



Nairn Book and Arts Festival AGM

20 February 2025

Nairn Community and Arts Centre

Minutes

Welcome and apologies: Ronald Skeldon, Chair

Apologies from Marion Cordiner, Tim Moss, Rhona Macdonald

Present: Ronald Skeldon (Chair), Phillip Stuart (Treasurer), Tanera Bryden (Minutes) Sean Lusk, Karen Stuart, Anna Zaluczowska, Vic Smithson, Claire Dormer, Barbara Jarvie (Cllr), Iona Gibson, Elaine James, Alison Bertlin, Stephen Chase

Approval of minutes of last AGM –

No amendments were noted.

Proposed by Anna Zaluczowska, Seconded by Karen Stuart

Report from the Chair:

The Annual report has been circulated to all. The festival was a great success - it's difficult to be self congratulatory! But everyone here has to be congratulated, plus the many additional volunteers, the staff of the Nairn Community and Arts Centre, the Artistic Director Tanera Bryden and Festival Assistant Olivia Parsons. A huge thanks to you all.

The festival would not be possible without its sponsors, and we thank in particular Haventus, Tornagrain as our Principal and Headline supporters. I also want to thank our funders, patrons, partners and supporters for giving us the financial muscle and the essential in kind support we require to deliver the festival.

We held over 100 events, all listed in the report so no need for me to outline them here, but some highlights included Irvine Welsh, Jackie Kay, Sally Magnusson and John Lunn. Also *Postcards from Nairn* - watching the audience during the film was as much fun as what was on screen! And Nairn based photographer Marc Marnie - an entertaining event but also with some tragic insights into his subjects.

Laudonia was a much enjoyed evening of Scots music in the appropriate setting of Nairn Old Parish Church.

I'll end by looking towards the future- we will be working to make future festivals as successful, there will be more of the same but we may also be looking to introduce some changes. We will explore where we might want to be in 5 years time. Could we think, perhaps, if introducing some 'shoulder' events - pursuable with allowances for staffing and funding, and we would also have to change our constitution. We could also say 'If it ain't broke' which can be attractive but doesn't allow for change.

We have commissioned a Social and Economic Benefit Impact report to help us give an idea of the benefit the festival and its outreach programme brings to the area.

Looking ahead, we will certainly be doing our utmost to rise to the challenges.

Finance report: Phillip Stuart:

In the last financial year to 30 Nov – our Year End – our income was £102,087 and expenditure £82,775.

We currently have a balance of £38,300, which includes a private donation of £18,000.

Just a couple of comments on the festival's finances- we are not here to make money, we are here to deliver as much as is possible within our means. Some events will not make money, that is the nature of the festival, and we apply for, and are awarded, funding to help us stage them. We need to reach more people and strive for this. Staff wages increased in line with legal requirements.

We need to decide what to do with the generous donation we received this financial year.

Adoption of the accounts: The accounts have been signed by the auditor and are ready to sign. Proposed by Phillip Stuart, Seconded by Alison Bertlin

Phillip and Ron will sign and send back to Frame Kennedy to co-sign.

It was noted that artist fees were down, probably due to not having a 'big fee' performer like Fred MacAulay last year. Ticket sales were the same. This can be accounted for by the fact that last year we had a split door arrangement with Fred, and it was a high value ticket.

Directors of the Company are charity Trustees and Members. The Committee is a wider group, distinct from the Board.

Directors retiring by rotation: Phillip Stuart and Ronald Skeldon.

Proposed: Alison Bertlin Seconded: Anna Zaluczkowska

New Directors and Reappointment of Directors:

Claire Dormer is now a Director.

Proposed: Karen Stuart Seconded: Alison Bertlin

Office bearers: Chair, Treasurer and Secretary:

Ron proposes to continue as Chair, Phillip as Treasurer, and Tanera as Secretary.

There were no objections.

Proposed : Alison Bertlin

Seconded: Anna Zaluczkowska

AOB: No other business was raised. The Chair thanked everyone for attending, and closed the meeting.