The Northern Meeting Charitable Piping Trust

Annual Report and Accounts

Year Ended 31st December 2025

Registered Charity Number SC002731

Contents

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year to 31st December 2024

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name	The Northern Meeting Charitable Piping Trust
Charity Number	SC002731
Charity's Principal Address	1 Barnton Gardens Edinburgh EH4 6AF

Trustees on date of approval of the Trustees' Annual Report

Derek Fraser	Convener	
Douglas Gardiner	Treasurer	
Mark Tennant		
Maurice Gibson		Appointed Feb 2025

No other trustees served during the period

Independent Examiner	Margaret Birse Tangram Accounting 23 Clark Avenue Linlithgow EH49 7AP

Structure Governance and Management

Governing Document

The trust is governed by its Trust Deed, dated November 1979, and is managed by the board of trustees.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

The appointment of trustees is by unanimous agreement of the existing trustees and removal is by unanimous agreement of the others. On appointment trustees are made familiar with their responsibilities.

Objectives and Activities

The principal charitable purposes of the Trust are to support the holding of competitions and the provision of instruction in the playing of Highland bagpipes or other musical instruments, to encourage the education and interest of the public in the art of music generally and in Scottish Highland music especially, to arrange for performances and displays in the playing of Highland bagpipes and other instruments and to promote research into the folk music of the Highlands of Scotland.

The main activity of the Trust is to organise and manage the annual Northern Meeting Piping Competitions in Inverness. These competitions have been held in Inverness since 1841 with the exception of two years in Aviemore (2006 and 2007) and Covid related cancellations (2020 and 2021). They are regarded as the most important and prestigious solo piping competitions of all, attracting the very best players from around the World.

Achievements

The competitions were held in The Eden Court Theatre on 11th and 12th September 2025. The competition typically draws some 500 people comprising 140 competitors and 360 visitors. Around 40 of the best young pipers from Scotland and further afield enter the junior contest.

The event was a popular success despite ticket sales being down 6.5% on 2024. This was largely due to the event being held two weeks later than normal meaning many overseas piping enthusiasts returned home after the usual two-week period in late August including The World Pipe Band Championships and our sister contest, The Argyllshire Gathering.

An important objective is to stimulate interest among young people. Our junior competition attracted a strong entry of quality players with numbers up 15% notwithstanding a fall in overseas pipers. This is a pleasing trend on top of a 28% increase in 2024 following a significant fall post-Covid. Adult entries are always oversubscribed, and this year was no exception.

A sizeable number of young people also attended the senior competitions free of charge.

The increase in financial support from the Inverness Common Good Fund (£4,900 in 2024 to £9,000 in 2025) reduced the sums required from the Northern Meeting's own investment resources.

Financial Review

The results for the year are set out in the attached accounts.

The receipts and payments account show a surplus for the year of £17,146 (2024: deficit for the year of £1,648). Part of the reason for the overall surplus is that the invoices for payment of the hire of the Eden Court Theatre and for catering at Eden Court Theatre, were not paid until January 2026. However, the balance due to be paid of £19,685, will be paid partly from the £9,000 balance of restricted funds held towards the running of the piping competitions, and net £6,800 (when ticket sales have been allocated towards the charges) from unrestricted funds. This would bring the surplus down to £1,346.

The statement of balances at 31 December 2025 shows a balance of cash funds of £18,405 (2024: £1,259).

In addition to cash funds held in the bank, the charity holds investments of £303,560 (2024: £277,508) in a variety of investments managed by W1M on a total return basis.

Reserves

The current charity unrestricted reserves are £9,405 (2024: £1,259) based on the amount of cash held by the charity in its bank account. These cash reserves allow the charity to operate its day to day business. As funds can be drawn down at any time from its investments, the trustees believe that holding a significant sum of cash reserves is not necessary.

The investments held by the charity are producing a total return of around 14% The trustees are satisfied that this return is sufficient to enable to the charity to continue running the piping competition without having to reduce the capital invested.

The trustees approved the Trustees' Report on 19th June 2026 and it is signed on their behalf by

Derek Fraser

Derek Fraser

Trustee and Convener

Independent Examiner's Report

To the trustees of The Northern Meeting Charitable Piping Trust

I report on the statement of account of the charity for the period ended 31st December 2025, the accounts of which are set out on pages 7 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the statement of account in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 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 Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the statement of account 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 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 proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Margaret Birse 23rd June 2026

Name: Margaret Birse CCFA CIPFA (Affil) FCIE

Address: Tangram Accounting
23 Clark Avenue, Linlithgow, West Lothian, EH49 7A

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year ended 31st December 2025

		2025			2024
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	Note	£	£	£	£
Receipts	2				
Donations		10,725	13,150	23,875	16,100
Receipts from Fundraising Activities				-	-
Gross Trading Receipts		8,413	-	8,413	12,066
Inestment Receipts				-	-
Subtotal		19,138	13,150	32,288	28,166
Receipts from Asset & Investment Sales					
Proceeds from sale of investments		13,000		13,000	17,000
Subtotal		13,000	-	13,000	17,000
Total Receipts		**32,138**	**13,150**	**45,288**	**45,166**
Payments	4				
Gross Trading Payments		17,726	4,150	21,876	40,515
Payments Relating Directly to Charitable Activities		5,851	-	5,851	5,914
Governance Costs:					-
Independent Examination		415	-	415	385
Subtotal		**23,992**	**4,150**	**28,142**	**46,814**
Payments Relating to Investment Movements					
Purchase of Investments				-	
Subtotal		-	-	-	-
Total Payments		**23,992**	**4,150**	**28,142**	**46,814**
Net Receipts/ (Payments)		**8,146**	**9,000**	**17,146**	**(1,648)**
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year		**8,146**	**9,000**	**17,146**	**(1,648)**

The notes on pages 9 to 11 form an integral part of these accounts

Statement of Balances

At 31st December 2025

		2025			2024
		Unrestricted Funds	**Restricted Funds**	**Total Funds**	**Total Funds**
	Note	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Cash & Bank Balances at Start of Year	6	1,259	-	1,259	2,907
Surplus/(Deficit) shown on R&P account		8,146	9,000	17,146	(1,648)
Cash & Bank Balances at end of Year		**9,405**	**9,000**	**18,405**	**1,259**
Cash & Bank Accounts					
RBS		9,391	9,000	18,391	1,259
Paypal		14	-	14	-
		9,405	9,000	18,405	1,259
Investments					
All investments managed by W1M					
Cash		5,396	-	5,396	2,448
Investments		298,164		298,164	275,508
Total Investments		**303,560**	**-**	**303,560**	**277,956**
Dividends due on Investments not yet paid		1,276	-	1,276	
Other Assets					
Ticket Sales for Eden Court Theatre Event		3,885	-	3,885	-
Liabilities (estimated)					
IE Fee		435	-	435	415
Eden Court Theatre Venue Invoice (paid Jan 2026)		7,740	9,000	16,740	-
Eden Court Catering Invoice		2,945	-	2,945	-
		11,120	9,000	20,120	415

The notes on pages 9 to 11 form an integral part of these accounts

These accounts were approved by the trustees on 19th June 2026 and signed on their behalf by

Douglas Gardiner

Douglas Gardiner

Trustee and Treasurer

Notes to the Accounts

Year ended 31st December 2025

1. Basis of Preparation

These accounts are prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

a. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted Funds are those funds which can be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity

Restricted Funds are those funds which can only be used for specific purposes as specified by the donor or when the funds have been raised for a specific purpose. Details of the restricted funds of the charity are given in Note 7

2. Analysis of Receipts

		2025			2024
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	Note	£	£	£	£
Donations					
Donations - Individuals Donations		625	-	625	150
Donations - Charitable Trusts etc		10,100	13,150	23,250	15,950
Total Donation		**10,725**	**13,150**	**23,875**	**16,100**
Gross Trading Receipts					
Competition Entry Fees		5,230	-	5,230	4,928
Programme Sales		858	-	858	775
Advertising		1,675	-	1,675	1,500
Livestream Income		-	-	-	-
Ticket Sales		-	-	-	4,263
Stall Holders		-	-	-	-
BBC Recording Fee		650	-	650	600
Total Gross Trading Receipts		**8,413**	**-**	**8,413**	**12,066**

3. Grants and Donations from Charitable Trusts

	2025			2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Donations from Charitable Trusts etc				
The Royal Celtic SRCS	-	200	200	150
Clan Donalds Lands Trust	5,500	500	6,000	5,500
Piobaireachd Society	3,600	-	3,600	3,250
Inverness Common Good Fund	-	9,000	9,000	4,900
Highland Society of London	-	2,000	2,000	1,500
Glasgow Highland Club	-	-	-	200
CPA	-	350	350	350
Ena Baxter Piping Prize	-	100	100	100
Grants of Dalvey	1,000	-	1,000	-
Gordon & Ena Baxter Foundation	-	1,000	1,000	-
	10,100	**13,150**	**23,250**	**15,950**

4. Analysis of Payments

	2025			2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Charitable Activity Payments				
Computer, IT & Office Supplies	444	-	444	543
Honorarium	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Town House Reception	250	-	250	250
Insurance	157	-	157	121
Total Direct Charitable Activity Payments	**5,851**	**-**	**5,851**	**5,914**
Gross Trading Payments				
Advertising PR	96	-	96	-
Paypal Fees	133	-	133	124
Eden Court Rental	2,055	-	2,055	18,276
Stewards Fees	1,400	-	1,400	533
Judges Fees	4,803	825	5,628	5,628
Meals & Entertainment	283	-	283	2,146
Photography	160	-	160	150
Prizes	6,875	2,325	9,200	9,363
Trophies	-	-	-	1,492
Programme Costs	1,921	1,000	2,921	2,803
Total Gross Trading Payments	**17,726**	**4,150**	**21,876**	**40,515**
IE Fee	415	-	415	385
Total Payments	**23,992**	**4,150**	**28,142**	**46,814**

5. Transactions with Trustees and Related Parties

No trustees received any form of remuneration from the charity (2024: nil)

No trustees received payment of travel expenses from the charity (2024: £6)

There were no transactions between the charity and any related party (2024: nil)

6. Movement of Funds

	Opening Balance at 01/01/25	Receipts	Payments	Closing Balance at 31/12/2025
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricetd Funds				
General Fund	1,259	32,138	(23,992)	9,405
Restricted Funds				
Prizes	-	2,950	(2,950)	-
Programme Costs	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
Senior Competition	-			-
Junior Competition	-			-
Competition Costs	-	9,200	(200)	9,000
Total Restricted Funds	**-**	**13,150**	**(3,950)**	**-**
Total Funds	**1,259**	45,288	(28,142)	18,405

7. Purpose of Funds

Restricted Funds

Prize Fund:	This fund comprises donations given specifically to be used toward the cost of prizes for the piping competition. The fund had a closing balance of £0 at the year end.
Programme Costs:	This fund was provided specifically towards the costs of the souvenir programme
Senior Competition:	This fund comprises donations given to be used towards the costs of running the Senior Competition
Junior Competition:	This fund comprises donations given towards the costs of running the Junior Competition
Competition Costs:	This fund represents grants towards the costs associated with running the competitions. The £9,000 held in this restricted grant towards the competition costs will be used to pay the invoice for the hire of the Eden Court Theatre, which was paid in January 2026