

Scots Music Group
Annual General Meeting
Sunday March 6th 2016 3.30 for 4pm
Christ Church, 6a Morningside Road, Edinburgh

Minutes

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Alison Carlyle, who welcomed SMG members to the meeting. Refreshments had been served. Ceilidh Caleerie were thanked for the lively music provided from 3.30pm. The meeting began at 4pm.

34 members had signed in on arrival and the meeting was declared quorate.

Apologies: Catherine Crawford, Kenneth Dixon

Minutes of the last AGM 1st March 2015

These were accepted as a true record. Proposed Alison Carlyle Seconded Iain Murray.

Report from Alison Carlyle, Chair of Scots Music Group

The Chair presented '**The Year in Review**', a paper distributed at the meeting. She highlighted:

- A lively year with excellent class attendance. Enrolment in Sept 2015 was at 85% with 2 new classes in ukulele and step dance.
- An excellent year for ceilidhs with a mix of regulars, overseas visitors and students. There was a larger team of ceilidh volunteers who had been trained in new administration of the ceilidhs, thanks to the co-ordination of Helen Reid, SMG administrator.
- Inspire 3, led by Sarah Northcott, had continued to involve those in the wider community suffering from homelessness, addiction and mental health issues.
- Increasing numbers of members were taking music to other venues, both to raise awareness of SMG and/or raising funds.
- The new SMG website had been a major project and was a more effective 'off the shelf' solution for current SMG needs. Mac Walker (Board member) and Steve

Byrne were thanked for their hard work in all matters concerned with the development and rollout of the website, as was Helen Reid, who was thanked for her services in helping members familiarise themselves with the new booking process.

- Boroughmuir High School building project had been delayed, with a school move now planned for January 2017. Implications for SMG were still uncertain as to what this meant for our classes, but liaison continues with the Council and members would be kept informed. Members were reminded that 'in kind' benefit to SMG had ceased and our classes were now charged under 'Community Access to Schools'. However, SMG had organised a discount and costs were covered by last year's increase in class fees.

Steve Byrne, Helen Reid and Sarah Northcott were thanked for their hard work, as were volunteers and Board members. The importance of quality tutors was recognised and they were thanked with all members and students of SMG.

Finance report for Financial Year 2014 – 2015

Paul McIntosh, Treasurer and Board Director, presented his **Finance report for Financial year 2014-2015 and Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30 June 2015 (attached)**.

Paul spoke to his report referring to a stable year with only a slight loss reflected in the SMG accounts. Web based accounting was going well and he expressed a wish to build the reserves via donations, gift aid etc.

In summarising his report, he reminded the meeting that (1) Inspire 3 was funded separately and (2) the numbered notes on the finance statement presented, could be accessed if required from the SMG office.

He extended his thanks to the office staff, including Liz (book-keeper).

Election of Directors

One director was standing down - Alison Woolerton who had been a member of the board for 6 years. The Chair thanked her warmly for her role and presented Alison with flowers and prosecco. Alison thanked everyone – she had enjoyed her time on the board and her commitment to SMG and all its activities remained.

All other board members were willing to stand again: Alison Carlyle (Chair), Paul McIntosh (Treasure), Mac Walker, Fiona Harrison, John Culbert, Eoin McIntyre, Iain Murray. **All 7 were re-elected** (proposed Margaret Littlewood, seconded Bill Cunningham).

Members were invited to put themselves forward for membership of the Board. Further details could be accessed from Alison Carlyle via the SMG office.

There were no further motions from the Board or from the membership.

Questions from members during the meeting

1. A member queried the layout of tables for ceilidhs which limited dancing space. It was reported that these were required to provide seating for participants (Max 180) and to reduce the numbers, would impact on income. However the concern would be raised with St Bride's.
2. Given the small loss reported this financial year, a member suggested more fund raising could be done by groups who go out to perform in and around Edinburgh.
3. A member queried whether alternative accommodation to Boroughmuir HS was being considered. The Chair confirmed that was the case.
4. The role of traditional music in the school curriculum was discussed. This had been an issue already raised by TMSA.
5. Traditional music opportunities for parents and children out of school hours were discussed. SMG did not have the resources for this sort of activity, though it was thought there were already existing opportunities.
6. A further query was raised about the age range of SMG members with the highest numbers being in the older age bracket. It was noted this was a perennial query with no easy answer. However, membership had increased over the last 10 years and we were sustaining our numbers. Clearly people had more time in their retirement though it was noted instruments were still being learnt in school. Meanwhile SMG ceilidhs attracted all ages.
It was noted that choirs were increasing in number in Edinburgh, though it was thought Sangstream alone addressed Scottish traditional song. It was suggested that Café Ceilidh could be promoted at song classes.

Alison Carlyle offered to be available for any further questions.

The afternoon ended with a session led by Nigel's Allstars from the Wednesday morning mixed instrument group. Many members had brought their instruments and joined the Allstars in very enjoyable selection of music and songs.

Alison Woolerton 05.04.2016