

Annual report for Bergen Scottish Society 2025

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 2025 comprised:

Chairperson:	James Hosea, elected 2025
Treasurer:	Michal Gosiewski, elected 2024
Secretary:	Hannah Petrie, elected 2024
Information coordinator:	Douglas Little, elected 2025
Keeper of the tartan:	Jim Fulton, elected 2024
Deputy member:	Liv Utvær, elected 2025

The committee held five meetings in 2025 and dealt with the society's budget and accounts, membership, activities and future plans. The new position of deputy committee member (*varamedlem*) was established by the annual general meeting in 2025 for a trial period of one year. The committee established a WhatsApp group for internal communication and this has resulted in much quicker and smoother dialog between committee members.

Membership

The society had 42 members in 2025, of which 6 were honorary life members. This was a decrease of 17 members compared to 2024. The Burns Supper has traditionally proved to be the biggest single event for recruiting new members and renewing memberships. Attendance at the 2025 Burns Supper was down on previous years, so memberships renewal and recruitment opportunities were reduced as a result. 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 2024, 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 success of the membership renewal emails 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	2025
Paying members/ children	52	40	43	40	54	69	69	47	57	59	36
Honorary members	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	6
Total members	57	45	48	45	59	74	74	52	62	65	42

Activities

The society organised eight events in 2025:

- Burns Supper, Saturday 18th January
- Annual General Meeting and a talk held by Isabel Sandvik Shepherd the oral history organisation Memoar and their current project 'Migration Memories', Thursday 12th March
- Shuffleboard, Wednesday 30th April
- 17th of May parade
- Historic walk: Rådstuen, Thursday 5th June
- Street curling, Thursday 25th October
- Autumn ceilidh, Saturday 1st November
- Whisky tasting, Thursday 27th November

Table 2: Development in attendance at main events

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Burns Supper	50	49	53	55	50	73	25 ¹	30 ²	50	42	35
Spring ceilidh	N/A	70	43	71	44	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Autumn ceilidh	N/A	43	N/A	67	49	N/A	20 ³	63	61	74	81
Whisky tasting	N/A	9	19	20	12	N/A	10	15	10	N/A	10

The society had to find a new venue in 2025 for the Autumn Ceilidh as the previous venue, Bergen Skipperforening no longer takes bookings from non-members. A search committee comprising former committee members Stephen Erskine and Willie Dawson investigated a number of potential venues and recommended Kulturhuset on Vaskerelven. It worked very well, although costing more than the previous one.

¹ Virtual event due to Covid-19 pandemic

² Virtual event due to Covid-19 pandemic

³ Virtual event due to Covid-19 pandemic

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.

Finances

The Society made a surplus of kr. 32,196.97 in 2025, including bank interest. It took in kr. 151,854.72 in revenues from membership fees, events, haggis sales and pipe band activities and paid out kr. 119,758.75 in expenses. Losses on events increased from kr. 16,292.00 in 2024 to kr. 31,840.00 in 2025, but this was more than offset by increased haggis revenues. The society's total assets increased from kr. 156,273 at the end of 2024 to kr. 188,470.83 at the end of 2025. 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 and the increased cost of the new venue.

Bergen Pipes and Drums generated income of kr. 29,000 in 2025 against expenses of kr. 17,855.01, generating a surplus of kr. 11,144.99. 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

Jim Fulton

Douglas Little

Bergen Scottish Society Income Statement 2017-2025

Income from activities	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Membership	6,758.35	9,502.21	8861.15	3754.92	736.86	8,259.72	8,200.42	8,648.74	7,344.40
Events	48928.32	76,458.66	51641.91	50386.24	7184.59	29,130.97	71,342.48	57,441.74	55,477.98
Tartan sales	-				0	442.12	196.5	10754.44	368.44
Haggis	7,644.18	13,480.85	16767.64	7685.43	18049.69	24,615.74	46,373.96	54,790.93	59,663.90
Pipeband	56,343.65	7,000.00	85174	2012	3505	10,750.00	11,240.00	11,100.00	29,000.00
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	151,854.72
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)	(4,001.43)	(5,078.53)
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)	(87,317.88)
Tartan expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(9,096.68)	0
Haggis Expenses	(8,055.00)	0	0	(1,268.00)	(3,467.29)	(1,038.00)	(36,289.45)	(16,409.00)	(9,507.33)
Pipeband	(62,077.36)	(526.09)	(91,771.94)	(2,003.00)	(4,097.84)	(5,018.91)	(4,206.06)	(14,112.06)	(17,855.01)
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)	(119,758.75)
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	32,095.97
Other Income									
Pipeband	0	-							
Interest									
Interest earned	30.00	64.00	189.00	74.00	37.00	56.00	58.00	79.00	101.00
Total net interest	30.00	64.00	189.00	74.00	37.00	56.00	58.00	79.00	101.00
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	32,196.97
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	25,461.76	32,196.97

Bergen Scottish Society Balance Sheet 2017-2025

	31.12.17	31.12.18	31.12.19	31.12.20	31.12.21	31.12.22	31.12.23	31.12.24	31.12.25
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	156,193.29	188,390.26
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	80.00
Accrued payments	0.00	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	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	188,470.26
Fixed Assets:									
Tangible assets (pipeband)	0.00	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	0.00
Total fixed assets	0.00	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	188,470.26
Liabilities and equity									
Current liabilities:									
Short-term debt	0.00	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	0.00
Accrued expenses	0.00	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	0.00
Long term liabilities:									
Long term debt	0.00	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	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	130,812.10	156,273.86
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	32,196.97
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	188,470.83
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	188,470.83
Check	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.18	-0.56	-0.57	-0.57	-0.57	-0.57