

2025

Brechin
Buccaneers
SC045079

Trustees Report 2025

BRECHIN
BUCCANEERS
SC045079



1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025

Brechin Buccaneers
Scottish Charity Number SC045079

Registered Office

The Crickety

Caldhame Place

Brechin

DD9 7EB

**Its all about
YOU
and the local
COMMUNITY**

BrechinBuccaneers@yahoo.co.uk

TheCrickety@yahoo.com

[@BrechinBucs](#)

[@TCrickety](#)

[Facebook : Brechin Bucs. Or TheCrickety](#)

TRUSTEES

2025 TRUSTEES OF BRECHIN BUCCANEERS

**DEREK MITCHELL (CHAIR)
STEVE DEMPSEY
JESSICA NEWTON
JOHN ANDERSON
MAIRI GUOGEON MSP
DEREK TRAILL**

No further Trustee were added during the course of 2025

Objectives and activities

Brechin Buccaneers SC045079 were set up to provide for the advancement of the public participation in sport as well as the provision of recreational facilities or the organization of recreational facilities with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities or activities are intended.

As such the charity works in the sporting field to organize and provide coaching and training sessions for all persons and groups interested in participating in the sports of Cricket and Table Tennis. The charity furthermore provides and empowers other groups with similar aims and objectives in the area such.

Developing on from the initial work undertaken during 2018, the charity continues to expand upon its role within the east end of the city as a major provider of services for the area. Further to this Brechin Buccaneers also undertake a great deal of work with a number of partner organisations to enable improvements in the local environment, community events, education and health amongst others.

Recent evidence has highlighted the key correlation between the social determinants of health, acute life experiences and the community's prospects. We through our sporting and charitable aims, continue the aim to bring positive changes to our community across economic, employment, educational, social and health fields.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Brechin Buccaneers are a Scottish Charitable Organisation (SCIO) which was first formed in its current legal structure on the 27th of August 2014.

The SCIO continues the promotion of sport, recreational activities and their associated activities as well as addressing the social determinants of health in the area.

Brechin Buccaneers have a single tier structure and as such the trustees are members of the charitable organization.

Trustees are elected at Annual General Meeting, which is normally held in late March or early April. There must be a minimum of 3 trustees and a maximum of 7 trustees in operation for the charity.

The management committee meets monthly (normally at the start of each month) and consists of all trustees and a smaller number of executive members who possess skills pertinent to the development of the SCIO.

Membership of the management group is open to all members of the SCIO

Trustees will be eligible for re-election at the following Annual General, or Extraordinary General meeting

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCES

The charity started 2025 on a more subdued note than in any of the past years with huge efforts having gone into supporting our community in the previous 18 months beginning to take their toll. Nevertheless, all throughout the year large numbers still came through our doors seeking and receiving help and assistance. The work of the charity as ever continued at great rates, seeking out those isolated, unsure or excluded members of the community most at need in the city and surrounding areas, building levels of trust, seeking innovative solutions to issues, and placing the charity in a place to be able to alleviate issues when they arise.

Despite this large amount of work being undertaken we are still acutely aware of the large gaps in provision around the city. Recent targeting of efforts centering around Storm Babet has meant that many groups we feel have enabled greater levels of division to occur, with the overlooking of the pre-existing issues with storm altogether.

The work undertaken during the previous few years continues to enable the SCIO to maintain a firm base within the community even under an ever-increasing workload. We have continued to develop and operate a continually growing number of projects and programs during the year with numbers through the door continuing to remain high. The continuation of our user led approach has enabled the charity to access levels of funding, secure improved results and be able to meet the ever-changing needs of the community head on. Nevertheless, we are becoming increasingly aware of rising levels of expectation in the community and further afield towards the work we undertake. This expectation has placed increasing pressures upon the charity at this time.

In alignment with large numbers of the population, the charity once again faced substantial rising costs during the year, an area which posed a significant challenge when dealing with longer term funding cycles and necessitates substantial work to navigate prudently and successfully.

As in 2024, the charity along with a great deal of our community continued to face the greatest challenges not of its own making. This challenge would not only be to those directly impacted by the results of flooding and Storm Babet, but also to service provision elsewhere, the financial abilities of the area, health concerns, employment, as well as the ability to support an ever-growing list of needs.

In addition to its own projects and work, during the year Brechin Buccaneers / The Crickety regularly worked with 73 other organisation's and witnessed 40 ,464 visitors through its door. This work provided just over £4 millions of benefits, projects and services being delivered to the local community. Special thanks for this needs to go to all our paid and unpaid members of staff who were highly successful in improving and increasing the work of the charity during this period and with it the lives of many members of our community. Once again this is especially remarkable given the onslaught of work undertaken, economic impact and emotionally draining situations that arose throughout the year on an almost daily basis.

At the end of the year, it was a remarkable achievement and recognition for all to see the charity awarded with The Cricketer magazines Community Cricket Club of the year for the United Kingdom and Ireland. To have received recognition for our community work and environmental credentials as the best in the UK and Ireland is something that the charity could not have ever imagined, and one of which we are incredibly proud.

The trust built within the community in the organization; its work and staff enabled the charity to maintain great communication levels which were at the heart of all our work. This ability to ascertain and react to the needs and wishes of the community we feel is key to being a worthwhile community organization. With horrific situations all around on a weekly basis it has often been remarked during the course of the year how we as an organisation stood up for the city and its population whilst helping deliver a way forward in the most testing of times. Once

again, we are extremely grateful to all our staff, volunteers and funders for enabling us to make such a positive difference

During the year this support and work has ensured that we could always be available for our community. This as always has been achieved by listening to and acting upon their needs and requirements. With growing numbers becoming aware of our work as well as a large upturn in the numbers requiring assistance, this constantly evolving process and creativity has been key to our pledge to always support our community.

The charity's work as previously highlighted, continued at great pace during the year and has enabled further charitable expansions and developments to occur with a continuation of our new service delivery model becoming increasingly prevalent.

Following on from the previous 12 months, the decision to invest resources into working to improve youth employability in the area, has continued and further enabled the charity to continue both its support of local youth employment, but additionally enabling a greater level and quality of service delivery to occur. During 2025 the charity made the worthy decision to seek and employ our first ever young apprentice. This has been a decision and an employee of which we are incredibly proud.

This year also witnessed a continued and increasing commitment to local young people in three main themes – Education, Employment and Activities

During the year the charity created a further 5 salaried posts of between 6 and 12 months in length for local young people. Four of those previously employed by the charity continued to be employed by the charity on a longer-term basis, with a further two going on to secure employment elsewhere. This area is one in which the charity received great acclaim throughout the year and one of which we are proud to be making such a positive difference to. The decision concerning youth employment has been highly beneficial not only for the individuals concerned, through raising their expectations, employability and

confidence, but also the charity as we have unearthed a number of very hard working talented young people who have enabled us to develop further areas of work during the year.

After a great deal of consultation with the local community the charity launched a new “Care enough to Care” program with the launch of an education bank to support low-income parents, a low-cost food initiative, budgeting advice, cooking courses, the development and ongoing support for a new food bank in the city, as well as support for low income working families during holiday periods.

Throughout the year we have continued to move at pace to seek out new partners, moving forward in enabling the organisation to deliver a wide range of new services, work with new groups, improve upon existing provision as well as maximizing our standing and reputation in the local and wider area. This we feel has had great success in kickstarting improvements not only to our own services but in providing a model of work for others to follow. Examples of which can now be viewed throughout the area.

Once again and in addition to our previous investments in the area and community, the trustees during the course of the year released reserves into facility improvements. It was felt that an opportunity remained untapped to develop not only the organisation itself but also the surrounding area and community by working to develop an integrated approach to all arms of the SCIO’s work. An opportunity to develop, improve and integrate facilities and work presented itself during the summer and after a great deal of cost risk analysis, the decision was made to invest in improvements to the park space and additional facilities.

The positive difference throughout the area has been an ongoing process during the year, and one which all staff take great delight in hearing from users and passersby. The continued development and improvements to our facilities we believe have been hugely influential in attracting new groups and work to the area, and the optimism and

belief in our services during the year has proven to be instrumental in enforcing a can-do attitude whilst highlighting what is possible for the local community. The use of the byline 'Why not in Brechin' is something we take great pride in asking at every opportunity.



To this aim, the trustees once again made a conscious decision to support local groups where and whenever possible and have accordingly priced the booking of the various facilities in such fashion. This we feel has been a major attraction of the building and ground and must be recognized as a key factor to the improvements made in the area across a number of fields. This ability does not significantly detract from our overall income levels and enables the charity to remain a key driver in bringing new services to the city. By enabling local groups to operate and improve their service levels, to come to the city and deliver local solutions to local issues locally, and by assisting with the formation of new groups, we have consistently improved the local community and the range of services available within the city. At present the SCIO works closely with a wide range of other groups, organisation and charity's across several agreed projects in this area.



With significant cuts to many services elsewhere we continued to ascertain the need and potential for service delivery. This area of work often leads to constant reviews, not only of lost services elsewhere, but also in our own provision to ensure a current , needed and improvement driven service is delivered

Brechin Reduce Energy

As highlighted in last year's report, we began the year looking to lower both energy usage and bills for residents. Through staff training, the development of energy advisors, partnership work, thermal imaging of properties and utility advice key indices of sustainable change have been delivered in several areas. Our Reduce energy project worked throughout the year with 400 plus properties to highlight potential issues, offer low-cost solutions, and deliver general advice to the community. Thanks to a funder this work also meant that we could provide lower energy usage small electrical products and heat the person items. Within the 12-month period figures show a projected saving of £455,913 was achieved within the city and surrounding areas.

Colour Run

Our 2025 Colour Run once proved to be the largest yet, selling out within 7 days and enabling nearly 300 people to take part from all over the country. This we feel is a key element to raising the profile not only of the charity but of the region.

Share Shop

Our Share shop idea was one which we looked at for a small period and forgot. However, this was reignited after a few discussions and knowledge that many of those flooded had lost everything. The rationale was simple, a low-cost hire scheme for everyday items we only use a small number of times but take up space and cost money that could be saved. Thanks to initial funding the project has grown to have quite a large membership and usage, with all funds going back into servicing, replacing and buying new items.

Christmas

As seems to be the normal our Christmas events become one of the most popular. This year as well as hosting visits, our toy appeal with Lidl and providing hampers for local low-income working families, we ran a catch all project to ensure we could lift the spirits of the entire community by dressing up and delivering hats and parcels to random people on the street.

Education Bank

This year we launched a different style of support for local children of low-income working parents. This was designed to lower levels of bullying, improve attendance levels in addition to providing health and financial support to parents /guardians

Food Bank / Low cost food provision

Since its inception the charity has vied away from any form of food provision but events during the year as well as opportunities that presented themselves changed this. New partnerships have also made this easier, as we are able to split the food bank part being delivered elsewhere from our own low cost provision and wrap around support. This has already proven to be highly needed and is something that we continue to monitor.

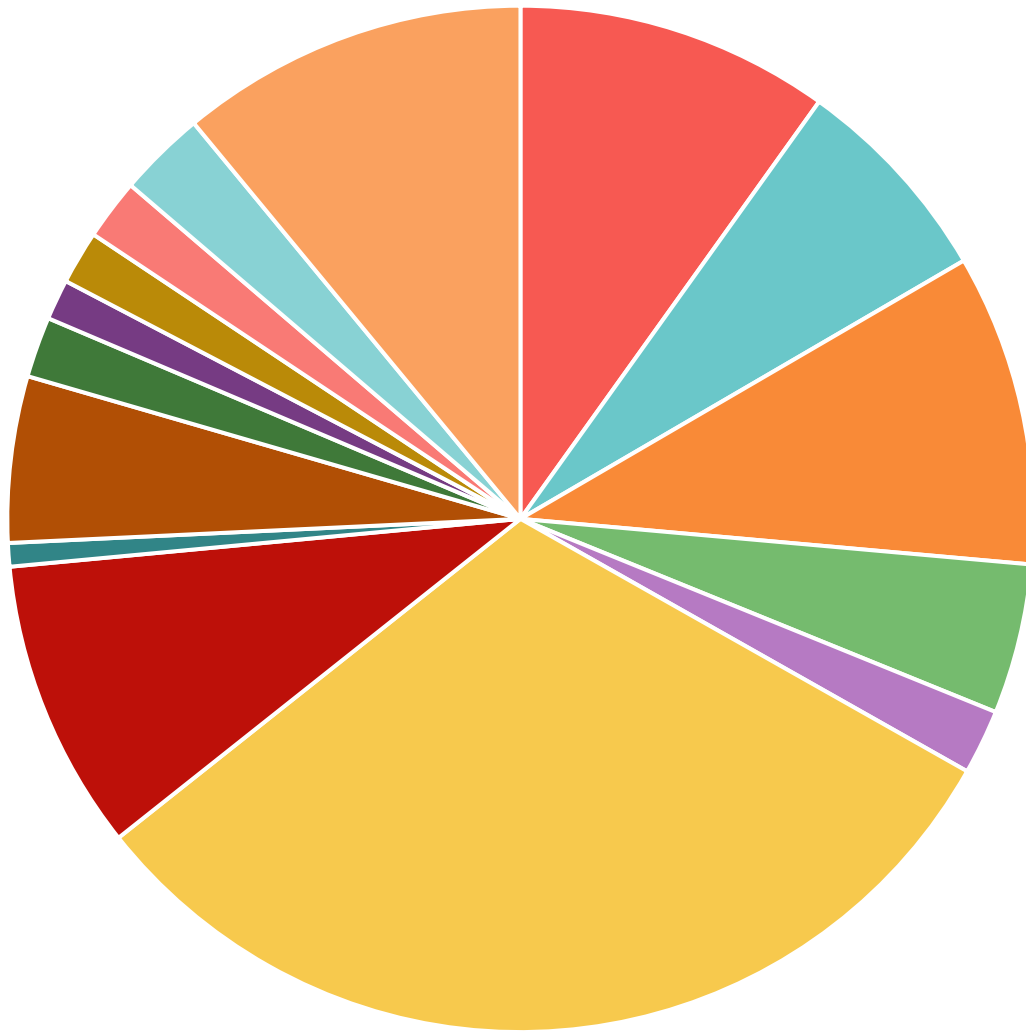
Holiday Programs

We continued to re write rules around these projects by offering educational and training support for parents at the same time as bespoke family support for trips and events. This we have always felt enable greater interaction and memories to be built for parents and children alike.

The past year has also witnessed a small number of funded projects emerge that are yet to launch. These include a new Archery club which will work across several areas to build confidence etc, as well as become another social club for young and old alike. Further to this we are also aware of the changing nature of the city, its buildings and population. With this in mind we are set to launch a new podcast with support from the local community and highlighting the people and the area.

Areas of impact during 2025

Visitors during 2025 : 40464



Sport

Guthrie Park Table Tennis Club

Guthrie Park Table Tennis Club

Guthrie Park Table Tennis Club (GPTTC) was established in 2016 with the assistance of Brechin Buccaneers Cricket Club to allow their facilities to be used for training, practise and playing matches. Initially using the pavilion and currently within the main hall at "The Crickety." The club began with four senior members and were fortunate to gain the support of the local community to allow them to obtain a new table by way of the participatory budget scheme, Brechin YBYC 2015.

Since its inception GPTTC has become a thriving small club working is now part of the charities operations and currently has a membership of nine senior members and five junior table tennis players.

Junior participation involves coaching and involves one session per week whilst seniors enjoy two sessions per week, which also include matches. There is two UKCC level 1 coach available for club sessions to encourage improvement and development. It is currently one of two Angus clubs affiliated to Table Tennis Scotland and Dundee & District Table Tennis Association (DDTTA). The season runs from September to March each year therefore for the purpose of this report shall include the remainder of season 24-25 (March 2025) and the start of season 25-26. (September 2026)

Season 25

The 1st team (Brechtin) did well to finish the season in 5th place and could have looked to climb even further up the table had it not been for season ending injuries to two of the teams four players. Despite this the remainder of the team did well individually and ultimately ensured that Brechtin would remain in Division 1 for season 2025-26.

Buccaneers who had previously been relegated from Division 2 to Division 3 in the previous year, immediately bounced back with an outstanding season. Losing only two matches all season, finished as league champions and achieved promotion for the forthcoming season. Steve Stranock finished this year with a remarkable 93%-win rate.

Lower Division Championships- January 2025

Steve continued his good form in these championships. Making his way to the final of both the Division 3 singles championships and over 25s singles championship, before ultimately losing in both.

DDTTA Championships- February 2025

Aaron Robertson again proved his credentials as he made his way to the Veterans doubles final, before he also lost in the final.

League Season 2025-26

This new season began with a major development for the charity as three teams entered the competition and included a first ever all junior team "The Crickety" plying their trade in Division 3. This has been of great credit to all involved and has highlighted the development of junior coaching sessions.

After School Club.

The after-school club project has continued this season in the same format as previous years. During this period there have been 7 different players attending across all the sessions.

3 players made the transition to club coaching at GPTTC and are all in S5 and are now competing in the local DDTTA leagues and thoroughly enjoying the competition despite some heavy losses. An S3 player has been invited to attend the club sessions.

Angus Secondary Schools Junior Festival

On 21st November 2025, Carnoustie High School hosted an annual Junior festival. This is an opportunity for inexperienced players who play within their schools to compete against other players of a similar level.

53 S1-3 pupils participated from 6 of the 8 secondary schools in Angus. Brechin had 8 players taking part with 2 players, undefeated in their groups, making it to the quarter finals. Only 3 from the after-school club attended.

During this period, the club lost 2 juniors who are now attending University and gained 2 new junior recruits who resides in Brechin but attends school out with Brechin.

Future Development

GPTTC has similar issues as clubs in the area where most players are older however with successful junior attendance the club can recruit younger players to play table tennis in the future and provide long term sustainability for table tennis competition in the area. The after-school club also provides opportunity to provide a pathway for future junior players joining the club. There is room for further growth in recreational play. Table tennis is a gentle impact sport that is good for hand, eye coordination that anyone can play.

Cricket

The past year was one of huge positives and a small number of regrets as a huge number of games coming to Brechin.

We once again played host to Crescent and this meant that top division cricket returned to Guthrie Park for the first time this decade. This drew reasonable interest as well as a huge number of positive feedback from visitors and officials alike. We are delighted to see this partnership continue into 2026 and hopefully beyond. Furthermore, it was also pleasing to see the team itself develop to top division cricket during the year.

The huge amount of work that has gone into park and playing space over the last decade bore fruit during 2025 with a national cup final, three regional finals, two regional semifinals, a visit from the Forty club of Scotland, as well as the hosting of the National Women's Super Series taking place in Brechin. This year also saw the first visits of international teams to Brechin with the Netherlands and Nepal having sessions in the city. It has been extremely pleasing to see and hear the comments from players, staff and spectators with regard to the care and attention they felt when attending cricketing events at the charity.

Out with games the charity continued to develop its junior and holiday programs centered around Guthrie Park. Participants grew during the year and we are hopeful this can be expanded during the forthcoming year. Work designed to take sport out into various parks in Brechin and surrounding areas proved to be a good success.

As highlighted elsewhere in this report, we were delighted at the end of the year to be named as The Cricketer magazine's Green Community Ground of 2025 for the United Kingdom and Ireland. This we feel

highlights many of the projects we undertake within the park space – solar charging of mowers, growing spaces, bee hotels, planting areas, wildlife support, electric cycle hire, share shop, poly tunnel spaces, fruit trees, fruit cages, et al. We look forward to the presentation in the early part of 2026.



Despite of the great successes and achievements of the SCIO during 2025, this year especially has seen us need to take time to look back and remember some of our sons and daughters. It was with deep sadness that we again lost a couple of our favorite sons and daughters during the course of the year and always our thoughts and best wishes go out to their families and friends.

We would like to thank those who have contributed so greatl, and continue to sacrifice their own time and health to benefit our community's health and wellbeing during these times



STATEMENT OF THE CHARITIES POLICY ON RESERVES / FINANCES

Whilst the Charity holds no formal policy on reserves, the trustees do however seek to maintain one year's reserves for major sources of expenditure. This year's accounts despite still maintain this figure in reserve.

Thanks in the main part to fundraising efforts over the previous 2 years and the payment of a number of funding streams the SCIO is happy to report only a small loss on the year and one which is expected to be covered by payment in arrears from funders over the next 3 months. It has to be noted however that we are now in the last couple of months funding from two of our main supporters.

Again, and as in previous years the SCIO benefitted from many services and in-kind donations which are greatly appreciated as serve as an example of its standing in the local community.

Wherever possible Brechin Buccaneers to maximise and utilize its resources to benefit the local community. As such we have provided use of ground facilities to Andover Primary School free of charge for all sporting events run by them.

FUTURE PLANS

As we say goodbye to 2025 and look forward to the challenges and opportunities of 2026, we expect to have the foresight in place to navigate the future. We expect there to be several challenges along the way but also a few opportunities which we feel we are in a very good position to pursue. Recognition at this point needs to be made to the current funding situation that many including ourselves face and the roads that need to be travelled.

We are aware that the needs of the community are ever changing and so must we be, but we must never forget the main aim is to be in a well-educated community with great income, high levels of employment and in good health. Until then we will keep working, reaching for the stars and trying to make this possible by caring enough to actually care.

Plans are in place to continue new developments, work with existing and develop work streams with new partners and project themes developed. As we approach our twelfth year as a SCIO, and the seventh birthday of The Crickety building, the trustees will once again look back on the road travelled, the lives changed, hopefully for the better, and at the vast positive difference we have made in this time.

Why not in Brechin?

