



**Minutes of the AGM of the Traditional Music and Song Association of Scotland held in the Westburn Lounge, Westburn Park, Aberdeen on Sunday 6 November 2005**

The AGM was convened by Anne Neilson

Members Present: Anne Neilson, Liz Wilson, Fiona Campbell, Peter Christie, Jane Chalmers, Lorna Alexander, John Alexander, Russell Taylor, Hilary Cusker, Liz Clark, Jim Taylor, Joyce Murison, Geordie Murison, Wilma Forsyth, Ron Forsyth, Gavin Waddell, Shirley Watt, Gordon Simpson, Bill Anderson, William Gray, Susan Kirkwood, Madeline Miller, Joe Aitken, Pat Aitken, Kate Taylor, Gary Coull, Bob Hay, Mabel Hay, Tony Shearer, John Morran, Alison Mackinnon, Anne M Reid, Elma Shearer and Jim Slater.

Item	
<b>1</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:</b>
	Apologies were received from Doris Rougvie, Jilly Barker, Karen Hannah and Tracey Boyle,
<b>2</b>	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM:</b>
	<p>Corrections to the Minutes are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conveners Report: Paragraph 1 has been amended to read that Anne represented the Association at the first Trad Music Awards;</li> <li>2. Mhairi Murison is shown as attending as a member. As she was a non-member at last year's meeting she should have been shown as being 'in attendance'.</li> </ol> <p>Subject to the foregoing the Minutes were accepted by the Meeting.</p> <p>The Minutes were proposed by Geordie Murison and Seconded by Liz Clark.</p>
<b>3</b>	<b>CONVENER'S REPORT:</b>
	<p>Anne Neilson reported that she had attended all bar one of the Meetings of the National Committee. Owing to ill health she was unable to attend one of the Meetings.</p> <p>She also reported that she had focussed a great deal of her time on the Traditional Music Forum and the work that was being undertaken by this body stating that the focus of the Forum had narrowed to Education, both formal and informal and to the funding of packs for both Primary and Secondary Schools. This also involved in the work of the Cultural Commission.</p> <p>Family commitments had prevented Anne giving as much time as she felt she should have given to the work of the Committee. She intimated that she was standing down from the post of Convener and thanked Sarah Henry for her work with McEwan's Sessions and Caroline Scott for the tremendous amount of work in the office, while often burdened by ill health.</p> <p>She made special mention of Caroline Pugh who has done so much work in the office when the Association was 'between administrators', and also thanked Scott Gardner and Liz Wilson for their work in the office in keeping things up to date when Caroline is unable to be there.</p>
<b>4</b>	<b>TREASURER'S REPORT:</b>
	<p>Fiona indicated that, due to the tardiness of a couple of Branches in submitting their accounts, she was unable to present fully audited accounts. However she was able to present details of Income and Expenditure. She did however confirm that audited accounts will be available for us to meet our legal requirements.</p> <p>The audited accounts will be presented to the next Board Meeting in December and if anyone wishes to have a copy of these accounts they must let the Treasurer know.</p>
<b>5</b>	<b>ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD:</b>
	<p>There were no nominations for the election of Board members so an election could not take place.</p> <p>As Anne had resigned as Convener she intimated that an Interim Convener be appointed and asked Alison Mackinnon if she would take on this position. Alison agreed and took charge of the remainder of the meeting.</p> <p>Other Board members will require to be co-opted onto the Committee.</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>CHANGES TO ABERDEEN BRANCH CONSTITUTION:</b>

	<p>Aberdeen Branch had intimated a Motion to alter the 'Rules and Regulations for TMSA Branches' as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Branch AGM shall be held in May</li> <li>2. A post of vice chairman be included, and up to <u>FIVE</u> ordinary committee members</li> <li>3. The Chairman will also give a report at the Branch AGM</li> <li>4. Members of the Committee, including office bearers, must have been members of the Association for at least one year before being elected.</li> <li>5. The Chairman shall serve a maximum of three consecutive years. The chairman shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberate vote. A retiring chairman shall be an ex officio member of the committee for the following year.</li> <li>6. At Committee Meetings <u>FOUR</u> shall form a quorum</li> <li>7. Proposed alterations to the Constitution can only be agreed at the Branch AGM or at an Extra Ordinary Meeting convened for the purpose, and then only if carried by a two-thirds majority of the members present, notice of the proposals having been given to the Secretary in writing at least twenty one days in advance of the meeting. Such alterations can then only be implemented once they have been submitted to the National AGM and approved by the Company in accordance with their regulations.</li> </ol> <p>There was much discussion on this subject especially with regard to the Chairman serving a maximum of three years.</p> <p>John Morran, Development Worker, stated that he had checked the National Constitution and discussed same with office staff. He confirmed that if that Constitution did not specifically debar what was being proposed then the proposal was in order.</p> <p>One item that could not be altered is that officers stand down and are re-elected annually. With the proviso that the Aberdeen Branch Chairman stands down and is re-elected annually then it will be in order for that person to be in office for only three years.</p> <p>The motion was carried.</p> <p>Further to this motion Fiona Campbell informed the meeting that there is provision within the Development Plan to re-assess the Articles of Memorandum to allow Branches to have their own rules of management. The basics and fundamentals of the TMSA would remain but there would be freedom within these to operate in a manner that suits local needs.</p> <p>The Board is to look at preparing a 'skeleton' document and allowing Branches to add their own requirements.</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF AN AUDITOR:</b>
	<p>It was proposed by Fiona Campbell that Scott Moncrieff be reappointed as Auditors. The Meeting agreed and Geordie Murison seconded the proposal.</p>
<b>8</b>	<b>ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:</b>
8.1	<p>Anne's sterling work as Convener of the Board was recognised in the presentation to her of an Ortak brooch.</p> <p>She was very moved by the gift and sincerely thanked everyone.</p>
8.2	<p>Aberdeen Branch was warmly thanked for their hospitality and for organising such an enjoyable meeting. They in turn thanked all the speakers and everyone for coming to Aberdeen.</p> <p>The Meeting closed at 5pm with the singing of Freenship's Name led by Geordie Murison with the company joining in the chorus.</p>