

FIFE FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting Held on Wednesday 26th August 2015 in St Bryce Kirk, Kirkcaldy

1. **Present** David Henderson, Brenda McFarlane, Janice McNaught, Mandy Miller, Ella Wilson, Graeme Wilson (Chairman), Harry Kerr, Anne Deas, George Grant, Sandra Taylor, Robert Main, Isabella Ritchie
2. **Apologies** Catherine Lindsay, Louise Timney, Sandra Gibbons, Jean Renno,

3. Minute of the 34th Annual General Meeting held on 27th August, 2014

The Minute was approved, moved by Mandy Miller and seconded by George Grant and adopted nem con.

4. Chairman's Report

It is always a pleasure to make this report as it focuses on music making and on people - and these are FFoM's key areas and components.

I can do no better by way of introduction by quoting myself from a few years back:

"Music has to be central to all activities which take place under the banner of FFoM. Music making, musicians, learners, performers, teachers, listeners, supporters - all those are essential parts of a music festival. I am pleased to report that FFoM has those in abundance and therefore has a very busy and vibrant place in the community. FFoM is an efficient machine – but the machinery and mechanisms which power it are not (and must never become) more important than the prime purpose and function of the Festival, that of encouraging and allowing live music to be performed."

Since this time last year, the Festival has continued its operation of three sets of activities within a twelve month period. Clearly, the 'A' period in January and February is the main activity time, the longest, the most energetic and the most productive in terms of music making and the efforts needed to support that. But FFoM has reinforced different functions and gained success through its 'B' and 'C' period work. One of the main purposes of the November Funday is to raise awareness of FFoM to a different audience and the 'B' period event is for younger musicians.

November 2014 took the Family Funday to St Columba's RC Primary in Cupar, different in almost all ways from the venues of the first in Dunfermline the previous year. The welcome and co-operation were as warm and the support given by all concerned matched that of year 1. There is a strong partnership element in existence when FFoM parks its juggernaut at a location. The outcome and effect are far more than the sum of all the parts and such benefits as accrue are long lasting. There was, again, a happy, noisy and exuberant day of music and fun - the clue is in the title 'Family Funday of Musicmaking'!

It is impossible to report meaningfully on the 2015 'A' period in a way which reflects the success of the event. You have to be there to see and hear the joy, the excitement, the busyness - all part of a truly Festival atmosphere. But success there was, a two week period of tremendous musical activity supported as always by teams of workers, committee, volunteer helpers and venue staff.

Arrangements for the 'B' May 2015 period took account of the strain and pressure previously placed on the education system and precious support offered to the Festival in executing appropriate arrangements by moving the activity to a weekend. There are plusses and minuses in such a move. The result was a highly successful Fife Festival Orchestra for young players held at Dunfermline High School with a greatly appreciated end performance.

Attracting participants continues to pose challenges for FFoM. The Festival is about far more than school-based education and music making from that source alone but it is surely essential for our existence and future that we encourage young people to participate. They do so, of course, through the willingness and commitment of teachers and schools and it is only harder year on year for schools to make that commitment. That is not a complaint about people. There are reasons for this situation and this is not the place to discuss the political or financial state of the country. However, at the musical chalk face, FFoM notices the effects. Having said that, there are many, many teachers and schools prepared to provide the wider experiences for their pupils which participation in activities like FFoM provide.

FFoM continues, therefore, to be a major part of arts and education in Fife and recognised on a wider platform.

Key to all this success is the work undertaken by the Committee and staff with the essential addition of an army of volunteers.

At this point, I will mention the death of Mary Hall and ask you to remember her as a stalwart of the Festival. She was, of course, a stalwart of many activities locally and a wise and extremely interesting person. The Festival has lost in Mary a great supporter and servant.

The Committee holds regular and statutory meetings while a great deal of the work goes on in formal Trustees and subcommittee meetings as well as informal gatherings. Finances are on the agenda and a full report thereon follows. However, finance, money and fundraising are never far from the minds and work of the Committee and there is a constant undercurrent of concern to provide the necessary financial support for the music making. A glance at the Sponsors/Donors/Advertisers page of the 'A' 2015 Programme reveals an overwhelming level of support for our work and for this I am and we are very grateful. Several local voluntary clubs support us - Rotary, Inner Wheel, Round Table, Soroptimist, a range of local and national music organisations, individuals and firms through class sponsorship, schools, local Trust Funds, and Fife Council through community planning budgets, events grant and education service music

service. The Festival shop is an important feature both physically and financially. A major contributor continues to be the Barbara McManus Memorial Fund helping us to target special events.

We are blessed with major personal financial support from two of our Friends.

The 120 or so Friends of Fife Festival are a body of supporters who not only provide money but human support with their presence.

Publicity is important to and for the Festival and our website and facebook presences do well to keep up our profile. Local newspapers are also a source of support.

Thanks are always an essential part of an annual report – and it always gives me great pleasure to give these.

We are well supported by Ann Hopkins our Admin assistant and by George Nairne with responsibility for the website.

Both of these are external to the Committee.

I now offer the thanks of the Fife Festival of Music – and particularly my own – to all who have made up any part of this report and to ensure that I don't miss any vital name in this process, will not use any!

Our committee members are the powerhouse, the workhorses. They draw to them, as already referred, an army of support. Hundreds of people give us money, thousands of people come to the Festival events in a variety of guises.

I can conclude no better than I did last year - Fife Festival of Music remains vibrant, important and effective in our community. It does so to serve the needs of musicians of all ages - and it does so by the determined and loyal work of a team of enthusiasts.

Thank you, all.

5. Financial Report and Adoption of Accounts

Treasurer Robert Main presented his Annual Report and Financial Statements to the year ended 30 April 2015. This included a report on the Trustees and on the Structure, Governance and Management of the Festival, the Independent Examiners' Report as well as the Statements of payments, receipts and balances along with notes to the accounts.

Robert spoke to the papers drawing attention to variations from the previous year. Reference was made to changing requirements on Gift Aid administration and the Festival's need and actions to adhere to those.

The Chairman thanked Robert, on behalf of the Festival, for his work during the year and in the preparation of the accounts.

Adoption of the Accounts was moved by David Henderson and seconded by Brenda McFarlane. The meeting gave its complete approval.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts

Both Bill Nicoll and Pat Fraser had indicated their willingness to continue in their role

7. Election of Officials

The following nominations were approved unanimously –

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| i) | Administrator: | Mandy Miller |
| | | Proposed by Sandra Taylor and seconded by Ella Wilson |
| ii) | Chief Steward | Harry Kerr |
| | | Proposed by George Grant and seconded by Janice McNaught |

8. Election of Committee

Committee membership consists of the Executive members with between 10 and 20 elected members. As no member had indicated that they wish to step down from the Committee, Graeme Wilson proposed re-election and this was seconded by Mandy Miller.

10. Any other business

- Availability of new leaflet for Friends
- George Grant gave words of thanks to the Chair
- Harry Kerr noted the falling income to the Festival: a matter under consideration by the Committee.

There being no further business the meeting was concluded at 7.32 pm