 3 are still members over one year later. In late summer 2025 two crews of participants successfully competed in beginners' races at Ross Regatta. Both men's and women's crew won their events.
- Additionally a number of participants in our Monday evening "EasyRow" sessions during summer 2025 had shown such progress and enthusiasm that we ran an additional, truncated, Learn to Row programme specifically for them in August 2025. Four participants completed the course and at one year on two are still active members.

- Supported an increased number of school time water sessions led by London Youth Rowing including a regular Monday afternoon "after school" session.

- In order to give a wider range of beginner participants an experience of sculling we ran 17 RowSUP "EasyRow" sessions between June and September (increased from 14 last year) introducing a further 35 new individuals to the sport. Some of these went on to join a truncated Learn to Row course in August and have become confirmed members.

- Go Row Indoor (GRI) sessions have continued with a total of seven sessions a week: two weekday sessions in addition to evening and weekend sessions. These are delivered by a mix of paid personal trainers and club volunteers. Participants who prefer a female lead for a session can register for an appropriate session. Classes have a distinctly high female participation and an established social aspect which contributes to the health and well-being aspect of the activity;

- We have continued to work with British Rowing to share our Go Row experience with other clubs and organisations considering setting up their own programmes;

- Established club squads have benefitted from increased access to a professional coach;

- Facilities at the more performance levels of the club were increased by new boats (4-/x. 2-/x and 1x) and sculling blades plus a set of 8 sweep blades which are on order for delivery in 2026-2027.

- The Club had a successful year at local and national competitive events across the range of club squads including British Rowing Masters Championships and entered in 26 events at the World Rowing Masters Regatta in Banyoles, Spain in September 2025.

- Training and on-the-water activities during the autumn of 2025 and spring 2026 were again severely disrupted by repeated periods of heavy rain resulting in flooding of the grounds, but not the club buildings. Physical activities therefore relied on use of the gym. The Trustees are grateful for the patience and forbearance of its members during this period and for the help of volunteers who worked to keep the impact of flooding to a minimum and keeping participants safe. An arrangement was made to house one eight at a partner club on the Bristol Harbour but this facility was little used. We are grateful to the Captain of City of Bristol RC for permission to do this.

- During the year the stability of trees adjacent to the club property has remained a concern. In the interests of member and visitor safety and protection of the property a programme of further monitoring has been being developed;

- Refurbishment of the building previously damaged by a falling tree has been completed with the generous help of a team of volunteers. This is used as an additional social and meeting space;

- Mindful of a responsibility towards our river environment we organised litter removal and riverside overgrowth trimming trips along our river reach after discussing the river condition with the Bristol Harbour Master;
- The club appointed a “Sustainability Officer” to lead on maximising waste recycling and other projects to reduce our environmental impact;

- A substantial anonymous donation enabled the trustees and committee to plan one-off projects to improve facilities for all members. Plans are developed to:
    1. Install bespoke metal racking in the main boathouse to make moving of boats easier and safer;
    2. Upgrade the fabric and facilities of the club gym.

  These projects are expected to be delivered during 2026-2027.

Financial Review

Review of financial position at 31 March 2026

The period from April 2025 to March 2026 is the sixth full year of Bristol Ariel Rowing Club as a CIO.

By the end of this period, the Charity held net assets of £288,884 comprised of:
Fixed assets: £190,876 with net current assets of £99,008.

The Club has continued to invest in the facilities and equipment to help meet its charitable objectives. This included the following spend on a mix of both water and gym equipment to serve the membership.

£4,500 for a Wintech coxed four from Birmingham Rowing Club,

£14,500 for a new Falcon coxless four/quad,

£7,100 for a new Falcon double/pair,

£4,300 for a new Falcon single,

£2,230 four pairs of new sculling blades

£2,910 four pairs of new sweep blades

£885 new cox box

Main sources of income

Members subscriptions remain the largest source of income with rowing membership showing good growth.

Fundraisings and donations

The Club generated £2,571 through various fund-raising activities and received donations of £22,409.

Expenditure

Gross expenditure was slightly higher than the previous year at £76,656 compared to £75,879.

Work reinstating Averys after the tree strike was completed this year with windows, shutters and decking installed. The balance of Club building costs includes £2,466 for an EICR and associated remedial electrical works, £360 tree survey and £300 to replace the gate post.

Freelance trainer expenditure increased by £1,667 to £8,563 with £1,380 and £287 increases in rowing and land based coaching respectively.

Events include the annual dinner and attendance at the World Rowing Masters Regatta 2025 in Banyoles, Spain, are reported on a net basis and are budgeted to break even.

Boat repairs and refurbishment increased year on year by £3,817 to £8,551. Larger items included repairs to the boats Ariel, Ceres, Caliban and Colin Tavener, replacement steering mechanisms for coxless boats and materials for volunteer repairs. Recoveries were made on the Club's insurance for Ceres and from a third party in respect of damage incurred to Ariel.

Security alarms, trailers, defibrillator, fire extinguishers and launch engines were all professionally serviced and, where appropriate, on a cost benefit basis, components upgraded, in the year as part of the normal activities.

The depreciation charge increased by £2,978, year on year to £25,549 based on the asset costs as set out in the accounting policies.

Insurance premiums rose by 6% to £12,399.

Bristol Ariel does not employ any staff members. Two freelance, self-employed coaches are contracted to run Go Row Indoor classes and on-water coaching sessions for racing crews.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have put a Reserves Policy in place primarily to hold funds to mitigate unforeseen emergency and operational costs and consequent troughs in cashflow, ("designated funds").

The Reserve is sufficient to cover approximately 6 months of running costs and includes an element for timely replacement of equipment essential for the safe operation of the club activities.

The Trustees have agreed to maintain designated funds of £30,000, - £23,000 for contingency/running costs and £7,000 set aside for the equipment (including launch motor replacement).

The Club's land and buildings have several known risks (including the trees, riverside and landing stages) that will require further planned works and unplanned emergency works.

The Trustees have considered a prudent approach to ensuring that the ongoing viability of the charity is not compromised by the above and other risks.

Decisions about spending outside of the annual budget for routine running costs is proposed by the committee and approved by the Trustees.

Forward look

The Club continues to face increases in overheads.

The Trustees are also aware that the boat fleet is aging and, together with Squad Captains is developing a strategy for future boat and equipment purchases that meets the objective of improving equipment for all members.

The Trustees will monitor how the above develops during the course of the year 2026-2027 to ensure that the Club remains viable and that we can also continue to accommodate members who are struggling to pay membership subscriptions.

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the report above.

Signed on behalf of the CIO trustees



Geoffrey Howe Lester
President

Date: 11 October 2026

Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bristol Ariel Rowing Club for the year ended 31st March 2026.

Responsibility 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').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of Bristol Ariel Rowing Club are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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:

1. Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or

2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or

3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of my independent examination.

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.

David Baptiste ACPA
Linden Accountant Limited
Scrapstore House
21 Sevier Street
St Werburghs
Bristol
BS2 9LB

Date: 12/10/2026

BRISTOL ARIEL ROWING CLUB

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Including Income and Expenditure Account)

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2026	Total Funds 2025
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Income from generated funds					
Rental income		4,200	-	4,200	4,200
Activities for generating funds	2	24,869	-	24,869	2,519
Grants receivable	3	-	-	-	3,829
Income from charitable actitivies	4	61,642	-	61,642	58,051
Investments income		1,301	-	1,301	1,634
Insurance reclaim		1,576		1,576	12,601
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		93,588	-	93,588	82,834
EXPENDITURE					
Expenditure on generating funds	5	20,859	-	20,859	25,572
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	55,797	-	55,797	50,307
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		76,656	-	76,656	75,879
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		16,932	-	16,932	6,955
Balances brought forward		271,952	-	271,952	264,997
Gross Transfers Between Funds	12	-	-	-	-
Balances carried forward		288,884	-	288,884	271,952

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above.

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 14 to 18 form part of these financial statements

BRISTOL ARIEL ROWING CLUB

BALANCE SHEET

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Note	2026 £		2025 £
FIXED ASSETS:				
Tangible assets	8		190,876	179,787
CURRENT ASSETS:				
Debtors	9	13,812		11,810
Stock		820		824
Cash at bank and in hand		88,582		89,500
		103,214		102,135
CURRENT LIABILITIES:				
Creditors: falling due within one year	10	(5,206)		(9,970)
Net current assets			98,008	92,165
NET ASSETS:			288,884	271,952
FUNDS				
General funds	12	254,071		233,845
Designated funds	12	30,000		30,000
Building funds	12	4,813		8,107
			288,884	271,952

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 12/10/26 and are signed on their behalf by:

Chair of Trustees

Charity Registration Number: 1185174

The notes on pages 14 to 18 form part of these financial statements

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102 SORP) issued in July 2014, and applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 2011.

Funds structure

Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have set aside resources for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or the terms of a specific appeal.

Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received and the monetary value of income can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income from donations is included when these are receivable, except as follows:

- When the donors specify that the donations given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods.

- When donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred until the pre-conditions have been met.

Income from grants, where there are performance or service deliverables required by the terms of the grant, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to payment through its performance.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that agree all costs related to the category. Support costs have been allocated 100% towards the charitable activities of the charity.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both the direct pay and non-pay costs and support costs relating to those activities.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue its operations for the foreseeable future and therefore they have continued to adopt the going concern basis when preparing the financial statements.

Governance costs

Governance cost include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity, and include its independent examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity including trustee expenses.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation has been provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value of each asset, over its expected useful life. The rates used are 2% reducing balance on freehold property and improvements and 10%-15% reducing balance on other fixed assets.

2 ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2026 £	Total Funds 2025 £
Events	(111)	-	(111)	45
Fundraising & Donations	24,980	-	24,980	2,474
	24,869	-	24,869	2,519

3 GRANTS RECEIVABLE

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2026 £	Total Funds 2025 £
British Rowing Learn2Row	-	-	-	3,829
	-	-	-	3,829

4 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2026 £	Total Funds 2025 £
Membership Subs	49,432	-	49,432	46,448
Racking	2,552	-	2,552	1,861
Learn To Row	2,195	-	2,195	4,496
EasyRow Income	1,756	-	1,756	1,283
GoRow Indoor Income	5,707	-	5,707	3,248
Sundry Income	-	-	-	715
	61,642	-	61,642	58,051

5 EXPENDITURE ON GENERATING FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2026 £	Total Funds 2025 £
Building Costs	10,787	-	10,787	17,037
Storage Rental	1,509	-	1,509	1,640
Freelance Trainers	8,563	-	8,563	6,895
	20,859	-	20,859	25,572

6 DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2026 £	Total Funds 2025 £
British Rowing Fees	1,746	-	1,746	1,881
Boat Licences	1,170	-	1,170	1,095
Boat Repairs & Refurbishments	8,551	-	8,551	4,398
Equipment Maintenance	1,653	-	1,653	3,309
Training	-	-	-	409
Support Costs				
Telephone and Internet	887	-	887	1,123
Finance and Admin	941	-	941	947
Professional Fees	24	-	24	-
Advertising and Marketing	643	-	643	459
Licences and Subscriptions	79	-	79	376
Card Processing Fees	1,001	-	1,001	955
Other	164	-	164	112
	16,860	-	16,860	15,064

Governance Costs

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2026 £	Total Funds 2025 £
Independent Examination Fee	990	-	990	990
Depreciation	25,549	-	25,549	22,571
Insurance	12,399	-	12,399	11,683
	38,938	-	38,938	35,243
Total direct charitable expenditure	55,797	-	55,797	50,307

7 CORPORATION TAX

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

8 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Land & Buildings £	Boats & Equipment £	Other Equipment £	Totals £
COST:				
At 1 April 2025	143,356	260,096	28,518	431,970
Additions	-	36,638	-	36,638
At 31 March 2026	143,356	296,735	28,518	468,608
DEPRECIATION:				
At 1 April 2025	16,008	219,706	16,468	252,183
Charge for the year	2,867	20,613	2,069	25,549
At 31 March 2026	18,875	240,319	18,537	277,732
NET BOOK VALUE:				
At 31 March 2026	**124,481**	**56,415**	**9,980**	**190,876**
At 31 March 2025	127,348	40,390	12,049	179,787

9 DEBTORS

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade Debtors	7,223	5,412
Prepayments	1,808	1,616
Other Debtors	4,781	4,781
	13,812	11,810

10 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year

	2026 £	2025 £
Accruals	3,240	3,240
Key Deposit Creditors	1,897	1,790
Trade Creditors	67	67
Other Creditors	1	4,872
	5,206	9,970

11 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2026 £	Total Funds 2025 £
Fixed Assets	190,876	-	190,876	179,787
Current Assets	103,214	-	103,214	102,135
Current Liabilities	(5,206)	-	(5,206)	(9,970)
	288,884	-	288,884	271,952

12 ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE FUNDS

Analysis of Fund movements	Balance b/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Fund c/fwd
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	233,845	93,588	(73,363)	-	254,071
Designated funds	30,000	-	-	-	30,000
Building funds	8,107	-	(3,294)	-	4,813
	271,952	**93,588**	**(76,656)**	**-**	**288,884**

13 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions between the charity and the trustees or persons or entities connected to them during the year.