

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Midlothian Community Media Association held on Thursday 15th April on Google.

Present: Steven Horsburgh (chair) SH, Addie Thomson (AH) Chris Mackrell (CM) Tony Conlin (TC) Bob Miller (RM), Carrie Campbell (CC) Gordon Clayton (GC)

Apologies: Kim Thomson due to unavoidable family matters

CC was unable to join the initial part of the meeting due to technical issue. GC to take minutes

Minutes of previous Meeting: Not available

SH had drawn up an Agenda but invited members to add any other competent business items. These were dealt with as follows:

Changes to day-time format: AT put forward a case for change based on finding slots for new presenters as yet not trained. There was considerable discussion around the subject including potential effect on sponsorship of mid-morning programme and whether new presenters usually wanted evening or weekend opportunities. It was agreed that this would be returned to if the demand for day-time slots emerged. There was interest from Jake Heriot who runs the Friday Night Music Project which might add new young people.

The return to studio would be under one hour gap restrictions and it was recognised that we will continue with a mixture of input including studio, Live from home, Playout One and pre-records.

Raffles: Following success of the raffle AT announced that 2 mystery boxes had been donated

Premises: Gorebridge Cares had now had all the basic issues sorted out but plans to redesign the layout would require an Architect and possibly other professional work with an estimated outlay of £5K. While Gorebridge Cares would help secure funding, a commitment from MCMA would be required. The space available seemed tight but perhaps in light of the restrictions our needs had changed. At present, the garage was not available to us. Due to the uncertainty about the future of our existing studio within NBCC we should not rule a move to another shared location. Although costs would rise they would be less than having our own premises. CC to continue the dialogue when she meets Ellen tomorrow with a view to some of the Directors meeting up to see exactly what is on offer and an indication of costs both capital and revenue. Short discussion on acquiring a new desk which would be around £8k.

Revenue Sources: AT mentioned that Radio Saltire were benefiting from an EL Lottery. MVA indicated that it had been discussed but there was little support for something similar in Midlothian.

GC said that 100 and 200 clubs were popular particularly among sports clubs. Examples on the web. A scheme of 100 @ £5 a month would yield £6k with 50% going back to members as prizes. CC thought a separate entity would be required to be involved in a Lottery.

TC suggested banner advertising on the website although fears it might be seen as a cheaper option to on-air advertisements. No action meantime but new premises would make income generation a higher priority.

Election: TC had been in contact with Alan Thompson and his plans to broadcast interviews with the candidates was in hand (Wed. 21st April Drive)

Facebook: Concern that some posts were not showing respect to fellow presenters and had the potential to lower their self-esteem. It was proposed that Kim's post of 2018 should be updated as soon as possible.

Ventilation: SH reported on the works in both the office and studio with the aim to improve the flow of fresh air.

New member of staff: Kelsey McGrouther would be our contact for matters relating to the Centre

Return to studio: Presenters may now travel into Midlothian so live studio use could commence from Monday. There was a concern about 'rusty' presenters that widened out into a discussion about personal development. An item for a future agenda.

- a) One household in the studio/office at a time so no studio guests or trainees

- b) Retain cleaning regime
- c) Retain 1 hour gap
- d) Fill gaps with programmes created off-site

Finance: CC reported a balance of £15787 including Council grant and legacy but there were outgoings for ventilation and this was the heavy period for licences etc.

It was confirmed that we should take out a software licence for playout One at a cost of £802.67 + VAT
CC had a number of tasks to do including the financial side of the licence renewal and council communities grant

Changing Bank: Gathering all the signatures had been a slow business. TC would come to Gorebridge tomorrow and CC would pop up to RM's house before posting to GC who would send on to the Co-operative Bank.

Duke of Edinburgh's Death & Funeral: The swift reaction to the news of the death breaking had been a great team effort and hopefully respectful. Taking cognisance of BBC programming on Saturday we would take either IRN offering or play OBIT music from 1pm and recommence programmes from 6pm but exercising some care about music choice. SH to liaise with CM & TC.

Concern: A presenter had indicated his dismay that he might lose a bridging a gap slot as we return to closer to a familiar service. AT, as the scheduler, objected strongly to any consideration of this concern on the basis that all of these programmes were temporary and the understanding that the former programmes and presenters would return. A factor was whether Jim Ritchie would choose to return and SH emailed him during the meeting but an immediate response was not forthcoming.

AT thought that was irrelevant and if there was 3 hours then he or TC could cover. As a concern had been brought to the Board, members sought a compromise on the basis if an hour was freed by Jim Ritchie then the presenter of the temporary programme could be accommodated. This was unacceptable to AT who indicated his resignation and left the meeting.

The remaining members discussed the issue further reiterating that there is no ownership of anytime on the schedule and it is subject to decisions taken collectively to ensure key commitments are met.

Technical Report: CM had been in touch with the Council about Halkerston to make sure nothing had changed. Suppliers were in UK which made things easier. The danger was that if we did not act soon OFCOM might want to take the frequency away.

CM had carried out an update on the Playout One software which included a facility for using the mic live. There had been a connectivity problem at the transmitter and a Red Cross Show was repeated due to the loss of output.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 13th May @ 7pm by Zoom