

# Annual report for Bergen Scottish Society 2024

## About the society

The Bergen Scottish Society is a non-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 2024 comprised:

Chairperson:	James Hosea, elected 2023
Treasurer:	Michal Gosiewski, elected 2024
Secretary:	Hannah Petrie, elected 2024
Information coordinator:	Willie Dawson, elected 2023
Keeper of the tartan:	Jim Fulton, elected 2024

The committee held five meetings in 2024 and dealt with the society's budget and accounts, membership, activities and future plans.

## Membership

The society had 65 members in 2024, of which 6 were honorary life members. This was an increase of 3 members compared to 2023. Jim Fulton became the sixth honorary members at the AGM in 2024 for his services to haggis production and distribution. 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 2023, 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.

**Table 1: Development in the number of members**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Paying members/ children	52	40	43	40	54	69	69	47	57	59
Honorary members	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6
Total members	57	45	48	45	59	74	74	52	62	65

## Main activities

The society organised eight events in 2024:

- Burns Supper, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January
- Martin Compston's Norwegian Fling screening, Monday 4th March
- Annual General Meeting and An introduction to the clàrsach, or Scottish harp, Wednesday 13th March 2024
- Shuffleboard, Thursday 18th April
- 17<sup>th</sup> of May parade
- Historic walk: Nordnes, Thursday 6th June
- Bowling evening, Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October
- Autumn ceilidh, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

**Table 2: Development in attendance at main events**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Burns Supper	50	49	53	55	50	73	25 <sup>1</sup>	30 <sup>2</sup>	50	42
Spring ceilidh	N/A	70	43	71	44	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Autumn ceilidh	N/A	43	N/A	67	49	N/A	20 <sup>3</sup>	63	61	84
Whisky tasting	N/A	9	19	20	12	N/A	10	15	10	N/A

In addition to organising social events, the Society arranged haggis production and distribution, together with Solheim Kjøtt, and sold a number of ties, scarves and sashes in the Bergen Scottish tartan.

## Other activities

The leader of the Society was interviewed live on air on NRK Vestland on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March in connection the screening of Martin Compston's Norwegian Fling on NRK TV the same day. Bergen Scottish Society and Bergen Pipes and Drums featured in the second episode in the series, raising awareness of the Society and leading to a number of orders for scarves and ties.

## Finances

The Society made a surplus of kr. 25, 462 in 2024, including bank interest. It took in kr. 142,736 in revenues from membership fees, events, haggis sales and pipe band activities and paid out kr. 117,353 in expenses. The society's total assets increased from kr. 130,812 in 2023 to kr. 156,273 in 2024. These are held in the form of cash in the bank.

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<sup>1</sup> Virtual event due to Covid-19 pandemic

<sup>2</sup> Virtual event due to Covid-19 pandemic

<sup>3</sup> Virtual event due to Covid-19 pandemic

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.

Bergen Pipes and Drums made a loss of kr. 3,012 in 2024. The band generated income of kr. 11,100 against expenses of kr. 13,112. All gig payments went straight out again to those involved and no membership fees were 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:

James Hosea

Hannah Petrie

Michal Gosiewski

Willie Dawson

Jim Fulton

# Bergen Scottish Society Income Statement 2017-2024

<b>Income from activities</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Membership	6,758.35	9,502.21	8861.15	3754.92	736.86	8,259.72	8,200.42	8,648.74
Events	48928.32	76,458.66	51641.91	50386.24	7184.59	29,130.97	71,342.48	57,441.74
Tartan sales	-				0	442.12	196.5	10754.44
Haggis	7,644.18	13,480.85	16767.64	7685.43	18049.69	24,615.74	46,373.96	54,790.93
Pipeband	56,343.65	7,000.00	85174	2012	3505	10,750.00	11,240.00	11,100.00
Total income	119,674.50	106,441.72	162,444.70	63,838.59	29,476.14	73,198.55	137,353.36	142,735.85
<b>Costs of activities</b>								
Administration	(1,249.71)	(1,600.25)	(3,211.06)	(10,772.00)	(6,451.24)	(2,858.00)	(2,661.75)	(4,001.43)
Events	(46,609.00)	(63,649.10)	(73,801.26)	(58,273.41)	(9,312.00)	(31,206.03)	(86,697.99)	(73,733.92)
Tartan expenses	-		0	0	0	0	0	-9096.68
Haggis Expenses	(8,055.00)		0	(1,268.00)	(3,467.29)	(1,038.00)	(36,289.45)	(16,409.00)
Pipeband	(62,077.36)	(526.09)	(91,771.94)	(2,003.00)	(4,097.84)	(5,018.91)	(4,206.06)	(14,112.06)
Total expenses	(117,991.07)	(65,775.44)	(168,784.26)	(72,316.41)	(23,328.37)	(40,120.94)	(129,855.25)	(117,353.09)
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	25,382.76
<b>Other Income</b>								
Pipeband	0	-						
<b>Interest</b>								
Interest earned	30.00	64.00	189.00	74.00	37.00	56.00	58.00	79.00
Total net interest	30.00	64.00	189.00	74.00	37.00	56.00	58.00	79.00
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	25,461.76
Tax		-						
<b>Surplus/(deficit) after tax</b>	1,713.43	40,730.28	(6,150.56)	(8,403.82)	6,184.77	33,133.61	7,556.11	25,461.76

# Bergen Scottish Society Balance Sheet 2017-2024

	31.12.17	31.12.18	31.12.19	31.12.20	31.12.21	31.12.22	31.12.23	31.12.24
<b>Assets</b>								
<b>Current Assets:</b>								
Cash in bank	57,191.89	96,253.17	86,801.61	77,007.79	83,191.81	116,325.42	123,881.53	156,193.29
Cash in hand	570.00	2,239.00	5,540.00	6,930.00	6,930.00	6,930.00	6,930.00	80.00
Accrued payments	0.00	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	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	156,273.29
<b>Fixed Assets:</b>								
Tangible assets (pipeband)	0.00	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	0.00
Total fixed assets	0.00	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	156,273.29
<b>Liabilities and equity</b>								
<b>Current liabilities:</b>								
Short-term debt	0.00	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	0.00
Accrued expenses	0.00	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	0.00
<b>Long term liabilities:</b>								
Long term debt	0.00	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	0.00
<b>Retained capital:</b>								
Capital reserve	56,048.28	57,761.71	98,491.99	92,341.43	83,937.61	90,122.38	123,255.99	130,812.10
Retained surplus/(deficit)	1,713.43	40,730.28	-6,150.56	-8,403.82	6,184.77	33,133.61	7,556.11	25,461.76
Capital	57,761.71	98,491.99	92,341.43	83,937.61	90,122.38	123,255.99	130,812.10	156,273.86
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	156,273.86
Check	0.18	0.19	0.18	1 0.18	-0.56	-0.57	-0.57	-0.57