

Aberdeen Strathspey & Reel Society



Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements For the Year Ended 28th February 2025

Scottish Charity No SC011924

Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 28th February 2025

Reference and Administration Details

<u>Charity Name</u>	Aberdeen Strathspey & Reel Society
<u>Registered Charity Number</u>	SC011924
<u>Principal & Communication Address</u>	Drumnaclamhen, North Tillydaff Midmar, Inverurie, AB51 7LS

Trustee Name	Office Held	Period Office Held		
Thomas Cumming	President	01 03 2024	to	28 02 2025
Graham Reid	Vice President	01 03 2024	to	28 02 2025
Kathleen Falconer	Secretary	01 03 2024	to	28 02 2025
Nigel Robin Ferguson	Treasurer	01 03 2024	to	28 02 2025
Ian Bowman	Assistant Secretary	01 03 2024	to	28 02 2025
Sheila Reid	Conductor	01 03 2024	to	28 02 2025
Marion Ford	Committee Member	01 03 2024	to	28 02 2025
Emma McPherson	Committee Member	01 03 2024	to	28 02 2025
Fiona Dunbar	Committee Member	01 03 2024	to	28 02 2025
Linda Shepherd	Committee Member	01 03 2024	to	29 04 2024
Kiera Percival	Committee Member	29 04 2024	to	28 02 2025

The Trustees resigned and were re-appointed or newly elected on 29/05/24 at the Society's AGM.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Society is an unincorporated charitable association governed by its Constitution & Rules

Office Equipment

The Committee is responsible for managing the affairs of the Society and is elected from the Society's members at the Annual General Meeting.

Certain Committee positions are restricted to Life or Ordinary playing members and no more than two non-playing members may serve on the committee at any time.

All members of the Committee resign and are eligible for re-election annually apart from the President and Vice President who must resign if they have served 5 consecutive years.

The Committee has the power to fill any vacancies arising during the year.

The induction process for committee members includes providing them with a copy of the latest full annual report and financial statements, the Constitution & Rules, and "Guidance for Charity Trustees" published by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

Objectives and Activities

Society's Charitable Purposes

The Society is established to :-

- a) form and maintain orchestras for promoting the practice and performance of primarily Scottish Music in order that:-
 - 1) the community's interest in such music shall be encouraged and advanced by way of private and public concerts given by the Society or under its auspices;
 - 2) the playing of traditional music shall likewise be preserved and encouraged;
- b) further any charitable purpose or purposes as the Committee in their absolute discretion shall think fit but in particular through the making of grants and donations.

Summary of Main Activities of the Society in relation to these objects

Three orchestras are currently maintained - one for all playing members and two for the junior members of different age groups. There is also a sub-group of main orchestra members called "The Afternoon Group" who regularly visit, by invitation, Care Homes and Social Enterprises throughout the year to play short concerts for them.

The Society performs at numerous public and private concerts primarily for entertaining but may also incorporate fund raising objectives.

The committee ensures its activities are generally accessible through the following:

- * receiving small donations towards our running costs from non-commercial and fundraising concerts;
- * ticket prices for concerts that the Society organises and promotes itself are normally set to ensure that the event will break-even, discounted concession tickets are usually available and prices are comparable to other similar arts events in the area;
- * membership subscriptions are approved by the playing membership as a whole at the AGM, with reference to our fixed rehearsal costs and available resources, including other funding sources from donations and commercial concert income. Discounted membership rates are available to those members under 16, full time students, or in receipt of a state pension. The committee is confident that subscriptions are at a low level and do not restrict access to membership;
- * by being as flexible as possible in accommodating a wide range of playing abilities within the orchestras whilst maintaining appropriate standards of public performance;
- * membership of the Society is open to both playing and non-playing members;
- * income from commercial events where the Society is not the promoter and does not control ticket prices helps balance our costs;
- * applications for new membership are actively encouraged at all levels of skill and from any demographic group.

To promote, encourage and preserve the quality of our traditional Scottish music an annual Society competition is held for members of the Society .

Achievements and Performances

Summary of the Main Achievements of the Society during the past Financial Year

In session 2024-25 the first event that was organised was our Annual Concert. It was held during May 2024 at Devanha church. The Annual concert is an opportunity for friends, family and the wider public to hear members of the Society performing in different configurations, i.e. as soloists, as small groups and of course the whole orchestra.

Our Annual Fiddler's Rally in November 2024 was again well attended the Tivoli Theatre being almost sold out. At our Rally we welcomed musicians from other societies all over Scotland to join us on stage and arranged for popular Guest Artists to perform and compere.

The Annual Concert and Fiddler's Rally are our primary income generators but a smaller orchestra group has also played at the Cowdray Hall in January for small fees. The Afternoon group has played at least 12 different care home a social enterprise venues, some more than once and on occasion received minor cash donations. The social benefit for older folk and indeed ourselves is inestimable.

In the next financial year the Annual Concert will be held again at Devanha Church in May 2025 and we have reserved the Tivoli Theatre for November 2025.

All our rehearsals in this last session have been held as live face-to-face at Hazlehead Primary School.

Our active senior and life membership numbers has increased slightly from 40 to be 43 people, during the year some have left but others have joined. Junior membership remains constant with five members attending regularly, there are also five student members. In the last year the committee organised a "taster" session for juniors that was well attended but has not resulted in additional recruits, we are considering whether to organise this again in the next session.

Brief Statement of the Society's Policy on Reserves

The Society holds endowed, restricted and unrestricted funds.

The Committee considers it prudent to hold unrestricted general reserves of £12,500 which is considered sufficient to cover two years costs of rehearsal premises and administration costs, potential deficits on concerts that the Society organises, as well as provision for replacing musical instruments or other administrative assets.

Designated funds have been established as follows:-

- 1** In 2024/2025 the Piano fund has been renamed as Instrument Fund. The value of the fund is now £2,628 which the committee considers sufficient to procure a good quality second hand piano in the future should it be needed.
- 2** The Iain Fraser Restricted Fund provides a prize to the winner of the Fiddle Category at the annual members' competition.
- 3** The Kenny Young Fund was established in 2013 with the purpose of providing a prize to the winner of the Accordion Category at the annual members competition.
- 4** The Louis Argo Restricted Endowment Fund was established in November 2021 from a donation from Lewis Argo in memory of his father (Louis Argo) who was a former member of the Society. This funds the "Louis Argo - Most Improved Fiddler Prize", a cash prize that is awarded annually.

Details of any Deficit

No Funds are in Deficit.

Donated Facilities and Services

The members of the Orchestra volunteer their time through attending weekly rehearsals, participating in concerts and assisting with fund raising efforts.

Investments

The Society's investment policy is as follows:-

- 1 Short to medium term funds which are likely to be spent within 5 years are to be invested in high interest deposit accounts which may be of a fixed nature. The aim of such investments is to achieve the best available income returns, whilst minimising risk to capital and ensuring the cashflow requirements of the Society are met.
- 2 Long term funds that are not required within 5 years are to be invested in collective investment schemes which seek income and long term capital growth from a broadly diversified portfolio of assets including equities and fixed interest securities. The Iain Fraser Award Endowment Fund, the Kenny Young Designated Fund, and the Louis Argo Restricted Designated Fund are all deemed to be long term in nature.

Long Term Investments

Long term funds are invested in the low risk Income & Reserves Fund (Class A Income) managed by Sarasin Investment Funds Ltd. The fund offers the benefits of pooled investments to charities, providing a diversified portfolio with a broad spread of assets classes across several countries and professional investment management at low cost.

The selected fund is conservative with an emphasis on capital preservation and generating a high income. It typically holds 80% of the portfolio in fixed interest bonds and cash, with the balance held in equities. Although the Society does not have any ethical constraints as part of its own investment policy the selected fund does operate an ethical investment policy, including a restriction on investing in tobacco companies. Sarasin have stated in their view this does not have a detrimental impact on returns.

Contact Details :-

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Twitter	@abdnstrathspey
Telephone	07767 317486



The Aberdeen Strathspey & Reel Society is a member of both the "Making Music Charity" and the "Traditional Music Forum"



Signed on behalf of the Society's Trustees :-

Signature

Thomas C. Cumming

Full Name

THOMAS CHISHOLM CUMMING

Position

President

Date

25 May 2025

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Report to the Trustees of the Aberdeen Strathspey & Reel Society (SC011924) on the Accounts for the Year Ended 28th February 2025

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and the Examiner

The Society's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

The Society Trustees consider the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply.

It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) © of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Society and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records.

It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

firstly, which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:-

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulation,
and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
have not been met, or

secondly, to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn, in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

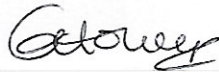
Signed

Name

Capacity in
which signed

Address

Date


Gillian Holley
Former Certified Accountant
23 Ann Street Stonehaven AB39 2EN
11/6/25

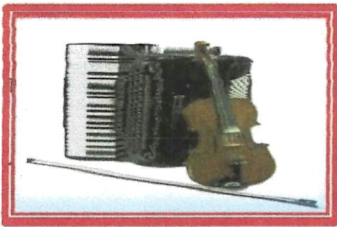


Aberdeen & Strathspey & Reel Society

Statement of Receipts & Payments

at 28th February 2025

Description	Note	Unrestricted funds (£)	Unrestricted Designated funds (£)	Restricted funds (£)	2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Receipts from Activities						
Concerts	1	7,410			7,410	7,300
Donations		60			60	30
Social Events	2	-			-	-
Members Subscriptions	3	1,545			1,545	1,500
Society Merchandise		-			-	-
Investment Income	4	513	36	75	623	501
Grants & Other Income	5	498			498	-
Totals >		10,026	36	75	10,136	9,331
Other Receipts						
Sale of Fixed Assets	6	750			750	
Sale of Investments		-			-	-
Totals >		750	-	-	750	-
Total Receipts		10,776	36	75	10,886	9,331
Payments - Activities & Operation						
Concerts		4,593			4,593	4,707
Rehearsals		1,048			1,048	1,120
Social Events		-			-	-
Public/Open Days		61			61	-
Refund Subscription		30			30	-
Society Administration		597			597	364
Donations	7	2,000			2,000	1,000
Banking		-			-	-
Competitions		-			-	196
Assistant Conductor - Expenses		-			-	250
Gifts for Members		257			257	341
Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended		8,586	-	-	8,586	7,978
Other Payments						
Purchases of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-
Purchase of investments		-	-	-	-	-
Totals >		-	-	-	-	-
Total Payments		8,586	-	-	8,586	7,978
Net Receipts / Payments		2,189	36	75	2,300	1,353
Transfers to / from funds		-	-	-	-	-
Surplus / Deficit for year		2,189	36	75	2,300	1,353



Aberdeen & Strathspey & Reel Society

Statement of Balances

at 28th February 2025

CASH FUNDS	Unrestricted funds (£)	Unrestricted Designated funds (£)	Restricted funds (£)	2025 (£)	2024 (£)
Cash and Bank balances at start of year	23,637	1,728		25,365	23,738
Surplus/Deficit shown on receipts and payments account	2,189	36	75	2,300	1,627
Cash and bank balances at end of year	25,827	1,764	75	27,665	25,365

INVESTMENTS	Fund Owner	Valuation 2025 (£)	Valuation 2024 (£)
Sarasin Alpha Common Investment Fund for	Permanent Endowment	2,055	2,045
	Unrestricted	983	978
	Totals>	3,038	3,023

OTHER ASSETS	Fund Owner	Cost	Valuation 2025 (£)	Valuation 2024 (£)
Instruments	8 Unrestricted	2,893	-	149
Trophies	Unrestricted	530	171	171
Office Equipment	9 Unrestricted	217	-	-
Merchandise Stock	Unrestricted	5,012	-	-
Gift Aid Recoverable - Estimated	10 Unrestricted	-	-	240
Prepayments :- Concert Costs	Unrestricted	-	-	-
Prepayments :- Insurance Costs	Unrestricted	-	-	-
Accrued income	Unrestricted	-	-	-
		8,652	171	559

Summary of Assets Held by Society	Valuation 2025 (£)	Valuation 2024 (£)
Cash At Bank and in Hand	27,665	25,365
Investments	3,038	3,023
Other Assets	171	559
Total Assets Held	30,874	28,948

LIABILITIES	2025 (£)	2024 (£)
GENERAL	£	£
None	-	-
None	-	-
Total	-	-
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES		
None	-	-
Total	-	-

Signature	Print Name	Date
	Nigel Robin Ferguson	29/5/25



Aberdeen & Strathspey & Reel Society

Notes Supporting Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 28th February 2025

Description	Unrestricted funds (£)	Unrestricted Designated funds (£)	Restricted funds (£)	Total Funds 2025 (£)	Total Funds 2024 (£)
Concert Receipts					
Annual Concert Member Tickets	-	-	-	-	230
Annual Concert Door Tickets	850	-	-	850	650
Annual Rally Member Tickets	1,272	-	-	1,272	1,426
Annual Rally Box Office Tickets	4,988	-	-	4,988	4,419
Small Concert Income	100	-	-	100	350
Afternoon Group Income	200	-	-	200	225
Totals >	7,410	-	-	7,410	7,300
Concert Expenditure					
Annual Concert Ferryhill Church Hire	275	-	-	275	275
Annual Concert Guests Fees & Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Annual Concert Advertising & Set Up	74	-	-	74	78
Rally Tivoli Theatre Hire	2,640	-	-	2,640	2,400
Rally Advertising, Printing & Gifts	211	-	-	211	274
Rally Orchestra Meals & Beverages	689	-	-	689	790
Rally Guests, Fees & Expenses	600	-	-	600	788
Other Orchestra Concerts	-	-	-	-	-
Afternoon Group Concerts	104	-	-	104	102
Totals >	4,593	-	-	4,593	4,707
Surplus / (deficit) for year	2,817	-	-	2,817	2,593

Note 1

The orchestra plays two main events each year, our Annual Concert in April/May and Fiddlers Rally in November. We also play other concerts and in the last year these were Cowdray Hall for Burns. Our Afternoon Group has played for at least 12 different care home and social venues some of whom make donations in appreciation. The table above summaries income from these activities and costs to the Society to stage them.

Note 2

The Society has not held any social events in the year

Note 3

Category (those with a * have no voting rights)	Members	Annual Subscription
Honorary members and Patrons*	4	
Life members (members for at least 25 years)	16	
Non playing members*	-	
Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended		
Ordinary members	15	£60
Ordinary members (in receipt of a state pension)	12	£30
Ordinary members (in full time education)	4	£30
Junior members (members under the age of 16 at the start of a session)*	5	£30
Members from the Second Term		
Ordinary members		£30
Ordinary members (in receipt of a state pension)		£15
Ordinary members (in full time education)	1	£15
Junior members (members under the age of 16 at the start of a session)*		£15
Total	57	



Aberdeen & Strathspey & Reel Society

Notes Supporting Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 28th February 2025

Note 4

The Society holds long term monies with Sarasin Investment Funds and also in a 32 Day Access Bank of Scotland account to provide a small additional income from investments. The bulk of these monies are Unrestricted and held in the Bank of Scotland account. The Sarasin fund is low risk and low return vehicle that provides a way to protect monies gifted to the Society for a particular purpose.

Note 5

This is primarily Gift Aid from HMRC

Note 6

The funds for the sale of the Society Kawai ES6 Piano and Double Bass were received in March and October respectively.

Note 7

At the 2024 A.G.M. the Society membership agreed to donate £500 each to four charities; Living Well Café, Kings Community Tillydrone FoodBank, Strathspey King Memorial Statue (of Scott Skinner), RNLI - Aberdeen Branch.

Office Equipment

The Society instruments are fully depreciated

Note 9

The Society no longer owns office equipment

Note 10

A Gift Aid claim was made in December 2024 and was fully paid, there is no further gift aid recoverable for this reporting year