

Orkney Field Club SCIO

Scottish Charity number SC012459

Annual Report & Financial Statements

1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

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Trustees' Annual Report For the accounting period ended 31st March 2023

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements for the accounting period ended 31st March 2023.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity name Orkney Field Club SCIO

Charity number SC012459

Address Queenamidda, Rendall, Orkney, KW17 2PA

President vacant

Vice-president vacant

Current Trustees

Helen Aiton Chair Appointed 28 Oct 2022

John Crossley Vice-chair Appointed 28 Oct 2022

Graeme Walker Secretary Appointed 5 Nov 2021

Brian Ribbands Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Michael Gee

Jenny Taylor

Keith Fairclough

Anne Gascoigne

Penny Martin

Alexandra Wright

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Charity is a Scottish Charity, which was set up in 1959, and which was in operation for over 50 years as an unincorporated association. At the 2013 AGM, the charity made the decision to change its legal form to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). The proposed SCIO constitution received approval by OSCR on 25th February 2014, and asset transfer to the SCIO (which wound up the unincorporated association) occurred nearly 18 months later, on 2nd July 2015. This annual report and accounts are thus for the seventh full year after the charity became a SCIO. The charity had a single tier structure and as such the trustees were the members of the charity.

Appointment of Trustees

The charity is a membership organisation. Any member of the charity can stand for election as a trustee, and trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable Purposes

The advancement of education, the advancement of environmental protection or improvement. To promote the study and conservation of the natural heritage of the County by means of:

- field projects and expeditions
- lectures, demonstrations, exhibitions and films
- publications, liaison with voluntary or statutory organisations with allied interests
- fund-raising
- any such activity as may be lawful and conducive to the attainment of the aim.

Activities

The Club runs a wide range of walks and wildlife-recording events through the year. The Club will organise or support events to increase knowledge and understanding of local wildlife, and to improve wildlife identification and recording skills.

The Club liaises with other organisations and is actively involved with the Orkney Wildlife Information & Records Centre.

The Club also makes representations on conservation issues, particularly to Orkney Islands Council regarding planning matters.

The Club has a range of wildlife-recording sub-groups. Currently these cover marine wildlife, flora, bats and dragonflies.

The Club normally runs club nights from autumn through to early spring, which usually take the form of illustrated talks. All club events are open to all, subject to any limit on numbers for particular events, and when a fee applies, the fee will be reduced for members as opposed to non-members.

The Club publishes a newsletter for its members three times a year.

The Club also publishes an annual Bulletin: The Orkney Naturalist. This is a journal of record, containing reports by county recorders for their respective wildlife groups, along with a wide range of articles relating to the wildlife of Orkney. The Bulletin is available free to members and is also offered for sale.

The Club set up a native tree plantation at Durkadale in Birsay about 30 years ago. This is currently leased from the RSPB and now supports a thriving range of native tree species and provides valuable wildlife habitat.

The Club offers small (under £500) grants to members for research projects.

Achievements and performance

As Covid restrictions eased the Club was able to resume more normal activities. For some indoor meetings we tried a 'hybrid' format, offering members a choice of attending in person or by Zoom to avoid the need for travelling to a venue. Online talks are accessible to a greater range of speakers and make it possible for a wider audience to attend but some prefer in person events or do not have access to fast broadband.

The club ran a full programme of outdoor excursions looking for birds, bats, mountain hares, dragonflies, flowering plants, mosses and much else. We visited Hoy, Westray and North Ronaldsay as well as Orkney Mainland sites. We participated in the 'Bag the Bruck' beach cleanup and ran an event as part of the Orkney Nature Festival. We held a bioblitz around the disused Stromness reservoir. The Bryophyte study group had a very rewarding workshop in Stromness.

In September we had our first 'hybrid' talk. The next two talks were online only, one so that the speaker could deliver it from his home in Argyll, the other due to very heavy rain and floods on the night. The 'hybrid' format was resumed in January for an update on the stoat eradication project.

The Club sent representatives via zoom to various groups e.g. the local access forum, and various consultative bodies.

The Club was active in supporting moves to re-open the Orkney Wildlife Information & Records Centre.

The Club continued to produce regular newsletters and to maintain a website and a Facebook page. The 2022 Bulletin kept up to the high standard which is now expected of this publication. It was printed and distributed within this period, in summer 2022.

There were no applications for small grants to members for research projects during the period.

Financial Review

The Club continues to be in a strong financial position. The Club made a small loss of £86.10 over the period. There were no exceptional items large enough to seriously influence the financial position this year. The strength of the Club's financial position meant there was no need to raise the membership subscriptions.

Reserves Policy

The Club is committed to holding sufficient funds to meet forthcoming commitments such as Bulletin and newsletter production and the necessary governance and insurance costs. The Club's financial reserves of £20,263.27 are more than sufficient for this at present.

Future Plans

The Club has a well-established pattern of activity which remains appropriate and which it is committed to continuing. The Club will respond to conservation issues as required and will continue to look for opportunities to engage people with Orkney's wildlife. Indoor meetings have now resumed as well as outdoor events.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Date:

Graeme Walker, Secretary

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Total funds	1 st Apr 2022 to 31 st Mar 2023	1 st Apr 2021 to 31 st Mar 2022	Notes
Receipts			
Membership income	£1,495.00	£1,597.00	
Club nights (entrance, donations & Bulletin back issue sales, etc.)	£42.20	£0.00	
Bulletin sales (current issue to non-members)	£176.55	£205.37	
Exceptional items (no significant items this year)	£0.00	£0.00	
Other (donations and sales)	£80.00	£344.48	
Building Society interest	175.59	£139.54	Note 4.
Total receipts	£1,969.34	£2,286.39	
Payments			
Bulletin	£1,274.62	£1,339.29	
Club night costs	£124.00	£0.00	Note 5.
Newsletter	£0.00	£0.00	
Land management costs	£0.00	£0.00	
Online costs	£45.00	£45.00	Note 6.
AGM and committee meeting costs	£143.88	£0.00	
Independent Examiner fees	£60.00	£60.00	
Insurance	£89.24	£0.00	Note 7.
Membership Award Scheme	£0.00	£0.00	Note 8.
Other	£318.70	£15.00	Note 9.
Total payments to 31 March 2023	£2,055.44	£1,459.29	
Total payments for year	£2,055.44	£1,459.29	
Net of receipts & payments	-£86.10	£827.10	
Cash funds at start date	£20,349.37	£19,522.27	
Cash funds this period end	£20,263.27	£20,349.37	Note 10.

Statement of Balances as at 31st March 2023

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 31/3/2023	Total 31/3/2022	
Opening cash at bank and in hand	£20,349.37	-	£20,349.37	£19,522.27	
Surplus / (deficit) for the period	-£86.10	-	-£86.10	£827.10	
Closing cash at bank and in hand	£20,263.27	-	£20,263.27	£20,349.37	
Bank and cash balances					
Bank of Scotland at 31/03/2023	£5,994.34	-	£5,994.34	£6,256.03	
Ecology Building Society	£14,268.93	-	£14,268.93	£14,093.34	
Cash in hand	£0.00	-	£0.00	£0.00	
Total	£20,263.27	-	£20,263.27	£20,349.37	
Other assets (restricted fund)					Note 11.
Digital projector & laptop			£0.00	£0.00	
Other assets (unrestricted fund)					
None			£0.00	£0.00	
Liabilities (unrestricted fund)					
None			£0.00	£0.00	

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Date:

Graeme Walker, Secretary.

Notes to the accounts for the period ended 31st March 2023

1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

See notes 10 and 11 for asset valuation and depreciation policies.

2 Nature and purpose of funds

The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day-to-day running of the club. At present, the Club holds no restricted funds.

3 Related party transactions

No remuneration was paid to the trustees or any connected persons during the period.

4 Interest

The Ecology Building Society applies interest to OFC's account on the 31st December of each year.

5 Club nights

Club night meetings resumed in winter 2022-23 but were also available via Zoom.

6 Online costs

Payment to Orkney communities.com for hosting website.

7 Insurance

Insurance is brokered with TCV. Insurance premium (£79.80) was paid online in 2021-22 but not claimed back during that year.

8 Membership Award Scheme

There were no awards this year.

9 Other expenditure

Voluntary Action Orkney subscription, minibus hire for a Nature Festival event and equipment for a Bioblitz.

10 Total balance as at 31st March 2023

Accounting periods follow an annual April to March pattern from 2016/17 onwards.

11 Depreciation of equipment

The charity trustees considered it appropriate to depreciate the laptop & digital projector bought with a grant (restricted fund) in March 2012, over 5 years. The original value was £1079 and a fifth of this sum was written off on each anniversary of this date. Therefore, the value was written off to zero in March 2017.

No other equipment owned by the Club is considered to have a value which is sufficiently material for it to be represented in the accounts of the charity.