

Arnside Sailing Club
Charitable Incorporated Institution
Annual Report
For Year Ending 31st October 2023



Sailing on the estuary at Arnside



Youth Training at Killington



Paddle boarding at Arnside, New Year 2023

Registered Charity 1200999



Arnside Sailing Club

Charitable Incorporated Institution

Report of the Trustees for Year ending 31st Oct 2023

Charity Name	Arnside Sailing Club
Charity Registration Number	1200999
Registered Office	Old Customs House 17 Promenade Arnside Via Carnforth Cumbria LA5 0HD

Trustees

Alasdair Simpson	Commodore
Jim Jackson	Vice Commodore (Watersports)
Alan Dawson	Treasurer
Jane Caldwell	Secretary
Chris Stanger	
Andy Pringle	
Niall Johnson (resigned Sept 2023)	

1. Introduction

This is the first report of Arnside Sailing Club CIO. The Club became a Charitable Incorporated Institution on 14th November 2022. This report covers the period 1st November 2022 to 31st October 2023 to tie in with our previous accounting period.

2. Objectives and Activities

2.1 Objectives

The purpose of the Charity is set out in our governing document.

1. To promote community participation in healthy recreation by providing facilities and equipment for water sports, including but not limited to sailing, paddle boarding, kayaking, and canoeing, and organising a programme of water sports activities.
2. The promotion of the maritime heritage of Arnside village for the public benefit by the preservation, repair, and maintenance of historic buildings and craft in Arnside.
3. To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances with the object of improving their conditions of life.

2.2 Activities

The Club offers water sports at Arnside on one of the country's most scenic estuaries. We use Killington Sailing Association, near Sedbergh for club nights on Thursday evenings in the summer. We offer training at both Arnside and Killington, where we are a recognised RYA Training Centre. The Club owns 22 sailing dinghies, 7 sit on top kayaks and 11 paddle boards, which are available for use by members and for training. Water sports at Arnside are based at our Boat Park, which is located on the beach, half a mile from our Clubhouse on the Promenade.

Our clubhouse in an old customs bonded warehouse is one of the oldest buildings in Arnside. We own “Severn” a heritage yacht built in Arnside in 1912, which is currently being restored. Arnside has a significant maritime heritage. Historically the estuary was the port for Kendal. Crossfields of Arnside were leading builders of Morecambe Bay Prawners, yachts and other boats including Arthur Ransome’s Swallow from 1840s to 1940s.

The Club has a youth programme. We also offer training to schools and other youth group. The Club is now both a RYA OnBoard (a RYA youth programme) and RYA Sailibility (a RYA disability programme) Club. We offer reduced fees to students and people on a low income enabling them to take part in water sports. We aim to make water sports affordable so that cost is not a barrier to taking part.

The Club has a trading subsidiary, “Old Customs House Trading Company Ltd” which runs a programme of social and music events in our clubhouse paying a rent and donating any profits to the Charity.

3. Achievements and Performance

3.1 Water Sports Participation

3.1.1 Membership

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Memberships	69	113	169	150	149

The club offers individual and family memberships. The number of memberships at the year-end was 149. Including partners and children this equates to around 450 members. The number of memberships was one less than 2022. Given the increased cost of living, poor summer weather and people having less free time, as things returned to normal post Covid, this was a good performance. We were expecting membership numbers to decline in 2023.

3.1.2 Water Sports Activity

Whilst membership has remained static, the proportion of members taking part in water sports on a regular basis has increased.

Sailing numbers continued to grow during the year with organised club events at weekends and informal sailing during the week. Our Try Out Day in May attracted 60 people. We ran 14 races during the year and 3 organised dinghy cruises out into the Bay towards Grange-over-Sands. On at least, one occasion we had more than 20 boats sailing on the estuary at Arnside at one time.

Our club nights at Killington during the summer on three or four evenings attracted more than 20 people including children. We use Killington as inland training centre as unlike Arnside it is not tidal. It provides a location where new sailors, including children can practise their skills without having to worry about tidal currents.

Paddle boarding and kayaking use was down partly as people had less spare time than in previous years, poor weather in the school holidays and as paddle boarding is no longer a new sport. We ran a paddle board trip on the canal through the centre of Lancaster in May. We plan to offer members more paddle board trips in 2024.

3.1.3 Training

Activity	Number of Participants
Arnside	
Paddle Boarding	38
Kayaking	11
Killington	
Adult Sailing	20
Youth Sailing	67
Windsurfing	3
Power and Safety Boat	8

We also ran adult and youth improver sessions at Arnside and taster days for school and youth groups. We run powerboat training so that we have volunteers to operate safety boats to support our water sports programme.

The number of youths taking part in our sailing courses at Killington more than doubled largely as result of putting on courses for Kent Estuary Youth Project and a Home Education Group. Adult numbers were down. The number of people taking part in our paddle board lessons has declined from a peak of 160 in 2021 as the sport is no longer new, poor weather in July and August and as we have put on fewer lessons.

We introduced monthly theory sessions in our clubhouse during winter, which were well attended. These give members a chance to meet up in the winter as well as learn theory.

3.1.3 New Boats

In 2023 the Club purchased four new boats: Two ICLA (Laser) dinghies, 1 Heron and 1 Wanderer. These were funded by donations. The Gaffling 4.1 dinghy, which was built with the help of three teenagers in 2022 was sailed for the first time. The ICLA dinghies, which are both an Olympic Class for men and women with three different sized sails offer progression for both adults and youth. The Wanderer is a stable doubled handed dinghy that can be sailed by up to four people. The Heron can be sailed by youth and adults. The Gaffling dinghy is an entry level boat to sailing boats with a traditional gaff rig and can also be rowed.

We sold the Wayfarer, which we kept at Arnside as it was 30 years old and heavy to launch at Arnside by hand.

3.1.4 Winner of RYA / Suzuki Safety Boat Contest

In February we won a new Rigiflex Safety Boat in a competition organised by the RYA against 180 clubs. The new safety boat is used to support training at Killington.

3.1.5 Health and Safety

The Sailing Club carries out risk assessments. We record incidents and nearer misses and update our risk assessments and operating procedures as appropriate. In 2023 there were 3 incidents requiring minor first aid.

3.1.6 Environment

As a water sports club we want to minimise our environmental impact. During the year we produced an Environmental Policy.

3.2 Promoting Arnside's Maritime Heritage

The Club held a classic boat regatta in June, a maritime singing festival in August and a conference on Crossfields of Arnside and the boats they built in November. The conference attracted people from all over the country. Crossfields were leading builders of Morecambe Bay Prawners and yachts from the 1840s to 1940s. The conference was followed by an evening concert by Dave Walters, a folk singer, featuring "Ballerina" a song about a Crossfields' boat he owned in the 1970s.

Our historic clubhouse acted as the Arnside base for an Arts Project celebrating the natural heritage of the Morecambe Bay coast. This included a grand finale in August installing 120 flags on the beach at Arnside.

The Club owns Severn, a yacht built in Arnside in 1912. Severn is currently being restored by David Moss Boatbuilders at Skippool near Blackpool. The project is funded separately from the Sailing Club by grants to the Friends of Severn, including a £58,000 National Lottery Heritage Fund Grant. The project also funded the construction of a Gaffling dinghy by three teenagers, training courses for five members sailing historic yachts and one to go on a boatbuilding course. One of the teenagers has subsequently got a job as an engineering apprentice at the Windermere Jetties Museum partly due to the project.

Separately from the Club, several club members have been involved in a project to set up a Morecambe Bay Prawn Trust to buy Spray, a boat built in Arnside in 1896.

Our clubhouse in the Old Custom House is one of the oldest buildings in Arnside. The roof on the east side of the building is likely to need replacing in the next 5 years. We also want to improve fixtures and equipment and deal with damp problems.

3.3 Helping people in need, including young people

3.3.1 Youth

The Club offers RYA Youth Courses at Killington, improver sessions at Arnside and training to schools and youth groups.

In 2023 we became a RYA OnBoard Club (A RYA youth programme) and were awarded an AALA Licence (Adventure Activities Licence) to enable us to offer training to schools and youth groups.

During the year we ran taster sessions for two schools and one youth group. In total 104 young people. During the summer holidays we put on a RYA youth sailing course for 14 young people from Kent Estuary Youth Project. The course was aimed at children from disadvantaged background and was funded by a £2300 grant from the RYA Foundation. We aim to do more with schools and youth groups in future years.

3.3.2 Adults

We became a RYA Sailability Club in 2023. Whilst we do not offer sailing sessions for disabled groups, we aim to accommodate people with disabilities or special needs on our training sessions.

The Club offers reduced cost membership to people with a low income and students. In 2023 this cost £25. We had 6 low income or student memberships.

4. Financial Review

4.1 Sailing Club

The Club's income in 2023 was £40,824. Membership accounted for 29% of income, training 45% and rent from Old Customs House Trading Company 15%. Membership income grew by 12% in part catching up on inflation. Income from training increased by 20% due to an increase in training for schools and youth groups.

Expenses including depreciation were £44,167 giving a deficit of £3343. This indicates that the Club is not generating enough income to replace boats and equipment in the long term. Prior to depreciation expenses were £34,729 giving a surplus of just over £5000.

At the end of the financial year, the club had assets of £358,050. The Clubhouse accounts for around 70% of the club's assets and club craft most of the remaining 30%.

4.2 Trading Subsidiary

Turnover for the Old Customs House Trading Company was £42,516 compared to £36,961 for bar and ticket sales in 2022, an increase of 15%. The Trading Company paid £6000 rent to the Charity and donated £2186 profit.

4.3 Reserves Policy

The Club's policy is to hold a minimum level of cash reserves to cover 6 months operating expenses, currently £17,500 a year.

In the short term we want to build up cash reserves to help pay for investment in new changing facilities in our Boat Park and roof repairs on our historic Clubhouse.

4.4 Risks

The Club is subject to risks associated with the national and local economic events, catastrophes such as Covid and changes in people's lifestyles. An economic downturn for example might mean that people had less money to spend on water sports (or alternatively an opportunity to increase club turnover with more people holidaying at home). The club mitigates risk by keeping up to date to with national developments and water sports trends, by monitoring take up of club activities, cutting costs or by adapting the club's product offering to current circumstances. A decline in revenue in one area can be offset by switching resources to a growth area.

The Club is exposed to risks connected with owning club assets such as the clubhouse and club craft. We mitigate against this by holding adequate insurance, conducting regular safety inspections and by anticipating major items of expenditure in advance.

The Club is subject to risks by running water sports and other activities. We seek to reduce risk from our activities by holding public liability and employer insurance (that also covers volunteers) and by having a safety management system in place. We conduct risk assessments, record incidents, provide safety boat cover, give volunteers first aid training, offer advice to participants on safety and have operating procedures.

We reduce risks to young people and vulnerable adults by having a safeguarding policy in place, by following RYA best practise and carrying out DBS checks on instructors and volunteers.

The Club is subject to the risk of key members and officers moving on. We mitigate the risk of this by sharing the workload, encouraging new volunteers to come forward and develop their knowledge so that there are people who can take over in the future.

5. Plans for the Future

5.1 Plans for 2024.

In 2024 following consultation with members, we plan to offer more races, set up a social paddle board group, offer monthly paddle boarding trips, run two dinghy cruises on Lakes and offer more social events in our clubhouse. We are aiming to increase the amount of training we offer to school and youth groups.

We plan to buy an additional medium rig and one extra small rig for our ICLA dinghies (Lasers) so all three boats have the three different rigs sizes making them suitable for older cadets, women and lighter weight men. We would like to replace the Wayfarer we keep at Killington with a newer boat in the next two or three years.

The Old Club House Trading Company plan to put on more nationally known performers as well as local bands in 2024. Well known acts are more likely to sell out than local bands, generate a bigger margin and profit, helping to support our charitable activities.

5.2 Changing Facilities

We want to take forward plans for new changing facilities in our boat park in 2024. At present there are no proper facilities. Users, especially groups expect clubs to have changing facilities. Whilst anybody living nearby can go home to change, people travelling to the club need up to date changing facilities, especially if they are wet. The estimated cost for changing facilities is £250,000 to £300,000. This will include a training room, which will also offer shelter in wet weather. Based on experience at other clubs, the changing facilities should lead to an increase in club membership and income.

To take forward the project to a stage where we can get quotations to build the facility, we need to invest £16,700 in design and planning fees. We are hopeful of getting grant funding towards the cost of this.

By the end of 2024 we want to achieve planning permission for the project, with building taking place in the winter of 2025-6 at the earliest.

6. Structure, governance and management

The club is a charitable incorporated institution with voting members who elect the trustees on a yearly basis.

The Club is run by a management committee of trustees who meet every month. As well as day to day business time is set aside for strategic issues and reviews of operations. The Club's Constitution requires a minimum of 5 trustees and maximum of 12. In 2023 the Club had 7 members of the trustee committee. The trustee committee is chaired by the Commodore.

The Club has other officers who are not members of the management committee but are responsible for different areas of the Club's operations such as the boat park.

The Club has no paid employees. All the trustees and officers are volunteers. However, the Club sub-contracts management of the club's training and water sports programme to an instructor to reduce the burden on volunteers.

The trustees would like to thank Niall Johnson, who resigned as a trustee in September 2023 and Jim Jackson for is standing down as a trustee after the AGM for their input into the club, which has been invaluable. Niall has done several different roles for the Club including Safety Boat Coordinator, Secretary, Safeguarding Officer, Rear Commodore and Newsletter Editor. Jim has been the lead committee member for water sports for two years. He has developed our training and schools' programme, helped formulate club strategy, initiated Club Nights at Killington and set up our Theory Workshops in winter. Jim plans continuing to help with water sports including paddle boarding, safety boat training and the proposed changing facilities in the boat park.

We would like to thank our Chief Instructor Ian Mason, other instructors and club officers for their work during the year.

7. Volunteers

The Club is dependent on its volunteers for its success. The Trustees would like to thank all volunteers for their input during the year. As well as the committee the club has between 30 and 40 members who volunteer on a regular basis, for example by starting and timing races or operating safety boats.

8. Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees confirm that throughout the year they have acted in regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of accounts in accordance with Charity law, The Trustees are satisfied that the accounts and report give a fair and true view of the Club in 2023.