

Annual report for Bergen Scottish Society 2023

About the society

The Bergen Scottish Society is a not-for-profit organisation founded on the 28th of April 2005. It is officially registered at the Brønnøysund Register Centre, with the organisation number 988 639 958.

The aim of the society is to promote and celebrate Scottish culture. It based in Bergen and is open to all those who would like to take part in music, dance, literature and other activities which are long standing traditions in Scotland.

The society aims to attract ex-patriates from Scotland, Norwegians who have lived in or travelled to Scotland and anyone else who love Scottish traditions.

The committee

The society is run by a committee elected by members at the society's annual general meeting each year. The committee in 2023 comprised:

Chairman:	James Hosea, elected 2023
Treasurer:	Michal Gosiewski, elected 2022
Secretary:	Hannah Petrie, elected 2022
Information coordinator:	Willie Dawson, elected 2023
Keeper of the haggis:	Jim Fulton, elected 2022

The committee held four meetings in 2023 and dealt with the society's budget and accounts, membership, activities and future plans.

Membership

The society had 62 members in 2023, of which 5 were honorary life members. This was a increase of 10 members compared to 2022. The Burns Supper has traditionally proved to be the biggest single event for recruiting new members and renewing memberships. The committee also sent out membership reminders to the members that had provided email addresses and the vast majority renewed their memberships. The society did not hold email addresses for all members from 2022, as many had joined via VIPPS and not given an email address. As a result these people were not contacted and asked to renew their membership. The membership renewal email was a success and illustrates how important it is to collect contact information for members, something that can be challenging when membership is sold together with Burns Supper tickets via Vipps.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Paying members and children	52	40	43	40	54	69	69	47	57
Honorary members	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Total members	57	45	48	45	59	74	74	52	62

Main activities

The society held eight activities in 2023, back up to the level before the Covid-19 pandemic:

- Burns Supper, Saturday 28th January
- Annual General Meeting and talk: *South Georgia Heritage Trust: A Scottish charity and a Norwegian history*, Wednesday 30th March – Brian Boru pub
- Shuffleboard evening, Wednesday 19th April – Bar 3
- 17th of May parade
- Historic walk: *Skulpturvandring rundt Lille Lungegårdsvannet*, Thursday 1st June 2023
- Curling evening, Wednesday 27th September – Iskanten
- Autumn ceilidh, Saturday 28th October – Bergens Skipperforeningen
- St Andrew's Night whisky tasting, 30th November – Hotel Terminus

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Burns Supper	50	49	53	55	50	73	25	30	50
Spring ceilidh	N/A	70	43	71	44	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Autumn ceilidh	N/A	43	N/A	67	49	N/A	20	63	61
Whisky tasting	N/A	9	19	20	12	N/A	10	15	10

Other activities

The society played host to a film crew from Tern TV who were producing a travel programme for the BBC together with actor Martin Compston. The filming took place on the 17th of May and followed Martin and his friend Phil McHugh as they marched with the society in the parade and experienced the national day in Bergen. The programme is called Martin Compston's Norwegian Fling and is due to broadcast early 2024.

Committee members James Hosea and Jim Fulton and Pipe Major Thomas de Ridder represented the society at the reception organised by the British Embassy at Håkonshallen to mark the coronation of King Charles III. Thomas piped at the event.

The society played host to Michael Watney, the deputy director of the Scottish Government Nordic office on connection with the Autumn Ceilidh. Meetings were arranged for Michael to meet the Jon Askeland, the Mayor of Hordaland, and his senior management team, Arne Selvik, board member of the Bergen International Literature Festival, and Solheim Kjøtt to see haggis production. The committee met Michael for dinner to and he was the guest to honour at the ceilidh.

Finances

The society made a surplus of kr. 7, 556,11 in 2023, including bank interest. It took in kr. 137,353.36 in revenues from membership fees, events, haggis sales and pipe band activities

and paid out kr. 129,855.25 in expenses. The society's total assets increased from kr. 123,255 in 2022 to kr. 130,812 in 2023. These are held in the form of cash in the bank.

Haggis sales provided a healthy income for the society once again, more than offsetting the costs of bringing a band over from Scotland for the Autumn ceilidh. The society was also fortunate to receive a kr. 10,000 grant from the Scottish Government to help cover the costs of the Autumn Ceilidh.

Bergen Pipes and Drums made a surplus of kr. 5,735 in 2022. The band generated income of kr. 10,754 against expenses of kr. 5,019. All gig payments went straight out again to those involved and there were no membership fees collected to cover any sundry costs.

Continuing operations

No significant changes have occurred since the end of the financial year that affect the accompanying annual accounts or the continued operation of the society. The committee confirms that the continued operation of the society was assumed when preparing the annual accounts.

The committee:

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|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| James Hosea | Hannah Petrie | Michal Gosiewski |
| Willie Dawson | Jim Fulton | |

Bergen Scottish Society Income Statement 2017-2023

Income from activities	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Membership	6 758,35	9 502,21	8861,15	3754,92	736,86	8 259,72	8 200,42
Events	48928,32	76 458,66	51641,91	50386,24	7184,59	29 130,97	71 342,48
Tartan sales	-				0	442,12	196,5
Haggis	7 644,18	13 480,85	16767,64	7685,43	18049,69	24 615,74	46 373,96
Pipeband	56 343,65	7 000,00	85174	2012	3505	10 750,00	11 240,00
Total income	119 674,50	106 441,72	162 444,70	63 838,59	29 476,14	73 198,55	137 353,36
Costs of activities							
Administration	(1 249,71)	(1 600,25)	(3 211,06)	(10 772,00)	(6 451,24)	(2 858,00)	(2 661,75)
Events	(46 609,00)	(63 649,10)	(73 801,26)	(58 273,41)	(9 312,00)	(31 206,03)	(86 697,99)
Tartan expenses	-		0	0	0	0	0
Haggis Expenses	(8 055,00)		0	(1 268,00)	(3 467,29)	(1 038,00)	(36 289,45)
Pipeband	(62 077,36)	(526,09)	(91 771,94)	(2 003,00)	(4 097,84)	(5 018,91)	(4 206,06)
Total expenses	(117 991,07)	(65 775,44)	(168 784,26)	(72 316,41)	(23 328,37)	(40 120,94)	(129 855,25)
Net income from activities	1 683,43	40 666,28	(6 339,56)	(8 477,82)	6 147,77	33 077,61	7 498,11
Other Income							
Pipeband	0	-					
Interest							
Interest earned	30,00	64,00	189,00	74,00	37,00	56,00	58,00
Total net interest	30,00	64,00	189,00	74,00	37,00	56,00	58,00
Surplus/(deficit) before tax	1 713,43	40 730,28	(6 150,56)	(8 403,82)	6 184,77	33 133,61	7 556,11
Tax		-					
Surplus/(deficit) after tax	1 713,43	40 730,28	(6 150,56)	(8 403,82)	6 184,77	33 133,61	7 556,11

Bergen Scottish Society Balance Sheet 2017-2023

	31.12.17	31.12.18	31.12.19	31.12.20	31.12.21	31.12.22	31.12.23
Assets							
Current Assets:							
Cash in bank	57 191,89	96 253,17	86 801,61	77 007,79	83 191,81	116 325,42	123 881,53
Cash in hand	570,00	2 239,00	5 540,00	6 930,00	6 930,00	6 930,00	6 930,00
Accrued payments	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Prepaid expenses	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Total current assets	57 761,89	98 492,17	92 341,61	83 937,79	90 121,81	123 255,42	130 811,53
Fixed Assets:							
Tangible assets (pipeband)	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Closing stock (tartan)	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Total fixed assets	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Total Assets	57 761,89	98 492,17	92 341,61	83 937,79	90 121,81	123 255,42	130 811,53
Liabilities and equity							
Current liabilities:							
Short-term debt	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Accounts payable	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Accrued expenses	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Total current liabilities	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Long term liabilities:							
Long term debt	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Total long-term liabilities	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Retained capital:							
Capital reserve	56 048,28	57 761,71	98 491,99	92 341,43	83 937,61	90 122,38	123 255,99
Retained surplus/(deficit)	1 713,43	40 730,28	-6 150,56	-8 403,82	6 184,77	33 133,61	7 556,11
Capital	57 761,71	98 491,99	92 341,43	83 937,61	90 122,38	123 255,99	130 812,10
Total liabilities and equity	57 761,71	98 491,99	92 341,43	83 937,61	90 122,38	123 255,99	130 812,10
Check	0,18	0,19	0,18	0,18	-0,56	-0,57	-0,57