

Community Moorings Scotland

Trustees' Annual Report

November 2021 to October 2022



Charity contact information

Community Moorings Scotland

Scottish Charity Number: SC047877

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Charity Trustees

The table below includes a list of all Trustees for the period covered by this report, and the date they left if they were not in post for the whole year.

Name	Office bearer	Changes in the period Nov 2021 - Oct 2022
Chrisy Southgate		Stepped down as Chair in July 2022. Resigned from the Board in November 2022
Christine McKay	Vice Chair	Vice Chair as of July 2022
Alastair Martin	Treasurer	
Andrew Flockhart	Secretary	
Ian Law		
Kristina Nitsolova	Chair	Joined in May 2022 Chair as of July 2022
Jen Ewan		Joined in August 2022

Objectives and activities

Community Moorings Scotland's purposes are:

1) The advancement of community development, in furtherance of which:

- the organisation will develop a network of small, non-profit community owned mooring sites on the canals and inland waterways of Scotland;
- these sites will serve as hubs for the diverse and dispersed Canal Community, at which Canal Boat residents, recreational boaters, commercial boaters and members of the general public can come together by the water to live, work, relax, volunteer together and learn; and
- through these sites the Canal Community will take responsibility for its own future and gain the autonomy needed to do so.

2) The advancement of education and the advancement of heritage, in furtherance of which the organisation will:

- run free training sessions, open to all, on boat maintenance and fit-out, safe boat handling and canal navigation, and manual skills associated with building and maintaining mooring infrastructure; and
- run free educational sessions, open to all, on the history, natural history and culture of the canals.

3) The provision of recreational facilities, in furtherance of which the organisation will provide:

- mooring facilities including leisure and visitor moorings at each community-owned mooring site; and
- attractive resting places at the community-owned mooring sites open to all canal users, including walkers, cyclists, canoeists and boaters.

Our aim is to contribute to a thriving future for Scotland's canal network and community – that includes those living on or near water, those who enjoy the waterways for leisure or sport, those who are passionate about the heritage and environmental significance of the canals, and many more.

The period covered by this report represents the organisation's first year of trading with the first boaters taking up moorings at Narrowboat farm in May. Our main focus was the launch of this pilot site. This has been a steep learning curve and we continue to adapt our approach as we face new challenges and opportunities beyond Year 1.

Although we dedicated most of our time to the many aspects involved with running our first mooring site we were still able to spend some time raising awareness amongst the wider public about our organisation, its vision and the benefits of Scotland's canals.

We were able to start making connections which can lead to future projects relating to upskilling and training and new mooring sites.

We also secured support through Community Enterprise's Accelerate programme to build the CMS brand and improve our communications and marketing. Work on this will commence in Spring 2023.

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Community Moorings Scotland is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Our governing document is a Constitution which can be accessed at <https://communitymoorings.com/about-us/>

Trustee recruitment and appointment

In the past year two new people joined the Board. One was invited by the Board and the other responded to a call out via our newsletter.

The new Board members bring with them skills and experience that have boosted our ability to meet our aims.

Achievements and performance

Since the last Trustees' Annual Report Community Moorings Scotland has reached some important milestones:

- We started trading in May 2022
- We secured a Certificate of Lawfulness which allowed us to start operating our first site at Narrowboat Farm
- We on-boarded the first cohort of Community Moorings Scotland mooring holders allocating 9 moorings in our ballot in January 2022
- We applied for Planning permission to allow up to 5 residential moorings at our pilot site at Narrowboat Farm
- We started making improvements to the site to make it better for those using the site on a daily basis as well as visitors.

We would not have been able to make as much progress as we have in our first year without the help of our members, boaters and volunteers – from weaving willow arches to preparing planning application documents and creating paths. The Board is very grateful for this ongoing support.



Financial review

Income and expenditure

Trading began on 1st May 2022. Up to the financial year end (31st October 2022) we had received income of £14,638 and incurred expenditure of £6,119. Income and expenditure are broken down in the charts below.

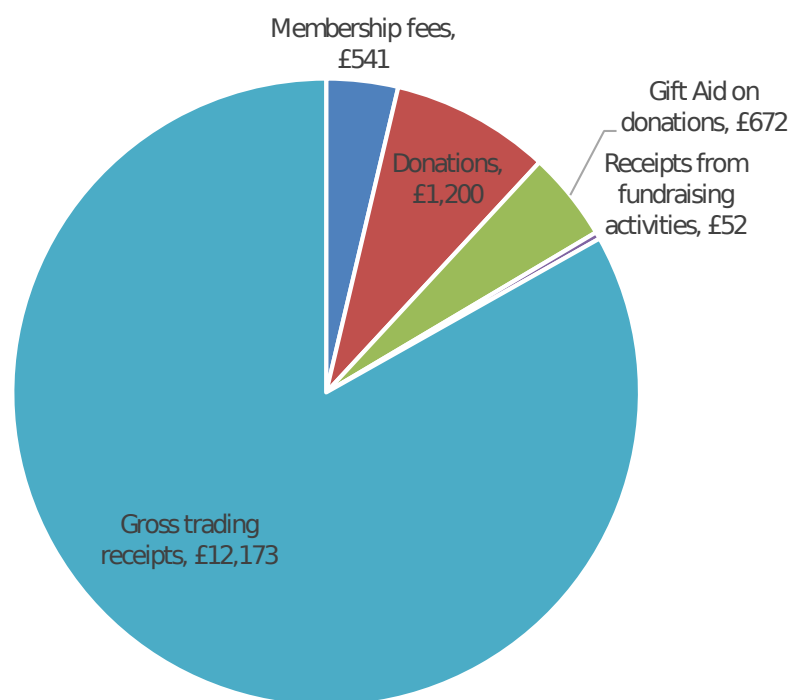
Gross trading receipts consists primarily of mooring fees, but also contains electricity bill payments from boaters using electricity. CMS pays Narrowboat Farm for electricity at the same rate, so electricity forms an equivalent part of gross trading payments, subject to timing differences in meter readings.

In addition to electricity, gross trading payments also includes hire of machinery for path improvements, insurance, waste collection, subscriptions to a financial package (Xero) and membership of the Inland Waterways Association (allowing access to IWA insurance rates).

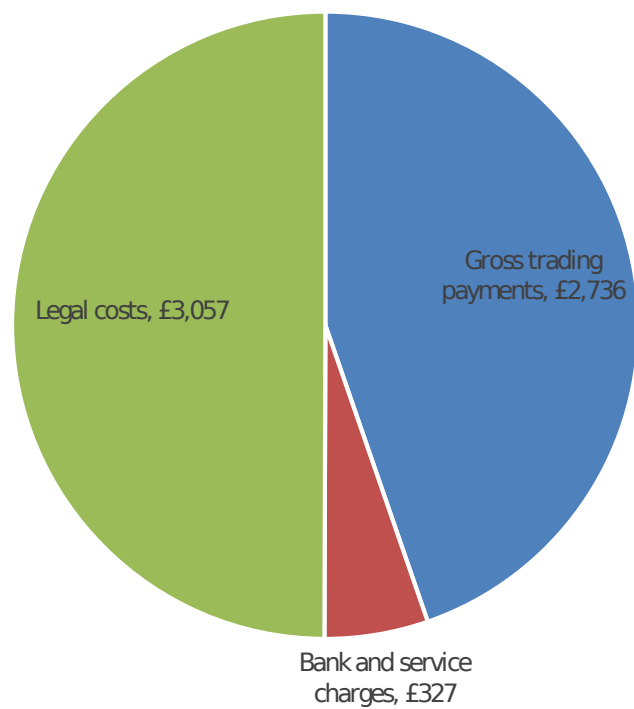
Legal and planning costs are shown, but pro-bono legal work is additional to this. This will have been very substantially higher than the chargeable work.

Considering the pro-bono legal support, donated materials used in path construction and electricity improvements, and volunteer labour, it is clear that we have benefited substantially from the kindness of others.

Income



Expenditure



Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

From its first part-year of trading, CMS does not yet have significant reserves. We had accumulated a cash balance of £12,656 at the end of October 2022, the majority of which will be invested in staff and our first site during 2023. We expect to require a reserves policy once

Details of any deficit or surplus

The previous trading year generated a surplus of £8,518. The charity has no debts.

Donated facilities and services

We did not donate any facilities or services during the year.

Annual accounts

The full annual accounts are appended as a separate document.

Future plans

Our focus in 2023-4 will continue to be improving the moorings at Narrowboat Farm – adding services and facilities along the bank to meet the needs of leisure, commercial and residential boaters alike. Subject to a positive outcome of the planning proposals submitted in 2022 we look forward to achieving residential status for five of the moorings.

With the moorings site at Narrowboat Farm a success we can look to starting conversations with stakeholders about new sites in the future.

We look forward to welcoming our first visiting boats in 2023 and we hope our Visitor mooring will be used by charity organisations based on the canals, boaters from other moorings on the Lowland Canals as well as visitors holidaying on water.

We would like to create more opportunities to bring people together to learn about the heritage and history of our Canals, about boating and a lower impact lifestyle. We will do this by holding events and workshops and taking part in events and activities organised by others.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Print name

Kristina Nitsolova

Designation

Chair

Date

16.02.2023