



**The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society London Branch
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
31 March 2026**

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Achievements and performance during the year

Over the last year, we continued to pursue our object of expanding knowledge of traditional Scottish country dancing in the London area by offering events which attract dancers, musicians and teachers. Our 'Dance Scottish in London' programme gives dancers and musicians the opportunity to enhance their existing skills whilst for other participants it is a chance to join in a new activity.

Most Scottish country dancing is based on three rhythms to traditional folk music. A myriad of dances are available by dancing with a partner together with (typically) two or three other couples. Conventionally, every dance is with a different partner and combines social interaction with physical activity and the challenge of remembering memory the dances. As a result, Scottish country dancing is both healthy and enjoyable.

Since 1997, the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society London Branch has been an autonomous, unincorporated charity operating in the London area that has a commercial contract with a Scottish company based at 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh - The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society ('12 CC') with similar but global charitable aims. Under the agreement, we collect a membership fee for 12 CC from each of our members, can share branding and are encouraged to share values. A typical membership includes £29 paid to 12CC and £7.50 retained by London. Members obtain a discount for each London event (generally £3), receive a digital magazine and regular email updates. Seven other RSCDS groups operate within the M25 area, as well as several unaffiliated Scottish country dance groups.

In central London, we use Maria Fidelis School for most of our classes including the annual day school for dancers and musicians in October. This is a modern building with an air-conditioned dance studio and excellent access to transport links across London including half a dozen underground lines, national rail services and over a dozen bus routes. Unusually in central London, it also has some parking availability for musicians with their equipment. This makes it ideal for those working in London to visit before travelling home, and also for most London residents to reach. The weekly Wednesday classes include an autumn Beginners' course which leads into a spring Improvers' course. In the summer, these dancers can join the General class which runs throughout the academic year from September to June. These are supplemented by a Technique class and a Fast-paced Social class both of which are monthly on Tuesdays.

Also in central London, we teach at St Columba's Church with a Wednesday afternoon Mixed Ability social class and a monthly Tuesday evening social class aimed at young adults. The monthly Children's class is at the church on Sundays, and this has now established a regular attendance.

In south-west London, the weekly class at the Richmond Library Annexe starts with Beginners' material and moves on to more advanced material designed for Improvers on Wednesday evenings is popular and fills the hall.

When possible, we pay for a musician at classes as well as the teacher and this combined with high hall charges in London results in a financial deficit from these activities. The classes contribute directly to our charitable objects and this is especially true of the Day School which is also our most subsidised event.

Our cycle of dance events starts with free afternoon dances in Kensington Gardens on several Saturdays in August and continues roughly monthly until the following June with evening events – mainly at St Columba's Church. The pre-Christmas dance in December (which mainly attracts members) and a Burns Ceilidh in January (which is attractive to non-members) are our most popular evenings. All the dances are to live music and again, hall charges are substantial, resulting in small margins but the aim is to generate financial resources whilst having an enjoyable time promoting Scottish country dancing.

The bursary programme is designed to assist the development of musicians, teachers and dancers within the M25 area. Members and the public can obtain details and application forms on our website.

RSCDS London membership has stabilised with 256 (2025 259) annual members, 65 (2025 73) life members and 37 (2025 38) second branch members. A longstanding challenge is to increase the numbers involved in Scottish country dancing in London where we compete with other leisure opportunities which often require less of a learning commitment. Once dancers have established their basic skill set, they often continue to be involved for many years, but a continuous stream of new recruits is needed to offset those who are no longer active. We have a presence on most social media platforms, but our most powerful recruitment tool remains recommendations from our members, reinforced by a welcoming social environment. Increased numbers contribute to our charitable object of expanding knowledge and also sustain our financial situation where our long-term strategy is to finance our investment in classes using surpluses on dance events with the bursary programme sustained mainly by donations.

We are proud of the fact that we pay our teachers and musicians but rely heavily on volunteers to run the charity as well as organise the classes and dances. We are grateful for their support.

Trustees' Report for the year to 31st March 2026 (Continued)

Financial Review for the year 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

At 31 March 2026 the Branch's net worth of £74,409 (2025 £66,199) was represented by the undernoted funds:

	2026	2025
General Fund	62,225	55,861
Ireland Memorial	2,569	2,669
Anniversary Fund	2,069	2,069
Helen Brown	5,000	5,000
Teaching Awards	400	600
Reel Appeal	1,813	0
SE Branches	333	0
Total net worth	£ 74,409	£ 66,199

The value of these funds is supported by the Branch's holdings of investments and cash at hand, shown in the Balance Sheet.

Reserves Policy

The policy for unrestricted reserves is to hold sufficient funds to enable the activities of the Branch to take place in the face of poor income generation in any year. The budget is balanced each year, with some specific items being funded from designated funds. The reserves have increased this year by an unrealised gain on investments of £9,539, a much healthier performance than last year.

The designated reserves are spent in accordance with the notified preferences of the donors providing the funds.

Results for the year

The accounts show a net operating loss of £4,175, before the unrealised gain on investments of £9,539.

Classes

With class fees of £32,507 and costs of £39,006, classes (including the Day School) have cost us £6,499, which is a considerable decrease on last year. Despite the Day School costing us £1,700, the total is well within the budget set, due to good attendance in the Beginners' and Improvers' Courses. Numbers have dropped in the Wednesday evening General Class at Maria Fidelis but should start to pick up as beginners and improvers feed through.

Family Activities

The monthly children's class has been very well attended and generated a surplus of £426, thanks to the hall at St Columba's being provided free of charge.

Dances

Income of £11,173 and expenditure of £7,246 meant a surplus of £3,927. This was largely as a result of an enormously successful Burns ceilidh. The loss-making New Season dance was replaced by the Day School evening dance and the Wednesday half-term dances are covering their costs.

Publicity and The Reel

The Reel made a loss of £2,869 which was more than last year. Advertising revenue has not picked up, and there were no commercial advertisers. £1,000 has been transferred from the Reel Appeal, thereby reducing the cost to £1,869. We plan to reduce the number of issues next year which will save about £1,500. There was also £2,269 expenditure on publicity, for the open air dancing in Kensington Gardens, and the website.

Administration Costs

The only other figure to comment on is the admin costs of £915. This is made up as follows:

Postage, secretarial and other	£147	Insurance	£114
AGM Expenses	£165	Examiner	£100
IT	£116	Mailing	£273

Committee meetings were again on Zoom, so there were no costs for committee meetings this year.

Trustees' Report for the year to 31st March 2026 (Continued)

Financial Review for the year 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 (Continued)

Donations and Legacies

Donations and legacies raised a further £2,353. This includes £2,250 to support The Reel. Most donations benefited from the tax reclaim from HMRC for gift aid.

We are very fortunate to have the various bequests which enable us to tackle projects in the knowledge that we have sufficient funds to back them up. We made awards from the Bill Ireland fund for one young dancer taking their teaching units and made contributions towards the cost of teacher training courses attended by other London Branch members.

Membership

Membership numbers have remained steady this year. The RSCDS subscription will be increasing again in July 2026, and the effect of that on numbers remains to be seen.

Investment Income

Investment income from Charifund Units was slightly up, and contributed a total of £3,282.

Related Party Transactions and Trustee Expenses

Related Party Transactions have reduced to just £28 due to two Trustees leaving the Committee and one retiring from regular teaching. Trustee Expenses all relate to reimbursement of payments made on behalf of the Branch.

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The Charities Act 2011 requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources for that period.

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates which are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with relevant legislation. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant information of which the Charity's independent examiner is unaware, and
- The Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the independent examiner is aware of that information.

Trustees' Report for the year to 31st March 2026 (Continued)

Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019.

This report has been prepared in accordance with all relevant legislation.

This report was formally approved by the Trustees, and signed on their behalf by:

Richard Clarke
Trustee / Chair

Date:

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Management Committee of
the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society London Branch**

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 seeking explanations from you as 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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

Name: Helen Ives ACA
Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales
Address: 80 Bladindon Drive, Bexley DA5 3BN

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Unrestricted General Fund		Unrestricted Designated Funds		Total 2026		Total 2025	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income								
Donations and legacies		207		2,146		2,353		1,845
Investments		3,282		0		3,282		3,127
Sundry income		0		0		0		55
Income from charitable activities								
<i>Subscriptions</i>								
Branch Fees	1,609		0		1,609		1,558	
RSCDS Subs collected	6,660		0		6,660		6,282	
	8,269		0		8,269		7,840	
<i>Generated Income</i>								
Class Fees	32,507		0		32,507		21,630	
Family Activities	625		0		625		0	
Dances	11,173		0		11,173		9,724	
Newsletter "The Reel"	4,042		1,000		5,042		4,425	
	48,347		1,000		49,347		35,779	
Total Charitable activities		56,615		1,000		57,615		43,619
Fund raising activities		0		0		0		0
Total Income		60,104		3,146		63,250		48,646
Expenditure								
Expenditure on charitable activities								
<i>Subscriptions</i>								
RSCDS subs paid over	(6,660)		0		(6,660)		(6,282)	
Bank Charges	(1,073)		0		(1,073)		(752)	
	(7,733)		0		(7,733)		(7,034)	
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>								
Hire of halls for classes	(21,361)		0		(21,361)		(20,155)	
Teachers, musicians & incidental expenses	(17,645)		0		(17,645)		(10,878)	
Family Activities	(199)		0		(199)		(196)	
Dances	(7,246)		0		(7,246)		(7,186)	
Publicity, including printing	(2,269)		0		(2,269)		(3,104)	
Travel etc. teacher / musician training	0		(300)		(300)		(675)	
Newsletter "The Reel"	(6,911)		0		(6,911)		(6,492)	
2 Support costs charitable activities	(915)		0		(915)		(918)	
	(56,546)		(300)		(56,846)		(49,604)	
Total Expenditure on charitable activities		(64,279)		(300)		(64,579)		(56,638)
Total Expenditure on charitable activities		(64,279)		(300)		(64,579)		(56,638)
Net income/(expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses		(4,175)		2,846		(1,329)		(7,992)
Net gains/(losses) on investments		9,539		0		9,539		2,150
Net income before transfers		5,364		2,846		8,210		(5,842)
8 Gross transfers between funds		1,000		(1,000)		0		0
Net movement in funds		6,364		1,846		8,210		(5,842)
Reconciliation of funds:								
Total funds brought forward		55,861		10,338		66,199		72,041
Total funds carried forward		62,225		12,184		74,409		66,199

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2026

Notes		Unrestricted	Unrestricted	2026 Total	2025 Total
		General Fund	Designated Funds		
		£	£	£	£
	Fixed assets:				
3	Tangible Assets	0	0	0	0
4	Investments	61,996	0	61,996	52,458
		61,996	0	61,996	52,458
	Current Assets:				
5	Debtors	868	0	868	1,126
	Cash in bank and in hand	867	12,184	13,052	14,674
		1,735	12,184	13,920	15,800
	Liabilities:				
6	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(1,507)	0	(1,507)	(2,015)
	Net Current Assets	229	12,184	12,413	13,785
	Total Assets less Current Liabilities	62,225	12,184	74,409	66,243
7	Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	0	0	0	(44)
	Total net assets	62,225	12,184	74,409	66,199
	The funds of the charity:				
8	Unrestricted Funds	62,225	12,184	74,409	66,199
	Total Charity Funds	62,225	12,184	74,409	66,199

Richard Clarke, Trustee / Chair

Date:

For and on behalf of the Management Committee

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form part of these accounts

Notes to the Accounts for the Year ended 31st March 2026

1 Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with the items which are considered material in relation to the Charity's financial statements.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or fair value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, UK Generally Accepted Practice and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) applicable from January 2019. In order to provide a 'true and fair' view, the financial statements depart from the Charities (Accounts & Reports) Regulations 2008 which refer to an earlier SORP that ceased to apply after 2018.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which assumes that the Charity will continue in operation for the foreseeable future. Having considered the future operations of the Charity, the Trustees consider that the going concern basis is appropriate for the preparation of these financial statements.

Income

Donations are recognised when the Charity has evidence of the entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably. Entitlement usually arises immediately upon receipt, however, in the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the Charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the Charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the respective donation has been recognised and the recoverable amount of income tax can be measured reliably; this is normally when the donor has completed the relevant Gift Aid declaration form. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is allocated to the same fund as the respective donation unless specified by the donor.

Subscriptions are included as income over the life of the subscription, with adjustment made on an accruals basis to ensure subscription income is recognised in the correct accounting period.

Income from other trading activities includes income earned from both trading activities to raise funds for the Charity and income from fundraising events and is recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that these will be received and the amounts can be measured reliably.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Investment income is recognised when the unit holders right to receive payment is established, measured at the fair value receivable. Generally, this is upon notification from the investment advisor once the dividend has been declared.

Other income represents income that cannot be reported under the other analysis headings provided within the Statement of Financial Activities and is recognised when the Charity is entitled to the income, it is probable that it will be received and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity.

Notes to the Accounts for the Year ended 31st March 2026

1 Accounting Policies (continued)

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

Liabilities are measured on recognition at historical cost and then subsequently measured at the best estimate of the amount to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes. It includes the costs of all fundraising activities and events together with those costs incurred in seeking donations, grants and legacies.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by the Charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the Charity apportioned to charitable activities. The cost of charitable activities presented in the Statement of Financial Activities includes the costs of both direct service provision and the payments of grant awards if applicable.

Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the Charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities and is recognised when it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Support costs are incurred supporting the Charity's activities and include expenditure associated with administrative and finance functions and governance.

Support costs include the costs of independent examination in accordance with the SORP.

Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets, other than property, are measured initially at cost. Depreciation is provided at the following rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life:

Equipment - 10% straight line

Fixed Asset investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market value. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals through out the year.

Debtors

Debtors are measured at their recoverable amounts, being the amount the Charity anticipates it will receive in settlement of the debt. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid at the reporting date.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of economic benefit - generally in the form of a cash payment - to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Subscriptions are included as income over the life of the subscription. The balance of the subscriptions that have not yet been taken to income are shown under Creditors.

Notes to the Accounts for the Year ended 31st March 2026

1 Accounting Policies (continued)

Fund accounting

Funds are classified as either Restricted Funds or Unrestricted Funds, defined as follows:

Restricted Funds are funds subject to specific requirements as to their use which may be declared by the donor or with their authority or created through legal processes, but still within the wider objects of the Charity. The Charity currently does not have any Restricted Funds.

Unrestricted Funds are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Charity. If parts of the Unrestricted Funds are earmarked at the discretion of the Trustees for a particular purpose, they are designated as a separate fund. This designation has an administrative purpose only and does not legally restrict the Trustees' discretion to apply the fund.

VAT

The Charity is not registered for VAT.

2 Support Costs

	2026	2025
	£	£
Administration Costs	650	639
AGM Expenses	165	179
Examiner	100	100
Total Support Costs	915	918

Support costs are allocated to Charitable Activities.

3 Tangible fixed assets

	2026	2025
	£	£
<i>Cost</i>		
At 1st April	2,163	2,163
At 31st March	2,163	2,163
<i>Depreciation</i>		
At 1st April	2,163	2,163
At 31st March	2,163	2,163
<i>Net book value</i>		
At 31st March	0	0

4 Listed Investments

	2026	2025
	£	£
<i>Fair value (market value)</i>		
At 1st April	52,458	50,308
Revaluations	9,538	2,150
At 31st March	61,996	52,458
<i>Historic cost</i>		
At 31st March	41,196	41,196
<i>The following holdings represent more than 5% of the Charity's total investments:</i>		
M&G Charifunds	61,996	

Notes to the Accounts for the Year ended 31st March 2026

5 Debtors

	2026	2025
	£	£
Other Debtors	0	368
Prepayments and accrued income	868	758
	868	1,126

6 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2026	2025
	£	£
Payments received on account	160	550
Reel Deferred Income	247	261
Branch Deferred Income	874	702
General Creditors	226	502
	1,507	2,015

7 Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year

	2026	2025
	£	£
Reel Deferred Income	0	44
	0	44

8 Unrestricted Designated Funds

	Ireland Memorial £	Anniversary Fund £	Helen Brown £	Teaching Awards £	Reel Appeal £	SE Branches £	2026 £	2025 £
Opening Bank Balance at 1st April	2,669	2,069	5,000	600	0	0	10,338	11,013
Income	0	0	0	0	2,813	333	3,146	0
Expenditure	(100)	0	0	(200)	(1,000)	0	(1,300)	(675)
Closing Balance at 31st March	2,569	2,069	5,000	400	1,813	333	12,184	10,338

Purposes of Unrestricted Designated Funds

Bill Ireland Memorial - to be used to make grants to young dancers from the London area to attend summer, winter or youth schools or to subsidise attendance at teacher training courses run by the Society.

Anniversary Fund - Launched by appeal in 2010 to fund training of teachers and outreach to young dancers.

Helen Brown - to digitise archives and support young musicians.

Teaching Awards - to pay for grants for teacher training.

Reel Appeal - funds donated to offset the cost of the Reel.

SE Branches - funds transferred from the closed SE Branches bank account, to be used for the benefit of cross Branch activity.

Fund Transfers

£1,000 was transferred from the Reel Appeal to the General Fund to offset some of the cost of The Reel.

Notes to the Accounts for the Year ended 31st March 2026

9 Related party transactions

One Trustee (2025 - three) received payments totaling £28 (2025 £1,991) for services rendered for teaching or playing at classes.

		2026	2025
		£	£
S Wales	Teaching classes	28	308
D Hall	Teaching classes	0	28
D Hall	Playing at dances	0	393
A Brady	Playing for classes and at dances	0	1,263
		<u>28</u>	<u>1,991</u>

10 Trustees' Expenses

Four Trustees (2025 - three) were reimbursed expenses of £1,027 (2025 £835) for Administration Expenses, AGM Expenses, Class Costs, Dances Costs and Publicity Costs.

11 Relationship with the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society - Scottish Company 480530 with registered address 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AF ('12CC').

The Charity has a licence agreement with 12CC permitting the use of various intellectual property and undertaking to co-operate on various matters. Under the agreement, the Charity must collect from each of its members a membership subscription for 12CC. Apart from the commercial licence agreement, there is no legal relationship or connection between the two entities which are both autonomous charities supporting Scottish country dancing in pursuit of their own independent objectives. During the year £6,660 (2025 £6,282) was collected for and paid to 12CC. The balance at 31 March was £0 (2025 £0).