



# Beltane Fire Society

## Annual General Meeting Minutes 2024

<b>Date:</b>	15th of July 2024, 2pm - 5pm
<b>Location:</b>	Charteris Centre
<b>Present:</b>	Retiring trustees: Maïlis Marty , Sophie McCarthy , Bradley McArthur , C'tri Goudie Standing trustees: Andy MacLeod, Jenny Bloom, Jenny Glover, Neil Barton, Robert Lee, Stephie Sutherland Around 70 members of the society
<b>Chair:</b>	Sammi Searle
<b>Minutes:</b>	C'tri Goudie
<b>Apologies:</b>	Sammi Searle, and Franklyn Reinhart

### 1. Welcome

The meeting was formally opened by Brad McArthur. General housekeeping comments were made and members were welcomed to the meeting.

### 2. Approval of Minutes from last year's AGM

Last year's minutes were approved by a show-of-hands vote.

### 3. Chair's Report (Chair - Sammi Searle)

- 3.1. Sammi (via video) introduces herself and explains the pre-recorded nature of the presentation. The written form of the Chair's Report can be found [here](#), the recording can be found [here](#).
- 3.2. Sammi thanked various individuals who have assisted the board over the last year, including but not limited to Tamsyn Ball, Klara Koenig, Zoe-tara Sanderson, Seraphina Tarrant, Kat Bradley, Bob Ball, Andy McCleod.
- 3.3. Transparency - the Newsletter sent directly to members with updates on what trustees have been doing.

- 3.4. Blethers - We had a number of blethers about our production groups, and our governance structures. Both blethers raised great ideas that are in various stages of implementation, with one standout being the Goblin Tekover performance project at Beltane.
- 3.5. Community - we hired a Safeguarding & Resolutions officer to provide an expert and unbiased point of leadership for addressing community issues. This had a huge and positive impact on Trustee capacity, reduced our backlog of cases, and saw better structures implemented.
  - 3.5.1. We'd like to take the opportunity to thank Lisa Maher for all her hard work, as she is stepping away from the role due to personal issues unrelated to BFS. We wish her well.
  - 3.5.2. The admin work done by the current trustees will make rehiring a much easier process than the initial hiring.
  - 3.5.3. Ongoing cases were not being abandoned with Lisa's departure, and people were being checked in on.

## 4. Review of the Articles of Association

- 4.1. Sophie McCarthy and Bradley Mcarthur provide a summary of what the Articles of Association are, and the 6 changes that have previously been voted through by members of the society, and seeking a confirmation vote.
  - 4.1.1. The changes will be submitted to Companies House after the AGM.
  - 4.1.2. The changes (particularly those influencing term length) will not apply to this AGM, and any elected or co-opted trustees will stand down at the next AGM unless seeking re-election.
  - 4.1.3. Sophie and Brad will action this immediately after the AGM.
  - 4.1.4. A vote to approve the proposed changes was taken and passed **unanimously**.

## 5. Financial report (Treasurer - C'tri)

- 5.1. C'tri delivered a report on the current state of the Beltane Fire Society finances, and big key items on the horizon. The slides can be viewed [here](#).
  - 5.1.1. Our finances have recovered from the lockdown period where we were unable to run festivals.
  - 5.1.2. This year's Beltane was the first of 3 weekday Beltanes, and surpassed our most optimistic projections.
  - 5.1.3. Our lease on Beltonia expires in 2027, we should begin planning a transition.

- 5.1.4. Samhuinns cost less than Beltanes, but unless we gate them to the public, cause them to be a lossy event.
- 5.1.5. C'tri stated that he had enjoyed being treasurer, and would be happy to return to the role in future.

## 6. Election of BFS Board of Directors/Trustees

- 6.1. Presentations were made by each of the candidates who were present, and a statement was read by proxy for each of the candidates who had sent apologies.
- 6.2. A secret ballot was held, with voting of YES, NO or ABSTAIN by members via voting slips provided within the meeting; with voting finalised at the end of the AGM. Results to be emailed to membership within 24 hours
- 6.3. The following candidates were elected based on majority votes:
  - 6.3.1. Andy MacLeod
  - 6.3.2. Franklyn Reinhart
  - 6.3.3. Jenny Bloom
  - 6.3.4. Jenny Glover
  - 6.3.5. Neil Barton
  - 6.3.6. Robert Lee
  - 6.3.7. Stephie Sutherland

## 7. Resolutions - Voting on submitted resolutions by members

- 7.1. This section was skipped due to time constraints.

## 8. Any Other Business / Miscellaneous points

- 8.1. Sophie McCarthy gave an update about a collaboration between BFS and Fringe By The Sea to be present for a torchlit procession on the 4th of August in celebration of Lughnasadh.
  - 8.1.1. The event will feature BFS drummers, fire spinners, and Reds doing acro.
- 8.2. Zoe-tara Sanderson raised an observation that the society has drifted from its roots as a community arts project that was founded in resistance to the political climate, and suggested that we as a society need to reconnect with those roots

- 8.2.1. Mailis Marty (outgoing festival secretary) mentioned that we had had Mark Oxbridge, one of the driving forces behind Samhuinn existing at all, speak via video link at the GO weekend for Samhuinn 2023.
- 8.2.2. John Wilson mentioned that the things being reacted to in '88 aren't present anymore, and that the society still occupies a place of reactance and protest to more modern things (such as climate change), and that the heart is very much still the same, just in a modern setting
- 8.2.3. Alex Nuttgens cautioned that BFS represents a lot of different things to a lot of different people, and that the most important thing is that we not reduce the society to "just" one thing, and that we stand side by side encouraging everyone to get what's right for them, from the festival.
- 8.3. Erin McEhinney led a big thanks to Sammi for her work as chair, and led a round of applause that was quite extended.
  - 8.3.1. Sammi - oh shut up you ❤️
- 8.4. Alice Bloom: Can I request that the minutes have a joke at this point
  - 8.4.1. C'tri: do you have a suggestion?
  - 8.4.2. Alice: No.
- 8.5. At several points throughout, pigeons were a source of distraction to speakers and listeners alike. Various individuals indicated that this should be minuted.

## 9. Closing remarks

Due to time constraints, the AGM wrapped up quite quickly and without much fanfare.