

Company Number: 08611744 (England and Wales)
Charity Number: 1158878

UK DEAF SPORT

Report and Accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2024

UK DEAF SPORT

Report and Accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2024

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UK DEAF SPORT

Company Information

Company Number: 08611744

Charity Number: 1158878

Registered Office

4 Grovelands
Boundary Way
Hemel Hempstead
England
HP2 7TE

Honorary President

Ms J Ounsley

Trustees

Mrs L Lill
Mr P Fitton
Mr A P Mawdsley
Mr N Brookes
Mr P Kamps
Ms A Macdonald
Ms R Foster
Mr T Burton
Mr V Pericard

Accountants

Kings Chartered Accountants
Unit 4 Grovelands
Boundary Way
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
England
HP2 7TE

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank Plc
Four Brindleyplace
Birmingham
B1 2JB

UK DEAF SPORT

Trustees' (Directors') Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2024

UK Deaf Sport Trustees' Annual Report

The Trustees present their report and the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

UK Deaf Sport (UKDS) is recognised by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) as the International Federation for Deaf Sport in the UK, and by Sport England as the National Governing Body for Deaf Sport in the UK. Established in 2003, the charity is a company limited by guarantee.

This annual report for 2023-2024 looks back at the work UKDS has undertaken to inspire the deaf community to get active, increase the number of inclusive opportunities for them to do so and support elite deaf athletes to perform on the world stage.

We have continued to work in partnership with key organisations to ensure that deaf children, young people and adults have equal opportunities to participate and excel in sport and physical activity as their hearing counterparts from grassroots to elite level through different funding programmes both online and in person. Our staff team, the UKDS Board, Committee and Advisory Group Members have been committed to delivering our Vision and Mission in 2023-24 ensuring we implement sustainable solutions that will support the deaf community to be active at all levels for years to come.

UK Deaf Sport Strategic Objectives

There are ¹12 million deaf adults in the UK and 50,000 deaf children with some of the highest inactivity levels in our society. The Sport England Active Lives Survey 2023 shows:

- 53% of people aged 16+ with a hearing impairment were inactive (less than 30 minutes a week) compared to 15% of people without a disability.
- 33% of people aged 16+ with a hearing impairment did not participate in sport or physical activity compared to 5% of people without a disability.
- Children with a hearing impairment are just as likely to be active as those without a disability, but of those children who are less active, 43% of deaf children participate in no activity at all compared to 26% of children with no disability.

UKDS's Vision is *Every Deaf Person Active and Inspired by Sport and Physical Activity*. Our Mission centres on leading opportunities for more deaf people to participate in sport throughout their lives and more deaf athletes to perform on the world stage. We continue to make the deaf community aware of opportunities to be active and encourage them to take part in sport and physical activity on a regular basis for social, physical and mental health benefits.

UKDS use the term 'deaf' to represent *all people who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a hearing loss, whether this is acquired or from birth*. This covers a range of definitions of deafness, including those who are profoundly deaf, have severe, moderate or mild hearing loss or are hard of hearing whether acquired or from birth. This includes the use of the terms Deaf and deaf whereby the use of a capital D in Deaf may denote those who identify as having a cultural and shared experience of being Deaf.

UKDS use the term 'deaf community' to represent *all people who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a hearing loss or anyone who has a lived experience of deafness such as family members, friends, allies, colleagues and other professionals*.

UKDS's strategy to achieve our vision of Every Deaf Person Active and Inspired by Sport and Physical Activity, is delivered through three key Strategic Objectives as follows:

- i. **LEADERSHIP – providing strategic, well governed leadership for deaf sport.**
- ii. **PARTICIPATION – getting more deaf people starting, staying, and supporting sport.**
- iii. **PERFORMANCE – having more deaf athletes winning medals on the world stage.**

¹ <https://mid.org.uk/get-involved/research-and-policy/facts-and-figures/prevalence-of-deafness-and-hearing-loss>

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UKDS's Operational Plan 2023-2027 shows how we will deliver our Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives from April 2023 – March 2027 including Key Results. Many of the Key Results have been delivered in 2023-24. This includes:

- Delivering our Sport England Governance Action Plan and becoming compliant with Tier 3 of the Code of Sport Governance.
- An external evaluation of the UKDS Board.
- Development of a Stakeholder Strategy.
- Establishing a Growth Plan.
- A flyer and video about UKDS for promotion and awareness.
- A poster for Audiology Centres to signpost to sport and physical activity opportunities.
- A new Partnership Agreement to formally recognise National Deaf Governing Bodies (NDGBs).
- Supporting 8 NDGBs to meet Tier 1 of the Code of Sport Governance.
- Delivering 24 training sessions across a wide range of topics to support deaf sport organisations to build their capacity and sustainability.
- A new UKDS membership offer and framework.
- A Marketing and Communications Strategy and Plan.
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Plan.
- Development of an annual UKDS survey of the deaf community to measure participation of the deaf community in sport and physical activity and barriers to getting active.
- Providing funding to thirteen deaf sport organisations to deliver sport and physical activity sessions for the deaf community and upskill deaf coaches.
- A deaf sport Activity Finder resource on the UKDS website and a Volunteer Platform.
- Establishing the Fair Play for Deaf Athletes campaign.
- Securing commercial partnerships with Ocean Outdoor and XRAI.
- Setting up a Deaflympics Organising Committee for Tokyo 2025 and recruiting a Chef de Mission.

More detail on these is included throughout this report.

UKDS is grateful for the support of its partners and funders, particularly Sport England where UKDS is a system partner until March 2027. We retain our commitment, as outlined in our Growth Plan, to reduce the reliance on the public purse to ensure the financial sustainability of the organisation including securing commercial partnerships and sponsorship opportunities. This year we have secured two new official commercial partners Ocean Outdoor and XRAI.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: LEADERSHIP

UKDS's strategic leadership objective is to provide strategic, well governed leadership for deaf sport.

In line with the UKDS Articles of Association, the UKDS Board of Trustees ensure UKDS's long-term prosperity by collectively providing oversight and directing the organisation's affairs to achieve UKDS's Vision and Mission. The Board sets and implements the overall direction and strategy of the organisation and has ultimate responsibility and liability for the decisions it makes and the actions it takes. This includes oversight of finance, risk management, equality, diversity and inclusion, governance, Board and other appointments and remuneration. UKDS's Articles of Association and Board Terms of Reference have been reviewed and updated this year.

The UKDS Board continued to meet on a bi-monthly basis both online and face to face in 2023-2024 ensuring the organisation continued to work to deliver its Vision.

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Trustees' (Directors') Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

Mr N Brookes (Chair)	(Appointed 1 November 2023)	Mr A P Mawdsley	
Mr T C W Seabrook	(Resigned January 2023)	Mr G Knight	(Resigned 25 November 2023)
Mrs L Lill		Mr P Kamps	(Appointed 8 April 2024)
Ms A Macdonald		Mr V Pericard	
Mr P Fitton		Mr T Burton	
Miss R Foster	(Appointed 13 March 2024)	Ms J Traynor	(Resigned 13 March 2024)
Mr P A Martin	(Resigned 25 November 2023)		
Mr A Breeze	(Resigned 31 July 2023)		

Trustees are all volunteers, appointed from individuals with a common interest in increasing the participation of the deaf community in sport and physical activity. Consideration is also given to the skill set each has to offer to ensure an appropriately skilled, knowledgeable Board with a diverse membership that reflects the community it serves.

None of the trustees have any beneficial interest in the company. All trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £10 in the event of a winding up.

Following an external recruitment process led by the Nominations Committee, a new Chair of the UKDS Board was appointed on 1 November 2023 as the previous Chair had reached his maximum term of office. Two new trustees were appointed in March and April 2024 respectively following an external recruitment process to identify new trustees with skills and experience in managing or overseeing performance/elite sport talent selection and pathway development to strengthen the Board in this area.

Following an external recruitment process, two new independent members were also appointed to the Finance, Audit, Risk and Governance Committee in February 2024.

The Board delegates day to day responsibility for the running and management of UKDS to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who recruits staff to fulfil specific roles and responsibilities within the charity. UKDS is a Sport England System Partner with funding for 5 years from 2022-2027 to increase our capacity and to drive progress in achieving our vision and mission and be the lead voice for deaf people in sport and physical activity. In 2023-24 as well as the CEO, the staff team has included a:

- Partnerships Manager - Participation
- Governance and Insight Manager
- Information Support Manager
- Marketing and Communications Officer (Apprenticeship)
- Business Development Manager

The Board also delegates different functions to specific Committees and Advisory Groups to assist them on relevant aspects of governance. Each Committee and Advisory Group has their own purpose and responsibilities as set out in their respective Terms of Reference all of which have been reviewed and updated this year. The Committees and Advisory Groups who have advised, supported and check/challenged the UKDS Board in key areas this year include the:

- Finance, Audit, Risk and Governance Committee responsible for overseeing and reporting to the UKDS Board in these vital areas.
- Nominations Committee responsible for advising the UKDS Board on succession planning and recruitment for the Board, Advisory Group and Committee Members and the CEO.
- Relations Advisory Group responsible for directing the strategy for relationships with UKDS partner organisations, National Governing Bodies of Sport within the UK and international sport bodies such as the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) and European Deaf Sports Organisation (EDSO).

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- Performance Advisory Group responsible for directing a strategy for high performance which will deliver podium success at Domestic and International performance levels including European, World and the Deaflympics.
- Athlete Advisory Group which provides a recognised forum for deaf athletes to come together and discuss matters affecting deaf athletes from grassroots participation to elite level and ensure the views and experiences of deaf athletes are represented in the ongoing work of UKDS.

Each Advisory Group includes a Board approved Chair, a lead Board Director and independent advisors with expertise in the relevant area.

As a result of the System Partner grant from Sport England, UKDS has to meet the requirements of Tier 3 of the Code of Sports Governance. This year, 89 governance actions as detailed in our Sport England Governance Action Plan, have been delivered. These actions involved the development/updating of policies, procedures, strategies and plans, all Board, Advisory Group and Committee Terms of Reference, Succession and People Plans, EDI Policy and Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, appointment of Lead Directors, safeguarding policies and procedures and more. Subsequently, Sport England have confirmed that UKDS is now Tier 3 compliant which is a significant achievement which UKDS are rightly proud of achieving in a short timescale.

In 2023-24 an external evaluation of the UKDS Board was undertaken. The report concluded:

“This review found a board who share a passion for the aims of UK Deaf Sport. The Board and CEO have worked effectively together during 2023 to achieve Code for Sports Governance Tier 3 status, a remarkable achievement given the size of the organisation. There has been a focus on creating strong and appropriate governance along with a structure to support it and this was evident in the results of the review. Where there are gaps in the governance structure the Board is aware and has a schedule to implement solutions, which will be near complete by November 2023.

The board is well organised by the CEO and Chair, with well-run meetings and clearly documented activity and decisions.

The board consists of high calibre individuals with a good professional skill set to support UKDS.”

The recommendations from the report are currently being delivered including annual appraisals for all Board Directors and the organisation of a Board Director Development Session.

UKDS is a very small organisation with a large remit covering all sport and physical activity across the UK at both grassroots and elite level as well as being the International Federation for Deaf Sport. Collaboration with key stakeholders and decision makers across the sport and physical activity arena is crucial to our success. Working collaboratively with partners enables UKDS to have a wider reach into localities across the UK and across the breadth of sport and physical activity providing advocacy, support, and resources for partners to work with the deaf community. Collaborative work with partners will also lead to systemic change within their organisation leaving a lasting legacy of deaf inclusion within their work themes rather than single interventions parachuted in with no lasting impact.

Our new Stakeholder Strategy, developed in 2023, identifies those key partners we will collaborate with to deliver our commitment tackling inactivity across the deaf community. This year we also have developed a new Marketing and Communications Strategy, flyer and video about UKDS to raise our profile and awareness of UKDS with those key partners as well to help us secure new commercial partnerships.

As the recognised International Federation for Deaf Sport, another of UKDS's leadership responsibilities is responsibility for the effective and timely administration of entering deaf athletes across the UK into World and European deaf sporting competitions. UKDS are also responsible for selecting and managing the DeaflympicsGB Team.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: PARTICIPATION

UKDS's strategic participation objective is to increase the number of deaf people starting, staying, and supporting sport.

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UKDS has continued to drive and increase the participation of deaf people in sport and physical activity during this reporting period. The following details the key highlights of the participation work delivered by UKDS with support from our funders including Sport England and Comic Relief.

Comic Relief

The remainder of our funding grant from Comic Relief supported the development of our new Deaf People's Inclusion in Sport online training modules and a new Marketing and Communications Strategy and Action Plan this year. The strategy focuses on raising awareness of:

- Opportunities for the deaf community to get active and promoting the positive impact of sport and physical activity for deaf people.
- Deaf sport at grassroots and elite level including the Deaflympics and other world class deaf sporting events.
- UKDS as the recognised and respected leader for deaf sport across the UK and internationally.
- The DeaflympicsGB Team.

Together Fund Final Phase

UKDS has successfully delivered our activities for the Sport England Together Fund Final Phase funding in 2023. The aim of the funding was to increase the resilience, capacity and capability of delivery bodies delivering sport and physical activities to the deaf community.

In 2023, the thirteen projects awarded funding from the Together Fund to deliver sport and physical activity sessions for the deaf community and upskill deaf coaches were delivered. These projects included a South Asian Deaf Women's Walking Group being delivered by Bolton Deaf Society, upskilling a deaf rowing coach to deliver sessions to the deaf community through the ELREM Foundation and funding to support Surbiton Deaf Badminton Club. To demonstrate the impact of the funding, each project completed a case study to show the impact their funding had on tackling inactivity so that the learnings from their project could be disseminated to other sport and physical activity providers delivering activities for the deaf community. These were collated to produce an Impact Report. Case study videos were also made to showcase three of the projects. The video case studies and Impact Report can be viewed at <https://ukdeafsport.org.uk/case-studies/>

As well as the onward funding awarded to thirteen partners, UKDS received resilience funding from the Together Fund to support sustainability and capacity building within deaf sport organisations. This funding was used by UKDS to deliver the following in 2023-24:

- 25 training sessions for deaf sport organisations across a variety of topics including safeguarding, risk assessments, financial sustainability and volunteer management. These topics were identified following the training needs analysis completed earlier in 2023.
- Supporting 8 deaf sport organisations to meet the requirements of Tier 1 of the Code for Sport Governance. This will enable them to improve their governance and apply for their own funding from sources such as Sport England. Each organisation has an Action Plan and are being supported with templates and guidance documents.
- A volunteer finder platform for deaf sport organisations to recruit volunteers and grow their internal capacity accessed via the UKDS website: [Volunteer Platform - UK Deaf Sport](#)
- An Activity Finder that includes deaf friendly sport and physical activity opportunities that can be found by activity or geography on the UKDS website: [UK Deaf Sport Activity Finder](#)
- The design of a poster to be placed in Audiology Centres, Deaf Centres and with other non-traditional partners to promote UKDS and raise awareness of deaf sport and physical activity opportunities.
- A networking day for deaf sport organisations to come together face to face, share best practice and learn from each other's methods of engaging the deaf community into activity.
- A flyer about UKDS.

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All Together Fund Final Phase delivery was completed in 2023-24.

Swim England – The Ripple Effect

Swim England launched The Ripple Effect to get disabled volunteers into technical and official roles around the pool including swimming, diving and artistic swimming. The programme funded training and Swim England Membership for the volunteers.

UKDS identified several deaf participants for this programme to take part in focus groups to identify and address the barriers to participation and to go on to complete their volunteer training later in 2023. One of the profoundly deaf participants, Ryan Carstairs, won the Sport and Recreation Alliance 2024 Inspiration of the Year Award for his work training to become a timekeeper and judge with Swim England's Ripple Effect Project.

Other Partnership Work

Throughout 2023-24, UKDS has continued to create new partnerships and sustain those that are helping to achieve our vision of *Every Deaf Person Active and Inspired by Sport and Physical Activity*. With our partners, we address inequalities in sport and physical activity and inactivity within the deaf community. To do this, we have engaged with a wide range of partners from both the sport and non-traditional sectors. This has been aided this year by the creation of a new Stakeholder Strategy highlighting key partners as well as target areas to also allow us to work within a placed based approach.

Through our CEO and Partnerships Manager - Participation, UKDS has continued to create and develop partnerships with National Governing Bodies (NGBs), Active Partnerships, national deaf charities such as SignHealth, RNID and NDCS, National Disability Sporting Organisations (NDSOs) and other deaf specific sport organisations such as England Deaf Golf, England Deaf Basketball, UK Deaf Athletics and GB Deaf Football. UKDS also became a member of the BSL Alliance.

UKDS has continued to work with our partners to develop their working practices to be more inclusive for deaf participants. This included the launch of the new Deaf People's Inclusion in Sport eLearning course in collaboration with Accelerate Sport and eCoach. It is designed to help hearing coaches and volunteers understand the barriers faced by deaf people to be active and how they can break down these barriers in their sessions. This training is supporting increased engagement and participation by highlighting adaptations, considerations and top tips for working with deaf participants. Through the Together Fund Final Phase, UKDS funded 200 places on this course for our partners. It is available for coaches and volunteers of any sport or physical activity to access [here](#).

Further examples of our partnership work undertaken to increase participation in 2023-24 includes:

- **Active Partnerships- Active Sussex and GM Moving**

Using the NHS Hearing Loss Data Tool, UKDS identified Greater Manchester and Sussex as priority areas to work having a large number of deaf people residing in those areas. Relationships were formed with the Active Partnerships in those areas, Greater Manchester Moving and Active Sussex, to help UKDS effectively engage their local deaf communities.

Within these localities, UKDS are using a test and learn approach to working with GM Moving and Active Sussex to engage their local NHS Trusts and Audiology Centres to promote the importance of being physically active to their deaf service users.

To do this, mapping is being undertaken of the current deaf friendly and inclusive provision taking place in these counties to add these to the [UK Deaf Sport Activity Finder](#). From this a link to the Activity Finder will be displayed on the new UKDS 'Get Active' Poster in the Audiology Centres in their areas to signpost users to their local deaf friendly activities. To help embed the importance of being physically active, both Active Partnerships have also committed to delivering Clinical Champion Training to staff within the Audiology Centres so that they feel confident to have conversations with users about the importance of being physically active and be able to effectively signpost them to local provision. Finally, to ensure there is support in place for deaf people who want to be physically active, local social prescribers are also being consulted as part of this work so that they are also able to support deaf people into sport and physical activity.

In 2024-25 this approach and the learning will be used to replicate this work with other Active Partnerships.

- **Youth Sport Trust**

All National Disability Sport Organisations are currently working with the Youth Sport Trust to create bespoke impairment specific webpages on their School Games website. These pages are aimed at School Games Organisers who deliver school sport competitions across the school year. The intention of the webpages is to ensure that all competitions being delivered are inclusive to disabled children and that impairment specific information on how to adapt competitions is readily available.

We have worked with the Youth Sport Trust to ensure they include information on points to consider when delivering activities for deaf young people, key facts about deafness e.g. how many deaf children attend mainstream schools, as well as useful resources such as the BSL Compilations page on the UKDS website- <https://ukdeafsport.org.uk/compilation-of-bsl/>. The Youth Sport Trust webpages are designed to signpost School Games Organisers to the UKDS website for further information and support, such as our Deaf People's Inclusion in Sport eLearning programme.

- **National Governing Bodies**

As part of our work to make sport and physical activity more inclusive for deaf participants, we have continued to work with National Governing Bodies. Below are a few examples from 2023-24:

- ✓ Delivered a workshop to British Orienteering members on how to be deaf friendly.
- ✓ UKDS worked with Manchester Football Association (MFA) to create FA Just Play sessions with deaf centres in their local area. This allows activity to take place in areas the deaf community already access services, rather than expecting inactive participants to attend sport sessions specifically. For example, we connected Manchester FA to Manchester Deaf Centre and Bolton Deaf Society to offer football provision. UKDS will share these learnings with The FA and other County FAs so that this can be upscaled and replicated across the country.
- ✓ Supported Pickleball England to create a Deaf Advisory Group to grow the provision of the sport.
- ✓ Supported Paddle UK with a deaf inclusion guide they have created for internal staff and community engagement.
- ✓ Working with British Triathlon to understand the barriers that deaf people face in accessing triathlon. UKDS and British Triathlon engaged deaf triathletes to understand the challenges and barriers that exist to them participating and work is ongoing to make British Triathlon events more accessible, deaf friendly and inclusive.
- ✓ Working with England Deaf Basketball and England Basketball to understand how England Basketball can better support England Deaf Basketball.
- ✓ UKDS is working with England Netball in Greater Manchester to create the first deaf netball session in the County linking with an existing para netball club and in the East Midlands to support the development of a new deaf netball club who want to attract new participants.

- **Working with RNID and SignHealth**

UKDS has continued to create partnerships and work with other national deaf charities who have additional contact points with the deaf community and can help to promote the work of UKDS and engage deaf participants. RNID share UKDS's Volunteer Platform and Activity Finder services through their Knowledge Hub, newsletters and local community groups. SignHealth share opportunities to get active through their therapy and domestic abuse services. Working with these organisations help UKDS reach wider audiences to ensure the wider deaf community are aware of opportunities to be active to improve both their physical and mental health.

UK Deaf Sport Membership Offer

In January 2024, UK Deaf Sport launched our new membership offer that is reflective of the needs of the deaf sport and physical activity community. The new [UK Deaf Sport membership offer](#) ensures that the needs of the deaf sport and physical activity community are met through education, guidance, support and promotion. Four new membership categories are now in place with specialised benefits for each category:

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- Individual Supporter (parents, family members, deaf community)
- Individual Athlete/Coach (deaf sport athletes/coaches with no Governing Body/deaf sport organisation)
- Activity Provider (deaf sport clubs, Deaf Centres, Schools, Colleges, Universities)
- Governing Body (National Deaf Governing Bodies and National Governing Bodies)

A sample of current members were consulted on the new membership framework before release to ensure that the membership framework provided benefits they would find valuable and that would support them to sustain their organisation and increase participation.

As part of this membership offer, Activity Provider and Governing Body Members will be able to attend monthly Sport England Buddle sessions delivered by D&H Trailblazers in British Sign Language. Members were surveyed to identify which sessions would be most beneficial to their organisations.

UKDS Participation Survey

In early 2024, UKDS developed a survey to measure participation of the deaf community in sport and physical activity. This survey will enable UKDS to understand further the barriers to participation in sport and physical activity for deaf participants with different levels of hearing loss and understand how intersectionality, age and geographical factors impact on participation. This survey went live in May 2024 and the findings will be reported later in 2024 and used to target participation work in 2024-25.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: PERFORMANCE

UKDS's strategic performance objective is getting more deaf athletes winning medals on the World stage. The Performance Advisory Group directs UKDS's overall strategy for elite performance with the aim of delivering podium success at European and World level and the Deaflympics.

UKDS is recognised by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) as the International Federation for Deaf Sport in the UK, and by Sport England as the National Governing Body for Deaf Sport. UKDS are responsible for ensuring good governance including the administration of deaf sport teams competing abroad at both a British and Home Nation level. UKDS is also responsible for the selection and management of the DeaflympicsGB Team, the official team that represents Great Britain at the Summer and Winter Deaflympics.

UKDS has been a member of the ICSD since March 2006 and a member of the European Deaf Sport Organisation (EDSO) since 2006. The ICSD is the International Federation for Deaf Sport responsible for organising World deaf sporting events including the International Olympic Committee sanctioned, Deaflympics. EDSO organises European deaf sport championships under the auspices of ICSD. UKDS attended the ICSD Congress in person in March 2024 representing GB.

UKDS is responsible for the effective and timely administration of deaf athletes across the UK wanting to take part in World and European deaf sporting competitions in the sports that fall under the remit of ICSD. This includes responsibility for entering all deaf athletes and ensuring they meet the ICSD criteria for eligibility (a hearing loss of at least 55dB in the better ear - 3 tone frequency average of 500, 1,000 and 2,000 Hertz, ANSI 1969 standard).

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In 2023-24 UKDS entered teams into the following international deaf sport championships:

Event	Entries	Success
Deaf Champions League Football, June 2023, Poland	Two England Teams competed: Farsley Celtic DFC and St John's DFC.	Farsley Celtic DFC came tenth place St John's DFC came fifth place
EDSO Golf Championships, July 2023, Finland	England Deaf Golf sent three athletes.	One player came first place in the Stableford Cup.
ICSD World Swimming Championships, August 2023, Argentina	Two GBR athletes competed.	Some PB records.
EDSO Athletics Championships, August 2023, Poland	Three athletes competed.	One Silver in the W1500m and one Bronze medal in the M5000km.
EDSO Athletics Youth Championships 2023 Poland	One athlete competed.	Bronze in the U20 W 800m.
World Deaf Football Championships, September 2023, Malaysia	Two teams attended.	England Deaf Men came tenth and England Women came fourth.
World Tennis Championships, September 2023, Greece	Five athletes competed with the LTA	Silver medal for the mixed doubles.
World Youth Tennis Championships, September 2023, Greece	Two athletes competed with the LTA.	
World Futsal Championships, November 2023, Brazil	Two teams attended.	England Women won the bronze medal, England men came ninth place.
Deaf Champions League U21 Futsal, December 2023	One team entered.	Derby Deaf FC came eighth place.
Deaf Champions League Futsal, February 2024	One team attended.	St Albans DFC came seventh place.
Winter Deaflympics, March 2024, Turkey	One team attended – Women's Futsal.	GB Deaf Women came fourth place.

There is a full calendar of international deaf sport championships taking place in 2024-25. The UK will have athletes competing in events across a range of deaf sports including the following:

Event	Entries
Deaf Champions League Football, Greece, April 2024	Three English football teams entered: - Farsley Celtic FDC - Barnet DFC - St Johns FC
EDSO Football Championships Turkey, May 2024	Three Home Nations Teams attending: - England Deaf Men - Wales Deaf Men - Scotland Deaf Men
EDSO Tennis Championships Austria, June 2024	Four athletes attending with LTA.
ICSD World Deaf Athletics Championships and Youth Championships, Taipei July 2024	Two athletes attending.
ICSD World Deaf Sailing Championships 2024, Lithuania.	Team attending.
World Deaf Golf Championships, August 2024, Australia	Team attending with England Deaf Golf.
EDSO U21 Deaf Futsal Championships 2024	Cancelled.
EDSO Table Tennis Championships 2024, Greece Oct 2024	Three athletes attending.
DCL Futsal 2025	TBC

UKDS selects and manages the DeaflympicsGB Team. The next Deaflympics is in Tokyo in November 2025. This year a Deaflympics Organising Committee has been established and a Chef de Mission recruited for leading the preparations for the GB Team.

Unlike other disabilities, elite deaf athletes continue to be neither recognised nor supported by the UK Government. In November 2023, following unsuccessful meetings with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) throughout 2023 to ask them to end the discrimination against elite deaf athletes, UKDS launched the Fair Play for Deaf Athletes Campaign with an accompanying petition. As part of this campaign, UKDS are requesting a policy change that would see parity for elite deaf athletes in line with their Olympic and Paralympic counterparts. To date despite much work and lobbying with MPs and a meeting with the Sports Minister, a policy change has still not been made. The Fair Play for Deaf Athletes Campaign will continue into 2024-25.

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Partnership Agreements to Recognise National Deaf Governing Bodies

UKDS works in partnership with key organisations to ensure that deaf children, young people and adults have equal opportunities to participate and excel in sport and physical activity as their hearing counterparts from grassroots to elite level.

UKDS want to recognise a lead organisation for each deaf sport and physical activity to work in partnership with to increase and support the participation of deaf children, young people and adults at all levels from grassroots to elite. This organisation will be the recognised governing body for that deaf sport at a Home Nation or GB level or both and will be called a National Deaf Governing Body (NDGB).

A new Partnership Agreement has been established that provides a mutually beneficial framework for UKDS and the NDGB to work together and sets out the responsibilities of both parties. This Partnership Agreement will be signed with key deaf sport organisations in 2024-25.

Financial Review

The charity has been successful in delivering activities to support the participation of the deaf community in sport and physical activity primarily through funding from Sport England. The result for the year shows a deficit of £73,192 (2023: £143,751 surplus). Restricted funds stand at £70,373, with a surplus in general reserves of £39,918.

It is the Reserves Policy of the charity to have unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use at a level equivalent to three month's immediate closure expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised or if necessary, support a managed closedown. This level of reserves has not yet been achieved and efforts are continuing to secure funding to be able to meet this level of reserves.

Principal Sources of Income

The principal source of income for the year has been the System Partner funding awarded by Sport England. Additionally, Sport England was the funder for the Together Fund Final Phase. Funding from Comic Relief has supported the development of our Deaf People's Inclusion in Sport online training and Marketing and Communications Strategy and Action Plan.

Risk Assessment

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed. A Risk Management Strategy and comprehensive Risk Register is in place which clearly identifies the major risks facing the charity. Both were reviewed and updated in 2023-24. It describes and evaluates the steps to be taken to manage and mitigate those risks and provides an action plan to address any improvements required. The Finance, Audit, Risk and Governance Committee lead and advise the UKDS Board on this area of work.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees, who are also the directors of UKDS for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees, to prepare accounts for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these accounts the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principals of the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

UK DEAF SPORT

Trustees' (Directors') Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure the accounts have been properly prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The Directors have taken advantage of section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006 which exempts the company from the requirement to have the accounts audited.

The Company is required to have an Independent Examination in accordance with the provisions in the Charities Act 2011. Accordingly, Ian Stacey FCA, of Kings CAP Ltd, Chartered Accountants, was appointed Independent Examiner.

By Order of the Board:



.....
Mr N Brookes

Trustee and Director

Date: 11 December 2024

UK DEAF SPORT

Independent Examiner's Report

To The Trustees of UK DEAF SPORT

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of UK Deaf Sport

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024, charity number 1158878, company number 08611744 which are set out on pages 13 to 19.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

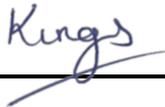
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Ian Stacey FCA
Kings Chartered Accountants
Unit 4 Grovelands
Boundary Way
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP2 7TE

Date **11 December 2024**

UK DEAF SPORT

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Incoming resources from:	Notes	2024 Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Restricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Restricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
Donations and legacies	2	16,048	-	16,048	3,819	-	3,819
Charitable activities	3	2,000	244,974	246,974	2,000	440,492	442,492
Total Incoming Resources		<u>18,048</u>	<u>244,974</u>	<u>263,022</u>	<u>5,819</u>	<u>440,492</u>	<u>446,311</u>
Resources expended from:							
Costs of charitable activities	4	(8,030)	(328,184)	(336,214)	(6,961)	(295,599)	(302,560)
Total resources expended		<u>(8,030)</u>	<u>(328,184)</u>	<u>(336,214)</u>	<u>(6,961)</u>	<u>(295,599)</u>	<u>(302,560)</u>
Net movements in funds	11 & 12	10,018	(83,210)	(73,192)	(1,142)	144,893	143,751
Total Surplus at 1 April 2023		28,089	155,394	183,483	23,208	16,524	39,732
Transfer between funds		1,811	(1,811)	-	6,023	(6,023)	-
Total Surplus at 31 March 2024		<u>39,918</u>	<u>70,373</u>	<u>110,291</u>	<u>28,089</u>	<u>155,394</u>	<u>183,483</u>

The Statement of Financial Activities has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

The notes on pages 15 to 19 form part of these accounts.

UK DEAF SPORT

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	8		86		604
			86		<u>604</u>
Current Assets					
Debtors	9	4,379		2,141	
Cash at bank and in hand		121,634		188,832	
		<u>126,013</u>		<u>190,973</u>	
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due within one year	10	(15,808)		(8,094)	
		<u></u>		<u></u>	
Net Current Assets			110,205		182,879
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities			<u>110,291</u>		<u>183,483</u>
Net Assets			<u>110,291</u>		<u>183,483</u>
			=====		=====
Funds of the Charity					
Restricted Funds	12		70,373		155,394
Unrestricted Funds	11		39,918		28,089
Total Charity Funds			<u>110,291</u>		<u>183,483</u>
			=====		=====

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 11 December 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
Mr N Brookes– Trustee and Director

The notes on pages 15 to 19 form part of these accounts.

UK DEAF SPORT

Notes forming part of the Accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Principal Accounting Policies

Company Information

UK Deaf Sport is a private charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England & Wales. The registered office is at Unit 4 Grovelands, Boundary Way, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, England, HP2 7TE.

Accounting Convention

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with; the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Charities Act 2011. The accounts include the results of the company's operations, which are described in the Trustees' Annual Report, all of which are continuing. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

Going Concern

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis which assumes that the charitable company will continue to operate for the foreseeable future. The Trustees and Directors consider that the available reserves and the availability of continued financial support, including securing funding for a five-year term from Sport England from 1 April 2022, will ensure the required working capital be in place for the company to continue operations for the foreseeable future. This is based on the Trustees and Directors opinion that the activity will continue to grow with increased publicity and support of their charitable activities.

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the company is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income from charitable trading activities is recognised when the related goods and services have been completed and dispatched.

Income from grants and other donations which are of a voluntary nature are recognised when the charitable company has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date and receipt is probable. Grants received for future accounting periods are deferred.

Income from grants, and similar income where conditions for payment are linked to performance, are recognised to the extent that the charity has met the conditions.

Income from donated facilities is recognised when the charitable company utilises the facilities with the fair value being recognised as incoming resources and expended resources simultaneously, as appropriate.

Resources Expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis, recognised when a liability is incurred, and classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand and deposits held with banks.

Basic Financial Assets

Basic financial assets, which include bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction cost and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

UK DEAF SPORT

Notes forming part of the Accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2024

4 Resources Expended: Charitable Activities

	England	Wales	Scotland	North Ireland	Other	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	190,979	10,586			164	201,729	138,236
Research and partnership	2,280					2,280	7,977
Website and IT costs	5,910					5,910	6,066
Interpreters	13,103	2,702				15,805	17,949
Support services	27,918				145	28,063	48,914
Affiliations and subscriptions					1,877	1,877	2,166
Other charitable expenditure		63,272	8,253			71,525	79,452
Independent examiner's fees	1,800					1,800	1,800
	<u>241,990</u>	<u>76,560</u>	<u>10,439</u>			<u>328,989</u>	<u>300,098</u>

5 Net movement in funds:

Net movement in funds is stated after charging:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent Examiner's remuneration	<u>1,800</u>	<u>1,800</u>

6 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year in their capacity as Trustees.

UK DEAF SPORT

Notes forming part of the Accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2024

7 Employees

The average monthly number of persons employed by the company during the year was:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Administrative staff	5	4
	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
	=====	=====

The aggregate remuneration comprised:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries	165,498	91,816
Social security costs	11,157	3,494
Pension costs	6,339	2,743
Contractors	18,735	40,183
	<u>201,729</u>	<u>138,236</u>
	=====	=====

No individual employee's total benefits exceeded £60,000 during the year (2023: None).

8 Tangible Fixed Assets

	Office Equipment £
Cost	
As at 1 April 2023	1,553
Additions in the year	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,553</u>
	=====
Depreciation	
As at 1 April 2023	949
Charge for the year	<u>518</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,467</u>
	=====
Net book value	
At 31 March 2024	86
	=====
At 31 March 2023	<u>604</u>
	=====

9 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other debtors and prepayments	4,379	2,141
	<u>4,379</u>	<u>2,141</u>
	=====	=====

UK DEAF SPORT

Notes forming part of the Accounts

For the year ended 31 March 2024

10	Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
		£	£
	Trade Creditors	6,417	3,689
	Other Creditors	5,508	2,204
	Accruals	3,883	2,201
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		15,808	8,094
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

11 Unrestricted Funds

	At 1 April 2023 £	Transfer between funds	Net Movement in Funds £	As at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted Funds – General Fund	28,089	1,811	10,018	39,918

12 Restricted Funds

	At 1 April 2023 £	Transfer between funds	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 March 2024 £
Sport England	64,882		244,974	246,062	63,794
Together Fund – Final Phase	72,076			72,076	-
Comic Relief	6,503			5,471	1,035
Together Fund – Phase 4	4,552			4,552	-
Ringfenced Reserves	5,570	57		80	5,544
London Sport	1,811	(1,811)			-
	155,394	(1,754)	244,974	(328,241)	70,373

13 Called up share capital

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. Under the provisions of the company's memorandum of association, each member would be required to contribute a sum not exceeding £10 for the payment of debts of the company in the event of a deficiency of assets on a winding up of the company.

14 Control

The charity has been controlled throughout the year by the trustees, whom are identified in the company information.

15 Transactions with Trustees and Related Parties

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from employment with the Charity or any related entity, unless otherwise disclosed.