# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

**From 1 January 2025**
**To 31 December 2025**

**Charity name: LEIGHTON BUZZARD ATHLETIC CLUB**

**Charity registration number: 1193091**

## Objectives and Activities

| | SORP reference | |
|---|---|---|
| Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document | Para 1.17 | **To promote community participation in healthy recreation within Leighton Buzzard and the surrounding area by providing facilities and events for athletics.** |
| Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts. | Para 1.17 and 1.19 | **The club holds a range of weekly training sessions to improve athletic ability and general fitness.**<br><br>**Opportunities are provided for members to compete in competitions across a range of athletics disciplines.**<br><br>**The club organises the Leighton 10 road race, which is popular with the local community, providing a challenging target for local runners to train for.**<br><br>**The club welcomes all people, regardless of ability, background, faith, gender, sexuality or personal circumstances.** |
| Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit | Para 1.18 | **The trustees have read and accept the guidance around public benefit, and ensure this is central to the objectives of the charity.** |

**Additional information (optional)**
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | SORP reference | |
|---|---|---|
| Policy on grant making | Para 1.38 | |
| Policy on social investment including program related investment | Para 1.38 | |
| Contribution made by volunteers | Para 1.38 | |
| Other | | |

## Achievements and Performance

| | SORP reference | |
|---|---|---|
| Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole. | Para 1.20 | **The trustees have delegated the running of the charity to the general committee, which meets regularly throughout the year and helps deliver the charity's objectives. The trustees are grateful for the ongoing work of the general committee and the club continues to provide significant benefits to the local community through its activities and events.**<br><br>**The trustees have adopted the general committee's annual report as a true and accurate reflection of the charity's activities during 2025. This report is included as an appendix at the end of this Annual Return.** |

**Additional information (optional)**
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Achievements against objectives set | Para 1.41 | |
| Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set | Para 1.41 | |
| Investment performance against objectives | Para 1.41 | |
| Other | | |

## Financial Review

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period | Para 1.21 | **During the year ended 31 December 2025 the club generated a shortfall of payments over receipts of £687, compared to a surplus of £2,578 the previous year.**<br><br>**The club experienced a drop in membership fees due to a reduced senior membership. The surplus from the club's Leighton 10 race reduced from £2,700 to £1,386, albeit this provides valuable funds for the club.**<br><br>**At 31 December 2025 the club held cash funds of £18,379, which provides strong cover of 2.05x against the annual payments.** |
| Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held | Para 1.22 | **The club aims to hold unrestricted reserves equivalent to at least one year's worth of expenses, to cover cashflow and any unanticipated expenditure.**<br><br>**Additionally, the club regularly considers the need to build up restricted reserves to cover equipment maintenance or replacement, or to undertake any capital expenditure projects that could enhance the club's offering. At present, no restricted reserves are deemed necessary.** |
| Amount of reserves held | Para 1.22 | **£18,379** |
| Reasons for holding zero reserves | Para 1.22 | **N/A – reserves held** |
| Details of fund materially in deficit | Para 1.24 | **N/A – no deficit** |
| Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern | Para 1.23 | **None. The Trustees consider the charity to be a going concern.** |

**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising) | Para 1.47 | |
| Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted | Para 1.46 | |
| A description of the principal risks facing the charity | Para 1.46 | |
| Other | | |

## Structure, Governance and Management

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Description of charity's | | **None** |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| trusts: | | |
| Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter) | Para 1.25 | **Constitution of a CIO with voting members other than its charity trustees** |
| How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO) | Para 1.25 | **CIO** |
| Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees | Para 1.25 | **The club members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, either in place of a trustee who has retired, or as an additional trustee, provided that the limit on the number of trustees would not as a result be exceeded.**<br><br>**At every annual general meeting, one-third of the charity trustees shall retire from office, and can seek reappointment.** |

**Additional information (optional)**
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees | Para 1.51 | |
| The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works | Para 1.51 | |
| Relationship with any related parties | Para 1.51 | |
| Other | | |

## Reference and Administrative details

| | |
|---|---|
| Charity name | **Leighton Buzzard Athletic Club** |
| Other name the charity uses | **N/A - none** |
| Registered charity number | **1193091** |
| Charity's principal address | **N/A – The club does not have its own HQ; training is provided in public areas and on a purpose built facility on the land of Vandyke Upper School in Leighton Buzzard.** |
| | |

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

| | Trustee name | Office (if any) | Dates acted if not for whole year | Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Richard Inchley | Chair | | |
| 2 | James Cusack | | | |
| 3 | Nick Clay | | | |
| 4 | Roger Seldon | Treasurer | | |
| 5 | Peter Mackrell | | | |
| 6 | | | | |
| 7 | | | | |
| 8 | | | | |
| 9 | | | | |
| 10 | | | | |
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| 16 | | | | |
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| 18 | | | | |
| 19 | | | | |
| 20 | | | | |

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

| Director name | | |
|---|---|---|
| *None* | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

| Trustee name | Dates acted if not for whole year | |
|---|---|---|
| *None* | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

| | |
|---|---|
| Description of the assets held in this capacity | None |
| Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects | N/A - None |
| Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets | N/A - None |

**Additional information (optional)**

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

**N/A – no exemptions**

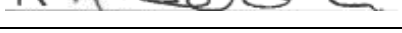
## Other optional information

**None**

## Declarations

**The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.**

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Signature(s)** |  |  |
| **Full name(s)** | Richard Anthony Inchley | Roger Alan Seddon |
| **Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)** | Chair | Treasurer |
| **Date** | 27/10/26 | |

# APPENDIX – 2025 General Committee Report for the AGM on Wednesday 25th February 2026

**Membership**

| Year | Total | Junior | Senior |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2021/22 | 211 | 98 | 113 |
| 2022/23 | 206 | 94 | 112 |
| 2023/24 | 158 | 57 | 101 |
| 2024/25 | 96 | 6 | 90 |
| 2025/26 | 84 | 6 | 78 |
| | | | |

- Whilst junior membership has remained stable it is set to grow over the next 12 months with 6/7 potential members starting training now or in the new future
- Senior membership has fallen again. This appears generally to be due to people moving away from area, 'short term' members not continuing to run and a few established but active members not renewing. Unlike in past years there have not been the same number of 'new' members to replace the typical turnover.
- Whilst it's encouraging to see that junior membership and enquiries showing signs of picking up, senior membership will need to be looked at in the coming months. Enquiries are down and we need to look at the profile of the club, to encourage more enquiries. Our lack of appeal to 'newer' runners is a likely hindrance. However, our 50th year could be used to leverage positive publicity to aid membership.

**Finances and membership fees**

As we will be reported the club finances are in a very healthy position with a significant surplus. A significant proportion of this will be used in the 50th year celebrations.

Membership fees for the 2026/27 year have yet to be discussed by the committee. Whilst no significant rise is likely we do need to look at the impact of, yet another EA affiliation fee rise. Last year we cut membership fees to give back some of the surplus, and we have not raised fees for at least 5 years.

I'd like to thank Pete Mackrell and our Treasurer Roger Seldon for putting the account together.

**Training and coaching courses**

A big thank you to our run leaders / coaches who have helped at our various training session. Attendance at training has been up and down through year. There is a regular core training group on a Thursday but attendance on Wednesday does fluctuate, although the 'on tour' runs appear universally popular. We have continued to run track sessions monthly Stantonbury Campus in Milton Keynes.

Unfortunately, primarily due to lack of attendance we have had cancel Tuesday night training as they had become unsustainable. This is a shame, but it had too regularly become the case that 1 or 2 people may turn and often nobody would turn up. I'm not against revisiting this but it really needs feedback from our membership on what works for them and people to step to get this going. It does give the club an increasing challenge when it comes to newer runners and where they start with us.

We need now to revitalise Wednesday nights. We've made every effort to ensure they are structure in a way anyone can attend and would encourage people back.

This year Neil Green has completed his LiRF qualification and is helping me with the juniors. His son Nathan has also expressed interest in taking this qualification on which is positive. Its true however, that getting seniors member on this course remains a challenge but an area the club is always willing to support financially. We always need more people to help lead runs.

**Leighton 10 (L10)**
The Leighton 10 was a fabulous success again this year building on the last few years. The planning and organisation went off smoothly, as did the day itself and we were generally blessed with great weather for racing. As has been reported in the financials:

Total takings from the event were £ 3,830.60 and profit back to the club was £1,386.40.

Our thanks go to Ian Grimshaw as Race Director and his hard-working Leighton10 Committee (Ruth, Alison, Greg, Orla and Rachel for putting on a wonderful event. Special mention to Ruth who stepped in to take over as Race Director in Ian's absence on the day.

The Leighton 10 is a real highlight of the year, and I think shows this club at its very best. There are so few 10 mile races available that I'm sure we can build further on this success. Everyone should want to be involved in this great event.

**Junior section**
As mentioned, the next 12 months we hope to grow this section and have begun taking on new members. Neil Green has completed his LiRF qualification and is assisting me, my wife Sars is also hoping to assist. We continue to train at Parson's Close Park and at Astral Park when it is lighter. Alongside training we will look to develop a calendar of events for junior athletes to take part in addition to the establish cross country. Although we never expect the section to be 100s strong, we'll aim to grow to around 15 athletes and the review what additional support would be needed should we wish to take this further.

**Events and Racing**
Each year our Club Captain develops a fantastic calendar of events across our various championship – road, off road, cross country and track and field. Which we once again have in place for 2026.

The year has seen some wonderful team and individual performances once again. The club took home trophies at the Greensands Ridge Relay and Round MK Relay once again. At the CCCL we finished in a respectable mid-table position of 10th. We had some strong individual performances overall notably from Tom North (2nd overall), Jo Dear (3rd overall) and Carl Dalkin (4th overall) in their respective categories.

Unfortunately, as trend is undoubtedly building where we are seeing decreasing participation both at these CCCL and at the other events in our road and off-road series calendar. We are trying to address some of the latter by aiming as far as possible to pick events closer to home. We also considering providing transport to more flung events to allow for more of team feel and 'make day of it' as it were.

I cannot fully speculate on the reasons for the decline in participation, anecdotally there is no doubt people have competing priorities and this become more acute, but it may not all

be down to this. We've never been a club that says we 'expect' people to compete but taking parts at events together, is a big part of what being part of a club is about. It promotes a social and supportive aspect to the club giving you another opportunity to meet up, run, and compete as necessary so we must lose site of this going forward.

**A Golden Year – 2026 – 50th years of Running**

In 2026 the club will be 50 years old which is a fantastic milestone. We do want to make this a special year and involve our membership in marking this occasion.

We will be doing the following:

- Bringing back the Round Leighton Buzzard Relay and potentially opening it up to teams from local clubs. This will be coupled with a social event immediately afterwards. We also want to invite members who have moved away to attend where we can. A small group will oversea running this.
- A Fastraks commentative technical t-shirt provided free for all members who renew in 2026/27.
- A LBAC quiz night to be held in late / autumn.
- Local press coverage to mark the anniversary .

The club's healthy financial surplus will go a long way to covering the cost of much of this. We do want to focus on the social aspect of this and get people involved. This in addition to our awards nights, curry nights and of course the Leighton10.

**Summary**

There are some very positive aspects to the club currently such as the success of the L10, great team and individual performance and return of the junior section. We undoubtedly face significant challenges. These can be seen in a reduction in senior membership and reduced participation in training / events as a general theme. We saw significant bounce post Covid in membership and participation that lasted a few years but is now fading. We cannot as a club be complacent that everything will remain as it always was, we have already had to make difficult calls on Tuesday nights for example. From a committee perspective we'll need to look at this more closely but the entire membership must also be far more willing to step up, not just to attend but offer support and ideas. Otherwise, there is a real danger than everything gradually gets eroded or taken for granted. We have a fantastic opportunity in our 50th year celebrate this wonderful club and remind ourselves of why we are all here, so I suggest we make best use of it to refocus and reenergise ourselves.

In what will be my last year as your Chairman, I'd once again like to put on record my thanks to all the committee for their support in the next 12 months. Thank you to everyone that has helped with the club behind the scenes and at events, we cannot do anything unless we work together. The committee is always here to listen to ideas both for social and running events so don't shy in coming forward.

James Lowe
Club Chairman (General Committee)

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

| LEIGHTON BUZZARD ATHLETIC CLUB | 1193091 |
|---|---|

# Receipts and payments accounts

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| For the period from | 01/01/25 | To | 31/12/25 |
|---|---|---|---|

## Section A Receipts and payments

| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Endowment funds | Total funds | Last year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ | to the nearest £ |
| **A1 Receipts** | | | | | |
| Membership fees | 3,207 | - | - | 3,207 | 3,740 |
| Race entries | 3,831 | - | - | 3,831 | 7,657 |
| Social functions | - | - | - | - | 1,120 |
| Club kit | 872 | - | - | 872 | 240 |
| Grants & donations | 350 | - | - | 350 | 500 |
| Other income | - | - | - | - | - |
| Interest | - | - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Sub total****(Gross income for AR)* | 8,260 | - | - | 8,260 | 13,257 |
| **A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).** | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | |
| | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Sub total*** | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Total receipts*** | 8,260 | - | - | 8,260 | 13,257 |
| **A3 Payments** | | | | | |
| Affiliation fees | 1,770 | - | - | 1,770 | 1,843 |
| Race events | 2,444 | - | - | 2,444 | 4,857 |
| Social functions | 100 | - | - | 100 | 1,120 |
| Competition fees and transport | 1,530 | - | - | 1,530 | 1,474 |
| Club kit | 1,417 | - | - | 1,417 | 273 |
| Coaching/welfare courses | 160 | - | - | 160 | 190 |
| Medals and engraving | 626 | - | - | 626 | 537 |
| Equipment | - | - | - | - | 42 |
| Venue hire | 455 | - | - | 455 | - |
| Other costs | 445 | - | - | 445 | 343 |
| ***Sub total*** | 8,947 | - | - | 8,947 | 10,679 |
| **A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)** | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | |
| | - | - | - | - | |
| ***Sub total*** | - | - | - | - | - |
| ***Total payments*** | 8,947 | - | - | 8,947 | 10,679 |
| ***Net of receipts/(payments)*** | -687 | - | - | -687 | 2,578 |
| **A5 Transfers between funds** | - | - | - | - | - |
| **A6 Cash funds last year end** | 19,066 | - | - | 19,066 | 16,488 |
| ***Cash funds this year end*** | 18,379 | - | - | 18,379 | 19,066 |

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

### B1 Cash funds

| Categories | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Current account | 15,248 | - | - |
| | Savings account | - | - | - |
| | Paypal account | 3,131 | - | - |
| | ***Total cash funds*** | 18,379 | - | - |
| | (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s)) | OK | OK | OK |

### B2 Other monetary assets

| Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|---|---|---|---|
| | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - |

### B3 Investment assets

| Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |

### B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

| Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |
| | | - | - |

### B5 Liabilities

| Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional) | When due (optional) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | - | |
| | | - | |
| | | - | |
| | | - | |
| | | - | |

### Notes to the accounts

**The CIO has not provided any guarantees.**
**The CIO has not entered into any debt arrangements during the period, and does not have any debt outstanding**

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

| Signature | Print Name | Date of approval |
|---|---|---|
| R A Inchley | Richard Anthony Inchley | 27/10/26 |
| R A Seldon | Roger Alan Seldon | 27/10/26 |