



Westerton Male Voice Choir

Scottish Charity No. 047962

www.wmvc.scot

Trustees' Report and Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 July 2026

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Introduction

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report for the charity for the year ended 31 July 2026 together with the Receipts and Payments Account and the Independent Examiner's Report.

Reference and Administration information

Charity name:	Westerton Male Voice Choir
Charity number:	SC 047962
Address:	c/o Campbell Joss, 25 Spiers Road, Bearsden, G61 2LX

Current Trustees and Trustees who served during the year

Current Trustees

Kenneth MacLeod – Chairman
David Fisher – Vice Chairman
Campbell Joss – Secretary
Peter Rae – Treasurer
Ian Aitken
Stephen Bell
Ian Tate
Frank Young (appointed 25/08/25)

Other Trustees who served during the year

Alan Wylie (resigned 25/08/25)

Structure, Governance & Management

Constitution

The Charity is an incorporated Association. It is governed by a constitution which was adopted on 12 September 2017. The organisation was granted charitable status by OSCR on 1 December 2017.

Appointment of Trustees

Membership of the Board is open to all Members of the Choir in line with the Constitution. Under the Constitution there must be a minimum of five and a maximum of ten Trustees. The Board can appoint a Trustee at any time to fill a vacancy. All Trustees retire from office at the Annual General Meeting but are eligible for re-election.

Management

Due to the absence through illness of our Musical Director, Bryan Marshall, shortly after the start of the season, the Board required to appoint a temporary MD. An approach was made to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and following interview, Caspian Plummer was appointed temporary MD on 22nd. September 2025.

Under the tutelage of our temporary MD, the choir performed three very successful Christmas concerts. Our principal MD returned to his role in late January 2026, however, owing to the success of our temporary MD and the impact he had made on the choir, the Board agreed to retain his services until the end of the season, in tandem with the MD. Three 'sold out' concerts were held in Spring.

Our financial position remains healthy, although finances were undoubtedly affected by the MD issues mentioned above. Our membership remains at over 70 men, 'bucking the trend' of most choirs in the amateur environment.

The Board of Trustees manages the activities of the Choir and together with the Musical Director, is responsible for the strategic direction of the Choir and for its day-to-day activities.

The Trustees are particularly aware of their responsibilities for Health and Safety and engage with the membership to ensure that the Choir's activities are carried out safely.

The Board meets formally at least three times a year and more frequently if required. The Musical Director attends the Board Meetings by invitation.

Objectives and Activities

The Choir's Charitable Purposes

The advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science by the promotion of male choral singing and related music through the practice and performance of public concerts, recitals and making recordings, with a view to furthering the appreciation of the genre.

The Choir shall deliver its core purpose through activities in its core area of Westerton (North-west Glasgow), as well as throughout Scotland and any other places it chooses. This will be done in co-operation with local authorities, like-minded choirs and music festivals, all with the objective of promoting male choral singing.

The Choir shall seek to support charitable purposes. This will be at the discretion of the Board of Trustees and will take the form of promoting fund-raising for the chosen charity at any particular time. Such activities will be financially separate from the core activities of the Choir.

Membership

There were five resignations/retirements during the year and five new members joined, resulting in a stable active membership at the year end of seventy-two men.

Musical Director(s) and Musical Accompanist

The Choir is delighted to retain the services of Bryan Marshall as our Musical Director and Penny Watson as Accompanist. In consultation with both of our permanent music professionals, The Board have decided to re-appoint Caspian Plummer as Assistant Musical Director for the 2026/2027 season.

Our music professionals are all enthusiastic, technically gifted and fully committed to the choir, and we recognise the intrinsic role they play in the success of the choir.

Activities, achievements and performances

Rehearsals and Musical development

The Choir has regular rehearsals at Kessington Hall on Monday evenings, from September to April, totalling around 30 per year.

The venue has excellent stage facilities which we have been able to hire from the hall providers, DCB Kessington and we have access to designated storage space for our audio & video equipment.

Public performances

The choir were privileged to be invited to perform at the opening of the Edinburgh International Festival in August 2025. In addition to performing a few songs from our own repertoire, the choir were part of a 'mass singalong' of the song 'Caledonia', accompanied by the song's composer Dougie MacLean.

At Christmas the Choir was once again invited to participate in the 'Light up a Life' service, in support of The Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice, at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Glasgow, led by our temporary MD, Caspian Plummer.

The choir performed at the annual Westerton Christmas Lights Switch On and a few choir members once again appeared on Heart Radio Christmas show. The choir also performed live on BBC Radio 4's New Year's Eve special.

Three 'Spirit of Christmas' concerts were once again a resounding success, ably led by our temporary MD.

Our annual 'Shall Brothers Be' concert was again held in Kilmardinny House, led by Caspian Plummer. A 'cabaret style' layout proved popular with our audience and this is likely to be replicated in 2027.

With all three of our music professionals involved, three sold out concerts followed in Spring. Entitled 'Bravo', the theme of songs from musical theatre proved a huge hit with our audiences.

The choir were delighted to be invited to sing at the King's Theatre, Glasgow in April as part of the touring musical 'Choir of Man'.

Unusually, the choir was involved in three other events during May and June. Filming of a Scottish World Cup song: "We Dream Big" was a novel experience for choir members, as was singing "Young At Heart" with the song's composer during a Playlist For Life charity golf day. The year ended with the choir participating at the inaugural 'Long Weekend' festival in Milton of Campsie. This is expected to become an annual event.

Social activities

Our walking group, 'The Walking Warblers', was inactive during the year, but this is expected to resume prior to the start of the new singing season.

The golfing section organised three well-attended outings this summer.

Our Chairman hosted three snooker nights at his home.

The popular 'Open Mic' singing sessions, at which members perform solo songs of their choice via 'Zoom', continued on a monthly basis. These informal evenings continue to provide an opportunity for choir members to challenge themselves with a variety of genres and boost their confidence at solo singing.

Our Annual Dinner & Awards Ceremony was held in May at Bearsden Golf Club. Service Awards were presented to the following members:

25 years - Gilbert Stewart

20 years - John Southcott

15 years – Stevie Bell & David Williams

10 years – Ian Tate, Jim Mearns & George Roberts

The prestigious Norman Shepherd Award was presented to Ron Griffiths, who has worked tirelessly as the choir's librarian for many years.

The 'Dugald Macfarlane Award' for outstanding contribution was awarded to Peter Rae.

The Music Director's Award was presented to Steve Goldie, who had performed beautiful solos at both Christmas and Spring concerts.

Social media

The Choir recognises the importance of social media in its promotion and development. The Musical Director takes responsibility for all aspects of our social media presence. However, during the absence of our MD, Penny Watson, our Musical Accompanist, provided excellent cover for this important role. The Choir supports a number of WhatsApp chat groups.

Investment

The Board took the decision to engage the services of a professional sound engineer at our Christmas & Spring series of concerts. Whilst this resulted in a significant increase in concert-related costs, everyone concerned agreed that the improvement in sound quality was substantial and fully justified the additional cost. This will be the model going forward.

Board meetings

The Board of Trustees held four meetings during the year.

The Annual General Meeting of the Choir was held on 24th August 2026.

Charitable support

The choir's two year support of 'Playlist For Life' (PFL) ended on 31st July 2026, with funds of around £21,175 raised. This included £1,762 raised by The Semitones Community Choir who, by arrangement, forward donations received for PFL via WMVC's account. Although a highly successful period, the Board recognised that some opportunities may have been missed due to various factors and it was agreed that PFL would continue to be our chosen charity for a further year.

Outlook

The Choir has enjoyed another very successful season, performing seven self-promoted concerts and appearing at several miscellaneous events.

The Choir continues to 'buck the trend' with increasing membership numbers, at a time when many male voice choirs are struggling and indeed many have ceased to exist.

Having existed for nearly 70 years, the Board is committed to the continuing development and welfare of choir members and to ensuring that it meets its Charitable Purpose. The Board and Musical Director are actively planning for the choir's 70th anniversary in 2027.

Receipts and Payment accounts and bank balances

WMVC Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 31st. July 2026	Receipts in the period £	Payments in the period £
Member Subscriptions	9195	
Gift Aid	2291	
Donations (inc. net raffle proceeds)	1204	
Christmas Concerts (Professional Fees incl.)	10613	5865
Spring Concerts (Professional Fees incl.)	7498	5743
Misc. Choir Gigs (incl. Professional Fees)	3110	5082
Charity Concert (incl. Professional Fees)	1128	1050
Highland Tour (Incl. professional fees)	0	45
Support for Semitones	0	0
Uniforms & Ties	787	749
Tea Break donations & cost of supplies	518	171
Sponsorship & Advertising income	0	0
Prof. Fees (excl. H/Tour, concerts & gigs)		12231
Storage costs		270
Administration and Miscellaneous		0
MM subscription & insurance	0	582
PRS fees		640
Rehearsals		1979
Equipment & consumables	340	1083
Music		1025
Marketing & Recruitment costs		738
Workshops		0
Choir development & welfare	580	775
Annual Dinner & Awards	1620	2220
Due to Charity	8371	8371
Bank Charges	0	71
Exceptional Income/expenditure	4411	4411
Total	51666	53101
Surplus/(Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	-1435	-

Bank Balance at 1st August 2025	5723
Add: Receipts year to July 2026	51666
Deduct: Payments made year to July 2026	53101
Bank Balance at 31st July 2026	4288

Independent Examiner's report

Westerton Male Voice Choir

Registered Charity No. SC 047962

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period from 1st August 2025 to 31 July 2026 which are set out on page 9.

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) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) 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) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
 - 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.



Name: Kenneth Forrest MCIBS

Address: 6 HAYSTON COURT, KIRKINTILLOCH

Date: 11/8/26

Trustee Certification

This report and that of the Independent Examiner have been approved by the Board of Trustees of the Westerton Male Voice Choir.



Peter Rae
Trustee & Treasurer

13th August 2026



Campbell Joss
Trustee & Secretary

13th August 2026