

Trustee Annual Report

Ballycastle Bowling & Social Recreation Centre
Mary Street, Ballycastle, County Antrim, BT54 6QH

Charity no. 100724



This report relates to financial year:

1st November 2022 - 31st October 2023

The following individuals were the charity trustees on the date the report was approved:

Liam Graham, Christine Moseley, Sean Molloy, John McKeegan, Fred Morrow, Joseph McCarry, Angela Jamison, Turlough McKeegan, Pat McAuley, Andy McGarry, Brian McKay, Rob Donald.

The following individuals served as charity trustees during the year:

Mark Donald, Gerry Norwood, Sean McIlroy, Thomas Grainger, Turlough McKeegan, Brian McKay, Andy McGarry, Sean Molloy, Mark Harris, John McKeegan.

The trustees have read the Commission's Public Benefit requirement statutory guidance and have had regard to this when running the charity.

The Centre was established as Ballycastle Bowling Club in 1909 and became known as Ballycastle Bowling and Social Recreation Centre (BBSRC) on 14th day of August 2004. Recognised as a Charity with HMRC as The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. The Charity is governed by a constitution last amended 14th November 2023.

Objectives:

The Centre is established for the promotion of community participation for the preservation and protection of health. This is delivered, through the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure-time occupation in the interests of social welfare for the benefit of the general public of Ballycastle and its environs in north Antrim, without regard to age, gender, sexual orientation, ability, ethnic identity, nationality and religious or political opinion.

The Year in Review:

- The centre welcomed 44 members and numerous visitors throughout the year.
- To continue providing a competitive sporting platform for members the centre was affiliated to Northern Ireland Provincial Bowling Association (NIPBA) and the Irish Bowling Association (IBA), with two teams once again taking part in league fixtures. The A Team competed in NIPBA Division 1 with matches being played on a Tuesday night. Our B Team competed in NIPBA Division 3 with matches being played on a Wednesday night. It was a learning season as both teams finished in a respectable mid table position with many new bowlers gaining experience of competitive matchplay and enjoying the social benefits of being part of a team.

Due to the difficulty of fielding two teams on a Saturday, the committee took the decision to enter only one team into the IBA Intermediate Cup. Unfortunately the club was defeated in the 1st round by Dunbarton B. Although the result was disappointing the day was an enjoyable experience from a social perspective as the club hosted a meal in Ballycastle Golf Club for the team and our visitors with many non playing members also in attendance.

- Two pre-season friendlies were held. Our annual fixture with Dunluce took place in Ballycastle and a coach trip to Larne Bowling & Lawn Tennis Club was organised with 20 members attending, an enjoyable day was had by all as our hosts provided a generous post match supper and mid game refreshments.
- The club held Fun Rinks on a Monday evening. This was open to members and non members of all ages and abilities, providing an opportunity to play bowls in a casual, less competitive environment and promoting the positive mental and physical health benefits of light exercise and group participation. The rinks ran throughout the summer months and were extremely well attended.

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- A new playing kit was purchased with shirts, jackets, hoodies, bottoms and shorts available. The club made the decision to subsidise the kit for members with the remaining funds being generated from sponsorships kindly provided by Ballycastle Credit Union Ltd and Agri Plant Spares Capecastle.
- The community hall was made available to various local groups and organisations throughout the year with the rental helping to generate additional income. Sonkei Judo Club continued to make weekly use of the facility providing Judo classes for both adults and children. The Iam Project held several events for the public, helping to raise awareness and provide support to those who may be experiencing mental health issues. Solas Moyle, Rathmoyle Resource Centre, Ballycastle Men's Shed and St Patrick's & St Brigid's Indoor Bowling Club all made use of the centre and its facilities for social gatherings, public events, meetings and sporting purposes.

It became apparent that post pandemic, local clubs and societies were struggling to find suitable space in the Ballycastle area to continue operating and we were delighted to be able to host and facilitate their needs. It is fantastic to see so many varied groups and individuals making use of our facilities, confirming the centre's appeal to people from all walks of life.

- The centre provided a platform for local businesses to support the club by purchasing advertising signage, with 8 establishments availing of the grounds with sponsorship payments contributing to our annual running costs. The trustees express their thanks to those who continue to support the centre.
- Taking part in "The Big Community Vote" we were successful in a shared bid with Ballycastle Utd Football Club, Ballycastle Tennis Club, McQuillan's GAC and the Causeway Giant's American Football Team to obtain new sports equipment. In an attempt to encourage younger members and make the game of bowls more accessible the funds were used to purchase target wedges and mats.
- Over 20 school children from Cross & Passion College attended the green for an introductory session of bowling. The group were joined by coaches Gary & Donna McCloy of Ballybrakes Bowls, who set up drills and games for the pupils to take part in. The afternoon was used to help foster and promote the inclusivity of the game and to help address the stigma that bowls is a sport for an older generation.
- The year concluded with an end of season dinner and awards night for members of the centre, family members & friends. We were kindly hosted by Ballycastle Golf Club and the evening provided a final opportunity for members to come together in a social capacity, celebrate our individual and collective achievements, enjoy a meal and a disco.

The trustees would like to express their gratitude to all those who held office during the year, volunteered on committees or simply gave up their time to assist with the running of the centre.

A review of the charity's financial position at the end of the year:

In the financial year 2022 to 2023, The Charity had an income of £8929 and an expenditure of £7879. There are no funds by the charity that are materially in deficit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Molloy', is written over a horizontal line.

Sean Molloy - Honorary Treasurer
1st February 2024