

Arnside Sailing Club
Charitable Incorporated Institution
Annual Report
For Year Ending 31st October 2024



Sailing on the estuary at Arnside



Youth Training at Killington



Paddle boarding and kayaking at Arnside

Registered Charity 1200999



Arnside Sailing Club

Charitable Incorporated Institution

Report of the Trustees for Year ending 31st Oct 2024

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

Committee

Alasdair Simpson	Commodore
Alan Dawson	Treasurer
Jane Caldwell	Secretary
Chris Stanger	
Andy Pringle	
Marianne Lueking	
Rosemary Richards	
Andrew Newman	

1. Introduction

This is the report of Arnside Sailing Club CIO for the period 1st November 2023 to 31st October 2024.

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. 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.

We use Killington Sailing Association, near Sedbergh as an inland non tidal base for training. We are a recognised RYA Training Centre at Killington. We run club nights there on Thursday evenings in the summer. We also offer training at

Arnside. In 2024 we offer paddle board and kayak trips to other locations and dinghy cruises in lakes.

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. We have an AALA (Adventure Activities) Licence. The Club offers 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	2024
Memberships	69	113	169	150	149	123

The club offers individual and family memberships. The number of memberships at the year-end was 123. Including partners and children this equates to around 300 members. This was 18% down on 2023 but still considerably higher than in 2019 pre Covid. Reasons for the decline include people having less free time post Covid, poor summer weather, less paddle boarding taking place and increased cost of living, which would be an important factor for families with young children. Nationally sailing club

membership declined by 3% with a more marked decline in family membership. 88% of members have joined since 2020.

There were 30 new memberships in the year (24% of total membership). Going forward we need to recruit this number of memberships each year to continue with current levels of activity.

56 memberships (38% of the 2023 total) did not renew. The main group that did not rejoin were members who joined the Covid years but then only took a limited part in club activity. We need to do more to retain members, putting on activity that meets their needs and encouraging them to take part.

In terms of the main activity of sailing club members

Adult Sailing	44%
Parents of Youth Sailors	15%
Sailing Lessons	8%
Paddle Boarding	11%
Kayaking	3%
Support Club	10%
Social	8%

Sailing is the main reason for joining the club, though nationally more people kayak and paddle board.

3.1.2 Water Sports Activity

Sailing numbers at Arnside were similar to 2023 with organised club events at weekends and informal sailing during the week. Our Try Out Day in May attracted 60 people. We ran 15 races during the year and 2 organised dinghy cruises out into the Bay towards Grange-over-Sands. One of the dinghy cruises was used as an opportunity to take new members out into the Bay. In the autumn we reintroduced midweek sessions with safety boat cover in the Autumn to get more people out midweek. The social aspect of sailing at the time as other people is also important. A new initiative was to run dinghy cruises on Windermere and Coniston Water for club members.

Our club nights at Killington during the summer were generally well attended. They provide an opportunity for people to sail, paddle, kayak or windsurf at the same time as others with the reassurance of instructor in a safety boat present. 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 tides.

Paddle boarding and kayaking use was similar to 2023 but well down on 2020, 2021 and 2022, Paddle board use has declined since its peak during the Covid years as people had less spare time, more alternative leisure options, poor weather and as paddle boarding is no longer a new sport.

In 2024, we ran a paddle board trip on the upper estuary, a social paddle boarding evening at Killington and a trip of the middle Derwent between Derwentwater and Bassenthwaite. In June we ran a family paddle and kayak fun day at Arnside attracting 22 people. We plan to run more paddle board trips and put on regular family paddle board sessions at Arnside in 2025.

3.1.3 Training

Offering training is important in attracting new members and meeting our charitable aims of getting more people out on the water.

Number of Participants by Year excluding schools and youth groups

Activity	2023	2024
Arnside		
Adult Sailing	20	20
Youth Sailing	27	15
Paddle Boarding	38	22
Kayaking	11	15
Killington		
Adult Sailing	20	36
Youth Sailing	52	46
Windsurfing	3	4
Power and Safety Boat	8	10

At Arnside we ran taster and high tide sailing sessions for both adults and youth. In 2024 and 2023 we ran fewer beginner sailing lessons at Arnside due to the depth of water at low tide. We also put on fewer adult and youth lessons at high tide, partly due to numbers being down on previous years making it difficult to cover the costs of running the sessions. Paddle board lessons numbers have dropped from 160 in 2021 to 22 in 2024 mainly as the sport is no longer new and since we have put on fewer lessons.

The Club is a RYA Training Centre at Killington. Killington accounts for the largest proportion of our training activity. We are group member of Killington Sailing Association, which allows us to use their lake for training and club nights. We are grateful for their continued support for our training activity there.

The number of adults taking part in sailing lessons at Killington increased in 2024 due to running regular improver sessions. Having done beginner lessons many people benefit from doing improver lessons to progress their skills and improve their confidence. The improver sessions were also attractive to people who were taking up sailing again having sailed in the past. We also need to do more to convert people doing training at Killington to regular sailors at Arnside.

Youth numbers were down as we trained fewer young people at half term, partly because of poor weather in the spring whilst numbers during the summer holidays were similar to 2023. The Home Education Group, who are doing sailing as a sports option accounted for 15 of the youth participants at Killington.

During the winter we ran monthly theory lessons in our club house, partly to give members a chance to meet up during the off season.

We run powerboat training so that we have volunteers to operate safety boats to support our water sports programme.

Training Revenue

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Arnside	8050	4581	2730	2130
Killington	6740	6473	10637	12180
Schools & Youth Groups	1080	1230	4110	3987
Total	15890	12292	17477	18357

Revenue from training has increased by 15% since 2021 largely due to running lessons for school and youth groups. Arnside training income has dropped as the numbers for paddle board lessons have declined and as increasingly, we are offering more training at Killington. Income from paddle board lessons at Arnside has reduced from £4700 in 2021 to £790 in 2024.

3.1.4 Club Craft

We brought 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.

To increase the number of Picos available for use by the Club at Killington. We brought two second hand Picos at £500 each and donated them to Killington. These were funded by donations.

3.1.5 Health and Safety

The Sailing Club has a Health and Safety Policy. We provide safety equipment and safety boat cover. The Club follows national guidelines and monitors incidents elsewhere. We offer volunteers first aid training. All instructors have first aid training. The Club carries out risk assessments. We record incidents and nearer misses and update our risk assessments and operating procedures as appropriate. In 2024 there were 4 incidents requiring minor first aid.

3.1.6 Safeguarding

The Club has a safeguarding policy, We carry DBS checks on instructors and volunteers coming into close contact with children and vulnerable adults.

3.1.7 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The Club has an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy. We aim to create an environment which is safe, welcoming, and inclusive for everyone who wishes to take part in our activities,

3.1.8 Environment

As a water sports club we want to minimise our environmental impact. The Club has an Environmental Policy. Our proposed changing facilities are being designed to minimise their environmental impact, for example the roof will have solar panels and water supplied from rainwater harvesting,

3.1.9 Proposed Changing Facilities

We were awarded a grant of £6500 a February 2024 to take plans for proposed changing facilities in our boat park to planning permission stage. A local architect has been appointed to take forward the proposals. We anticipate applying for planning permission early in 2025.

At present there are no proper changing facilities in our boat park. 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 proposed changing facilities will include social / indoor training room which should encourage people to stay longer at the club. Based on experience at other clubs, the changing facilities should lead to an increase in club membership and income.

It is unlikely that facilities would be built before 2027. Once planning permission is obtained the next stages will be to get quotes from 3 or more contractors and raise the money to build the facility. We are likely to need a mix of grants, donations and crowdfunding to fund the proposed facility.

Examples of Sailing Clubs with new changing facilities include Babbacombe, near Torquay, which cost £250,000 funded by grants, donations and sponsorship. At other clubs, volunteers have done some of the work such as fitting out and painting.

3.2 Promoting Arnside's Maritime Heritage

Arnside has a long maritime history. The estuary was the port for Kendal. Crossfields built yachts and Morecambe Bay Prawners in the village from 1840s to the 1940s. There are long term aspirations to have a heritage centre based on the village's maritime heritage.

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 restoration should be complete in 2025 with Severn back on the water at Arnside in the summer. The project is funded separately from the Sailing Club by grants to the Friends Group. The National Lottery Heritage Fund have increased their grant from £58,000 to £89,000 which should cover increased costs due to inflation and extra work being needed.

Separately from the Club, several club members have been involved in a project to set up a Morecambe Bay Prowner 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.

The Classic Boat Regatta in June was hit by poor weather with only three boats sailing. Hopefully Severn should take part in the regatta in 2025. The maritime singing festival in August with singing on the pier and in the clubhouse was well attended. We held a third conference on Crossfields and the different boats they built in November 2023. We plan to hold a fourth conference in November 2025.

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. The Club has an AALA Licence (Adventure Activities Licence).

During the year we ran taster sessions for four schools and a Scout group. During the summer holidays we again put on a RYA sailing lessons for Kent Estuary Youth Project at Killington aimed at young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and hosted a day of beach and water sports activities at Arnside. In total 157 children and young people took part in our school and youth group programme compared to 104 in 2023.

We introduced a very small bursary scheme to help parents receiving universal credit pay for sailing lessons.

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 2024 this cost £25. We had 7 low income or student memberships.

4. Financial Review

4.1 Sailing Club

The Club's income was £39165 in 2023 – 2024 compared to £40,824 in the previous year. The main difference was that income from grants and donations was about £2000 lower than in the previous year. Training income was up, whilst there was slight decrease in membership income. Increased membership fees helped offset the decline in member numbers,

Membership accounted for 30% of income, training 48% and rent from Old Customs House Trading Company 15%.

Expenses including depreciation were £41,816 giving a deficit of £2651 compared to £3343 deficit in the previous year. This indicates that the Club is not generating enough income to replace boats and equipment in the long term, which would be a problem if grant funding was unavailable, or we were unable to raise donations. Prior to depreciation expenses were £32,152 giving a surplus of just over £7000.

At the end of the financial year, the club had assets of £355,399. 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 £37,153 compared to £42,516 in 2022-23. The Subsidiary made a loss of £4410 compared to a profit of £2186 in 2022-23. The loss was due to putting on fewer concerts and events, lower audiences whilst costs, such as heat and lighting increased. A major item of expenditure was new fence at the back of the clubhouse, the cost of which we shared with our neighbours. In 2024-5 we need to restore the trading subsidiary to profitability.

Highlights of the year included a concert by Martin Carthy MBE, one of the country's most distinguished folk musicians. Private parties including a wedding reception in July produced a good income.

4.3 Reserves Policy

The Club's policy is to hold a minimum level of cash reserves to cover 6 months operating expenses, currently £16,500 a year. Our income is seasonal with the majority of income coming in during the spring and summer in advance of expenditure

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 at risk to membership numbers and income declining. We mitigate against this by monitoring membership numbers, controlling expenditure, so it matches our income, attracting new members, putting on activity to retain existing members and reviewing our strategy on a yearly basis.

Similarly, we are at risk to training income declining. We mitigate against this by monitoring take up, reducing the amount training we run, varying our training offer so we put on more of the popular courses and less of those with a low take up and by extra promotion. We review our overall training offer at least once a year.

We are at risk from income our trading subsidiary declining and costs increasing. We mitigate against this by monitoring sales every month, managing expenditure and seeking to increase income, for example by better promotion of events, putting on acts that are likely to attract a bigger audience or varying our product mix to concentrate on activity that creates a bigger profit margin, such as private parties. With fixed costs associated with the building, it is important that the trading subsidiary makes a profit and is not a drain on the charity resources.

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. Future Plans

To help ensure that we have a flow of new adult and youth members coming through and retain existing members, we want to promote a clearer pathway from being a beginner to regular high tide sailors at Arnside. This will start beginner lessons, followed by improver lessons, club nights at Killington and high tide sessions at Arnside. We also want to build in more opportunities for people who have been on our courses at Killington to sail with experienced members at Arnside. For experienced members we want to provide opportunities to progress, such as catamaran sailing, or help with club activity for example by becoming safety boat drivers.

Severn, our historic yacht should back in the water in 2025. As well as short cruises in the estuary, we want to offer the opportunity to make longer voyages on her for example sailing to Morecambe or Roa Island, one day and coming back the next.

We plan to introduce an Assistant Instructor Scheme for older teenagers and adult volunteers who want to help with training. The scheme would help older teenagers with life skills helping to improve their career prospects. Assistant instructors would work alongside full instructors supplementing them rather than being in place of them for example helping show participants how to rig a boat or take them out sailing. To qualify as an assistant instructor, people do a three-day course, which the club would run.

The RYA are introducing a new youth racing pathway programme. This aims to make youth racing more affordable and accessible to all by working with clubs to offer high quality youth racing and coaching at a local level without having to travel a long way. A Pathway Club will be expected have qualified race coaches, who may be volunteers and youth racing boats, such as ICLA (Lasers). To be able to offer our youth a chance to progress, we are looking to work with other clubs in the area to offer a combined programme.

Subject to the availability grant funding in 2025 we would like to extend our bursary scheme to enable more children whose parents are in receipt of universal credit to take part in water sports. Nationally the RYA are aiming to give more children with less well-off parents a chance to take up sailing. In Cornwall both the Children's Sailing Trust and Roseland Youth Sailing Trust fund sailing lessons for children from low-income background. On the Isle of Wight, Seaview Yacht Club have set up a Youth Sailing Trust to fund a terms worth of free sailing lessons for local schools.

We plan to offer more paddle board and kayak trips to other locations in 2025. We would also like to run regular family paddle boarding and kayak days on the beach at Arnside. Paddle boarding and kayaking are easier to learn than sailing and are a good way of introducing children to water sports helping us engage with local families.

To do this we need more volunteers to act as paddle board and kayak leaders. At the start of January 2025, we became a Paddle UK Club. Paddle UK is the new name for British Canoeing. They are now the governing body for Paddle Boarding as well as canoeing. Being a Paddle UK Club gives us access to their advice, support, marketing and funding for volunteer training. A paddle or

kayak leader is someone who has been trained to Paddle UK standards including safety to lead trips and group sessions but is not an instructor.

In 2025 we need to restore our Trading Subsidiary to profitability, for example by reviewing the business, putting on more well-known acts that are likely to attract a bigger audience, better promotion and by looking at putting different activities for example comedy or film nights. The Clubhouse is recognised in the local area as a community asset putting events that would not otherwise occur in Arnside

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 2024 the Club had 8 members of the trustee committee, 3 of whom were female, The trustee committee is chaired by the Commodore. It is important that we have a diverse range of people on management committee so that we get a balance of views,

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 Mary Adams who is standing down as our Welfare Officer. Marianne Lueking has agreed to take on the role.

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 2023-24.