

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: SC219601 (Scotland)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: SC022355

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2023
for
Black Isle Farmers' Society

Frame Kennedy
4th Floor Metropolitan House
31-33 High Street
Inverness
IV1 1HT

Black Isle Farmers' Society
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31st December 2023

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

Objectives and aims

Black Isle Farmers exists to promote the interests of farming, agriculture and the countryside to the general public with the main medium for this being the annual Black Isle Show, held on its purpose-built permanent site at Mannsfield, Muir of Ord on the first Thursday in August each year.

Other annual events normally include; a ploughing match held on Black Isle farms on the first Saturday of February; a barbeque on the second Saturday in July; a trophy presentation, dinner and dance at the start of November; a dinner for Past Presidents and General Committee members in December.

In addition, many members of the Society contribute their time, experience and expertise in educating primary school children in conjunction with RHET (Royal Highland Education Trust) through visits to local schools and more notably since 2009 the Society hosted an event in June where around 300 children visit Mannsfield Showground and are shown all aspects of modern farming practices by means of practical demonstrations given by Society members.

During the annual Black Isle Show the General Committee members, volunteers and Trustees undertake an education and advisory role where they are clearly identifiable to the public.

The charity will continue to make contributions to the work of educational trusts such as the Northern Countryside Initiative, RHET (Royal Highland Educational Trust) etc where their work and objectives are similar to that of the Black Isle Farmers' Society.

The Trustees inaugurated a Bursary Scheme in 2014 which is available to students and young people from the Highlands and Islands to study and gain qualifications in a rural or agriculturally related subject. Practical and vocational courses are also considered for an award from this fund. The Bursary Scheme awarded £4508 in 2023 (£2250 in 2022), to encourage and help students and young people in these difficult times. 2023 saw nine applications.

The policy of the General Committee and the Trustees is to improve for the benefit of the visiting public the facilities available to them on the permanent show-field at Mannsfield. This programme of capital investment has amounted to over £1,600,000 in the last 16 years viz - building 3 permanent toilet blocks, tarring all the previously metalled roadways, building 7 purpose built sheds to offset the rising annual costs of marquee hire, building permanent pay-booths, purchasing and upgrading cattle and sheep gates, installation of permanent electricity supplies, installation of solar panels and many more capital items to make the Society more self-sufficient and help with future proofing against rising costs.

Contribution made by Volunteers

There are many volunteers, members of the Society, General Committee members, Trustees and others who give freely of their time to run the activities of the charity. The time and expertise, which they freely give, benefits the charity financially and this allows the charity to achieve a surplus which can then be spent on achieving its objectives. In 2019 the contribution made by these volunteers to the many projects undertaken has been estimated in terms of costs saved of around £60,000 in terms of time given, expertise and machinery and equipment contributions. Following being able to hold a show again, this level has returned.

Black Isle Farmers' Society
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31st December 2023

Achievement and performance

Charitable activities

As previously mentioned, the charity has improved its facilities greatly over the last 20 years. These improvements have added to the enjoyment of the annual Black Isle Show by the general public and to ensure their continued attendance. In this current year there has been no capital expenditure but there is always ongoing maintenance and repairs which has to be undertaken to ensure that the condition of existing capital equipment is kept at a high standard for future years.

Financial review

Reserves policy

The trustees constantly monitor the cash reserves and have agreed that this figure should not fall below £170,000. This is the amount of money that the trustees estimated it would cost in unrecoverable fees and services if the Black Isle Show had to be cancelled for any unforeseen circumstances in the lead up before the show. Due to Covid 19 this was actually the case with the August 2020 and again in August 2021 shows being cancelled and it is pleasing to note that due to strict cost controls the actual net cost in the year was £86,477 (2020 - £117,367), substantially lower than estimated for such an event happening. The present level of undesignated unrestricted reserves available to the charity are £656,525 (2022 - £637,548) which includes tangible fixed assets to a value of £361,628 (2022 - £469,496). This leaves liquid reserves of £294,897 (2020 - £230,292) at 31 December 2023.

Future plans

The trustees have been committed to an ongoing programme of capital improvements and investment in the showground facilities during the previous 16 years and it is hoped that normal times will return in 2024 and these plans can be reviewed and programmed into the next few years as previously planned.

The Society has invested in dedicated livestock exhibition sheds and this has attracted cattle and sheep breed societies' "national shows" - Cattle breeds -Limousin, Aberdeen Angus, Highland and Simmental. Charolais in 2017; and Highland in 2018. Sheep breeds - North Country Cheviot, Zwartbles, Jacob, Blue Faced Leicester and Beltex. The building of these facilities has helped to at least maintain cattle numbers coming forward to the Show but specifically has helped to increase numbers of sheep entered.

For 2018 the committee agreed that the Society should have a local cattle class thereby encouraging competitors who are local Society members. In 2022 the Society once again held a "Tractor Push" competition on the Wednesday evening prior to the Show hopefully attracting teams of 5 people from local charities and volunteer groups and the Society has put up a prize pot to the winners.

The trustees continue to maintain a close watch on costs and income streams and trends during 2023, and into 2024.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The company was established under a Memorandum and Articles of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

Black Isle Farmers' Society
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31st December 2023

Structure, governance and management

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The trustees are elected by the members of the General Committee, which numbers 65 people. The trustees serve a term which is set down at number 51 in the Articles of Association. At General Committee meetings there are around 30 members present.

Trustees serve on the General Committee for a number of years to familiarise themselves as to the running of the charity. When a candidate shows aptitude and is willing to serve as a trustee then they are proposed at the Annual General Meeting to the post of Junior Vice President which is the first "rung" of the management ladder.

The board of trustees, which has 11 members, administers the charity. The board meets regularly as and when required. There are sub-committees covering ploughing match, horse, livestock, capital improvements, showground etc. A secretary has been employed by the Society on a year to year basis to manage the day to day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the secretary, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including finance, engagement of contractors and services supplied to the charity.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises: -

- an annual review of the risks the charity may face;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan; and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified only a few minor new risks but it has resulted in better emergency procedures and contingency plans and has given the impetus for better planning. Particular attention has focused on non-financial risks arising from fire, health and safety of the public at the Black Isle Show with the appointment of a Health and Safety specialist firm who provide the expertise in this field. A key element in the management of financial risk is the setting of a reserves policy and its regular review by trustees. The main risk to the charity has always been the potential cancellation of the Black Isle Show at the last minute due to circumstances out with the control of the trustees such as weather, outbreak of disease, natural disasters etc, when all the services have been engaged and paid for and no refunds can be obtained. This amount was previously estimated at around £170,000 and is constantly under review which has helped the trustees minimise the position they found themselves in during this financial year when Covid 19 forced the cancellation of the show in August 2020 and August 2021.

Reference and administrative details

Registered Company number

SC219601 (Scotland)

Registered Charity number

SC022355

Registered office

4th Floor Metropolitan House
31-33 High Street
Inverness
IV1 1HT

Black Isle Farmers' Society
Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31st December 2023

Trustees

A D Gammie
T Henderson
B D Macleod
I Mccallum
F Mckenzie
D J Mckenzie
J G Mair (appointed 10.1.2023)
C C Nicol (appointed 15.3.2023)
J M Cameron (appointed 15.3.2023)
D H MacIver (appointed 15.3.2023)
A Grant (appointed 29.1.2024)

Independent Examiner

Jillian Munro MA CA
Frame Kennedy
4th Floor Metropolitan House
31-33 High Street
Inverness
IV1 1HT

Approved by order of the board of trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

.....
D J Mckenzie - Trustee

Black Isle Farmers' Society

Balance Sheet
31st December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9	361,628	81,657	443,285	497,410
Investments	10	<u>127,610</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>127,610</u>	<u>118,902</u>
		489,238	81,657	570,895	616,312
Current assets					
Stocks	11	4,022	-	4,022	1,640
Debtors	12	3,187	-	3,187	3,046
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>206,889</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>206,889</u>	<u>123,513</u>
		214,098	-	214,098	128,199
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(46,811)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(46,811)</u>	(16,809)
Net current assets		<u>167,287</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>167,287</u>	<u>111,390</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>656,525</u>	<u>81,657</u>	<u>738,182</u>	<u>727,702</u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>656,525</u></u>	<u><u>81,657</u></u>	<u><u>738,182</u></u>	<u><u>727,702</u></u>
Funds					
Unrestricted funds	14			656,525	637,548
Restricted funds				<u>81,657</u>	<u>90,154</u>
Total funds				<u><u>738,182</u></u>	<u><u>727,702</u></u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st December 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

Black Isle Farmers' Society

Balance Sheet - continued
31st December 2023

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

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

.....
A D Gammie - Trustee

Black Isle Farmers' Society

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31st December 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	49	707
Memberships and subscriptions	<u>3,660</u>	<u>2,435</u>
	3,709	3,142
Investment income		
Investment income	2,577	1,973
Deposit account interest	<u>1,368</u>	<u>137</u>
	3,945	2,110
Charitable activities		
Ploughing match	7,687	4,795
Sponsorship	23,620	16,600
Bar sales	22,546	54,032
Barbecue	2,670	897
Grants	15,911	20,112
Catalogues	8,950	7,668
Presidents dinner	455	770
Show admission charges	174,943	197,201
Show date lunches and dance	-	540
Show entry fees	23,408	8,325
Trade stands	166,149	153,031
Trophy dinner	3,048	2,665
Other income	<u>738</u>	<u>16</u>
	450,125	466,652
Other income		
Rental and hire	<u>39,951</u>	<u>22,570</u>
Total incoming resources	497,730	494,474
Expenditure		
Charitable activities		
Labour costs	27,018	19,473
Hire of plant and machinery	11,976	11,337
Rent & rates	17,705	10,080
Insurance	8,684	7,788
Carried forward	65,383	48,678

Black Isle Farmers' Society

**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31st December 2023**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Charitable activities		
Brought forward	65,383	48,678
Light and heat	4,046	9,137
Telephone	842	804
Postage and stationery	6,843	5,139
Advertising	10,456	5,799
Sundries	2,314	4,478
Plough match	5,392	6,711
Policing and other services	43,809	55,868
General show expenses	126,494	117,216
Administration	4,849	8,410
Bursary	4,238	2,735
Service charges	438	441
Professional fees	135	960
Bar costs	3,266	44,999
Barbecue expenses	1,571	796
Catalogue expense	4,360	4,195
Consultancy fees - L Mitchell	8,804	18,512
Dojo charges	1,818	1,386
Donations and subs	11,147	4,458
Judge expenses	8,102	8,416
Meals and entertainment	13,858	12,088
Presidents dinner	-	1,065
Prize money	24,077	35,319
Repairs	59,919	36,114
Trophies, rosettes & engraving	8,646	5,803
Trophies dinners	3,403	2,743
Bad debt	-	70
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>59,684</u>	<u>67,889</u>
	483,894	510,229
Support costs		
Finance		
Bank charges	1,934	4,436
Loss on sale of tangible fixed assets	<u>-</u>	<u>5,481</u>
	1,934	9,917
Governance costs		
Accountancy and legal fees	<u>7,991</u>	<u>2,256</u>
Total resources expended	<u>493,819</u>	<u>522,402</u>
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses	3,911	(27,928)

Black Isle Farmers' Society

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31st December 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Realised recognised gains and losses		
Realised gains/(losses) on investment	<u>6,569</u>	<u>(14,248)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	<u><u>10,480</u></u>	<u><u>(42,176)</u></u>