BALLS & BOOTS

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

1 August 2025 – 31 July 2026

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation | SC050321



OPPORTUNITY CHANGES EVERYTHING

Working to ensure that no child misses out on sport because of cost.

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1 Welcome and overview

During 2025–2026, Balls & Boots helped 436 children and 103 families across Scotland. These figures exceeded our targets of 425 children and 97 families and represented further growth from the previous year, when we supported more than 350 children and 83 families.

Behind every number is a young person who wants the same chance as anyone else to play football, join a team, take part in PE or enjoy sport. The cost of suitable boots, trainers, clothing or equipment should not decide whether they can participate.

We continued to respond to requests from families, schools, social workers, charities, clubs and community organisations. Our approach remains straightforward: listen, respond quickly where we can, and provide new equipment that allows children to participate with confidence and dignity.

This report describes what we achieved, the relationships that make our work possible and the challenges of sustaining that support as demand and costs rise.



A young person with footballs at school — an example of the practical equipment support delivered during the year.

2 Who we are and how we help

Balls & Boots is a Scottish charity based in Newmains, North Lanarkshire. Our purpose is to remove financial and practical barriers that prevent children and young people from taking part in sport. We believe opportunity should not depend on household income, location, gender, background or personal circumstances.

How support reaches children

Requests come through email, social media, word of mouth and referrals from schools, families, social workers and other organisations. We do not impose lengthy application procedures or formal means-testing on families seeking help.

We record each request, including the location, number of children, what has been requested and supplied, who made the request and any feedback received. We aim to get new equipment to children promptly, often within approximately one week. We deliver locally when practical and otherwise arrange direct shipping.

Balls & Boots does not operate its own regular coaching classes. Instead, we work with coaches and trusted partners to support children through schools, teams and other organisations, including one-to-one assistance where appropriate.

3 Our year in numbers

Measure	2025–2026
Children supported	436
Families supported	103
Football boots supplied	206 pairs
Training shoes supplied	47 pairs
PE kits supplied	105
Football teams receiving strips	8
Footballs supplied	Over 70
Children with ASN receiving individual coaching	27
Children progressing to local clubs	At least 11
New locations reached	12

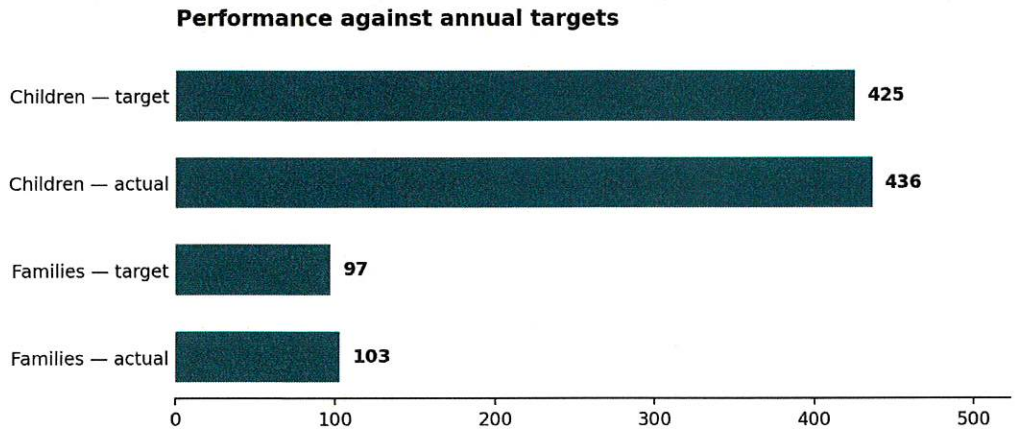
Targets exceeded

FROM 350+ CHILDREN IN 2024–2025 TO 436 CHILDREN IN 2025–2026

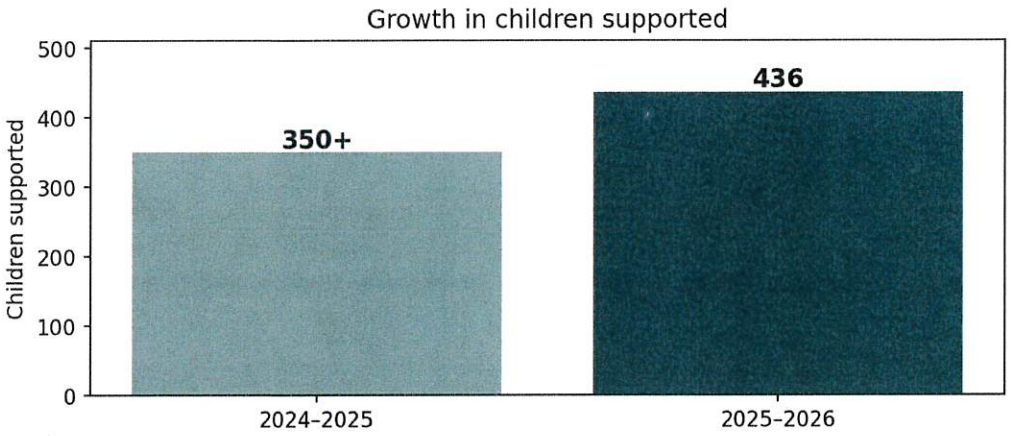
Families supported: 83 last year → 103 this year

Our target was to help 425 children and 97 families. We reached 436 children and 103 families, exceeding both measures. These figures reflect individual requests recorded throughout the year rather than retrospective estimates.





The totals reflect the charity's monitoring records. "At least 11" denotes the minimum confirmed progression figure.



The previous-year figure was reported as "more than 350", so the chart uses 350 as a minimum comparison, not an exact count.

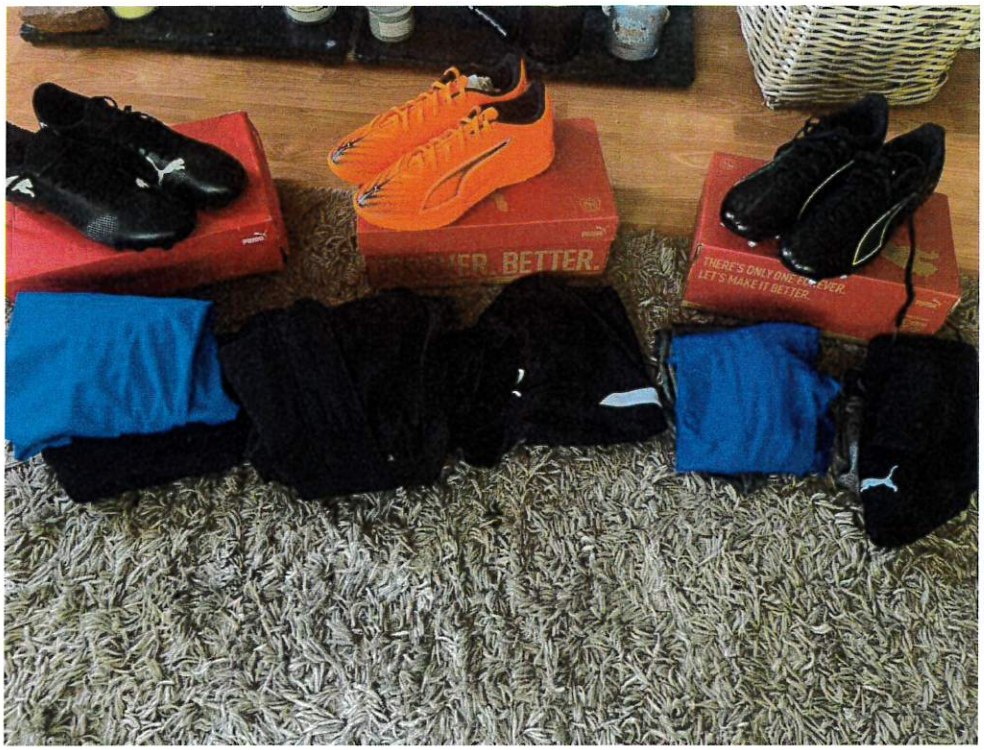
4 Equipment, participation and coaching

What we supplied

Providing the right equipment remains the foundation of our work. During the year, Balls & Boots supplied 206 pairs of football boots, 47 pairs of training shoes and 105 PE kits. We also supplied football strips to eight teams, more than 70 footballs and a range of other items, including socks, tops, jackets, netball strips, netballs and shin guards.

Much of the charity's reach is made possible by people who are already working with children and know their circumstances. They tell us what is needed, help make introductions and provide feedback after equipment has been supplied. This allows a very small organisation to work across a wide geographical area without claiming to run every activity itself.

Support went to both existing teams and newly forming teams. Two netball teams received bibs and netballs to help them establish themselves, widening opportunities for girls to participate.



New footwear and sports clothing prepared for children needing support.

Individual coaching and progression

Twenty-seven children with additional support needs benefited from individual coaching arranged through our partnerships. At least 11 children progressed into local sports clubs or teams. These are important outcomes: suitable kit can be the first step towards confidence, friendships and sustained participation.



Participation in football training.

5 Reaching communities across Scotland

Growth in reach

The charity's work extends far beyond its North Lanarkshire base. Requests are received through an expanding network of schools, local professionals and community organisations. Reaching rural and geographically dispersed communities requires flexible arrangements for sourcing and delivering equipment.

Our established reach includes Glasgow, Edinburgh, Lanarkshire, Perth, Alloa, Elgin, Inverness, West Lothian, Dumfries, Aberdeen and Jedburgh. During 2025–2026 we also responded to requests from twelve new locations: Mauchline, Cumnock, Lanark, Lockerbie, Lossiemouth, Turriff, Kilmarnock, the Isle of Skye, Girvan, Fort William, Stirling and Oban.

This geographical spread matters. Children living further from large towns can face the same financial barriers to sport, often compounded by fewer local resources and longer distances.

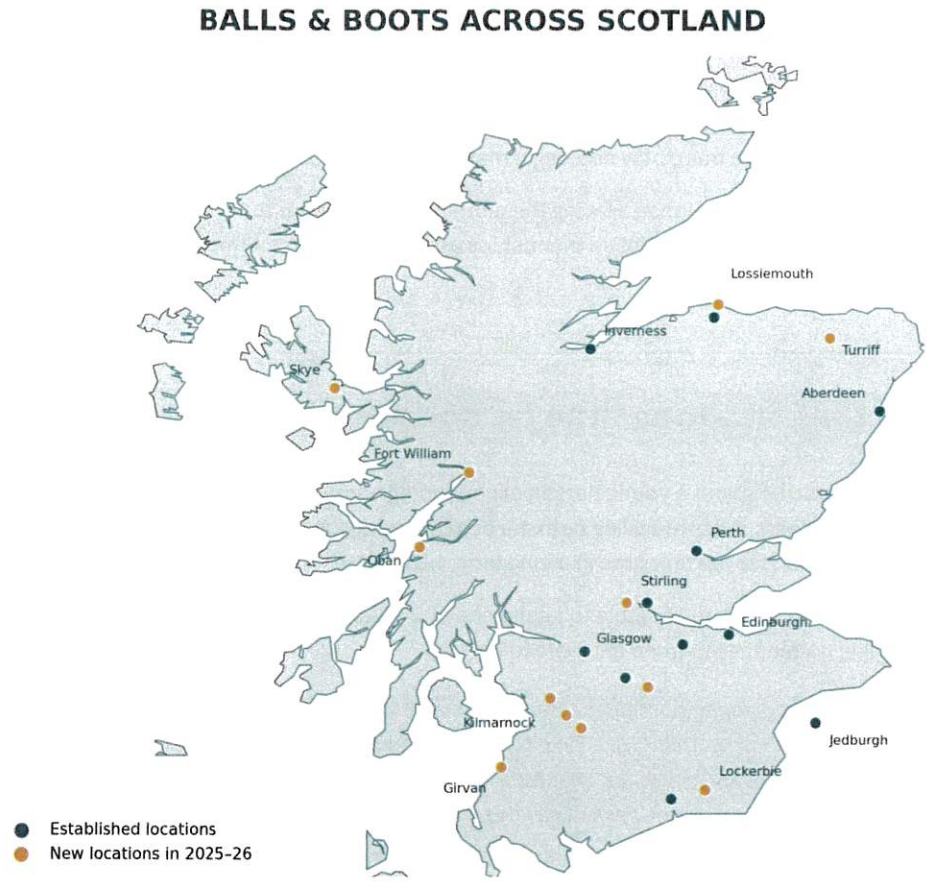
New connections during the year

Our network grew through relationships with schools and community organisations, including East Fulton Primary, St Gerardine's Primary, Rosyth Campus, Mulbuie Primary, Ferintosh Primary, Lhanbryde Primary, St Augustine's Primary, Clarkston Primary, Vale of Clyde 2016 and services supporting newly arrived children and families in Glasgow and Ayrshire.

We remain grateful to the teachers, Active Schools coordinators, social workers, coaches and community staff who identify children who would benefit and help us get support to the right place.

OUR REACH ACROSS SCOTLAND

The map shows established and newly reached communities. Markers are approximate and do not represent service boundaries.



6 The difference behind the numbers

A pair of boots — and a return to football

Small interventions, lasting impact

The following accounts illustrate different barriers to participation: the discomfort and embarrassment of unsuitable footwear; the isolation that can come with arriving in a new country; and the difficulty of joining a club without basic kit. Each case is distinct, but all demonstrate the importance of practical help at the right moment.

A schoolgirl in Lockerbie, referred to here as "Sadie", had been wearing hand-me-down boots that did not fit properly and hurt her feet. Embarrassed, she had stopped attending training. Balls & Boots supplied two pairs of new, correctly sized boots. She returned to football and is now captain of her team.

The problem was not a lack of enthusiasm. Ill-fitting boots made training painful, and embarrassment kept her away. Receiving two correctly sized pairs helped her return to the sport she enjoyed. Her later role as team captain illustrates how access to basic equipment can lead to confidence and responsibility.

Finding a team and a community

Two teenage brothers, referred to here as "Omar" and "Bright", had recently arrived in Scotland seeking asylum. They wanted to play football in Edinburgh but lacked the clothing and footwear needed to join in. With new sportswear and footwear, they were able to train, play and begin making friends in their new community.

For the brothers, football offered more than exercise. Having the clothing and footwear to take part meant being able to join other young people on equal terms, establish friendships and feel part of a community while adjusting to a new country.

Feeling visible again

"For the first time in a long time he does not feel invisible."

A social worker in Glasgow contacted us about a young person experiencing homelessness who wanted to join a football club but had no boots or trainers. After receiving both, he began playing football twice a week. His social worker shared his thanks and said that, for the first time in a long time, he no longer felt invisible.

The boots and trainers removed the immediate obstacle to joining the club. Just as importantly, the message describes a young person feeling noticed, welcomed and able to belong.

> *"Thank you so much for helping out a young homeless boy with football boots and trainers .He was desperate to join a football club but had nothing.He is now happily playing football twice a week . He had asked me to thank you 'big time' .He asked me to say that for the first time in a long time he does not feel invisible and feels a bit overwhelmed by the kindness of strangers ' Thanks again.Rhonda (Social Worker ,Glasgow)"*

These examples illustrate the practical and personal value of a timely response. Names and identifying details have been limited to protect the children involved.

A first chance to compete

Equipment supplied to North Lanarkshire Virtual School helped children take part in two football tournaments for the first time.

Taking part in two tournaments for the first time gave children a chance to represent their school community, experience organised competition and enjoy the shared excitement of being part of a team.

7 Schools, clubs and partnerships

Partners who help us reach children

Our work depends on teachers, coaches, social workers, Active Schools coordinators and community organisations who identify children who need help and share feedback about the difference equipment makes.

We continued our relationships with North Lanarkshire Virtual School and Children 1st while building new connections with schools and teams across Scotland.

Supporting girls' netball

Two netball teams received sets of bibs and netballs. St Thomas' Primary School in Wishaw told us that the new equipment replaced unsuitable bibs and basketballs, and that the girls hoped it would encourage more pupils to take part.



Girls wearing netball bibs supplied through Balls & Boots.

The feedback from St Thomas' Primary School shows the practical value of appropriate equipment: replacing improvised bibs and unsuitable balls gave two teams the resources to play netball properly and helped encourage further participation.

> *"We were delighted to receive two full sets of bibs for two teams and the netballs. We have been struggling on with any bibs we could find and basket balls, which weren't ideal. The girls love the new equipment and it will motivate more girls to join in netball in future. Thank you so much."*

8 Corporate support and thanks

Support that stretches every donation further

Our corporate relationships contribute in different ways, from equipment and footballs to practical operational support. These contributions complement financial grants and help ensure that more of the charity's limited resources can be directed towards children and families.

Balls & Boots is fortunate to have businesses and supporters who believe in removing barriers to sport. We particularly thank Umbro, Macron and Arnold Clark, all of whom have supported the charity since it began. Arnold Clark has provided Balls & Boots with a vehicle from the beginning, helping us carry out our work across Scotland.

We also thank Minerva Footballs for a substantial donation of footballs during 2025–2026, enabling us to respond to more requests for equipment.

Our funding partners — 2025–2026

We thank The Robertson Trust, Weir Charitable Trust and Shared Access for their continuing support. Shared Access deserves particular recognition: it has supported Balls & Boots financially every year since the charity began.

We also gratefully acknowledge Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (VANL), Hymans Robertson Trust, Souter Charitable Trust, Scottish Children's Lottery Trust, Corra Foundation (Boost Fund and Household Hardship Fund), King Charles III Charitable Fund and People's Postcode Trust through Sported. Their support helped us respond to requests from families, schools and community partners during the reporting year.

A message of thanks

We also received messages of thanks from schools, including Keith Grammar School footballers, for donated footballs.



Keith Grammar School footballers' thank-you for donated footballs.

OUR SUPPORTERS

We are grateful to the organisations that made our work possible in 2025–2026. The names below are shown without grant amounts.

LONGSTANDING AND MULTI-YEAR SUPPORT

SPECIAL RECOGNITION • SHARED ACCESS

Shared Access has supported Balls & Boots financially every year since the charity began. We are deeply grateful for this exceptional, sustained commitment to helping children take part in sport.

SHARED ACCESS	THE ROBERTSON TRUST
WEIR CHARITABLE TRUST	

OTHER FUNDING SUPPORTERS

SCOTTISH CHILDREN'S LOTTERY TRUST	CORRA FOUNDATION
KING CHARLES III CHARITABLE FUND	PEOPLE'S POSTCODE TRUST • VIA SPORTED
VOLUNTARY ACTION NORTH LANARKSHIRE (VANL)	HYMANS ROBERTSON TRUST
SOUTER CHARITABLE TRUST	

CORPORATE AND IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

ARNOLD CLARK	UMBRO
MACRON	MINERVA FOOTBALLS

9 Challenges and financial sustainability

Responding to increasing demand

Demand, capacity and choices

The charity is committed to responding positively wherever possible, but national reach and a one-person staff structure require careful prioritisation. Requests must be logged, equipment sourced in the right sizes, deliveries arranged and feedback recorded, while funding applications and reporting continue in parallel.

The continuing pressure on household budgets means more children need help with footwear, PE clothing and sports equipment. Requests come from a wide range of communities, including families affected by poverty and children newly arrived in Scotland. For a small charity, demand across the country presents real logistical challenges.

Rising costs of equipment, transport, fuel and premises add to the pressure. Grant applications and reporting also take a significant amount of time for a charity with one paid staff member.

Financial position and funding outlook

Why multi-year grants matter

Multi-year grants have given Balls & Boots the confidence to maintain support while working through unpredictable demand. That security is not unlimited: as commitments approach their end, the trustees must consider how to replace or renew them without assuming future awards.

Balls & Boots maintained reasonable, though not substantial, financial security during 2025–2026. This was supported by the ongoing three-year commitment from The Robertson Trust, two-year funding from Weir Charitable Trust and continuing support from Shared Access.

The Robertson Trust and Weir Charitable Trust funding arrangements are approaching their conclusion. Renewed funding cannot be assumed, and securing replacement income is therefore an important priority. We will continue developing relationships with existing and prospective funders while keeping our commitments aligned with available resources.

The charity's statutory accounts are prepared separately. This narrative does not replace the financial statements or the trustees' consideration of reserves and financial risks.

Maintaining a responsive service

We aim to help everyone who approaches us to the best of our ability. We do not want complicated processes or delays to become another barrier. Sustaining this practical, personal approach depends on secure funding and strong local partnerships.

10 Governance and management

Balls & Boots is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), charity number SC050321. The charity is overseen by four trustees: Peter Houston, John McGarry, Michael Tierney and Professor Bart McGettrick.

All four trustees served throughout 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026 and maintained regular contact. They are involved in all major decisions affecting the charity and receive no payment or personal benefit for their role.

The charity employs one staff member, Manager Colin Campbell, who manages day-to-day operations, including referrals, administration, grant applications, relationships with partner organisations and arranging equipment support.

This structure provides a direct and responsive service while retaining trustee oversight of major decisions.

11 Looking ahead to 2026–2027

Our first priority is to protect and maintain the support that children, families and partner organisations already rely upon. We want to continue responding promptly, providing suitable new equipment and supporting participation through our established network.

Where resources allow, we hope to reach additional communities and explore opportunities for young people to gain coaching or educational qualifications, as well as volunteering and work experience. These are aspirations rather than funded commitments, and any expansion will be guided by the charity's finances and capacity.

Our guiding principle remains unchanged: no child should miss out on sport simply because they cannot afford to take part.

12 A personal reflection from our manager

What matters most to me is that every child who wants to play football or take part in sport should have the opportunity to do so.

No child should be prevented from participating because their family cannot afford the right footwear, clothing or equipment. Where they live, their gender, their background or their circumstances should never determine whether they get the chance to enjoy sport.

Every child deserves the same opportunities.

I know that Balls & Boots cannot reach every child who needs help. We don't know about every family that's struggling, and we don't have unlimited resources. But what I can say is that when someone comes to us asking for support, we will always do our very best to help.

Over the years, one of the greatest pleasures of this work has been meeting the people who dedicate themselves to helping children. I've been amazed, delighted and genuinely humbled by the commitment I've encountered.

So many people give their time and energy freely, often without recognition or reward. And those employed in schools, charities and community organisations show just as much passion and determination to make sure the children they work with have the best possible opportunities.

Without these people, and the partnerships we've developed with them, Balls & Boots simply couldn't achieve what it does.

On a personal level, this work has opened up a whole new world to me. I've met people I would never otherwise have encountered, become part of a remarkable network of organisations and individuals, and made some wonderful new friends along the way.

It's been an education, and one that continues every day.

When I hear that a child who couldn't afford football boots is now playing regularly, that a young person has made friends through joining a team, or that a school has been able to give children an opportunity they didn't previously have, I'm reminded why we do this.

We can't change every child's circumstances. But sometimes something as simple as a new pair of football boots can make a real difference.

And that's what Balls & Boots is all about.

Opportunity Changes Everything.

Colin Campbell | Manager, Balls & Boots

13 Reference information and trustee approval

Charity	Balls & Boots
Charity number	SC050321
Legal form	Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)
Registered address	Newmains Community Trust Centre, Newmains, ML2 9AX
Website	ballsandboots.org
Manager	Colin Campbell
Trustees	Peter Houston; John McGarry; Michael Tierney; Professor Bart McGettrick
Reporting period	1 August 2025 – 31 July 2026

Approval

The trustees approve this Trustees' Annual Report for the reporting period stated above.

Signed on behalf of the trustees: 

Name: Michael Tierney, Trustee Date: 27/10/2026

THANK YOU

To every child, family, school, coach, volunteer, trustee, funder and partner who has been part of our work this year: thank you.

Opportunity Changes Everything.

BALLS & BOOTS • SC050321

APPENDIX 2

OSCR Scottish Charity Regulator

Balls and Boots SC050321

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from 01 August 2025 to 31 July 2026

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds current period to nearest £	Total funds last period to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	8,532				8,532	8,735
Legacies					-	
Grants	24,500	25,850			50,350	28,760
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
					-	
A1 Sub total	33,032	25,850	-	-	58,882	37,495
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	33,032	25,850	-	-	58,882	37,495
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities	180				180	180
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	22,531	19,567			42,098	43,601
Grants and donations	-	4,886			4,886	1,935
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination	960	90			1,050	630
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Other					-	-
					-	
A3 Sub total	23,671	24,543	-	-	48,214	46,346
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	23,671	24,543	-	-	48,214	46,346
Net receipts / (payments)	9,361	1,307	-	-	10,668	(8,851)
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	9,361	1,307	-	-	10,668	(8,851)

Balls and Boots SC050321

Section B Statement of balances

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	158	15,123			15,281	24,132
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	9,361	1,307			10,668	(8,851)
						-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year (Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	9,519	16,430	-	-	25,949	15,281

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Market valuation to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B2 Investments				
		Total	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (if available) to nearest £	Current value (if available) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B3 Other assets					
		Total	-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B4 Liabilities	Tax & NI due		357	358
		Total	357	358

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (estimate) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B5 Contingent liabilities				
		Total	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	M.T.	MICHAEL TIERNEY	27 October 2026

Section C Notes to the Accounts

C1 Nature and purpose of funds *(may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)*

C2 Grants

Type of activity or project supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
		Total	-

C3a Trustee remuneration

If no remuneration was paid during the period to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee cross this box (otherwise complete section 3b)	X

C3b Trustee remuneration - details

Authority under which paid	£

C4a Trustee expenses

If no expenses were paid to any charity trustee during the period then cross this box (otherwise complete section 4b)	X

C4b Trustee expenses - details

	Number of trustees	£

C5 Transactions with trustees and connected persons

Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	Transaction amount (£)	Balance outstanding at period end (£)
	No transactions in year		

C6 Other information

Balls and Boots **SC050321**

Additional analysis (1)

Analysis of receipts and payments

1 Donations

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Donations	8,532				8,532	8,735
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	8,532	-	-	-	8,532	8,735
	-	-	-	-	-	-

2 Grants

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £			Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Grants received	24,500	25,850			50,350	28,760
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	24,500	25,850			50,350	28,760
	-	-			-	-

3 Gross receipts from other charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-

4 Payments relating directly to charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Salary costs	16,414	12,117			28,531	28,648
Rent	4,125	-			4,125	4,875
Coaching costs	-	4,780			4,780	4,630
Motor and travel	332	1,021			1,353	2,208
Office running costs	694	313			1,007	1,001
Telephone	543	179			722	631
Postage, stationery & advertising	423	557			980	1,083
Payroll fee		600			600	525
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	22,531	19,567	-	-	42,098	43,601
	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX 3

OSCR
Scottish Charity Regulator

Independent examiner's report on the accounts v2

Report to the trustees/members of
Charity name
Balls and Boots

Registered charity number
SC050321

On the accounts of the charity for the period

Period start date				Period end date		
Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
1st	August	2025	**to**	31st	July	2026

Set out on pages

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 Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that 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) (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 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity 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 view given by 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: D White **Date:** 3 November 2026

Name: Dawn White

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): FCCA

Address:
WDM Associates
Oakfield House
378 Brandon Street
Motherwell ML1 1XA