NORTHERN STEEL NETWORK

(Charity No 1167154)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 2025

NORTHERN STEEL NETWORK (Charity No 1167154)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 2025

Reference and Administration Details

Charity name: Northern Steel Network

Registered charity no: 1167154

Address: c/o Mike Gilberg, 23 Chiltern Road, North Shields, NE29 9QG

Names of charity trustees (acting at any time between 1st January, 2025, and 18th October, 2026):

Karina Atkinson
Michael Darling
Louise Moran (Secretary)
Paul Fletcher
Mike Gilberg (Chairman and Treasurer)
Jenny Gilberg/McConnell
Julie Robinson
Rachel Farah
Louise Brydon
Ellie McGrady
Yasmin McGrady

Musical Director (Northern Steel Orchestra): Jenny Gilberg/McConnell

Structure, Governance and Management

Description: a 'foundation' charitable incorporated organisation governed by a constitution and managed by trustees, with the first trustees named in the constitution and new trustees appointed by current trustees

Management decisions are taken by a committee of all trustees, which normally meets six times per year.

Objectives and Activities

Summary of objects:

The advancement of education of the public by the encouragement of the arts with particular reference to steel pan music, by particularly but not exclusively: the teaching, practice, promotion and presentation of concerts and other activities of a charitable nature which will promote this art.

Summary of activities:

Northern Steel Network (NSN) was formed as an independent charity on 1st March, 2016, to take on the work of the Steelbands North project of North Tyneside Steelband, with trustees drawn from several steel bands in the region. The charity became registered with the Charity Commission on 17th May, 2016.

NSN does not have a permanent base, and operates in the North of England, mainly in North Tyneside, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Northumberland.

Objectives and Activities (continued)

Summary of activities (continued):

Northern Steel Network (NSN) organises regional steel pan activities: Northern Steel Orchestra, an annual Festival of Steelbands, steel pan workshops, co-ordination of steel pan tuning visits and the provision of networking and information. NSN also owns and maintains three sets of instruments for use by schools and education authorities throughout the North of England.

The flagship activity is Northern Steel Orchestra (NSO), which gives talented young steel pan musicians across the Northern region the opportunity to play at an advanced level and have wider performance opportunities, particularly at a national level. NSN promotes its activities via its website, www.northernsteelnetwork.org, and via its facebook pages, Northern Steel Network and Northern Steel Orchestra.

Trustees have considered the guidance issued by the Charity Commission with regard to public benefit, including the guidance on fee charging. The charity relies on a mixture of subscriptions, donations, grants, workshop fees and cost recharges to support its activities. The subscription for players in the orchestra (£30 per annum) covers a very small proportion of the orchestra's costs, and trustees consider that this level of subscription is appropriate and does not discourage potential players. Small charges are also made to attend steel pan workshops.

Achievements and Performance

NSN's regular activities came to a halt in March 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Restrictions by venues were eased only in September 2022 and NSN resumed its work with the region's steel pan musicians in 2023. Unfortunately, activities remain at a low level and NSO has not yet been reformed.

In May, NSN organised a workshop weekend, giving players of all ages and abilities in North-East bands access to high quality tuition from a leading national tutor. The intensive sessions, spread over two days, were attended by 70 players. NSN's outreach instruments remained in use in schools throughout 2025.

NSN intends to resume a full programme of events as soon as practicable.

Encouragingly, a total of 70 individuals participated in NSN activities during the year and the outreach instruments were used by a total of 145 players in schools and community groups.

NSN is a member of Making Music and the British Association of Steelbands, has links with North Tyneside VODA and works closely with local steel bands in the North-East.

Financial Review

Trustees consider that it is appropriate to hold cash reserves equivalent in value to one year's expenditure, to meet fluctuations in income and expenditure and to provide funds to replace assets as necessary. The total amount of reserves carried forward at the end of the year was £30,350.08, which consisted of £9,378.49 in restricted income funds and £20,971.59 in unrestricted funds. The financial performance during the year was satisfactory. During the year, North Tyneside Steelband transferred £7,421.40 to NSN, the remaining balance of its Steelbands North Project Fund. The money is to be held by NSN as restricted funds, to be utilised in consultation with North Tyneside Steelband. Trustees gratefully acknowledge the continuing support from The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust and the Freemasons of Northumberland, who have agreed to support postponed activities. As a result of this, the charity remains in a strong short-term financial position.

The charity is heavily reliant on income from donations and grants, without which it would be unable to carry out most of its main activities.

Trustees have reviewed the charity's operations and plan to offer as full a range of activities as possible within the constraints of the grant funding available and donations received.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees by:

I.M. Gilberg
Chairman and Treasurer
18th October, 2026

M. Darling
Trustee
18th October, 2026

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

I report to the Trustees of Northern Steel Network (Charity No 1167154) (the Charity) on the financial statements for the year ended 31st December, 2025, set out on pages 5 to 8.

As charity trustees of the Charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities 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 Charities Act.

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 Charities 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:

R.G.F. Garrard
340 Alice Street
South Shields
NE33 5PH
15th October, 2026

NORTHERN STEEL NETWORK (Charity No 1167154)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 2025

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December, 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
INCOME					
Grants		0.00	7,421.40	7,421.40	0.00
Donations	6	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.20
Subscriptions		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Workshops		426.45	0.00	426.45	0.00
Outreach Pans Hire		2,550.00	0.00	2,550.00	1,962.50
Trailer Hire		50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00
Sundry Income		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		3,026.45	7,421.40	10,447.85	1,980.70
EXPENDITURE					
Tuition/Supervision		109.62	1,044.94	1,154.56	0.00
Rehearsals Costs		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Performances Costs		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Festival Costs		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Workshops Costs		46.83	0.00	46.83	0.00
Arts Award Scheme Costs		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Use of Instruments		150.00	0.00	150.00	0.00
Instrument Tuning/Maintenance		0.00	0.00	0.00	294.69
Trailer Repairs/Maintenance		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance		196.60	0.00	196.60	193.63
Premises		120.00	0.00	120.00	0.00
Promotion		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stationery		4.00	0.00	4.00	10.80
Sundry Expenses		194.40	0.00	194.40	174.81
Depreciation	7	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		821.45	1,044.94	1,866.39	673.93
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		2,205.00	6,376.46	8,581.46	1,306.77
TOTAL FUNDS brought forward		18,766.59	3,002.03	21,768.62	20,461.85
TOTAL FUNDS carried forward		20,971.59	9,378.49	30,350.08	21,768.62

NORTHERN STEEL NETWORK (Charity No 1167154)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 2025

Balance Sheet at 31st December, 2025

	Note	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	7	0.00	0.00
CURRENT ASSETS			
Prepayments and Accrued Income		1,362.80	2,107.79
Cash at Bank		28,702.28	19,195.90
Cash in Hand		577.99	591.08
		30,643.07	21,894.77
LIABILITIES - AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
Accruals and Deferred Income		292.99	126.15
		292.99	126.15
NET CURRENT ASSETS		30,350.08	21,768.62
TOTAL ASSETS less CURRENT LIABILITIES		30,350.08	21,768.62
NET ASSETS		30,350.08	21,768.62
Representing:			
RESTRICTED INCOME FUNDS			
The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust Fund		1,957.09	3,002.03
Steelbands North Project Fund		7,421.40	0.00
		9,378.49	3,002.03
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS			
Accumulated Fund		20,971.59	18,766.59
		20,971.59	18,766.59
TOTAL FUNDS		30,350.08	21,768.62

Signed on behalf of the Trustees by:

I.M. GILBERG
Chairman and Treasurer
18th October, 2026

M. DARLING
Trustee
18th October, 2026

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared on the basis of historic cost in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities - Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income is recognised on the date of supply in respect of goods and services supplied and on the date of receipt in respect of donations and grants received. Donated goods, facilities and services are recognised as income on the date of receipt at their fair value. (See note 6.)

Expenditure is recognised on the date that an obligation to make a payment arises.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to financial statements for previous years.

2. Trustee payments

In 2025, the following Trustee provided paid tuition and other services to the charity in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the charity's constitution:
Jenny Gilberg £542.50 (2024, NIL), of which £75.00 was unpaid at the end of the year.

3. Trustee expenses

In 2025, 2 trustees were reimbursed for travelling and other expenses totalling £95.55 (2024, 4 trustees, £92.91).

4. Fee for examination of the financial statements

For 2025, a gift valued at £13.00 will be provided for the independent examiner (2024, gift, £11.50).

5. Staff

No staff were employed during the period.

6. Donated goods, facilities and services

In 2025, NIL was recognised as income (the free use of premises valued at NIL) (2024, NIL (the free use of premises valued at NIL)).

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

7. Fixed assets

	Instruments	Trailer	Total
	£	£	£
COST / ACQUISITION VALUE			
Balance brought forward	20,000.00	1,000.00	21,000.00
Additions	0.00	0.00	0.00
(Disposals)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Balance carried forward	20,000.00	1,000.00	21,000.00
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION			
Balance brought forward	20,000.00	1,000.00	21,000.00
Depreciation charge for year	0.00	0.00	0.00
(Disposals)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Balance carried forward	20,000.00	1,000.00	21.000.00
NET BOOK VALUE			
Brought forward	0.00	0.00	0.00
Carried forward	0.00	0.00	0.00

Depreciation is calculated on a straight line basis at 25% per annum.