



Annual General Meeting

3 April 2025

Lower Maze Community Hall

Present: A Carlisle (remotely), S Clarke, A Crawford, J Crockett, S Gracey, B Humphreys, R Humphreys, A Irvine, L Irvine, S Irvine, L Lawson, P Martin, R McKee, S McMullan, A McQuiggan, A Mitchell, F Mitchell, S Power, R Simmons, C Smith, G Thomas, E Watt.

Apologies: D Johnson, R Bell, J Johnston, K Nesbitt.

2024 AGM minutes: Agreed.

- Chairman's report

S Gracey welcomed members and thanked all for their attendance throughout the year, saying a special thanks to P Martin, A McQuiggan and D Johnson for their hard work.

Informed members that updated band policies were being adopted and thanked A Irvine for her expertise and assistance in this area.

He also welcomed new players S McMillan and K Nesbitt but noted absence of any under-18 players in the band and said it was a concern. He encouraged members to come forward with any recruitment ideas.

Spoke about engagements undertaken over the past year, in particular the Titanic Festival of Music at the Ulster Hall and thanked F Mitchell and A McQuiggan for their hard work in regard to this.

Members were again reminded about the importance of attendance and asked to reply to WhatsApp requests around availability. Also reminded members to keep dues up to date in accordance with new membership forms.

- Secretary's report

P Martin thanked S Gracey for his leadership and also acknowledged Jackie McQuillan (hall management) for his continued cooperation and modest rent.

Thanks were also expressed to the following:

- R and B Humphreys for continuing to look after band falls and RH for providing extra stands at engagements
- G Thomas and A Mitchell for librarian duties with support of F Mitchell
- A Crawford for logistics and instrument management
- A Irvine, A Carlisle and A McQuiggan in particular for their work with regard to policies
- All members who have helped to provide supper

Informed members of the safeguarding team and explained that anyone who has any concerns can come forward.

Reviewed the year's engagements and looked ahead to forthcoming gigs during spring and summer.

Thanked S Power for stepping up to solo horn and echoed welcomes for K Nesbitt and S McMullan.

Thanked G McLean for his work as South West Down Association representative over the years.

- Treasurer's report

S Gracey explained that A Carlisle has stepped down as treasurer due to the missed financial report which he took full responsibility for. In her professional capacity she was not able to be associated with the late report.

Explained that accounts have since been verified and reported to the Charity Commission.

Detailed the year's financial breakdown to members which was circulated to members in advance of the meeting via WhatsApp, with an opening balance of £4,760.87 and a closing balance on December 31, 2024 of £5,502.12

A Irvine asked S Gracey whether he felt the band was bringing in sufficient money against its expenditure. While no action taken specifically in regards to an increase in members dues, it was accepted that this may be considered in the future.

- Band policies

Outlining in brief the key policies adopted by the band, A Irvine explained that these are primarily under the umbrella of safeguarding with the exception of the finance policy.

Informed members that band policies are based on the NSPCC guidelines and should if anyone had any concerns about any of the individual aspects, they could be reported to

committee.

A Irvine also made members aware of their rights and who to contact should situations arise.

Members were told S Gracey and P Martin had undertaken extra safeguarding training to bring them in line with current policies.

The Code of Conduct is to be distributed to members.

- Election of officers

All positions were declared vacant and the following office bearers were elected:

Chair - **L Irvine** proposed A Crawford seconded R McKee

Secretary - **P Martin** proposed G Thomas seconded A Mitchell

Treasurer - **S Gracey** proposed C Smith seconded R McKee

On electing the committee A Irvine noted that elections must respect the band constitution.

Consideration was given to the fact some members had served on the committee for several years. Guided by the principle of refreshing the committee to allow for new viewpoints, the remainder of the committee, proposed by A Crawford and seconded by P Martin, was elected as follows: **A Carlisle, D Johnson, J Crockett, C Smith and S Power**.

In line with the constitution the safeguarding and librarian teams were to be proposed by committee at a later date.

- Awards

Conductor A McQuiggan presented individual awards to the following members:

Most Improved Player (Over 18) - S Power

Endeavour & Commitment Shield - A Carlisle

Soloist Cup - J Crockett

Bandsperson of the Year - S Power

With no further business, the meeting was concluded.