



OBSERVATORY FOR SPORT IN SCOTLAND (OSS)

REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

CHARITY NUMBER: SC046823

Henderson Black & Co

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, ST ANDREWS

Observatory for Sport in Scotland (OSS)

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For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

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Observatory for Sport in Scotland (OSS)

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025.

The Observatory for Sport in Scotland (OSS) is a "Think and Do" Tank. A registered charity (SCO46823), it is independent of government.

Charitable purposes

The charity's purposes are:

- The advancement of education, primarily, but not exclusively, by undertaking, commissioning or analysing research in order to produce data and analysis that can be widely disseminated to promote the wide range of community sport activity as a force for the improvement of all aspects of life. Potential benefits will be the positive impact on health and well-being, gender and race relations, education and social welfare, contributing to civic society and the wealth of the nation
- Based on its objective research and analysis the organisation will drive open, ongoing and transparent debate and decision-making aimed at improving sport opportunities across Scotland.

Context

The community sports backdrop to September 2024- August 2025 continued some concerning trends, not least more leisure facilities closed or planned for closure. There were many informal discussions around the OSS Board about the impacts of closures on users and volunteers. The Board was resolute, the need for the OSS was greater now than it had ever been.

Leadership

The OSS entered the financial year September 2024- August 2025 financially stable and focussed on finding a new Chair.

Having exhausted its own networks, the Board (of 10 Trustees) agreed professional help was required and following some investigation, FWB Executive Search Ltd was approached in October 2024. They provided a detailed proposal which the Board agreed to. The proposal was in three stages with the final fee only payable if the search was successful, something which the Board found reassuring.

The Board felt very much involved in the scoping of the search, contributing a lot to the search material. Several potential candidates were introduced to OSS and discussions held with them in November 2024. All brought something different and interesting to OSS' future and the Board was very appreciative of the time and thought invested by each. The Board were unanimous in their support of ██████ becoming the Chair which, happily, he agreed to.

Strategy

█████ took up reins in the early part of 2025. An all day informal Board meeting held in April 2025 served as a strategy session (with external facilitation). Some significant decisions were set in train, not least a planned name change for the OSS to The Raeburn Institute, honouring the charity's founder ██████

█████ This change is in hand but the technicalities are not yet finalised.

Observatory for Sport in Scotland (OSS)

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

The Board also wrestled with a strapline to support the name change, never an easy task! It settled on:

[The Raeburn Institute] is Scotland's independent advocate for sport, helping to deliver positive change which will support the building of sportier, healthier communities by turning evidence and research into action.

In this light the Board also considered the focus of the Charity's work going forward. Some interesting ideas were put forward which the Board requested be scoped out in some more detail which is ongoing. The potential to launch new work and findings at a conference was discussed and supported. Again, more work to be done on this but it is in hand.

Future Funding

The OSS Funding model was also discussed. The focus over the last year has been the stabilisation of OSS and so seeking funding has not been at the forefront of its activities. With a more stable leadership and a clearer way forward the Board's thoughts have turned to future funding.

Generally, it was thought unlikely any public funding would be forthcoming hence any future funding would come from HNW donors, Trusts and Foundations, and corporate sources. A strategy paper in this regard was to be drafted. It was also agreed at a time when funding was forthcoming there was a need to have stronger reserves policy.

Summary

The Board is fully behind the need for the OSS, possibly now more than ever. It is also fully supportive of its new Chair and energised about the potential impact the OSS can make in the future. Work is underway to scope work which can deliver that impact as well as plans to secure funding in order to deliver it.

Financial review

In the year ended 31 August 2025 there was a deficit of £11,831 (2024 – surplus of £16,214). Expenditure on charitable activities amounted to £12,371 (2024 - £1,891).

Reserves policy

The trustees' policy is to hold reserves to meet normal running costs and known commitments for three to six months. At the year end, unrestricted reserves amounted to £6,339 (2024 – £18,170) less liabilities of £540 (2024 - £540). Restricted reserves amounted to £nil (2024 - £nil).

Observatory for Sport in Scotland (OSS)

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered on 31 August 2016. The charity comprises the Board of Trustees. The people serving on the Board are referred to as the charity trustees under the constitution.

Appointment of trustees

The Board are the charity's trustees and they meet five times per year. The Board may appoint new members by way of a resolution passed by a majority vote at a Board meeting. The maximum number of Board members is 12 with 4 required for a quorum.

Management

The Board is responsible for monitoring and controlling the financial position of the organisation.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity name

Observatory for Sport in Scotland (OSS)

Charity number

SC046823

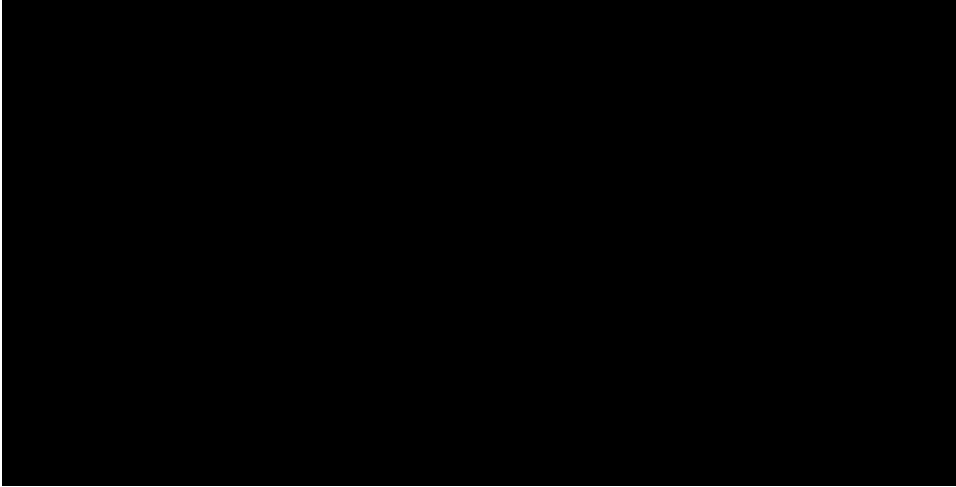
Contact Address

c/o Henderson Black & Co, Chestney House, 149 Market Street, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9PF

Independent Examiner

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank



Observatory for Sport in Scotland (OSS)

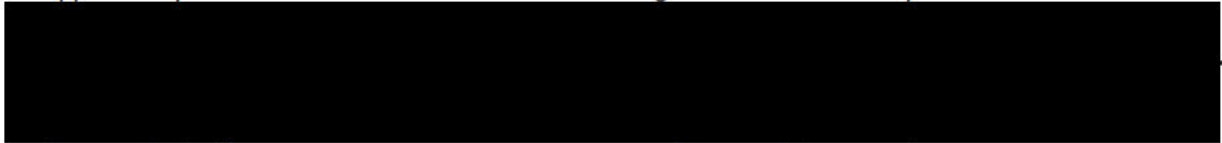
Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements, which they are responsible for preparing, comply with the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the terms of the charity's Constitution. The applicable law also sets out the responsibilities of the trustees for the preparation and content of the Annual Report.

Approved by the trustees on 28 November 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the names and signatures of the trustees. A small horizontal line extends from the right edge of the box.

(Trustee & Chair)

(Trustee & Secretary)

Observatory for Sport in Scotland (OSS)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Observatory for Sport in Scotland (OSS)

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2025 which are set out on pages 6 to 9.

Respective Responsibilities of the 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) Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act") and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations"). The charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine and report on the accounts under section 44(1) (c) of the 2005 Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

This report is made to the trustees, as a body, in accordance with the terms of my engagement. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the trustees for my work or for this report.

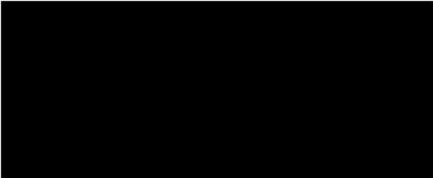
Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 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 Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 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.



Henderson Black & Co
Chartered Accountants

28 November 2025

Chestney House
149 Market Street
St Andrews
Fife, KY16 9PF

Observatory for Sport in Scotland (OSS)

Statement of Receipts and Payments
for the year ended 31 August 2025

		Unrestricted General Fund	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Unrestricted General Fund	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts							
Donations	6	540	-	540	10,605	7,500	18,105
Total receipts		<u>540</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>10,605</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>18,105</u>
Payments							
Cost of charitable activities	7	12,371	-	12,371	1,891	-	1,891
Total payments		<u>12,371</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,371</u>	<u>1,891</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,891</u>
(Deficit)/surplus for the year		(11,831)	-	(11,831)	8,714	7,500	16,214
Transfers between funds	8	-	-	-	9,500	(9,500)	-
(Deficit)/surplus for the year		<u>(11,831)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(11,831)</u>	<u>18,214</u>	<u>(2,000)</u>	<u>16,214</u>

The notes on page 8 and 9 form an integral part of these accounts.

Observatory for Sport in Scotland (OSS)

Statement of Balances as at 31 August 2025

	Unrestricted			Unrestricted		
	General Fund	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	General Fund	Restricted Funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Opening cash at bank and in hand	18,170	-	18,170	(44)	2,000	1,956
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(11,831)	-	(11,831)	18,214	(2,000)	16,214
Closing cash at bank and in hand	<u>6,339</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,339</u>	<u>18,170</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,170</u>
Bank and Cash Balances						
Bank accounts	6,339	-	6,339	18,170	-	18,170
	<u>6,339</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,339</u>	<u>18,170</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,170</u>
Liabilities						
Independent examiner's fee	540	-	540	540	-	540
	<u>540</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>540</u>

The notes on page 8 and 9 form an integral part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 28 November 2025.

Trustee

Trustee

Observatory for Sport in Scotland (OSS)

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025

1 Principal Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

1.2 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. The trustees maintain an unrestricted general fund for the day-to-day running of the charity.

Restricted funds relate to grants received for a specific purpose.

2 Related party transactions

During the year, a total of £nil (2024 - £nil) was donated to the charity by the trustees.

3 Trustees' remuneration

No remuneration was paid in the year (2024 - nil).

4 Control

Control of the charity lies in the hands of the trustees.

5 Donated services and facilities

The value of work done by trustees in giving of their time for meetings and other matters on behalf of the charity is not reflected in the accounts as it cannot be quantified.

6 Donations

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024
Trusts and Foundations	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
Research	-	-	-	-	7,500	7,500
Individuals	540	-	540	605	-	605
	<u>540</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>10,605</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>18,105</u>

Observatory for Sport in Scotland (OSS)

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025

7 Cost of charitable activities	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024
Recruitment costs	11,400	-	11,400	-	-	-
IT software and consumables	325	-	325	-	-	-
Bank charges	-	-	-	30	-	30
Advertising	10	-	10	200	-	200
Accountancy and payroll services	-	-	-	432	-	432
Independent examination fee	468	-	468	540	-	540
Insurance	168	-	168	689	-	689
	<u>12,371</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,371</u>	<u>1,891</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,891</u>

8 Restricted Funds 2025

The restricted fund balances were all utilised in the previous year.

Restricted Funds 2024

	At 31 August 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfer to Unrestricted	At 31 August 2024
Children's Sport Activity	-	7,500	-	(7,500)	-
South Ayrshire Golf	2,000	-	-	(2,000)	-
	<u>2,000</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(9,500)</u>	<u>-</u>

Purpose of restricted funds

Children's Sport Activity: Grant received from University of Edinburgh. Following the departure of staff members in the previous year the remaining work to complete this project was carried out by researchers on a pro bono basis, with the balance of funds transferring to unrestricted.

South Ayrshire Golf: Grant received in March 2022 from the Tam O'Shanter Trust and in August 2022 from the R&A for a research project. Following the completion of the project the remaining balance was transferred to unrestricted funds to account for an under allocation of staff costs in the previous year.