



# ANNUAL REPORT

Sep 2015 to Aug 2016

Scottish Charity No SC 027600



## CONTENTS

SATA Annual Report 2015-16 .....	2
Membership .....	2
Management Committee .....	2
Members' Meetings .....	2
September 2015 (Norton Park) AGM and awards ceremony.....	2
November 2015 (FVSC, Camelon) .....	3
February 2016 (Scottish Youth Theatre, Glasgow).....	3
May 2016 (FVSC).....	3
Links with organisations, operators, officials.....	3
Publications.....	4
Common Themes.....	4
The future.....	4

## **SATA Annual Report 2015-16**

This report should be read in conjunction with the financial report which is made to OSCR and contains details of office bearers, members of the committee, how SATA meets its charitable purposes and its financial affairs.

### **Membership**

Membership levels remain fairly constant. We never achieved the intended increase in membership as a result of the DPULO project. Commercial organisations and charities have been reluctant to take on any financial commitments which are not necessary, but although we hear of the large percentage of the population which has some disability individuals do not seem to want to join our ranks.

There are approximately 27 corporate members of SATA this year and another 7 or so which have not renewed their membership to date. These corporate members include commercial operators, local authorities, access panels and organisations which deal with specific disabilities.

There are approximately 25 current individual members with another 6 'defaulters'.

### **Management Committee**

The management committee has met five times in the year, once before each of the members' meetings with an additional committee meeting in August. Between meetings as far as possible business is conducted by email thus covering the gap of 2 to 3 months between meetings, cutting down on the length of meetings and the amount of time and expense of getting committee members together.

### **Members' Meetings**

#### **September 2015 (Norton Park) AGM and awards ceremony**

The event began with Alan Rees giving a brief history of SATA and proposing a toast on the occasion of its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, followed by the cutting of the birthday cake. Tina Yu from Sense Scotland gave a concise presentation about the work of the organisation before making the awards.

Recipients were Billy Boyle, a driver for the Badenoch and Strathspey Community Transport Association Company – known for his cheerfulness and helpfulness. The other was to SEStran for its perseverance in promoting the Thistle Card.

We also took advantage of the occasion to present a lifetime Achievement Award to Stan Flett recognising the time and dedication to many of the aims and projects of SATA over many years.

The AGM was the first time where we have followed the modern practice of allowing all members a chance to vote by post, thus giving a voice to those unable to be physically present.

### **November 2015 (FVSC, Camelon)**

Gerry Conway gave a presentation on the rebuilding of Dundee Station with special reference to co-ordination of the various bodies concerned with the development of the area with disability organisations.

First mention of the word 'Uber', adding another dimension to the endless discussions on the problems with taxis and their registration/licencing.

### **February 2016 (Scottish Youth Theatre, Glasgow)**

Susan Grasekamp from SDEF was our guest, and discussion focussed on some of the issues being discussed in connection with Transport Scotland's Accessibility Strategy. Susan, as well as others at the meeting – John MacDonald, Iain Smith & Mike Harrison – is a member of the Steering Group building up the Framework.

### **May 2016 (FVSC)**

Catriona Burness senior researcher for RNIB Scotland spoke on 'RNIB and Accessible Transport'. Her work includes study of election manifestos compared with performance, and quite a lot on legislation as it affects visually-impaired people. Recently this has included the Abellio Charter for Passenger Assistance, the Tayside & Central Scotland plan and the Footway and double-parking Bill. Street Charters and Bus Charters are also in the pipeline.

### **Links with organisations, operators, officials**

There is an extensive but often informal connection and flow of information between SATA and other organisations, operators and officials. This may be in the course of attending meetings or making communications to seek or provide information or to make suggestions or even complaints. It is not uncommon to go to a meeting and find that between one third and one half of the people present are members of SATA. The committee maintains a list of which of its members is the 'official' point of contact with the main bodies we deal with. This helps to ensure we don't miss anything which is vital, but it's only a small part of the mosaic. As an example, I can list some of the conferences, consultations, presentations and meetings that I have been at during the last year

- Roads for All Forum
- Scottish Rail Accessibility Forum
- SDEF: various sessions
- Waverley station: access consultation group
- Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Group on Disability
- Scottish government's Transport Accessibility Steering Group
- Transform Scotland: various sessions
- Walking Cycling and Connecting Communities Conference (Living Streets and Paths for All)

Scottish Ambulance Service Involving People Group  
Euan's Guide  
ScotRail Alliance Stakeholders Advisory Panel  
ScotRail Alliance Stakeholders Equality Group  
SEStran Equalities Group  
Scotland's Next Generation Smart Rail  
SEStran Conference  
National Transport Strategy Refresh Stakeholders Consultation & subsequent re-launch  
'Getting our Rights right' Conference  
Rehabilitation International Conference Transport Consultation

Some of these are one-off or annual events, others are regular meetings. I am sure that most members of the committee could produce a similar list, and so could many other members who are not on the committee. All this is an indication of the kind of coverage that we have and the influence that we can have.

### **Publications**

Alan Rees has once again updated **Place to Place** – necessary as there are constant additions, deletions and re-siting of information.

### **Common Themes**

What has very much come to the surface this last year both in our meetings and at many of the sub-groups working on the Government's Accessibility Framework are some issues that affect just about every aspect. I would list these as:

1. 'Consultation' being done, not at preliminary design stage, but after a design has been committed to.
2. The difficulty in communicating
  - a. Between designers, clients & users
  - b. Between operators and users
  - c. Between councils and operators.
3. General lack of co-ordination and integration.
4. Licensing and regulation.
5. General law and Equality law being a step or more behind modern needs.
6. Training in Equality law and practical application being very patchy.

### **The future**

SATA needs to find a way to work more cohesively within and outwith itself, to increase member involvement and member numbers – and all without funding!

Mike Harrison, Hon. Secretary  
2016-08-16