

Bristol Bike Café Community Interest Company (trading as Roll for the Soul)

CIC registered in England 08205951

Year from April 2014 to March 2015

Part 1: General description of the company's activities and impact

The company's core operations are running a café, bike repair workshop and event space.

The most obvious direct benefit of company operations to Bristol's cycling community is servicing and repairing bicycles. In the year April 2014 to March 2015, Roll for the Soul's mechanics serviced and/or repaired 1,017 bikes. This number includes 20 one-to-one maintenance tuition sessions where a customer worked with a mechanic to learn the skills to maintain their own bike.

While we normally charge for servicing and repairs, we differ from conventional bike shops in having an open workshop, where customers are able to watch repairs and talk to mechanics while they work. We also try to be more accessible in terms of dealing with walk-in jobs on the spot and allowing people to borrow tools for their own repairs. Although we do not keep records of people helped in this way, we estimate that an average of three people per week borrow tools for their own simple repairs, equating to 156 during the period covered by this report.

The retail side of our workshop operation focuses on practical everyday cycling items such as locks (which are always sold at 20% below recommended retail price), lights, pumps and mudguards. Decisions about what to stock are guided by the principle that we want to make cycling safer, more comfortable and more enjoyable so that people will ride their bikes more often and with more confidence.

As well as one-to-one maintenance sessions, we deliver basic maintenance courses for organisations wishing to equip their staff or members with bike maintenance skills. We do not offer public maintenance courses as we avoid activities which might take business away from our partners at The Bristol Bike Project (CIC registered in England 07578755). During financial year 14/15 we were paid to deliver 17 courses for University of Bristol and University of the West of England, with a total of 51 participants. We also delivered one course free of charge for the Bristol Breeze women's cycling group as a form of in-kind support for their activities, as well as one free course for Bristol Cycling Campaign and a further course for the University of Bristol Cycling Club.

As well as delivering our own bike-related activities, we seek to support other cycling organisations in Bristol, especially non-profits, charities and voluntary groups. While we did not generate enough surplus in financial year 14/15 to pass any money to other organisations to fund their work, we provided in-kind support in the following ways.

- Providing free meeting and event space to Bristol Cycling Campaign, amounting to 48 hours (valued at £960 had we charged).
- Providing free meeting space to The Bristol Bike Project, amounting to 18 hours (valued at £360 had we charged).
- Providing free meeting space to Bristol Cycle Festival, amounting to 11 hours (valued at £148.50 had we charged).
- Providing free space for a number of events run by Lifecycle UK for its Bike Minded project (which uses cycling to provide support to people suffering from mental health problems) and Two's Company project (which pairs sighted riders with partially-sighted or blind riders on tandems, so that the latter can enjoy cycling).
- Providing signposting and information about volunteering opportunities at The Bristol Bike Project and Lifecycle UK, as well as promoting their trading activities.
- Providing information about cycling events in Bristol and the West Country, and publicising on behalf of Bristol City Council consultations on infrastructure projects likely to affect cyclists.
- Providing a mailbox and storage space for Bristol Cycling Campaign.

Although the company was established primarily to serve Bristol's cycling community, its Articles of Association also refer more broadly to "the people of Bristol". During financial year 14/15, we sought to benefit this broader community in a number of ways.

- We paid all employees at least the living wage (£7.65 per hour at the beginning of the year, rising to £7.85 from November 2014).
- We host a memory café for Bristol Alzheimer's Society (a monthly informal drop-in session for people with early-onset dementia and their carers).
- We have provided exhibition space for local artists and photographers, including A- and AS-Level students who have to organise an exhibition in a public space as part of their courses assessment.
- We have provided free venue space for fundraising events (e.g. live music shows raising funds for the Nepal earthquake appeal and Calais Refugee Action; and clothes swaps for Labour Behind the Label, which campaigns for better working conditions in the garment industry). We have also provided free meeting space for Positive Money Bristol, Friends of the Earth and Fin Fighters (a marine conservation charity).

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- We accept and promote the Bristol Pound (£B), a complementary currency which keeps money in the local economy and helps local businesses to support each other. We actively seek suppliers who accept £B.
- We seek to provide an inclusive environment where anyone feels welcome and nobody is discriminated against. This is reflected in our events programme and in the organisations with whom we work.
- We buy produce from local non-profit growing projects (e.g. Edible Futures CIC, registered in England 08010554). We have also provided free meeting space to local food projects (e.g. FoodCycle, registered in England charity 1134423 and Sim's Hill Shared Harvest, a local Community Supported Agriculture project).
- We always respond positively to requests for assistance in setting up social enterprises similar to our own. During the period covered by this report, we met with three people from different parts of the UK who were seeking to open not-for-profit bike cafes/workshops and had long email exchanges with four others, providing our financial model and sharing our learning.
- We have given time to present at Bristol and Bath Social Enterprise Network events. We seek to demonstrate and promote the idea of social enterprise and people's understanding of it.
- We provide an environment in which informal business meetings (both social enterprise and non-social enterprise) happen on a daily basis, providing an inspiring environment for innovation, creativity and change for good.
- We provide a platform for local music and musicians, offering free performance space for people wishing to promote all-ages, free-entry shows.

Part 2: Consultation with stakeholders

The company's main stakeholders include Bristol Cycling Campaign, The Bristol Bike Project, Bristol Cycle Festival and Lifecycle UK: all non-profit/voluntary cycling organisations in Bristol. We work closely with each of these groups to ensure that our services complement theirs rather than taking business away from them. We actively promote their projects and services both in our premises and via social media. We also work closely with Bristol City Council to publicise local sustainable transport initiatives and consultations to which cyclists may like to respond.

We maintain active social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter) via which we engage with customers and other stakeholders. We always respond to feedback - positive or negative - and act upon it where necessary.

Part 3: Directors' remuneration

Director's remuneration, paid entirely as salary, amounted to ££27,943. (This was paid to two directors for work done in the café and workshop and managing the business. Nothing was paid for directors' duties outside of hours on the rota.)

Part 4: Transfer of assets

No transfer of assets other than for full consideration has been made. (This means that we have not made any donations to outside bodies and that anything we've sold has been sold at the full market value.)