

SIMON HOWIE

Scottish Dance Band



simon@simonhowie.co.uk

Tel: 01764 684 370

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

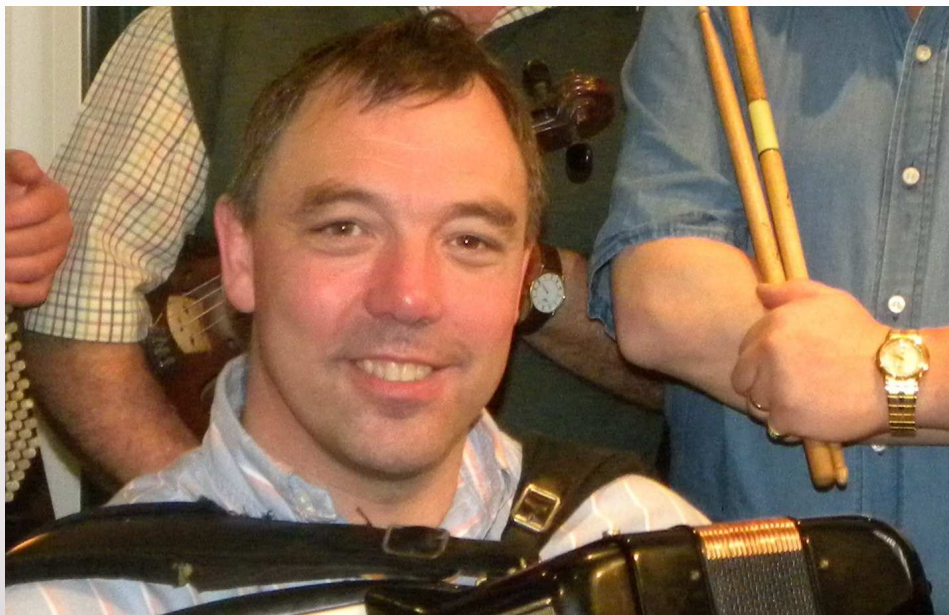
Firstly, may I say a huge "Welcome" to all of you, to our Grand Concert to celebrate 40 years of the National Association of Accordion & Fiddle Clubs? It is a privilege to be Chairman of our NAAFC at this time as, indeed, it has been for the last 11 years. Time certainly flies!

Speaking with the founder members of the Association, their aim, in forming the NAAFC, was to provide and develop a structure and plan to avoid overlapping dates among the Accordion & Fiddle Clubs which were being formed around the country following on from the success of the Dumfries Club, instigated by Max Houliston in *The Hole in the Wa'*. The underlying ethos was to encourage everyone (particularly the younger generation) to participate and enjoy our music.

I, for one, would not have a Scottish Dance Band today if it was not for the Accordion & Fiddle Club scene. My first outing with a band was at the Biggar Accordion & Fiddle Club on its opening night in October 1974. Mine host was my uncle, Alex MacArthur and he asked me to "have a wee tune on the stage" and he would get a band of "no-hopers" around me to see if I could ever be a band leader. The group he selected – Jim Johnstone, Ian Powrie, Robin Brock, Bobby Brown and Bobby Colgan still reads like a "Who's Who" of the SDB scene. I came off stage that night feeling 10 feet tall and absolutely desperate to get back playing on the stage! That is still the heart of the NAAFC today.

Over the years, many things have developed – *Box and Fiddle* magazine, from a newsletter, through broadsheet newspaper to, just last month, a full colour glossy magazine. The clubs themselves growing from 9 to, currently, 72. Not only that, but our new, revamped Website (www.boxandfiddle.com) provides a further encouragement for the new "young generation" to get much more involved.

The NAAFC Festival, initially in Musselburgh in 1975, and now at our current home, at Inchyra Grange Hotel, Polmont has grown in size, quality and



stature throughout its 38 years and has fostered and showcased the talents of many of our stars of today. In 1999 the Association funded a bursary – The Jimmy Shand Scholarship – at the RSAMD (now the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland) to be awarded to a 1st year student of Accordion or Fiddle studying for the BA degree in Scottish Traditional Music, which has taken our message to academia.

In 1979, the Association began to recognise those musicians who had done so much for our Scottish Music scene and began to award the "Honour of the NAAFC" to distinguished characters on the scene. The first recipient was, so fittingly, Sir Jimmy Shand and, as you will see from the programme and the artistes on stage this evening, we have appreciated many stars over the years.

In more recent times, the NAAFC has become involved in the Scottish Parliament, fighting the cause for support and promotion of traditional music within the wider environs of Scottish Culture. This is further enhanced with our support and promotion of the *MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards* with our sponsorship of the category "Scottish Dance Band of the Year" since its inception in 2003.

I know our founders from 1971 say they never thought the NAAFC would still be to the fore 40 years later, but I firmly believe that if we continue to encourage, support, promote and

provide a platform for young musicians, our music scene will continue to develop and flourish for many, many years to come.

Tonight's concert is primarily aimed at showcasing the talent over the last 40 years of the NAAFC, from those who have been our Guests of Honour, to the young players and stars of the future. I'd like to thank all of our artistes tonight for their support, but in particular our compere, Robbie Shepherd, for all he has done to promote our music over many years! Thanks also to the Member Clubs of the NAAFC for promoting the event, to Horsecross for their co-operation and advice, to Keith Dickson and Charlie Todd for putting together this fantastic souvenir programme you are now reading and to Karin Ingram, Frank Morrison and Simon Thoumire for their excellent photographs. A very, very special thank you to Iain Cathcart who has worked tirelessly and meticulously to plan, cost, put together and finalise every detail of tonight's show.

Have a great evening and I hope to see you at an Accordion & Fiddle Club very soon.

Keep the music to the fore.

Nicol McLaren

Chairman
NAAFC

HISTORY OF THE NAAFC



NAAFC Luncheon honouring Ian Powrie

The Birth of the Association

The inaugural meeting of the NAAFC was held on 4th July, 1971 in The Station Hotel, Ayr. From an extract of the minutes of that meeting it can be seen that those present clearly had a vision of what they wanted to see develop from the emerging Accordion & Fiddle Club scene.

There were 9 clubs represented at that first meeting: Perth, Gretna, Straiton, Langholm, Dundee, Newcastleton, Dumfries, Galston and Milngavie.

An exploratory meeting had been held in June 1971 in Perth where 7 of the 9 clubs listed above had agreed to form a National Association of Clubs with like-minded ideas across Scotland.

It was agreed that any member of a club which was a member of the National Association would be permitted entry to another Association Member Club at the same admission fee as local members of the club being visited.

It was decided that where clubs were run by hotels/pubs for profitable gain, they would not be permitted to join the Association.

The initial membership fee payable by local clubs to join the new National Association was set at £2 – after 40 years it is still only £15.

Originally the annual meeting of the National Association was held in a different venue each year and was hosted by the local club. Nowadays the constitution states that the AGM should be held in a central location.

It was decided that a monthly circular would be issued to the Secretaries of Member Clubs outlining what activities were taking place at other Member Clubs over the coming month – surely this was the beginning of what we now know as *Box and Fiddle* magazine.

It was agreed that the club season would run from September through to May each year, but the clubs could hold informal meetings outside these months. This is still pretty much the position for most clubs today.

Member Clubs of the National Association agreed to encourage their local members to visit and support other Member Clubs of the Association. This ethos still applies today with many individuals supporting a number of clubs in their locality.

It was agreed that for an annual Association meeting to be quorate, a minimum of 5 clubs should be represented.

A discussion took place on how the guest artists list could develop. Club representatives were asked to submit nominations of appropriate potential guest artistes for inclusion on the list – this sounds almost like being auditioned to get your name on the list, which is a far cry from the current process.

Inter-club exchange visits were to be encouraged as a way of reducing the running costs of having a paid guest artiste every month. Such exchange visits were a regular feature of the club scene in the 1970s & 80s.

HISTORY OF THE NAAFC

The People of the Association

Over the forty years of the Association's existence, there have been a very small number of people involved in its management.



Mickie Ainsworth
Chairman
(1971 - 1975)



Jim Balneaves
Treasurer
(1983 - 2000)



Jimmy Blue
Chairman
(1975 - 1994)



Neil Copland
Vice - Chairman
(2006 - present)



Jim Johnstone
Vice - Chairman (1992 - 1994)
Chairman (1994 - 2000)



Nicol McLaren
Vice - Chairman (1997 - 2000)
Chairman (2000 - present)



Lorna Mair
Secretary
(2002 - present)



Ray Milbourne
Secretary
(1971 - 1978)



Graeme Mitchell
Vice - Chairman
(1994 - 1997)



Andrew Nairn
Secretary
(1978 - 1994)



Morag Robertson
Secretary
(1999 - 2002)



David Ross
Treasurer
(1971 - 1983)



Ian Thomson
Vice - Chairman
(2000 - 2006)



Charlie Todd
Secretary (1994 - 1999)
Treasurer (2000 - present)

HISTORY OF THE NAAFC

The Association's Growth

From humble beginnings with the nine Member Clubs in 1971, the NAAFC now has more than seventy clubs stretching from Shetland in the north to Rothbury and Wooler in the south and across the breadth of the Scottish mainland and Western Isles. Each of the Member Clubs meets on a monthly basis with most still

following the same format that was so successful when they were established. A few surviving clubs from the earliest pre Association days have already celebrated their 40th Anniversaries and there will be more added to the list in the next year or two. In addition, the NAAFC is now responsible for producing the monthly magazine *Box and Fiddle* which has an annual circulation of more than 16,000 copies (with many more readers) from previous highs of more than 19,000

copies a year being sold. *Box and Fiddle* is now in its 35th year of circulation – a level of success surely well beyond the wildest imaginations of the committee members who agreed to tackle such a project back in the mid 1970s.

Box and Fiddle Magazine

Box and Fiddle has progressed from a black and white newspaper introduced in October 1977 to a 40 page full colour magazine today.

Editors

Ian Smith
(1977 - 1986)

Tom Clark
(1986 - 1991)

Doug Adamson
(1991 - 1994)

Ron Ramsay
(1994 - 1997)

Charlie Todd
(1997 - 2000)

Grant Crawford
(2000 - 2001)

Karin Ingram
(2001 - present)



National Association of Accordion and Fiddle Clubs 35th Year – No 7 – March 2012 £2.60



Celtic Connections Box & Fiddle Night



Up Helly Aa 2012



Shand Morino Gathering



Sheet Music

CLUB NEWS

CD REVIEWS

DANCE DIARY

HISTORY OF THE NAAFC



NAAFC Festival 2012 competitors Graeme Mackay (left) and Brandon McPhee (right) with adjudicator Jimmy Lindsay.

NAAFC Activities

NAAFC Festival

The NAAFC is responsible for organising the annual NAAFC Festival (formerly held in the Brunton Halls, Musselburgh) but now well established at Inchyra Grange Hotel in Polmont. 2nd March, 2013 marks the 39th Annual Festival which started from humble beginnings of only a few sections to the major event that it is today, drawing competitors from all over the country.

NAAFC Honours Award

For many years now the NAAFC has honoured most of the great and good of our music scene at the Annual Celebrity Luncheon. The NAAFC's intention was to honour only living recipients, hence, with a few exceptions,

they have not attempted to retrospectively honour the multitude of great names who were gone before the Association's Honours Awards were established. Photographs and short biographies of all of our former Honours Recipients (1979 - 2011) can be found in the second part of this programme and reads like a "Who's Who" of Scottish musicians.

We are delighted to announce that our Honours Nominees for 2012 are John Douglas, Jim Halcrow and Charlie Kirkpatrick.

Jimmy Shand Scholarship

This scholarship, funded by the NAAFC, is awarded annually to a student studying for the BA in Scottish Traditional Music at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (formerly known as the RSAMD) in Glasgow and can be used by the recipient to pay for

tuition, music, course materials or any other expenses associated with their studies.

Sheet Music Books

Three volumes of music by the late Angus Fitchet and "The Border City Collection" – a book of Felix Burns compositions, have been published by the NAAFC, thus ensuring that the music of these long gone maestros can be preserved for enthusiasts across the globe for years to come.

Scottish Dance Band of the Year Sponsor

More recently the NAAFC has been the proud sponsor of the "Scottish Dance Band of the Year" Award at the annual *MG ALBA Scots Trad Music Awards* since the inception of the awards in 2003.

BOX AND FIDDLE FELLOWSHIP INPUT AWARDS



BAFFI Awards 2012



Categories

Guest Artiste of the Year: Vote for the Guest Artiste that you have enjoyed listening to most at any NAAFC Club recently.

CD of the Year: Vote for your favourite recently released* CD. Please provide the CD title and the artiste's name.

**Only CDs released from February 1, 2011 - January 31, 2012 are eligible.*

Club Supporter of the Year: Vote for the person who you think has supported your club (or any other club) most during the past year – this does not necessarily have to be a musician.

Club of the Year: Vote for your favourite NAAFC Club. *This category is restricted to musicians (includes ALL band members) who have appeared as Guest Artistes at an NAAFC Club recently. Musicians must supply their name and also the name of the band/group with whom they perform as Guest Artistes (if applicable) in the space provided.*

Guest Artiste of the Year:

CD of the Year:

Club Supporter of the Year:

Club of the Year: (Voting restricted to Musicians performing as Guest Artistes only)

Name of Musician:

.....

Name of band with whom you perform as Guest Artiste: (if applicable)

.....

Simply complete the form and send to:

Karin Ingram, Filters House,
Dodburn, By Hawick,
Roxburghshire, TD9 0PG.

Or

Vote online

at

www.boxandfiddle.com

All votes must be received by
May 1st 2012.

Each person may vote only once.

The **BAFFI Awards 2012** will be presented at the NAAFC AGM on June 24th.