

## BELFAST LOUGH SAILABILITY

Year ended 31 December 2024

### CHARITY REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered charity name	Belfast Lough Sailability	
Charity registration number	NIC101461	
Principal office	Marina Building, 3 Quayside, Carrickfergus, BT38 8BE	
The trustees	Mr D Todd	Chairperson
	Mr A Bisp	Vice Chairperson
	Ms A Blair	Honorary Secretary
	Mr J Kinner	Honorary Treasurer
Bankers	Danske Bank Donegal Sq West Belfast Co Antrim BT1 6JS	The Co-operative Bank - Business Business Customer Services PO Box 4931 Swindon SN4 4PL
Independent examiner	Simon Hopper F.C.A. Hopper & Co 6 Doagh Road Ballyclare BT39 9BG	

## **BELFAST LOUGH SAILABILITY**

### **TRUSTEES REPORT**

**Year ended 31 December 2024**

#### **TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT**

The Trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities " (FRS 102 Section 1A) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the financial statements and applicable accounting standards, Accounting and Reporting by Charities : 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102 Section 1A), the charity's governing document, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

#### **TRUSTEES OF THE CHARITY**

The trustees who have served during the year were as follows:

Mr D Todd	Chairperson
Mr A Bisp	Vice Chairperson
Ms A Blair	Honorary Secretary
Mr J Kinner	Honorary Treasurer

#### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

The registered name of the charity is Belfast Lough Sailability, charity registration number: NIC101461

Principal office	Marina Building, 3 Quayside, Carrickfergus, BT38 8BE
------------------	---

The trustees	Mr D Todd	Chairperson
	Mr A Bisp	Vice Chairperson
	Ms A Blair	Honorary Secretary
	Mr J Kinner	Honorary Treasurer

## **BELFAST LOUGH SAILABILITY**

### **TRUSTEES REPORT**

**Year ended 31 December 2024**

Bankers	Danske Bank Donegal Sq West Belfast Co Antrim BT1 6JS	The Co-operative Bank - Business Business Customer Services PO Box 4931 Swindon SN4 4PL
Independent examiner	Simon Hopper F.C.A. Hopper & Co 6 Doagh Road Ballyclare BT39 9BG	

### **STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT**

#### Governing Document

Belfast Lough Sailability (BLS) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. Its operations are governed by a Trust Deed. There are 4 Trustees named above who oversee the charity's activities and finances and decide how it will achieve its objectives.

### **DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE**

BLS recognises sailing as a therapeutic exercise benefiting those with physical, mental and learning difficulties. Its activities include training, recreation and competition; and the protection and preservation of health and safety. As a RYA Recognised Training Centre (RTC), BLS provides instruction in sailing, powerboating and other skills. BLS supports the local community by providing safety boats & trained crews at open sea water events.

### **ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES**

BLS has a fleet of 17 sail/power boats and 4 kayaks. Working from Carrickfergus Marina and Harbour, BLS provides sailing & boating opportunities to people with disabilities and from disadvantaged backgrounds.(participants). Participants can choose to enjoy recreational or leisure boating, undertake training & education or compete in competitions. BLS has a team of qualified instructors to provide RYA internationally recognised qualifications in sailing/powerboating, first aid, VHF radio, navigation & disability awareness. BLS also proactively promotes volunteering opportunities to enhance a sense of

## **BELFAST LOUGH SAILABILITY**

### **TRUSTEES REPORT (cont'd)**

**Year ended 31 December 2024**

inclusion and self-worth in its members. BLS travels throughout the island of Ireland to provide opportunities to those in need of our facilities.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

Our activities promote social inclusion, increase confidence and self-esteem and promote community values along with many added health benefits. Our RYA RTC provides education and training to people of all abilities and backgrounds. BLS organises an annual programme of activity to develop members' skills, host and participate in competitions and support community events. During 2024, BLS's main activities included but was not limited to:-

##### Maintenance of Fleet

The 2024 season started well with essential maintenance being carried out on Saturday mornings over the winter months to ensure all craft and equipment were fully operational for the commencement of on the water activities.

The BLS motor launch Rosy had significant refurbishment repairs carried out to make the boat fully operational for the 2024 season.

October – December. Winterisation of fleet and essential maintenance commenced to make ready the fleet for the 2025 season. The BLS drop bow motor launch Searover was lifted out of the water for a full refurbishment.

##### Purchase of 'Barnaby'

Following a bequest from Elizabeth Black, a long standing BLS member, a funding campaign was launched to secure funding to purchase a new safety boat 'Barnaby', named after Elizabeth's assistance dog.

Additional funding was secured from the Ulster Garden Village, Awards for All, LFT Charitable Trust, Belfast Harbour and the Halifax Foundation. Barnaby was purchased and named and launched on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024.

##### Bespoke Training Programme

From May – July, BLS volunteers devised and delivered a 12 week training programme on shore to develop members' skills in alignment with the RYA Sailability & Powerability logbook Scheme.

## **BELFAST LOUGH SAILABILITY**

### **TRUSTEES REPORT (cont'd)**

**Year ended 31 December 2024**

May – September. Bespoke training sessions were provided in the Hansa 303s & Hawk 20s to develop sailors' skills to compete in regattas organised by the three Sailability Centres in NI.

This training has increased our members' confidence significantly, increasing their ability to compete in racing, and increasing their desire to develop their skills further.

#### Group Visits

BLS continued to provide 'out of the norm' activities to special needs schools and adult centres over the summer months: enabling each individual to participate in an active, healthy activity; improving their quality of life and building a stronger community spirit amongst BLS members and visiting group members.

#### Sailing & Power boating activities

April – September. Saturday morning & Wednesday evening weekly sessions were delivered which included open sessions, training and building skills.

On 1<sup>st</sup> June, BLS delivered a RYANI Discover Sailing Taster event for people with disabilities from other Sailing Clubs on Belfast Lough; to raise awareness of BLS & increase participation by disabled people.

In June, BLS members and boats travelled to Lough Erne Yacht Club to compete against Lough Erne Sailability and Lough Foyle Sailability members, earning a creditable 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall in the first of three Sailability Regattas.

In July, BLS Hosted the Belfast Lough Sailability Regatta with competitors from |Lough Erne and Lough Foyle Sailability centres competing at Carrickfergus. BLS was delighted to win the event.

In September, BLS members and boats travelled to Greencastle in Donegal to compete in the Lough Foyle Sailability Regatta and was again delighted to win the event.

#### Community Support

BLS provides safety cover and volunteer support as a number of events across Belfast Lough to support the local community. These include:-

Carrickfergus Triathlon – 2<sup>nd</sup> June

ILCA Ulsters @ CAYC – 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> June

Cross the Lough Swim – 20<sup>th</sup> July

## **BELFAST LOUGH SAILABILITY**

### **TRUSTEES REPORT (cont'd)**

**Year ended 31 December 2024**

CSC RS Championships -9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> August

CSC Regatta – 17<sup>th</sup> August

GP14 Championships @ CSC – 31<sup>st</sup> August & 1<sup>st</sup> September

#### **Annual Recognition Event**

On 12<sup>th</sup> October BLS held its Annual Recognition Event, to recognise the fantastic achievements and commitment of its members (volunteers and participants).

7 x Trophies and 7 x Certificates were awarded.

#### **PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT**

The Trustees and Management Committee of BLS confirm that they have had due regard for the guidance produced on public benefit by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and are pleased to report that during the year the charity has continued to provide public benefits through the programmes, activities and services offered. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set out.

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The charity returned a surplus of £11,955 (2023: surplus £15,492) for the year. As at 31 December 2024, the charity has funds carried forward of £180,623 (2023: £168,668).

#### **GOING CONCERN**

The activities of the charity is dependent on ongoing fundraising activities. The Trustees are of the opinion that the charity has sufficient resources at the date of approval of these financial statements to meet commitments which will arise in the year from the date of signing this report.

#### **RESERVES POLICY**

The charity aims to retain unrestricted reserves at minimum one year's expenditure. The trustees consider that this ensures that in the event of a significant drop in funding they will be able to continue activities while working to source alternative funding. The charity has maintained this level of funding throughout the year.

## **BELFAST LOUGH SAILABILITY**

### **TRUSTEES REPORT (cont'd)**

**Year ended 31 December 2024**

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees ' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 and Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity 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.

#### **RISK REVIEW**

A review of major risks has been undertaken by the Trustees and systems and procedures implemented to manage identified risks. The principal risks are in relation to the likelihood of reputational damage and financial risks associated with the expectation of ongoing financial support from funders. These

## BELFAST LOUGH SAILABILITY

### TRUSTEES REPORT (cont'd)

Year ended 31 December 2024

risks are mitigated by the Trustees regularly monitoring the various activities of the charity at stated meetings and by reviewing available funding streams.

#### FUTURE PLANS

It is the Trustees' intention to develop the present activities of the charity with a focus on:-

- Increase the number of people with disabilities participating in BLS activities.
- Increase the number of volunteers supporting people with disabilities.
- Continue a programme of bespoke training aligning with a RYA Sailability & Powerability Logbook Scheme.
- Provide RYA accredited courses to all members.
- Complete funding to refurbish SeaRover.
- Provide community support to other organisations.

#### Disclosure of Information to Independent Examiner

So far as each of the trustees in office at the date of approval of these financial statements is aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's independent examiner is unaware; and
- they have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information for the independent examination and to establish that the charity's independent examiner is aware of that information.

#### Independent Examiner

Hopper & Co., have indicated their willingness to remain in office and a resolution for their re-election will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approved by the trustees at a meeting on 26 March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Ms A Blair  
Trustee



Mr D Todd  
Trustee