

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Structure

Trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Reference and Administrative Information

The name of the charity's trustees at the date this report was approved are listed on page 1, together with the address of the principal office of the charity and the charity's registration numbers.

Objectives and Activities

The Charity's objects ('The Objects') are the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation in particular by the provision of facilities for the playing of football.

When preparing our annual programme we fully considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings. The focus of our activities continues to be the provision of age specific and development specific training and a games programme that is inclusive for all our members. In addition, we build in social issue awareness education that provides our members with workshops focusing on alcohol, drugs, mental health, nutrition and wider issues. We aspire to develop and build upon the capacity of our coaches to maximise the effectiveness of the service provided to members. Our membership is open to people from all backgrounds, irrespective of faith, gender, or personal circumstances. The trustees are all fully aware and respect the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

Over the past year the charity catered directly for the needs of circa 800 beneficiaries overall. In accordance with recent years trends, we have seen growth in our overall membership with the girls' section onboarding a further 3 junior sides and an additional side for the men at under 21 level. We have also sustained and incorporated into our Business-as-Usual programme the 3-day Summer Camp (introduced the previous year as a trial) that is affordable for the young families in the area delivered by a mix of experienced volunteer club coaches and young club members starting on their coaching journey. We again returned to our annual residential project taking 190 children and coaches to the Foyle Cup over 6 days in July. The residential is a blend of football related activities along with a social educational programme which is 6 six months in the planning and preparation. We again invested considerable time in recruiting and supporting new and existing volunteer coaches and committee members. We worked closely with the Northern Ireland Youth Football Association, Irish Football Association, Belfast City Council, and other statutory agencies to improve volunteer capabilities. We have provided access to Designated Child Protection training, Child Safeguarding, Sports Specific First Aid, and IFA Coach Education at National Coaching Certificate (NCC) Level and UEFA C Coaching licenses. We continue to provide a 50 week a year programme, free of charge, of introductory sessions for 4-6-year-olds inclusive to children irrespective of their ability and gender. This allows a pathway for boys and girls at a 'development level' to play competitive games with other clubs who like ourselves who are not yet ready to take part in the IFA Games Development Programme. The charity has this year again increased participation of members (coaches and players) from multiple national backgrounds to reflect the diversity of people in the community.

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Achievements and Performance continued

This year we seen a boost in the profile of the Charity through successes in the senior ladies' section which this year attained Intermediate status and our senior men reached the final of the IFA's prestigious Intermediate Cup. Exposure via News and social media outlets we hope will raise our reputational standing within the community and beyond and attract membership and support in the year ahead.

Fundraising activities this year have yielded slightly more than the year previous, but we continue to feel the impact of the economic damage felt as a result of the COVID epidemic.

Impacts, Benefits and Outcomes

Our annual net receipts tally was in line with the objectives set at the beginning of the year. This year we again raised funds at Christmas for the local St. Vincent De Paul to help local families.

We continued to face the challenge of declining facility hire availability from some of our long-standing partners (particularly at local council level) and a modest funding stream. However, we have again managed to sustain and increase our services to our membership. Our Winter training sessions for all our young people remains amenable for families and the children to meet and participate in training sessions.

Financial review

The results for the year are set out on page 6 & 7. The charity returned net receipts/payments for the year of (£6,081) (2023 net receipts/payments £15,349). At 31 March 2024 the total funds the charity held amounted to £109,437 (2023: £115,557) of which restricted funds were £NIL (2023:£12,874) and £109,437 (2023: £102,683) were unrestricted.

Reserves policy and going concern

Of the total funds reported above, £65,838 is made up of cash at the bank. The trustees are confident that the cash reserves, together with expected future incomes, will be sufficient to meet the working capital requirements for the forthcoming year. The trustees have also considered the extent to which existing activities and expenditure could be curtailed, should the need arise.

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Plan for the future

To maintain the same level of services in the area.

Structure, governance and management

St. Oliver Plunkett Football Club is a registered charity, number NIC101500 and is governed by its constitution.

New trustees are appointed when appropriate. Suitable candidates are considered on the basis of their skills, experience and sympathy with the aims of the charity. New trustees will be agreed at a trustees meeting before being invited to join.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As the charity's trustees we are aware of our responsibilities for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is also our responsibility to:


- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are responsible and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with CCNI guidelines. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence to take reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud and other

Disclosures of Information to Independent Examiners

To the knowledge and belief of the Trustees there is no relevant information of which the organisation's independent examiners are not aware. The Trustees have taken all the necessary steps of which they are aware, provided relevant information and established that the organisation's independent examiners are aware of the information.

Signed on behalf of the board of the Trustees



Martin McLaughlin
Chairperson

30/01/2024

Date