



MORAY CEILIDH CLUB NEWSLETTER
April 2005

Hi All,

After our committee meeting the other night, we are beginning to think that the Bishopmill Hall may be a bit of a turn off for many members of MCC.

Every ceilidh we've held there this season has had a far lower turn-out than can be justified in a hall of that size. Should we just stick to Miltonduff? That is the question.

Only 57 people had the pleasure of dancing to 'The Gallivanter's'. This is the lowest numbers we've had since we took on the role of running the club. Only one third of our membership attended and we made a loss of £400 - a huge bite into our rapidly diminishing funds. We are beginning to wonder if our formula is quite right.

'The Gallivanter's' were fine. More numbers would have added to the atmosphere. They proved to be a bit more conservative than the die hard MCC member would like and we would recommend them highly for a wedding dance. They even had an impromptu line dance demo (or was it a jazzed up Slosh). We recognised the guitarist as having been on stage with Dougie Maclean at a concert in Pitlochry in December though! How cool is that?

As you can see from our programme we're booked well into 2006 now (all going well) with bands we know are fantastic and can draw a big crowd, which is to be our aim from now on. The majority of the bands booked this season are unfamiliar to the club but you have to agree that most of them have surpassed expectations.

On Saturday 23rd April we are extremely proud to present 'Six Foot Ginger' featuring Dougie Hunter of Goat Island Ceilidh Band and Hoogie fame - a legend on the ceilidh scene. Need I say more - his reputation precedes him. If you are to catch only one ceilidh this season then this is the one.

You'll also find that this ceilidh will be advertised in 'The Northern Scot' for the first time. Hopefully this will give us a full house. Remember you have the chance to buy your tickets first so you had better be quick. Numbers are limited to 90 dancers.

We are paying out £650 - £750 for each band - not including accommodation costs. Quality bands is what we are all about and sorry, cheap and cheerful certainly isn't an option!

In an effort to boost funds, Sandy and Jan Duncan have organised a Quiz Night at Miltonduff Hall on Friday 6th May at 7.30pm. It's sure to be great fun and there will be cash prizes up for grabs. Entry is £4 per person, with up to 6 people per team, and remember to Bring Your Own Booze! We need your help to make it a success.

June the 18th will see the return of Sandy Brechin to the MCC with his much sought after ceilidh band Shandrix. This is a first for the MCC to have a ceilidh in the summer. Sandy will guarantee a very hot and sweaty night of driving accordion based music combined with witty calling.

Our AGM is on the same night at Miltonduff prior to the 'Shandrix' ceilidh and hopefully you will all attend. It would be great to see you there and

P.T.O. for ticket order form

Forgotten something?

Need directions to a venue?

Maybe more information on a band?

Go to www.moraycc.org

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hear your views. Absolutely no pressure to become a committee member unless you are willing.

We will be deciding whether having a membership fee is the way forward or do we just charge a flat rate for tickets across the board with a concession price for children and OAPs!! Please come along and have an input.

On a lighter note I'd just like to say a big thank you to those of you who have donated raffle prizes - it's very much appreciated.

Come on, we have to keep this club going. Our line up for next season is out of this world, all sure-fire bands that you've demanded we book again!

Don't forget that 'Iron Broo' are playing at the Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival at Aberlour on Thu 28th Apr, see www.spiritofspeyside.com.

They will also be playing at the Royal Shakespeare Company Ceilidh at Forres Town Hall on Friday 22nd April - 9am until 1pm - Tickets £5 - Licensed bar - Come and party with the RSC!. Contact me for tickets (they're going fast).

Caroline Coomber

Membership Change Proposal

As mentioned above there will be a proposal at the AGM to modify the way that the Club's membership is organised. The following are VERY rough ideas and any comments should be sent to me (tom@primarysolution.co.uk) so that I can try and have a fuller proposal ready for the AGM.

- To be a member you will have attended one event in the last 24 months and have provided a valid e-mail address
- All members will be sent a Newsletter by e-mail two weeks before each event
- All members will be sent a reminder e-mail one week before each event

- Ceilidh prices will be standardised to: Adults £9.50, and accompanied School aged kids £1.50
For members the plus sides are:

- Cheaper and simpler membership and ticket sales administration
- Cheaper and easier newsletter distribution
- A guaranteed reminder for each event

The minus side:

- A family of 2 adults and 2 kids that attends EVERY ceilidh (so far no-one matches the profile!) will be £47.00 worse off per year

The aims of the proposal are:

- to have a financially viable Club
- to be able to run the Club with the minimum of effort
- to be able to dance to the cream of Scotland's ceilidh bands at an affordable amount per evening

I await your comments

Tom Hardie

Future ceilidhs

Here is the plan for future events, locations, bands, etc

DATE	LOCATION & BAND
Sat 23 Apr 2005 at 20:00	Miltoduff Six Foot and Ginger
Sat 18 Jun 2005 at 19:00	Miltoduff AGM (the meeting, not a band!)
Sat 18 Jun 2005 at 20:00	Miltoduff Shandrix
Sat 17 Sep 2005 at 20:00	Bishopmill Portobello Ceilidh Band
Sat 29 Oct 2005 at 20:00	Miltoduff Bella MacNab
Sat 26 Nov 2005 at 20:00	Bishopmill Spagnum Moss
Sat 28 Jan 2006 at 20:00	Miltoduff The Marwicks
Sat 18 Mar 2006 at 20:00	Bishopmill Iron Broo
Sat 22 Apr 2006 at 20:00	Miltoduff Clachan Yell

Below is a tear off to help you order your tickets.

Hurry, while stocks last!!!

Six Foot and Ginger - Bishopmill - Saturday 23rd April 2005 at 20:00

Name _____ Tel _____

Address _____

Member Tickets (Adult @ £5.00) _____ Member's school age kids (Free) _____

Guests/Non-members (Adult @ £9.00) _____ Non-members school age kids (@ £1.00) _____

Send **form**, **s.a.e.** and **cheque** to either Caroline Coomber (01343 541983) 32 High School Drive, New Elgin, IV30 6UE or Sandy Duncan (01343 860388) Lagana, Rashcrook, Birnie. IV30 8SW