

Mountain Bothies Association

(A company limited by guarantee)



Annual Report

Trustees Report and Financial Statements
for the year ending 31 December 2018

A Scottish Charity, No. SC008685
Company Registration No.191425 (Scotland)

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

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MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION
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TRUSTEES REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

The trustees are pleased to present their annual trustees report together with the consolidated financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 December 2018 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a trustees report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, 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 (FRS 102) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Chairman's Report

The Association has had another very positive year in 2018. A significant amount of bothy maintenance work has been undertaken and in each case the landowners have been very supportive in allowing their buildings to be restored and put to good use. I should like to record our thanks to all the owners of our bothies.

The MBA is a volunteer-run organisation and large numbers of our Members have been involved in working parties and in running the Association. Finances continue to be healthy.

Simon Birch
Chairman

Our Purpose and activities - the aim of the Association:

To maintain simple shelters in remote country for the use and benefit of all who love wild and lonely places.

What the Association does:

Scattered throughout the wilder parts of Scotland, England and Wales are old shepherds' cottages, huts and similar buildings many of which in the normal course of events might be allowed to fall derelict. Over the years, often with the tacit consent of the owners, these buildings have provided overnight shelter for walkers and other outdoor enthusiasts. The Mountain Bothies Association was founded in 1965 to organise the restoration and maintenance of these shelters.

The Association obtains the owners' permission to maintain these bothies and to make them available as open shelters for anyone to use. Its members have no priority of use and the buildings are left unlocked and may be used without charge by all who require shelter. Whilst the MBA pays for the materials and tools for the renovations, nearly all the work is undertaken by its members and by other volunteers on a voluntary basis.

Bothies renovated by the Association are normally existing structures. As a minimum standard, the building is rendered structurally safe to provide a windproof and watertight shelter. A bothy would not normally be connected to the public utilities, and any amenities provided would be of a very basic standard. In locations where there is an appreciable fire hazard, or limited fuel, existing fireplaces may be replaced by a stove. Factors which may be considered in selecting a building for renovation include:

- the likely demand for shelter in the area concerned
- the environmental impact
- the existence of other forms of shelter in the vicinity
- the suitability of the site for use as an overnight base or emergency shelter
- accessibility from the highway and the likelihood of vandalism
- the nature of any restrictions imposed by the landowner on the use of the shelter
- the extent and cost of the renovations required and a value for money judgement

Where the Association maintains a bothy, and its use is affected by, or likely to affect the land surrounding the bothy, the Association may maintain or otherwise improve the land in the immediate vicinity of the bothy.

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Such work may include:

- repairs and improvements to drainage
- repairs and improvements to access paths including to existing bridges and stiles
- prevention of land erosion where this might undermine the building's foundations
- tree planting (where possible using trees of local stock)
- the removal of litter and provision for hygienic disposal of human waste

The Association believes it has a duty to care for the quality of the experience enjoyed by those who visit bothies, and to ensure that all those who are involved in outdoor recreation understand the fragile nature of this resource, and the impact their behaviour can have on the bothy and its environment. The 'Bothy Code' is central to the Association's educational activities in promoting responsible behaviour among all who use bothies. Members' newsletters, our website and the briefing of volunteers at work parties are the principal methods of delivery of expected social and environmental standards.

In addition to the main activity of renovation and maintenance of bothies, the Association may provide funding to other properly constituted organisations, which share similar aims to the Association, for the maintenance of shelters available to the public.

Achievements and performance in 2018

The election results were announced at the Annual General Meeting which was held at Roybridge Village Hall in October 2018. Simon Birch continued to serve as Chairman until the AGM in 2020. David Moorat and Ian Furlong were elected as trustees for three years until the AGM in 2021. In addition, Liz Bibby was elected to the Management Committee.

The contribution of landowners

In general, the work of the Association continues to be a success - we are achieving our objective in maintaining simple shelters in remote country for the use and benefit of all who love wild and lonely places. We currently look after over 100 open bothies. We continue to be supported by the owners of these bothies and are very grateful to them for their co-operation and generosity without which we would not exist.

Communication with our volunteers and the public

Interest in the Association and in the bothies that we maintain continues to grow. Our website remains the main source of information and also provides a platform whereby media and the public can contact us with specific queries. They do so in ever increasing numbers. The website is backed up by our Facebook group which at the end of the year had almost 9,000 subscribers.

All of our publicity work is undertaken by volunteers and we would incur considerable additional costs were it not for their efforts. We therefore wish to again place on record our grateful thanks to all of those whose work saves us these costs and thus permits more of our funds to be used for actual maintenance of bothies.

As well as looking after the website and social media platforms, the publicity work includes media relations, preparation and distribution of the members quarterly Newsletter, preparation and distribution of the Annual Report and Review, managing the online shop including the preparation and distribution of our Christmas cards and calendar, and the preparation of information material for visitors to bothies. During 2019, we will be preparing a new leaflet about Responsible Use of Bothies and supplies of existing materials will need to be replenished.

Despite all of this interest, we believe that, surprising as it may seem, there are still many in the outdoor community who, while they may have seen or even visited a bothy, are unaware of exactly what the Association does. And there are definitely some who seem never to have heard of the Bothy Code! Following a discussion at the AGM, we decided to appoint an Education Officer whose task will be to spread the word about the MBA and its work and adherence to the Bothy Code. We hope to be able to make such an appointment early in 2019.

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One task was completed in 2018 however - our 50th Anniversary book sold its 2,000th and final copy. In expressing the hope that those who bought it will have enjoyed reading about our exploits over our first 50 years, we thank all of our members who were involved in its preparation and distribution.

Overview of maintenance achievements

2018 has been another excellent year for bothy maintenance.

In the Western Highlands and Islands we welcome Jinty Smart as the new Area Organiser. This Area has carried out significant work at four bothies: Glenpean has been fitted with a new stove and chimney; Oban has new upstairs windows; Invermallie has new T&G boarding on the first floor and new skylights in the roof; whilst Suardalan has a new stove and saw major internal work carried out.

In Eastern Highlands, Corrour saw a major rebuild of the toilet system, doubling the capacity and thereby increasing the time between maintenance visits. In the same area, Garbh Coire Refuge was renovated and the projects were co-ordinated so as to make full use of a helicopter lift to get materials to site. Ryvoan has now got a new stove a new front door and opening windows.

South West Highlands and Islands has had a very important year catching up on all the small maintenance jobs that were put on the back burner in 2017.

In the North-West Highlands, new windows were fitted at Coire Fionnaraich and plans for Craig have had an excellent kick start with all the material for new floors being lifted in by helicopter. One of the ground floor rooms has already been refloored.

In Southern Scotland there has been great progress in bringing Will's Bothy back into the fold in Southern Scotland. Although delayed by concerns over bats, work is progressing and hopefully will be completed during 2019. Tunskeen has a new stove and we now have a second trial long drop toilet at Dryfehead. A new porch at Over Phawhope has improved the weathering of the entrance.

Not all work undertaken by us was bothy maintenance: a new footbridge was installed at Spithope in Northern England. We are also pleased to announce that we have taken over the maintenance of the Lingy Hut in the north west of the Lakes.

In the far North, Glendhu has been treated to new skylights and a new fire. The whole of the interior of the bothy has now been repainted. Thanks go to Richard Lyon and his son for the work at Loch Chiarain, a three-day project of new windows, sleeping platforms and floors with the material being flown in by helicopter. New windows at Luib Chonnal, with the design requested by the estate and major internal work have given the bothy a well-deserved face lift.

Volunteers in Wales have been active with Dulyn having a new fire escape window fitted and the interior refreshed.

Special thanks must go to all of our volunteers who have given up their time to ensure that we keep abreast of the enormous job of maintaining our bothies.

Financial review 2018

Overview: Following last year's surplus of nearly £50,000, we ended 2018 with a deficit of about £18,000. This was a very positive outcome compared to the planned overspend of £115,000, and it is not a problem given our existing level of free reserves. Most encouraging of all was the amount spent on bothy maintenance which, at over £108,000, was the most ever achieved, by a considerable margin.

Income: Total income in 2018 was £153,050 compared to £181,565 in 2017, but this difference is entirely due to the distorting effect of the two large legacies that were received last year. Income from subscriptions (£75,791) was effectively unchanged on 2017. Unrestricted donations by members rose by £646 and those from non-members also rose, by £3,127. Income from sales however fell by £2,125: the Anniversary Book

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sold out during the year (income £1,939 lower), and Christmas card sales were also down, but sales of new items such as coasters and notebooks were up £480. The unpredictable elements in our income are always large restricted donations and legacies; together these still totalled £23,655 this year, but this was £34,723 down on the unusually high 2017 figure.

Expenditure: The total spending in 2018 was £171,439, nearly £40,000 higher than last year. Fundraising expenditure – the cost of cards, calendars and other items for sale – was similar to last year at £5,608. Spending on Member Services at £35,338 fell slightly. Governance costs rose sharply to £22,003 (2017 £11,638) due to the costs of the comprehensive review undertaken during the year. However the best news was the amount spent on Bothy Maintenance. This is a key indicator of how well we are fulfilling our core objective, and at £108,490 (2017 £79,502) this was by far the highest total ever. As our budgeted spending on maintenance was also a record, the proportion of planned project spending actually achieved (64%) might still appear disappointing, however this figure is distorted by three major planned projects. Work at both the Red House and Will's Bothy was delayed by regulatory and planning requirements, and unexpected problems at Glenmuirshaw sadly led to the abandonment of its adoption. Without these three, the percentage of planned maintenance spending achieved was 76%, well up on the equivalent figure last year.

All this work was only possible thanks to the efforts of our many volunteers, and the Area Organisers who look after them. If the time given by volunteers on work parties were to be valued (taking the UK average earning of £100 per day as an approximation) this would more than double the amount “spent” on maintaining bothies.

Reserves Policy: The total funds and net assets at 31 December 2018 were £308,043 (2017 £326,432). Of this sum, about £24,000 is in fixed assets (including the website), £50,000 is allocated as ‘self-insurance’ against major fire or storm damage, £50,000 is set aside by Trustees as a prudent allocation against a potential major fall in income, and about £27,000 is in funds whose use is restricted in some way. Thus about £157,000 is available to be spent on general maintenance and other costs; this would cover the Association’s operations for a number of years even if we ceased to receive income from external gifts and legacies. It is also significant that the 2019 budget has repeated this year’s record planned spend of over £165,000 on work on Bothies, which underlines the desire by Trustees to maintain the focus on the MBA’s core purpose.

Investment Policy

Trustees’ policy is to hold the Association’s financial assets in a range of accounts in order to gain the best return possible whilst retaining sufficient funds with instant or short-notice access in order to meet likely expenditure.

Risks

The Trustees have identified three key risks to which the Association may be exposed:

Income shortfall – we depend on members’ subscriptions, donations and legacies to pay for materials for bothy maintenance and renovation and for the administration of the Association. In order to mitigate the effect of unexpected income shortfall, we aim to carry a reserve of £50,000.

Risks to MBA volunteers and to the users of our bothies – we have developed robust systems to ensure the highest possible levels of safety at work parties, and we provide training for volunteers engaged in MBA activities. All renovation and maintenance is carried out with due regard to current legislation in respect of building work, fire risk, and health & safety in order to prevent accidents to volunteers and bothy users. In addition, the Association carries public liability insurance of £5 million.

Storm or fire damage to bothies – most of the owners of the bothies the Association maintains require the buildings to be insured, or at least require that we reinstate the building to their original condition in the event of storm or fire damage. We have reviewed the potential cost of insurance compared with the likely cost of reinstatement, taking into account the types of building, the use of volunteer labour and past history of fire and storm damage events, and have concluded that self-insurance is the most cost effective option. At current costs and risks, we aim to hold a reserve of £50,000 for self-insurance.

Donated facilities and services

By permission of the Forestry Commission the MBA has the use of a locked store in the Kielder Forest for the storage of equipment.

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Plans for future years

The in-year responsibility for the Trustees is to ensure the ongoing maintenance of our current bothies. Proposals for new bothies are also evaluated and taken into maintenance if considered appropriate. We have no plans to move away from our reliance on volunteers. However, a key function of a board is also to determine the direction and scope of the organisation over the longer term. We have started a comprehensive review of our governance and will be continuing this initiative during 2019. This involves looking at the Association as an entity and is concerned with its long-term development. We will look at what the Association was set up to do and where it is now. We can then propose where we want to go before mapping out how to get there. We would hope to summarise the plan in a written document with clear aims and objectives which would take full account of our charity's core purpose of 'maintaining mountain shelters' and the public benefit requirement. The trustees have started the first discussions in respect of this necessary periodic review which will undoubtedly develop into broader conversations in due course.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of the Mountain Bothies Association for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Trustees are all volunteers and are paid up Members of the MBA.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing those statements the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that 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 a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Acts 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charitable Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Governing Document and how the Association is constituted

The governing documents are the Articles and Memorandum of Association. The Association is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland, and is recognised by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator as a charity. We prepare fully accrued accounts, which are audited by a Registered Auditor in accordance with UK auditing standards.

Review of Governance

During 2018 Trustees continued with the thorough review of all aspects of the governance of the Association that was commenced the previous year. It was determined that this review would be beneficial in order to ensure full compliance with both charity and company law and to ensure that the Association is being run to the best possible standards. Following a competitive bid J&H Mitchell, solicitors, were appointed and started work in December 2017. The work is still ongoing and the outcome of the Review will be reported in a future Annual Report.

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The Organisational Structure of the Association

The Trustees of the Association are elected by the members. The Chairman is co-opted as a Trustee (if not directly elected as a Trustee) in accordance with the Articles. The management of the Association is vested in the Trustees, who are responsible for all financial activities, appointments of volunteer officers and matters of policy. The Trustees may approve any expenditure on behalf of the Association, provided that the annual expenditure committed on any one bothy or project may not exceed £20,000 without first being approved in principle at a General Meeting of the Association.

The approval of new projects and appointment of Maintenance Organisers is delegated to the Management Committee, which consists of volunteer officers of the Association together with elected members and delegates from the Maintenance Areas. Responsibility for the planning and implementation of work on bothies is devolved to nine Area Committees each led by its Area Organiser and consisting of the Maintenance Organisers and other active members in that geographical area. Each Area is allocated an annual budget managed by its Area Organiser for the maintenance of its bothies.

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Reference and administrative details

Name

The charity is called the Mountain Bothies Association and is also known as the MBA.

Numbers

The charity's Scottish Charity Number is SC008685.

Company Registration Number SC191425.

Address

The address of the principal office of the charity is:

Mountain Bothies Association

C/o Henderson Black & Co

Chartered Accountants

Edenbank House

22 Crossgate

Cupar

Fife

KY15 5HW

Bank

The charity's bank is:

Bank of Scotland plc

2-6 Eastgate

Inverness

IV2 3NA

Auditor

The charity's auditor is:

Stables Thompson & Briscoe Ltd

Lowther House

Lowther Street

Kendal

Cumbria

LA9 4DX

Trustees

The following have held office since 1 January 2018:

Liz Bibby – until October 2018

Simon Birch

Piers Coutts

Ian Furlong

Roger Hammond – until October 2018

Ian Hunter

Peter King

David Moorat – from October 2018

Neil Reid

Richard Spencer

Major office bearers

The following have held office since 1 January 2018:

Chairman Simon Birch

Company Secretary..... Richard Spencer

Director of Projects..... Roger Hammond

General Secretary John Arnott

Treasurer Piers Coutts

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Relationships to other Bodies

The MBA is independent of all other bodies

Appointment of trustees

During 2018 there were nine Trustees until the AGM in October, since then there have been only eight Trustees. Members of the Association can be nominated for election as Trustee by other members of the Association. Trustees are elected for three year terms of office, so each year prior to the Annual General Meeting a postal ballot of all members is held (if the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies) in order to replace the three Trustees whose terms of office are due to expire. No external bodies are entitled to appoint Trustees of the MBA. The Trustees may at any time co-opt any persons duly qualified to be appointed as Trustees to fill a vacancy in their number or as additional Trustees, particularly to ensure coverage of the necessary skills and experience for governance of the Association. A co-opted Trustee holds office only until the next AGM.

Trustee Induction and training

The Association recognises the importance of training both for new Trustees and those holding office. All newly appointed Trustees are issued with a 'Trustees Pack'.

Trustees are also directed to our website as an important source of information. In addition, newly appointed Trustees are provided with such personal guidance as may be appropriate, taking into account the individual's service and experience within the Association, by the Chairman, Company Secretary and General Secretary. All Trustees are given updates and training on all aspects of their responsibilities as required including charity legislation and regulation, health and safety, media relations and legislation pertinent to the function and governance of the charity. Delivery of training is through specific training events, meetings of Trustees, post and email.

Statement of disclosure to auditor

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware;
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Signed by order of the Trustees, as agreed on 23rd March 2019

Simon Birch
(Chairman)

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION

We have audited the financial statements of Mountain Bothies Association for the year ended 31 December 2018 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities and the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, Cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2018, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material

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misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out in the Annual Report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that

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includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company, the charitable company's members as a body and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

.....
Helen Holmes BSc FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Stables Thompson & Briscoe, Statutory Auditor
Lowther House, Lowther Street, Kendal LA9 4DX

Stables Thompson & Briscoe is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AND
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

		Unrestricted Funds 2018	Restricted Funds 2018	Total funds 2018	Total funds 2017
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Donations and legacies					
Membership fees and donations		86,194	-	86,194	85,685
Tax recovered on Gift Aid donations		13,242	1,250	14,492	10,399
Donations and gifts		34,683	7,260	41,943	73,540
Charitable activities		7,973	-	7,973	10,098
Investments					
Bank Interest		2,302	125	2,427	1,830
Other Interest		21	-	21	13
Total income	17	144,415	8,635	153,050	181,565
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		10,825	-	10,825	10,269
Charitable activities		152,399	8,215	160,614	121,799
Total expenditure	17	163,224	8,215	171,439	132,068
Net income/(expenditure)		(18,809)	420	(18,389)	49,497
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(18,809)	420	(18,389)	49,497
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		299,068	27,364	326,432	276,935
Total funds carried forward		280,259	27,784	308,043	326,432

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure is derived from continuing activities.

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	Notes	£	£	2018 £	2017 £
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	6	15,506	-	15,506	17,630
Tangible assets	7	8,811	-	8,811	9,132
		<u>24,317</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,317</u>	<u>26,762</u>
Current assets					
Stocks		-	-	-	156
Debtors	8	18,340	1,250	19,590	15,678
Investments – fixed term bank deposit	9	191,785	-	191,785	220,913
Cash at bank and in hand		54,798	26,534	81,332	70,632
		<u>264,923</u>	<u>27,784</u>	<u>292,707</u>	<u>307,379</u>
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(8,981)	-	(8,981)	(7,709)
Net current assets		<u>255,942</u>	<u>27,784</u>	<u>283,726</u>	<u>299,670</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>280,259</u>	<u>27,784</u>	<u>308,043</u>	<u>326,432</u>
Capital and reserves					
Restricted funds	4	-	27,784	27,784	27,364
Unrestricted funds		280,259	-	280,259	299,068
Members' funds		<u>280,259</u>	<u>27,784</u>	<u>308,043</u>	<u>326,432</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006

These financial statements were approved by the Board on 23 March 2019

S Birch (Chairman)

P Coutts (Treasurer)

Company Registration No. SC191425 (Scotland)

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	Notes	£	2018 £	£	2017 £
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	16		(14,790)		52,102
Cash flows from Investing activities					
Interest received		2,448		1,843	
Proceeds from the sale of fixed assets		47		-	
Purchase of fixed assets		(6,133)		(8,191)	
Current asset Investments		29,128		(80,913)	
Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities			25,490		(87,261)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			10,700		(35,159)
Cash and cash equivalents b/f			70,632		105,791
Cash and cash equivalents c/f			81,332		70,632
Analysis of Cash and cash equivalents					
Cash at bank and in hand			51,332		40,632
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)			30,000		30,000
			81,332		70,632

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of Accounting

a) The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties that would lead them to question the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity and the amounts reported are rounded to the nearest £.

Funds

Funds treated as restricted funds are those where the donor has imposed a legally binding restriction on the use of the funds, or where the trustees and the donor have together agreed that the funds be used for a specified purpose.

Unrestricted funds consist of funds which the charity may use for its purpose at its discretion.

1.2 Income and expenditure

(a) Subscriptions from new members and life members are recognised when received and the renewal of subscriptions of existing members are recognised in the accounting period to which they relate.

(b) Gift Aid donations, together with the associated income tax are recognised as income when the donation is received.

(c) Legacies are included in income when receivable.

(d) Grants are credited to income upon entitlement.

(e) Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred. The company is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure is shown gross of irrecoverable VAT.

1.3 Intangible fixed assets

Intangible fixed assets include expenditure on the development of the new website. The website was completed in August 2017 and is being amortised on a straight line basis over its useful economic life of 4 years.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets include land and buildings valued at market value. Tangible fixed assets, other than land and buildings, are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Bothy maintenance plant and equipment	25% per annum on a straight line basis
Office equipment	25% per annum on a straight line basis

No depreciation is provided in respect of buildings, which are expected to be maintained in such a condition and the useful life is expected to be so great as to make any charges immaterial.

1.5 Maintenance and improvement of bothies

The company does not own the majority of bothies it maintains. Expenditure on small tools costing less than £100, maintenance and improvements to bothies is written off to the Income and Expenditure account as and when incurred. Items installed as permanent fixtures in bothies (e.g. stoves) are likewise written off at the time of installation. The work of maintaining the bothies is undertaken by the members of the Association on a voluntary basis and is therefore not assigned a monetary value in these accounts.

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.6 Investments

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.

1.7 Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

2 Expenditure	2018	2017
	£	£
Expenditure includes:		
Amortisation of intangible assets	5,292	2,002
Depreciation of tangible assets	3,286	3,305
(Gain)/Loss on disposal of tangible assets	(47)	1
Bothy rent - operating lease rentals	120	120
Trustees expenses - paid to 7 trustees (2017: 8) for travel, subsistence, post, stationery and telephone	3,327	2,902
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

No remuneration was paid to trustees in the year.

Indemnity insurance was provided for trustees as part of the charity's insurance package. No separate cost can be identified.

There were no employees during the year.

3 Trustee and office bearer expenses	2018	2017
	£	£
Chairman	1,030	775
Director of projects	563	653
General secretary	-	-
Treasurer	592	365
Company secretary	-	-
Other trustees	1,257	1,109
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u>3,442</u>	<u>2,902</u>

During the year a total of £190 (2017: £230) was donated to the charity by the trustees.

The Mountain Bothies Association is a company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have a share capital. The liability of each member is limited to a maximum of £5.

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

4 Restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 December 2018 £
Andrew Jenson Memorial	500	27	-	527
Nicholas Randall	790	4	177	617
Pennine Way Association	90	4	-	94
Simon Adaway	5,000	22	969	4,053
Susan Hawkins	915	4	-	919
Kay Harman	69	-	-	69
Jim Curtis Fund	20,000	89	-	20,089
Alan Brook	-	6,250	5,728	522
Bayfield Charitable Trust	-	1,000	106	894
Scott McGhee	-	1,235	1,235	-
	<u>27,364</u>	<u>8,635</u>	<u>8,215</u>	<u>27,784</u>

The nature and purpose of these funds is as follows:

Andrew Jenson Memorial Fund - For the upkeep of Gameshope Bothy, failing which the upkeep of other bothies.

Nicholas Randall - Gleann Dubh-Lighe. To be spent on bothy maintenance subject to consultation with the donors (2018 allocation, £177).

Pennine Way Association - Donated for use at Greg's Hut - New floor in Blacksmith's Shop.

Simon Adaway - Donated in memory of the late Hugh Smith for use at The Red House Bothy (2018 allocation - £969).

Susan Hawkins - Donated in memory of the late Brian Hawkins for the upkeep of Callater Stables Bothy.

Kay Harman - Donated for the upkeep of Uags bothy.

Jim Curtis Fund - To be spent on specific projects and can be spread over a few years. (Please inform Jim's sister Sarah Manning).

Alan Brook - Donated for the repair of Garbh Coire Refuge Bothy (2018 allocation, £5,728).

Bayfield Charitable Trust - Donated to assist with restoration work in the Moray region. Allocated to Faindouran Bothy (2018 allocation, £106).

Scott McGhee - Donated in memory of Barry for the installation of a new stove at Ryvoan Bothy (2018 allocation, £1,235).

5 Taxation

The company is a registered charity and, as such, is exempt from taxation on any surplus.

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

6 Intangible fixed assets

	Computer software £
Cost	
At 1 January 2018	19,632
Additions	3,168
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2018	22,800
	<hr/>
Amortisation	
At 1 January 2018	2,002
Charge for the year	5,292
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2018	7,294
	<hr/>
Net book value	
At 31 December 2018	15,506
	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 December 2017	17,630
	<hr/> <hr/>

7 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Bothy maintenance plant and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 January 2018	3,040	34,371	37,411
Additions	-	2,965	2,965
Disposals	-	(90)	(90)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2018	3,040	37,246	40,286
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2018	-	28,279	28,279
On disposals	-	(90)	(90)
Charge for the year	-	3,286	3,286
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2018	-	31,475	31,475
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value			
At 31 December 2018	3,040	5,771	8,811
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 December 2017	3,040	6,092	9,132
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

8 Debtors	2018	2017
	£	£
Trade debtors	4,335	3,770
Other taxes - Gift aid	14,232	10,367
Prepayments	1,023	1,541
	<u>19,590</u>	<u>15,678</u>

9 Current asset investments	2018	2017
	£	£
Fixed term bank deposit	<u>191,785</u>	<u>220,913</u>

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2018	2017
	£	£
Trade creditors	4,447	3,327
Income in advance - subscription renewals	210	165
Accruals	4,324	4,217
	<u>8,981</u>	<u>7,709</u>

11 Contingent assets

The Trustees have been advised that Mountain Bothies Association are one of fifteen residual beneficiary charities named in the Will of the late Mr Bernard Cole. Two houses and other assets are required to be sold before a distribution of the estate can be made. The value of the Mountain Bothies Association share (1/15) according to the probate values is £26,000 but this is subject to professional fees and any difference between probate value and the actual sales proceeds.

12 Financial commitments

Written agreements exist for some bothies, whereby the rent shall not exceed £1, payable only if required. Historically landlords have not collected the £1 rents and no landlords requested payment during the year.

The Association has an agreement for the use of Lluest Cwmbach Bothy. The rent is £100 per annum and the agreement may be brought to an end in less than twelve months by either party.

13 Donated goods and services

Mountain Bothies Association benefits from the contribution made by volunteers who give their time and talents willingly for the benefit of the Association.

Equipment donated to Mountain Bothies Association was sold for £130 in the year (2017 - Nil).

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

14 Bothy maintenance costs

	2018	2017
	£	£
Bothies where expenditure is over £400		
North Highlands		
Glendhu	1,029	-
North West Highlands and Islands		
Bearnais	422	-
Coire Fionnaraich	3,293	-
Craig	3,906	-
Maol Bhuidhe	814	-
Uags	-	431
Western Highlands and Islands		
A'Chuil	3,126	467
Glenpean	1,356	-
Guirdil	-	471
Invermallie	1,079	-
Oban	1,744	1,583
Suardalan	2,263	-
South West Highlands and Islands		
Abyssinia	3,689	10,273
Cadderlie	-	444
Glengarrisdale	483	-
Leacraithnaich	1,417	-
Rowchoish	529	-
Central Highlands		
Loch Chiarain	2,010	-
Luib Chonnal	2,105	-
Meanach	-	1,275
Eastern Highlands		
Corrour	7,677	1,752
Garbh Coire Refuge	5,728	-
Hutchison Memorial Hut	445	-
Red House	969	-
Ryvoan	2,147	-
Tarf Hotel	411	1,036
Southern Scotland		
Brattleburn	-	988
Burleywhag	-	486
Dryfehead	1,064	-
Gameshope	3,024	-
Greensykes	1,800	2,412
Over Phawhope	-	4,027
Tunskeen	1,671	936
White Laggan	630	3,177
Will's Bothy	3,216	-

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

14 Bothy maintenance costs

(Continued)

Northern England and Borders		
Cross Fell	-	916
Dubs Hut	1,335	5,636
Flittingford	-	2,275
Lingy Hut	903	-
Mosedale Cottage	1,490	426
Spithope	583	-
Wainhope	-	1,165
Wales		
Cae Amos	-	534
Dulyn	2,535	-
Grwyne Fawr	1,457	-
Other bothies		
where expenditure is under £400 - total	19,404	17,134
	<u>85,754</u>	<u>57,844</u>

15 Allocation of costs

	Raising funds	Charitable activities	Other costs	Total 2018	Total 2017
	£	£	£	£	£
Finance and members administration	8,251	13,694	-	21,945	21,384
Website costs and amortisation	693	6,235	-	6,928	4,114

Finance and members administration has been allocated on the basis of time spent in the administration of each activity.

Website costs have been allocated on the basis of relevant usage.

16 Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities

2018

2017

	£	£
Net movement in funds	(18,389)	49,497
Add back depreciation charge	3,286	3,305
Deduct interest income	(2,448)	(1,843)
Add back amortisation of intangible assets	5,292	2,002
(Gain)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	(47)	1
Decrease in stocks	156	569
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(3,912)	2,665
Increase/(decrease) in creditors within one year	1,272	(4,094)
Net cash generated by/(used in) operating activities	<u>(14,790)</u>	<u>52,102</u>

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

17 Detailed statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2018 £	Restricted Funds 2018 £	Total Funds 2018 £	Unrestricted Funds 2017 £	Restricted Funds 2017 £	Total Funds 2017 £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies						
Member annual subscriptions	74,468	-	74,468	75,324	-	75,324
Vouchers for member subscriptions	1,323	-	1,323	605	-	605
Members donations	10,403	-	10,403	9,756	-	9,756
Tax recovered on Gift Aid donations	13,242	1,250	14,492	10,399	-	10,399
Donations and gifts	34,683	7,260	41,943	44,310	29,230	73,540
	<u>134,119</u>	<u>8,510</u>	<u>142,629</u>	<u>140,394</u>	<u>29,230</u>	<u>169,624</u>
Charitable activities						
Calendars	3,451	-	3,451	3,439	-	3,439
Christmas cards	2,875	-	2,875	3,619	-	3,619
Leisurewear and badges	319	-	319	254	-	254
Car stickers and coasters	344	-	344	118	-	118
Notebooks	254	-	254	-	-	-
Anniversary book	730	-	730	2,668	-	2,668
	<u>7,973</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,973</u>	<u>10,098</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,098</u>
Investments						
Bank interest	2,302	125	2,427	1,822	8	1,830
Other interest	21	-	21	13	-	13
	<u>2,323</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>2,448</u>	<u>1,835</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1,843</u>
Total Income	<u>144,415</u>	<u>8,635</u>	<u>153,050</u>	<u>152,327</u>	<u>29,238</u>	<u>181,565</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds						
Finance & members administration	8,251	-	8,251	8,050	-	8,050
Bank and paypal charges	1,256	-	1,256	1,194	-	1,194
Direct debit bureau	625	-	625	613	-	613
Website costs	164	-	164	211	-	211
Amortisation	529	-	529	201	-	201
	<u>10,825</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,825</u>	<u>10,269</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,269</u>

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

17 Detailed statement of financial activities

(Continued)

	Unrestricted Funds 2018 £	Restricted Funds 2018 £	Total Funds 2018 £	Unrestricted Funds 2017 £	Restricted Funds 2017 £	Total Funds 2017 £
Charitable activities						
Bothy maintenance & area meetings	77,539	8,215	85,754	53,677	4,167	57,844
Bothy rent	120	-	120	120	-	120
Bothy notices	1,015	-	1,015	-	-	-
Newsletters	9,031	-	9,031	10,531	-	10,531
Other publications	136	-	136	111	-	111
Distribution costs	10,165	-	10,165	11,142	-	11,142
Exhibitions	-	-	-	20	-	20
Website costs	1,472	-	1,472	1,901	-	1,901
Trustee post, stat & phone	409	-	409	413	-	413
Non Trustee post, stat & phone	23	-	23	-	-	-
Trustee travel & subsistence	2,426	-	2,426	1,783	-	1,783
Non trustee travel & subsistence	2,101	-	2,101	1,547	-	1,547
Meeting expenses - hall hire etc	1,828	-	1,828	1,409	-	1,409
Calendars	1,837	-	1,837	1,764	-	1,764
Christmas cards	1,847	-	1,847	1,843	-	1,843
Car stickers and coasters	73	-	73	63	-	63
Leisurewear and badges	204	-	204	381	-	381
Notebooks	270	-	270	-	-	-
Anniversary book	156	-	156	569	-	569
Anniversary book P&P	166	-	166	534	-	534
Satellite phone	1,737	-	1,737	1,666	-	1,666
Members bulletin	-	-	-	1,219	-	1,219
Health and Safety	1,840	-	1,840	947	-	947
Insurance	1,091	-	1,091	1,065	-	1,065
Donations to other charities	-	-	-	1,850	-	1,850
Annual report	2,242	-	2,242	2,210	-	2,210
Affiliation fees	55	-	55	55	-	55
Legal and professional fees	2,563	-	2,563	-	-	-
Professional review of governance	7,933	-	7,933	-	-	-
Finance & members administration	13,694	-	13,694	13,334	-	13,334
Auditors' fees	2,424	-	2,424	2,371	-	2,371
Depreciation	3,286	-	3,286	3,305	-	3,305
Amortisation	4,763	-	4,763	1,801	-	1,801
(Gain)/Loss on disposal of fixed assets	(47)	-	(47)	1	-	1
	152,399	8,215	160,614	117,632	4,167	121,799
Total expenditure	163,224	8,215	171,439	127,901	4,167	132,068
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(18,809)	420	(18,389)	24,426	25,071	49,497