Gyllyngvase Surf Life Saving Club (CIO)

Report of the Trustees for year ending 30th September 2025

Charity number: 1210195

Registered address: 2 Gyllyngvase Road, Falmouth, TR11 4DH

Trustees:

Lois Leonard

Mark Norton

Chloe Trevail

Overview

Gyllyngvase Surf Life Saving Club provides training and services to advance lifesaving skills and amateur sport for the benefit of young people and adults in and around Falmouth, Cornwall.

Our volunteer-powered club is friendly and inclusive, operating in many ways to support both our members and the wider community:

- Providing essential training and qualifications in water safety, rescue, and first aid.
- Encouraging physical fitness and participation in lifesaving sport at local, national, and international levels.
- Supporting the local community by providing patrols, safety cover for sea-based events, and lifeguard services on beaches across Cornwall.

Our Club Structure

Gyllyngvase SLSC is made up of a diverse community of club members who work and train together to achieve our objectives.

We have 269 members, aged 6 to 68, with equal representation of girls and boys, women and men. All members are encouraged to meet charitable aims through age-appropriate voluntary work - supporting teammates, fundraising, coaching, organising activities and events, administration, and management.

Trustees ensure the club meets its charitable objectives, while the management committee oversees operations, coordinates volunteers, manages facilities and equipment, promotes club activities and achievements, and makes decisions in the best interests of members and the public.

Members aged 18+ are invited to stand for any position within the management structure. All roles—trustees and committee—are elected by club members at the Annual General Meeting.

Our Activities and Achievements

Fitness and physical training

We remain committed to providing high-quality year-round fitness training for all club members. Over 15 hours training are offered weekly, including swimming, board, surf ski, flags and circuits sessions.

Training is designed to be equitable, with resources and opportunities allocated to ensure everyone can participate and reach their goals. This is reflected in our restructured training groups, allowing those aged 14+ to choose between “fun and fitness” or “high performance” pathways.

We prioritise outdoor venues wherever possible. While winter conditions can be challenging, outdoor training helps reduce financial costs and environmental impact compared to indoor alternatives.

All sessions are coached by club volunteers. This year, we ran three Level 1 coaching courses and shared best practices to upskill our coaching team.

Sport and competition

We use sport as a method to develop fitness, skills, and resilience - ensuring our lifeguards are "rescue ready".

Members of all ages and abilities competed in local and national lifesaving events, including Cornish and National Stillwater and Ocean competitions.

We are especially proud of our Youth and Open athletes who represented Cornwall and Great Britain in international competitions such as the Celtic Cup, World Ocean Series, and European Championships. Their dedication over many years is commendable.

In addition to external competitions, we organised and hosted 12 events on our home beach, welcoming 400 participants. These events support personal development, community cohesion, and public education in surf lifesaving and water safety.

Lifesaving and Water Safety Training

Our club is a recognised provider of lifeguard and water safety training. This year, 33 members earned lifeguard qualifications certified by SLSGB, and parent helpers completed in-house tube and board rescue training.

This capability ensures our fitness and sport sessions are run safely and effectively and in addition enhances employment opportunities – our club members are highly regarded by potential employers and have gone on to secure lifeguarding roles, including with the RNLI and lifesaving services abroad.

We continue to support externally organised events in our operating area by providing water safety cover. In 2025, we enabled over 650 people to participate in swimming, triathlon, SUP, and prone board races. Many participants raised funds for other charities, and we're delighted to have facilitated their efforts.

Club Growth and Development

In 2024, we identified a barrier to full competition participation: a lack of suitable surf ski equipment. We successfully raised funds to purchase one double ski and four single skis. The double ski arrived in time for the Cornish and National competitions, allowing our youth and women's teams to compete and win medals.

Last year, members asked the committee to expand our patrol capability to better support the local community. We promptly trained three additional members as patrol leaders and developed a Patrols Operating Procedure for Swanpool, Gyllyngvase, and Castle beaches, approved by SLSGB. Further work is needed to train the patrol team, secure funding for necessary commitments, and launch formal patrols. We aim to run patrols over the Christmas and New Year "dipping" season.

Finances

2024-25 has seen significant fundraising activity by the club with the targeted aim of increasing our ski provision. This has included a successful grant bid to Paddle UK and a large Crowdfunding initiative which, including some large donations from local businesses and Sport England, raised just over £12,500. Some of this has been used to purchase a double ski (earlier in the season) and the remainder will be spent on single skis.

The following table outlines the annual finances of the club:

Income			
Category			
Membership fees		£	44,175.50
Competition fees		£	8,061.85
Donations and fundraising		£	15,828.51
Rock up and race		£	1,824.91
Endless Summer Swim		£	2,372.88
Merchandise		£	1,065.00
Refunds / corrections		£	130.00
	TOTAL:	**£**	**73,458.65**
Outgoings			
Category			
Insurance		-£	1,676.44
SLSGB affiliation fees		-£	9,285.00
Pool / facility hire		-£	28,708.89
SLS equipment		-£	7,203.28
Competition expense		-£	12,186.43
Uncategorised expenses		-£	726.72
Events		-£	7,211.26
	TOTAL:	**-£**	**66,998.02**
NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR:		**£**	**6,460.63**

Including the money raised for skis, the club income was ~£73,450 for the year to 30th September 2025, which is an increase of 13% vs the previous year. However, if the money earmarked for skis is discounted, income is about 6% lower than last year.

The total expenditure for the club in this period was ~£67,000. Club expenses have increased by 16% from 2024 (discounting double ski purchase). In the coming season, pool costs (the largest club expenditure) are increasing by a further 7% (hourly cost). Additionally, some of the equipment (racing boards and nipper boards in particular) has been well used over the last few seasons and it is likely that repair costs / replacement costs will increase over the coming year.

Whilst it will be important to continue fundraising efforts and explore other income streams in the coming year, it will also be prudent to increase membership fees to cover costs.