Aberdeen Strathspey & Reel Society

Trustees'
Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 28th February 2026

Scottish Charity No SC011924

Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 28th February 2026

Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name — **Aberdeen Strathspey & Reel Society**

Registered Charity Number — **SC011924**

Principal & Communication Address — Drumnaclamhen, North Tillydaff
Midmar, Inverurie, AB51 7LS

Trustee Name	Office Held	Period Office Held		
Thomas Cumming	President	01 03 2025	to	28 02 2026
Graham Reid	Vice President	01 03 2025	to	28 02 2026
Kathleen Falconer	Secretary	01 03 2025	to	19 05 2025
Marion Ford	Secretary	19 05 2025	to	28 02 2026
Nigel Robin Ferguson	Treasurer	01 03 2025	to	28 02 2026
Ian Bowman	Assistant Secretary	01 03 2025	to	28 02 2026
Sheila Reid	Conductor	01 03 2025	to	28 02 2026
Marion Ford	Committee Member	01 03 2025	to	19 05 2025
Emma MacPherson	Committee Member	01 03 2025	to	28 02 2026
Fiona Dunbar	Committee Member	01 03 2025	to	19 05 2025
Keira Percival	Committee Member	01 03 2025	to	19 05 2025
Kathleen Falconer	Committee Member	19 05 2025	to	28 02 2026
Hilary Dalgleish	Committee Member	19 05 2025	to	28 02 2026
Dawn Martin	Committee Member	19 05 2025	to	28 02 2026

The Trustees resigned, were re-appointed or newly elected on 19/05/25 at the Society's AGM.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

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

Trustees, Recruitment and Appointment

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 five 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

One orchestra is maintained for all playing members. At the present time there is not a separate junior orchestra but during the year the society has initiated a new promotional programme to re-establish the junior section in the next period 2026/2027.
There is 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 the purpose of entertainment but these may also incorporate fund raising objectives.

The committee seeks to ensures that he society's activities are generally accessible to all 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 who are 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 for senior players. There is some concern that the historical membership charge for junior members has been a factor in the demise of the junior orchestra so the committee will propose a constitutional rule amendment at the 2026 AGM that Junior membership shall be free;
* 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 participate. Although no competition was held this year it is proposed that they shall be reinstated and to this end the restricted funds (Ian Fraser, Kenny Young and Louis Argo) will be maintained.

Achievements and Performances

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

In session 2025-26 the first event that was organised was our Annual Concert. It was held during May 2025 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 Fiddlers' Rally in November 2025 was held at the Tivoli Theatre, turnout this year was disappointing, the theatre being about 75% full. 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 also played at the Cowdray Hall in January for small fee. 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 at Great Western Community Centre in April 2026 and we have reserved the Tivoli Theatre for November 2026.

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 have remained constant compared to last year, there are currently 42 active senior playing members, during the year some have left but others have joined. Two Junior and three student members play with the senior orchestra on an occasional basis.
To encourage more junior and student members to join in the last year the committee has attended a "Freshers Day" at Craibstone College and made a co-operative arrangement with SCAT Youth to provided opportunities for their graduating students.

Financial Review

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 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 Centenary Celebration Fund. The society was established in 1928 and hence 2028 is a centenary year. During the year the committee has authorised the creation of a designated fund to record restricted monies that will only be spent only on the up-coming celebrations that are being planned. To date it is funded by a legacy bequest by the estate of Lewis Greg Argo and monies authorised by the committee to be allocated from the Treasurer Account.

3 The Iain Fraser Restricted Fund provides a prize to the winner of the Fiddle Category at the annual members' competition. Should this fund be closed or the prize no longer awarded it was the wish of Iain Fraser that the capital monies should be paid to the charity "Saving Sight in Grampian". No awards were made in this financial year.

4 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. No awards were made in this financial year.

5 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. No awards were made in this financial year.

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.

Other Information

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"

Trustees Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the Society's Trustees :-

Signature	Thomas Cumming.
Full Name	**Thomas Cumming**
Position	**President**
Date	11 May 2026

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 2026

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.

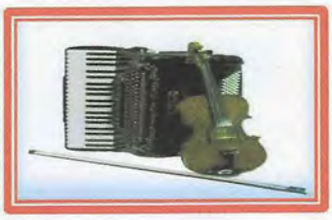
Signed	Gholley
Name	Gillian Holley
Capacity in which signed	Former Certified Accountant
Address	23 Ann Street Stonehaven AB39 2EN
Date	2/5/26

Aberdeen & Strathspey & Reel Society

Statement of Receipts & Payments

at 28th February 2026

Description	Note	Unrestricted funds (£)	Unrestricted Designated funds (£)	Restricted funds (£)	2026 (£)	2025 (£)
Receipts from Activities						
Concerts	1	6,328			6,328	7,410
Donations		2,018			2,018	60
Social Events	2	-			-	-
Members Subscriptions	3	1,490			1,490	1,545
Society Merchandise		-			-	-
Investment Income	4	434	35	73	541	623
Grants & Other Income	5	158			158	498
Totals >		10,427	35	73	10,535	10,136
Other Receipts						
Sale of Fixed Assets		-			-	750
Sale of Investments		-			-	-
Totals >		-	-	-	-	750
Total Receipts		10,427	35	73	10,535	10,886
Payments - Activities & Operation						
Concerts		4,453			4,453	4,593
Rehearsals		1,150			1,150	1,048
Social Events		-			-	-
Public/Open Days		25			25	61
Refund Overpaid Subscription(s)		20			20	30
Society Administration	5	308			308	597
Donations	6	1,650			1,650	2,000
Banking		-			-	-
Competitions		-			-	-
Assistant Conductor - Expenses					-	-
Gifts for Members		50			50	257
Totals >		7,655	-	-	7,655	8,586
Other Payments						
Purchases of fixed assets		-	-	-	-	-
Purchase of investments		-	-	-	-	-
Totals >		-	-	-	-	-
Total Payments		7,655	-	-	7,655	8,586
Net Receipts / Payments		2,772	35	73	2,879	2,300
Transfers to / from funds		-	-	-	-	-
Surplus / Deficit for year		2,772	35	73	2,879	2,300



Aberdeen & Strathspey & Reel Society

Statement of Receipts & Payments

at 28th February 2026

CASH FUNDS	Note	Unrestricted funds (£)	Unrestricted Designated funds (£)	Restricted funds (£)	2026 (£)	2025 (£)
Cash and Bank balances at start of year		24,787	2,878		27,665	25,365
Surplus/Deficit shown on receipts and payments account		2,772	35	73	2,879	2,300
Cash and bank balances at end of year		27,559	2,913	73	30,544	27,665

INVESTMENTS	Fund Owner	Valuation 2026 (£)	Valuation 2025 (£)
Sarasin Alpha Common Investment Fund for	Permanent Endowment	2,112	2,055
	Unrestricted	1,010	983
	Totals>	3,122	3,038

OTHER ASSETS		Fund Owner	Cost	Valuation 2026 (£)	Valuation 2025 (£)
Instruments	8	Unrestricted	2,893	-	-
Trophies		Unrestricted	530	-	171
Office Equipment	9	Unrestricted	217	-	-
Merchandise Stock		Unrestricted	5,012	-	-
Accrued income		Unrestricted	-		-
			8,652	-	171

Summary of Assets Held by Society			
Cash At Bank and in Hand	30,544	27,665	
Investments	3,122	3,038	
Total Assets Held	33,666	30,703	

LIABILITIES	2026 (£)	2025 (£)
GENERAL	£	£
None	-	-
None	-	-
Total	-	-
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES		
None	-	-
Total	-	-

Signature	Print Name	Date
N Ferguson	Nigel Robin Ferguson	16/5/26

Aberdeen & Strathspey & Reel Society

Notes Supporting Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 28th February 2026

Description	Unrestricted funds (£)	Unrestricted Designated funds (£)	Restricted funds (£)	Total Funds 2026 (£)	Total Funds 2025 (£)
Concert Receipts					
Annual Concert Member Tickets	270	-	-	270	-
Annual Concert Door Tickets	470	-	-	470	850
Annual Rally Member Tickets	1,479	-	-	1,479	1,272
Annual Rally Box Office Tickets	3,439	-	-	3,439	4,988
Small Concert Income	470	-	-	470	100
Afternoon Group Income	200	-	-	200	200
Totals >	6,328	-	-	6,328	7,410
Concert Expenditure					
Annual Concert Ferryhill Church Hire	275	-	-	275	275
Annual Concert Guests Fees & Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Annual Concert Advertising & Set Up	34	-	-	34	74
Rally Tivoli Theatre Hire	2,458	-	-	2,458	2,640
Rally Advertising, Printing & Gifts	247	-	-	247	211
Rally Orchestra Meals & Beverages	577	-	-	577	689
Rally Guests, Fees & Expenses	750	-	-	750	600
Other Orchestra Concerts	-	-	-	-	-
Afternoon Group Concerts	112	-	-	112	104
Totals >	4,453	-	-	4,453	4,593
Surplus / (deficit) for year	1,875	-	-	1,875	2,817

Note 1

The orchestra plays two main events each year, our Annual Concert in April/May and Fiddlers Rally in November. This account included income for three other small concerts, the Cowdray Hall in 2025 and 2026 as well as a fee for playing at the Tall Ships Celbration in June 2025. Our Afternoon Group has also played for at least 10 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 that have incurred costs.

Note 3

Category (those with a * have no voting rights)	Members	Subscription
Honorary members and Patrons*	4	
Life members (members for at least 25 years)	17	
Non playing members*	-	
Members from the Start of the Year		
Ordinary members	16	£60
Ordinary members (in receipt of a state pension)	8	£30
Ordinary members (in full time education)	3	£30
Junior members (members under the age of 16 at the start of a session)*	2	£30
Members from the Second Term		
Ordinary members	3	£30
Ordinary members (in receipt of a state pension)		£15
Ordinary members (in full time education)		£15
Junior members (members under the age of 16 at the start of a session)*		£15
Total	**53**	

Aberdeen & Strathspey & Reel Society

Notes Supporting Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 28th February 2026

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

The Trustees resigned, were re-appointed or newly elected on 19/05/25 at the Society's AGM.

Note 5

Society admin unpaid fees - PRS fee for the period 11/2024 to 10/2025 remains pending for technical reasons connected to the Making Music website. Repeated attempts to sort this out with them have failed. Because we now operate annual Cash Account regime no allowance has been made for this in these figures so if and when it is ever paid it will be deducted from future costs at an approximate cost of £74 based on a charge of 0.1% of the gate receipt income recieved.

Note 7

At the A.G.M. in 2025 the society membership agreed to donate £500 each to three charities; Midmar Men's Shed, Living Well Cafe and Grampian Stroke Club. There was also £150 to a charity nominated by Graham Reid in lieu of a composition fee.

Note 8

The society instruments and other assests are all fully depreciated

Note 9

The society no longer owns office equipment