

ANNUAL REPORT
2025-26

Northern Division

Scottish Community Drama Association

Scottish Charity No. SC021395

SCOTTISH COMMUNITY DRAMA ASSOCIATION

Report of Northern Divisional Committee for year ended 30 June 2026

Charity Name:	Scottish Community Drama Association Northern Division
Charity Registration number:	SC021395

Northern Divisional Committee 2025-2026

Iain McEwan	Hon President
Lee Dunn	Chairman (Aberdeen)
Graham Garson	Vice Chairman (Orkney)
Pamela Howat	Minute Secretary (Perthshire)
Margaret Sutherland	Divisional Secretary (Orkney)
Peter Esson	Treasurer (Aberdeen)
Ross Aitken	Aberdeen District Representative
Tish Howard	Aberdeen District Representative
Hugh MacLachlan	Aberdeen District (Reserve)
Lorraine Peterson	Orkney District Representative
Paula Gibson	Orkney District Representative (Reserve)
David Roy	Perthshire District Representative
Pamela Howat	Perthshire District Representative
Margaret Stewart	Perthshire District Representative
Muriel Rae	Perthshire District Representative (Reserve)
Carolyn Harrison	Individual Member
Morna Barron	Individual Member

Divisional. Representatives on National Committee

Graham Garson (exec) / Paula Gibson / Pamela Howat / Ross Aitken (Reserve)

James Scotland Rep – Morna Barron

Scottish Community Drama Association
Northern Division

Annual report for the year ending 30 June 2026

Committee meetings

The committee meetings of the Northern Divisional Committee were held in hybrid mode (face to face and over Zoom with AGM at "Inn at the Park", Aberdeen. They were reasonably well attended by all the district representatives. The agenda for each meeting was planned and all business was followed through. The meetings started at 2.00pm and finished normally around 4.30pm.

The dates were: AGM on 11th October 2025 and then 13th January, 3rd March, and 2nd May 2026.

Membership

Northern Division membership remained relatively static over the year.

MEMBERSHIP

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Individual	89	89	83	72	51	56	54	55	56	52	52
Clubs	28	27	25	25	22	26	21	21	24	24	29
Youth clubs	05	06	05	7	3	4	3	4	7	6	5
Life members	25	25	26	25	38	38	41	39	39	39	37
Totals											
Individual & life	114	114	110	97	89	94	95	94	95	91	89
Clubs	33	33	30	32	25	30	24	25	31	30	34
TOTAL	**147**	**147**	**140**	**129**	**114**	**124**	**119**	**119**	**126**	**121**	**123**

Chairman's Report

It doesn't seem like 4 years ago that I unexpectedly found myself in this chair. So for the final time here is my report of the year.

It was another busy year for us in the Northern Division, in the SCDA's centenary year. In February, all three of our districts hosted their festivals, all three had new adjudicators (to them) and there were some interesting reports from them.

We quickly moved to our Youth Final, which returned to Blairgowrie Town Hall for the first time in a number of years. Aberdeen District didn't have a youth team this year so we made the decision to invite the top 2 Youth teams from Orkney and Perthshire. This proved to be a great decision as all 4 teams produced an excellent night of entertainment and it brought it a larger very appreciative audience. It is definitely something we should keep doing if this happens again because getting more youth members on the stage can only be a good thing for the association. At the end of the night, our adjudicator Stewart Aitken announced the Birsay Drama Group were the winners.

At the start of April, everyone headed to Orkney for the Open Divisional Final. Thanks to Pentland Ferries the mainland teams faced a journey they will never forget. Thanks to the efforts of the Orkney committee all the teams were able to perform with their original set or with what could be pulled together in Orkney. After all that the festival proved to be an excellent success, the audiences (which included a sell out on the Saturday) were treated to an excellent three nights of theatre. Our adjudicator, Imelda McDonagh, had a tough decision on her hands but in the end Bon Accord Players emerged as the winners and The Wee Perthshire Dram-A Company as runners up. We were also delighted to have a new trophy at our final this year, thanks to our Honorary President Ian McEwan, the Atholl Memorial Cup for Highest Marks in Direction.

Despite the weather warnings, everyone made it off Orkney ok and headed very quickly to Pitlochry Festival Theatre for the Scottish Final at the end of April. As it was in Northern Division, many of us were on hand helping with the organising or the front of house. It proved to be a very successful festival for the Northern Division with our own Keith MacKenzie winning the Scott Salver, The Wee Perthshire Dram-A Company coming third, and Bon Accord Players finishing first and once again becoming the Scottish Champions. It was a great weekend and as always it was so good to see so much support coming from the Northern Division, including a huge part of the centenary display being brought down from Orkney which added to all the brilliant archives (which featured many in the Northern Division) from the library.

In June, many of us were involved in helping to organise and run the Scottish Youth Final at Perth Theatre. It was also great to see so many youngsters from Perthshire helping backstage during the day, they did a great job under the watchful eye of our stage manager Peter and his team. The Northern Division was again well represented by Birsay who finished second winning the Dolly Nicol Trophy.

At the start of July, many of us headed down to Wales to support Bon Accord Players as they represented Scotland at the British final. They gave a memorable performance which was loved by the audience but sadly they were once again pipped to the post by England. Northern Division and Scotland didn't leave completely empty handed as our

own Keith MacKenzie won the Geoffrey Whitworth trophy, the first Scottish winner for a number of years.

As this is our centenary year, we have still been very busy even after our festival season came to an end. A few weeks ago, many of us were at the library for a great event. In just over a month, we will all meet again for a Gala weekend at the Atholl Palace in Pitlochry. It is sure to be a fun weekend and will obviously feature the Northern Division heavily.

Next year, we will again be busy. Our Youth Final returns to the Orkney Theatre and our Open Divisional Festival heads to the Craig Centre in Aberdeen for the first time. We may not be directly involved in hosting any of the National Finals next year but you can guarantee that the Northern Division will be there helping out and supporting them.

As this is the end of my four year term, I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone on the committee and the wider Division. I have really enjoyed serving as chair these last few years. Everyone works hard to support each other whenever possible. When I hear how the other divisions run I am so grateful to be in the Northern Division. I look forward to seeing what 2027 will bring.

Thanks

Lee

Treasurer's Report Year ended 30th June 2026

The Scottish Community Drama Association (SCDA) is a voluntary organisation founded at National level in 1926. It works to promote all aspects of community theatre in Scotland and reaches its widest audience through the annual festivals of one act plays. Northern Division is accountable to the Association for relevant activities within its own area and operates within the constitution of the SCDA. As a charity the operations of the SCDA are exempt from taxation provided they remain within the charitable objectives of the Association. This report forms part of the annual Trustees Report and Accounts prepared for submission to the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR) and is copied to both Northern Division and the Head Office of SCDA in Stirling.

All members of the Northern Division are volunteers and receive no remuneration for their services. Under the terms of the constitution, Division administration is conducted by a committee of office-bearers, elected at the Annual General Meeting, and representatives of the various Districts. Business arising between Division meetings may be dealt with by the office-bearers meeting as the Executive.

The office-bearers elected at the AGM on 11th October 2025 were:

Chairman – Lee Dunn (Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire)
Vice-chairman – Graham Garson (Orkney)
Secretary – Margaret Sutherland (Orkney)
Treasurer - Peter Esson (Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire)

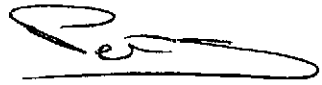
The official address of the Division for communication with OSCR (the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator) is c/o Mr Peter Esson, 61 Mearns Drive, Stonehaven, AB39 2ES.

In 2026, festivals all went ahead as planned. The Youth Divisional festival was hosted by Perthshire in Blairgowrie. This resulted in a fantastic surplus of £906.13 at the festival.

The Division Open festival was hosted by Orkney in the KGS on 27th to 29th March. This resulted in a huge surplus of £9184.94 at the festival and a further £932.22 received directly to the Division.

The Angus district folded in 2024 and we are holding £2524.69 in a restricted account, as defined by the association, until they reform or until Jan 2027 when the funds will be absorbed into the Divisional account as unrestricted funds.

As of 30th June, the Division had assets of £16533.22. This is £10743.35 from the General account, £5509.98 in the fixed term account and £279.89 from Scottish finals account.



Peter Esson
19/8/26

Report of the Independent Examiner to the
Trustees of Scottish Community Drama Association, Northern Division

I report on the accounts of the **Scottish Community Drama Association, Northern Division** for the year ended **30th June 2026** in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, "the Act" and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 - "the Regulations."

The Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1-d) does not apply.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner :

As the Trustees of the Charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is my responsibility under S44(1)[c] of the Act to examine these accounts and to report whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report :

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 and 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 such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence needed in an audit, and consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement :

With relation to my examination, I would confirm that no matter has come to my attention:-

- Which gives reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44 of the Act and Regulation 4; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting requirements of the Act and Regulation 9, have not been met, or:
- To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Alan Forbes

Alan Forbes
Director
Lime Blue Accountancy Ltd
4 Rubislaw Terrace
Aberdeen
15/01/2026

Statement of Financial Activities

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 30th June 2026

RECEIPTS	2026 Unrestricted £	2026 Restricted	2026 Total	Previous Year Total Restated £
Donations and Legacies	0.00	0.00	0.00	*0.00*
HQ Transfer for Finals deposits	0.00	0.00	0.00	*0.00*
Interest	250.36	0.00	250.36	*259.62*
Income from Divisional Festival - Open	10,117.16	0.00	10,117.16	*0.00*
Income from Divisional Festival - Youth	906.13	0.00	906.13	*0.00*
Income from Scottish Final - Open	0.00	0.00	0.00	*264.00*
Merchandise	0.00	0.00	0.00	*0.00*
SCDA memberships	309.50	0.00	309.50	*275.00*
Income from Scottish Final - Youth	0.00	0.00	0.00	*0.00*
Festival entries	0.00	0.00	0.00	*0.00*
Restricted - Angus District holding	0.00	0.00	0.00	*0.00*
Income from Summer school participant fee	150.00	0.00	150.00	*0.00*
Income from Scottish Finals adverts	0.00	0.00	0.00	*0.00*
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**11,733.15**	**0.00**	**11,733.15**	***798.62***

PAYMENTS

Expenses from Scottish Final - Open	0.00	0.00	0.00	*0.00*
Expenses from Scottish Finals - Youth	0.00	0.00	0.00	*0.00*
Expenses from Ndivs Open and Youth	0.00	0.00	0.00	*0.00*
Theatre Finals	0.00	0.00	0.00	*0.00*
50% of Festival entries to HQ	0.00	0.00	0.00	*0.00*
Donations to teams going to SF and BF	1,300.00	0.00	1,300.00	*1000.00*
Surplus from Scottish Final to HQ - Open	0.00	0.00	0.00	*0.00*
Surplus from Scottish Final to HQ - Youth	0.00	0.00	0.00	*0.00*
Open Divs team expenses	2,123.15	0.00	2,123.15	*1,998.65*
Youth Divs Teams expenses	378.06	0.00	378.06	*628.64*
Expense for Adjudicator - Divisional Final - Open	0.00	0.00	0.00	*0.00*
Adjudicator Fee - Divs Open	0.00	0.00	0.00	*0.00*
Transfer to HQ	0.00	0.00	0.00	*264.00*
Meeting expenses	40.00	0.00	40.00	*45.00*
Insurance	189.00	0.00	189.00	*189.00*
Youth Divs Deficit payment	0.00	0.00	0.00	*128.12*
Open Divs Deficit payment	0.00	0.00	0.00	*0.00*
Postage / Accounts examination / Engraving / membership	95.00	0.00	95.00	*168.44*
UTB	0.00	0.00	0.00	*0.00*
Youth Summer School	252.57	0.00	252.57	*0.00*
Transfer to UTB bank	0.00	0.00	0.00	*0.00*
Finals adverts revenue transferred to HQ	0.00	0.00	0.00	*0.00*
TOTAL PAYMENTS	**4377.78**	**0.00**	**4377.78**	*4421.85*
Surplus / Deficit for the year	**7355.37**	**0.00**	**7355.37**	*-3623.23*

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year.
All incoming resources derive from continuing activities.



Peter Esson – Treasurer

Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2026

Bank accounts	**2025-2026**	**2024-2025**
General Account	10743.35	*3638.34*
Scottish Final Account	279.89	*279.89*
cheques to be cashed	0.00	*0*
UTB bank account (£2,524.69 is restricted until Jan 2027 for Angus)	5509.98	*5259.62*
Total Assets	**16533.22**	***9177.85***
Opening Balance	9177.85	*12801.08*
Operating Surplus	7355.37	*-3623.23*
Outsanding cheques to be cleared		
	16533.22	***9177.85***

The above accounts were approved by the Committee of the Scottish Community Drama Association, Northern Division on 10th October 2026 and signed on their behalf by :

Lee Dunn – Chair

Peter Esson - Treasurer

One Act Festival 2026.

Aberdeen District

First Place (Dolly Nicol Trophy) – Bon Accord Players – "Metamorphoses" by Sami Ibrahim, Laura Lomas & Sabrina Mahfouz
Second Place (Gallery Trophy) – Banchory Drama Club – "Dialogue" by Stewart Boston
Third Place – Culter Theatre Club – "Right on Cue" by Barry Lambert
Youth Winner (Annie Inglis Cup) – Not Awarded
Best Stage Presentation (Castlegate Trophy) – Bon Accord Players – "Metamorphoses" by Sami Ibrahim, Laura Lomas & Sabrina Mahfouz
Best Moment of Theatre (Alistair Selway Quaich) – Culter Theatre Club – "Right on Cue" by Barry Lambert
Outstanding Achievement (A.C.E. Trophy) – Bon Accord Players – "Metamorphoses" by Sami Ibrahim, Laura Lomas & Sabrina Mahfouz
Best Team from Kincardineshire and Deeside (Barclay Harvey Trophy) – Culter Theatre Club – "Right on Cue" by Barry Lambert

Angus District – No festival was held in 2026
The Ian McKay Trophy (winner):
The Kay Fleming Cup (runner –up):
The Sheills Trophy (stage presentation):
The Angus Youth Trophy:

Orkney District
Challenge Cup [Winners – St Andrews Drama Group (Rerwick) with *Gallowsha* by Vera Butler
Firth Trophy [Second] – Stromness Drama Club with *Bondagers, Act One* by Sue Glover
A C Hunter Cup [Third]- Palace Players with *The Ghost Crib* by Bev Clark
The Orcadian Youth Trophy – Birsay Drama Group (Youth) with *Wannabes* by Emilia O'Donoghue
Ernie Donaldson Trophy [Highest Marks in Direction] – St Andrews Drama Group (Rerwick)
George Scott Cup [Best Stage Setting] – Stromness Drama Club
St Magnus Parish Trophy [Rural District Winner] – St Andrews Drama Group (Rerwick)
Isles Cup [Best Island Team] – [No eligible team]
Jean Campbell Memorial Trophy [Scottish Life & Character] – Stromness Drama Club
Corsie Cup [Best Moment of Theatre] – Palace Players

Perthshire District
First : The Wee Perthshire Dram-a Club - A Thousand Invisible Choices by Keith Mackenzie
Second : Aberfeldy Drama Club – Mclean by Bob Davidson
Third : Aberfeldy Drama Club - Listen to the Walls by Anna Price & Sandra Batty
Best Youth : Aberfeldy Youth Drama Club - Revived 45 by Alan Brown
Second youth : Curtains Up - King Henry VIII by Geoff Bamber
Highest Production marks : The Wee Perthshire Dram-a Club - A Thousand Invisible Choices by Keith Mackenzie
Best Moment : Aberfeldy Drama Club - Listen to the Walls by Anna Price & Sandra Batty
Scottish Life and Character : Aberfeldy Drama Club - Listen to the Walls by Anna Price & Sandra Batty
Best Stage presentation : Curtains Up - King Henry VIII by Geoff Bamber

Divisional Festival

Award	Trophy	Team	Play
First Place	Alex Drummond Trophy	Bon Accord Players	Metamorphoses
Second Place	Jess Milne Quaich	The Wee Perthshire Dram-a Company	A Thousand Invisible Choices
Third Place	Stonehaven Salver	St Andrews Drama Club,	Gallowsha
Stage Presentation	Kennedy Thomson Quaich	Bon Accord Players	Metamorphoses
Highest Marks in Directing	Atholl Memorial Trophy	Bon Accord Players	Metamorphoses
Best Moment of Theatre	Alan Nicol MBE Trophy	Aberfeldy Drama Club Youth	Revived '45
Community of under 500	Bon Accord Cup	St Andrews Drama Club	Gallowsha

Divisional Youth Festival

Award	***Trophy***	***Team***	***Play***
Youth Winners	Jayne Nicol Youth Trophy	Birsay Drama Group	Wannabes
Youth second	Jenny Hill Youth Trophy	Stromness Academy Players	How to Get Away with a Murder Mystery
Best Moment in theatre	Morton Trophy	Curtains Up	King Henry VIII