Wormit Boating Club & Watersports Hub

Trustees' Annual Report

1 September 2025 - 31 August 2026

Charity Contact Information

Wormit Boating Club & Watersports Hub (SCIO)

Scottish Charity Number: SCO **52016**

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Website: www.wormitboatingclub.org.uk

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Charity Trustees

Name all of your charity trustees for the period, and the date they left if they were not in post for the whole year

1. Captain Andrew Lumsden
2. Group Captain Dai John
3. Professor Lesley Holdsworth OBE
4. Mr Ralph Harrison
5. Mr David Shepherd
6. Ms Jenny Hunter
7. Ms Penny Lewis (resignation tendered August 2026)
8. Ms Alison Vandyke
9. Mr John Don (resignation tendered May 2026)
10. Mr Andy Fairbairn (Secretary)







Objectives and Activities

Wormit Boating Club & Watersports Hub (WBC)

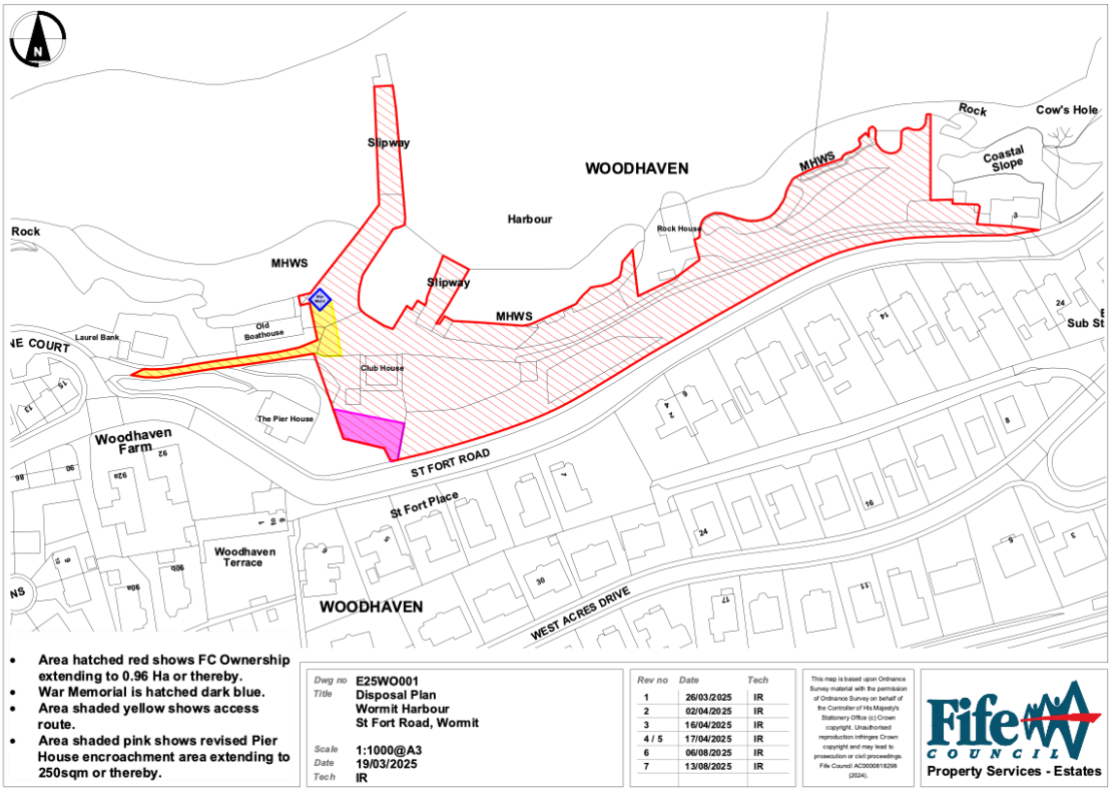
WBC exists to promote community participation in healthy recreation, in particular through the provision of facilities for safe watersports activities, for the benefit of its members and the local community (and for the avoidance of doubt without discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion).

WBC attained charitable status in September 2022, intended as the first step in our progressive development for the benefit of members and the local community. With a history of well over 100 years, the Club's status as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) is progressively delivering the conditions to grow and thrive, for members and the wider local community alike. The Club's SCIO status also provides opportunities, already being exercised, to seek grant aid in securing a sustainable future.

WBC maintains a long tradition of providing the widest possible access to water-based activities on the River Tay and, in common with other coastal communities, Wormit and its surrounding settlements enjoy a rich heritage and intimate connection with the water. The Club is especially fortunate to have had its home, for over forty years, at Woodhaven Pier, a focal point for the local community and Club members who, in addition to sailing and rowing, now pursue other activities including kayaking, open water swimming and stand-up paddleboarding.

The Club prides itself on a continuing focus on diversity, inclusivity and in ensuring that all are welcomed and made to feel at home. From a practical perspective this includes the active encouragement of newcomers, via Open Days, 'taster' sailing and rowing sessions and, increasingly, by reaching out to the local community in other ways. These activities are conducted by volunteers keen to share their own enthusiasm, experience and expertise with all those who would like to get involved. Potentially encompassing a catchment area of over 200,000 people on both sides of the Tay, this reflects the Club's passionate belief that the water belongs to everyone, removing barriers to participation and creating a supportive environment for people regardless of background, circumstance and ability.

WBC continues to offer regular introductory sessions and to train participants in boat safety and safe water practices, with Royal Yachting Association (RYA) accredited powerboat courses and first aid courses. In addition to the annual Open Day, this year the Club has offered popular sailing open days for beginners of all ages, and in a significant return to former years, has successfully reinstated its Cadet Week for 8–15-year-olds; these activities are covered in greater detail below.



The most significant development in the life of the Club this year has been the successful conclusion of negotiations with Fife Council, in early 2026, to complete the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) of Woodhaven Pier and the surrounding area to the collective ownership of its members. Considerable effort has been

expended on the CAT, not only in addressing all aspects of this challenging legal and administrative undertaking, but in dealing pragmatically with the short-term implications of the Club's new-found status as responsible owners, particularly in light of ongoing and unrestricted access to Woodhaven by the public. Measures have included a review of safety and security, the installation of additional signage, regular dialogue with the Club's near-neighbours to foster and sustain amicable and mutually beneficial relations, and the welcoming of further third-party users, notably the recently established Woodhaven Community Fridge, to the clubhouse. We have also been in detailed discussions with a local provider of seaside saunas, potentially providing additional facilities for members while generating income for the Club. Our ownership of Woodhaven Pier and the surrounding area, together with our desire as a SCIO to grasp the opportunities now available, has resulted in our setting in motion a 5-year development planning process, identifying and prioritising the actions required to ensure that we progressively achieve our stated vision: to be an inclusive, community-driven boating club and watersports hub that inspires participation, wellbeing, and lifelong connection to the water – today and for generations to come.

As trustees, we are pleased with what our small Club has achieved over the last few years and, in particular, in the period since our last annual report. Thanks to the dedication, enthusiasm, skill and expertise of our members, we are confident in a future where we continue to grow and provide affordable and accessible opportunities for all in our community to participate in the Club's mission to improve wellbeing, learn skills and develop confidence through access to the water and all the activities and challenges that it offers.

This review of Club objectives and achievements over the past year would be incomplete without reference to our Chair of Trustees and Commodore, Captain Ralph Webster, who died in February 2026 and without whose leadership, energy and unstinting commitment to the Club we would not be in the strong position in which we now find ourselves. Ralph is much missed by all who knew him; his legacy is clear and continues to guide our actions in setting the Club's future course.



This is our fourth annual report since achieving charitable status.

Governance and Management Structures

The Club continues to benefit from an enthusiastic and energetic membership, led by a Club Committee and Board of Trustees. Our members provide a wide range of experience, knowledge and specialist skills which continue to contribute to the day-to-day management of the Club and its future development plans. These include members with qualifications and experience in watersports, the commercial maritime environment, leading complex organisations in challenging circumstances, delivering large projects, conducting risk assessments, property management and maintenance, organisational change, finance, marketing, business, education, scientific and medical skills. WBC's Constitution sets out in detail our approach to governance and can be found at www.wormitboatingclub.org.uk.

As part of our Club development work, this year we have reviewed, revised and/or produced a significant number of governance and other documents, including communications and marketing policies, diversity, equality and inclusion policy, and addressing the data protection and Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) implications of the anticipated installation of CCTV security measures at the Club.

Trustee Recruitment and Appointment

Our Board of Trustees has evolved during the course of the year and currently includes a total of nine trustees, two of whom are resigning at the 2026 Annual General Meeting (AGM); we currently have one nomination for approval by members at this meeting. Our trustees have continued to oversee the Club this year, providing a range of diverse and complimentary skills and experience. Andrew, a Master Mariner, senior project manager and the Club's safety boat and powerboat lead, chairs the Board. With the sad death in February of Ralph, Dai, former rowing section lead, safety boat helm and with the experience of a full military career, has agreed to act as Commodore pending endorsement by the membership at the AGM. Lesley belongs to the rowing section of the Club and has significant experience as a Board non-executive. Ralph H brings with him first-class organisational and advanced boat building skills. Dave has a wealth of sailing and Club experience, and Jenny, also a long-term Club member, is a rower, sailor, paddleboarder and has more recently taken up the challenge of foiling. Alison, an enthusiastic rower and a dedicated organiser of the rowing section, has a wealth of business experience gained at the highest level, as does Penny. Andy, a competitive regatta skiff rower and experienced charity trustee, also provides secretarial support to the Board. John is a highly respected and enthusiastic elder statesman and long-standing Club member. All live locally and

are committed to the Club's development for the benefit of its members and the wider community.

Achievements and Performance

WBC exists as a Club to provide its community with opportunities to participate in watersports on the River Tay and beyond. The Club's watersports equipment, all available to members at no additional cost, includes a range of sailing dinghies, St Ayles skiffs, powerboats, stand-up paddleboards and kayaks. In addition to these, members who own their own craft have the opportunity of storing them at the Club. WBC offers a range of watersports activities, with sailing, rowing, powerboating and kayaking currently enjoying volunteer leadership representing these activities on the Club Committee. Paddleboarding and open water swimming are currently conducted on a more informal basis, though efforts continue to establish the same voluntary governance structure for these activities. In addition to the watersports leads, the Club also has the support of designated volunteers who ensure that other aspects of the Club are fully represented. These include a treasurer, welfare officer, boatswain responsible for Club-owned sailing craft and equipment, an estates manager, boat park convenor, publicity and administrative member and a membership and induction team.

The Club's most notable achievements this year are set out in detail below. They include: an Open Day; the inaugural Two Bridges Row; the Cadet Week; the provision of regular RYA-accredited first aid and Powerboat 1 & 2 courses; the delivery of two well-attended sailing open days; the establishment of close ties with, and associate membership of, St Andrews University Rowing Club ('The Saints') and their British Olympic squad rowers; and an impressive range of competitive successes by the rowing section, notably taking overall honours at the Ullapool regatta. One further achievement of which the Club is extremely proud belongs to member Nicky Matthews who, with two others, completed a transatlantic row in January, having rowed 3000 miles in a time of 47 days, 3 hours and 38 minutes. With her determination, tenacity and courage, Nicky is an inspiration to all.

Aside from watersports, the Club continues to provide members with opportunities for informal social engagement. These have included barbecues, talks, bingo nights and chances to host visitors to the Club. An important development this year has been the engagement, outreach and environmental benefits afforded by the introduction of the Woodhaven Community Fridge, based in the WBC clubhouse. Finally, we continue to welcome and host regular visits from those associated with 333 Squadron of the Royal Norwegian Air Force.

The following paragraphs detail the wide diversity of Club activities this year, as well as our future plans and aspirations.









Club Sailing

This year has seen a welcome and sustained resurgence in Club sailing, with a growing number of dinghy sailors meeting throughout the season between April and November to train and compete. In addition to special sailing events, a total of eleven evening and six weekends were scheduled in the sailing calendar, all of those which went ahead being well attended.









In addition to the sailing calendar, sailing youth lead Marcus and a team of volunteers organised and delivered a highly successful and popular Cadet Week which took place in July. An average of over twenty youngsters aged between 8 and 15 participated in an action-packed programme of activities, ranging from land-based theory, sailing in single and two-handed dinghies, rowing and raft-building, to high speed RIB rides, a trip to the Broughty Ferry Lifeboat Station, a visit from HM Coastguard and a final regatta to put into practice all that had been learned during the week, followed by prizegiving courtesy of British Olympic squad rowers. The success of Cadet Week encouraged Marcus and his team to configure three further sailing open days for beginners of all ages, with two successfully delivered notwithstanding some less-than-ideal weather conditions.

The Club maintains a number of sailing dinghies for use by members, all of which are kept serviceable and seaworthy by a dedicated group of volunteers led by Boatswain Scott. Future plans include ensuring that the Club's dinghy fleet is configured to facilitate the RYA's sail training pathway.

Club sailors have enjoyed a most successful year, have reached out consistently to the local community and have delivered an excellent programme of events for the Club as a whole. Thanks are owed to all those who helped with the success of Club sailing this year, whether afloat instructors, duty officers, safety boat crews, event organisers, Open Day volunteers, or dinghy and equipment maintainers; without them the Club's sailing section would not be in the active and energised state it currently enjoys.

Club Rowing

This has been another extremely successful year for the Club's rowers. With a growing number of members in the rowing section and a full calendar of home-waters and away events, the various event organisers have been kept busy making sure that all those who would like to gain excursion row or regatta experience do so, that boats and trailers are kept in good shape for whatever activity they are needed for, and that every rower has the opportunity to get out during the week and at weekends despite frequent challenges with the weather. Throughout the year, a regular drumbeat of daily and weekly rows has been maintained via the Spond app, with a noticeable take-up in the early morning rows, when weather and tide can prove more benign than later in the day, and rows can be enjoyed before the start of the working day.













On the home front, the Club's rowers departed from the previous years' annual Perth to Wormit Row by arranging the inaugural Two Bridges Row, with 15 other clubs taking part in a progressive flotilla transiting from Woodhaven down to the road bridge then up the north bank of the Tay to the rail bridgehead and crossing back to the south side for a downstream return to base. The Row was judged to have been a great success and is likely to provide the template for the future. Fifie Fridays continue to be popular with local Clubs, as have the Freaky Friday and Five Miles from Home competitions. As part of the rowers' ongoing community outreach efforts, they also hosted a group from the Dundee International Women's Centre who all thoroughly enjoyed the chance to get onto the water and have a go at rowing a St Ayles skiff.



A further success chalked up this year was at the Ullapool regatta in July,

when a contingent of 19 Club rowers competed for WBC. In an action-packed weekend, the Club scored what is likely its best competitive rowing result to date, winning numerous podium positions and securing overall first place by a single point over one of coastal rowing's most accomplished competitive clubs.













Other away fixtures with which Club rowers have engaged since our last Annual Report include regattas at Cromarty with 13 rowers, the Monster the Loch event at

Loch Ness, the Thames Great River Race – where two of our St Ayles skiffs completed the 35 km course, and with the women's crew winning their class, the Tideway Challenge in Belgium - which we also won, the Newcastle Great Tyne Row, Loch Earn, Ballachulish, and Broughty Ferry and Kinghorn regattas.

The Club continues to provide regular 'taster' sessions which allow potential new rowers the opportunity to try skiff rowing before committing to join. Training, excursion and social rowing continue to be popular, and experienced rowers are coached as new coxswains to ensure sufficient coxes to support the scheduled rowing programme.







The intensity of the rowing programme imposes significant wear and tear on the Club's fleet of three St Ayles skiffs, Catalina, The Flying Boat and Tatha, keeping the maintenance team of willing volunteers, led by Ralph H, on their toes throughout the year, conducting repairs, enhancements and fitting replacement parts as necessary. This year, Catalina was given the full refit treatment, refurbished, repainted and with all the required modifications – SCRA compliant of course, incorporated. The in-depth refurbishment of Tatha, to bring her up to the same standard, is expected to commence shortly.

In summary, it has been another eventful and productive year for the Club's rowers, with a plethora of events arranged for Club members, visitors from other clubs and the local community all being planned and delivered successfully and safely. The skiffs have been kept in excellent condition, the competitive regatta rowers have enjoyed unprecedented success and the large contingent of social rowers have taken advantage of myriad opportunities to get out onto the water at all times of the day and throughout the week. Thanks are due to all those who have contributed to the ongoing success of Club rowing, whether organising, maintaining, catering, coxing, slipway cleaning or undertaking any of the other tasks that go towards delivering this vibrant aspect of the Club.

Club Kayaking



With the previous Kayak section lead, a qualified instructor, having recently stepped back, we are delighted that an enthusiastic and experienced Club kayaker has taken on this role. Over time, we anticipate a renewed focus on this aspect of the Club. As an initial step, the new lead will canvas kayakers' views on what they would like in terms of resources and organised activities. In the meantime, our active kayakers continue to make maximum use of the Club's resources, with kayaks, paddles and other equipment being stored in the bespoke kayak shed completed in 2024, and benefitting from the availability of clubhouse changing facilities, hot showers and the galley.

Open Day 2026

A highlight of May 2016 was the annual WBC Open Day, an event specifically designed to help the Club fulfil its mission to be 'an inclusive, community-driven organisation that inspires participation, wellbeing and lifelong connection to the water'. On a bright, sunny day we welcomed several hundred visitors with the offer of experiencing the full range of watersports available at the Club, as well as RIB rides, raffles, a tombola, children's games, face-painting, a barbecue and a huge array of home baking, soup and savoury catering. The Club received a

waterborne visit from Broughty Ferry Lifeboat Station's IRB and crew, as well as an HM Coastguard emergency response vehicle. As in previous years, the Club received generous support from local businesses, including David Anderson Marine, who provided RIB rides and raffle prizes.

The Open Day relied on an all-of-Club approach, with members contributing their time, energy and enthusiasm to make the event the great success that it was. As well as giving us an opportunity to engage with the local community and encourage participation in water-based activities, it generated useful income for the Club, helping us to continue to improve facilities for all our members. Thanks are due to all those members whose efforts made this happen.















Powerboating and Safety Boats

WBC continues to operate a fleet of three safety boats in support of a range of Club activities. In addition to our conventionally outboard-powered RIBs, the electric RIB, an RS Pulse 63 named ‘eWOC’ (electric Wormit Operational Craft), continues to provide environmentally responsible, emission-free and low impact safety cover, as well as a significantly reduced noise signature, an advantage to all those living in proximity to Woodhaven. Primarily providing safety and rescue capabilities for programmed sailing events, this year our RIBs have also been used at the Open Day, Cadet Week, sailing open days and for the Two Bridges Row, as well as being deployed by road to assist with other clubs’ events, including coastal sculling at St Andrews for British Rowing, Scottish Rowing and St Andrews University ‘Saints Sport’ Rowing.



This year we enjoyed a variety of Club events using the RIBs, including an invigorating New Year’s Day run down to our local waterside restaurant. We also continue to employ the powerboats in the delivery of the RYA-accredited training described below. We are currently in discussion with RYA Legal and our insurers in developing the opportunity for Club members with PB2 qualifications to have access to our powerboats for family and friends’ outings on the River Tay: we hope to have finalised this initiative shortly.

RYA-Certified Training Centre

Having gained RYA status as an approved training facility in 2023, this year the Club has again undergone the mandatory inspection process and has been duly revalidated. This has allowed us to continue to conduct RYA Power Boat 1 and 2 (PB1&2) courses with our three qualified instructors, establishing a pool of trained members to assist with Club activities, allowing further outreach to the local community for whom these course have continued to be very popular, and generating significant income for the Club. To date, 27 individuals have attended and successfully completed RYA powerboat training, raising over £7000 in income.



In addition to RYA PB2 courses, the Club also offers well-attended RYA accredited first aid training courses, being in the fortunate position of having, within the membership, qualified instructor resources. Looking to the future, we aspire to RYA Dinghy Training Centre status, with the prospect of offering RYA Safety Boat Training and Certification.

Communications

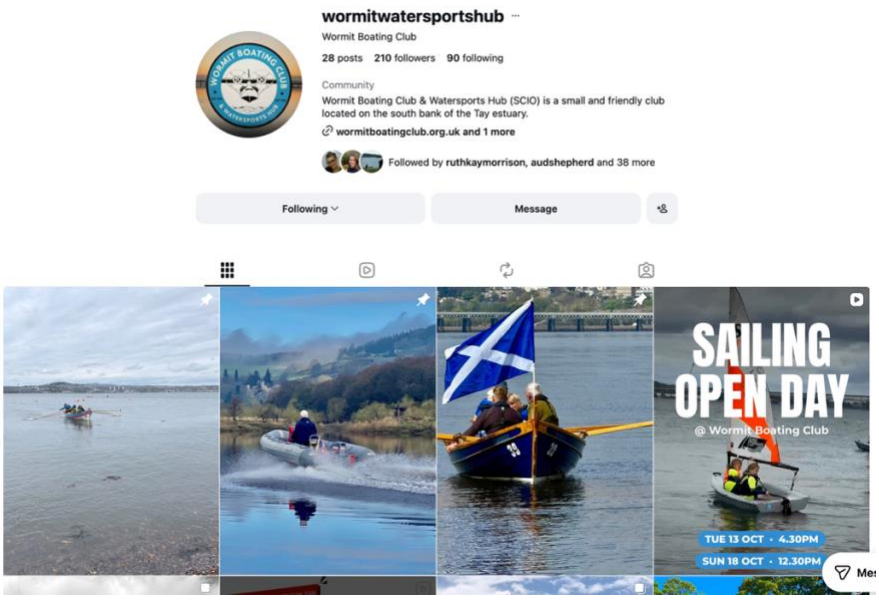
WBC continues to promote the Club through our website at (www.wormitboatingclub.org.uk) and via social media (hashtag#wormitboating club). We regard the former as a stable, outward-facing platform representing WBC's 'shop window' and our social media presence as the 'personality' of the Club, providing a more dynamic impact, primarily for our own members. The website is regularly updated and includes, at 'Club News', reports and pictures on activities across the Club and those in which members have participated

elsewhere; the Great Tyne Row is one recent example. A comprehensive suite of Club documents, policies and information is available online, ensuring the transparency of Club processes and informing our local community of Club activities and ways of getting involved.

As part of our Club development planning, and in response to requests from members, we are hoping to introduce a newsletter/magazine, published periodically and intended both for an internal audience as well as externally. Our data-privacy compliant Membermojo membership database continues to optimise the onboarding and subscription renewal process for our members, and we are encouraging increasing use of the Spond app, already an indispensable mechanism for managing the activities of the rowing section, more widely across the Club, with positive indications already emerging.

We would like to record in this Report our thanks for the tireless contribution made to Club communications, membership and in administration by Evelyn Webster; Evelyn's work behind the scenes in maintaining the Club's profile, image and administrative processes remains fundamental to our ongoing success.





Historical Ties with Norway

We greatly value the thriving relationship which continues to exist between our Club and Norway, in particular with Number 333 Squadron of the Royal Norwegian Air Force, which was formed at Woodhaven on 8 February 1942, operated a flight of Catalina flying boats in anti-submarine, maritime patrol and clandestine roles until the end of the War, and is referenced in many aspects of the Club. Our flagstaff, together with the Commemorative Haakon Stone, both installed in 1975, are gifts from Norway, and the names of two of our St Ayles skiffs, Catalina and The Flying Boat, reflect this enduring heritage. The clubhouse also displays many Squadron-related pictures, gifts and artefacts received over the years, and we continue to fly the Flag of Norway to mark specific national occasions.



Far from 333 Squadron being an historical footnote, the Club continues to enjoy close friendships with present-day members of the Squadron, itself unique in that it is the only Norwegian squadron to have continued an unbroken record of fulfilling the same operational role throughout its existence. In May this year we hosted a formal visit from members of the Squadron, together with their British counterparts, currently undertaking operational conversion training for their new P-8 Poseidon aircraft at RAF Lossiemouth. In addition to Club members, many from the local community came along, including a remarkable few who can still remember the Norwegians' presence at Woodhaven over eighty years ago.

In September the Club hosted a further 333 Squadron visit, this time including the Norwegian Defence Attache, who came to Woodhaven to lay wreaths marking the death of King Harald V of Norway, an act reciprocated with the laying of a floral tribute by former Club Commodore David Winch.



Finally, this year the Club received an unannounced visit from the family of wartime 333 Squadron pilot Harald Hartmann, the arrival of the family fortunately coinciding with the

Community Fridge morning at the clubhouse, allowing us to extend a traditional welcome and tour of Woodhaven Pier. With the 85th anniversary of the Squadron's formation taking place in February next year, we look forward to continuing this important relationship.

Welfare and Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG)

The safety and welfare of all WBC members remains central to all that we do. A qualified welfare lead provides oversight, and we maintain a Club safety code and risk management plan incorporating a range of generic risk assessments. These cover: pre- and post-on water activities; on-water activities; the ashore and clubhouse environment; and financial, welfare, sustainability and reputational risks. In addition, we produce individual, bespoke risk assessments for specific Club activities including, for example, Open Days, Cadet Week and the Two Bridges Row. All members who voluntarily engage with youth activities or with other vulnerable groups are PVG-certified. Furthermore, we have recently produced Club equality, inclusion and diversity policy and, in anticipation of security enhancements including the installation of CCTV coverage for the Club, have in place the necessary CCTV policy and CCTV data protection impact assessment.

With the significant benefit of in-house RYA-accredited first aid training, we conduct regular, well-attended RYA first aid training for members as well as bespoke training for volunteers assisting with specific events and activities. This recently included Community Fridge volunteers. Finally, we maintain a comprehensive clubhouse-based first aid station including a stretcher, foil and fleece blankets, as well as a well-stocked First Aid cabinet.

Reserves Policy

WBC has a Reserves Policy which is reviewed annually. The Club has on-going financial commitments that primarily relate to:

- Maintaining and developing the clubhouse, land and other buildings including utilities;
- Ensuring that the club has the right equipment to carry out its activities and that they are safe and well maintained;
- Insurance and public liability;
- Membership of the RYA and Scottish Coastal Rowing Association (SCRA).

Our income is predominantly derived from:

- Membership fees;
- Fundraising, grants & donations;

- Training courses.

In 2025-6, trustees reviewed the financial situation and agreed that the Club requires reserves to cover the financial commitments detailed above. For 2025-26, the level of reserves was set at**: £20,000.** The club has no deficit and a current cash reserve of £53,249.00 which will be used to support our development plans. Our accounts and finances are audited by Monteaths Accountants with input and final sign off from WBC trustees.

Financial Review

This year, we have again been successful in terms of income generation, primarily through the efforts of our members. The funds raised by the Club have helped to offset the costs associated with other outgoings such as maintenance of the boats, equipment and the rescue shed.

As well as a membership which regularly gives of their time and skills voluntarily, we have been most fortunate in receiving additional income from our PB2 courses and thanks to Andrew, our powerboat lead, for the generous use of his own time and energy in achieving this.

As detailed above, our volunteers run taster sessions for interested members of the local community to try out a range of watersports, including rowing tasters which allow people to try out before deciding to join the Club. They also contribute to the upkeep of the clubhouse and land. Regular work parties allow us to minimise the need to employ contractors and trades.

The other main fundraising activities this year have included: the sale of t-shirts and calendars, raffles and the proceeds from the Open Day. We have a galley, which in addition to providing snacks and drinks, regularly caters for the social events and the regattas we hold. We also rent out the Club's space for different community groups, including a knitting group, karate club, another local kayak club who do not have a clubhouse, as well as a local women's group. This helps to generate an income and subsidises our overall running costs. Many of our members put significant effort into these fundraising activities for which we are most grateful.

Our overall funds in terms of cash in the bank at year end have reduced by circa £20,000 this year due to the significant costs associated with the purchase of the land from Fife Council (£25,808.00 including legal fees). This however is a one-off cost and was required if we are to achieve our vision for the future of the Club. We believe that the Club is still in a healthy financial position with considerable assets which have increased this year by circa £200,000 as a direct consequence of acquiring the land.

Analysis of Income for 2025-2026(£)

Membership Fees	16,116.00
Restricted grants	1422.00
Unrestricted grants	000.00
Rents Received	1,180.00
Fundraising & other income	11,106.00
RYA Training	1,470.00
Total:	**31,294.00**

Analysis of Expenditure for 2025-2026 (£)

Utilities/Catering & Incidentals	3,760.00
Land/buildings enhancements, build & maintenance	5,932.00
Equipment & Fuel	7,840.00
Land Purchase	13,800.00
Affiliations & Governance	2,000.00
Insurance	4,582.00
Sundry Expenses	1,869.00
Legal Fees	12,008.00
Total:	**51,791.00**

Funds at 31st August 2026 (£)

Reserves:	Restricted	0
	Fixed Assets	718,488.00
	Unrestricted:	53,249.00
Total Assets		**771,737.00**

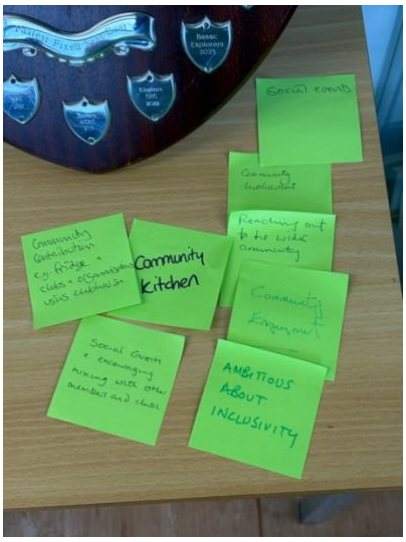
Future Plans

The establishment of the Club as a SCIO in 2022, followed by the finalisation of the CAT at the beginning of 2026, transferring the ownership of Woodhaven Pier to WBC, have together produced a firm foundation and a unique opportunity for the Club to capitalise on both in order to fully realise its vision and mission. To ensure that every member of the Club has a stake in its future, we have conducted a series of facilitated development planning workshops to which all have been invited to contribute their ideas and aspirations.

These sessions have identified a range of priorities, grouped generically as those concerned with: 'People', which includes the personal development of members, the creation of a robust youth section and active engagement with as diverse a cross section of our community as possible; 'Place', which focuses on future enhancements to the Club's infrastructure and facilities to address the current shortcomings of, for example, changing and shower facilities, as well as ensuring accessibility for all; and 'Partnerships', identifying the importance of fostering and nurturing relationships with sports governing bodies, commercial partners, the local community and a wide variety of other potential stakeholders. This process has contributed to the creation of a 5-year Club development plan, allowing the phased improvements across the Club that we seek, and making sure that the enhancements made to the Club's facilities, not least our dated and inadequate clubhouse, serve the needs of current and future members.

As custodians of Woodhaven Pier, its historical antecedents and its enduring popularity with the local community - who, with the exception of the Club facilities themselves – retain full access to the harbour, we consider ourselves to have a duty to maximise its utility as one of few locations on the southern banks of the Tay in our area providing safe public access to the water in a comparatively benign and sheltered setting. We thus aspire both to be an inclusive, community-driven local resource allowing all to establish and maintain a connection with the





water and, for our members, to provide safe and affordable access to our river, improving wellbeing in a welcoming, supportive environment for people of all background, abilities and circumstances.

Our ambition as a Club remains threefold:

- Providing safe, accessible use of our river for Club members;
- Encouraging participation and, for those who aspire to it, excellence in watersports, and;
- Promoting understanding and appreciation in our members and the wider community of the importance, historically, culturally and creatively, of our Club's location and our river.

We will continue to pursue and achieve this ambition through the provision for our members of the opportunities and facilities enabling their fullest participation in water-based and ashore activities, and by our continuing engagement with partners across Tayside, voluntary organisations and clubs, schools and youth groups, universities, cultural institutions, those organising local festivals and other activities, and other watersports organisations including the Tay Watersports Hub.

We continue to enjoy the full support and encouragement of our elected representatives, including the North-East Fife constituency MP and MSP, local councillors and community councils.

Our 2026-27 Objectives Are To:

- Finalise and commence the implementation of the Club's 5-year development plan;
- Pursue grant funding opportunities to address the priorities identified in the Plan;
- Continue to optimise existing Club infrastructure, where possible seeking improvements to changing, shower and toilet facilities, and further enhancing safety and accessibility for all users of Woodhaven Pier;
- Develop and deliver youth activities, including Cadet Week and programmed sail training;
- Reinvigorate our kayak and open water swimming sections;
- Engage proactively with the local community and partner organisations to the mutual benefit of all;
- Continue to carefully manage the Club safely, effectively, efficiently and with integrity, for the benefit of our members;
- Ensure that all Club activities respect and, where practicable, sustain and enhance the natural environment, underwriting the future enjoyment of our river and its valuable habitats.

Declaration

Signed by 

Print name	D H JOHN
Designation	Acting Commodore
Date	9 November 2026

Countersigned by

Print name	A LUMSDEN
Designation	Chair, Board of Trustees
Date	9 November 2026





