

The background of the cover features a complex, glowing circuit board pattern in shades of purple and blue. On the right side, there is a silhouette of a person's head and shoulders, facing left, with a grid of small circles overlaid on the face, suggesting a digital or neural network theme.

Ada Scotland Festival Trustees' Annual Report

1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

 **ada.scot**

Charity contact information



Ada Scotland Festival

Scottish Charity Number: SC050808

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Charity Trustees

1. Matthew Barr (Chair)
2. Anna Doyle (Treasurer)
3. Ella Taylor-Smith (Secretary)
4. Toni Scullion



Objectives and activities

Together, we can offer a more joined up approach to tackling gender imbalance in Computing Science, playing to individual partners' strengths while improving the visibility of all concerned.

The Ada Scotland Festival brings together partners involved in addressing the issue of gender balance in Computing Science and tech in Scotland. The University of Glasgow's Dr Matthew Barr and Anna Doyle (BIMA, CYF) lead on the initiative, with support from Festival co-founders Dr Ella Taylor-Smith (Edinburgh Napier University) and Toni Scullion (dressCode), and a voluntary advisory board, drawn from across the sector.

The Ada Scotland Festival has grown out of a SICSA-supported workshop. The workshop brought together employers, lecturers and teachers to identify ways in which the continuing gender imbalance in Computing Science might be addressed. The need for a more joined-up approach was one of the outcomes of the workshop, and that's where the Festival comes in.

The Ada Scotland Festival launched in October 2020, featuring a mix of online events, activities, and competitions. While the Festival takes the form of a series of scheduled events (around Ada Lovelace Day in

October), the Festival website provides a persistent platform for organisations to engage with the public.

Anna Doyle has since taken on the role of Festival Manager, and the Festival has moved from online-only to mix of online and in-person events. With Anna on board, we have begun taking a more curated, hands-on approach to the events delivered under the Ada Scotland banner, and hosted in-person 'hub' events in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Aberdeen in 2023.

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

The Ada Scotland Festival is a single tier Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), governed by a constitution¹. This constitution may be altered by resolution of the charity trustees - in their capacity as members of the organisation - passed at a members' meeting (subject to achieving the two thirds) or by way of a written resolution of the charity trustees in their capacity as members.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Our trustees have been with us from the Festival's inception in 2020, comprising co-founders Dr Matthew Barr, Dr Ella Taylor-Smith and Toni

¹ <https://ada.scot/about/constitution/>

Scullion, and Anna Doyle. Our constitution requires a minimum of four charity trustees, and allows for up to 12. To date, having four trustees has proven sufficient. However, should the scope of the Festival increase in the future, we will seek to recruit additional trustees from our network of partners and advisory board. The existing trustees may appoint a new charity trustee by way of a resolution passed by majority vote at a board meeting.

The 2023 Festival in numbers

- **3** cities
- **17** in-person events
- **5** online events
- **3600** participants



Partners and events

Festival partners in 2023 included:

- Apps for Good
- Autorek
- Barclays
- BBC Scotland
- CSSMeet
- Developing the Young Workforce
- Edinburgh Napier University
- Equate Scotland
- Hearts of Midlothian Innovation Centre
- Morgan Stanley
- Skills Development Scotland
- Tech We Can
- QA
- Robert Gordon University
- ScotlandIS

Here's a flavour of our 2023 events...



Ada Scotland Festival Launch Event 2023 hosted by Barclays

Once again we were delighted that Barclays hosted the Ada Scotland Festival Launch event at their fantastic campus on the Clyde. Over 100 students and teachers from across the West of Scotland convened at the campus for an afternoon of presentations, interactive and educational games and tours of the campus, including the X Labs and Eagle Labs.



ada.scot & ScotlandIS: Employer Roundtable Breakfast Gender Balance in Tech

In this roundtable breakfast event we heard from organisations providing insights into how to maximise your reach when recruiting, from young tech stars on their journey and employers exploring workplace issues specific to gender and how to address them.



So you thought tech was not for girls? QA Apprentices change your mind!

Led by two female apprentices, in this session, participants heard about the incredible opportunities QA have in the tech and business world.



Edinburgh Napier University presents: S2 Girls into STEM

An event to inspire, empower and raise aspirations of S2 Girls to choose a career pathway in STEM. Hosted at Edinburgh Napier University.



Barclays presents: Think Like a Fintech & Early Careers Panel

Making the leap from education to tech career? Young tech pros shared their insights followed by Think Like a FinTech – an instructor-led, user-centred design workshop.



RGU Ada Scotland Networking Event for High Schools

The ada.scot Networking Event on October 10th, 2023, hosted by the School of Computing at Robert Gordon University, made for an empowering day dedicated to building gender balance in computing!



Napier STEM presents: Women and gender minorities in STEM careers event

This was a great opportunity to gain insight into industry, along with a chance meet other women and gender minorities in STEM. There was also free ice cream!



Journeys into Data Science

5 October

12:30-13:30

EQUATE Scotland

ada.scot

Equate Scotland presents: Journeys into Data Science

At Equate Scotland's webinar we heard about opportunities for women coming to a career in data science later in life with talks from Gule Saman and Carla Chiodi.

The logo for ENUSEC is displayed on a black rectangular background. The word "ENUSEC" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a red greater-than sign (>) followed by a white underscore (_).

ENUSEC > _

ENUSEC presents: Capture the Flag Competition

Participants got to develop and challenge their cyber skills in ENUSEC's (Edinburgh Napier Security Society) Capture the Flag cybersecurity competition, with challenges based on cryptography, open-source intelligence and more!



BBC Scotland Presents: Exploring Tech Careers in Media

Are you keen to learn more about the STEM career opportunities available at BBC Scotland? Do you want to widen and strengthen your professional networks? If so then this is the event for you.



Morgan Stanley presents: Live Podcast Recording with Tandy Nicole

Tandy Nicole is the award-winning founder of Womenetic, a grassroots community organisation committed to creating channels for marginalized women, particularly asylum seekers and refugees, to get into tech.



Morgan Stanley presents: Cyber Heist – Unleash Your Inner Hacker

Whether you're a tech enthusiast or a curious mind, the Cyber Heist Event provided a unique opportunity to learn from industry experts and gain insights into the world of cybersecurity.



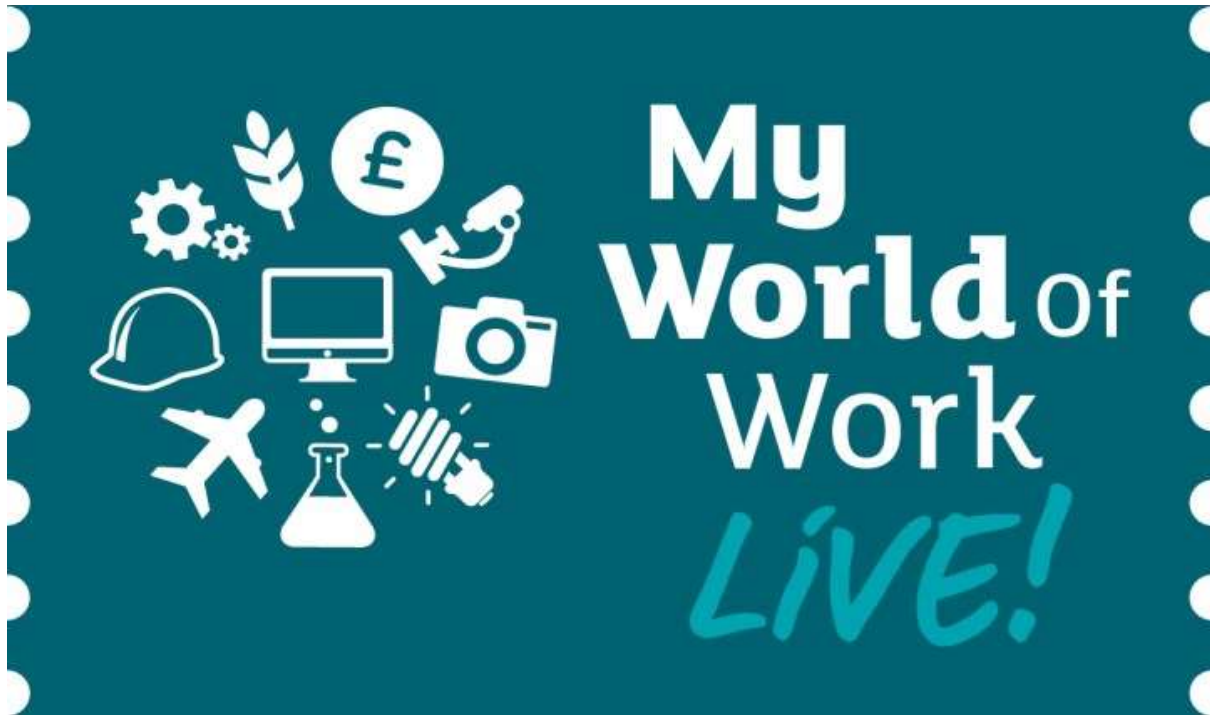
Barclays presents: Evening Industry Panel Event

Led by females in a variety of tech roles, this event explored how tech is embedded across multiple industries and the opportunities this affords women.



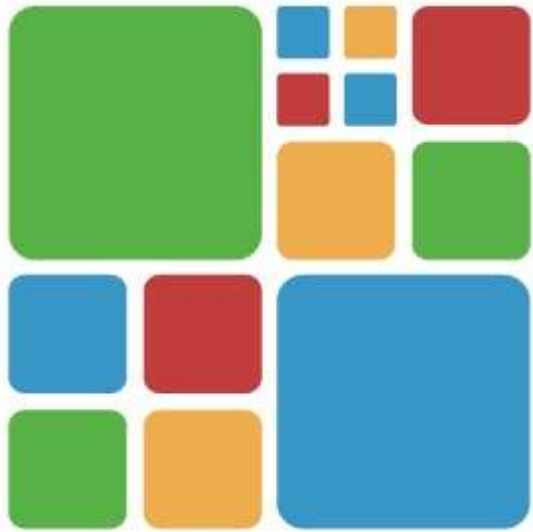
AutoRek presents – Trihackathon for Job Changers and Higher Ed Students

Held in the super cool Garment Factory offices, AutoRek hosted a Trihackathon for job changers, those in further or higher education, and anyone looking for a route into tech roles.



My World of Work Live Games Design for the classroom

Interactive, online lesson delivered by My World of Work Live where students learned how to create their own computer game and character, and bring it to life with code and music!



Apps for Good

How Teaching Tech Innovation Can Help Shape the Future for Young Scots with Apps for Good

This online event delivered by Apps for Good was aimed at teachers and explored two of the free class resources they provide aimed at S1-3 students.



Tech We Can LIVE Assembly – Tech for Cyber Security

This live online event delivered by Tech She Can was a brilliant way to launch the school day as an assembly or classroom session. It explored the importance of cyber security with content designed to interest pupils in P4-7.

Financial review

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The trustees aim to hold in reserve sufficient funds to be able to run the Festival again the following year.

Donated facilities and services

The University of Glasgow and Edinburgh Napier University provide limited in-kind support for trustees based at these institutions (Matthew Barr and Anna Doyle at University of Glasgow, and Ella Taylor-Smith at Edinburgh Napier University). The School of Computing Science at Glasgow serves as the charity's legal address.

**ADA Scotland Festival
Receipts and Payments
For the year ended 31 March 2024**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	<u>Total funds</u>	<u>Total funds</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Bank interest received	£69	£0
Sponsorship	£6,000	£5,400
Donations	£0	£1,040
Total receipts	<u>£6,069</u>	<u>£6,440</u>
<u>Payments</u>		
Accountancy	£480	£432
Administration fee	£5,500	£2,700
Event hire costs	£1,007	£0
Facebook advertising	£561	£475
Merchandise	£1,161	£1,011
Miscellaneous expenses	£303	£143
Postage	£102	£15
Printing and Stationery	£231	£114
Travel costs	£818	£903
	<u>£10,163</u>	<u>£5,794</u>
(Loss)/Surplus	<u>-£4,094</u>	<u>£646</u>

**ADA Scotland Festival
Statement of balances
As at 31 March 2024**

	2024	2023
	<u>Total funds</u>	<u>Total funds</u>
Fund reconciliation		
Cash at bank	<u>£3,849</u>	<u>£7,943</u>
Bank balances		
Co-op Bank	<u>£3,849</u>	<u>£7,943</u>

All funds are unrestricted

Approved by the trustees on 21 October 2024
and
Signed on their behalf by:



Matthew Barr
Trustee

Report to the trustees/members of ADA Scotland Festival

Year ended 31st March 2024

Charity No SC050808

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") as set out on pages 18 to 19 for the year ended 31/03/2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed

Date

24th October 2024

James H Crockett, CA
Independent Examiner

5 Victoria Place
Airdrie ML6 9BU

Future plans

The Ada Scotland Festival will return in October 2024, with a greater emphasis on in-person events, and hub events planned for the Highlands and the Borders.

