

MINUTE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF FRIENDS OF HIGHLAND MUSIC HELD IN THE CROWN COURT HOTEL, INVERNESS ON 18TH MARCH 2013 AT 7.30PM

The Convener, Moira Leslie, welcomed all present. In the absence of the Secretary, Jim Leslie, Jean Fleetwood took the Minute.

PRESENT Moira Leslie, Convener and 12 other members.

APOLOGIES: Jim Leslie, Kate Stephen, Patricia Moore, Marion Stuart, Fiona Mackenzie, Steven and Marilyn Clarke, Peter Christie, Carol Brown, Gail Brown, Les Hutt, Morgan Cowley, Ken Houston, Colin Mackenzie, Andrew Green and Gordon Fleetwood.

MINUTES of the AGM 16th April 2014 had been circulated, and were proposed as correct by Alison McKinnon, seconded by Alison Mackenzie.

MATTERS ARISING: As agreed at the 2014 AGM, a 3rd set of pipes had been acquired.

1 THE CONVENOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Membership stood at 80, the increase being due to the promotional offer available at the Julie Fowls Concert. Members were encouraged to sign up for email notifications to save postal costs, by letting the Secretary know at the email address on the Agenda papers.

Music Festival – Fraser Macdonald won The Balnain Trophy for Elementary Accordion, The Allan Trophy was won by Kirsty Grant for Elementary Fiddle. This year those with a connection presented trophies, and so Alison Mackenzie presented as did Eric Allan, in particular the Highland Music Trust Trophy that went to Alison Mackenzie's Cairdean and Clava Band. (See later entertainment)

Pipes Moira noted that a 3rd set of pipes was acquired and that all 3 sets were on constant hire.

Our Music Grants – Awards had been made to Eoghainn Beaton for Piping and Drumming instruction, Robbie MacKenzie for Cape Breton Fiddling instruction and most recently to Kerr MacDonald for Piping.

Ad Hoc Grants – support for Culloden Academy Ceilidh Band to visit Donegal, providing youngsters with a very special musical experience as well as encouraging links with Ireland.

Spring Concert 2014 – 7th May in the Waterside Hotel Inverness saw standing room only for the hugely popular Julie Fowls and her husband Éamon Doorley. They had also done a workshop in school with the Culloden Academy Ceilidh Band members who also joined them in the concert.

Spring Concert 2015 to be the Waterside Hotel again, 7th May, with Lauren McColl and Graham MacKenzie, both of whom have been FoHM Grant recipients. Cairdean and Clava Band will also feature and benefit from a workshop with the performers. Posters available for all to take away.

Moira said we were indebted to our Patrons Helen and Eric Allan for their enthusiastic support of the Friends of Highland Music, for managing the Slow Jam, and also for continuing to donate the significant proceeds of Eric's "Tune for You" tune writing, to the Friends. She thanked Ken Houston, Independent Examiner of the Accounts to the standard required by the Office of Scottish Charity Regulator. She also thanked Rhona Macdonald for instrument hire assistance, FoHM Members for their loyalty, and Committee for their support, in particular Treasurer Alan Findlay for his at times challenging work, standing down after a considerable number of years, but remaining on committee.

2 RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Ken Houston had Independently Examined Accounts for the year to 31 December 2014 which were tabled. Alan Findlay, Treasurer summarised the accounts, which showed a Cash Balance at 31st December 2014 of £24,225.

Points he highlighted included a tax refund (Gift Aid) of £616, which is in fact a combined figure for 2013 and 2014. Instrument sales of £250 were for a fiddle whilst Capital Expenditure of £849 was for

the purchase of the previously mentioned set of pipes plus 2 quarter size fiddles for which there is hire demand. Spring Lecture (Concert) costs for 2014 may not include the fee for Limelight. (Sound system). What is referred to as the Halifax Bond is now Bank of Scotland Fixed Term Deposit for a continued better investment rate.

We were most grateful to Eric Allan for £625 from A Tune For You.

The Convenor thanked the Treasurer, Alan Findlay, to whom we were greatly indebted for a good number of years for his thorough management and for the trouble taken in chasing bank and other errors.

The Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Dave Greer and seconded by Helen Allan.

3 RESOLUTIONS None had been received.

4 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Alison MacKenzie proposed retaining the present rates of £10 for a Family, and £5 for Individual Membership. Dave Greer seconded this and the proposal was carried.

5 COMMITTEE

Convenor Moira Leslie and Secretary Jim Leslie had indicated their willingness to continue for their second year. The other five places were up for election. Allan Findlay, Dave Greer, Alison MacKenzie and Jean Fleetwood had expressed their availability for re-election. No nominations were received from the floor for one vacancy. Helen Allan proposed that the present four members be re-elected en bloc for a further two-year term, and Eric Allan seconded the motion.

6 FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Tickets were for sale from Moira for the forthcoming Spring Concert with Lauren MacColl and Graham Mackenzie on 7th May 2015 at the Waterside Hotel 7.30pm.

There were no other suggestions regarding future activities for Friends of Highland Music.

The Convenor thanked all those present for attending the meeting which closed at 7.58pm followed by refreshments and entertainment from Cairdean and Clava accompanied by Alison Mackenzie, which included Gaelic Song and Clarsach as well as Fiddle Accordion and small Pipes. Moira gave the vote of thanks.