

For Annual Report 2023-2024

Minutes of the
18th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the
Teesdale & Weardale
Search & Mountain Rescue Team

Held at Sniperley Fire Station, Durham
At 19.00hrs Friday 8th November 2024

1. Opening Remarks

Team President Graeme GILL welcomed all the members to the AGM and congratulated them on the voluntary work that they do.

2. Apologies

Tom Keenan, David Thompson, David Bartles-Smith, Alicia Stanley, Sutherland, Andy Bottrill, Gabriel Damaszk, Adam Hearn

Attendance

Steve Owers, Linda Owers, Clare Owers, Mike Needham, Jane Ascroft, Pete Bell, Andy Neill, Scott Bisset, Mark Sauer, James Chilcott, Des Toward, Dave Wigham, Sarah Hall, Eric Gilhooley, Paul Aitken-Fell, John Little, James Siddle, Dan Taylor, Ben Blackett-Ord, Graeme Gill, Alan Best, Chris Roberts, Sarah Broadbent, Karen Fisher, Ben Healy, Helen James, Rich Warne, David Clarke, Kay Wigham, Glenn Wigham.

3. Minutes of the 2024 AGM

The Minutes were accepted as a true and acceptable reflection of the 2024 AGM.

Agenda items 5.1-5.18: Team Officers had produced their reports (as contained herein) for the Team Members prior to this meeting.

4. Presentation of Service Certificates

10-year MREW certificates:

Tom DEAKIN
Mike NEEDHAM
Gabriel DAMASZK

The Team Leader Steve OWERS congratulated all on their achievement. Only Mike Needham was present this evening. A presentation would be arranged for Tom and Gabriel.

In recognition of outstanding service to the Team:

Alan BEST and Lesley Sutherland were both thanked for their very long and very valuable contribution to the Team now that both had decided to step down. Team Leader Steve Owers presented a Certificate of Service to Alan for his work and he accepted a certificate on behalf of Lesley who could not be here.

5. Presentation of Cheque

A cheque for £782 was presented to the team by Glenn Wigham who had raised the money by being sponsored for completing the Great North run this year.

6. Team Leader's Report

Steve OWERS

Team Leader's Report

Tonight's AGM brings to an end our 56th year as an operational Team, an achievement in itself. The year started out with us finding the body of a young man after a search, spread over 5 weeks, involving not only the Hill team but 3 extensive searches by our Canoe Team. While this was a sad outcome it brought some closure to the family which we have witnessed in the very positive reaction to us as a team from the family. We have had many training opportunities this year and it is really pleasing to see how both our crag and medical skills have really developed. For the first time I can recall we had a summer training weekend in the Lakes. The highlight of this was probably playing a major part in a rescue from England's highest mountain Scafell Pike alongside Wasdale MRT.

Callouts this year are up from 35 in 2023 to 40 this year. Unlike last year when we had a quiet Jan-Mar, this year's callouts have been spread throughout the year. Looking at the type of calls, the number of searches for missing vulnerable people on behalf of the Police is down this year although 5 of the callouts were to the one incident I mentioned previously. The number of requests for assistance from North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) e.g. injured mountain bikers in Hamsterley Forest is up considerably on last year.

31 Team members were presented with the Kings Coronation medal awarded to mountain rescue volunteers who have been operational for at least 5 years. These were presented on behalf of the King by Michael Poole the Vice Lord-Lieutenant at a garden party organised by John and his family. At the same event the family of Marc Tomlinson unveiled Marc's Mobile in remembrance of Marc who passed away in 2022

We continue to work closely with partner agencies Police, Fire, Ambulance, Coast Guard, Great North Air Ambulance and Local Resilience Forum (LRF) etc. Examples include assisting with training of Police search teams which is ongoing, working with Fire & Rescue on plans for underground incidents, hosting a regional day for NEAS Critical Incident Dispatch Team and again this year assisting with the training of prospective helimed medics for The Great North Air Ambulance. This shows the high regard we are held in by the statutory emergency services.

The running of the Team takes a great deal of organising and I would particularly like to thank all of our committee members who often work away unnoticed in background. I would also like to thank all of our Team members whether they be Hill Team, Canoe Team or Operational Support members. You have all contributed to the team and without the time and effort you put in we would not be able to provide the service we do.

A number of long serving Team members are either stepping down from committee roles within the Team or leaving us.

Allan Best, a former Team Leader and his partner Lesley Sutherland, former A list member and Members rep were on the Team when I joined. They were both instrumental in raising the money and designing our previous base at Bede Kirk. They have been looking after of collection boxes since I took over as Team Leader. We all should be grateful to them for all their work over more than 44 and 31 years respectively. Adam Hearn, who normally would have been with us at the AGM smartly dressed in suit and tie. Adam is currently enjoying a life on the ocean wave in the Med. Adam for as long as I can remember looked after all aspects of a radio comms, developing and introducing Teir 3 as well as being at various times a group leader and deputy team leader.

Chris Roberts, another former Team Leader is stepping down as Support Members Lead. Chris as well as being team leader also played a major part in developing our Youth section, at the time we were the only Team in the UK to involve young people. Andy Neill, our Secretary, is also standing down this year. If you have not been in the Team long or on the committee you may not know much about Andy. Previously a Hill Team member he has worked for many years in the background working on most of the projects the Team has been involved with. Andy has been a fantastic help to me over the years and I must personally thank him for that. The present Team and future Team also owe a dept of gratitude to Andy. I vividly recall a meeting in the plush offices of a top solicitors firm in Newcastle where Andy convinced 2 sets of solicitors and a top planning officer that they were wrong and he was right. Had it not been for Andy's dogged determination we would not have the lease agreement we have with Fire & Rescue for our bases.

As you all know, I am standing down after 8 years as Team Leader and 7 years as Deputy Team Leader before that.

When I took on the Team Leader role we had a day in this very room where we all discussed how we would like to progress as a Team. Some of these things we have achieved, one or two we haven't. However I did say that my main aim was to strengthen our foundations and I feel we have achieved this. We are living in a different world than we were 20-30 years ago where all organisations, including Mountain Rescue, have to be much more accountable. We now have SOP's and/or risk assessments in place for most of our activities, we have a minimum training requirement so that Team members are trained to a standard to make us as safe as they can be when out on callouts and we have much improved financial governance. I am sure the Team will progress over the next few years under John's leadership but please don't forget the best progress is built on solid foundations.

I decided last year that now was the time to hand over the responsibility for the Team to someone else, because the ultimate responsibility does rest with the Team Leader. This at times can be challenging and onerous and I hope Team members can recognise this and support John in the way you have supported me over many years. You can't however get rid of me that easily, I'll still be on the hill team, shouting to 'keep the stretcher level' and being a search manager pestering you over the radio for a METHANE message.

I would finally like to thank Linda my wife and Claire my daughter for all the support they have given me over the 29 years I have been in the team. Only a few weeks ago Linda was cutting up my dinner so I could answer the radio, make phone calls and fill in SARCALL while dealing with incident as duty controller. Without Linda and Claires support and understanding I could not have given the time and commitment I have to the Team.

It has been a great honour for me to say for the last 8 Years I was Team Leader of TWSMRT and that honour comes from you all making the Team what it is today.

Thank you.

7. Deputy Team Leader's Reports

7.1 Deputy Team Leader's / MRSDE Lead's Report **Des TOWARD**

DTL

It's been a strange year for me as DTL, I've dealt with personnel issues, day to day running of the team issue and helped the training lead when required. I have found it hard at times to adjust to the expected changes that the MRC and other agencies are trying to implement and struggle to see where we are going to find the time to do this. To this end I have decided to stand down as DTL, a quick thank you to those that have assisted me over the past two years.

MRSDE

We as a small group of the Team continue to train most weeks and try to meet for a full days training every month, we also have to attend National training weekends and this doe's take up a lot of our time .We currently have 3 operational dog's for callouts and 3 dog's in the training program .I am not able to give numbers of callouts attended but a point of note is that we are now being called to assist the Lake District dogs. A big thank you to all our "bodies" and instructor's. As always thank you to land clearance team, land owner's and Game keeper's.

7.2 Deputy Team Leader's / Canoe Group Lead's Report **John LITTLE**

Proposal for AGM: That we increase the number of Deputy Team Leaders from three to four prior to the 2024 election.

Reason: As we know, historically, the Team Leader role has been very demanding and time consuming. One aspect of this work load has been that the Team Leader has effectively, in addition to role of Team Leader, also covered the role of a DTL where it comes to overseeing routine Team business. In order to make the Team Leaders work load more manageable I believe we should increase the number of DTL roles from 3 to 4. We already know we have the volunteers willing to fill the role.

DTL

It has felt like another busy year for the Team particularly behind the scenes. Over the last few months I have attended a number of external meetings with our partner organisations. Earlier in the year I attended several workshops organised by MREW to help determine their "Shared Values".

The Team has had about 40 callouts over the last 12 months. Again the majority of these callouts have been to assist NEAS with remote incidents. Of the searches, most were resolved within a few hours with only one involving a prolonged search effort.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Steve for his work as Team leader over the last 8 years, as Deputy Team Leader before that and as Publicity Officer before that. The Team has moved a long way over this time and I'm confident the new Committee will feel they're building on solid foundations. Those foundations are also in no small part due to Andy Neill's 14 years hard work in the role of secretary. The role of secretary is not a glamorous one but Andy has worked diligently behind the scenes keeping the team on the right track. I would also like to thank Chris Roberts who is also standing down from the committee this year, however, I am very pleased to know Steve, Andy and Chris have all offered to support the new committee in any way they can. I would also like to thank everyone who's continued to support me in my role this year.

Canoe Team

It's been another quiet year operationally for the Canoe Team. We had a couple of follow up searches early in the year and a search through Durham City in the summer. After leading the Canoe Team for the best part of 20 years I believe it is in a strong place with some fantastic Team members. I will continue to support the new Canoe Team lead going forward and intend to remain an active member of the group.

8. Equipment Lead's Report

Eric GILHOOLEY

The past year has been quite busy in terms of the replacement of equipment which has reached the end of its working life. Where possible the replacements chosen have been an upgrade on the old equipment.

Crag Kit

Most of the team's ropes and harnesses reached the end of their working lives during the year and were replaced. The ropes were replaced with 100m ropes rather than the 50m ones that had been used. The longer ropes allow greater flexibility in use, especially when used for belay placement.

Casualty helmets an

d casualty harnesses were also replaced. The new helmets are more compact and allow casualties being carried on stretchers to lie in a more natural position. They also have integral visors for eye protection. The harnesses can be used with a wider range of casualty sizes than the old ones.

Additional grillons, pulleys and 'Oxan' carabiners have also been purchased, increasing the options for deployment of crag kit.

Water Kit

The team water kit had been in use for five years at the start of the year. This meant that the PFD's (Personal Floatation Devices) required a buoyancy test which they all passed by a factor of 2.

The helmets and throwlines reached the end of their working life after five years and were replaced. The helmets were replaced with a more versatile model which can be used for both bankside and crag activities. This means that they can be used in situations such as searches of very steep river banks. The helmets were expensive at twice the cost of the previous type but they do have a 10 year working life, so are in fact cost neutral. They are also adjustable in size which makes their deployment more straightforward.

I tried to find replacement rope for our throwlines but it was actually more cost effective to purchase complete throwlines with bags rather than just replacing the throwline and keeping the bag!

Bell Stretchers

The Bell Stretchers are nearing the time for their five yearly check, load test and refurbishment. I applied for testing slots before the suggested time to do so but was given dates well beyond those required. Nationally there is a bottleneck with this work. I have been informed that MREW and Lyon Equipment, the contractor, are working to resolve the problem. Actions include training more staff to carry out the work.

Vacuum Mattresses

There had been concerns about the level of rigidity and therefore spinal protection offered by the traditional model of vacuum mattress. MREW offered a 50% subsidise on the purchase of up to three replacement vacuum mattresses/ body splints to teams who were still using the older design. We took advantage of this offer and ordered replacements for all three of our vacuum mattresses.

Team Work

I have to say that my role as equipment lead has been manageable because of the support given by my fellow team members. I am grateful to all of those who are willing and eager to assist and carry out the regular equipment checks before the Wednesday training sessions. I would also be unable to carry out the role without the guidance and advice given by our technical advisors, Rich Warne and Paul Renwick.

The guidance, support and encouragement of Steve, our team leader, has been a major influence on myself and my development in the role of equipment lead. Without his oversight the organisation of team equipment would not be as effective as it is. I have found Steve to be an outstanding leader, with a natural ability to motivate those around him. It really has been an honour to have worked with him.

9. Training Lead's Report

Jane ASCROFT

During the last 12 months training has run smoothly with training sessions being well attended and of good quality.

The CORE Wednesday sessions ran as in 2023 with some attempt made to vary the content or delivery method to maintain interest in the subject. Thanks to Rich Warne, Steve Owers, James Chilcott and our medical trainers for delivering these sessions.

We moved away from the "Free" Wednesday sessions where nothing was planned as the lack of structure wasn't working as well as hoped. Instead we arranged less formal, non-core sessions on different topics including hypothermia, vehicles, small wounds and search techniques which encouraged Team members to attend the sessions and also gave less experienced Team members an opportunity to deliver some training.

We have had 11 Sunday exercises since the last AGM. 5 of these have been "Fell" exercises, 2 have been at Hamsterley Forest, 1 at Deepdale and we have had one medical weekend, one crag weekend and one weekend in the Lakes. Unfortunately the water weekend in April was cancelled due to high water levels and no instructors being available. Many thanks to everyone who has helped to organise a Sunday exercise.

The weekend in the Lakes in May was a huge success with 16 Team members attending in beautiful weather. The training included navigation, steep ground and leading groups in the mountains, and we also assisted Wasdale Team with a call out on Scafell Pike. I hope this kind of summer training weekend can form a regular part of our training programme in the years when we do not have a Winter training weekend in Scotland.

We introduced new “Core Skills for Steep Ground” training during 2024 which was another huge success with the majority of Team members being signed off as competent at the basic skills. This allows them to carry out single or twin line rescues on non-vertical terrain under supervision.

Six out of seven of the trainees who started in 2023 passed their assessment at the start of 2024 which is the largest intake we have had for some time. The Committee made the decision in 2023 not to recruit for entry in 2024 and this has meant that the 2023 intake have had an extra 12 months to consolidate their learning before they lose their status as new Team members. Recruitment is now in progress for entry in January 2025.

10. Support Members’ Lead’s Report **Chris ROBERTS**

Support members continue to provide important roles within the team. Currently roles fulfilled by support members include: Secretary , Fund raising officer, vehicle support, support to dog handlers, newsletter, Associate membership.

The recruitment of support members is driven by the needs of the team and identified by the Lead Officers.

This year it was agreed that Associate membership would no longer continue. Over the past few years recruitment has not been very successful and membership had only grown by a few new members. Collecting subscriptions from new and existing members had become time consuming. Financially the reward for effort has been very poor.

A new 'Friends' of the Team is being investigated. The idea is that with a one off donation a person can become a Friend. Their name will be added to a data base - they will receive the newsletter, and kept informed of any fund raising events. All of our existing Associate members have been informed of this change, and will continue to receive the newsletter.

As in previous years two editions of the Newsletter have been published; January (New Year) and September (Summer). Many thanks to all of those who have contributed articles to make this an interesting read.

11. Hon. Secretary’s Report **Andy NEILL**

Nothing of value to report.

12. Fundraising Lead’s Report **Sarah HALL**

So far this year we haven’t had the same success as we usually would with fundraising. Unfortunately, we did not receive any funds from the 3 peaks this year as it did not take place. I also tried to tie our Darlington Street Collection in with the Emergency Services

Day in Darlington this year which I thought would work to our advantage however, it did not. I've therefore decided to keep the street collection in Darlington as an independent fundraising event moving forward. We also held a street collection in Barnard Castle but unfortunately, we had a call out and so had to leave not long after lunchtime. We do have another street collection taking place in Durham City on 7th December, which is usually a successful day given it is the same day at the Christmas Market.

We also secured 5 places in the Great North Run and the supporters who ran the race for us raised a decent amount of money for the team. I have just applied for further places for the Great North Run in 2025 and am hopeful that we should secure at least 5 places.

As already mentioned in my Treasurer's report, support from team members at small events such as street collections is vital as the more presence we have, the more money we raise. Thank you to the team members for your support throughout the year.

13. Treasurer's Report

Sarah Hall

As you may or may not already be aware, I have recently taken on the role of Treasurer and have been shadowing Steve so far as possible to get to grips with the role.

The Team remains in a healthy financial position. Donations from the public, in one form or another, make up 85% of our income. We have a wide variety of funding streams including donations, events we run like the 3 Peaks (which unfortunately hasn't taken place this year however, we are hopeful it will take place next year), entries to the Great North Run, street collections, collection boxes, medical cover etc. This has the advantage for us that we do not have to rely on one major income stream such as a large event and a poor year from one income stream is often balance out by an increase in another. Support from team members at the smaller events such as street collections and anything team members can do to raise money for the team is still vital.

I am grateful to Steve for all of the support and guidance he has provided to me during the handover. There is no way I am able to do the Treasurers role without a great deal of help, in particular from our bookkeeper Alison. During my short period of time as Treasurer, I have already seen the great amount of work Alison puts in and so I'd like to thank her on behalf of the Team.

14. Group Leaders' Report

James CHILCOTT

I am sure the whole team share my appreciation to the professionalism and time Steve has been our team leader. We are fortunate Steve is not leaving the team and so will still be an active team member who continues to support all of us when we ask for his help or guidance. Big thank you to John for taking on the team leader role, I hope everyone remembers no one else was prepared to step forward for this position so let's give John as much support as we can to make his team life balance sustainable.

Unfortunately 3 Peaks did not happen in 2024, I still do not know reasons the Durham Students charity group DUCK dropped out of communication or potentially ceased to exist. I am confident we are going to make the 2025 3 Peaks event happen in partnership the Durham Uni hill walking society replacing DUCK previous role. We will aim for just 1 fundraising bus with 2 hill leaders and 2 drivers so if interested in taking part early June please contact me.

I have not had much time to be part of team training or activities this year due to new family commitments. However from what I have seen team numbers at each session seem good and credit to the 6 newest team members who continued their impressive training year and all become an active part of the main team this year. I look forward to helping at the new trainee introduction day that Jane has organised and hope we receive a 2025 intake as good as the 2023 intake.

I am keen to continue supporting team training outside of the local area. We had a really good Lake District training weekend in May this year which offered a good training location, team social aspect and chance to work with a different Mountain Rescue team on a challenging callout. Next year we are organising a visit back to Aviemore for winter skills training to hopefully continue this theme for training in a different location and team social building.

15. Search Management Lead's Report

Pete BELL

As of this year from a search management view there has been activity in the following areas; However with much still required to maintain progress for the future.

- The use of an adapted briefing tool to more efficiently brief search group leaders and in turn search group members to ensure all receive consistent information.
- The use of a METHANE incident site report to ensure efficient reporting to Search Control ensuring commonality with other Emergency Services.
- Sarcall is our incident logging tool, and incident logs in general have been much improved over the year.
- Ensuring where possible, we have a PoISA allocated, and we are co-located with the PoISA on searches.
- There have been discussions with the Durham Police drone supervisor, to ensure we have an understanding of the drone capability, and availability. Interfacing drone operations into our search management planning is still in its infancy, but will become increasingly important in the future, as evidenced from other teams using drones as a viable and valuable search asset.
- The search managers have a pre-plan for incidents in Hamsterley Forest and at High Force, both are useful aids, but need a review.
- We currently have four search managers and five duty controllers; this is not enough, and I would encourage team members to consider these key jobs.
- After much effort and discussion with CDDFRS over a considerable period of time, with regard to underground rescue in caves and disused metal mines in County Durham, they have finally concluded a CDDFRS document as to how they will manage underground rescue. Essentially, they recognise that CDDFRS do not have the expertise to perform search and rescue in caves and disused metal mines in our area, and in the event of an incident in these areas, CDDFRS will refer the

incident to TWSMRT, who will call in expertise from cave and mine rescue. There is still more work required with Police, particularly with primacy on such incidents.

- Building upon our excellent relationship with Durham Police PoISA's we are conducting five training sessions with 'new' PoISAs giving them an overview of the team and our search management and search capability.

16. Vehicle Lead's Report

Dave WIGHAM

Vehicles

By the time this report is read Alpha will have a new MOT and Service. The Walkway issue is still unresolved as the original fitters have proved impossible to contact. A new system has been designed with H&R services which utilises a factory built adventure roof rack that would perform the same job. A quote has been submitted to the Committee.

AdBlue issues:

AdBlue usage has been monitored closely as Alpha was using surprisingly little and the danger of AdBlue going stale and crystallising in the tank and the associated repair bills was a concern. This issue has resolved itself as AdBlue use has now substantially increased above previously levels. No warning lights or fault codes are showing up. Damage to vehicles and repairs has decreased this year, likely due to the increased training.

Mob2:

The Blue Light system on Mob2 was failing bit by bit and a like for like replacement was unavailable as the manufacturers no longer exist. Initial investigations into repair and replacement brought in quotes for £2700 and £3000 as starting prices and Mob2 being unavailable for several days. After several visits to specialist vehicle outfitters and the Durham Fire Brigade Rebuild Program, the work was completed by the same people that are rebuilding Durham FB Land Rovers at an all in cost of £1700

Mob1 may be moving to Durham base as the DPF systems don't like being parked in constantly damp garages. This was exactly the problem Durham FB had with their Ranger and why they swapped to a Land Rover parked at the Quad Base.

I had attended a Saturday demo at Cleveland Base for a demo and drive of the Ineos Grenadier. Whilst it is a superb vehicle people were concerned about the likelihood of Ineos ceasing trading and manufacturing problems they are experiencing.

Mass on vehicles: Any future 4x4 will have a lower carrying (mass kg) capacity than the Defender we currently use. The Team need to start thinking about what things can be removed from the equipment load to lower the mass carried by the vehicles.

Training

We only really started to question training at the beginning of 2024. We are now offering Team Drivers on road driving courses for 4x4 vehicles and during exercises are rotating Team drivers through vehicles to avoid skill fade. We'll look more at Driver Training after the AGM.

17. IT & Radio Lead's Report

Mark SAUER

This is my first annual report as the IT and Radio Lead for the Team. Learning within the Team never stops, and to say the learning curve has been large taking over this role would be an understatement. It has been one that as a whole I have enjoyed along with its challenges and opportunities. Here's my report covering the past year, along with planned initiatives for the future that I will be leading if I am re-elected.

Summary of 2023-2024 Achievements:

Knowledge Transfer and Skill Building:

- Initiated and completed handovers with key members to mitigate risks associated with specialist knowledge being concentrated within a few individuals, especially those that are leaving the team.
- Organised and participated in training face-to-face sessions with other MR teams, enhancing collaboration and collective expertise in maintaining our Tier 3 network.

IT Infrastructure Improvements:

- Conducted an audit and gradual upgrade of our office, base and support computers to Windows 11, ensuring readiness for Windows 10's end-of-life and securing our systems against potential cyber threats.
- Initiated Office 365 audits and streamlined team member support
- Audited IT and Radio infrastructure so we know what we have, and where it is located.

Stability Enhancements:

- Implemented measures to bolster the reliability of the radio and IT systems, including:
 - Site visits and troubleshooting at repeater sites affected by external factors such as power disruptions.
 - Developing proactive strategies to ensure our Tier 3 network remains resilient and operational with minimal downtime.
 - Coordinating with specialists and external experts to address and resolve complex radio network issues efficiently.

Technological Integration:

- Advocated for the potential adoption of Zello, a versatile push-to-talk app, as a supplemental communication tool. This has involved weighing associated costs and benefits to determine its value to our operational readiness. This has been delayed due to enhanced developments but should be completed by end-November helping to increase our Tier 3 radio coverage.

Key Challenges:

1. Complex Network Infrastructure: Maintaining a stable and responsive Tier 3 network proved challenging due to its complexity and dependency on a limited number of knowledgeable team members.

This has highlighted the need for broader team awareness and training. This will continue into 2025.

2. Support Overhead: Resolving issues often required significant time commitment, including site visits and coordination with external partners. Over the next year, work needs to be performed to reduce the reliance on site visits as much as possible, or to reduce the dependency on just one team member.

Looking Ahead: 2025 and Beyond:

If I am re-elected there are three main priority areas I would like to concentrate:

1. Strategic Planning:

- I plan to establish a dedicated working group to draft a long-term IT and radio strategy. This group will focus on assessing current systems, exploring new technologies like Starlink for internet connectivity, GPS radios for satellite communication, assessing what changes are needed to our current Tier 3 network and evaluating future needs.
- The goal is to create a clear roadmap that ensures any new technology is aligned with our mission and is cost-effective, sustainable, and easy to maintain.

2. Resilience and Knowledge Sharing:

- Continue to develop easy-to-follow standard operating procedures (SOPs) and training material to spread expertise and reduce dependency on key individuals.
- Implement a monitoring and alert system that ensures real-time awareness of system statuses, minimising reactive management of our Tier 3 network.

4. Enhancing Communication Capabilities:

- Complete the integration of Zello into our operations, enhancing our ability to communicate effectively when T3 radio coverage is limited or non-existent.

Summary

This year has laid the groundwork for more sustainable and strategic IT and radio operations. I would like to continue with this momentum and ensuring that our systems are robust, our knowledge is shared, and our team remains equipped with the IT and Radio tools required. I look forward to contributing further.

18. Acceptance of 2023/2024 Financial Statement

Steve OWERS

The Team Accounts (*running until end July 2024*) had been circulated to Team Members previously. They were formally agreed at this meeting

19. Proposals;

19.1 That the references to Associate Membership are removed from the Team Constitution following a decision to revise this scheme taken by the Committee in January 2024. *(From Secretary on behalf of Committee).*
Agreed

19.2 That the number of Deputy Team Leaders is increased from 3 to 4, and if accepted, the Team Constitution is amended in line with this proposal.
(From John Little, Deputy Team Leader. Agreed. This change was to come into immediate effect and allow for 4 deputy Team Leaders to be selected at this meeting

20. Election of President and Vice Presidents

The following were unanimously approved:

Role	Candidate
President	Graeme GILL
Vice Presidents	Alan BEST, David CLARK, David THOMPSON, Pete BELL. Chris ROBERTS David BARTLES-SMITH

21. Election of Officers and Committee Members

A secret ballot for the 4 Deputy Team Leader posts was overseen by the President Graeme Gill, Secretary Andy Neill and Group Leader James Chilcott.

Before this the 5 applicants - Jane Ascroft, Paul Aitken-Fell, Scott Bisset, Mike Needham and Rich Warne each was allowed 3 minutes to present their individual case.

The Following were approved:

Role	Candidate
Team Leader	John LITTLE
Deputy Team Leaders	Jane ASCROFT Paul AITKEN-FELL Mike NEEDHAM Rich WARNE

Hon Secretary	Sarah BROADBENT
Hon. Treasurer	Sarah HALL
Training Lead	Jane ASCROFT
Group Leaders (<i>up to 4</i>)	James CHILCOTT
Press & Public Relations Lead	Daniel TAYLOR
Equipment Lead	Eric GILHOOLEY
Fundraising Lead	Sarah HALL
Transport Lead	Dave WIGHAM
Casualty Care Lead	Paul RENWICK
Radio & IT Systems Lead	Mark SAUER
Operational Support Team Lead	<i>Vacant</i>
Search Management Lead	Pete BELL
Crag Lead	Rich WARNE
Water Lead	Rich WARNE
Canoe Group Lead	<i>Vacant</i>
MRSD (England) Lead	Des TOWARD

22. Presentation for Steve OWERS as outgoing Team Leader

A speech was given by Deputy Team Leader Des Toward thanking Steve on behalf of the Team for all of his hard work and achievements as Team Leader and the huge amount of work that he had done beyond this role. These sentiments were echoed in the many individual tributes paid to Steve during the course of the AGM.

The Team President Graeme Gill then presented Steve and his wife Linda with a number of gifts purchased from donations from the Team Members in appreciation of the roles played by both of them.

23. Date & Time of 2025 AGM

TBA

Charity Registration Number: 508877

**Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue
Team**

Accounts

For the Year Ending

31 July 2024

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Accounts

Year Ended 31 July 2024

	Page
Trustees' Annual Report	1
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees	3
Statement of Financial Activities	4
Statement of Financial Position	5
Notes to the Accounts	6
The Following Pages Do Not Form Part of the Accounts	
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	16

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Trustees' Annual Report

Year Ended 31 July 2024

The trustees present their report and the unaudited accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2024.

Objectives and Activities

The charity's objects are to provide a mountain search and rescue service for the whole of County Durham, from the highest fells in the West to the Coastal Communities of the North Sea. The policies adopted in furtherance of these objects are to respond to requests by the police to a range of incident types, from injured or lost people in the hills to vulnerable missing people in urban settings, and there has been no change in these during the year.

The charity operates 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and Performance

A detailed review of the activities, achievements & performance is filed with the financial statements and is available from www.charitycommission.gov.uk.

Financial Review

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to at least three months' expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2024

Reference and Administrative Details

Registered charity name Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Charity registration number 508877

Principal office The Chris Scott Mountain Search & Rescue Centre
Lanchester Road
Durham
County Durham
DH1 5RA

The Trustees

Mr J S Owers
Mr D W Toward
Dr J Little
Mr P Bell
Mr E Gilhooley
Mr D Wigham
Mr J Chilcott
Mr R Warne
Mr C Roberts
Mrs J Ascroft
Ms A Stanley (Resigned 10 November 2023)
Mr D McCartney (Resigned 10 November 2023)
Mr M Sauer (Appointed 10 November 2023)
Ms S Hall (Appointed 10 November 2023)
Mr P Renwick (Appointed 10 November 2023)

Independent Examiner Lisa Hutchinson FMAAT
5 Coronation Terrace
Fir Tree
Crook
County Durham
DL15 8BP

The trustees' annual report was approved on 8 November 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Dr J Little
Trustee



Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Year Ended 31 July 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team ('the charity') for the year ended 31 July 2024.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 that in any material respect:

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



Lisa Hutchinson FMAAT
Independent Examiner

5 Coronation Terrace
Fir Tree
Crook
County Durham
DL15 8BP

8 November 2024

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 July 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	4	41,511	–	41,511	35,835
Charitable activities	5	2,503	–	2,503	6,794
Other trading activities	6	4,381	–	4,381	6,015
Investment income	7	4,914	–	4,914	459
Total income		<u>53,309</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>53,309</u>	<u>49,103</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Costs of other trading activities	8	1,334	–	1,334	7,360
Expenditure on charitable activities	9,10	<u>62,737</u>	<u>825</u>	<u>63,562</u>	<u>46,806</u>
Total expenditure		<u>64,071</u>	<u>825</u>	<u>64,896</u>	<u>54,166</u>
Net expenditure and net movement in funds					
		<u>(10,762)</u>	<u>(825)</u>	<u>(11,587)</u>	<u>(5,063)</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>291,822</u>	<u>1,156</u>	<u>292,978</u>	<u>298,041</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>281,060</u>	<u>331</u>	<u>281,391</u>	<u>292,978</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 6 to 14 form part of these accounts.

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Statement of Financial Position

31 July 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	14	31,202	45,661
Current Assets			
Debtors	15	13,785	17,255
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>238,835</u>	<u>236,401</u>
		252,620	253,656
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>2,431</u>	<u>6,339</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>250,189</u>	<u>247,317</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>281,391</u>	<u>292,978</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted funds		331	1,156
Unrestricted funds		<u>281,060</u>	<u>291,822</u>
Total charity funds	17	<u>281,391</u>	<u>292,978</u>

These accounts were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 8 November 2024, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



Ms S Hall
Trustee

The notes on pages 6 to 14 form part of these accounts.

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Notes to the Accounts

Year Ended 31 July 2024

1. General Information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in England and Wales and is unincorporated. The address of the principal office is The Chris Scott Mountain Search & Rescue Centre, Lanchester Road, Durham, County Durham, DH1 5RA.

2. Statement of Compliance

These accounts have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

3. Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The accounts have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The trustees consider that there are no significant estimates or judgements affecting these financial statements.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Notes to the Accounts *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2024

3. Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible Assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Notes to the Accounts *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2024

3. Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Equipment	-	15% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	-	12% straight line

Impairment of Fixed Assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and 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.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Accrued income and tax recoverable is included at the best estimate of the amounts receivable at the balance sheet date.

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 three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

Year Ended 31 July 2024

3. Accounting Policies (continued)

Creditors

Creditors 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 are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Taxation

The company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

4. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations			
Donations	33,872	–	33,872
Collection boxes	1,510	–	1,510
Street collections	2,155	–	2,155
Gift aid income	2,221	–	2,221
Vehicle fuel donation	1,500	–	1,500
Teesdale and Weardale Stones	253	–	253
	<u>41,511</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>41,511</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations			
Donations	22,460	–	22,460
Collection boxes	2,855	–	2,855
Street collections	2,637	–	2,637
Gift aid income	3,094	–	3,094
Vehicle fuel donation	1,500	–	1,500
Teesdale and Weardale Stones	289	–	289
Grants			
Weardale AAP	–	3,000	3,000
	<u>32,835</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>35,835</u>

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Notes to the Accounts *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2024

5. Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Communications income	1,023	1,023	2,014	2,014
Income from medical cover	1,000	1,000	3,500	3,500
Training income	480	480	1,280	1,280
	<u>2,503</u>	<u>2,503</u>	<u>6,794</u>	<u>6,794</u>

6. Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fundraising income	4,381	4,381	6,015	6,015

7. Investment Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Bank interest receivable	4,914	4,914	459	459

8. Costs of Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fundraising costs	1,334	1,334	7,360	7,360

9. Expenditure on Charitable Activities by Fund Type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Costs of charitable activities (see page 16)	62,737	825	63,562

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Costs of charitable activities (see page 16)	45,250	1,556	46,806

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

Year Ended 31 July 2024

10. Expenditure on Charitable Activities by Activity Type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Total funds 2024 £	Total fund 2023 £
Costs of charitable activities (see page 16)	<u>63,562</u>	<u>63,562</u>	<u>46,806</u>

11. Net Expenditure

Net expenditure is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>17,782</u>	<u>15,201</u>

12. Staff Costs

The average head count of employees during the year was Nil (2023: Nil).

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: Nil).

13. Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the current or previous year.

14. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 August 2023	32,750	167,872	200,622
Additions	3,323	–	3,323
At 31 July 2024	<u>36,073</u>	<u>167,872</u>	<u>203,945</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 August 2023	20,043	134,918	154,961
Charge for the year	3,419	14,363	17,782
At 31 July 2024	<u>23,462</u>	<u>149,281</u>	<u>172,743</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 July 2024	<u>12,611</u>	<u>18,591</u>	<u>31,202</u>
At 31 July 2023	<u>12,707</u>	<u>32,954</u>	<u>45,661</u>

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

Year Ended 31 July 2024

15. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayments	3,323	2,646
Gift aid recoverable	2,184	3,600
VAT debtor	6,461	8,507
Other debtors	1,817	2,502
	<u>13,785</u>	<u>17,255</u>

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	<u>2,431</u>	<u>6,339</u>

17. Analysis of Charitable Funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 August 2023	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 July 2024 £
General funds	54,535	49,968	(8,830)	(27,258)	68,415
Fixed assets	45,661	-	(17,782)	3,323	31,202
Vehicle replacement fund	61,176	500	-	5,000	66,676
Contingency fund	26,000	-	-	-	26,000
Specific team areas	53,304	2,841	(35,963)	18,935	39,117
Audrey Jones legacy	7,309	-	(1,496)	-	5,813
Pam Wright legacy	43,837	-	-	-	43,837
	<u>291,822</u>	<u>53,309</u>	<u>(64,071)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>281,060</u>

	At 1 August 2022	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 July 2023 £
General funds	76,799	40,744	(19,628)	(43,380)	54,535
Fixed assets	49,235	-	(15,201)	11,627	45,661
Vehicle replacement fund	41,176	-	-	20,000	61,176
Contingency fund	26,000	-	-	-	26,000
Specific team areas	37,627	5,359	(14,882)	25,200	53,304
Audrey Jones legacy	10,208	-	(2,899)	-	7,309
Pam Wright legacy	43,837	-	-	-	43,837
	<u>284,882</u>	<u>46,103</u>	<u>(52,610)</u>	<u>13,447</u>	<u>291,822</u>

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

Year Ended 31 July 2024

17. Analysis of Charitable Funds (continued)

Restricted funds

	At 1 August 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 July 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Scotto Trust	833	–	(556)	–	277
Search Computers	323	–	(269)	–	54
	<u>1,156</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>(825)</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>331</u>

	At 1 August 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 July 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Youth Section fund	2,162	–	–	(2,162)	–
Base Security	1,410	–	(941)	(469)	–
Scotto Trust	4,500	–	–	(3,667)	833
Search Computers	584	–	(261)	–	323
Weardale AAP	4,503	3,000	(354)	(7,149)	–
	<u>13,159</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>(1,556)</u>	<u>(13,447)</u>	<u>1,156</u>

The Vehicle Replacement fund contains funds that have been earmarked for the purpose of replacing team vehicles as they age.

The Contingency fund is money that has been set aside to cover any working capital requirements in the event of a fall in income or unexpected expenditure, for example the loss of a vehicle through accident or theft or fire at one of our bases.

The Specific Team Areas funds include areas of team activities both operational and training e.g. Crag, Water, Comms, Dogs etc.

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

Year Ended 31 July 2024

18. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	31,202	–	31,202
Current assets	252,289	331	252,620
Creditors less than 1 year	(2,431)	–	(2,431)
Net assets	281,060	331	281,391

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	45,661	–	45,661
Current assets	252,500	1,156	253,656
Creditors less than 1 year	(6,339)	–	(6,339)
Net assets	291,822	1,156	292,978

19. Related Parties

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the current or previous year.

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Management Information

Year Ended 31 July 2024

The Following Pages Do Not Form Part of the Accounts.

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 July 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	33,872	22,460
Collection boxes	1,510	2,855
Street collections	2,155	2,637
Gift aid income	2,221	3,094
Vehicle fuel donation	1,500	1,500
Teesdale and Weardale Stones	253	289
Weardale AAP	—	3,000
	<u>41,511</u>	<u>35,835</u>
Charitable activities		
Communications income	1,023	2,014
Income from medical cover	1,000	3,500
Training income	480	1,280
	<u>2,503</u>	<u>6,794</u>
Other trading activities		
Fundraising income	<u>4,381</u>	<u>6,015</u>
Investment income		
Bank interest receivable	<u>4,914</u>	<u>459</u>
Total income	<u>53,309</u>	<u>49,103</u>
Expenditure		
Fundraising costs	1,334	7,360
Insurance	2,756	2,440
Premises costs	683	1,100
Vehicle expenses	9,548	6,159
Accountancy and bookkeeping fees	2,905	2,247
Communications	4,438	3,979
Depreciation	17,782	15,201
Equipment purchases	19,635	8,256
Training	4,422	6,408
Other costs	1,393	1,016
Total expenditure	<u>64,896</u>	<u>54,166</u>
Deficit for the year	<u>(11,587)</u>	<u>(5,063)</u>

Charity Registration Number: 508877

**Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue
Team**

Accounts

For the Year Ending

31 July 2024

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Accounts

Year Ended 31 July 2024

	Page
Trustees' Annual Report	1
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees	3
Statement of Financial Activities	4
Statement of Financial Position	5
Notes to the Accounts	6
The Following Pages Do Not Form Part of the Accounts	
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	16

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Trustees' Annual Report

Year Ended 31 July 2024

The trustees present their report and the unaudited accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2024.

Objectives and Activities

The charity's objects are to provide a mountain search and rescue service for the whole of County Durham, from the highest fells in the West to the Coastal Communities of the North Sea. The policies adopted in furtherance of these objects are to respond to requests by the police to a range of incident types, from injured or lost people in the hills to vulnerable missing people in urban settings, and there has been no change in these during the year.

The charity operates 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and Performance

A detailed review of the activities, achievements & performance is filed with the financial statements and is available from www.charitycommission.gov.uk.

Financial Review

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to at least three months' expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes an unincorporated charity.

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2024

Reference and Administrative Details

Registered charity name Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Charity registration number 508877

Principal office The Chris Scott Mountain Search & Rescue Centre
Lanchester Road
Durham
County Durham
DH1 5RA

The Trustees

Mr J S Owers
Mr D W Toward
Dr J Little
Mr P Bell
Mr E Gilhooley
Mr D Wigham
Mr J Chilcott
Mr R Warne
Mr C Roberts
Mrs J Ascroft
Ms A Stanley (Resigned 10 November 2023)
Mr D McCartney (Resigned 10 November 2023)
Mr M Sauer (Appointed 10 November 2023)
Ms S Hall (Appointed 10 November 2023)
Mr P Renwick (Appointed 10 November 2023)

Independent Examiner Lisa Hutchinson FMAAT
5 Coronation Terrace
Fir Tree
Crook
County Durham
DL15 8BP

The trustees' annual report was approved on 8 November 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Dr J Little
Trustee



Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Year Ended 31 July 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team ('the charity') for the year ended 31 July 2024.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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 that in any material respect:

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



Lisa Hutchinson FMAAT
Independent Examiner

5 Coronation Terrace
Fir Tree
Crook
County Durham
DL15 8BP

8 November 2024

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 July 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	4	41,511	–	41,511	35,835
Charitable activities	5	2,503	–	2,503	6,794
Other trading activities	6	4,381	–	4,381	6,015
Investment income	7	4,914	–	4,914	459
Total income		<u>53,309</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>53,309</u>	<u>49,103</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Costs of other trading activities	8	1,334	–	1,334	7,360
Expenditure on charitable activities	9,10	<u>62,737</u>	<u>825</u>	<u>63,562</u>	<u>46,806</u>
Total expenditure		<u>64,071</u>	<u>825</u>	<u>64,896</u>	<u>54,166</u>
Net expenditure and net movement in funds					
		<u>(10,762)</u>	<u>(825)</u>	<u>(11,587)</u>	<u>(5,063)</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>291,822</u>	<u>1,156</u>	<u>292,978</u>	<u>298,041</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>281,060</u>	<u>331</u>	<u>281,391</u>	<u>292,978</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 6 to 14 form part of these accounts.

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Statement of Financial Position

31 July 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	14	31,202	45,661
Current Assets			
Debtors	15	13,785	17,255
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>238,835</u>	<u>236,401</u>
		252,620	253,656
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>2,431</u>	<u>6,339</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>250,189</u>	<u>247,317</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>281,391</u>	<u>292,978</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted funds		331	1,156
Unrestricted funds		<u>281,060</u>	<u>291,822</u>
Total charity funds	17	<u>281,391</u>	<u>292,978</u>

These accounts were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 8 November 2024, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



Ms S Hall
Trustee

The notes on pages 6 to 14 form part of these accounts.

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Notes to the Accounts

Year Ended 31 July 2024

1. General Information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in England and Wales and is unincorporated. The address of the principal office is The Chris Scott Mountain Search & Rescue Centre, Lanchester Road, Durham, County Durham, DH1 5RA.

2. Statement of Compliance

These accounts have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

3. Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The accounts have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The trustees consider that there are no significant estimates or judgements affecting these financial statements.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Notes to the Accounts *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2024

3. Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible Assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Notes to the Accounts *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2024

3. Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Equipment	-	15% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	-	12% straight line

Impairment of Fixed Assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and 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.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Accrued income and tax recoverable is included at the best estimate of the amounts receivable at the balance sheet date.

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 three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

Year Ended 31 July 2024

3. Accounting Policies (continued)

Creditors

Creditors 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 are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Taxation

The company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

4. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations			
Donations	33,872	–	33,872
Collection boxes	1,510	–	1,510
Street collections	2,155	–	2,155
Gift aid income	2,221	–	2,221
Vehicle fuel donation	1,500	–	1,500
Teesdale and Weardale Stones	253	–	253
	<u>41,511</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>41,511</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations			
Donations	22,460	–	22,460
Collection boxes	2,855	–	2,855
Street collections	2,637	–	2,637
Gift aid income	3,094	–	3,094
Vehicle fuel donation	1,500	–	1,500
Teesdale and Weardale Stones	289	–	289
Grants			
Weardale AAP	–	3,000	3,000
	<u>32,835</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>35,835</u>

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

Year Ended 31 July 2024

5. Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Communications income	1,023	1,023	2,014	2,014
Income from medical cover	1,000	1,000	3,500	3,500
Training income	480	480	1,280	1,280
	<u>2,503</u>	<u>2,503</u>	<u>6,794</u>	<u>6,794</u>

6. Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fundraising income	4,381	4,381	6,015	6,015

7. Investment Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Bank interest receivable	4,914	4,914	459	459

8. Costs of Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fundraising costs	1,334	1,334	7,360	7,360

9. Expenditure on Charitable Activities by Fund Type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Costs of charitable activities (see page 16)	62,737	825	63,562

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Costs of charitable activities (see page 16)	45,250	1,556	46,806

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

Year Ended 31 July 2024

10. Expenditure on Charitable Activities by Activity Type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Total funds 2024 £	Total fund 2023 £
Costs of charitable activities (see page 16)	<u>63,562</u>	<u>63,562</u>	<u>46,806</u>

11. Net Expenditure

Net expenditure is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>17,782</u>	<u>15,201</u>

12. Staff Costs

The average head count of employees during the year was Nil (2023: Nil).

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: Nil).

13. Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the current or previous year.

14. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 August 2023	32,750	167,872	200,622
Additions	3,323	—	3,323
At 31 July 2024	<u>36,073</u>	<u>167,872</u>	<u>203,945</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 August 2023	20,043	134,918	154,961
Charge for the year	3,419	14,363	17,782
At 31 July 2024	<u>23,462</u>	<u>149,281</u>	<u>172,743</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 July 2024	<u>12,611</u>	<u>18,591</u>	<u>31,202</u>
At 31 July 2023	<u>12,707</u>	<u>32,954</u>	<u>45,661</u>

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

Year Ended 31 July 2024

15. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayments	3,323	2,646
Gift aid recoverable	2,184	3,600
VAT debtor	6,461	8,507
Other debtors	1,817	2,502
	<u>13,785</u>	<u>17,255</u>

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	<u>2,431</u>	<u>6,339</u>

17. Analysis of Charitable Funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 August 2023	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 July 2024 £
General funds	54,535	49,968	(8,830)	(27,258)	68,415
Fixed assets	45,661	-	(17,782)	3,323	31,202
Vehicle replacement fund	61,176	500	-	5,000	66,676
Contingency fund	26,000	-	-	-	26,000
Specific team areas	53,304	2,841	(35,963)	18,935	39,117
Audrey Jones legacy	7,309	-	(1,496)	-	5,813
Pam Wright legacy	43,837	-	-	-	43,837
	<u>291,822</u>	<u>53,309</u>	<u>(64,071)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>281,060</u>

	At 1 August 2022	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 July 2023 £
General funds	76,799	40,744	(19,628)	(43,380)	54,535
Fixed assets	49,235	-	(15,201)	11,627	45,661
Vehicle replacement fund	41,176	-	-	20,000	61,176
Contingency fund	26,000	-	-	-	26,000
Specific team areas	37,627	5,359	(14,882)	25,200	53,304
Audrey Jones legacy	10,208	-	(2,899)	-	7,309
Pam Wright legacy	43,837	-	-	-	43,837
	<u>284,882</u>	<u>46,103</u>	<u>(52,610)</u>	<u>13,447</u>	<u>291,822</u>

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

Year Ended 31 July 2024

17. Analysis of Charitable Funds (continued)

Restricted funds

	At 1 August 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 July 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Scotto Trust	833	–	(556)	–	277
Search Computers	323	–	(269)	–	54
	<u>1,156</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>(825)</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>331</u>

	At 1 August 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 July 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Youth Section fund	2,162	–	–	(2,162)	–
Base Security	1,410	–	(941)	(469)	–
Scotto Trust	4,500	–	–	(3,667)	833
Search Computers	584	–	(261)	–	323
Weardale AAP	4,503	3,000	(354)	(7,149)	–
	<u>13,159</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>(1,556)</u>	<u>(13,447)</u>	<u>1,156</u>

The Vehicle Replacement fund contains funds that have been earmarked for the purpose of replacing team vehicles as they age.

The Contingency fund is money that has been set aside to cover any working capital requirements in the event of a fall in income or unexpected expenditure, for example the loss of a vehicle through accident or theft or fire at one of our bases.

The Specific Team Areas funds include areas of team activities both operational and training e.g. Crag, Water, Comms, Dogs etc.

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

Year Ended 31 July 2024

18. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	31,202	–	31,202
Current assets	252,289	331	252,620
Creditors less than 1 year	(2,431)	–	(2,431)
Net assets	281,060	331	281,391

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	45,661	–	45,661
Current assets	252,500	1,156	253,656
Creditors less than 1 year	(6,339)	–	(6,339)
Net assets	291,822	1,156	292,978

19. Related Parties

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the current or previous year.

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Management Information

Year Ended 31 July 2024

The Following Pages Do Not Form Part of the Accounts.

Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 July 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	33,872	22,460
Collection boxes	1,510	2,855
Street collections	2,155	2,637
Gift aid income	2,221	3,094
Vehicle fuel donation	1,500	1,500
Teesdale and Weardale Stones	253	289
Weardale AAP	—	3,000
	<u>41,511</u>	<u>35,835</u>
Charitable activities		
Communications income	1,023	2,014
Income from medical cover	1,000	3,500
Training income	480	1,280
	<u>2,503</u>	<u>6,794</u>
Other trading activities		
Fundraising income	<u>4,381</u>	<u>6,015</u>
Investment income		
Bank interest receivable	<u>4,914</u>	<u>459</u>
Total income	<u>53,309</u>	<u>49,103</u>
Expenditure		
Fundraising costs	1,334	7,360
Insurance	2,756	2,440
Premises costs	683	1,100
Vehicle expenses	9,548	6,159
Accountancy and bookkeeping fees	2,905	2,247
Communications	4,438	3,979
Depreciation	17,782	15,201
Equipment purchases	19,635	8,256
Training	4,422	6,408
Other costs	1,393	1,016
Total expenditure	<u>64,896</u>	<u>54,166</u>
Deficit for the year	<u>(11,587)</u>	<u>(5,063)</u>