

Moray Ceilidh Club Annual General Meeting held on
Monday 21st June 2004 at 7pm in
Elgin City Social Club, Boroughbriggs Road, Elgin

Present: Steve Coomber Caroline Coomber Peter Davis
 Hazel Davis Gill MacLaren Linda Hardie
 Wendy Anderson Sandy Duncan Marion Hay

Apologies: Tom Hardie Kenny Ferguson Karen Ferguson

Sandy opened the meeting and welcomed everyone along, suggesting the low turnout could be put down to important football match being played tonight.

He said we started up the club at this time last year faced with many unknowns - band prices, insurance premiums, hall fees, accommodation. We spent a lot of time debating the membership and ticket prices, thanks to Tom for keeping us right. This year the books have balanced well to show we're not a profit-making organisation, but we have some money left over which may enable us to invest in some equipment. We started the year with a balance of £1,700 and have ended with £1,957 although most of the £257 will probably be spent on the family ceilidh next weekend. This event is free for all children and £5 for adults whether members or not, the idea being to encourage children to take part in ceilidh dancing.

Sandy then reviewed the year of 2003/2004:

September: 'The Goat Island Ceilidh Band'/'Daimh'

a cracking night and a great start to our year, lots of happy smiling faces!

October: 'Ceilidh Mhor'

from Aberdeen direction, not the liveliest band on the circuit, but played well and another good night, although 2 breaks threw us a bit, no accommodation fee this time

November: 'Shandrix'

Sandy Brechin's lot, a great band, they started a bit late but played late to compensate

February: 'Ceilidh Minogue'

Played for us before, so well received, another cracking night

March: 'The Marwicks'

New to us, lots of new dances and enjoyed playing for us

April: 'The Oatcakes'

Sadly, a bit too modern for us, maybe reflected in the poorer turnout and numbers dwindling as the night went on.

Next week: The family ceilidh with Ronnie Douglas, a box player from Inverness 7-10pm

We've had very good feedback from the bands, especially 'The Marwicks' who wrote to say they'd had a great time and hoped to play for us again.

Prices - the bands ranged from £550-800, insurance is approx £120 for the year, accommodation is £20 per head - we have negotiated this deal with Wendy Clements at 'The Pines'. We agree it's important that we're known on the circuit to provide good accommodation for any bands staying overnight. Hall prices are around £5 per hour. We are outlaying a lot of money per event and are covering our costs, but are aware that we're always only 1 or 2 ceilidhs away from financial difficulties.

Questionnaire - we conducted a questionnaire in November and the results have been noted, but to summarise:

Favourite halls are Bishopmill and Miltonduff, for size, location and atmosphere. Tea/coffee is still popular and although food/stovies/sandwiches were requested, we are hampered by food hygiene regulations.

Various bands were suggested including Box o' Bananas, a local band, but we feel we have a high standard to keep to.

Folk were asked the main reason they attended the ceilidhs and the top answer by far was for the quality bands.

Sandy thanked everyone on the committee for their hard work throughout the year with special thanks to Kenny Ferguson who cannot commit himself to the committee but always arrives early, stays late and helps out at every event.

The Coming Year

Sandy has been in discussions with Euan Martin and he's come up with bands for our dates, the halls have been booked by Steve and provisionally booked where the hall diaries are not yet into play.

18 th September 2004	'Meantime' from the west coast £600
30 th October	'Portobello Ceilidh Band' from Edinburgh £600
4 th December	'Spagnum Moss' from the west coast £500
5 th February 2005	'Iron Broo' from Edinburgh £600

19th March

'Galavanters' from Perth £600

23rd April

Dougie Hunter's new band 'Six Foot Ginger' £?

The alarm bells rung at 'Iron Broo' as they are described as 'funky' and 'non-traditional' and we asked Sandy to raise our concerns with Euan after 'The Oatcakes' playing and possibly find another band.

Sandy's Vision

For the coming year Sandy would like to see:

Grant Aid: with financial assistance we could possibly provide good stage lighting for Miltonduff Hall, the Hall committee have agreed in principle to this.

More volunteers: to help out on the night. Ideally those involved in the setting up the event should be able to take a back seat on the night, he doesn't want folk being taken for granted as this leads to discontent and stepping off the committee. Having said this, Peter said he's happy to sit at the door taking tickets and Steve is happy to help set up. Marion said that giving each table a black bag and a 'J-cloth' at the end of the night could help, we agreed that perhaps all that's needed is a quick announcement.

Office bearers to rotate: we can hold office for a maximum of 3 years, but he's keen to keep the committee fresh.

He then handed us across to Peter for the Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report

Peter thanked Tom again for sticking to his guns when setting our prices. Many folk suggested that £9 was too dear for a guest but Tom took us backwards and set the price dependant on the running costs.

Our main income is through membership and ticket sales. We do not envisage altering our prices for the coming year.

Peter compared the band prices to the ticket sales and pointed out that we are running at a loss, so we depend on a good raffle to boost our finances, thanks to Gill McLaren our Raffle Lady for this. There was an amount of £57 'other expenses' - this covered things like glass candle holders, candles, tea/coffee, photocopying and on occasion, the hire of Sandy's tartan trews. He stressed we are quite happy to pay this, but it does mean we need Sandy to always be our compère, otherwise we want

the trousers back! He reiterated Sandy's point that the £257 we are 'up' just now will probably be taken up by the Childrens' Ceilidh on Saturday. Without the £1,700 from the previous club we would not have attempted running the MCC and we will continue to keep this figure as our 'zero' balance.

Steve proposed the Treasurers report as correct and was seconded by Wendy.

Last year's minutes were proposed by Peter and seconded by Gill.

Election of Office Bearers

Sandy, Tom, Peter and Hazel all stood down but were happy to be re-elected although Sandy emphasised that he will only be chairman for one more year.

Chairman: **Sandy Duncan** proposed by Peter and seconded by Steve
Secretary: **Tom Hardie** proposed by Sandy and seconded by Peter
Treasurer: **Peter Davis** proposed by Marion and seconded by Linda
M'ship Secretary: **Hazel Davis** proposed by Caroline and seconded by Steve

All other committee members remain the same too - **Wendy Anderson, Caroline Coomber, Steve Coomber, Marion Hay, Gill MacLaren** and **Mike Pendery**.

Next

Caroline to do newsletter soon and include a membership form.

Next meeting Tuesday 7th September 2004 at 7pm at the Coomber's house.

NB Following this meeting Sandy contacted the leader of Iron Broo with our concerns, he put Sandy's mind at ease, they are traditional but fast and furious with a wide repertoire who can play to please the crowd, sounds pretty good!