Incorporation of Cordiners in Glasgow

Body and Sole Annual Report for the year to 31 May 2026

Period May 24 – May 26

The Master Court of the Incorporation established the Body and Sole project in 2017, with the aim of encouraging sports and outdoor activity in the most disadvantaged children and young people in Glasgow. Good working relationships have been established with Glasgow City Council to facilitate this initiative, most effectively through PEPASS (The Physical Exercise, Physical Activity and School Sports department).

Body and Sole has grown in financial terms and the scope of activities supported: from wellington boots for early years and primary children, to water sports footwear, roller skates, football boots, running shoes and occupational footwear for young people gaining experience in horticulture has also been supported. We estimate that over 9000 pairs of shoes have been provided over this period.

This report outlines our donations during the period 31 May 24 to 31 May 26. To 31 May 24 the Body and Sole project was very generously supported by the Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust but since the end of this period we have been pleased to receive generous support for the project from:

- HR Creswick Charitable Trust £5000 in February 2025
- The Dick Memorial Benevolent Fund £5000 in March 2025
- The Glasgow Eastern Merchants £2000 in May 2025
- The Shoemakers of Basel £500 in May 2025
- The Dick Memorial Benevolent Fund £5000 in May 2026
- The Glasgow Eastern Merchants £2000 in May 2026

These donations, combined with good investment returns, allowed The Cordiners to support applications from PEPASS in 2025 for £22179. The Craft also provided East Dunbartonshire Council Outdoor Education department, £2212.50. This in an area outside the City Centre where there are also a large number of SIMD 1 and 2 areas that need support for youth groups to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Total donations gifted in 2025 were £24391.50.

In addition, at the 2025 Choosing Dinner the Trades House Deacon Convener very kindly presented the Craft an authentic decanter of 60 year old Dalmore Whisky that the Cordiners decided to auction in the future to raise further funds for Body and Sole; the auction has yet to take place at the time of writing.

In 2026 PEPASS have requested £9918.00 for Early Years, Primary and Secondary school projects to continue the work in the outdoors and within this figure there is further support to Blairvadach Outdoor Centre.

The Cordiners also intend to donate a further £576.00 to Saracen Primary School which is a Kinship Care project being sponsored by the Trades House and has requested Craft support for footwear. Whilst this is a request outside the PEPASS bids for support it is further indication of the need for footwear to deliver ‘Body and Sole’ learning initiatives.

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TOTAL DONATIONS SINCE 2017:

The allocations noted in this report bring the total donations of footwear since 2017 to £161905.50. The total amount requested during this time was over c£180,000.

RECOGNITION OF BODY AND SOLE:

The Body and Sole project continues to deliver the intent established in 2017 and has now reached the point where new benefactors are required to continue the level of support being requested. The Cordiners remain very grateful to the recent donations received but now wish to highlight to a wider audience the physical and health benefits provided by this scheme that has got young people participating in sport and outdoor activities, where without the correct footwear, they would not have been able to participate.

The Craft has established a communications plan with initiatives for engagement across politicians and a variety of sport governing bodies to highlight the contribution made by the Craft and the need for wider support.