

## FIFE FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

### Minutes of the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Held on Wednesday 19th August 2020 at 7pm on Zoom

1. **Present** Brenda McFarlane, Janice McNaught, Ella Wilson, Graeme Wilson (Chairman), Harry Kerr, George Grant, Sandra Taylor, Jean Renno, Jean Galloway, Anne Deas, Mandy Miller, Tamsin Frost, Rhona McKinlay, Caroline Kilpatrick
2. **Apologies** Sandra Taylor, Lynne Miller, Sandra Gibbons
3. **Minute of the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 21st August, 2019**  
The Minute was approved, moved by Harry Kerr and seconded by George Grant and adopted nem con.
4. **Chairman's Report**

This report encompasses the year since the 2019 AGM (August 21) but is coloured by the recent planning decisions in recognition of current COVID19-related restrictions to musical activity and crowd gatherings. Nevertheless, FfOM has had a successful year and in this report I want to reflect both that and the strong state, healthy condition and vibrancy of our Festival.

The full committee meets regularly while also allowing its smaller groups to work up details, proposals for improvements etc. Tribute is paid to all who take part in these discussions whether at committee level, with Trustee/Exec status or working parties/subgroups.

The Committee continues to monitor proposed work to alter and refurbish areas of the Adam Smith Theatre.

Within the year, committee work and preparations have continued unabated:

- administrative improvements have been made to our GDPR and Duty of Care provisions,
- practical developments have included the re-introduction of Intermediate level classes with the attraction of availability of official accompaniment, and a highly successful and fruitful extension to primary school choirs participation in partnership with Fife's YMI programme,
- presentation and the face of the Festival have benefited from refurbished signage along with more positive welcome protocols.

The seventh Festival Family Funday took place in November 2019 at Leven's Parkhill Primary and proved very popular and successful. Support from the school and the local community was outstanding.

The January/February 2020 period of the Festival's main event delivered the intentions and purposes of FfOM with many performances of note and strongly supported by parents, families, schools and the community. Events in Dunfermline, Cupar and Kirkcaldy were as busy as ever and very well supported.

It is always worth noting and recording the success and satisfied musical effort of all who take to the Festival's platforms. Entries for Jan/Feb 2020 were on a par numerically with previous years with some rises and falls in specific areas reflecting trends in teaching, learning and musical opportunity in the area. Participants of all ages whether individuals or groups and schools, their teachers and leaders as well as followers and supporters are what brings life to the Festival and they are all to be congratulated.

The unfortunate flooding of part of the Adam Smith Theatre early in the first week may have dampened the floors but did not extend its damage to Festival operations. Although one day of operation was lost through closure of the building, Fife Cultural Trust and Fife Council worked extremely hard to repair the damage and allow the Festival to continue. Almost without exception, rescheduling of affected sessions and classes provided the opportunity for participants to take part.

The 40th Festival was marked with colour (ruby) and celebration, almost every announcement reminding listeners of the milestone and continuing success. At the start of the final Friday evening event, a beautiful 40th Festival cake was displayed on the auditorium stage and formally cut to mark the occasion. Later in the evening, all present were able to share the cake and enjoy the efforts of Treasurer turned baker, Jean Galloway.

Fife Festival of Music continues to be successful due entirely to the Committee and to teamwork. With a simple aim, paraphrased from the Constitution, of supporting and developing music making in our community while encouraging people of all ages to develop their musical talents, not only are these boxes ticked but the wider objects of the Festival are met and fully so, while I also observe a willingness and a determination to seek improvement, enhancement and widening of the opportunities which we offer.

We note with sadness the passing, since the last AGM, of former committee colleague and great friend Catherine Lindsay, of Jack Deas, Friend, longtime supporter and trophy donor, and of Nancy Tod, also a Friend and a former committee member.

Moral and financial support continues to follow us and ensures our stability. All donors and sponsors, class sponsors, advertisers, shop work and proceeds and all who contribute in kind and with services are gratefully recognised and thanked.

I referred at the start to the strong state, healthy condition and vibrancy of our Festival. That statement gives rise to my wish and duty to put on record the Festival's and my congratulations and thanks to all who work to maintain the aims of the Festival. Outside of the Committee there is an army of volunteer helpers who line up annually to service the events. There are venues, media outlets, design input and printing services which flow successfully alongside our fast-running river of activity.

To continue the army analogy, the special forces operators are the principal architects and technicians of the Festival's work, the Committee. There are specific roles and tasks for some, there is general work for everyone and that team and their teamwork cannot be praised and thanked enough in efforts to maintain the Festival's position in Fife. I am very proud of them all.

In 2020 we reached the 40th year and Festival, and both activated and celebrated it in style. We may need to wait a little longer than usual for the 41st to take place. When it does, it will be with renewed vigour and strength and a determination to aim towards another 40 years.

## **5. Financial Report**

The Annual Report and financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2020, have been approved by the Trustees, inspected by the Independent Examiner and will be submitted to OSCR in due course.

The Financial review is on page 4, while the statement of receipts and payments is on page 6 and a statement of balances is on page 7

There was a surplus for the year of £240.21 (2019 £11,310.34) represented by a surplus of £703.99 on unrestricted charitable activities and a deficit of £463.78 on restricted funds. £3,370.00 was received and used for class sponsorship. £413.78 received from the Prof. J McManus Memorial Trust in 2015 was used to help fund the Fun Day in November. Total receipts for the year were £30,029.31 compared to £40,171.35 in the previous year, a decrease of £10,142.04. Again this year no grant income was received from Fife Council. The difference in income between 2019 and 2020 was mainly due to a one off individual donation of £10,000 in 2019.

Costs in the year increased from £28,821.01 to £29,789.10, an increase of £968.09. The closing bank balance at 30 April was £33,375.09.

Thanks to the generosity of all sponsors, donors and friends, Fife Festival remains in a healthy financial situation. Those responsible for the Festival are very grateful for all the contributions received.

The Chairman thanked Jean on behalf of the Festival for her work during the year and in the preparation of the accounts.

## **6. Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts**

The meeting approved the appointment of Pat Fraser as Independent Examiner of the accounts for the coming year and expressed thanks to her for her recent work. The appointment was moved by Graeme Wilson, seconded by Jean Renno and approved nem con.

## **7. Election of Officials**

The following nominations were approved unanimously –

- i) Chair: Graeme Wilson  
proposed by George Grant, seconded by Jean Renno
- ii) Vice-Chair: Jean Renno  
proposed by Graeme Wilson, seconded by Mandy Miller
- iii) Administrator: Mandy Miller  
proposed by Jean Galloway, seconded by Brenda McFarlane
- iv) Chief Steward: Harry Kerr  
proposed by Jean Renno, seconded by Anne Deas
- v) Treasurer: Jean Galloway  
proposed by Mandy Miller, seconded by Ella Wilson

## **8. Election of Committee**

Committee membership consists of the Executive members with between 10 and 20 elected members. Graeme Wilson proposed an en bloc re-election of the remainder of the Committee. This was seconded by Jean Renno and approved nem con.

## **9. Any other business**

George Grant gave words of thanks to Graeme Wilson.

## **10. Date of 2021 AGM**

Wednesday 25th August 2021 was proposed for the next AGM.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.19 pm