



Registered Charity No: SC029502
Company No: 343670

Minutes of GFW Board Meeting Monday 13th April 2015

Meeting held at 6:00 p.m., John Wheatley Building, Kevin College Glasgow

Present: Virginia Anderson (Chair) Fenella Rennie
Ronnie Melrose John Hill
Mike Turner Doreen Semple
Craig Macdonald (Coordinator) Caroline Watson (Administrator) – Minutes

Apologies: Finlay Allison, Cliff Uney, Christine Clark, Daniel Thorpe

1. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Learn to Play – There were 9 notes of interest on the day, mainly junior players. Discussion focused around cost and positive results; value for money. A positive outcome was the connection with a local refugee group showing interest and asking for demonstration on the day. Doreen was approached about GFW taking part in Refugee Week in June which was agreed by the Board in principle taking into account any costs and availability of tutors/players. Board expressed thanks to tutors for organizing and attending on the day.

Fundraising – Fundraising through the bake sale and raffle had been very successful. Board expressed thanks to Board members, tutors and members for generously supporting the fundraising efforts.

Voluntary Arts at GOMA –Christine to report back to Board

West End Festival – Board agreed to payment of £60 fee for festival and inclusion in brochure. The family Ceilidh will take place on 19th June and the Open Air Ceilidh on 21st June.

Clutha Trust– Finlay to report back to Board.

Creative Scotland – The grant from 2010 has been received. Virginia will continue to query 2011 grant application.

Board Recruitment – General discussion on volunteers and need to find a new Chair/Board member when Virginia leaves. Some members have shown an interest in volunteering and it was agreed that it would be best to provide specific volunteering opportunities. Volunteers needed for the upcoming Ceilidh. Also, Roy is no longer available to organise stands at Celtic Connections. Doreen agreed to manage activity at Celtic Connections with assistance from Fenella. Caroline will provide list of potential volunteers from database and an advertisement for volunteers and Board member put on Information Board at the college.

2. Co-ordinator's Report – Craig Macdonald

Playing by Ear – Craig spoke on behalf of Roy Kavanagh who raised the issue of using sheet music during the Monday night Slow Sessions. The use of sheet music was seen as contrary to the ethos of GFW which promoted 'playing by ear'. There was general agreement that the sessions do not meet the original objective; tunes being played are difficult for learners, and ukulele players in particular find it difficult to join in. Board agreed that sheet music (paper/electronic) should not be used at slow sessions, and tunes should reflect music being taught in class. Tunes should be targeted at beginner and intermediate level and include music which includes guitars and ukulele, eg. a basic chord structure that can be played for beginners and a small repertoire played regularly. This would encourage new members and players, build confidence and improve skills to play by ear. Board asked that Senior Tutors take this forward.

Member Progression – Discussion around members' movement through class levels. It was agreed that tutors are best placed to decide if members should stay at current level or progress to next level. It is expected that tutors will be proactive when discussing and implementing class progression with members though some tutors may lack confidence or experience for this and may require support from Senior Tutors. Board asks that Senior Tutors follow this up and report back.

GCVS – Renewal for membership has been received. Benefits of membership were discussed. Caroline and Craig to check if GCVS provide legal advice, and assistance (or SVO), before committing to membership. Craig would check with Cliff, on benefits.

Photography Project – Craig was contacted by a GFW member who is also a professional photographer undertaking a project looking at players and their favourite setting for playing. In return for access to the membership, the photographer will take photographs to be used by GFW on the website and for publicity (subject to members' permission as stated in Enrolment Form). Board agreed to the project stipulating that GFW would require a photo of each class and that if members don't wish to be photographed, then they should step out while the photographer is in their class. Craig will contact the photographer.

Enrolment Night – Enrolment will take place on the first night of classes. While many members will pay in advance, some will pay/join on the night so assistance is required. Attending as follows:

Monday: Caroline, Fenella, Virginia, Ronnie

Wednesday: Craig, Fenella, Virginia, Doreen, Mike

Accommodation – GKC have explained that Tuesday evenings are not available to GFW to avoid excessive use by one organization which could potentially limit use by the wider community. This contradicts the verbal agreement from early meetings that classes could run on Tuesday nights. Virginia would speak to John Newman to understand the full conversation. Board agreed that GFW should stay with John Wheatley for the immediate future and that a meeting with GKC would be required to discuss further. Craig has identified 2 additional classrooms available for use to alleviate pressure on Monday nights.

Board discussed GFW's potential involvement with the local community at Dennistoun, e.g. the Refugee organisation, Christine's plan to visit local schools, anything else? Caroline/Craig would do a post code search for Dennistoun looking at numbers of local people attending GFW.

3. Treasurer's Report – Ronnie Melrose

Statistics Report – Ronnie has completed an analysis of membership and class numbers over the year 2014/15, distributed via email. GFW have 324 members, 40 classes with some expanding and some classes showing very high and very low numbers. Term 2 saw a drop of 54 members from Term 1 with 17 new members and again a drop of 54 members from Term 2 to Term 3. Fiddles showed the greatest loss. It was pointed out that Board agreed guidelines previously: minimum class size 7 people and maximum is 14 people. Board expressed concern that high numbers in beginners classes could make it difficult to learn and discourage members. It was agreed that: large classes needed to be split, aware that additional tutors may be required; new classes introduced in Session 3 would need time to grow despite some low numbers at this time; and that classes with falling or consistently low participation would need to be reviewed before 2015/16 sessions. Consideration is given to the very successful classes which offset the cost of less successful allowing GFW to have a full range of instruments, however financial sustainability is important. Suggestion that tutors, themselves, could assist with promoting their own class within personal networks to increase numbers. Board are keen to have feedback from Senior Tutors about statistics and the issues raised.

Membership figures by session for the past 3 years will be circulated to the Board and Senior Tutors.

Ronnie presented a new system of codes for the database which shows instrument and class level for each member against each term. Currently this information is incomplete. In future this should provide more accurate picture of class numbers and levels and provide information for Class Registers. It is essential that all tutors complete a class register, used to update the database.

Tutor Training - Feedback from Senior Tutors is needed regarding pressures on managing classes and tutors adequately alongside their teaching responsibilities, and if communication between all 3 Senior Tutors is working. Tutor training and planning session is to be organised and is an opportunity to discuss numbers, registers, repertoire, etc., and seen as a priority by the Board.

Finances are good now and subscriptions from Session 4 will determine if GFW meet target for financial year. Ronnie asked that tutors submit their invoices after 20th May (last class) for payment before 31st May to meet the end of financial year.

4. AOCB – AGM on Monday 15th June, 6:30 pm, John Wheatley Building
Invitation will be extended to all members.

5. Date of Next Board Meeting - Monday 11th May, 6pm (Apologies from Fenella)