



**SOCIETY OF RESEARCH
SOFTWARE ENGINEERING**

Trustees' Annual Report

Registered Charity Number: 1182455

For the period 1st July 2025 to 30th June 2026

About the Society

Objectives and Activities

The objective of the Society of Research Software Engineering is to advance the practice of research software engineering for the public benefit in such ways as the charity trustees consider appropriate.

The Society organises an annual conference and other events such as training, meetings, workshops or seminars. The Society may undertake or sponsor research related to Research Software Engineering and provide information, advocacy and advice in relation to Research Software and RSEs. It may also provide grants or other financing for activities that will help meet the Society's aims.

All trustees have regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant. Specifically, trustees are made aware of the guidance as part of their induction, and each trustee has been registered with the Charity Commission. The guidance is considered for any decisions made by the charity, and there have been no deviations from the guidance to report.

The Society accepts contributions from volunteers. Specifically, this year's conference was led by the Society but relied heavily on 60+ volunteers in both the steering group and organising committee.



A message from the President



Welcome to our annual report from the Society of Research Software Engineering. We have been running as a charity for just over seven years, since 2019, with a rich history dating back to 2013. Our trustees, members, and the community beyond continue to work hard to support those practising research software engineering to enhance research through the use of software.

This is the last report I will sign off as President. Having served two years, and having put our succession plans into effect, I step down at the 2026 AGM. The choice of my successor rests with the trustees, who will appoint a new President from among themselves following the AGM. To our new trustees, and to whoever takes up the role, I offer my very best wishes.

RSECon25 at the University of Warwick was a fitting celebration of how central the RSE role has become to the UK's digital research infrastructure, welcoming over 450 attendees in-person and remote. It also marked a moment in the Society as it matures. The questions our community put to us there led directly to our Ethical Sponsorship Policy.

It would be remiss not to mention, though it falls outside this period, the shadow cast over RSECon26 by the call to boycott the University of Sheffield. The trustees again faced a difficult decision, and ours mirrored most members' wishes. Proceeding as planned protects our investment in the community rather than forcing us to withdraw benefits. Not every member will be comfortable with that, and I respect it.

The year has brought much to be glad of too. New trustees have arrived bringing fresh energy and expertise, our community has continued to grow, and through the Society's mentoring scheme I have been able to give something back personally. The trustees are only part of this. Our volunteers, conference committee, working groups, and the Software Sustainability Institute's continued donation of staff time make the Society what it is. Without them, little of what follows in this report would exist. My thanks to everyone who makes this work possible. Thank you.

David Beavan, President
18 August 2026

Achievements and Performance





Governance

Our governance work this year focused on strengthening the Society's foundations. We ran a contested trustee election, consulted the community on sponsorship and agreed an Ethical Sponsorship Policy as a result, and formed a new working group on Policy and Funding.

Our AGM on 10 September 2025 saw a substantial change to the board. Nine trustees retired during the period, with ten candidates standing for nine seats, in a competitive process. Voting ran online from 28 July to 22 August 2025, and the ballot was counted and verified by our scrutineers, Simon Hettrick and Jonathan Cooper, with the results announced at the AGM. Six new trustees were elected, and three retiring trustees were re-elected, returning the board to its constitutional maximum of fourteen. Kirsty Pringle and Marion Weinzierl, appointed mid-year to fill vacancies during 2024-25, stood down as required. The Elections Working Group again facilitated the process, publishing candidate statements and hosting Q&A sessions to encourage community engagement and transparency.

Questions raised by our community at RSECon25 led us to develop an Ethical Sponsorship Policy, defining how the Society engages with particular sectors and organisations, especially in conference sponsorship and corporate partnerships. We consulted our membership over a number of months, publishing proposed avoidance criteria alongside summaries of the arguments raised about each. The final stage was an online members' consultative vote (21% voted). A majority (62.7%) wished to include only those areas of exclusion required by law, empowering the trustees to decide case by case rather than work to a pre-defined list; none of the individual areas proposed reached the 50% threshold. We reported the outcome to members and held an online discussion event on 10 March 2026, and agreed to draft the policy for adoption by the trustees.

The Society published its [CoARA Action Plan](#) in November 2025, highlighting the value of research software and sustainable technical career paths. As part of our work in this area, Samantha Ahern was a panel member at the Festival of The Hidden Ref (October 2025).

We are in ongoing discussions with the Research Software Alliance (ReSA) to help shape the future of international RSE conferences, ensuring any new initiatives complement, rather than dilute, the existing opportunities available to our members.

Governance (cont.)

A new working group on “Policy and Funding”, which is an extension of the “Governance” subgroup, has been formed with the main aims to:

- Provision of advice and training for members of the community and external committees on RSE policy in engaging with funders and relevant organisations to advocate and lobby for the RSE community.
- Generation and maintenance of a Policy and Funding strategy.
- Support for collaboration between government, funders and employers (particularly universities and Principal Investigators). Create national policies aimed at improving standards of employment for RSEs in academia and industry around length of contract, career paths and pay standards by means of standard assessment criteria. This goal is also aligned with the Society’s Charitable Mission Statement: “...to support the creation of an academic career path for Research Software Engineers.”
- Actively involving community members, including those with experience working with stakeholders and funders, in achieving the above goals and co-creating the Society’s strategy document with their involvement.

The group consists of three members, two of whom are trustees. We are also in the process of onboarding two new members and are planning to launch another call to join through the Society’s social media channels.

We organised an event as part of the RSE Leaders & Aspiring Leaders meeting at Durham University on 15 June 2026 with a focus on the policy and funding landscape for RSEs. The gathered output from this meeting will feed into our future Strategy document. The working group has already published their [Terms of Reference](#), and further details about the working group can be found on [our website](#).

IN NUMBERS

755

Paid members in the Society as of June 2026.

6%

Increase in members over 1 year (since July 2025)

7,848

Members of our Slack channel



Membership

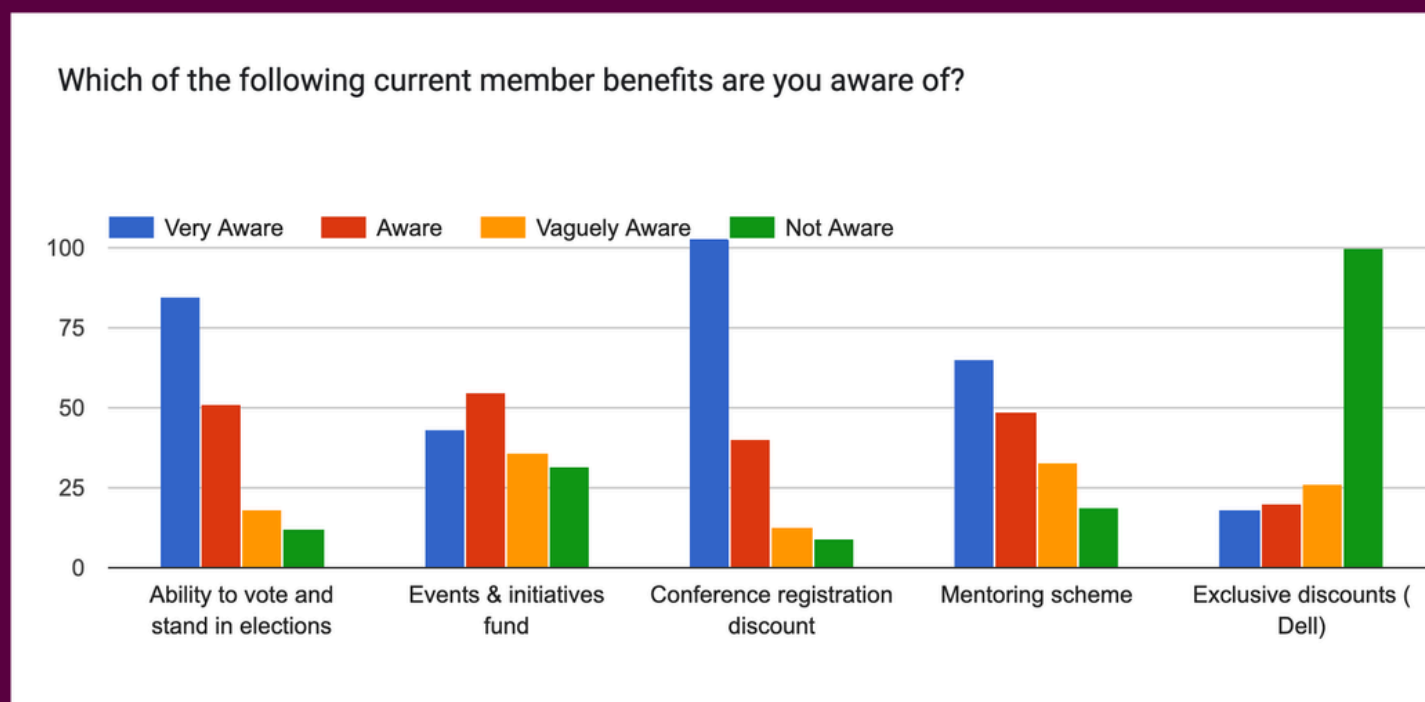
The Society officially launched paid membership in September 2019. Becoming a member of the Society offers an opportunity to be part of our work in gaining recognition and support for Research Software Engineering. The £20 annual membership fee has remained unchanged, feedback was sought on the fee and member benefits as part of last year's community survey. As of 30th June 2026, our membership stood at 755 (twelve months ago it was 713). This is an increase on last year.



Members can take advantage of membership benefits, such as the mentorship scheme, event grants, Dell UK discounts and a discount on the annual conference ticket fee. Our website provides key information for the RSE community, including events, policies and governance associated with the Society, community news, details of national (UK) and international RSE groups and organisations, and job listings for RSE career opportunities. Our Slack workspace provides an online space for the community to interact. There are over 7,800 members, of which just over 1,000 are active. Over 90% of interactions take place in public Slack channels.

Membership (cont.)

According to the 2025 Community Survey, 84% said the membership fees were the right level. However, there were varying levels of awareness of membership benefits amongst respondents.



Supporting the Society and its mission were the main motivation for joining the Society, with event attendance, Slack discussions and Special Interest Groups as the community activities mostly engaged with.

In July 2026 the process to join the SocRSE Slack was amended so that all new participants had to complete the sign-up form. Previously some email domains were automatically accepted, whilst others had to be approved and those from industry had to complete a form. Now, everyone has to complete the form and agree to the Society's code of conduct and rules around use of the Slack space.

The membership subgroup currently consists of two trustees of the Society, and works helping members with membership platform issues, cancellations and other enquiries. Throughout this year there have been issues with some Direct Debit payments as part of the transition to Wild Apricot. We thank members for their patience whilst we have worked with Finance to reconcile accounts and reinstate recurring payments.

RSE Conference

In September 2025, the Society held its ninth annual RSE Conference at the University of Warwick. This year saw the growth in attendance seen previously continue, with nearly 430 attending in person. Across up to five streams, attendees heard 35 talks and walkthroughs, took part in seven workshops and seven sessions from our special interest groups and birds of a feather. There were also 20 posters. As with RSECon24, all interactive content was again live-streamed and recordings and resources are now fully available online.

The conference had a thematic focus on research software engineers as part of digital research infrastructure and how they enable excellence in research. These themes both celebrate work that RSEs have performed, and deepens their technical skills so that RSEs can play a deeper role in the development of digital research infrastructure.

The keynote speakers for the conference were Amanda Brock, Simon Hettrick and Tania Allard. Together they built on the themes of the conference to look at the rise of open source in research, the power of recognition and possible paths to keep research and scientific software relevant to the future.

After the success of the Emerging Voices session introduced in the previous conference, attendees heard from Ana Cavalcante and Piper Fowler-Wright. These talks showcased fresh perspectives from early career voices.

RSE Worldwide again featured at RSECon25, and we thank Claire Wyatt and Jannetta Steyn who co-chaired these sessions for bringing an international perspective to our conference.

Four satellite meetings were held alongside the conference, including looks at Fortran and R, and sessions supporting the training and RSE leadership communities.



RSE Conference (cont'd)

The Society would like to extend heartfelt thanks to programme co-chairs Romain Thomas and Heather Ratcliffe, Lyndsey Ballantyne, Robert Chisholm and Michael Donnay as logistics co-chairs, and the rest of the conference committee, who worked tirelessly to make the conference happen. Romain took over from Pip Grylls late in the organisation of the conference and we are grateful to Pip for his early work in setting the vision.

We would also like to thank our wonderful team of volunteers, led by Becky Smith and Jez Swann. The volunteer team helped make the experience great for all our attendees. We are also grateful to our sponsors, without whom the conference would not have been possible.

We thank Priyanka Ojha, as fundraising chair, Martin O'Reilly and Godwin Yeboah for developing the sponsorship for the conference, contributing to a surplus from the conference, allowing the Society to continue its support of the RSE community beyond the conference itself.

Laura Crawford was again the EDIA chair for the conference, and ensured that the conference was accessible and open to all attendees, in-person and remote.

RSECon26 takes place in Sheffield in September 2026 as the tenth conference. Iain Barrass will be the Steering Group chair, with Romain Thomas and Twin Karmakharm the programme co-chairs. Michael Donnay and Robert Chisholm will again be logistics co-chairs, making this coming conference one led by an experienced team.

The conference will, for the first time, be co-located with another major international conference: the first International Research Software Conference.



Supporting community-led events and initiatives

The Society conference and events committee continued to meet every two weeks to approve new event funding applications and to update on the plans for the 2026 and 2027 conferences.

Lyndsey Ballantyne has led on events for 2025/26 with the Comms and Marketing ensuring visibility of the events fund.

This year, we had a total of 20 funding requests through the Events and Initiatives grant, with 18 being funded at the time of writing.

Due to the popularity of the fund, the trustees agreed to allocate an additional £7,365 for 25/26, taking it to a total of £17,365.

The following events were funded:

- Crick Bioimage Analysis Symposium (CBIAS)
- Open Science Retreat
- Edinburgh CERSE meetings
- Training Community Day @ RSECon25
- Google Develop Group Devfest
- miniHPC Hackday: Building, Testing, and Sharing Best Practices
- RSE Finland and friends meetup
- RSE South West Meeting
- RSE & WHPC Meeting – East Anglia 2026
- 195th European Study Group with Industry
- RSE Midlands 2026
- Neuroinformatics Unit Open Software Summer School
- Digital Humanities Research Software Engineering Summer School
- RSE Leaders meeting: Policy and Funding
- RSE South West 2026 Meetup in Bath
- Research Software Asia Australia 2026 Conference
- Teaching and Training Community Day
- Glasgow CompBio Hackathon 2026 prize

If you would like support from the Society for an event or initiative, then please contact the events team at events@society-rse.org or [complete the application form](#).

Communications and Publicity

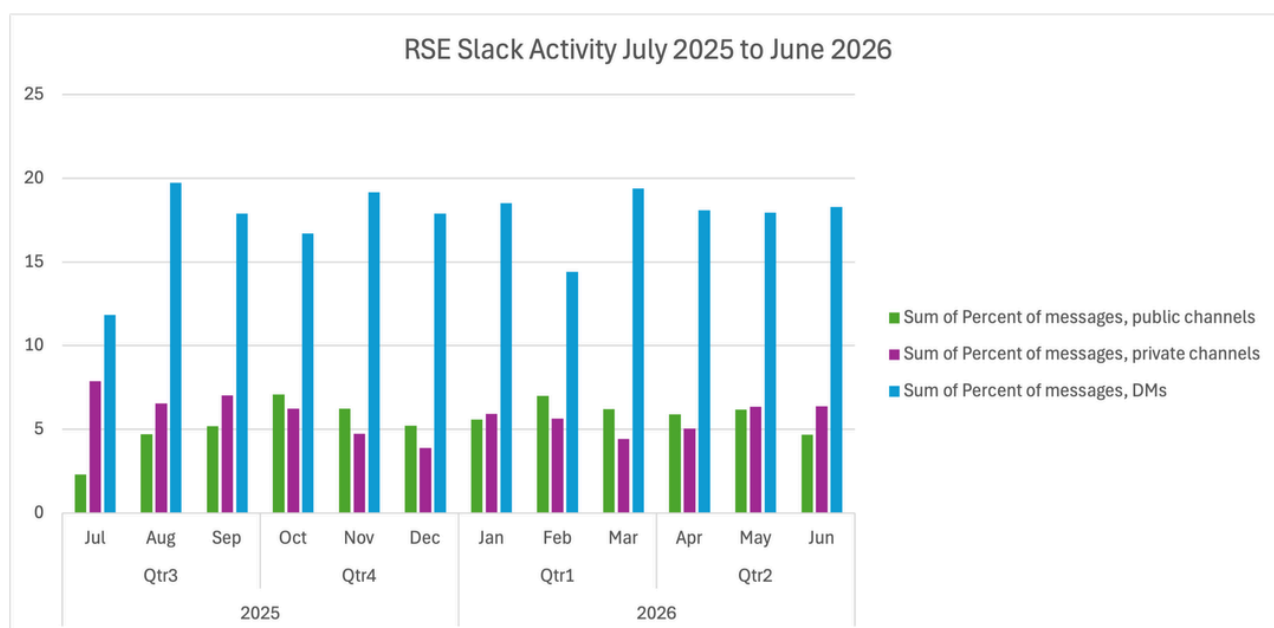
We have continued to utilise our existing accounts, such as the LinkedIn page and group. The rota for trustees in the comms team (one person responsible for the month's activities) continues. We would appreciate the Society members reposting and sharing out comms on social media so we can reach as many people as possible.

Ongoing comms and publicity activities include our newsletter, which is sent to 1,800+ subscribers (up from 1,700 last year). We also send out regular posts through a range of different social media accounts. The total followers (and change from last year's report) are shown below.

- **Bluesky:** 314 followers (+81)
- **Mastodon:** 633 followers (+91)
- **X (Twitter):** 6,754 followers (-146)
- **Slack:** 7,705 in #general channel (+905)
- **LinkedIn page:** 1,428 followers (+587)
- **LinkedIn group:** 393 members (+82)

Use of the Society's Slack workspace continues to grow, with over 800 members joining over the last 12 months. One change we have implemented is that all applicants are required to complete the Slack joining form, so the joining experience is the same for everyone, regardless of institution

The comms team and the conference publicity chair have been posting regularly across most platforms, and we have seen steady growth across almost all of them. The exception is X (formerly Twitter), where followers and engagement continue to decrease. We have made up for this in other social media channels, particularly LinkedIn, where we have seen an increase in followers of over 500.



Mentoring

The Society launched a mentoring scheme from the end of 2021 until 2022, in conjunction with Coach Mentoring. Over the years of running the scheme, we've had feedback from mentees that it has been useful to have a sounding board to talk through decisions they were making; support transitioning into management roles; discussions and advice on career development; and advice on managing particular challenges they were experiencing in the workplace. Mentors also found the scheme very rewarding, with almost all mentors responding to the feedback survey saying they found the experience personally rewarding and a source of personal development for themselves.

The costs of the scheme are paying for services provided by CoachMentoring to run and review the mentoring programme. Each year, we aim to iterate on feedback to make sure that we can provide the best value for money to our members. Each year, we pay for the administration of the sign-ups, pairing mentors and mentees based on their information, collecting feedback and report writing. In addition, we pay for the time to deliver remote sessions: initial training, mid-way check-in and training and finishing up and moving on.

Revisions for 2026

- We agreed to nudge the initial parts of the programme earlier by a week or two. The 2026 programme was signposted during our summer conference RSECon25.
- The Society announced details of the programme during December and asked for sign-ups to a mailing list. This allowed for time to finalise the application form ahead of opening applications. We have increased the estimated maximum number of days of the much-valued Virtual Programme Management. A revision to the flyer was not required this year, and we reused the previous mentoring guides without adjustment as they contain no programme schedule dates.

We found that there was relatively low attendance at the interim training and feedback sessions in June, with nine mentors and nine mentees attending out of a total of 26, respectively. We continued offering the trustees running information sessions, kept the distribution list to announce the scheme opening and provided more detailed information about the scheme on the Society of RSE website.

As of June 2026, most mentoring pairings had met 3-4 times or above. We received positive feedback suggesting that participants are very well matched, matches were very well communicated and that skills webinars were useful and well attended. It was suggested to add a question to next year's form asking if the applicant for becoming a mentee has previously applied and did not get a mentor, so that those could be preferred if there are not sufficient mentors again.

Mentoring cont'd

Summary of Mentoring Scheme 2022 - 2026

Cohort ending	Mentor-mentee pairs	Comments	Total cost (rounded to nearest pound)
2022	25	Initial trial of the scheme	£4,270
2023	18	7 mentees did not have a mentor available for pairing	£3,420
2024	29	One mentor did not have a mentee available for pairing CoachMentoring changes: Increased number of training and support sessions.	£7,753
2025	37	3 Mentees did not have a mentor available for pairing CoachMentoring changes: Added mentor skills practice, decreased check-in and wrap up sessions. Created promotional materials. Trustees changes: Improved information on website. Ran information sessions before the scheme.	£7,043.46 (expected, not yet fully invoiced)
2026	26	4 mentees did not have a mentor available for pairing. One potential mentee was not a member of the Society and didn't qualify as a consequence.	£6950 (expected, not yet fully invoiced, invoiced for £5157.08 so far)



Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility

The EDIA and Role Diversity working group has continued to be a community working group, with most members not coming from the board of trustees. The group has continued to collect RSE stories to promote the diverse paths coming into research software engineering, and the roles within the community. In addition the working group is running a birds of a feather session at RSECon26 for hiring for diversity for digital research technology professionals.

We've worked on sharing community resources for improving EDIA in recruitment and helped gather feedback for the accessibility of the RSECon26 website. We are in the process of getting an accessibility audit of our main SocRSE website with AllAble, so that we can have a better online presence. The working group is also keen to promote and encourage internship and work-experience opportunities as a way to bring people from different backgrounds into the profession, and have created a form to collect groups' experience with hosting work experiences. We hope to have collected these by the end of 2026 and have them published on our website.

Web and Infrastructure

The work of the web and infrastructure team has been focused on improving the reliability and security of our website and infrastructure this year. This includes the continuing updates of software across the platform, specifically our WordPress installation and carrying out access audits for our infrastructure.

The job advert page on the website had 62 jobs adverts in 2025-2026, with 58 job adverts being placed during this reporting period in 2024-2025, and 123 in the 2023-2024 period and 168 in the 2021-2022 period.

We have migrated our historical conference websites to open-source GitHub pages which helped reduce the workload for our hosting server. We have also enabled advanced caching in our WordPress setup to improve the experience on the website particularly when reading newsletter posts which often crashed the infrastructure previously. As part of this initiative, we have also upgraded our hosting server and continuously updated our dependencies across the stack (PHP, WP), to protect our members and to support our society-level initiatives.

The Web Working Group has been launched to support contributions to web and infra from non-trustee members. With inventory and asset aware onboarding, this group is meant to support all other initiatives that need to provide granular access to our web and infra (for example for posting on the website).

We are continuing to offer support to SIGs and WGs, particularly providing help with the membership platform transition with the Membership group and improving our website structure and accessibility with the EDIA group.





Financial Summary

The Society's financial year ran from the 1st of July 2025 to the 30th of June 2026

Opening Balance (July 2025)

£129,609

Income
Expenses

£235,955

£219,595

Closing Balance (June 2026)

£145,970



Accounting basis

The Society prepares its accounts on an accruals basis, accounting for income and expenditure in the financial year in which the related activity takes place or funds are committed. This means that all income and expenditure for each annual RSECon conference is accounted for fully in the financial year the conference takes place, and all community grants are accounted for in the financial year they are awarded.

Income and Expenditure

The Society's financial year ran from 1st July 2025 to 30th June 2026 (2025-26). Over this period we had a total income of £235,955 and a total expenditure of £219,595, resulting in an overall operating surplus of £16,361 for the year (all figures exclusive of VAT).

Almost all the Society's income comes from its annual conference and subscription fees from its members. This financial year we received £14,541 in membership fees and £221,398 from conference income for RSECon25 (all figures exclude VAT). Conference income came primarily from ticket sales (£107,603) and sponsorships (£110,000 total, comprising £15,000 from the AI Research Resource (AIRR), £15,000 from Microsoft and Methods, £10,000 from the Alan Turing Institute, £10,000 from the University of Sheffield, £10,000 from Nuvolos, £5,000 from EPCC, £5,000 from DARE UK, £5,000 from 2i2c, £5,000 from UCL Grand Challenges, £5,000 from the Software Sustainability Institute, £5,000 from Tokamak Energy, £5,000 from the Met Office, £5,000 from Oxford Quantum Circuits, £5,000 from AWE and £5,000 from UKRI), with the remaining comprising donations to the Participation and Inclusion fund (£3,750, including £500 from King's Digital Lab and £500 from UCL) and a small amount from merchandise sales (£44). The remaining £17 income was interest paid to us by HMRC on our average VAT balance.

Our main outgoings were conference expenditure for RSECon25 of £173,857; community grants of £16,101 via the Events and Initiatives scheme (final amount claimed from a total of £17,365 awarded); £11,000 for the Society's sponsorship of the Festival of Hidden Ref, the SSI Collaborations Workshop 2026, and the inaugural IRSC26; £5,660 for the Society's mentoring scheme; £2,146 for infrastructure to support community events (Zoom and Slido); and £2,297 for the Society's membership platform. The administrative costs for operating the Society that are not directly related to the delivery of the Society's activities for the community came to £8,484 (web infrastructure, insurance, professional fees, bank fees and accountancy fees). About half of these costs are accountancy fees, which cover our accountants conducting an independent examination of our accounts as required by the Charity Commission and preparing formal statutory accounts compliant with the FRS102 accounting standards, which became a requirement for the Society in 2023-24. All figures exclude VAT.

Financial Position

As at 30 June 2026, the Society had an effective “working balance” available to fund Society activities of £145,970, accounting for all amounts owed by us and owing to us at the end of the year and excluding advance income and expenditure related to RSECon26 (which will be accounted for in our 2026-27 financial year accounts).

Overall the Society is in good financial standing, with operating funds significantly in excess of our reserves policy. Having reviewed the financial position and planned activities, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, and continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Financial Planning

The annual conference is the primary community activity delivered by the Society each year. While the conference generates a surplus most years to help fund the Society's other community activities, it costs significantly more to deliver than we receive in ticket sales income. Each year, most of the sponsorship received goes directly to subsidising the costs of that year's conference, with the remainder retained by the Society to fund its non-conference activities. Across the RSECon22 - RSECon25 conferences the average net surplus has been around £29,000 per conference. Combined with an average of around £14,000 per year in membership income, this provides around £43,000 per year to fund the Society's non-conference activity in support of the community.

However, in any given year the net conference surplus has fluctuated significantly, ranging from a £47,000 net surplus for RSECon24 and RSECon25 to a £15,500 net loss for RSECon23. Therefore, in order to support stable spending commitments, the Society plans expenditure based on expected long-term average surplus, rather than the surplus for any given year.

Reserves Policy

Financial reserves are money held back that would not normally be spent; the expectation is that funds will always remain over the value of the total reserves needed. For finances to fall below this value would be an unusual and unexpected event. These reserve levels ensure that we retain enough funds to keep the Society running if financial difficulties arise.

The value of reserves required are estimated from annual costs and are calculated to cover the following:

- Conference seed funding
- Community grants and activity
- Society administration costs

The trustees have set the current value of reserves at £65,000. This has been increased from its previous value of £45,000 based on a review of the amount required for conference seed funding. The trustees will keep this under regular review to ensure it remains appropriate as the Society's activities and financial position evolve.

For reserve funds to be spent, the following two criteria must be met:

- A majority vote by the trustees, AND
- At least two of the following trustees must vote in favour: president, vice-president, treasurer and vice-treasurer.

If the above conditions are met and any financial reserves are used, the Society shall consider itself to be in emergency mode where there is a higher than usual focus on bringing in income. During this period, the Society will generally avoid making any new spending commitments and will also review existing spending.

Increasing investment in community activity

Over the past three years, the trustees have leveraged the Society's accumulated surplus to increase the Society's support for the community. This includes increasing spending on grants made via the Events and Initiatives scheme, expanding the mentoring scheme and increasing the number of regional RSE Groups and Special Interest Groups the Society supports. It also includes increasing the number of conference bursaries provided and investing in live streaming and recording of the conference to support remote attendance and publication of conference talks online.

The trustees plan to further increase the Society's support for community activities in the coming year, including increased funding for the Events and Initiatives scheme and additional support for regional and interest groups. The trustees' goal will be to target a sustainable long-term level of support for ongoing community activity while also looking to provide additional one-off support to spend down its accumulated surplus.



SocRSE Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

The Society actively encourages the creation of Special Interest Groups (SIGs), which are led and run by members of the RSE community. These groups' work includes long-running projects that work towards aims that align with the Society's mission but operate largely independently; in this way the Society can support community-driven initiatives and help achieve our objectives. In 2025, a new Trustee role was created to manage the SIGs, this SIG-Coordinator role is currently jointly held by Lyndsey Ballantyne and Will Haese-Hill, and supported by Michael Donnay. Each SIG has a Terms of Reference document that has been approved by the Trustees.

We are pleased to say that we now have 8 SIGs successfully set up, working hard and engaging the RSE community. Please head to the [SIG section of our website](#) to find out more about each group.

- **Regional RSE Groups:** This SIG supports the formation of regional RSE communities across the UK. There are already a number of such communities, e.g. RSLondon, ScotRSE etc, which act as a local hub for advice, and are a great way for RSEs to network and form collaborations. The [Regional RSE Groups](#) Special Interest Group aims to support the forming of regional groups, and to give advice and guidance for the running of such a group. SIG members can be contacted at: regional-sig@society-rse.org.
- **RSE Leaders Network:** Is a long-running initiative in which leaders of Research Software groups can come together to confidentially discuss the challenges and wins in their group and institution relating to RSEs and Research Software. The meetings are held approximately twice a year, often co-located with RSECon ([meetings](#)).
- **Green RSE SIG:** Aims to build a supportive, collaborative community of research software engineers and researchers who code, to work together on understanding how to reduce the environmental impact of research software.
- **Reasonable Performance Computing:** a [SIG](#) that aims to bring the community together to research, develop and promote best practices in software performance. Members can be contacted at: sig-rpc-managers@society-rse.org.
- **Teaching and Training:** This [special interest group](#) brings together community members active in teaching. The SIG aims to promote the development of Research Software Engineers as teachers and trainers, the creation of teaching materials for researchers, and the design of professional development resources for RSEs themselves.

SocRSE Special Interest Groups (SIG) cont'd

- **High Performance Computing RSE:** This special interest group supports RSEs working in HPC, it aims to bring RSEs working in HPC together by providing a space for members to connect, share knowledge, and stay informed about technical developments, training opportunities, and community initiatives in the HPC field.
- **Geoscience:** The Geoscience SIG aims to draw together RSEs working in geosciences to share domain-specific knowledge, challenges and solutions.
- **Fortran Special Group:** is a very long-running and active community group that has recently moved from a function with the support of the BCS to becoming a SIG with the Society. They welcome new members, and can be contacted via the Fortran channel on UKRSE Slack.



Highlights of Events Participated in by Trustees

- Lyndsey Ballantyne gave a talk at the RSE Worldwide session at RSECon25 with an update on UK activities, including information about each of our Special Interest Groups.
- Samantha Ahern was a panel member at the Festival of the Hidden REF in October 2025.
- Samantha Ahern gave the Society talk on behalf of the trustees at the Crick Bio Image Analysis Symposium, November 2025.
- Mike Simpson represented the Society at a stand at Computing Insight UK in December 2025, with help from Samantha Ahern and Iain Barrass.
- Samantha Ahern gave the Society talk on behalf of the trustees at the UK Dementia Research Institute ECaT Day in December 2025.
- David Beavan opened the inaugural ScotRSE in-person event in Dundee on 23 February 2026
- James Tyrrell gave the Society talk on behalf of the trustees and participated as a panel member for a discussion on Raising the Visibility of RSE Groups Within Universities at RSE Midlands 2026, University of Nottingham, on 20 April 2026.
- Samantha Ahern gave a talk on the Society of RSE and the case for CoARA, CoARA National Chapter meeting, 3rd June 2026.
- Twin Karmakharm and Elena Breitmoser ran a session on behalf of the Policy and Funding working group at the RSE Leaders & Aspiring Leaders meeting, Durham University, on 15 June 2026.



Structure, Governance and Management

The Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), and stands alone, with no subsidiaries. It is governed by a constitution (available via <https://society-rse.org/about/governance/>) which defines its overall purpose and some key aspects of how it operates. The mission is for the public good, specifically to advance education, particularly but not exclusively amongst research software engineers and/or to promote and advance research particularly but not exclusively in all aspects of research that relies on software engineering and to publish the useful results.

The Society is governed by a minimum of 5 trustees and a maximum of 14. The appointment of officers and roles is made by the trustees. No trustees receive payment, and no staff are employed. We are, however, in receipt of a donation of staff time from the Software Sustainability Institute, for which we are very grateful. Decisions are made at a meeting of the charity trustees or by resolution in writing or electronic form agreed by a majority of all of the charity trustees. Powers and/or functions are delegated to committees and where done, specific terms and conditions are implemented.

At every AGM, at least a third of the trustees must retire from office. Trustee vacancies may be filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting, after an open nominations process. A charity trustee who has served for two consecutive terms may not be reappointed for a third consecutive term, but may be reappointed after an interval of at least two years. The members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, e.g. in place of a charity trustee who has retired, provided the number of trustees does not exceed 14. Those appointed in this way must retire at the end of the next AGM.



Reference and Administrative details

This is the seventh annual trustee report of the Society of Research Software Engineering since becoming incorporated in March 2019. The Society is registered charity number 1182455, C/O Samantha Ahern, Centre for Advanced Research Computing, University College London, 20 Bedford Way, London, WC1H 0AL. In accordance with our constitution, this reporting period has seen an election held on 10 September 2025 in which three trustees were re-elected and six new trustees were elected. Following that election, the trustees appointed David Beavan for a second year as President.

The Trustees active at the end of the reporting period are:

- David Beavan (President, elected Sep '22, re-elected Sep '25)
- Samantha Ahern (Vice-president, elected Sep '24)
- Mike Simpson (Vice-president, elected Sep '23)
- Stefan Piatek (Secretary, elected Sep '23)
- William Haese-Hill (Vice-secretary, elected Sep '25)
- Martin O'Reilly (Treasurer, elected Sep '22, re-elected Sep '25)
- James Tyrrell (Vice-treasurer, elected Sep '25)
- Lyndsey Ballantyne (elected Sep '23)
- Iain Barrass (elected Sep '25)
- Mark Basham (elected Sep '25)
- Elena Breitmoser (elected Sep '25)
- Twin Karmakharm (elected Sep '23)
- Adrian Mircea Nenu (elected Sep '25)
- Gillian Sinclair (elected Sep '22, re-elected Sep '25)

Trustees who completed their terms or stepped down during the reporting period were:

- Abie Alexander-Ikwue (stepped down Sep '25)
- Mary Chester-Kadwell (stepped down Sep '25)
- Fliss Guest (stepped down Sep '25)
- Kirsty Pringle (stepped down Sep '25)
- Marion Weinzierl (stepped down Sep '25)
- Godwin Yeboah (stepped down Sep '25)

Reference and Administrative details cont'd

Community volunteers:

- Louise Brown (EDIA)
- Robert Chisholm (EDIA, Reasonable Performance Computing SIG)
- Michael Donnay (Funding and Policy; SIG co-ordination)
- Maryblessing Okolie (EDIA)
- Oscar Seip (EDIA)
- Jonathan Cooper (RSE Leaders SIG)
- Fliss Guest (RSE Leaders SIG)
- Marion Weinzierl (RSE Leaders SIG; HPC RSE SIG; Regional RSE SIG)
- John Pelan (Fortran SIG)
- Austen Rainer (Fortran SIG)
- Helen Burns (Geoscience SIG)
- Isabel Fenton (Geoscience SIG)
- Kirsty Pringle (Green RSE SIG)
- Gavin Yearwood (HPC RSE SIG)
- Tuomas Koskela (HPC RSE SIG)
- Samantha Ahern (Teaching and Training SIG)

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees 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). The law applicable to charities in England & Wales 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 Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Memorandum of Association. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Declarations

The current trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees 18 August 2026

David Beavan
(President)



Martin O'Reilly
(Treasurer)



Profit and Loss

The Society of Research Software Engineering

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Accrual Basis

This report does not form part of the Society's statutory annual accounts. It provides more detail on the Society's income and expenditure in order to support trustees and members in better understanding: (1) how these relate to the various charitable activities of the Society and (2) year to year variations in these. It is prepared on the same accruals basis as the statutory accounts: accounting for conference income and expenditure in the financial year in which the conference took place; community grants in the year in which they were awarded; and all other income and expenditure in the year in which the associated invoice was issued. The figures in this report should therefore be reconcilable to the statutory accounts.

	2026	2025	2024	2023
Turnover				
Donations	- ¹	-	-	1,018
Event donations	3,750 ¹	1,120	-	-
Event sponsorship income	110,000 ¹	107,500	31,000	45,500
Event ticket sales (in-person)	100,335 ¹	94,054	70,623	86,640
Event ticket sales (remote)	7,268 ²	9,720	3,587	-
Membership Fees	14,541	13,500	14,780	13,540
Merchandise	44	43	65	61
Total Turnover	235,938	225,937	120,055	146,759
Cost of Sales	²			
Community grants (Events and Initiatives scheme)	16,101 ²	8,806	8,245	7,001
Community grants (Supported groups)	- ²	-	-	389
Community infrastructure	2,146 ²	2,650	2,080	2,080
Community mentoring scheme	5,660 ²	7,410	3,375	2,150
Community sponsorship	11,000 ¹	-	-	-
Event administration	11,348 ¹	21,826	13,063	6,797
Event attendance bursaries	5,846 ¹	6,270	1,678	8,847
Event catering	78,835 ¹	61,965	33,978	28,799
Event promotion	1,250 ¹	3,137	1,708	3,589
Event social and networking (catering)	25,646 ¹	13,491	16,515	25,719
Event social and networking (entertainment)	- ¹	-	5,000	3,167
Event social and networking (venue)	453 ¹	420	5,150	1,775
Event speaker expenses	602 ¹	629	49	2,992
Event speaker fees (professional)	6,000 ¹	10,000	294	(294)
Event speaker honoraria (non-professional)	- ¹	-	828	-
Event streaming costs	22,148 ¹	23,436	21,830	-
Event transaction fees	5,952 ¹	6,334	5,304	1,313
Event travel and accommodation	127 ¹	3,427	2,531	1,620
Event venue hire	15,700 ²	14,160	12,687	11,407
Membership infrastructure	2,297	3,811	3,337	1,872
Total Cost of Sales	211,111	187,771	137,651	109,224
Gross Profit	24,827	38,166	(17,596)	37,535

	2026	2025	2024	2023
Administrative Costs				
Administrative catering	369	234	-	-
Administrative infrastructure	979	706	543	540
Administrative travel and accommodation	1,289	1,306	186	88
Audit & Accountancy fees	4,400	4,350	4,850	3,200
Bank charges (Wise)	31	-	-	-
Bank Fees	653	636	440	808
Insurance	490	480	480	468
Realised Currency Gains	(74)	205	251	57
Subscriptions	207	201	124	-
Subsistence	-	-	-	152
Sundry Expenses	-	-	-	22
Unrealised Currency Gains	104	(104)	-	-
Website Hosting & Domains	36	327	378	399
Total Administrative Costs	8,484	8,342	7,251	5,733
Operating Profit	16,344	29,824	(24,848)	31,802
Other Income				
Interest Income	17	5	-	-
Total Other Income	17	5	-	-
Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	16,361	29,829	(24,848)	31,802
Profit after Taxation	16,361	29,829	(24,848)	31,802

1. Conference income and expenditure

Note: All income and expenditure categories starting "Event ..." are conference related and notes for these are provided in the conference financial analysis report (report 3 of this pack). In this profit and loss report, financial year 2026 figures relate to RSECon25, 2025 figures relate to RSECon24, 2024 figures relate to RSECon23, and 2023 figures relate to RSECon22.

2. Community income and expenditure

Income: The primary non-conference income for the Society is from annual membership dues. These have remained broadly in line with previous years.

Expenditure: The "Cost of Sales" section shows the costs associated with the direct support the Society provides the community, including the costs of the conference, community grant and sponsorship awards, the mentorship scheme and the costs of community support infrastructure (e.g. Zoom and Sli.do for virtual community events, membership and newsletter platforms etc). Costs for community support infrastructure are broadly in line with previous years. Costs for membership infrastructure are down from last year as we retired our old membership platform after a period of running both old and new systems in parallel. Costs for the Community Mentoring Scheme in 2025-26 include £3,057 for the latter stage of the 2025 mentoring scheme plus £2,603 for the first stage of the 2026 mentoring scheme.

Grants and sponsorships: This year the Society awarded a little over £17,000 in community grants. This is a substantial increase on the £10,000 budget allocated for this in previous years. The Society also provided £11,000 in sponsorship support to events aligned to the Society's purpose. Overall this represents an over three-fold increase in direct financial support for community activity on previous years. This is part of the trustee's commitment to spend down a substantial portion of the Society's accumulated reserves in support of the community. Note that, while the total amount awarded in community grants was a little over £17,000, the total claimed or expected to be claimed by the end of the year was a little over £16,000. This is due to not all grants claiming the full amount due to lower than expected costs.

3. Administrative expenditure

The "Administrative Costs" section shows the costs of running the Society that are not directly related to the conference or direct support for the community. Key costs include:

Catering, travel and accommodation costs for trustees to attend in-person trustee meetings or to attend external events where the Society wishes to be represented. Where possible, the Society will ask trustees or members already funded by their employer to attend an event to represent the Society before funding a representative to attend ourselves. These costs were in line with last year, with most of these costs related to in-person trustee meetings to connect as a group and work together on some of the Society's more strategic priorities. The Society has held regular trustee away days in the past, but these were suspended during the pandemic and not restarted for some years after, hence the significantly lower costs in this category for 2023 and 2024.

Audit and Accountancy fees cover the costs of our accountants conducting an independent examination of our accounts as required by the Charity Commission, and preparing formal statutory accounts compliant with the FRS102 accounting standards, which became a requirement for the Society in 2023-24. These costs represent about half of our administrative costs.

Banks fees are primarily transaction costs for membership subscription payments and transaction costs for making overseas payments for community grants, bursaries and services. Transaction costs for processing conference registration payments are accounted for in the "Event transaction fees" line.

4. Operating surplus

The annual conference is the primary community activity delivered by the Society each year. While the conference generates a surplus most years to help fund the Society's other community activities, it costs significantly more to deliver than we receive in ticket sales income. Each year, most of the sponsorship received goes directly to subsidising the costs of that year's conference, with the remainder retained by the Society to fund its non-conference activities. Across the RSECon22 - RSECon25 conferences the average net surplus has been around £29,000 per conference. Combined with an average of £14,000 per year in membership income, this provides around £43,000 per year to fund the Society's non-conference activity in support of the community. However, in any given year the net conference surplus has fluctuated significantly, ranging from around a £47,000 net surplus for RSECon24 and RSECon25 to a £15,500 net loss for RSECon23. Therefore, in order to support stable spending commitments, the Society plans expenditure based on expected long-term average surplus, rather than the surplus for any given year. While the significant loss for RSECon23 resulted in a correspondingly significant overall loss for the Society in 2023-24, over the past four years the Society has achieved an average overall operating surplus of around £13,300. The trustees have significantly increased the funds allocated to direct community support via community grants and sponsorships this year, tripling this from a total of £8,800 last year to a total of £27,101 this year. As a result, the operating surplus for this year is £16,360 - significantly lower than previous surplus generating years. This reduction in operating surplus is intended - the Society's goal is to maximise the financial support it provides the community while maintaining a sustainable cash flow and overall operating balance. The Society has a current operating balance significantly in excess of what the trustees believe is needed as a sustainable long-run working balance and they will look to further increase expenditure in support of the community in the coming year to further spend down this accumulated balance.

Balance Sheet

The Society of Research Software Engineering

As at 30 June 2026

Accrual Basis

This report does not form part of the Society's statutory annual accounts. It provides additional notes to the Society's balance sheet in order to support trustees and members in better understanding the Society's financial position. It is prepared on the same accruals basis as the statutory accounts, accounting for conference income and expenditure in the financial year in which the conference took place, community grants in the year in which they were awarded and all other income and expenditure in the year in which the associated invoice was issued. The figures in this report should therefore be reconcilable to the statutory accounts.

	30 JUN 2026	30 JUN 2025
Current Assets		
Trade Debtors	36,360	25,306
Prepayments & Accrued Income	36,793	6,989
Cash at bank and in hand	169,014	273,440
Total Current Assets	242,167	305,735
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Trade Creditors	9,897	8,023
Accruals & Deferred Income	73,137	144,804
840 - Grants Payable	7,887	-
VAT Liability	4,937	23,160
Suspense	(2)	(2)
Direct Debit - GBP	340	141
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	96,197	176,126
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	145,970	129,609
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	145,970	129,609
Net Assets	145,970	129,609
Funds		
Unrestricted Funds	145,970	129,609
Total Funds	145,970	129,609

1. Trade debtors

These are income we have issued invoices for that financial year but not yet received payment for by the end of that year.

2. Prepayments and Accrued income

These are payments related to the following year's conference made that financial year.

3. Trade creditors

These are expenditure we have received invoices for that financial year but not yet paid by the end of that year.

4. Accruals and Deferred income

These are expenses incurred but not yet paid (accruals) and income for the following year's conference received that financial year (deferred income).

5. Grants payable

These are community grants awarded that financial year but not yet claimed by the end of that financial year. Note that this is a new category on the balance sheet due to a change in how we reflect expenditure on community grants. In prior years these grants awarded but not yet claimed would have appeared in the "Trade Creditors" line. This year the total amount for grants awarded but not yet claimed is higher than last year due to a combination of awarding a significantly larger total amount of grant funding and more grant recipients having not claimed their grants by the end of the financial year.

6. VAT liability

This is the net total of VAT we have collected on our income and paid on our expenditure but not yet settled with HMRC. This is predominantly related to the April - June VAT period running up to the year end. This is generally positive each year, reflecting the fact that we owe HMRC VAT we have collected on their behalf, as the VAT we've collected on our income during that period exceeds that which we have paid on our expenditure during that period. This is the usual end of year situation for us, as we receive a significant amount of conference registration and sponsorship income during this period each year.

7. Overall financial position

The "Total Funds" figure represents the effective funds available to the Society at the end of each financial year. Note that this is significantly less than the total amount present in our bank and payment provider accounts at the end of the year ("Cash at bank and in hand").

The biggest reason for this is that we receive significant advance income for the following year's conference each financial year, while the vast majority of expenditure related to the following year's conference does not fall due until after the conference has taken place in the next financial year. We account for this in these accruals based accounts by treating income and expenditure as occurring in the following financial year (the same financial year in which the conference takes place). These advance payments and income for the upcoming conference are included within the "Prepayments & Accrued Income" and "Accruals and Deferred Income" figures in this balance sheet respectively.

There are also some amounts that are owed to or by the Society at the end of the year that we need to consider when calculating the Society's effective available funds. At the end of the year, some organisations usually owe the Society money for invoices we have issued but were not paid by the end of the year ("Trade Debtors"), and the Society usually owes some organisations money for invoices we have received but not yet paid by the end of the year ("Trade Creditors"). The Society also generally ends the year owing significant amounts to HMRC for VAT collected on their behalf on income received by the Society in the final April - June quarter of the year ("VAT Liability"). The Society may also have awarded some Community Grants that were not yet paid out at the end of the year ("Grants Payable"). These amounts owed but not yet paid by the Society also reduce our effective available funds from the amount present in our bank account at the end of the year.

Overall, the Society ended the 2025-26 financial year in a healthy financial position, with effective available funds of £145,970. This is significantly above the level the trustees believe is needed as a long-run average working balance. The trustees have significantly increased the level of financial support for the community over the past year and will look to further increase this in the coming year to spend down this accumulated balance.

● Exchange rates used to convert foreign currency into GBP are shown below. Rates are provided by XE.com unless otherwise stated.

- 30 Jun 2025

 1.37310 USD (United States Dollar)

Conference financial analysis

The Society of Research Software Engineering

For the 4 years ended 30 June 2026

Accrual Basis

This report does not form part of the Society's statutory annual accounts. It focuses solely on conference related income and expenditure in order to provide a clearer picture of the income, expenditure and net surplus or loss position for each conference and allow easy comparison of these across conferences. It is prepared on the same basis as the Profit and Loss report, and income and expenditure categories present on both should match for each year. Note that RSECon figures relate to the financial year in which the conference took place (i.e. when looking at the Profit and Loss report RSECon22 is in FY2023, RSECon23 is in FY2024, RSECon24 is in FY2025, RSECon25 is in FY2026).

	RSECON22	RSECON23	RSECON24	RSECON25	TOTAL
Turnover					
200 - Donations	1,000	-	-	- ¹	1,000
300-100 - Event ticket sales (in-person)	86,640	70,623	94,054	100,335 ¹	351,652
300-110 - Event ticket sales (remote)	-	3,587	9,720	7,268 ¹	20,575
300-200 - Event sponsorship income	45,500	31,000	107,500	110,000 ¹	294,000
300-300 - Event donations	-	-	1,120	3,750 ¹	4,870
300-400 - Merchandise	61	65	43	44	214
Total Turnover	133,201	105,275	212,437	221,398	672,310
Cost of Sales					
301-100 - Event venue hire	11,407	12,687	14,160	15,700 ²	53,955
301-110 - Event catering	28,799	33,978	61,965	78,835 ²	203,576
301-200 - Event administration	6,797	13,063	21,826	11,348 ²	53,034
301-201 - Event promotion	3,589	1,708	3,137	1,250 ²	9,683
301-300 - Event social and networking (venue)	1,775	5,150	420	453 ²	7,798
301-310 - Event social and networking (catering)	25,719	16,515	13,491	25,646 ²	81,372
301-330 - Event social and networking (entertainment)	3,167	5,000	-	- ²	8,167
301-400 - Event speaker fees (professional)	-	-	10,000	6,000 ²	16,000
301-410 - Event speaker honoraria (non-professional)	-	828	-	- ²	828
301-420 - Event speaker expenses	2,699	343	629	602 ²	4,272
301-500 - Event streaming costs	-	21,830	23,436	22,148 ²	67,414
301-600 - Event attendance bursaries	8,847	1,678	6,270	5,846 ²	22,641
301-700 - Event travel and accommodation	1,620	2,531	3,427	127 ²	7,706
301-990 - Event transaction fees	1,313	5,304	6,384	5,902	18,903
Total Cost of Sales	95,733	120,615	165,143	173,857	555,347
Gross Profit	37,468	(15,339)	47,293	47,541	116,963
Administrative Costs					
406 - Bank charges (Wise)	-	-	-	5	5
490 - Bank Fees	-	-	123	96	219
498 - Realised Currency Gains	21	107	326	(9)	444
Total Administrative Costs	21	107	448	92	668

	RSECON22	RSECON23	RSECON24	RSECON25	TOTAL
Operating Profit	37,448	(15,447)	46,845	47,449	116,295
Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	37,448	(15,447)	46,845	47,449	116,295
Profit after Taxation	37,448	(15,447)	46,845	47,449	116,295

1. Conference income

Conference income for RSECon25 was broadly in line with that for RSECon24, coming in at around 4% higher overall. Income from in-person registrations was slightly up and income from online registrations was slightly down. The increased income from donations was mostly due to a significant one-off individual donation.

2. Conference expenditure

Conference expenditure for RSECon25 was broadly in line with that for RSECon24, coming in at around 5% higher overall. Key variations from last year were:

- Catering costs were £16,871 higher than last year, mainly due to a higher day delegate day rate for lunch / teas / coffees and a more expensive welcome meal.
- Administration costs were £10,478 lower, mainly due to no longer using an external event co-ordinator.
- Social and networking costs were £12,188 higher, primarily due to the main conference dinner venue being significantly more expensive this year.
- Speaker fees were £4,000 lower, spending £6,000 on an after dinner speaker this year vs £10,000 on an external keynote speaker last year.

3. RSECon25 financial position

The final net position for RSECon25 is a £47,449 surplus, very similar to RSECon24 and at the upper end of our best case planning scenario range. This is the second year in a row we have achieved such a strong surplus, with these due to exceptionally strong sponsorship income, coupled with record in-person attendances exceeding 420 in both years. These two strong years have more than offset the £15,447 deficit from RSECon23, and our rolling 4-year average annual surplus for RSECon is a healthy £29,074 each year. The Society uses this long-run average as the basis for determining a sustainable level of spending for future years.