



Bolton Mountain Rescue Team

**Annual General Meeting
2025**





Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Changes to our Constitution
4. Minutes of the AGM 2023
5. Chair's report
6. Team Leader's report
7. Treasurer's report
8. Presentation of the Annual Accounts
9. Elections
 - a. Chair
 - b. Secretary
 - c. Trustees x 5
 - d. Assistant Operational Team Leaders x 5
10. President and Vice-President appointment
11. Presentation of awards
12. Close

Chair's Report

It has been another busy year for the trustee board and the charity as a whole. While the number of callouts for the team might be down a bit, in other areas we are busier than ever. It has been great to hear from the Team Leader over the course of the year how the Operational Team continues to develop. The leadership team model is working well, as is the sub-team model giving structure and focus to our individual specialisms such as rope rescue, medical care and now a new search team. This model was a direct result of the early work we did on separating the operational business from the governance and it's pleasing to see that working well.

On the governance side trustees to continue to focus on our strategy for Bolton @60 which we're now half-way through. This year we've continued to make good progress on risk management. This is embedded at trustee level now with regular reviews of organisational risk and safety incidents. This focus has allowed us to identify and mitigate threats, a key role of any trustee board. We have also supported the operational team in the creation of risk assessments for our team activities, and a key focus of the coming year has to be to embed the use of these across everything we do. We will never remove all risk, but we must be responsible in understanding and minimising risk as far as possible to protect our members from harm. The trustee board considered deeply the Prevention of Future Deaths report following the death of a young person on Great Orme. It was clear the Coroner felt the Scout Leaders could and should have done more to identify and mitigate the risks, and we must learn from this ourselves, the report was specifically circulated by the coroner to Mountain Rescue Teams to learn from.

But equally, trusteeship is about strategy and the future. We continue to work towards our other objectives including rolling out online banking this year and having a working budget for our finances. This has reduced financial administration and eased the process for team members to purchase the things they need to run the team. We also piloted an online expenses form which we're just rolling out to the whole team, meaning all expenses can be claimed and paid online in much shorter times.

Our officers have once again made great progress in their own fields too. On our base, we secured a new 10 year lease at Ladybridge Hall and Bolton North Fire Station which gives us some security of tenure. In parallel we are progressing the investigative work for a new base of our own, working with University of Manchester School of Architecture on designs as part of their annual student design competition. We hope this will yield a working design based on our detailed requirements which we can then use to scope costs and locations. Work has also gone on to maintain and modernise our current bases and ensure they continue to be fit for purpose and compliant with legislation.

On Digital and Data Steve and Dave Conn continue to keep us in good working order with huge amounts of behind the scenes work, the sort of thing nobody notices because they just do a good job and it works. Steve also keeps us in check with our data requirements

and obligations, another important aspect of good governance. Christine and her wellbeing team have had a bumper year with wellbeing of our members and casualties becoming a central theme within the team. When team members have been through tough times this year it has been reassuring to know that we have the structure and the people to be able to provide support and I know this has been appreciated.

On equipment we thanked Andrew Allmark for his service as Equipment Officer and his tireless work to get our new jackets and salopettes sorted before he finished. In the new year we were pleased to appoint Nathan Sturgess to the role. I know you will support him as he gets up to speed.

Andrew Manning has had a successful year as Fundraising Officer and we will be sorry to lose him from this role at the AGM. Several successful grants have been applied for and received to support our operations, as well as maintaining the regular fundraising activities that we are used to doing.

And Richard has continued to build our profile in the local area as Marketing Officer. The production of new leaflets, a new website, signage around the United Utilities land, and a new regular email to our donors are all part of raising people's awareness of our team. This has been backed up by a regular social media presence by a small and dedicated team.

I was grateful this year to Diane Blakeley and Chris Berry for taking on the coordination of our talks and visits, and to all those people who helped to deliver those activities. This is an important part of our role and without an Education Officer this is the area we are struggling with most in terms of meeting our strategic objectives. This year we may need to look at different approaches to delivering on our ambitions in this area.

In other areas of our strategy we have completed a review of our constitution and are well on with a policy review to tidy up and catalogue our policies and procedures for the team. Trustees have a Skills Matrix and Register of Interests now, and we plan a diversity review this year to understand our baseline ahead of any future recruitment to the team as a whole.

A particular highlight of the year was welcoming the Lord Lieutenant to our present King's Coronation Medals to team volunteers. This was welcome recognition of our members and the role they all play, not just the medal recipients, in supporting the local community.

As we look ahead the future is very bright indeed. We are making good progress towards our ambitious vision of our team in 2028 and this year will be no different. Thanks to the trustees, officers, and all those team members who have played their part in another fantastic year for our team.

Chris Lomas



Team Leader's Report

Another year has flown by, our 57th AGM and my second year as Team Leader comes to a close.

In 2024 we attended 44 incidents, and this year we have attended 8 to date which is a slight increase compared to this time last year. Although we remain fairly quiet, we are continuing making a big difference at the incidents we do attend which is what really matters. In particular the two recent GMP searches both of which resulted in a find. Also worthy of mention is the large scale multi agency incident in Holcombe we attended in November where we worked together really well to overcome a number of problems which were thrown at us. Joint working with our neighbouring teams is now happening more frequently which I think is a really positive step forward, and we are continuing to attend emergency service meetings to maintain and build on the links we have with other agencies, and improve their awareness of our capabilities.

We currently have a membership of 63 including operational, non-operational and Support Group members. We may be low on incidents but we continue to be busy with other activities including training, fundraising, SRCs, meetings, educational visits and maintaining, testing and inspecting our base, vehicles and equipment. Thank you all for your dedication and commitment over the last twelve months. My thanks also goes to all those who hold additional positions within the team, meaning a commitment above and beyond that of an operational or Support Group member. This includes a lot of work going on behind the scenes which not everyone will be aware of, and which is not logged on D4H.

I would like to thank all the members of the leadership group. We have worked together supporting and assisting each other to ensure the team maintains its operational capability and continues to function effectively. Well done to the new ATLs who are no longer new. They have now become embedded in their roles and are now building up their experience. Thanks to Mike Marsh for his advice and support as Deputy Team Leader, we have had many a phone call or meeting discussing many an issue and solving many a problem. His ongoing help is very welcome and much appreciated.

The Duty Leader system has now been adopted and is working well. This rotates around the seven elected Leaders enabling the day-to-day running of the team

to be managed by a different leader each week. As well as sharing out the workload, this provides experience in different areas which I believe will help future-proof the team.

A special mention needs to go to our medical and search leads Dave Cook and Mike Wakerley, and our medical equipment officer John Dickinson all who have recently taken on their new roles. Also to our training lead Jane Brocklehurst who kindly stepped in to cover the role late last year at short notice, and has since worked hard to ensure our essential team training is organised and coordinated. They have hit the ground running and are all doing a brilliant job. I fully recognise that everyone's situation can change without warning, subsequently affecting availability and attendance for team activities, and I have always been clear that work and family comes first. Please remember if this is the case, speak to us and keep us informed and we will take this into account when carrying out our attendance reviews. Please also remember that all our activities are important for the following reasons:

- To ensure our members are safe, competent, familiar with the equipment we carry and able to effectively work together.
- To ensure our equipment and vehicles are safe, inspected and maintained.
- To raise the profile of the team.
- To meet the objects of our constitution.
- To maintain relationships with other teams, other agencies, local groups and landowners.
- To raise funds for the team, without which, none of the above would be possible.

We need to work together as a team to achieve this and try not to leave certain jobs or activities to the same people. This will enable us to continue to provide the service we have done so well since the teams' formation 58 years ago.

As I have said before, one thing that doesn't change within the team is the professionalism and teamwork demonstrated when our services are called upon, and this is still the case. The feedback we continue to receive from our casualties or their relatives and from partner agencies is a credit to the hard work and dedication of this team of volunteers. A recent example of this being the very nice letter we received from the brother of the missing person we recently located following the search in Ainsworth. It continues to be an honour and a privilege to serve as part of this team's leadership and I look forward to what the next year will bring.

Chris Greenhalgh





Treasurer's Report

During 2024 we have continued to embed our risk management activities and governance of the Team. Through the Chair and with the Trustees, Trustee meetings are much more forward focusing. The development of a budget in 2024 gave budget holders more freedom to progress priorities without spending time in Trustee meetings considering how we spent relatively small amounts of money.

Financially during 2024 we continue to experience cost pressures across many aspects of our expenditure. Our overall expenditure has increased compared to 2023. The cost of running the team continues to increase, replicating the cost pressures on households.

During 2024 we received £58,157 in income and our reported total expenditure for 2024 was £56,403. Including the depreciation charge against our Tangible Assets of £14,919 our total costs in 2023 were £71,322. The year end position was that we had £1,754 more income than expenditure during 2024. When we take in to account the depreciation charge, we had £13,165 less income than expenditure. We are reporting an accounting loss for 2024. Our balance sheet, reporting our total assets stands at £233,167 at the end of 2024.

The largest single cost in 2024 related to clothing purchases at £12,542; Vehicle and Utility cost, increase considerably based on the previous year. Medical, Training and IT & Telephony all increased. Insurance charges have plateaued. Unusually we had no 'Rescue Equipment' cost, this was because of the timing of purchasing in 2023 and late 2024.

We have made some good progress with our small size (£1000 - £5000) grant applications over the last 12 months. We received no significant legacies, and our Collecting Tin income has been consistent.

'Other Income' increased, primarily through supporting the purchase of a defibrillator, at Fika café, supported by United Utilities, Rivington Heritage Trust and the community.

The Accounts make note our Debtors, which have increased this year. Our only debtor is HMRC, due to the timing of our VAT claims and historical under payments identified through review and audit. I have no concerns regarding the recovery of our debt.

The Team operates a Financial Reserves policy, reviewed bi-annually in April and October, which as expected, increased in 2024 to £52,000 aligning to our expenditure. This is a financially prudent and responsible position to take, to ensure ongoing

service provision. I expect the reserves held will not change in 2025. Financially, with regards to our held cash deposits, the team hasn't made much progress from 2023.

During 2024 we launched online banking through CAF Bank and started to digitise the accounts. The Audit activity was done electronically this year, and our online banking has been embedded. Cheque usage was almost non-existent in 2024, reducing our postal costs.

Our 2024 Audited Accounts are available on D4H under the Accounts section, there are no concerns identified, or noted, by the accountant regarding these Accounts.

2025 the year ahead ...

Looking forward I see that our costs relating to our aging Landrover fleet will continue to rise. We are planning for the fleet to be subject to rolling maintenance from Autumn 2025.

Our future base project is progressing, with scoping works finished. The Team is working with The University of Manchester School of Architecture students to support our conceptualisation and marketing activity. Our Tenancy review with NWS for our base at Ladybridge Hall has concluded and is close to signing. I expect we will see significant expenditure to support the ongoing development of our bases in 2025.

To support forward planning, we will continue to develop our budgeting / forecasting which provides more autonomy to budget holders yet gives Trustees better visibility of where we expect to spend money.

During 2025 we will continue the digitisation and online accounting activity.

We will review and reevaluate our Asset register in 2025; our Landrover fleet value, is currently undervalued in the accounts, this is due to accounting norms for depreciation calculation, as set out in the Accounts narrative. The Landrover fleet is likely to be undervalued by c.£20,000. This does not affect insurance but does impact on our Balance Sheet.

To progress our strategic ambitions, and in particular our future bases projects, we will need to considerably ramp up our fundraising activity, and large grant focus, over the next few years. This will need to be a focus for Trustees and the membership.

Fundraising and Marketing, through lectured and online presence continues to be visible, it is often hard to translate that into income, but I consider these activities to be crucial to supporting the team profile and funding, and encourage all members to support these activities as they can.

Martin Banks

Accounts Summary



Admin
£1001 (£974)



Comms
£186 (£30)



**Domestic
Cons**
£4142 (£2585)



Medical
£3165 (£700)



Training
£4240 (£2571)



Vehicle Fuel
£2124 (£4098)



Rent
£4500 (£4500)



Legal/pro fees
£850 (£1400)



IT & Telephony
£4558 (£3906)



Rescue Equip
£0 (£1293)



**Building &
Repairs**
£3439 (£1346)



Insurance
£4176 (£4170)



Depreciation
£14,919



Vehicles
£7048 (£3717)



Water Kit
£669 (£2081)



Direct Costs
£56,403

Summary

Total income

£58,157
(2023 £73,593)

Total Cost & Deprecation

£71,322
(2023 £54,525)

2024:

(2023 (£19,068))

£(13,165)

NOTE: Figures rounded

Balance Sheet

	31/12/2024		31/12/2023	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets		47,240		62,160
Current Assets				
Cash at bank and in hand	182,474		183,737	
Debtors	4,454		1,235	
		182,474		184,972
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	1000		800	
Net current assets		185,927		184,172
Total assets less current liabilities		233,167		246,332
Funds of the charity				
Unrestricted funds		180,360		193,525
Restricted funds		-		-
Revaluation Reserve		52,807		52,807
Total Charity Funds		233,167		246,332

Detailed Financial Activities

	31/12/2024		31/12/2023	
	£	£	£	£
Income		58,157		73,593
Expenditure				
Fuel	2,124		4,098	
Vehicle maintenance	7,048		3,717	
Rent	4,500		4,500	
Insurance	4,176		4,170	
Utilities	4,142		2,585	
Base repairs & maintenance	7,996		5,252	
Clothing costs	12,542		1,017	
Water recovery	669		2,081	
Ropes	-		1,293	
Training costs	4,240		2,517	
Team dinner & socials	97		-	
Catering	52		473	
Medical expenses	3,165		700	
Admin costs	1,001		974	
Communications	186		30	
Foundations course cost	-		-	
Accountancy fees	850		1,400	
Bank charges	50		10	
Depreciation on motor vehicles	14,920		19,749	
Loss on disposal of vehicle	-		-	
		71,322		54,526
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources		(13,165)		19,068

