

# **MINUTE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF FRIENDS OF HIGHLAND MUSIC HELD IN THE WATERSIDE HOTEL, INVERNESS ON 16TH MARCH 2016 AT 7.30PM**

**PRESENT** Moira Leslie, Convener, welcomed 14 other members.

**APOLOGIES:** Dr Carol Brown, Mr Stephen Dowds, Miss Diana O'Reilly, Miss Marion Stewart, Mrs Irene Straiton, Dr Graeme Walker, Mrs Anne-Mary Wharton, Mrs Patricia Moore, Mr Gordon Fleetwood, Ms Margot Tuley and Mr Colin Mackenzie.

**MINUTES** of the AGM 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015 had been circulated and were proposed as correct by Alison McKinnon, seconded by Dave Greer.

**MATTERS ARISING:** There were none.

## **1 THE CONVENER'S ANNUAL REPORT**

Moira Leslie circulated a written report. She noted that the instrument bank had received donations of 2 fiddles. Two sets of bagpipes had been returned for hire. One because the learner now had joined a pipe band and had his own set. In the other case the learner had decided not to continue with the instrument. Both cases demonstrated the benefit to learners of having the Friends bagpipes available for hire.

**Our Music Grants** – since our last AGM, we awarded grants to Angus and Rodachan Mackinnon to support their attendance at the Feis an Earraich week at Plockton in April 2016.

**Ad Hoc Grants** - We funded the Traditional Music Tent at the Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival in August 2015 – a new venture to encourage attendees to try a traditional instrument. We funded tutors for a workshop by members of the Scott Wood Band with Alison Mackenzie's music groups Clava and Càirdean. We supported the production of fiddler Graham Mackenzie's first CD.

Our **2015 Spring Concert** in the Waterside Hotel with Lauren MacColl and Graham MacKenzie was an outstanding success and had also included youth bands Cairdean and Clava. Our forthcoming concert with Charlie McKerron and Marc Clement is now organised and tickets are now on sale from Alison MacKenzie. We will have new Friends of Highland Music banners ready in time for this concert.

Committee had carried out a survey of members regarding the timing of the AGM offering a daytime rather than an evening timing. Results of the survey were inconclusive and the feeling of the meeting was that we should leave things as they are.

Moira noted that, after much frustrating communication with the bank, Alison Mackenzie had now at last managed to get all documentation transferred across to her as our new treasurer. Moira gave a special thanks to retired treasurer Alan Findlay who had, over many years, patiently and calmly dealt with a range of banking and fiscal challenges. She also thanked our Patrons, Eric and Helen Allan for their continued support, Ken Houston, Independent Examiner of the Accounts for again preparing them to the standard required by the Office of Scottish Charity Regulator and the Committee for all their hard work.

## **2 RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

Ken Houston had Independently Examined the Accounts for the year to 31 December 2015 which were tabled. Alison Mackenzie, Treasurer summarised the accounts, which showed a cash balance at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 of £24,864, very slightly higher than the same time last year. The accounts were largely self-explanatory and similar to previous years. The Convener thanked the Treasurer for all her work in preparing the accounts. The Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Jean Fleetwood and seconded by Alan Findlay.

**3 RESOLUTIONS** None had been received.

#### **4 SUBSCRIPTIONS**

There was some discussion on the level of subscription, it being noted that it was quite low. However, the general consensus was to retain the present rates of £10 for a Family, and £5 for Individual Membership, proposed by Eric Alan and seconded by Alan Findlay. There was no counter proposal and the motion was carried.

#### **5 COMMITTEE**

For this item, Committee member Jean Fleetwood took over the Chair. Alan Findlay, Dave Greer, Alison MacKenzie and Jean Fleetwood had indicated their willingness to continue for a second year. Rhona Macdonald had been co-opted on to Committee and Moira and Jim Leslie had completed two years on committee. All three expressed their availability for election. Rhona Macdonald was proposed by Simon Cole-Hamilton and seconded by Ardyn Scott-Brown. Moira and Jim Leslie were proposed by Helen Allan and seconded by Simon Cole-Hamilton. No nominations had been received prior to the meeting nor were received from the floor and the three nominations were carried.

#### **6 FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

Tickets were for sale from Alison Mackenzie for the forthcoming Spring Concert with Charlie McKerron and Marc Cement on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at the Waterside Hotel 7.30pm.

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

The Convener thanked all those present for attending the meeting which closed at 7.47pm. It was followed by a brief Committee meeting. There was then refreshments and a short talk by Margo MacLennan about the Traditional Music Tent at Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival. This was followed by entertainment from Fiddle Forte led by Irene Fraser. Moira and Jean gave the votes of thanks.