



Newtongrange Silver Band SCIO

Annual Report &
Financial Statements
2025



The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

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Reference information

Charity name

Newtongrange Silver Band SCIO

Charity number

SC045828

Incorporation date

23 July 2015

Registered address

14 Dalhousie Road
Newtongrange
Dalkeith
Midlothian
EH22 4NG

Charity structure

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Single-tier

Current trustees

Office bearers

Chair	Colin McCabe
Vice-chair	Vacant
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Graham Adam

Ordinary trustees

Katherine Quinn
Kirsten Souter
Lel Gillingwater

Trustees who served during 2025

Colin McCabe (Chair from 6 October 2025)
Chris Ludwig (President until 6 October 2025, then Secretary)
Graham Adam (Treasurer from 6 October 2025)
Callam Robertson (Treasurer until 6 October 2025)
Les Palmer (Operations Manager from 6 October 2025)
Katherine Quinn
Kirsten Souter

Our objects and activities

Charitable purposes

We are established for charitable purposes only, and our principal objectives are:

- to advance musical education,
- to advance appreciation and knowledge of the arts, heritage, culture, and the science of brass bands; and
- to promote the brass band culture in Midlothian.

Area of benefit

We operate throughout the county of Midlothian and its surrounding areas.

Beneficiaries

Our services come with no restrictions and are available to be accessed by anyone who wishes. Whilst the list of people we promote our activities to is not exhaustive, it includes children, young people, older people, non-specific groups, members of the local community, and local brass musicians.

Activities

The main activities of the band centre on community entertainment. This involves performing concerts, participating in local area festivities, and participating in competitions. Most activities undertaken by the organisation are musical.

The organisation performs when requested in advance and when the organisation elects to do so. All activities are advertised either by the organisation or the external body contracting the organisation. Members benefit from musical education and the public benefit from the culture provided by performances. The presence of a brass band continues the development and appreciation of the heritage and the arts of the mining village of Newtongrange. The band is recognised as the most successful brass band in Midlothian, and we continue to be the flagship band of the area.

Chair's report

This is the band's first report under the title of Chair, following the constitutional changes of October 2025. It covers the period since the Annual General Meeting of December 2024, up to the Annual General Meeting of 11 May 2026, and addresses three areas: musical performance, governance, and the band's direction.



The year opened with the New Year's Day march in conditions few can remember matching, and the band played through it. The joint concert with the Co-operative Band, Brass in the Capital, followed early in the year and marked Anne Crookston's SBBA Life Member medal, recognising a lifetime of service to brass bands and to music.

At the Scottish Championships in Perth, the band played Morley Calvert's *Introduction, Elegy and Caprice* in the First Section and placed second. The result qualified the band for the National Finals and returned it to the Championship Section.

At the Spring Festival in Blackpool, the last held there, the band played Martin Ellerby's *Terra Australis* and finished 17th, which brought relegation within the festival. The contest also marked Angus Edmond's last appearance on Principal Cornet after thirty years on the seat. Angus has since returned to playing on Repiano Cornet.

In September the band competed at the National Finals in Cheltenham for the first time since 2017, playing three of the Four Dances from *Checkmate* by Sir Arthur Bliss, and placed 7th.

In March 2026 the band returned to the Championship Section at the Scottish Championships, its first appearance at the top tier since relegation in 2022. It finished 7th, the band's strongest Championship Section result since 2019. At the Spring Festival in Birmingham, 10th place secured the band's position in the Senior Trophy.

These results reflect the sustained effort of the players and the conductor around each contest. The Board's next challenge is to raise the standard of playing throughout the year, not only in the run-up to contests.

On 6 October 2025, Chris Ludwig, then President, called an Extraordinary General Meeting after several office-bearers signalled their intention to stand down. The membership passed a Special Resolution amending the constitution, which renamed the offices of President and Vice-President as Chair and Vice-Chair, and elected a full Board of Trustees.

The membership elected Colin McCabe (Chair), Chris Ludwig (Secretary), Graham Adam (Treasurer), Katie Quinn (Band Manager), Kirsten Souter (Development Manager) and Les Palmer (Operations Manager). Lel Gillingwater succeeded Les as Operations Manager in May 2026. Five committees sit beneath the Board: Management, Musical, Operations, Development, and the youth band. Committee membership stays deliberately open, so that many people each carry a lighter load.

The new structure is still bedding in. As the Board moves from reacting to events towards a steadier operating rhythm, it will refine roles and remove duplication. Several committee roles remain open, and the Board welcomes any member who wants to contribute without taking on a trustee title.

The Board records its thanks to Chris Ludwig, who steered the band through the transition and served as secretary until August 2026. It thanks Les Palmer, whose fundraising, including the football cards, gave the band a significant source of income, and whose Championship Section experience served it well. It also thanks Graham "Lofty" Fletcher, whose work behind the scenes keeps the band hall running.

At the time of the AGM, the programme for the coming year included a joint concert with the Klaksvíkar Hornorkestur in May, Fife Charities and the Scottish Open in November. A return concert with the Co-operative Band is in discussion, and the season builds towards the Scottish Championships in March 2027.

The Board's ambition is for the organisation to grow in standard and in breadth. The aim is to reaffirm Newtongrange Silver as the principal Championship Section band in Midlothian, earned by the standard of its playing and supported by sound organisation off the stand.

The Junior Band continues to thrive under Alan Fernie, and the next step is to bring it fully inside the organisation. The Board will also consider a daytime ensemble for retired players and ways to strengthen the player pathway across the area. These are directions rather than commitments, and they aim to build an organisation that can sustain success and that funders and partners will want to support.

A band has played in Newtongrange since 1892, through world wars, pit closures and recoveries, from the same band hall and on the same rehearsal nights. Every Board and every player under the Newtongrange name has a duty to hand the band on in better shape than they found it. The Board hopes this period has done so.



Colin McCabe
Chair of Trustees

Financials

Independent examiner's report

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

Report to the Trustees of Newtongrange Silver Band SCIO, registered charity number SC045828 on the accounts for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The Charity Trustees consider that the audit requirements 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) (c) 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 charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these 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:

1. 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 Regulations, 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

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

Signed:



Date:

30-09-2026

Name:

Antonio Gerardo Cervi

Professional qualification:

ICAS

Address:

Estates Office
Kelso
TD5 7SF

2025 overview

During the year, the SCIO recognised income of £42,448 (2024: £37,577) and expenditure of £44,855 (2024: £33,509). Therefore, a deficit was recognised of £2,406 (2024: £4,067 surplus), which was wholly attributed to unrestricted funds. No activity was recorded on restricted funds.

Statement of financial activities For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income				
Donations	-	27,665	27,665	16,559
Charitable activities	-	12,810	12,810	17,904
Other	-	1,973	1,973	3,113
	-	42,448	42,448	37,577
Expenditure				
Direct costs	-	38,348	38,348	25,616
Support costs	-	6,507	6,507	7,894
	-	44,855	44,855	33,509
Net income	-	(2,406)	(2,406)	4,067
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	-	(2,406)	(2,406)	4,067
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds at 31/12/24	100	15,550	15,650	11,582
Total funds at 31/12/25	100	13,143	13,243	15,650

Reserves policy

At the close of the year the SCIO held reserves of £13,243 (2024: £ 15,650) of which £13,143 is unrestricted. The SCIO does not currently have a reserves policy as, at present, it has no significant ongoing overhead commitments. However, this will be reviewed regularly by the Trustees.

Statement of financial position As at 31 December 2025

	Note	£	Dec-25 £	£	Dec-24 £
Current Assets					
Cash at Bank	3	11,061		10,468	
Debtors	4	4,316		5,117	
			15,378		15,585
Liabilities					
Creditors	5	2,134		(65)	
			2,134		(65)
Net Assets			13,243		15,650
Funds					
Unrestricted	6	13,143		15,550	
Restricted		100		100	
			13,243		15,650

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf:



Colin McCabe
Chair of Trustees

Notes to the financial statements

1 Balance of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2 Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Charity. Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes. The Trustees may also place restrictions upon funds that are received / raised without condition if they deem it to be in the interest of furthering the Charity's objects.

3 Cash at Bank

	Senior £	Junior £	Total £
Balance at 31/12/24	10,211	257	10,468
Movement	(658)	1,251	593
Balance at 31/12/25	<u>9,553</u>	<u>1,509</u>	<u>11,061</u>

4 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade Debtors	2,028	1,313
Sales on Account	(333)	(293)
Prepayments	2,622	4,098
	<u>4,316</u>	<u>5,117</u>

5 Creditors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade Creditors	2,134	155
Purchases on Account	-	(220)
Accruals	-	-
	<u>2,134</u>	<u>(65)</u>

6 Funds

	2024	Income	Expense	Transfer	2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Senior band					
Unrestricted	18,485	38,579	(41,126)	-	15,938
Restricted	100	-	-	-	100
Junior band					
Unrestricted	(2,935)	3,869	(3,729)	-	(2,795)
	<u>15,650</u>	<u>42,448</u>	<u>(44,855)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,243</u>

Future outlook

The Band enters 2026 in the Championship Section, its first time at the top tier since 2022. It earned the place with second in the First Section at the 2025 Scottish Championships, and went on to finish 7th at the National Finals. The Trustees' priority is to consolidate: to hold Championship status in Scotland, to keep the Band's place in the Senior Trophy at the Spring Festival, and to raise the standard of playing throughout the year rather than only around contests. Since the year end, the Band has placed 7th at the 2026 Scottish Championships, its strongest Championship Section result since 2019, and 10th at the Spring Festival, retaining its Senior Trophy place.

The Band will continue to take part in Scottish and National contests and to keep Midlothian and the surrounding area at the centre of its work. Relationships formed in 2025 now carry a programme of joint work: a concert with the Klaksvíkar Hornorkestur and a return concert with the cooperative Band.

Aims for 2027

- Hold Championship Section status at the Scottish Championships in March 2027.
- Integrate the Junior Band further into the organisation, strengthening the pathway from first lessons to the senior band.
- Broaden the Band's ensembles to include adult learners and percussion learners.
- Complete the governance structure: fill the Vice-Chair post, establish the Advisory Council.

Capital aims

Most of the Band's instruments and uniforms are more than twenty years old, and replacing them remains the Band's largest capital need. The Trustees recognise the scale of the task and how this aim ties directly to the Band's brand and player pathway.

Newtongrange Silver Band SCIO

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Dalkeith
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