

TRADITIONAL DANCE FORUM OF SCOTLAND

Buidheann Dannsa Tradiseanta na h-Alba
Traditional Dance Collogue o Scotland

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Charity No: SC045085

**TRADITIONAL DANCE FORUM OF SCOTLAND (TDFS)
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
1 APRIL 2020 – 31 MARCH 2021**

REGISTRATION NUMBER SC045085

Principal Office: Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High St, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR

Board and Office Bearers During the Reporting Period:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Pia Walker | (Convenor) |
| Wendy Timmons | (Vice-Convenor) |
| Bernie Hewitt | (Secretary/Treasurer) |
| Patricia Ballantyne | |
| Fiona Campbell | |
| Mairi Campbell | |
| Talitha MacKenzie | |
| Mats Melin | |
| Alexis Street | |
| Kirsty Sommerville | |

Administrative support was provided to the Board by Joanne Urwin who is a dance development officer employed on behalf of the Forum by TRACS.

Several trustees have now reached the end of their maximum allowed period in office (6 years). Suitable volunteers have been identified and will replace them on Apr 21.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Background and Context

Based on concerns by many people in the Scottish traditional dance world that it was not getting the profile and promotion it should, an initial meeting of group representatives and individual practitioners was convened in April 2012 in Edinburgh, assisted by Voluntary Arts Scotland.

At this gathering, it was agreed to form the Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland (TDFS) with an initial steering group to go through the set-up process. Also agreed was that the forum would be a grassroots 'bottom-up' rather than 'top-down' structure with a primary focus on advocacy, support and collaboration - bringing together different groups and individuals in their local, national and international contexts.

The Steering Group produced a constitution, which was adopted at the Inaugural General Meeting of the TDFS in November 2013. An application was subsequently made for incorporation as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), which was accepted in September 2014.

Part of this process is working in conjunction with the Traditional Music Forum and Scottish Storytelling Forum through the collective Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland (TRACS) as a vehicle for appropriate joint activity and advocacy. This arrangement is also providing administrative support to the TDFS.

Governance Structure

TDFS is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) regulated by OSCR and governed by the Constitution as agreed by the Forum in General Meeting; motions passed by the Forum in General Meeting.

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the Forum. The Board hold regular meetings and generally control and supervise the activities of the Forum, in particular, the Board is responsible for monitoring the financial position of the Forum.

Appointment of Trustees

Elections are held annually by the Forum in General Meeting. A person must be a member of the Forum in order to stand for election to the Board. The members of the Board can, however, increase the expertise available to the Forum by co-opting relevant non-members and/or members. At each Annual General Meeting, one third of the Trustees are subject to retirement by rotation but shall be eligible for re-election providing they have not served as a Trustee for six consecutive years.

Membership

Membership is open to all organisations and individuals supporting the objects of the Forum.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Purpose

The Forum's objectives are:

The advancement of the arts, heritage, and culture by promoting Scottish culture through Scottish dance style(s), dances of Scottish origin or other related traditional and social dance established in Scotland, thereby, to get more people dancing.

The Forum seeks to achieve this by:

- Fostering local, national and international activity
- Encouraging and undertaking relevant research
- Encouraging development and maintenance of archives of relevant material
- Acting as a voice for traditional dance
- Celebrating diversity and sharing traditions

Supporting and enabling communication, involving both network development and information dissemination

The Forum seeks to achieve its aims through:

- Organising / supporting workshops and conferences
- Supporting trainers, educators and facilitators
- Developing and promoting educational resources
- Providing advice and linking people to various aspects of support
- Connecting networks through awareness raising and collaboration
- Help develop the accessibility of research and archive material

Main Activities and Achievements During the Year (Apr 20 – Mar 21)

Covid-19 and the restrictions imposed because of it have meant that no social dancing activities at all have taken place during this reporting period. All activities have been online. During the World Day Of Dance on 29 Apr TDFS provided online (Zoom) sessions covering ceilidh, highland and step dancing which were well received. The audience for each session was:

| | |
|----------|----|
| Highland | 52 |
| Step | 69 |
| Ceilidh | 50 |

Individual trustees have provided a variety of similar online sessions throughout the year covering ceilidh, highland, step and historical dance.

One trustee has continued to hold Highland dance classes throughout the period, using a mixture of in-person and online teaching (Zoom and Microsoft Teams) as restrictions allowed at the time.

Six separate TDFS-run ceilidh sessions were also held, attracting a total audience of 34.

By far the most successful of these online activities run by the trustees has been “Campbell’s Ceilidh” run by trustee Mairi Campbell on Sunday evenings. This has covered many aspects of Scottish culture, including storytelling, music and dance and has regularly attracted an audience of between 40 and 50 for all over the world.

It is also interesting to note that the trustee providing dancing “spots” at Campbell’s ceilidh has invited to provide a ceilidh workshop (once again by Zoom) at the San Francisco Traditional Music Club weekend in Apr 21.

Using online means to run music and dance sessions has had its problems. Zoom in particular needs careful attention to the audio settings (the main requirement being to “Turn On Original Sound”). These issues have now in the main been resolved and those running online sessions and workshops are now more than capable of using the technology to its maximum potential.

In March the trustees identified several initiatives to “Get People Dancing” again post-covid. These include a project using highland dance to transition from online back to in-person teaching, a potential residency to examine the history of traditional dance forms, and an invitation for proposals launched in early March offering £200 - £300 to develop plans for traditional dance events. As at 31 Mar 21, three proposals had been received, and the deadline for more was extended to 30 Apr 21.

Impact of and Recovery from Covid-19

While Covid-19 restrictions have severely curtailed normal traditional dance activities, the enforced move to online classes and workshops has presented opportunities to expand the geographical influence of the TDFS to areas which would not otherwise have been considered. While the entire traditional dance community is desperate to get back to dancing together in unrestricted social settings, it is intended to maintain and foster these links as we move forward into a new and exciting, if more than slightly uncertain future.

Changes to the TDFS Constitution

One other effect of Covid was to highlight the need for a change to the Forum’s constitution to explicitly allow for online board meetings. The need for a further change has also been identified to allow payments to be made electronically without the need for two physical signatures on a cheque. One member of the Forum, who is legally trained, has volunteered to incorporate these changes and correct a few other minor anomalies in the current constitution. The intention is then to hold a special General Meeting at which members will be invited to ratify the new version, which will be sent to OSCR within the required three months.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

TRACS continued to meet administrative costs as part of its support towards the development of the Forum and the traditional dance network.

Restricted and Unrestricted Funds

Just before the start of this reporting period the trustees agreed to designate a proportion of the Forum’s funds as Restricted, to be used exclusively for mentoring activities. While this is still the intention, the split has not yet been made. There was little point in it this year as there have been no mentoring activities undertaken. The £400 expenditure for “Mentoring” listed in the accounts is for activities undertaken in the previous reporting period but not invoiced until just after the start of the period covered by this report.

Summary of Accounts for the Period ending 31 Mar 21

The Summary of Accounts is attached. There was relatively little financial activity during this reporting period, and a “payment holiday” during lockdown was put in place although some members have continued to renew their subscriptions for which the forum is very grateful.

The £7.80 adjustment reported last year necessary to correct historical errors in PayPal charges has been applied to the account.

Risk

TDFS is not exposed to any significant financial risk other than improper use of donations, subscriptions or grants received. To mitigate this risk, all funds are carefully monitored and allocated in line with the purposes for which they have been provided.

During this period the trustees also arranged Public Liability, Professional Indemnity and Trustee's Liability insurance.

TDFS is committed to a no-deficit policy. Any threat of deficit will lead to a corresponding reduction of activities.

Reserves

A reserve of £1000 has been maintained in order to cover any administrative costs should the charity be wound up for any reason.

APPROVED BY THE TRUSTEES AND SIGNED ON THEIR BEHALF BY:



WENDY TIMMONS, CONVENOR

11 June 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

To the Trustees of the Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on the following pages 9 and 10.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations, and they consider that the audit requirement does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

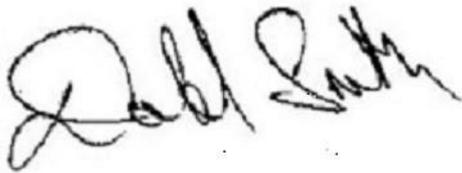
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to our attention:-

- a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect of the requirements:-
 - (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44 (1)(a) of the 2005 Act and the Accounts Regulations, and
 - ii) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the Accounts Regulations

they have not been met, or

- b) to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald Smith', written in a cursive style.

Donald Smith

45 Kirkhill Road

Edinburgh EH16 5DE

Accounts Summary

**TRADITIONAL DANCE FORUM OF SCOTLAND
BALANCES
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Fixed Assests | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Current Assets | | |
| Bank Account | £10,157.12 | £10,332.12 |
| Capital and Reserves | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Total Assets | £10,157.12 | £10,332.12 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Total Liabilities | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Net Working Capital (Assets - Liabilities) | £10,157.12 | £10,332.12 |

