



CRUDEN BAY FOLK CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021 MINUTES

Location: ZOOM Meeting (Covid 19 Restrictions)

Date & Time: Friday 14th January 2022 7:30 p.m.

1. Attendees: Yvonne Bower, Jill McWilliams, Corine Kooij, Brian McAulay, Gordon Mackay, Mike Bower and Scott Thomson.
2. Apologies for absence: Tansy Grahame and Michael Hendry

Yvonne as Chairperson welcomed all to the A.G.M. and before starting the Agenda thanked all the Committee Members and Office Bearers for all their efforts and support during both the active and inactive parts of the year 2021.

3. 2020 AGM Minutes: The minutes for the 2020 A.G.M. were read and accepting the minutes proposed by Yvonne and seconded by Mike and agreed by all.

4. Chairpersons Report:

It is now nearly a year since the last AGM and nearly two years since we held our last Folk Club session in the Kilmarnock Arms. Time flies and Covid is still with us. However, I feel very positive about how the Club has succeeded this year and hopefully will continue to do so in the future.

As we have been unable to meet in the Killie, the Club has held five Virtual Folk Club Nights, which have been very well supported.

There have been many contributions to the evenings from home and abroad. Due to the technical know-how of Gordon McKay, those who 'Zoomed' in on the evenings, were entertained by the compilation of Gordon's excellent efforts. It was lovely to see old and new faces and enjoy the singing and instrumental play. In addition, those who missed the evenings or wanted to enjoy them again could then download the recordings and listen to them. The raffle has continued using Amazon gift vouchers and we were very grateful to receive an anonymous donation for one of the evening's prizes.

Being bold, an outdoor session in the Killie Garden took place in August. Performers were supplied with their own microphone covers as an effort to be considerate of Covid requirements. The sun shone and the rain stayed away and an excellent afternoon was enjoyed by performers and listeners alike.

Although we hope that we can meet inside again soon, until that time it is proposed that virtual Club Nights will continue for now, the next one being Friday 28th January 2022, with a Burn's Theme.

Month Committee Meetings have also been held using Zoom, which has helped to keep the Club moving forward.

You may recall that last year I mentioned the sad loss of Dave Dixon. I am happy to say this year that his wife Corine has joined us on the Committee and continues the family's excellent contributions to and support of the Club.

Many thanks to all those who have supported the Folk Club throughout the past year. Hopefully we will meet again in person for a Club Night or outside sessions in the better weather before the next AGM.

Yvonne Bowyer, Chairperson, Cruden Bay Folk Club

5. Treasurers Report for the year 1st October 2020 to 31st December 2021

Previous Annual Total reported on 30th September 2020

£2048.69

This year's Outgoings

Zoom Folk Night Raffle Prizes	£160.00
Web Hosting and Security Certification (2021-2022)	£242.99
Zoom Pro Service	£143.88

Website Malware Removal	£120.00
Equipment (Mike Covers for open Air concert at Killie in August)	£ 25.09
Gifts and Charitable Donations	£289.99
Total Expenses	<u>£981.95</u>

This Year's Income

Nil

The club total on 31st December 2021 = (2048.69 - 981.95)

£1066.74

The Folk Club books are now with our Auditor Dawn Allen and will be available for viewing at the end of February 2022

Non-Financial Folk Club Items

We hopefully still have a collection of raffle prizes in the store room at the Killie, including a bottle of single malt and several Folk Club travel mugs, also I have a box of 15 Folk Club travel mugs at home which I am happy to store there until required.

Regards **Tansy Grahame** Treasurer Cruden Bay Folk Club

6. Publicity Officer's Publicity / Marketing Report 2021/22

From a promotional and communications perspective, the year started off quite slowly, still reeling from the knock on effect of the pandemic, we decided to have a go at running a club night virtually and settled on our scheduled club night would have been on Friday the 26th of March to see what we could do.

As you all know, we have repeated that event 4 times since, and also held a live session in the Killie Beer Garden on Saturday 28th August. All these events benefited from the various platforms the club has access to including the website, our mail chimp account and to a lesser degree, Facebook, this is because we appear to have lost our Facebook account and have a much lesser presence on Facebook at present. We also have increased our collaboration with the Doric TV distribution list which between both groups gives us access to more than 1000 subscribers!

These activities aside, I have spent a bit of time this year ensuring that we are listed on other websites people might use when trying to locate information on folk clubs in Scotland, and I have added our details to all of the ones I could find. One

of those <https://www.livingtradition.co.uk/> also publish a magazine and I was invited to forward a letter to the editor explain what we'd been up to during lock down, I've added a copy of the letter below as it in some measure explains what we've been up to these last 12 months.

"Cruden Bay Folk Club was formed in 2012 since when it has met on the last Friday of the month without fail, until Covid 19 arrived in March 2020, since then all of our regular Club Nights have been cancelled in accordance with government guidance and general safety concerns for our members.

I don't think anyone foresaw the impact the pandemic would have on our lives generally, and how much it would affect our ability to meet regularly as a folk club. By the time a year had passed, with no sign of things improving, we decided to have a go at hosting a virtual club night, using the now commonplace virtual meeting media of Zoom, which some of us had become familiar with for one reason or another.

It would be fair to say that our first attempt was less smooth than subsequent events have become, but it was obvious that we had found an alternative way of getting together and sharing our love of music with others. From the positive feedback given by many of the 50 people who attended our first Virtual Club night on Friday the 26th of March 2021, it was obvious to all that we should do it again. Since then we have held a Virtual Club Night on the last Friday of every 2nd month, this frequency allows us plenty time to pull things together, and to deliver an enjoyable programme of entertainment.

We'd realised quickly that performing live on Zoom was very problematic as the audio visual content was difficult to control, with too many factors which could impair the performances for those attending. We thought it might work better if performers recorded their songs on their phones and after sharing them with the organisers, they could be collated into a programme and shared this way. The result was an immediate success, and although a long way from the norm of meeting and playing live, it proved to be a workable alternative. This approach also brought with it a number of unexpected benefits as with these recordings, we were able to post the entire event on our website afterwards, so even those who were unable to attend on the night, could catch up later. We have also been able to create playlists from each of the Virtual Club Nights which we have also been added to our website allowing visitors another way to enjoy the content provided.

Rather than openly sharing the log in details for our Virtual Club Nights, we have opted to get attendees to register in advance for each event, this gives us some security over controlling those who do attend, and as registrations are managed

using our 'Mailchimp' account, we have also been able to grow our mailing list significantly over the past year. By identifying those who have already registered for an event, we can maintain contact and issue reminders in advance of Virtual Club Nights which has also been really helpful. and we know has been much appreciated by recipients.

As we move towards our 6th Virtual Club Night on January 28th (which will be a Burns themed night), we are pleased that we have been able to use technology and a little bit of know how to keep our club going and we would encourage others who have not been able to meet live, to do likewise. If you'd like to look at our example, you'll find us at www.crudenbayfolkclub.co.uk, where you can view all of our past Virtual Club Nights, and register for the next one."

I also advised the committee recently of the problems we have faced with hackers attacking our website (and many others as well) this past year, I believe we have a much more robust hosting plan in place now which should make further attacks less likely, fingers crossed.

In spite of all the challenges we are facing, I think our activities in the last 12 months have allowed us to reconnect with and grow our audience, we have also developed new sections in the website with the Virtual Club Nights which have allowed us to post 119 individual songs from around 30 different performers across the 5 events to date, a number of these are new performers to the club and a few from overseas which is amazing when you stop and think about it. We have also more recently added the 'Spotlight' section which we featured in Decembers VCN and looks set to become a popular and informative section of the site going forward. I've looked at a great many Folk Club websites these past 12 months, and taken the steps to link our site to theirs and vice versa, I know I'm biased, but I have to say our site in terms of content and quality, ours appears to be right up there with the best of them! let's hope all of this stands us in good stead for getting back together in the Killie during 2022, until then, I'll keep doing what I'm doing.

Gordon Mackay Publicity Officer Cruden Bay Folk Club

7. Elections:

Election Results as follows:

Chairperson- **Yvonne** proposed by **Gordon** seconded by **Scott** and accepted by all.

Vice Chairperson- **Mike** proposed by **Yvonne** seconded by **Jill** and accepted by all.

Secretary - **Scott** proposed by **Gordon** seconded by **Yvonne** and accepted by all.

Treasurer - **Brian** proposed by **Yvonne** seconded by **Scott** and accepted by all.

Note: Tansy will be happy to carry on as Treasurer until Brian retires in February 2022, at which time Tansy will hand over the finances to Brian, and would like to continue as a **Committee Member**.

Joint Treasurer - There is not a Joint Treasurer for the year 2022.

Publicity + I.T. Officer - **Gordon** proposed by **Yvonne** seconded by **Corine** and accepted by all.

Committee Members: **Corine, Jill and Michael** all agreed to remain as committee members for another year.

Auditor : **Dawn** has agreed to carry on Auditing of the Folk Club books for year 2022.

9. **AOCB:** Gordon to send out a request for new Committee Members as part of the Virtual Folk Night information and Registration...**Action Gordon.**

10. Yvonne as re-elected Chairperson thanked everyone for attending the A.G.M. then closed the Meeting.

Date for the 2022 A.G.M. is Friday 18th November 2022 7:30pm

Scott Thomson (Secretary)