

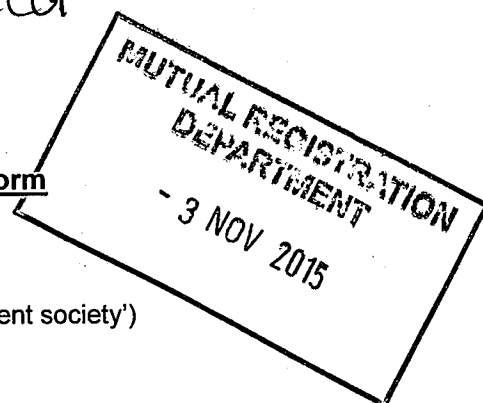


## Mutual Societies Annual Return Form (AR30)

For societies registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014

Society name: *The 1877 Society Limited*

### Important information you should read before completing this form



You must use this form if you are a:

- registered society (previously referred to as an 'industrial and provident society')
- co-operative society
- community benefit society

registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.

You must submit this form and the society's accounts within 7 months of the end of your financial year. Failure to submit is an offence for which the society may be prosecuted.

Please note:

- we have an information note that may assist you in completing this application
- any personal details you give on the form will be placed on the society's public file.
- it is important you give accurate and complete information and disclose all relevant information. If you do not, it may take us longer to process your annual return.

Please keep a copy of the form and supporting documents for future reference.

### Terms in this form

'FCA', 'PRA', 'us' and 'we' refer to the Financial Conduct Authority or Prudential Regulation Authority.

'You' refers to the person signing the form on behalf of the society.

'The 2014 Act' is the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014



## Mutual Societies Annual Return Form (AR30)

For societies registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014

### Filling in the form

**1** If you are using your computer to complete the form:

- use the TAB key to move from question to question and press SHIFT TAB to move back to the previous question; and
- print the completed form and arrange for it to be signed by all relevant individuals.

**2** If you are filling in the form by hand:

- use black ink;
- write clearly; and
- arrange for it to be signed and dated by all relevant individuals.

**3** If you make a mistake, cross it out and initial the changes; do not use correction fluid.

**4** If you:

- leave a question blank;
- do not get the form signed; or
- do not attach the required supporting information

without telling us why, we will treat the application as incomplete. This will increase the time taken to assess your application.

**5** If there is not enough space on the form, you may use separate sheets of paper. Clearly mark each separate sheet of paper with the relevant question number. Any separate sheets should be signed by the signatories to the form.

**6** Email a scanned copy of the signed form and supporting documents to

[mutualsannrtns@fca.org.uk](mailto:mutualsannrtns@fca.org.uk)

or send it by post to:

Mutuals Team  
Financial Conduct Authority  
25 The North Colonnade  
Canary Wharf  
LONDON  
E14 5HS

**7.** Please make sure you include:

- this form
- a set of printed accounts – signed by two members and the secretary (3 signatures in total)
- an audit report or accountant's report where required; and
- any supporting documents.

## 1

## Details of society

## 1.1 Details of the society

Register number	2624 RS
Registered office address	HUNTER & ROBERTSON SOLICITORS, 35 HIGH STREET, PAISLEY
Postcode	PA1 2AG

## 1.2 Year end date (dd/mm/yyyy)

See Note 1.2

3	0	/	1	1	/	2	0	1	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

## Committee of management

If you are a club you do not need to give a year of birth in questions 1.3-1.6.

The names of the members of the Committee at the date on which the return is signed should be entered below in BLOCK CAPITALS.

## 1.3 Details of Chairman

Name	GEORGE ADAM
Address	4 JOHNSTON STREET, PAISLEY,
Postcode	PA1 1XG
Year of birth	yyyy 1969
Business occupation and other directorships	MEMBER OF SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

## 1.4 Details of Treasurer

Name	JAMES CUMMING
Address	38 MOTEHILL ROAD PAISLEY
Postcode	PA3 4ST
Year of birth	yyyy 1967
Business occupation and other directorships	FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

## 1.5 Details of Secretary

Name	JOHN WHITE
Address	30 LANGSIDE PARK KILBARCHAN
Postcode	PA10 2EP
Year of birth	yyyy 1957
Business occupation and other directorships	OPERATIONS MANAGER

## 1.6 Details of Members of the Committee

Name	Address	Year of birth	Business occupation and other directorships
TONY DORRIS E	26 STRANKA AVE. PAISLEY. PA2 9DW	yyyy 1949	COMMERCIAL MANAGER (RETIRED)
JIM CRANFORD E	31 BARDRAIN ROAD, PAISLEY. PA2 8LD	yyyy 1952	VEHICLE INSPECTOR
BARRY MITCHELL E	61 FAIRLEY ST. GLASGOW G52 2SN	yyyy 1985	MORTGAGE ADVISOR
PETER BLACK E	50 SAUCEL CRES, PAISLEY, PA1 1UB	yyyy 1956	CIVIL SERVANT
COLIN ORR E	3 GREENLAW GDNS, PAISLEY PA1 3EL	yyyy 1981	SENIOR COMMUNICATION OFFICER
DAVID NICOL	17 MANOR PARK AVE. PAISLEY	yyyy 1984	COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS MANAGER

Please use separate sheets of paper if you need more space, following the instructions provided in section 5 above.

Please indicate how many separate sheets of paper you have used

—
---

Please continue, answering all questions.

**1.7 Are any members of the society's committee disqualified as directors under the Company Director Disqualification Act 1986?**

- ☒ No  
☐ Yes

**1.8 Does the society carry out any activity which is regulated under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000?** (e.g. accepting deposits in a form other than withdrawable shares; offering insurance products; undertaking residential mortgage business). If 'yes' please state the society's Financial Services Register firm reference number

- ☒ No  
☐ Yes

Financial Services Register firm reference number

**1.9 Is the society a subsidiary of another society?**

- ☒ No  
☐ Yes

**1.10 Does the society have one or more subsidiaries?**

- ☒ No  
☐ Yes

**1.11 Is the society currently accepted by the HM Revenue and Customs as a charity for tax purposes?**

- ☒ No  
☐ Yes

Please confirm you have attached a copy of the letter from HM Revenue and Customs confirming charitable tax status:

- ☐ Yes

**1.12 Is this society a charity registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)?**

- ☒ No  
☐ Yes ▶ provide your Scottish Charity number below

**1.13 Is the society registered with one of the following (please tick)?**

- ☐ Homes and Communities Agency  
☐ The Welsh Ministers  
☐ Scottish Housing Regulator

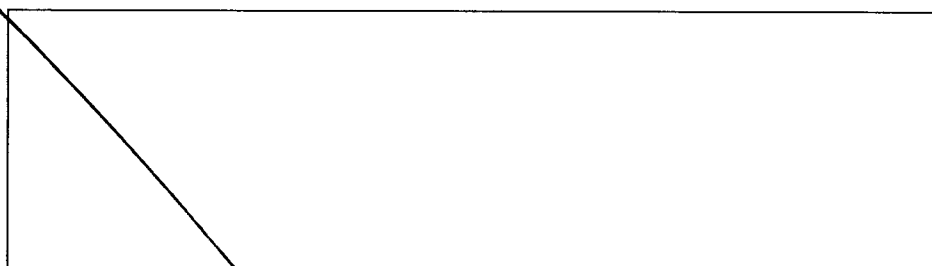
If so, please provide your register number

**All societies must answer the following questions:**

- if a **bona fide co-operative society** go to question 1.14
- if **existing for the benefit of the community** go to question 1.19

**Bona fide co-operative society**

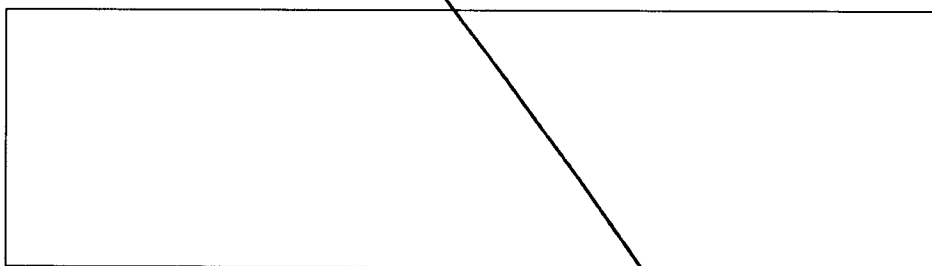
**1.14 How did members benefit from the business, industry or trade of the society during the year?**



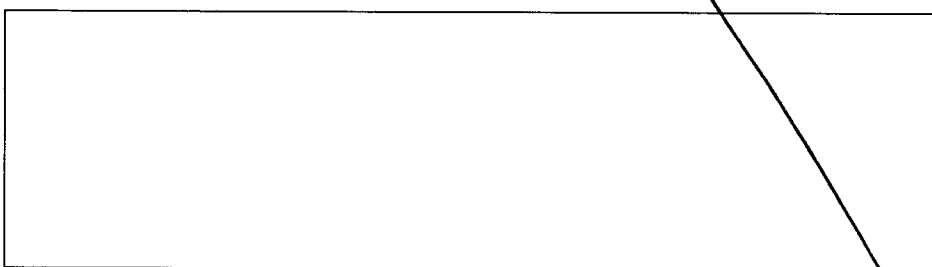
**1.15 Is membership of the society required to obtain the benefits offered by it?**

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

**1.16 In what way did members participate in an ongoing basis in the society's primary business during the year?**



**1.17 How did members democratically control the society?**



**1.18 How did the society use any surplus/profit?**

If the society distributed the surplus/profit to members please explain how this was done.

Please use separate sheets of paper if you need more space (see section 5 above)

Please indicate how many separate sheets of paper you have used.

**Continue to 2.1**

**Community benefit society****1.19 Who are the community the society benefited?**

> THE SUPPORTERS OF ST. MIRREN FC .  
>

**1.20 How did the society benefit that community during the year?**

> SPONSORSHIP OF THE CLUBS YOUTH ACADEMY  
> PROVISION OF FUNDS TO REDUCE PRICES AND  
ENCOURAGE YOUNG FANS INVOLVEMENT FITNESS .  
> SUPPORTER EVENTS

**1.21 How did the society use any surplus/profit?**

> THE PURCHASE OF SHARES IN ST MIRREN FC .  
> VARIOUS SPONSORSHIPS TO ALLOW LOCAL  
COMMUNITY ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT.

Please use separate sheets of paper if you need more space (see section 5 above).

Please indicate how many separate sheets of paper you have used.

**Continue to 2.1**



# 2 Statistics

## Account details

### 2.1 You must enter the figures below

See notes for help on items E-T. Enter NIL where applicable

A	Members at beginning of year	65
B	Members ceased during year	0
C	Members admitted during year	115
D	Members at end of year	175
E	Turnover for year	£6854
F	Total of income and expenditure (receipts and payments added together)	(£99)
G	Net surplus/(deficit) for year	(£99)
H	Fixed assets	£25,320
I	Current assets	£49,476
J	Total assets (equal to amount in row O, below)	£74,796
K	Current liabilities	—
L	Share capital	—
M	Long-term liabilities	—
N	Reserves	£74,796
O	Total liabilities, share capital & reserves (K+L+M+N) (equal to amount in J above)	£74,796

All societies (excluding clubs) must complete boxes P-T

P	Investments in other registered societies	—
Q	Loans from members	—
R	Loans from Employees' Superannuation Schemes	—
S	Dividends on sales	—
T	Share interest	—

**2.2 Names of subsidiaries as defined in sections 100 and 101 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014**


**2.3 Names of subsidiaries not dealt with in group accounts (if any) and reasons for exclusions (as approved by the FCA)**

The society must have written authority from us to exclude a subsidiary from group accounts


# 3

## The audit

### 3.1 Type of audit used for the attached accounts.

If the society has used a full professional audit or an accountant's report then the report must be prepared by a registered auditor.

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full professional audit | ▶ Continue to section 4          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accountant's report     | ▶ Complete questions 3.2 and 3.3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lay audit               | ▶ Complete questions 3.2 and 3.3 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaudited    | ▶ Complete questions 3.2 and 3.3 |

### 3.2 Do the society's registered rules allow the society not to undertake a full professional audit?

- ☐ No  
☒ Yes

### 3.3 Has the membership passed at a general meeting a resolution allowing the society not to undertake a full professional audit for the year of account in question? (In accordance with section 84 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014)

- ☐ No  
☒ Yes

# 4 Accounts and signature

## Accounts

- 4.1 Date on which the accounts and balance sheet will be/were laid before the AGM (dd/mm/yyyy)

04 / 04 / 2015

- 4.2 Has your society produced accounts to the minimum standard required?

☒ Yes ▶ you must confirm that you have attached the accounts and the audit/accountant's report bearing the original signatures of the auditor (if required by law), the secretary and the two committee members.

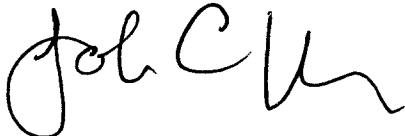
☒ Attached

☐ No ▶ you must produce accounts to the minimum standard required, see notes for details.

## Signature – all societies to complete

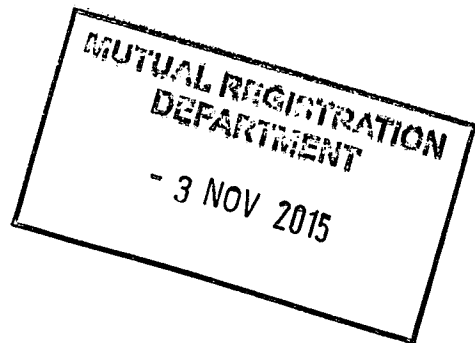
- 4.3 The Secretary of the society must sign and date below

I certify that the information in this form is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Name	JOHN WHITE
Signature	
Phone number	0787 127 8765
Email	jcw_57@hotmail.com
Date	dd/mm/yy 02 11 2015

**1877 SOCIETY LIMITED**

**YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2014**



## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30 November 2014

The Committee of Management submit their report together with the accounts of the society for the year ended 30 November 2014.

### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The society is a St.Mirren Football Club independent supporters association and a non-profit making concern. The society was incorporated on 26 June 2003 as an Industrial and Provident Society, registered under the Financial Services Authority.

### RESULTS

The deficit for the year amounted to £99 (2013: surplus £1,515).

### REVIEW AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Secretary's report is produced in full on the covering attached letter. This provides additional information regarding the progress of the organisation both financially and in membership, as well as offering information on the activities over the last year.

### COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The members of the committee of management of the society at the date of this report and during the year were:


W. Bell  
A. Colquhoun  
J. Cumming  
C. Martin  
A. Shaw  
D. Tennant  
J. White  
D. Wilson

### INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT

In accordance with the rules of the Financial Services Authority, the society is eligible to forward unaudited accounts for the year under review. An independent accountant's report has been prepared by a qualified accountant (John Blair).

On behalf of the committee

William Bell  
Secretary  
March 2015



John White  
Secretary  
Nov 2015.

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
For the year ended 30 November 2014

	Notes	2014 £	2013 £
<b>INCOME</b>			
Events		744	402
Donations, grants & raffles		6,110	4,915
		<u>6,854</u>	<u>5,317</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
St.Mirren FC sponsorship		4,185	3,080
Postage		103	135
Advertising & publicity		2,219	300
Legal & professional fees		235	160
Sundry		220	131
		<u>6,962</u>	<u>3,806</u>
<b>NET (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS BEFORE INTEREST</b>		(108)	1,511
<b>INTEREST</b>		9	4
<b>NET (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS</b>		<u>(99)</u>	<u>1,515</u>

**STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES**  
for the year ended 30 November 2014

There are no recognised gains or losses other than the net deficit of £99 (2013: surplus £1,515) in the year ended 30 November 2014.

**BALANCE SHEET**

For the year ended 30 November 2014

	Notes	<b>2014</b> £	<b>2013</b> £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Investments	4	25,320	19,385
		-----	-----
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	5	15,500	41,000
Cash at bank and in hand		33,976	14,510
		-----	-----
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		49,476	55,510
		-----	-----
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>74,796</u>	<u>74,895</u>
 <b>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</b>			
Income and expenditure account	6	61,304	61,403
Special reserve	6	13,492	13,492
		-----	-----
		<u>74,796</u>	<u>74,895</u>



## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 30 November 2014

## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

## Basis of preparation

The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

## 2. TAXATION

	2014 £	2013 £
(a) Tax on profit on ordinary activities		

The tax charge is made up as follows:

UK corporation tax (current year)	-	-
-----------------------------------	---	---

## (b) Factors affecting the current tax charge

The tax assessed on the profit on ordinary activities for the year is lower than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 20.0% (2013 20.0%). The differences are reconciled below.

	2014 £	2013 £
(Loss)/profit before tax	(99)	1,515
Profit on ordinary activities multiplied by standard rate of Corporation tax in the UK of 20.0% (2013 20.0%)	-	303
Non-taxable activities	-	(303)
Utilisation of losses	-	-
Total current tax	-	-

## 3. EMPLOYEES

There were no employees during the year (2013: none).

## 4. INVESTMENTS

	2014 £	2013 £
The St.Mirren Football Club Limited	25,320	19,385

The Society holds 5,082 (2013: 3,877) Ordinary Shares in The St.Mirren Football Club Limited.

# NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 30 November 2014

## 5. DEBTORS

On 15 November 2012 The Society made a loan of £50,000 to The St Mirren Football Club Limited. The loan is unsecured, non-interest bearing and is repayable in monthly instalments between March 2013 and May 2015. As at 30 November 2014 £nil (2013: £15,500) of the loan was repayable in more than 1 year.

## 6. RECONCILIATION OF CAPITAL AND RESERVES

	Special Reserve £	Income and Expenditure account £	Total £
Opening funds	13,492	61,403	74,895
Deficit for the period	-	(99)	(99)
Closing funds	<u>13,492</u>	<u>61,304</u>	<u>74,796</u>

# **SMiSA - St.Mirren Independent Supporters Association**

## **The St.Mirren Supporters Trust**

### **Committee Members End of Year Report & Comments**

**March 2015**

#### **Jim Cumming**

A much busier year for the Trust of course filters through to the Accounts. We have had a large increase in our Membership and this has been handled in the most by the introduction of the GoCardless Direct debit software. We now are collecting monthly subs by both standing order and direct debit.

Last year we had some attempted fraudulent transactions on our account but after we put in some controls with TSB Scotland these have not re-occurred.

As the Trust is now growing strongly and we are purchasing Shares on a monthly basis, I feel it is a good time for somebody to come on board and assist me in the Financial side of SMiSA. I have been the Treasurer since 2002 and although I have no intention of leaving in the near future it only makes common sense for me to look for someone to work alongside me. Please contact the Trust if you have any interest in getting involved.

Thank you

#### **Jim Crawford**

The increase in membership has made all the committees efforts seem worthwhile. Since being co-opted onto the committee I have been made most welcome and feel that the work that has been put in before my time has started to pay off. Circumstances at St Mirren Football Club has obviously strengthened the need for supporter interaction and what better way than through membership of SMiSA. We are now entering a critical stage in how we engage with the Directors of St Mirren and the increased membership has given the committee that added strength that can only benefit our aims and goals.

Now that we have seen what leverage the increase in members has given SMiSA, it is imperative that we keep the momentum going with a further drive in recruitment. When I explained to family members what the aims of SMiSA were, they not only understood the importance of supporter participation in their community club but they also felt obliged to join SMiSA even though they are not regular visitors to the stadium. It is also a recognition that a lot of what SMiSA do has been directed at St Mirren's Youth Development and the SMiSA Panda Club which encourages the younger generation to support their local football club. A big thank you to every member of SMiSA past and present whose contribution has given the organisation the stature it now has.

#### **Peter Black**

As a relatively new addition to the SMiSA Committee the only notes I can offer at the moment are that I was impressed by the way business was conducted at the meetings I attended, I would like to become more involved in any way to help with any projects.

I would also like to see the Trust limit any spending to a minimum until the issue of the club being sold is resolved, I feel that providing any equipment/funds should be held back until the sale goes through, simply because we may have to focus on different issues with any new owners and what their plans are for the club'

### **Colin Orr**

With so many big questions hanging over the future direction and ownership of St Mirren, it is as important as ever that fans have a strong voice to represent their views, in order to influence the running of our club, and help safeguard its future.

I became involved with the committee in the past year because I believe smisa should, can and will be that voice.

Our membership has grown substantially in recent months, and we will be working to raise our profile and presence even further.

### **David Nicol**

I first joined SMISA over ten years ago and up until the last few months my involvement had been limited to submitting the occasional voting slip.

Over the past year I have become increasingly frustrated at poor short term decision making by the club and I feel the supporters trust is the best vehicle for us fans to make our voices and concerns heard. With this in mind I decided to take a more active role in the trust, getting involved in initiatives and helping shape the strategies and direction of the trust for the future and I would encourage others to also consider becoming more active.

### **Barry Mitchell**

I joined SMISA earlier this year as I felt a strong trust is important for the fans. If you are looking for money, I can tell you I don't have money. But what I do have are a very particular set of skills, skills I have acquired over a very long time spent on the internet, and I have been tasked with improving communication and raising the trust profile by application of those skills and happy to do so for the benefit of the trust, the membership and every saints fan.

### **Tony Dorris**

I believe the Trust has made great strides in the last year, not only increasing our membership and shareholding but establishing the SMiSA Panda Club and having regular monthly meetings with the clubs CEO Brian Caldwell. The agenda at these meetings are an opportunity for us to work closely with the club and your input is vital to reflect your opinions and questions you deem important.

Next year ,no matter how this season finishes, will be a time I believe of great change, and we must all pull together to keep the club and the youth academy on a stable footing"

### **John White**

2014 was a year of much change and development for SMiSA where a reshuffle of committee member roles and the addition of some members stepping up to get involved in what had previously become a somewhat routine scenario. With this new outlook and impetus it turned out to be a very significant year for everyone involved in the trust.

As the membership increased, the shareholding increased, initiatives being undertaken increased, funding and sponsorship of club related activities increased, our credibility continued to increase, and last but not least the momentum and drive of The Supporters Trust has increased to the point we are now back in regular discussion with St.Mirren on behalf of the membership and every fan. This was something that had fell by the wayside over a few years of limited activity for various reasons. Our media coverage, even if mostly self generated, has this year seen our profile increase significantly to the point that our membership has jumped from 60 members to 175 in the space of fourteen months.

As St.Mirren, SMiSA and every St.Mirren fan head towards a crossroads in our clubs history we need to ensure that The Trust again doubles its efforts and results of last year and becomes a significant and credible representative of every saints fan and ensures the future stability and growth of our football club and that we as supporters are recognised as the main stakeholders in every sense of the word.

To be able to achieve that every person with any connection to St.Mirren needs to become involved in a single consolidated group with common aims and purpose, with the Trust membership leading the way, no matter who the 'custodians' of our football club happen to be

I would ask that as members you continue to give your valued support, as you have done in the past, and promote SMiSA at every opportunity and strive to make The St.Mirren Supporters Trust worthy representatives of the true custodians of our club. The Fans.

Thank you

coys



# SMISA

# The St Mirren

# Supporters'

# Trust

# AGM 2015



# AGENDA



- Annual accounts
- Review of 2014-15
- Current status
- Objectives for 2015-16
- Summary and voting issues
- Communication & AOB



# ACCOUNTS



- Anyone not received copy?
- Any questions?
- Vote on acceptance
- Vote to retain auditor





# REVIEW OF 2014/15

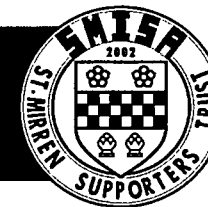


## Status of aims and purpose

	<u>JAN 14</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
Members	65	350	175
Shares	3877	6,000	6042
Funds	£50k	£50k	£47,430



# REVIEW OF 2014/15



## Status of aims and purpose

	<u>JAN 14</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
Events	2	4	2
Investment	£2k	£5k	£3k
Sponsorship -		£500	£2.5k



# REVIEW OF 2014/15



## Negative outcomes...

- ◎ Shares bid proposal
- ◎ Limited share purchase
- ◎ Loss of committee members
- ◎ Limited YD sponsorship
- ◎ Limited events



# REVIEW OF 2014/15



## Positive outcomes...

- ◎ SMiSA Panda Club
- ◎ Dome facility support
- ◎ Increased committee, membership and shareholding
- ◎ Regular dialogue with club
- ◎ Increased proxy voting
- ◎ Better communication



# OBJECTIVES 2015/16



- Imminent legislation?
- Fan ownership?
- Shareholding?
- Representation?
- Membership?
- Role at St Mirren?
- Saints support/community?
- Investment/sponsorship?



# TRUST COMMITTEE



## Committee members 2014/15

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Jim Cumming (E)    | 2. Tony Dorris (E) |
| 3. Jim Crawford (E)   | 4. Colin Orr (E)   |
| 5. Barry Mitchell (E) | 6. Peter Black (E) |
| 7. William Bell       | 8. David Nicol     |
| 9. John White         |                    |

## Interest stated March 2015

1. George Adam

SMiSA held its AGM for 2015 at the weekend of the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2015 after a year of progress for the trust.

A healthy turnout of around 50 members gathered in the hospitality suite at St Mirren Park to hear about the ups and downs of the past 12 months, and to consider how the trust can continue to support the club in future.

Secretary John White chaired the meeting and opened with a vote where the trust's accounts for 2014 were approved and John Blair was retained as independent auditor.

The meeting then considered progress against targets set at the start of 2014 in terms of membership and share ownership.

Membership was given as 175, falling short of what John admitted was a very ambitious target of 350, but still representing a big increase on the Jan 2014 total of 65.

The trust now owns 6,042 shares in the club (around 3% of the total), having made a number of purchases from individual shareholders in the past year and thus exceeding the target of 6,000.

### **Negative outcomes**

Next up was a look at some of the negative outcomes and areas for improvement in the past 12 months.

Top of the list was a shares bid proposal – the trust had in early 2014 produced a paper looking into a buyout of the consortium's 52% shareholding.

The committee at the time met with various people to gauge support and said Stewart Gilmour was very much open to discussion.

But it was felt that individuals with the willingness and capability to provide the levels of finance required weren't there.

The committee also felt the project would have been a full-time job for several people and the resource just wasn't there to make it happen.

John explained his reason for going public on this now was he was aware the club's ownership remains a hot topic and he wanted the membership to be aware a trust-led buyout had been looked into, but wasn't feasible at this stage.

Other negatives covered included the loss of a couple of long-serving members from the committee in Alastair Colqhoun and Dave Tennant, and the limited number of trust events.

### **Positive outcomes**

But in terms of positive outcomes, there were a few points to be covered. Top of the list was the SMiSA Panda Club which the trust had subsidised for the season to the tune of £2,500.

That had allowed the club to cut the price for the Panda club – which provides football coaching and match entry to young fans aged five to 12 – from £5 to £2.

Committee member Tony Dorris explained the Panda club was now averaging around 60 kids a game compared to 40 before, and was bringing in kids in who hadn't been St Mirren fans before.

John also touched on the loan of £50,000 from the trust for the Airdome behind the away stand, which had allowed the club to increase its community activity and the status of its youth academy.

Other positive developments included an increased number of committee members, and regular meetings between members of the trust committee and Brian Caldwell at the club.

### **Objectives**

John then invited a wider discussion on what the trust's objectives should be for the next year.

It was suggested that the drive to increase the membership further could be aided by asking the club to include an option to the join the trust on season ticket renewal forms.

This led to a wider discussion about the general direction of the club under the current board, during which some strong views were expressed. It was felt the club was being allowed to drift towards relegation and some members suggested the board appeared to be doing little about it.

Fan ownership was mentioned again, allowing new committee member and local MSP George Adam to update the meeting on the Community Empowerment Bill currently going through the Scottish Parliament, which contains an amendment whereby supporters' trusts get first option to buy their club should they go up for sale.

### **Election of committee**

John explained that some of the present committee were due for re-election and that some of the new members who had been co-opted on in recent months required to be formally elected.

The following were voted in – Jim Cumming, Tony Dorris, Jim Crawford, Colin Orr, Barry Mitchell and Peter Black.

John White, Willie Bell, David Nicol and George Adam were also co-opted, giving a ten-man membership to the new committee.

John closed the AGM by thanking everyone for attending and saying: "Everybody should be proud of what we have achieved as in 2014 as we have come a long way. We were off track for a few years but now we are very much back on track."