



British Cave Rescue Council

Charity registration number: 1137252

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

1 February 2021 to 31 January 2022



Photo: E Porter

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the British Cave Rescue Council (BCRC) are to relieve suffering and distress amongst persons and animals endangered by accidents or natural hazards by co-ordinating and providing support for member underground search and rescue organisations and individuals representing the Council in the British Isles and abroad.

The BCRC acts as the co-ordinating and representative body for its sixteen volunteer member teams who provide underground search and rescue services throughout the UK and Ireland. Its officers represent the interests of its member teams and their services with numerous relevant national and international organisations. BCRC is a member of United Kingdom Search and Rescue (UKSAR) – the Government sponsored forum for all bona fide national bodies, statutory or voluntary, that are involved in search and rescue.

BCRC brings together its member teams to share ideas, training and best practice. It also administers a national “peer review” scheme through which teams help each other to assess and improve their capabilities and ability to meet operational needs. The Council also assists teams by advising on and co-ordinating grant applications and occasionally it organises and funds or part funds national equipment design projects and purchases.

The BCRC trustees continue to have due regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on “Public Benefit” in everything it does.

Policy on Grant Making

The BCRC does not usually make grants to individual member teams. It does however occasionally grant aid equipment development and help to finance acquisition of equipment or resources of benefit to all teams.

Volunteers

Everybody involved with BCRC from national trustees and officers to the nine hundred or so members of its sixteen member teams is an unpaid volunteer. All current BCRC trustees and officers also serve as active volunteers on a member team.

Achievements and Performance

During the year 2021/22 the Council’s officers have continued to successfully maintain relations with, make representations to and work with a wide variety of organisations in the interests of the underground search and rescue teams and their service as a whole. These include United Kingdom Search and Rescue, National Police Chiefs Council, Mountain Rescue England and Wales, Association of Lowland Search and Rescue, British Caving Association and the European Cave Rescue Association.

In the year 2021/22 BCRC member teams were mobilised 31 times. This is slightly below average. However, one of these incidents, in November 2021, was the UK’s longest and most difficult underground rescue for decades. A caver fell some 10 metres in a long, complicated and difficult cave system and was seriously injured. The rescue involved over 250 volunteers drawn from most of BCRC’s member teams. He was eventually brought safely to the surface after a 3.5 kilometre underground stretcher journey which took a total of 54 hours.

Fundraising Performance

BCRC’s only guaranteed income is the annual levy on member teams which is intended to cover basic administrative costs. This is currently £100 per team per annum.

Most of the expense of providing underground search and rescue services is incurred by BCRC member teams in and around their primary operational areas. All teams are charities and raise money locally to cover their costs. BCRC do not wish to adversely affect these efforts and so direct BCRC fund raising is only actively pursued when rare opportunities arise that would not prejudice team fund raising efforts.

Financial Review

For many years BCRC's income was dependent on the annual levy on member teams and on occasional donations from caving organisations and members of the public. Income rarely exceeded the low thousands.

Then, in 2018, BCRC sent a team of specialist cave divers to participate in the search and rescue effort of thirteen boys trapped in a flooded cave in Thailand (Tham Luang). Their success in finding and rescuing the boys as part of a large and protracted international operation led to a huge influx of donations to BCRC from all over the world. These had dried up by the year 2020/21 but increased once again in 2021/22 as the result of a number of books and films being released about the rescue. Consequently, at the end of January 2022 BCRC's cash assets had risen to a total of £79,350. Hopefully 2022/23 will be another relatively good year but then it is anticipated that annual income will reduce to historic levels again.

The increased but "one off" income due to the Thailand rescue has already enabled the Council to do more for its members and will enable it to continue to do so in years to come. However, the Council has to be prudent and make its windfall last for many years. The likelihood of a repeat windfall is vanishingly small and cannot be relied on in planning for the future.

Reserves

In addition to providing for a higher level of support for teams for as long as possible after the Tham Luang windfall BCRC reserves have to cover a number of areas.

Total expenditure in 2021/22 was £3,974. Currently £22,500 is earmarked as a reserve to cover normal annual outgoings and another £3563 is set aside to cover current ongoing plans regarding a couple of equipment design and supply projects.

The remaining £53,287 is earmarked as a general reserve to keep current levels of support going for as long as possible, to provide emergency funding for future major rescue efforts and to help teams in immediate financial trouble following possible uninsured operational equipment losses.

Risks and Uncertainties

As already mentioned, BCRC faces long term funding problems. The windfall income following the Tham Luang rescue will hopefully put off financial problems for some years but nonetheless fundraising is a problem that looms on the horizon.

BCRC and its member teams benefit from associate membership of Mountain Rescue England & Wales – our larger sister charity supporting mountain rescue. The main current financial benefit is that MREW pays for much of BCRC's insurance. However, there is no guarantee that this will continue and BCRC and its teams need to be prepared for changes.

Structure, Governance and Management

The BCRC is an unincorporated charity, governed by its constitution and charity law. It was originally formed as the Cave Rescue Council in 1967 and was reconstituted as the British Cave

Rescue Council in 1981. It became a registered charity in April 2003 and its constitution was last amended in 2020.

Trustee selection

The Council's member teams elect the BCRC national officers at its annual general meeting in April each year. The membership must elect a chairman, secretary and treasurer and they may also elect a president, vice chairman, assistant chairman, training officer, equipment officer, conference secretary, communications officer, medical officer, diving officer, information officer and legal advisor. Collectively these officers compose the executive committee.

If officer positions remain vacant at the end of an AGM, the executive committee may co-opt officers to fill those positions.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name:	British Cave Rescue Council (BCRC)
Registered charity number:	1137252
Correspondence address:	Old Forge House, Hampton Loade, Bridgnorth WV15 6HD
E-mail address:	secretary@caverescue.org.uk
Website:	www.caverescue.org.uk

The charity trustees managing the charity 1 February 2021 to 31 January 2022 are as follows:

Dr Peter Dennis	Chairman	elected at AGMs in April 2020 and 2021
Richard Whitehouse MBE	Vice chairman	elected at AGMs in April 2020 and 2021
Gary Mitchell	Assistant chairman	elected at AGMs in April 2020 and 2021
Emma Porter	Secretary	elected at AGMs in April 2020 and 2021
Heather Simpson	Treasurer	elected at AGMs in April 2020 and 2021
James Davis	Training Officer	elected at AGMs in April 2020 and 2021
Michael Clayton	Equipment Officer	elected at AGMs in April 2020 and 2021
Toby Hamnett	Legal Advisor	elected at AGMs in April 2020 and 2021
Dr Brendan Sloan	Medical Officer	elected at AGMs in April 2020 and 2021
Christopher Jewell QGM	Diving Officer	elected at AGMs in April 2020 and 2021
Anthony Haigh	Communications Officer	elected at AGMs in April 2020 and 2021
Roger King	Information Officer	elected at AGMs in April 2020 and 2021

Accounts

Note: The accounts for the year ended 31 January 2022 have already been received by the Charity Commission and appear on their website. However, because the total gross income (£25.25k.) exceeded £25,000 a Trustees' report is required (as above) together with an Independent Examiner's report on the accounts. For the year ending 31 January 2020 this was provided by Jackie Milton (AAT level 4/CIMA Cert. Management Accounting)

BRITISH CAVE RESCUE COUNCIL
Charity No: 1137252 Receipts and Payments Account Year
ended 31 January 2022

HMS 11/03/22

31/01/2022

31/01/2021

UNRESTRICTED RECEIPTS

	to date	Year
	£	£
Levies received	1,600	1,400
Late levies received	100	200
General donations	1,755	514
I Peachy related donations	1,500	-
National Geographoc/Dogwood	15,000	-
Diver & officer talks re Thai rescue	505	90
'Thirteen Lives' film	406	-
Amazon Smile	107	87
facebook	122	-
Payroll giving	63	-
Paypal Giving - Humble Bundle	7	3
Benevity	1	8
Unspent 2019 grants returned by CAF	-	143
BCRC expenses redonated	258	99
Giftaid and interest	403	113
VAT refund - 2020 & 2021	623	-
Donation for spare laptop	60	-
Recharged equipment	-	251
Badge & sticker sales	304	-
Interest on deposit account	<u>6</u>	<u>20</u>
	22,818	2,928

UNRESTRICTED/UNDESIGNATED PAYMENTS

Travel & subsistence:			
Representing CR/teams	(ESS, ECRA & 13 lives)	1,035	199
Printing postage, stationery & phone		3	71
IT costs (Incident reporting hosting costs)		431	-
300 sew-on badges, 100 car stickers & 1,000 lapel badges		747	-
Hi-Viz national Cave Rescue vests		-	359
Rechargeable team costs		-	233
GCRG - medical weekend		239	-
50%/£500 equipment grants for teams	see Eq reserve		see Eq reserve
Donations received for teams		10	-
Paypal fees		45	21
ICO - Annual Data Protection fee		35	35
Mountain Rescue England & Wales - one-off 50+ insurance		-	2,500
ECRA membership fee 2021, 2022 & 2023		320	-
Mountain & Cave Rescue Benevolent Fund donation		100	100
Charities Tax Group subscription		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
		3,064	3,618

General Surplus/(Deficit)

<u>19,754</u>	<u>(690)</u>
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BRITISH CAVE RESCUE COUNCIL
Charity No: 1137252

DRAFT Receipts and Payments Account Year ended
31 January 2022

	31/01/22	31/01/21
	£	£
DESIGNATED FUNDS - Team Equipment		
Equipment donations - (Diver's talks 2019)	-	-
Teams - 50%/£500 grant 5 teams (y.e Jan 2021 - 9 teams)	<u>-2,467</u>	<u>-4,309</u>
	<u>(2,467)</u>	<u>(4,309)</u>
DESIGNATED FUNDS - CasBag reserve	31/01/22	31/01/21
Restricted grant - SubBrit	2,700	-
Restricted grant - SubBrit - for jackets - separate reserve	-1,200	
Transfer from equipment reserve	-	3,650
Material for 10 test jackets	-	-700
Zips for CasBags	-452	-
3 prototype CasBags	-606	-
Alpenheat pads	-2,628	-
Battery boxes for CasBags	-510	-
10 x BCRC and SubBrit logos	-4,311	
	<u>-115</u>	
	<u>-2,811</u>	<u>2,950</u>
RESTRICTED FUNDS Income & Exp.		
Donation for Charity Tax Group	50	-
Paid over April 2020 with BCRC donation/subscription	<u>-50</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

BRITISH CAVE RESCUE COUNCIL

CASH FUNDS
Year ended 31 January 2022

	31/01/22	31/01/21
	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS		
Lloyds current account	3,249	1,987
Nat West	1,953	1,508
Lloyds savings account	72,378	57,772
Paypal account	1,770	2,406
Cash	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>79,350</u>	<u>63,673</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>79,350</u>	<u>63,673</u>
RESERVES		
General reserve	53,286	35,032
Risks reserve	22,500	22,500
Designated - team equipment & Advs Underground	724	3,191
Designated - CasJackets for teams	1,200	-
Designated - Casbag/jackets development	1,639	2,950
Restricted reserve - CTG	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>79,350</u>	<u>63,673</u>
	0	0



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

British Cave Rescue Council

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 January 2022

**Charity no
(if any)**

1137252

Set out on pages

1-2 of CC16a

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31st January 2022.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

ES Maisey

Date:

7th May 2023

Name:

Mrs Elizabeth Maisey

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Fellow of Association of Accounting Technicians – registered number 63057
– Licence number 1001007

Address:

45 Quail Meadows, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, GL8 8PQ

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Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

n/a

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