

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026 Nivelles, 13 March 2026

Agenda of the 2026 Annual General Meeting

1. Approval of the draft minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting (pm)
2. Committee members' report
3. Treasurer's report and accounts, including membership status, as on December 31st, 2025
4. Auditor's report
5. Election of the Chairman, Committee members and officers until the next AGM
6. Appointment of the auditor until the next AGM
7. Approval of the annual subscriptions for members and associate members
8. Approval of the Committee's recommendations for the donations of association funds to the National Trust in Britain
9. Approval of the updated Constitution and Letter of Affiliation
10. Any other business

Number of voting members present: 33 (list of names at the end of this report).

1. Approval of the minutes of the 2025 AGM

P.M.: The minutes of the previous AGM, mailed to the membership, were already approved by written procedure and posted on our website (see footer on homepage)

2. Committee members' report (presented by the Chair)

This report covers the period as of January 1st, 2025, up to December 31st, 2025.

As regards our activities, our programme offered **eight outings**: Horst Castle and Aarschot (André), Liège (André), Gors-op-Leeuw and Vliermaal (Peter), Namur (Annick and Carole), the Gaume region (Filip), Kruibeke and Rupelmonde (Leo), Brussels' Town Hall and Tour & Taxis site (André), and Art Deco/Coudenberg/end of year reception in Brussels (Jan). Most events were well-attended and perfectly organised.

The **UK trip** to the Cheshire, North Wales and Liverpool proved to be a fascinating destination and generated a lot of keen interest among the participants. The organisation was absolutely perfect.

After a slight drop during the previous year, the **attendance rates** at our monthly excursions recovered in 2025, despite a general rise of guide fees and prices in restaurants.

As to our **membership**, there has been a slight decline: 10 fewer subscriptions in 2025 compared to 2024. To date (mid-February), another 9 fewer in 2026, but a reminder is being sent out to 17 non-payers. There were 8 new subscriptions in 2025.

The AGM thanked André Ceulemans, the programme coordinator, and all our members who volunteered to organise these outings, for their excellent work, as well as Johan Vanbrabant, who once more was the tireless ‘magic hand’ behind the preparation and smooth running of the UK trip to Cheshire, North Wales and Liverpool. Equally, our heartfelt thanks go to Ineke Crijns, our Treasurer, to Margaret du Maine-Simpson, our Membership Secretary, for their excellent keeping of the books and the finances, and to Leo Nollet, our tireless Secretary.

Our **website** (www.ntab.be) and **blog** remain valuable instruments to keep our membership informed about our past and future activities. In the future, a special effort deserves to be made in order to have a blog after *each* outing (ideally with some pictures) and to bring our membership to visiting our website and blog more frequently. Johan Vanbrabant was thanked for his endeavours to constantly update the website and the blog.

The **legal issue** of our website containing a copyright protected picture seems to be resolved, but the issue of the return of a partial advance paid to a catering firm is still pending. (The caterer we initially contacted for our end of year reception filed for bankruptcy shortly after our advance payment.)

The **Committee** met four times. In 2025, two Committee members (Heather Charlton and Annick Dedobbeleer) resigned from the Committee. The Chair thanked them for their excellent contributions to our association’s programme.

Given the extremely high number of applications for **this year’s trip to Scotland** and the ensuing difficult fallout for registration, the Committee has decided to revise the trip allocation procedure in the coming weeks along the following lines:

- A total number of 35-36 participants remains the most feasible and comfortable option for both organisers and participants
- New rules will be formulated to ensure transparency and fairness in the allocation of places, in case the number of applications exceeds this maximum of 35-36 participants. (In fact, this rarely happened in the past.)
- In that case, applicants will be prioritized by considering their active involvement, regular presence and concrete contributions demonstrating their commitment to fostering the interests of the National Trust and of our NTAB Supporters’ Group
- Relevant contributions may include, but will not be limited to full NT-membership, serving in a steering or planning role, effectively attending our organised activities, ...

As stated before, the Committee will take this matter up in the coming weeks and the membership will be informed of the new registration procedure in due course.

3. Treasurer’s report on events and accounts as on December 31st, 2025 (presented by our Treasurer)

Please find in attachment 1 the Treasurer’s Income & Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet as on 31st December 2025.

Our financial situation is healthy.

4. Auditor’s report

Please find the Auditor’s Balance Sheet and the Income & Expenditure Sheet 2025 in attachment 2, and read in particular its conclusion:

‘In condition that my findings are taken into account, I can confirm that the Income & Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet as on 31 December 2025, give a fairly

representation of the financial position of the Association on that date, based on the bookkeeping of the bank mutations'

5. Selection of Committee members and officers until the next AGM

Different positions within the Committee need to be filled in following our Chair's wish to be discharged as Chair and following the resignations of Heather Charlton and Annick Dedobbeleer. (Filip Vandenborre exited the Committee in January 2026, after the period covered by the present report)

The **new Chair** first. Our constitution stipulates that nominations for Committee members must be made by Committee members in writing and be in the hands of the Secretary at least 14 days before the AGM. Furthermore, an election by ballot is only required if nominations for a particular function exceed vacancies. This is not the case.

As it is, our Secretary received a message in writing from the present Chair that Tim Middleton, already a member of the Committee, is willing to become our association's Chair for an interim period, pending the candidacy and designation of a new Chair.

At the AGM the Chair took note of this message stating Tim's availability to become interim Chair, and will register that, as a result and in the absence of other candidacies, Tim is designated as new Chair for an interim period, pending the designation of a new Chair.

As to the Committee, **three Committee members** have resigned. If the AGM decides later during this session to limit the number of Committee members to twelve (as proposed in the draft Constitution), there is a need to designate only two new members. The present Chair is willing to remain on the Committee if the AGM so decides. No further candidacies have been received. At the AGM, the Chair will appeal to participants to be candidate for the two remaining positions.

Officers

Chair	Tim Middleton
Vice-Chair	Mrs. Carole Ducastel (Overijse)
Secretary	Leo Nollet (Gent)
Treasurer	Mrs. Ineke Crijns (Sint-Genesius-Rode)

Committee members

<u>Membership secretary</u>	Mrs. Margaret du Maine-Simpson (Brasschaat)
<u>Programme coordinator</u>	Mr. André Ceulemans (Sint-Genesius-Rode)
<u>Webmaster/blog editor</u>	Mr. Johan Vanbrabant (Lievegem)
<u>Programme planning</u>	Mr. Emile Debacker (Kampenhout)
	Mr. Tim Middleton (Brussels)
	Mr. Peter Dufaux (Sint-Truiden)
	Vacancy (following Mrs. heather Charlton's resignation)
	Vacancy (following Mrs. Annick Dedommeleer's resignation)
	Vacancy (following Mr. Filip Vandenborre's resignation this year)

6. Approval of an auditor until the next AGM

Henk Hoogstaten is willing to serve for another year as our external (i.e. independent of the Committee- auditor. The AGM will be invited to so decide. decides.

7. Approval of the annual subscriptions for members of the National Trust, members of associations officially affiliated to the NT and non-members

The Committee suggests that the annual subscriptions, as agreed during the previous AGM, remain unchanged.

8. Approval of the Committee's recommendations for annual donations to NT properties we visited in 2025 and to NT's London-Southeast region.

The AGM approved the destination and amounts of our annual donations, as proposed by the committee, as follows:

Speke Hall

We visited Speke Hall, in the Liverpool area, on Friday, 13 June 2025.

Speke Hall suggested, among other meaningful priorities, a project which has the potential to impact within a short timeframe: it would be the replacement and re-imagining of the play equipment, that would transform the experience for thousands of local children who visit each year, many of whom have a very limited access to green space and safe outdoor play.

We will cover the part of the budget for phase 1 to allow the property to deliver this phase. Phase 1 is called the Woodland Trail, a space for adventure and physical play, particularly for older children seeking challenge. Each space will connect to elements of the Hall's past and encourage exploration through the senses, while ensuring inclusivity across age and ability.

As we did in the past in similar cases, we will ask the property to put a small plaque in the playground mentioning that some of the equipment was acquired thanks to a donation from the NTAB.

Amount: £3.000

Plas Newydd

We visited Plas Newydd on Wednesday, 11 June 2025.

This NT property is looking to support visitors to spend more time in and around the garden. We will support two of their top needs :

- £ 1.192 (£596 each) would provide 2 new accessible picnic benches for the woodland play area to allow families to spend additional time in the area, or family members to sit while the children play,

- £1.500 would enable (£400-500 each) them to purchase an additional 3 to 4 benches for visitors to stop and take in the view, surroundings and immerse themselves in nature which will be sited in areas of the garden currently without benches along the Menai Strait.

As in the case of Speke Hall, we would ask the property to put a plaque on the benches mentioning that they were acquired thanks to a donation from the NTAB.

Amount: £2.692

Bodnant Garden Fountain

We visited Bodnant Garden on Wednesday, 11 June, 2025.

The fountain, located on the Croquet Terrace and believed to have been created by French sculptor Edmé Bouchardon in around 1700, is in urgent need of restoration. Today, the

fountain's elaborate oolite limestone designs have indeed been worn away by decades of running water. The terraces were designed at the turn of the 1900s, but the fountain was added to the terraces in 1940, completing the overall design and aesthetic in keeping with the formal Italianate design.

The work on the terraces is expected to begin in 2027.

Amount: £3.000

Lyme Hall

We visited Lyme Hall on Monday, 9 June, 2025.

The Collection Manager suggests allocating our donation to work that benefits directly the house and its collection. Concretely, he is suggesting:

- Conservation blinds and textile conservation of an armchair: The blinds are essential in controlling light levels, helping them protect their collection items that are vulnerable to light damage (as was the case with the Flemish tapestry, which is expected to return to Lyme later this year after considerable conservation work).

Our donation would also fund textile conservation of an armchair currently displayed in the Entrance Hall, enhancing its presentation and long-term care.

Amount: 2.000 £ (for both the blinds and the armchair)

- Painting conservation: this is about the conservation of two paintings acquired last year, but which are in need of being refreshed by removing the aged varnish, which currently prevents visitors from fully appreciating the artwork due to its shine. The paintings are by Master JH, an artist who worked mainly in the North of England in the seventeenth century. A contribution of £2000 would enable the property to carry out the restoration work in 2026.

Amount: £ 2.000

Total amount: £4.000 (£2.000 + £2.000)

The total amount of the suggested donations to the four NT properties we visited last year in June is appr. £13.000 (appr. 15.000 Euro)

London Southeast Association

Last year, we donated to the NT's London Southeast district, the regional administration across the Channel we belong to, an amount of £2.000.

It is suggested to donate the same amount this year. We will be in touch with the London Southeast region to select the projects we would like contribute too and keep the membership informed.

This would bring the total amount of our donations to £15.000 (appr. 17.500 Euro).

NTAB can afford these donations thanks to an (excessively) high financial reserve of approximately €21,000 that we have been carrying over for several years (retained result).

9. Adoption of our amended Constitution and Letter of Affiliation between National Trust and the National Trust Association Belgium (NTAB)

Please find the amended Constitution (and the Letter of Affiliation) in annex.

As a reminder: the Committee decided to proceed with a minor update of our Constitution (and the annexed Letter of Affiliation) for three reasons, which are related to our ‘overseas’ status, a situation which is indeed not reflected in the NT model-constitution for UK-based NT supporter associations:

1. Definitions: in par. C, article 1 we have added the definition of ‘association’ in order to underscore our formal affiliation with the National Trust, which is less self-evident in Belgium than in the UK.
2. Membership: in par. E, art. 1 and 2 we have adopted both the more restrictive and the less restrictive membership conditions, as we maintain two categories of members: Full Members (subject to the restrictive conditions) and Associated Members (who pay a higher membership fee and are subject to the less restrictive conditions).
3. Expenditures: in par. K, art. 3: we have clarified that expenditures to non-NT organisations shall be limited to reasonable operating costs incurred in direct connection with our activities. This clarification is necessary because, unlike in the UK, our monthly outings in Belgium regularly bring our members into contact with local organisations and charities that are not NT.

Other minor changes in the Constitution text and in the Letter of Affiliation are about technicalities. The Committee stands ready to give more details if requested.

The AGM endorsed the proposed amendments in the Constitution, as well as in the Letter of Affiliation:

Voting members present: 33

Agreed: 32 members

Abstention: 1 member (objection to par. K, art 3)

Members present:

ADAMS-HAYES, Robert and Nikki; BETSON, Joanna; CALDWELL, Jon and Ginny; CEULEMANS-BOSSCHAERT, André and Gerda; CRIJNS, Ineke; DEBACKER, Emile and Josée; DEDOBBELEER, Annick; DUCASTEL, Carole; DUFAUX, Peter; du MAINE-SIMPSON, Ton and Margaret; FERN, Nick; GEERTS, Rosa; GEIJSEN-THIJS, Willy and Miet; GRAULS, Jan and Mia; LIMPENS, Anne; MALFROID Anneleen; MIDDLETON, Tim & Janet; NOLLET-VAN ROMPAEY, Leo and Clara; SCHEERENS, Dominique; VANBRABANT, Johan and Marilou; VANHAEPEREN, Véronique; VANISTENDAEL, Elisabeth; VANMARKE, Hilde.

ANNEX 1

Financial report covering the year 2025, prepared by NTAB treasurer Ineke Crijns

Bank account BE17 0016 2443 2021	31/12/2024	€23.707,35
	31/12/2025	€38.336,33
Income membership fees 2025		€ 2.500
Financial result of events in 2025		€11.809,74

EVENT	PROFIT	LOSS
2502		6,00
2503	446,40	
2504	398,00	
2505	217,20	
2506	10.119,22	
2509	25,00	
2510	221,00	
2511	522,95	
2512	565,97	700,00
Total	12.515,74	706,00
NETTO	11.809,74	

NTAB 2025 EVENTS DETAILED

EVENT CODE 2502	21/02/2025	Participants	32
Horst Castle and Aarschot		IN	2041,00
		OUT	2047,00
		BALANCE	-6,00 negative
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EVENT CODE 2503	12/03/2025	Participants	38
Liège, a cradle of the arts		IN	2134,00
		OUT	1667,60
		BALANCE	466,40 positive
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EVENT CODE 2504	26/04/2025	Participants	38
Gors-Op-leeuw and Vliermaal		IN	2434,00
AGM		OUT	2036,00

	Balance	398,00 positive
EVENT CODE 2505	17/05/2025 Participants	34
Namur, Wallonia's capital	IN	1924
	OUT	1706,8
	BALANCE	217,2 Positive
EVENT CODE 2506	9/06/2025 Participants	42
UK Trip Cheshire, Liverpool & North Wales	IN	56.570,00
	OUT	46.450,78
	Balance	10.119,22 Positive
EVENT CODE 2509	13+14/09/2025 Participants	9
Discovery of the Gaume region	IN	963,00
	OUT	938,00
	BALANCE	25,00 Positive
EVENT CODE 2510	18/10/2025 Participants	30
Kruibeke & Rupelmonde	IN	1875,00
	OUT	1654,00
	BALANCE	221,00 positive
EVENT CODE 2511	15/11/2025 Participants	27
Brussels, Town Hall and Tour &Taxis site	IN	1788,00
	OUT	1265,05
	BALANCE	522,95 positive
EVENT CODE 2512	12/12/2025 Participants	54
Brussels, a stylish End to the Year	IN	2984,00
	OUT	2418,03
	BALANCE	565,97 positive

REMARK:

In May €700,00 was transferred to the caterer 'les Filles du BELvue' as an advance payment for the reception of Event 2512 on 12 Dec 2025.

In September 2025, the organizer received notice that this caterer had filed for bankruptcy. A petition to refund was filed through the bankruptcy trustee.

AUDITOR'S REPORT 2025

To the Chairman, Committee Members and members of the Association of National Trust Members in Belgium

The AGM 2025 decided that the function of auditor for the year 2025 should be performed by Henk Hoogstraten. It is in this capacity that I audited the accounts of the Association of National Trust Members in Belgium for the year 2024.

The treasurer, Ineke Crijns, made for the year 2025 use of single-entry bookkeeping.

The treasurer did not produce a balance sheet, nor did she make an income & expenditure sheet, so the auditor had to construct the following balance sheet and income & expenditure sheet.

This Balance Sheet and the Income & Expenditure Sheet 2025 mentioned the following figures:

Balance Sheet 31-12-2025

Assets		€ 38.336,33
Debts	€ 16.811,01	
<i>Retained results</i>		
Retained end of previous year	€ 22.672,35	
Result current year	<u>€ - 1.147,03</u>	
	€ 21.525,32	
		€ 38.336,33

Findings

- The photos sent to the Webmaster contained a photo protected by copyright. The dispute was settled amicably, which meant Euro 549,- had to be paid.

- The surplus on events comes primarily from the UK-trip.

Donation National Trust England

There is in my opinion no problem to give a generous donation to The National Trust England.

Declaration

In condition that my findings are taken into account, I can confirm that the Income & Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet as on 31 December 2025, give a fairly representation of the financial position of the Association on that date, based on the bookkeeping of the bank mutations.

I will with pleasure answer any question.

Henk Hoogstraten

Auditor NTAB

Tongeren, 25 February 2026

NTAB**Balance Sheet as on 31 December 2025**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>		<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
ASSETS			LIABILITIES		
Liquid assets			Current liabilities		
<i>Bank accounts</i>			<i>Received in advance</i>		
Current account	€ 37.883,33	€ 23.707,35	Membership income 2026	€ 1.575,00	€ 1.035,00
	€ -	€ -	Event 2606 received in advance	€ 14.622,00	€ -
	<u>€ 37.883,33</u>	<u>€ 23.707,35</u>	Event 2602 received in advance	€ 148,00	€ -
				<u>€ 16.345,00</u>	<u>€ 1.035,00</u>
Current assets			<i>Sundries current liabilities</i>		
<i>Paid in advance</i>			Event 2511		
Event 2602	€ 453,00	€ -	Committee meeting	€ 430,01	€ -
	€ -	€ -		€ 36,00	
	<u>€ 453,00</u>	<u>€ -</u>		<u>€ 466,01</u>	<u>€ -</u>
			Provisions		
			<i>Donations</i>		
			Proposed donation NT Eng.	€ -	€ -
				€ -	€ -
				<u>€ -</u>	<u>€ -</u>
			DEBTS TOTAL		
				€ 16.811,01	€ 1.035,00
			Equity		
			<i>Retained results</i>		
			Retained end previous year	€ 22.672,35	€ 26.982,09
			Result current year	€ -1.147,03	€ -4.309,74
				<u>€ 21.525,32</u>	<u>€ 22.672,35</u>
	<u>€ 38.336,33</u>	<u>€ 23.707,35</u>		<u>€ 38.336,33</u>	<u>€ 23.707,35</u>