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OSCR

Office of the Scottish **Charity Regulator**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	01	07	2024	To	30	06	2025

Reference and administration details

Charity name	Highland Basketball Club	
Other names charity is known by		
Registered charity number	**SC033881**	
Charity's principal address	Chlumas House	
	Torbreck	
	Inverness	
		Postcode IV2 6DL

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Ryan Devlin	Chairperson		
2	Lindsay Sanderson	Treasurer		
3	Jennifer Alexander			
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Reference and administration details

Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Highland Basketball Club is an unincorporated association.

It is affiliated with Basketball Scotland, the recognised national governing body for the sport of basketball in Scotland.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

The trustees during the year were those appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

The aims and objectives of the club are as follows:

1. To offer coaching, training and competitive opportunities for basketball players, coaches and officials.
2. To promote the club and basketball in the community.
3. To ensure a duty of care to all members of The Club.
4. To ensure a duty of care to all members of visiting clubs.
5. To provide all its services in a way that is fair to everyone.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

The main activities during the year were as follows:

1. Running of Senior Men, Senior Women and Under 18, Under 16, Under 14, Under 12, Under 10 and Under 8 Boys and Girls teams.
2. Supporting coaches and officials with further education opportunities.

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Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

It has been another extremely busy year for the club, with continued growth both on and off the court and, most importantly, more opportunities being provided for young people across Inverness and the wider Highlands to participate in basketball.

Club Development

Throughout 2024/25, we continued to develop our programmes across multiple age groups, supporting both boys' and girls' basketball and providing a pathway from our youngest participants through to our older competitive teams.

The growth of the club is something we should all be proud of. However, growth also brings challenges, particularly around access to suitable court space, coaching resources, officials, volunteers and the significant amount of travel required for a Highland-based club competing nationally.

Basketball & Player Development

The development of our players remains at the heart of everything we do.

Across the season, hundreds of hours of coaching, training and competition have taken place. While results and league positions are important, our measure of success goes much further than the scoreboard.

It has been particularly encouraging to see players progressing through our pathway, taking on greater challenges and representing the club at increasingly competitive levels. We had 8 players from the club represent Scotland at Home Nations tournaments.

National League Basketball

Competing in National League basketball continues to be a major commitment for Highland Bears.

Our geographic location presents challenges that clubs in Scotland's central belt do not experience to the same extent. National competition regularly requires our teams and families to travel hundreds of miles, with significant financial and time commitments attached.

Our participation at this level is important not simply because of the competition itself, but because young players growing up in the Highlands should have access to the same opportunities to compete and develop as players elsewhere in Scotland.

We remain committed to ensuring geography does not become a barrier to ambition. In season 24/25 our U16 girls proudly won the prestigious Scottish Cup, while our U18 girls reached the Playoffs. Our U14 boys also competed in their first season together as a group in SBC Division 2.

Community & Participation

While competitive basketball is an important part of Highland Bears, we are first and foremost a community basketball club.

Providing accessible opportunities for children and young people to become involved in sport remains central to our charitable purpose.

During the season, we continued to create opportunities for younger and developing players to experience basketball in an enjoyable and supportive environment. This included running the Jr NBA program in association with BasketballScotland.

Programmes, camps, development sessions and club activities are essential to the future of Highland Bears. They introduce new families to our club while giving young people somewhere to be active, build friendships and become part of a positive sporting community.

As we continue to grow, increasing participation across Inverness and reaching young people from surrounding rural communities will remain an important priority.

We closely supported schools basketball through coaching and also in an officiating capacity. Club volunteers regularly refereed school matches, with local schools who Bears support took home School Scottish Cup trophies.

Volunteers

None of what Highland Bears achieves would be possible without volunteers.

Running a basketball club involves considerably more than coaching teams. Games require table officials, referees, team managers and volunteers to set up and clear venues. Behind the scenes there is administration, fundraising, safeguarding, communications, scheduling, travel organisation and countless other jobs.

Many of these tasks happen quietly and are often unnoticed. All of this contributed to the successful year for Bears.

Facilities

Access to appropriate basketball facilities continues to be one of the biggest challenges facing the club.

As participation increases, the demand for court space increases with it. Finding sufficient, affordable and appropriate training and competition venues within Inverness remains difficult.

This is not simply an operational issue for Highland Bears; it potentially limits how many young people we can support and how far we can develop basketball within the Highlands.

We will therefore continue to work with local partners and sporting organisations to improve access to facilities and explore longer-term opportunities that can provide basketball with a stronger home in the Highlands.

Looking Forward

Our priorities remain clear: increase participation, strengthen our player pathway, continue developing girls' and boys' basketball, support our coaches and volunteers, improve access to facilities and ensure that financial circumstances or geography do not unnecessarily prevent a young person from participating.

We also want to strengthen our connections with businesses, organisations, funders and community partners across the Highlands.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	Unrestricted funds represent income received but not yet utilised in supporting charitable activities. Restricted funds represent income received for specific purposes. As at 30th June 2024 the charity was in a cash positive position.
Details of any deficit	N/A
Donated facilities and services (if any)	N/A

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Other optional information

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Lindsay Sanderson	
Position (e.g. Chair)	Treasurer	
Date	10/11/2026	