



# British Cave Rescue Council

Charity registration number : 1137252

## Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

1 February 2022 to 31 January 2023

### **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 fifteen 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 2022/23 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 calendar year 2023 BCRC member teams were mobilised 41 times for underground searches and rescues. These involved nearly 2200 individual operational hours by team members although many more hours were expended on subsequent equipment maintenance and preparation. Some teams were also involved in surface search and rescue operations where their specialist skills were required.

## **Fundraising Performance**

BCRC's only guaranteed income is the annual levy on member teams which is intended to cover basic administrative costs. This levy 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 on rare opportunities 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 tailed off 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. In 2022/23 a further £10,073 was received in donations from film companies following the release of further films about the rescue. It is unlikely that this rescue will lead to any further significant donations.

The increased 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 another windfall is vanishingly small and cannot be relied on in planning for the future.

At the end of January 2023 BCRC's cash assets had risen to a total of £87,755. Hopefully income during 2023/24 will be sufficient to maintain cash assets at a similarly healthy level but, realistically, there is no certainty in this.

## **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 2022/23 was £25,142. Currently £10,000 is earmarked as a reserve to cover normal annual outgoings and another £10,000 is set aside to cover current ongoing plans for a couple of equipment design and supply projects.

The remaining £67,755 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 and other 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 full or 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, as insurance costs increase there is a risk that in the future, a greater proportion of costs of insurance cover may fall upon Mountain Rescue member teams.

## **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 :	<a href="mailto:secretary@caverescue.org.uk">secretary@caverescue.org.uk</a>
Website :	<a href="http://www.caverescue.org.uk">www.caverescue.org.uk</a>

The charity trustees managing the charity 1 February 2022 to 31 January 2023 are as follows:

Dr Peter Dennis	Chairman	elected at AGMs in April 2021 and 2022
Richard Whitehouse MBE	Vice chairman	elected at AGMs in April 2021 and 2022
Gary Mitchell	Assistant chairman	elected at AGMs in April 2021 and 2022
Emma Porter	Secretary	elected at AGMs in April 2021 and 2022
Roger King	Treasurer	elected at AGM in April 2022
James Davis	Training Officer	elected at AGMs in April 2021 and 2022
Michael Clayton	Equipment Officer	elected at AGMs in April 2021 and 2022
Toby Hamnett	Legal Advisor	elected at AGMs in April 2021 and 2022
Dr Brendan Sloan	Medical Officer	elected at AGMs in April 2021 and 2022
Christopher Jewell QGM	Diving Officer	elected at AGMs in April 2021 and 2022
Anthony Haigh	Communications Officer	elected at AGMs in April 2021 and 2022
Roger King	Information Officer	elected at AGMs in April 2021 and 2022

*The Charity Commission require trustees to have recorded the names of any other charities that they are trustees of.*

*Richard Whitehouse is also a trustee of :*

*Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation (1017362)*  
*Mountain and Cave Rescue Benevolent Fund (1137252)*  
*Tideswell and District Community Association (1015467)*

*Gary Mitchell is also a trustee of Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (1069557)*

*Roger King is also a trustee of Peninsula Mountain and Cave Rescue Association (119721)*

*Dr Brendan Sloane is also a trustee of*  
*Rescue Benevolent Fund (1152798)*  
*British Burn Association (1187794)*



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name <b>BRITISH CAVE RESCUE COUNCIL</b>	No (if any) <b>1137252</b>
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**CC16a**

**Receipts and payments accounts**

For the period from	Period start date <b>01/02/2022</b>	To	Period end date <b>31/01/2023</b>
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**Section A Receipts and payments**

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Levies	1,600	-	-	1,600	1,700
Donations	2,488	220	-	2,708	4,428
Gift-Aid	-	-	-	-	403
VAT reclaimed	-	-	-	-	623
Grants	-	7,125	-	7,125	2,700
Recharged equipment	11,303	-	-	11,303	-
Film donations etc	10,073	-	-	10,073	15,406
Interest received	67	-	-	67	6
Badge & sticker sales	665	-	-	665	310
<b>Sub total(Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>26,196</b>	<b>7,345</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,541</b>	<b>25,576</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>26,196</b>	<b>7,345</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,541</b>	<b>25,576</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Travel	2,280	-	-	2,280	1,035
Badges & stickers for resale	-	-	-	-	747
Training	-	-	-	-	239
RESCON22	-	5,625	-	5,625	-
IT costs	185	-	-	185	431
Equipment for teams	11,998	434	-	12,433	2,467
Equipment development	-	3,808	-	3,808	4,311
Fundraising costs	-	-	-	-	45
Postage, stationery & telephone	273	-	-	273	3
Paypal Commission	43	-	-	43	-
Donations	275	220	-	495	110
Subscriptions	-	-	-	-	505
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>15,055</b>	<b>10,087</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,142</b>	<b>9,893</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases.</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>15,055</b>	<b>10,087.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,142</b>	<b>9,893</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>11,142</b>	<b>- 2,742</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,399</b>	<b>15,683</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>1,821</b>	<b>- 1,821</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>54,792</b>	<b>24,563</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>79,356</b>	<b>63,673</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>67,755</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>87,755</b>	<b>79,355</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Lloyds current account	13,246	-	-
	NatWest current account	1,828	-	-
	Lloyds savings account	52,445	20,000	-
	Paypal account	236	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>67,755</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b> to nearest £	<b>Restricted</b> to nearest £	<b>Endowment</b> to nearest £
	None		-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Fund to which asset belongs</b>	<b>Cost (optional)</b>	<b>Current value (optional)</b>
	None		-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Fund to which liability relates</b>	<b>Amount due (optional)</b>	<b>When due (optional)</b>
	None		-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name		Date of approval
		Emma Porter		31-Jul-24
	Checked by ES Maisey FMAAT (GCRG) 02/07/2024			



**Section A Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees**

British Cave Rescue Council

**On accounts for the year ended**

31 January 2023

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1137252

**Set out on pages**

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

**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:** *E3 Maisey*

**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

**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

**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.**

