

**Report of the Trustees and
Statement of Receipts and Payments
for the Period 13 May 2020 to 31 May 2021
for
Great North of Scotland Railway
Association**

**SBP
Accountants
Glebefield House
21 Links Terrace
Peterhead
Aberdeenshire
AB42 2XA**

**Great North of Scotland Railway
Association**

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for the Period 13 May 2020 to 31 May 2021**

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**Great North of Scotland Railway
Association**

**Report of the Trustees
for the Period 13 May 2020 to 31 May 2021**

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period 13 May 2020 to 31 May 2021. The financial statements have been prepared on a "Receipts and Payments" basis and comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

**Great North of Scotland Railway
Association**

**Report of the Trustees
for the Period 13 May 2020 to 31 May 2021**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

An application was submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) on 17th April 2020 for the Association to become, and be registered as, a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). That application was approved by OSCR on 13th May 2020.

OSCR required that the first accounting period for the new SCIO would commence on the date of registration. This meant that the then current accounting period for the non-charitable Association would end prematurely on 12th May 2020 and so accounts were prepared for the period 1st September 2019 to 12th May 2020.

However, it had been recognised for some time that, in practice, the financial year-end of 31st August was uncomfortably close to the preferred timing of the Association's Annual General Meeting in the first half of November. It was therefore decided to change the annual accounting period to 1st June - 31st May with immediate effect. In turn, this meant that the first accounting period for the new SCIO would be 13th May 2020 to 31st May 2021.

An unexpected consequence of the change in financial year end was that the Association's SAGE accounting package could not facilitate the change and an upgrade to a subscription-style package would be required. This proved to be a rather expensive option for an organisation with fairly straightforward accounts and, after consulting with our financial examiners, it was decided to change to a spreadsheet-based system of recording income and expenditure.

The new SCIO came into being while the country was in a state of lockdown due to the global Covid 19 pandemic. This meant that the Association's activities were somewhat curtailed for the whole of the initial accounting period. Our Spring Meeting, planned for Inverurie in March 2020 had to be cancelled. Similarly, the Summer Outing in June 2020 had to be abandoned and we were unable to hold our AGM in November 2020. In addition, various exhibitions and events at which the Association would normally be represented did not go ahead. All of these events would normally offer opportunities for the Association to promote itself both to its members and to the public in general and also generate sales of its publications.

The inevitable drop in sales as a direct consequence of these cancellations presented the Association with a potentially serious financial problem but this was alleviated somewhat in that no new publications, with concomitant expenditure implications, were planned for the period in question.

In April 2020, the Association's website was completely recompiled, replicating all of the content of the original version. A continual process of minor enhancements and updates commenced thereafter. The underlying web authoring software (Xara, May 2014 version) was upgraded to its then-current version in July 2020. The facility for online sales of publications remains under development.

While the pandemic continued to cause problems for the Association, its much valued quarterly magazine, The Great North Review, continued to be distributed to the membership uninterrupted throughout that period, thanks mainly to our printers' success in finding safe ways in which to operate their business. In addition to The Review, the Association maintains regular contact with members by way of an Internet Chatline.

The Association has for many years had a close working relationship with the Grampian Transport Museum based at Alford which is also a registered charity (SC017625). Our stock of publications, as well as some artefacts have, for some time, been stored in a secure container situated within the Museum's Collection Centre for which the Association has paid an annual rent. More recently, a Study Room has been established within the main Museum building, where it is envisaged that, by appointment, researchers, whether or not members, will be able to access original documents in the Association's collection together with the digital archive. Until early 2021 this facility had been shared with staff at the Museum but that arrangement was not ideal and in April 2021, the Association entered into a formal rental agreement with the Museum giving it exclusive use of the Study Room. It is hoped that the facility will be made available to interested parties in the near future. The agreement includes the previously mentioned secure container and covers an initial five year period, continuing thereafter on a rolling basis subject to 12 months' notice of termination by either party to the other.

**Great North of Scotland Railway
Association**

**Report of the Trustees
for the Period 13 May 2020 to 31 May 2021**

The Trustees made various proposals throughout the year both to resume Committee Meetings and to rearrange the AGM but these were largely thwarted by the changing nature and intensity of the pandemic. The Committee Meeting planned for March 2020, before the SCIO came into existence, was eventually conducted via a series of email exchanges and was summarised in a Minute prepared by the Secretary and circulated on 23rd April 2020. A further Committee meeting was conducted by email exchanges in early September 2020, the Minute for which was circulated by the Secretary on 28th September 2020.

It was recognised that the Association needed to convene the postponed AGM in order to finally ratify the conversion of the Association to a SCIO. Papers for the AGM were circulated with The Review in February 2021, together with voting slips covering the necessary motions and a Minute was produced and circulated by the Secretary on 24th March 2021.

Members also discussed the practicalities of conducting Committee meetings via Zoom but early reaction from members lacked enthusiasm. Nevertheless, an experimental Zoom meeting was held on 18th January 2021 attended by nine members. This was deemed relatively successful and it paved the way for a Virtual Summer Outing to be arranged in June 2021.

Towards the end of 2020, as a result of his impending relocation to the south of England, John Hopkins, our Postal Sales Officer, resigned from that position. The Postal Sales Officer needs to be able to access the Association's store at Alford from time to time and it was obvious that John would be unable to do so after completing his move south. However, John has been able to continue in his role as Webmaster from his new, relatively remote location and remains a Trustee.

The role of Postal Sales Officer has been taken on by Ian Murray. Ian is a long-standing member of the Association and lives in the Alford area, which is convenient for accessing the GNSRA publications store within the Grampian Transport Museum

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The Association's purposes are to promote the advancement of the Arts, Heritage, Culture and Science and to promote Education by:

- 1) The study, acquisition and preservation of information, documents, illustrations and artefacts relating to the Great North of Scotland Railway (GNSR) and successor organisations and other transport matters in North East Scotland;
- 2) Facilitating and coordinating research by members into the history of the Railway;
- 3) Fostering the collation and dissemination of information and material so obtained;
- 4) Assisting other private, public and professional organisations which have aims and interests similar to those of the Association;
- 5) Organising meetings, lectures, exhibitions, tours, and visits for the members and the general public in furtherance of the above;
- 6) Publishing books and articles relating to the Great North of Scotland Railway and successor organisations and other transport matters in North East Scotland;
- 7) Issuing donations or grants not exceeding £500 to organisations with similar or parallel purposes to the organisation, at the discretion of the Board, to a total annual value not exceeding £1000;
- 8) The preservation of books, photographs and images, artefacts and ephemera pertaining to railways and transport in north-east Scotland.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The Association derived a surplus in the year of £23,059, including the transfer of funds from the unincorporated GNSRA of £21,320. Although the Association registered for gift aid during the year, it was decided to delay any claim until after the financial year-end. Sales of publications suffered throughout the year as a direct result of the cancellation of various events due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

**Great North of Scotland Railway
Association**

**Report of the Trustees
for the Period 13 May 2020 to 31 May 2021**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

All of the Association's funds are unrestricted, that is to say may be used for any of the Association's activities at the discretion of the trustees. The Association's informal policy on reserves is to hold sufficient reserves to meet not less than six months' expenditure. The Management Committee considers that this level is appropriate and sufficient given the financial commitments of the Association, the largest items of expenditure being the printing and postal costs of distribution of the Review. The reserves as at 31st May 2021 complied with that policy. At the same time, the Management Committee has been seeking to accumulate further funds as working capital to enable the Association to extend its range of publications.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 13 May 2020.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

During the Reporting period the Trustees serving as at 31 May 2021 were appointed. Trustees are elected at the AGM.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number: SC050156

Principal address

32 Leslie Crescent
Westhill
Aberdeenshire
AB32 6UZ

Trustees

Mr M J Allan - Treasurer (appointed 13.5.20)
Mr A P Brown (appointed 13.5.20)
Mr D Byrne - Modelling Coordinator (appointed 13.5.20)
Dr M Cooper (appointed 13.5.20)
Mr D R Fasken - Study Room Coordinator (appointed 13.5.20)
Mr K Fenwick - President and Review Editor (appointed 13.5.20)
Mr B P Hoper - Vice Chair and Membership Secretary (appointed 13.5.20)
Mr J F Hopkins - Webmaster (appointed 13.5.20)
Mr K G Jones - Events Coordinator (appointed 13.5.20)
Mr J A R Kerby - Chair and Archivist (appointed 13.5.20)
Mr G R Maxtone - Photo Archivist (appointed 13.5.20)
Mr M A Stephen (appointed 13.5.20)
Mr R Thorburn - Secretary (appointed 13.5.20)

Independent Examiner

R Birnie
FCCA
SBP
Accountants
Glebehead House
21 Links Terrace
Peterhead
Aberdeenshire
AB42 2XA

**Great North of Scotland Railway
Association**

**Report of the Trustees
for the Period 13 May 2020 to 31 May 2021**

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 10th February 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M J Allan', written over a dotted line.

Mr M J Allan - Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Great North of Scotland Railway
Association**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Great North of Scotland Railway Association

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Great North of Scotland Railway Association for the period 13 May 2020 to 31 May 2021.

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) 2005 Act 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 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.

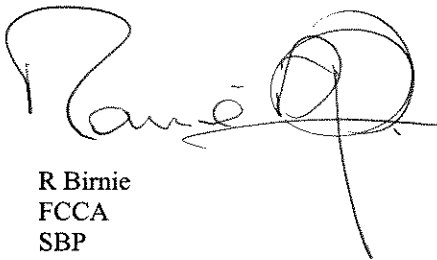
Independent examiner's statement

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) (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 a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



R Birnie
FCCA
SBP
Accountants
Glebefield House
21 Links Terrace
Peterhead
Aberdeenshire
AB42 2XA

Date: 11th February 2022

**Great North of Scotland Railway
Association**

**Statement of Receipts and Payments
for the Period 13 May 2020 to 31 May 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £
RECEIPTS		
Donations and subscriptions	2	7,746
Income on charitable activities	3	7,042
Investment income	4	37
Other income	5	21,320
Total		<hr/> 36,145
PAYMENTS		
Charitable activities	6	11,328
Governance costs – Accountancy		1,194
Heritage assets		564
Total		<hr/> 13,086
Surplus/(Deficit) for period		<hr/> <u>23,059</u>

All funds are allocated to one unrestricted fund which is used to service the day to day activities and objectives of the organisation subject to a sufficient reserves balance being retained

**Great North of Scotland Railway
Association**

**Statement of Balances
31 May 2021**

Unrestricted
fund
£

BANK AND CASH BALANCES

Balance at start of period	-
Surplus for period	<u>23,059</u>
Balance at end of period	<u>23,059</u>

FIXED ASSETS

Heritage assets	<u>564</u>
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Heritage assets comprise an archive of engineering drawings purchased after 13 May 2020 that are valued at the cost of acquisition. Donated items are not ascribed a valuation.

STOCK

Stock of books	<u>10,406</u>
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Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

DEBTORS

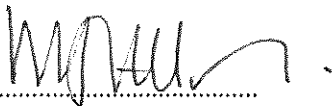
Gift Aid	<u>1,320</u>
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The debtor of £1,320 was received from HMRC on 13 September 2021.

CREDITORS

Accountancy accrual	1,170
Subscriptions paid in advance	<u>220</u>
	<u>1,390</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 10th February 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:


.....
Mr M J Allan - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

**Great North of Scotland Railway
Association**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Period 13 May 2020 to 31 May 2021**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity.
Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

2. DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

	£
Donations	600
Subscriptions	<u>7,146</u>
	<u>7,746</u>

**Great North of Scotland Railway
Association**

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Period 13 May 2020 to 31 May 2021**

	£
3. INCOME OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	
Sales of publications	<u>7,042</u>
4. INVESTMENT INCOME	
Interest received	<u>37</u>
5. OTHER INCOME	
Transfer of funds from GNSRA unincorporated association	<u>21,320</u>
On 13 May 2020, the unincorporated Great North of Scotland Railway Association transferred all funds, assets and liabilities to Great North of Scotland Railway Association SCIO SC050156. The bank balance transferred was £21,320 and net assets of £12,693.	
6. PAYMENTS FOR CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	
Cost of Publications sold	2,397
Great North review costs	2,094
Insurance	116
Other publication costs	870
Printing, copying & stationary	28
Postage & packaging	3679
Advertising & exhibitions	1328
Sundries	96
Rent to Grampian Transport Museum	<u>720</u>
	<u>11,328</u>

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the period ended 31 May 2021.

Trustees' expenses

Six trustees were re-imbursed for postage, packaging, stationery and mileage costs of £1,090 for the period ended 31 May 2021.