RYE RECREATION & WELLBEING CIO

Registered charity no. 1205606

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2026

CHATSWOOD ASSOCIATES
Abingworth
New England Lane
Rye, East Sussex TN31 7NT

RYE RECREATION & WELLBING CIO

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2026

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RYE RECREATION & WELLBING CIO

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2026

Charity Information

Trustees:	Barry Nealon (Chair) Dena Smith Ellis (from 27-Jan-26) Rosalind Wyatt Vagn Hansen (Treasurer) Ian Potter William Coatesworth
Registered Charity Number:	1205606
Registered address:	Rye Leisure Centre The Grove Rye, East Sussex TN31 7ND
Accountants:	Chatswood Associates Abingworth New England Lane Rye, East Sussex TN31 7NT
Main Bankers:	Unity Trust Bank PO Box 7193 Planetary Road Willenhall WV1 9DG

RYE RECREATION & WELLBEING CIO

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2026

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements for the Charity for the above period.

The financial statements of the charity which is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statements of Recommended Practice" applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Public Benefit and Charitable Purpose

Rye Recreation & Wellbeing CIO exists to improve the health, wellbeing, and quality of life of residents of Rye and the surrounding area through accessible recreation, leisure, education, and community engagement. The trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and believe that the charity's activities directly support the advancement of health, community participation, social inclusion, education, and wellbeing for people of all ages and abilities. The charity seeks to reduce barriers to participation and ensure that opportunities are available regardless of age, disability, financial circumstances, or social background.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

Message from Barry Nealon, Chair of the trustees

It gives me great pleasure to present this Chairman's Report following our first year of operation managing the leisure centre. What has been achieved over the past year is a testament to the incredible support, determination, and commitment shown by our community and everyone involved in this project. From the outset, we received tremendous encouragement and support from residents, organisations, and supporters. This support was vital not only in securing the necessary working capital to begin operations, but also in ensuring the centre was embraced by the community from the very beginning. I am delighted to report that in our first year of operation, the leisure centre has welcomed approximately 75,000 visits, with memberships almost 50% higher than under the previous operator. Particularly pleasing has been the significant increase in participation among both younger and older members of our community, demonstrating that the centre is becoming an inclusive and accessible facility for all generations.

We are especially grateful for the support received from the Lottery Fund, the Levelling Up Partnership Fund, Sport England, and our other generous donors. Their contributions have enabled us to improve the quality of the facilities, strengthen long-term sustainability, and provide an enhanced experience for everyone using the centre.

I am extremely proud of what has been achieved so far. Remarkably, the day after we took over the leisure centre, we were able to welcome our first customers. Behind the scenes, a significant amount of work has taken place to establish the governance, policies, processes, and systems required to operate successfully and responsibly. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our staff, trustees, and the continued backing of our community. The leisure centre is now becoming the community hub we always believed it could be when this project first began. It is encouraging to see the centre developing not only as a place for health and wellbeing, but also as a focal point for community engagement, activity, and connection. The progress made during this first year provides a strong foundation for the future, and we look forward with confidence and ambition to continuing to grow and serve our community in the years ahead. Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has supported us throughout this journey. Your trust, encouragement, and commitment have made this first year such a success.

Operational report – Daniel Lynn, Director

Prior to the CIO taking over, Rye Leisure Centre was reported as running at a £10-15,000 per month deficit, and in 2022 the swimming pool was closed with the gym and studios remaining open. The business was believed unviable due to increasing energy, staffing, and repair costs, and the pool only reopened a year later following intense public pressure and with financial support from Rother District Council. The building was neglected, and staffing was under-resourced with part-time leadership. The result was dwindling membership numbers, low usage, and a poor reputation amongst the community. Once it was clear that the lease would be granted to the CIO, the leadership team had a two-month window in which to prepare for the transition. Contracts were procured for utilities, supplies and services, a PPM contractor was engaged to ensure safety and compliance, a full IT/CRM system was selected, configured, and installed, and all existing staff were transferred under TUPE. The Centre then opened under CIO branding on April 1st, 2025, with little to no disturbance to customers and staff.

The priority during year 1 was to stabilise the business. Supported by The Leveling Up Partnership Fund, Lottery Community Fund, Sport England and our donors, several upgrades and improvements were made internally and externally to improve safety, compliance, and safeguarding as well as the appearance of the building, and the Centre remained open throughout the works. As a result of the hard work and dedication of the team, underpinned by the support of our community, partners and donors, the Centre is now becoming the community hub we believed it could be from the start of this project.

Membership numbers over the year exceeded expectations. On opening, numbers stood at 388, more than doubling to close at 847 on March 31st, 2026, 35% better than forecast. Notable growth has been in older adult members (>500% increase), concessionary members (+95%), and 14-18-year-olds (+185%), and the introduction of a thriving pickleball club attracted a further 44 racquets-only members. The Centre also plays a vital role in the lives of a number of local people with mobility issues and disabilities. In year one, the Centre hosted over 75,000 visits. 12 primary & secondary schools have now returned to enjoy swimming sessions in our pool, with over 11,000 afterschool swimming lessons delivered, over 19,000 open or lane swimming visits to date, and overwhelmingly positive feedback received on the quality of our pool water and improved cleanliness. A couple of recent testimonials:

"When I moved to Rye, I was so delighted to find the accessible swimming pool. Having had polio as a child, my disability has meant that swimming is the only sport I can do to keep my mobility as long as possible. Rye Pool is my hydrotherapy, especially with the helpful staff" - Bridget
"I became an avid and committed swimmer during an extremely difficult and challenging time in my life. I had honestly not expected the significant benefits to both my mental as well as physical health. Moving to East Sussex it took some renewed confidence to restart my swimming, not least finding a swimming pool that matched the brilliant facilities I had enjoyed from my local pool in East London. It took only two visits to join up as a member. The friendliness and helpfulness of the staff, the cleanliness of the changing rooms, the consistent warmth of the water and the fabulous setting of the pool - exceeded my expectations. As a freelance musician and educator time is at a premium but investment reaps rewards. With an increased sense of wellbeing impacting on my mental and physical health swimming my lengths have afforded me has been life changing! - Victoria

"Thank you is only 2 words, but it has many values. The support I get mentally and physically is worth a million. Swimming is my life - it keeps the little mobility I have going, plus mentally it sees me through each day. Lately life has been extra tough, I don't know how I would have coped without Rye Pool and staff helping me through. I apologise if this letter is emotional, but it's straight from the heart. Thank you all for everything and being there for us all" - Sheila

"Just a short note to thank you and your staff for the help and thought you give to myself and everyone. As you are aware it is a lifeline to us. It helps our mental health, often the only exercise we get and a wonderful opportunity to socialise with superb people. We hope you continue to prosper with running the centre, and that membership grows, and that the mermaids can continue to plague you all!!" - Jennie

Our group exercise programme has seen over 9,000 attendees, and we provide training facilities for numerous

dance, sports and leisure clubs. Both inside and outside the Centre, we have also supported local schools and colleges with opportunities to gain essential work experience and interview skills as their young people prepare towards work or further education.

We are proud of what we have achieved so far. Indeed, we have achieved a lot in a short time, but there is much more to do. A cautionary note is our reliance on fundraising and grants. Lottery funding is secured for next year and our utility prices are fixed until April 2027 to underpin business as usual plus development of a new holiday playscheme provision, but further grants and funding are required if we are to implement our capital project plans, fund essential repairs and expand our community programmes.

However, year one has provided a solid platform upon which to build further upon our community impact and ensure the sustainability of this vital community facility. As Centre Director, it has been a privilege to lead the team over these last 12 months, and I would like to thank them and all our Trustees and volunteers for the hard work, dedication, and support that they have put in to making this happen.

Financial review - Message from the honorary Treasurer – Vagn Hansen

The charity took over Rye Leisure Centre on 1st April 2025 and set itself a target of £200,000 in working capital before starting operations on 1st April 2025. This was successfully achieved by a combination of large number of small and large local funders and gave the charity the confidence to commence operations on 1st April 2025. However, although all funding was committed on 1st April 2025, £88,000 was received after 1st April 2025 and is therefore accounted for in the 2025/26 result. The reported positive result of £82,861consequently represents a near break-even outcome excluding the working capital funding. Achieving break-even in the first year is an outstanding result and significantly better than both the previous operator achieved and the base-case business plan for the first year. There were two main contributors to this: 1) a generous grant from the National Lottery Community Fund; and 2) support from the community in the form of a large increase in memberships of nearly 50% since 1st April 2025. Without the lottery grant the result would have been negative, albeit much better than envisaged for the first year. The trustees anticipate that the leisure centre will continue to rely on external grant funding in the short to medium term.

The treasurer, chair, and operations director monitor progress against budget monthly, with quarterly monitoring by the board of trustees. Significant cash reserves on 31st March 2026 means that the charity is well placed to deliver its charitable objectives in the short to medium term and can continue to provide health facilities for the community in and around Rye.

Policy for Reserves

Before starting operations, a reserves policy was put in place that required minimum free reserves of £70,000 and target reserves of £130,000. Both reserve targets were achieved by 31st March 2026. The unrestricted reserves were £273,626 on 31st March 2026. The reserve policy will be revised in the next financial year, based on the experience of a full year of operations.

Investment policy and objectives

Unrestricted, undesignated funds are held as cash in the bank and where appropriate money is placed on timed deposit to attract interest. The trustees do not see the cash reserves to be big enough to take any investment market risk and no money is currently placed in any other investment vehicle. This will be kept under review.

Structure, governance and management

We currently have 6 Trustees with a broad range of skills. We have capacity to appoint two further Trustees. These appointments will be made by public advertising and focus on HR and IT as skills we need to enhance.

Trustee induction and training

All Trustees have received an induction and training process covering such matters as awareness of a Trustee's responsibilities, the governing document, administrative procedures, the history and philosophical approach of the charity and have been directed to the Charity Commission leaflet "The Essential Trustee: What you need to know". All trustees completed safeguarding training.

Organisation
The Board of Trustees is responsible for the management of the CIO. The Trustees meet four times a year with additional meetings being called as necessary. It regularly considers the operational risks that the Charity faces and is satisfied that it has adequate systems in place to minimise their impact.

Risk Management
The trustees have implemented a structured risk management framework to identify. assess, and manage the principal risks facing Rye Recreation & Wellbeing CIO and Rye Leisure Centre. A comprehensive risk

register is maintained, covering strategic, financial, operational, compliance, and environmental risks, each assessed for likelihood and impact, with existing controls and further mitigating actions clearly defined. Residual risk levels are regularly reviewed, and responsibilities are assigned to appropriate members of the board and management team. Risk information is reported to the board on a regular basis, supported by dashboard summaries and a risk heat map to inform decision-making and prioritisation. This approach ensures that systems are in place to manage risk effectively, safeguard the charity's assets and beneficiaries, and support the long-term sustainability of the organisation in line with Charity Commission guidance

The principal risk of financial sustainability for the charity is very closely monitored and reviewed by the Chair and the Honorary Treasurer monthly, and quarterly by all Trustees. Attention also continues to focus on non-financial risks arising from safeguarding, GDPR, health and safety, reputation, security and confidentiality which are supported by polices and procedure as well as regular staff awareness and training. All appropriate personnel undergo first aid and safeguarding training.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements
The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), for keeping proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements of the charity comply with Charity Commission guidance and for maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Three to Five Year Strategy
Our performance is well ahead of all projections but if we remove all our grant funding, we are not yet at break even and will need to focus on grant funding for a few more years. We have several major projects planned for the next five years to enhance our community engagement and improve our offer. We intend to fully refurbish the reception area and if possible, introduce a kitchen to serve meals. Our gym is a little tried and needs brightening and our equipment needs to be selectively replaced. We also believe that within 5 years we should upgrade the changing facilities to meet modern requirements.

APPROVAL
This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf.



Barry Nealon, Chair

18th June 2026

RYE RECREATION & WELLBEING CIO

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees

I report on the unaudited accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026 set out on pages 7 to 13.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and the Independent Examiner
The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011(the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:
- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view', and the report is limited to those matters is set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Darren Warren for Paxton Examiners

18th June 2026

RYE RECREATION & WELLBING CIO

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2026

		Unrestricted Funds	
	Notes	2026 Trading	2025 Pre-Trading
		£	£
Income:			
Grants & donations	2	**131,529**	208,661
Fundraising		**40,750**	-
Charitable activities	3	**491,741**	-
Investment income		**4,007**	1,032
Total income		**668,027**	209,693
Expenditure:			
Charitable activities	4	**560,343**	14,180
Governance costs	5	**18,459**	4,748
Depreciation	8	**6,364**	-
Total expenditure		**585,166**	18,928
Net income/ (expenditure)		**82,861**	190,765
being net movement of funds for the period			
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward at 1 April		**190,765**	-
Total funds carried forward at 31 March		**273,626**	190,765

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

RYE RECREATION & WELLBEING CIO

Balance Sheet as at

31 March 2026

	Notes	2026		2025	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	8	**18,241**		1,500	
Current assets					
Debtors	9	**8,994**		8,134	
Stock		**3,486**		-	
Cash at bank	10	**266,427**		181,025	
		278,907		189,159	
Current liabilities					
Creditors	11	**23,522**		(106)	
		23,522		(106)	
Net current assets					190,765
Total assets less current liabilities			**273,626**		190,765
Funds					
Unrestricted funds	12		**273,626**		190,765

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 18th June 2026 and signed on its behalf by

Barry Nealon, Chair

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

RYE RECREATION & WELLBEING CIO

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026

1 Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP(FRS102) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statements of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015), Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

1.2 Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing at least £500 for use by the charity are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over the expected useful lives on the following basis.

Equipment and software	- over either 3 or 5 years on a straight line basis

1.3 Income recognition policies

Items of income are recognised and included in the accounts when all of the following criteria are met:

- The charity has entitlement to the funds
- any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable
- the amount can be measured reliably.

1.4 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

1.5 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity.

1.6 Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified under the following activity heading:

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of events and educational activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred. The charity is not VAT registered.

1.7 Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include office costs, finance, and governance costs which support the Charity's activities.

1.8 **Debtors**
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

1.9 **Cash at bank and in hand**
Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of one year or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.10 **Creditors and provisions**
Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.11 **Financial instruments**
The charity only had financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

1.12 **Trustees**
The Trustees are unpaid volunteers and their input continues to be a key element in the ability to manage the charity and control expenditure.

2 Grants & donations	2026	2025
	£	£
Donations	1,029	189,332
Gift aid claimed	-	18,829
Grants received	130,500	500
	131,529	208,661

The grants received above included £82,500 from the National Lottery Community Fund, under the programme name Reaching Communities/Partnerships. Those grants were recorded as Restricted Funds in the financial accounts. Those grants were spent in the financial year leaving no Restricted Funds at the yearend.

		2026		2025	
		£	£	£	£
3	**Charitable activities**				
	Income				
	Membership income	**311,743**		-	
	Retail income	**8,321**		-	
	Food & beverage	**34,501**		-	
	Activity income	**68,479**		-	
	Space hire	**47,922**		-	
	Childrens' sports activities	**1,383**		-	
	Swim school income	**12,536**		-	
	Carpark income	**6,856**		-	
	Total income	**491,741**		-	
4	**Expenditure**				
	Salaries	**298,183**		9,167	
	Employer NI	**18,954**		-	
	Employer pension	**4,719**		221	
	Retail purchases	**3,042**		-	
	Food & bev costs	**11,967**		-	
	Staff training costs	**5,718**		-	
	Travel expenses	**223**		95	
	Utilities gas	**37,134**		-	
	Utilities electricity	**32,195**		-	
	Utilities water	**22,630**		-	
	Facilities costs	**30,836**		-	
	Maintenance costs	**44,864**		-	
	Insurance	**5,993**		-	
	Contract cleaning	**195**		-	
	Grounds maintenance	**1,955**		-	
	Carpark costs	**15**		-	
	Printing/photocopying	**623**		-	
	Operations & admin	**9,580**		304	
	Stationery	**627**		-	
	Programme costs	**11,043**		-	
	Marketing	**9,150**		3,248	
	IT/ Internet/ Wi-Fi	**10,264**		-	
	Equipment/ clothing	**433**		1,145	
	Total expenditure	**560,343**		14,180	
	Net surplus/ (deficit)		**(68,602)**		(14,180)

5 Governance costs	2026 £	2025 £
Accounting & payroll	1,291	180
IT support	4,680	300
HR support	1,960	353
Other professional fees	160	3,757
Bank & direct debit charges	10,368	158
	18,459	4,748

6 Trustees' expenses

There were no Trustee expenses during the period.

7 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year.

8 Fixed assets for use by the Charity

Depreciated over	3 years Equipment	5 years Equipment	Totals
Fixed Assets	£	£	£
At 1 April 2025		1,500	1,500
Additions	10,822	12,283	23,105
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2026	10,822	13,783	23,105
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2025	-	-	-
Charge for year	3,607	2,757	6,364
	-	-	-
At 31 March 2026	3,607	2,757	6,364
Net book value	7,215	11,026	18,241

9 Debtors

	2026	2025
	£	£
Staff loan scheme	215	-
Prepayments	8,779	5,634
Gift Aid	-	2,500
	8,994	8,134

10 Cash at bank and in hand

	2026	2025
	£	£
Unity Bank	174,270	181,025
CAF Bank	91,827	-
Cash in hand	330	-
	266,427	181,025

11 Sundry creditors

	2026	2025
	£	£
Deferred revenue	15,919	-
PAYE	6,762	(106)
Pension payments	841	-
	23,522	(106)

12 Analysis of movements in charitable funds

	01-Apr-25	Income	Expenditure	31-Mar-26
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted		585,527	(502,666)	
Restricted	-	82,500	(82,500)	-
Totals	190,765	668,027	(585,166)	273,626

13 Investment income

All of the charity's investment income arises from money held in bank deposit accounts.

14 Taxation

As a registered charity, Rye Recreation & Wellbeing CIO is exempt from tax on charitable activity.