

## **MINUTE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF FRIENDS OF HIGHLAND MUSIC HELD IN THE BEAUFORT HOTEL, INVERNESS ON 27TH MARCH 2013 AT 7.30PM**

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

**PRESENT** Moira Leslie, Convener and 12 other members.

**APOLOGIES:** Jim Leslie, Fiona MacKenzie, Patricia Moore, Neil MacKinnon, Ken Houston, Gordon Fleetwood and Marion Stewart.

**MINUTES** of the AGM on 28th March 2012 had been circulated, and were proposed as correct by Alison McKinnon, seconded by Peter Christie.

**MATTERS ARISING:** One matter arising: Moira Leslie asked Alison MacKenzie if she had anything to add to the reports already circulated about the Culloden Ceilidh Band trip to Cape Breton in 2012. Alison said the trip had been of huge musical and social benefit. Pound for pound, the youngsters had fund raised for the venture, with additional support from various Highland Council Grants.

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

The Convener spoke to her Report. Under Inverness Music Festival, it was noted that Culloden Ceilidh Band, not the Kiltearn Fiddlers, won the Sheila and Roddie Urquhart Trophy. There was speculation that competitor numbers were down in 2013.

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 proceeds of Eric's "Tune for You" tune writing, to the Friends.

Instrument hire was dwindling and with one set of pipes available for hire, Moira pointed out.

There had been no Our Music Grant applications in the past year, and there was presently one Ad Hoc application under consideration that might see a revival of the Caledonian Canal Ceilidh Trail initiative.

Tickets (£8 to members) were for sale for the forthcoming Spring 'Lecture', A Music Journey, which would be presented by the well-known fiddler Duncan Chisholm, at 7.30pm of 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at the Waterside Hotel, Inverness. It was noted that this might be an opportunity to sell FoHM T Shirts.

Moira extended thanks to the Fiddlers Rally for allowing us to have a bucket collection at their recent Eden Court Concert, to Dave Greer for organizing it and to MFR Cash for Kids for the use of their buckets (labeled with our Charity Number and logo). £520.31 had been collected.

She finished by thanking Committee and Ken Houston, Independent Examiner of the Accounts to the standard required by the Office of Scottish Charity Regulator.

Peter Christie asked if it were known why Music Festival Numbers might be down. Alison MacKenzie said that from a school point of view timing was difficult, with the event a week earlier this year. Jean said that Clarsach entry was down due to the loss of at least 2 tutors from the area.

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

The Independently Examined Accounts for the year to 31 December 2012 were tabled. Alan Findlay, Treasurer summarised the accounts, which showed a Cash Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 of £21,987.

Membership had fallen slightly reflected in reduced Subs.

Instrument Hire, although decreased, was still in profit over maintenance costs.

We were most grateful to Eric Allan for £140 from A Tune For You.

The Slow Jam receipts were just covering the expenses of Hall Hire.

In an attempt to obtain bank interest for our funds, a swop into Scottish Widows Bank had shown an improvement from £4 to £29.

Halifax Bond Interest amounted to £2,087. Actually an error at Halifax had deprived us of the correct rate of interest, but thanks to the dogged persistence of our Treasurer, £50 was awarded against the resulting inconvenience, plus £401 for Loss of Interest. Otherwise we would have had only £1736, as shown on the back page under Statement of Bank Balances.

There were no Our Music Grants, and £1065 had been awarded as an Ad Hoc Application from Culloden Ceilidh Band.

There was one question regarding Instrument Hire Costs. Renewing strings, as well as the replacement of a Bagpipe Case, accounted for this.

The Convenor thanked the Treasurer to whom we were greatly indebted for his trouble in righting the error made by the Halifax.

Both she and the Treasurer said we were most grateful to Ken Houston not only for his advice in the preparation of the Accounts to be OSCR ready, but also for his timely Independent Examination of the Accounts.

The adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Helen Allan and seconded by Sybil Macaulay.

**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. Laurie Donald seconded this and the proposal was carried.

#### **5 COMMITTEE**

Convenor Moira Leslie and Secretary Jim Leslie 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 were available for re-election. Fiona MacKenzie would step down if there were other contenders. No nominations were received from the floor. Helen Allan proposed that the present five members be re-elected en bloc for a further two-year term, and Peter Christie seconded the motion.

#### **6 FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

Tickets were for sale for the forthcoming Spring event with Duncan Chisholm on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013. Lack of time and manpower resources made it unlikely we would hold a concert at Eden Court in the foreseeable future, the Convenor reported. Alison McKinnon said that funding for Traditional Music events from Creative Scotland had dried up under the present regime. Peter Christie suggested Farr Hall as a suitable venue if that was helpful.

**7 AOB** None.

The Convenor thanked all those present for attending the meeting, Patrons Helen & Eric Allan, Independent Examiner Ken Houston, and all the Committee.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm followed by refreshments and entertainment from Robbie MacKenzie on fiddle, accompanied by Alison MacKenzie. We heard an excellent selection of traditional and contemporary (written by Charlie McKerron and Duncan Chisholm) March Strathspey and Reel originating from Orkney to Cape Breton. Robbie also told us how funding from the Friends of Highland Music had enabled tuition by Charlie McKerron which had greatly helped his development, such that he would be taking up a place at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Eric Allan gave the vote of thanks.