

# **Gospel4Grampian**

*(John Ch10 vs10 – Jesus came that we might live life to the full –  
our mantra should be “Living life to the full”)*

## **Members AGM – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

### **Present:**

Ann Brown,, Tom Morrow, Rob Rowe, Jim Buchan, Alan Gorvett, Ken Surgeon

### **Apologies**

Mr and Mrs Rowe, Helen Rowe

### **Agenda:**

1. Opening Prayer - Alan
2. Combined Chairman/Secretary Report - Jim
3. Treasurer Report - Tom
4. Directors Report - Rob
5. Initiatives to increase listeners numbers and volunteers – Rob to lead
6. AOCB
7. Refreshments

## **Proceedings**

**Note:** *This AGM was broadcast live on Gospel4Grampian so that members who could not travel would be able to listen to the proceedings remotely. The recording of the meeting is available on the G4G Podcast at <http://g4g.podbean.com>. This worked very well and will be repeated in the future.*

### **1 Opening Prayer**

Alan Gorvett opened the meeting with a short prayer

### **Combined Chairman/Secretary Report – Jim Buchan**

1. Welcome to those who came tonight and to those who have tuned into the live broadcast of the event.
2. Thanks to the BOT members who meet regularly – but most of all I want to thank Rob and the various volunteers for all their hard work also the churches and individuals who have offered financial support.
3. We are here because we believe that Gospel4Grampian continues to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and also to bring encouragement through music, bible readings and the broadcast of services, sermons and other materials.
4. Station has continued to develop despite funding challenges
  - a. Last year we talked about the need to find new premises – thankfully we have been able to occupy these new premises and

are paying a modest rent. Thanks to those people who worked on the day to move the station and to get it back up and running.

- b. We have managed to remain in the black now that the massive rates bills we had to pay are behind us. I am sure that Tom will have more to say about this.
  - c. Listener numbers have varied but we so still have a significant following – we have moved to a new listener stats reporting system so we have lost some of the detail about the months prior to the switch over date. This was expected and the numbers up to that point were captured.
  - d. We do have a challenge to make the station into a product which if of real interest – I am sure that Rob will be saying more about this when he gives his directors report.
5. Listener numbers seem to have fallen away – current projection is that the 12 month number will be at approx 14k with actual stats covering a period where its summer and numbers would be lower in any case – so we should wait to see if this level is maintained.

| <b>Year</b>               | <b>13/14</b> | <b>14/15</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Total Listener</b>     | 23,911       | 14,000 (Est) |
| <b>Hours Listened</b>     | 67,298       | 18,000 (Est) |
| <b>Top Country</b>        | USA          | USA          |
| <b>Second Top Country</b> | Canada       | UK           |

- 6. Membership - No new affiliates have signed up during this past year and only one new member – we need to have a drive to increase our support base. We need members who are actually involved in practical ways – Prayer, Finance and Working on the station activities. Big thanks to all those who are supporting the station in these ways.
- 7. Perhaps we need to consider options to identify services that the station can provide which can attract income and additional volunteers. One possibility is that we could offer a service to churchs where services are broadcast online to assist with broadcast licences etc.... Kemnay Parish Church is currently starting such a project and there are other local church’s that are also doing similar things – Have had contact with both City Church in Aberdeen and St Andrews Church in Arbroath. The use a live and on-demand video broadcast service in each case.
- 8. We have had some one off donations and income from fund raising events which are most welcome – we appreciate financial support as and when it is available –Tom will say more in this context
- 9. We have tried to be more regular in communicating with our members. **Alan** has equipped him self with new skills to get out a news letter every two month with a long and short version. This is important work.
- 10. I know that Rob has been in discussion with the folks from Small Wooden Platform about strategies for increasing the stations viability. The BOT will of course consider the product of those discussion and any

initiatives which are suggested. So we look forward to the directors report to hear more about this sort of thing.

11. I want to let you know that it is my intention to give up on of my BOT officer roles as soon as a replacement can be found. I have recently taken on new roles at KPC which are time consuming and I need to reduce my commitments accordingly. I would like if possible to return to being an ordinary member of the BOT.
12. Big thank you for the faithful support which has been given to the work of this project BOT members, Rob for his total dedication and other volunteers who have provided assistance with fund raising, practical support etc.

## Treasurer's Report – Tom Morrow

Tom presented the following account of the G4G finances for the year up to April 2015.

| <b>Item</b>                      | <b>2014</b> | <b>2015</b>  |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>Income</b>                    | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>     |
| Members Donations                | 1740        | 2270         |
| Other Donations                  | 2945        | 2525         |
| Profit on Calendars              |             |              |
| Gift Aid Received                |             | 571          |
|                                  |             |              |
| <b>Total Income</b>              | <b>4685</b> | <b>5366</b>  |
|                                  |             |              |
| <b>Expenditure</b>               |             |              |
| Telephone/broadband              | 778         | 963          |
| Computer Upgrades                | -           | 119          |
| Broadcasting Licence             | 1073        | 948          |
| Computer Technology              | 440         | 692          |
| Web Hosting                      | -           | 48           |
| Office Insurance                 | 64          | 280          |
| Rent                             | 1950        | 1800         |
| Rates                            | -           | 1057         |
| Heat & Lights                    | -           | 200          |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>         | <b>4305</b> | <b>6107</b>  |
| <b>Surplus (Loss) for period</b> | <b>380</b>  | <b>(741)</b> |

### Notes:

The income shown reflects the amounts paid into the charity's bank account for this financial year

The expenditure is for items directly paid for by the charity, or refunded to trustees who have paid items on behalf of the charity.

## Directors Report – Rob Rowe

This Directors Report is distilled and clarified from sentiments expressed at the AGM.

A special thanks and recognition to Christ Jesus for his Love and Faithfulness, for giving us this vision and helping us through the difficulties we have faced.

Thanks To all members of our Board of Trustees

- Jim Buchan for his faithfulness and unstinting service in carrying out the roles of both acting Chairman and Secretary and for his help, advice and encouragement also for his fund raising efforts on two occasions this year.
- Tom Morrow for doing sterling work as Treasurer.
- Alan Gorvett for his many kindnesses, encouragement and service also for his excellent and professional photo cards which he has produced for sale in church cafes and other establishments to raise funds for Gospel4Grampian.
- I have a suspicion that these very trustees dug deep during our financially challenging time to ensure that we were able to continue so a big thank you.

Thanks are also due to our members for their prayers, support and love. Special thanks are due to Sandie Smith, one of our volunteers who is listening from Lewis. Sandie singlehandedly painted this studio, office, kitchen and toilets. She has made an excellent job.

This year has been difficult as we had to move our centre of operations from Phoenix House to here on Balnagask Road. On reflection it has been a good move to a place more suited to our needs as a Gospel Community Radio Station.

Let us remind ourselves of why Gospel4Grampian was set up. Our heart is to Engage, Equip and Enable Communities to Live Life To The Full with Christ Jesus at the Centre. Where we are going is to firstly engage with churches as they seek to reach the communities around them- drawing together a knowledge base of the outreaches offered by different churches. By the word churches we are meaning groups of believers who have made Jesus Christ their Lord and Saviour. We are talking about the wider church with the belief that no one person, or even group may have all the skills needed to supply all the needs of a community/ or communities but when you bring believers together in unity, what so ever denomination they come from, God can work effectively through each person. This sentiment is summed up in the three words God gave to me in 2010/2011 'Unity of Response' - God's People responding in Unity and Love to the needs of those in communities around them and thereby demonstrating The Gospel.

How does this impinge on the work of Gospel4Grampian?

This compliments the work of the station. It is my belief that just as a church denomination is a part of the whole body of Christ so also is the radio station. It is an integral part of the whole. Using our skills, talents and expertise, the Love we have for The Lord and the passion to demonstrate this to others, we can

- a) Tell The Gospel
- b) Glorify God through our output
- c) Encourage and Unify churches
- d) Publicise their work

- e) Inform, challenge, encourage, engage, equip and enable communities to live Life to the Full as Christ Jesus intended in spite of life challenges which come our way. (John 10:10 - our core scripture)

How would we do this more effectively?

- 1) Introduce more relevant programming to this area of NE of Scotland and to the needs of the communities.
- 2) This would mean reducing some of the Mainstream and music content which has already underway.
- 3) Live broadcasting from events, church cafes, church out reaches, prayer events - showing what is God doing and how is he relevant to today?
- 4) Remembering our wider vision. As we build up a model vision for Gospel4Grampian which might be better known as G4G Radio and commit to FM for a wider local and relevant audience that this can be replicated in other parts of the UK, Europe, Africa, India, Russia, Asia, South America and other parts of the world.

The Truth...We are a long way from all of this.. In terms of trained passionate volunteers even staff, financial resources to fund equipment, training, licences, out reach. The vision remains. We can at least work towards fulfilling this vision with Christ at the helm one step at a time.

In truth, this year, Rob has worked largely on his own doing the following.

- updating programmes
- broadcasting \*
- setting up for live broadcasts
- producing podcasts
- sourcing community news
- making it available on social media
- updating programmes on the website
- liaising with churches \*
- encouraging folks and praying with them \*
- cleaning and tidying the studio
- trouble shooting even when on a break
- writing up reports for the news letter \*
- planning and strategising output \* – in consultation with Small Wooden Platform discussing potential improvements which will be presented to the BOT in due course.
- reporting to Board of Trustees.

\* aspects of the work Rob believes he should concentrate on if given the chance. The rest can be delegated to volunteers /staff in addition to a probably much larger set of responsibilities when the station grows.

### New Programmes

This year we welcomed new programmes to Gospel4Grampian.

- Lins Honeyman who broadcasts on Revival FM in Cumbernauld hosts 'The Gospel Blues Train' - blues music. The comments received about this program have been positive.
- 'Quantum of Solace' - a topical news program from a Christian perspective, produced in Dundee by Rev David Robertson and Alasdair Smith

- A regular contribution from CAP - Christians Against Poverty. The Scottish Co-ordinator Alison Paton speaks about the work of CAP and the help available. I've asked them to consider doing a CAP money course for radio also possible? an interactive version of CAP Job Club which helps folks even before they get into debt to get jobs.
- Coming Soon - an arts program also broadcast on Revival FM called 'EataCD'

We continue to take programmes from other organisations such as

- UCB - Word for Today with Bob Gass,
- Great Hymns of The Faith with Dudley Anderson
- Life Issues with Rev Paul Hammond

Here's a Thought- What about programs dealing with issues like life skills such as cooking, gardening, DIY or to take up hobbies which could help others?

Our own programmes continue on Fridays

- 11 am - 1 pm - Gospel Cafe - A cafe setting to allow folks an elevenses break to make requests and give dedications, their own church news.
- Community news, what's on and the weather is also broadcast.
- Every other week, we normally broadcast from CLC bookshop and cafe in the centre of Aberdeen. Recently, Gospel Cafe was invited to St Columbas Church of Scotland where they hold a coffee morning every last Friday of the month to raise funds for different ventures. They have given us an open invitation to return for more of these coffee mornings. Our next program from St Columbas Church will be broadcast 27th November for their poppy appeal. The St Columbas programmes will be broadcast from 9.30 - 11.30 am.
- Gospel Cafe is broadcast again Fridays 7 pm - 9 pm with the recommendation from Frazer that we move this to a Saturday as a trial period also Monday 2 pm - 4 pm.

We'd need more churches to open their doors to Gospel Cafe as this would be a good way to raise awareness of the station in local communities. It should be said that our link with St Columbas Church is more significant because of the very close partnership links between St Columbas Church, Bridge of Don Baptist Church and Old Machar Church in the Bridge of Don. This has led to these churches forming important community hubs. They share their resources. They link up for events and very much what Gospel4Grampian is all about.

Coming this autumn - we visit Teen Challenge at Sunnybrae in Fyvie where we run a special Gospel Cafe (even live if we get a mobile/wifi signal) speaking to some of the participants on the program, their music choices and a chat to Gordon Cruden - CEO of the Teen Challenge Program for NE Scotland about his forthcoming awareness raising challenge.

- Friday Drive 4 pm - 6 pm has 2 programme components.
  - 4 pm - 5pm Community Hour (This is really just a starter programme to give an hour of community news, whats on, the conversation with Alison Paton. This programme gives an idea to listeners of the kinds of things the new revamped station would have. The aim would be to see the station having more and daily programmes which are much

more diverse. The body of Christ is diverse so encouraging folks to take just even a few minutes to record a blog on a mobile about the work they do and the communities they serve and email that in on a regular basis can be woven into a very diverse out put showing God's love at its best. Volunteers needed to head these programmes up.

- 5 pm - 6 pm - News hour - currently with International, National headlines and news, News around Scotland - mainly from [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) also from [theorcadian.co.uk](http://theorcadian.co.uk), [shetlandtimes.co.uk](http://shetlandtimes.co.uk) interspersed with weather from [metoffice.gov.uk](http://metoffice.gov.uk)

There is much to do however Rob has and is continuing to fly the flag. With Grace as we have had and more folks, God knows what can be done. I'd like to finish by thanking our Trustees and supporters once again for their continuing support.

### **Looking forward with initiatives to increase listeners and numbers.**

As stated in the Directors report, Small Wooden Platform (SWP) has taken a look at our programme output to date and made enquiries into listener numbers.

It is true to say that these are lower than we would want. This could be due to a number of factors

- Seasonal fluctuations- lower in the summer when people are on holiday.
- The statistics programme has changed so the numbers we have most recently only reflect the last two months.
- There was a period when we were not broadcasting our own programmes from end 2014 - mid January so we do not have reliable statistics for this time.
- Rob found variances in location. The listener stats which we need for reporting to Public Phonographic licensing also include details of the countries listening in. Because of peculiarities in the internet, data is not always routed by the most direct or logical route. Much of BT's traffic gets routed to the United States before being routed to its destination. Rob carried out an experiment listening on line using land line broadband and using the 3 mobile network and alternating between the two, stopping and starting again Rob found that when listening through the land line- the statistics showed that a listener in the US was listening, when swapping, multiple listeners showed up all starting at the very time, the streams started and stopped when the streams stopped. When listening on mobile, Rob found that a UK 'listener' was listening. This happened consistently giving a good indication that many of our 'US' listeners may in fact be UK listeners listening in on a BT related land line.
- Could this double our UK listenership? A - very possibly.

Rob has been working towards making the station more relevant by reducing the amount of music and increasing the spoken content with more live broadcasting as outlined in the Directors report. When we first started out, we were broadcasting about 95% music, mostly with International origin. Our listenership was quite high and had been for a number of years. While giving encouragement through music, the station was not achieving its objectives. Since Rob's efforts to implement these changes listenership has gone down because people expected music and got not what they expected. This might explain why there is a tendency for a majority of

listeners to listen in for only 5 or 10 minutes.

The lesson to be learned here is that there is a greater need for education. Education in the sense of helping potential listeners aware of what Gospel4Grampian is all about. This is more difficult than ever in the digital age with 1000's of messages coming at people throughout the day. We have to give our message over this making it relevant.

Small Wooden Platform firstly looked at programmes and we began talking about what was most relevant to this area. N. E. Scotland.

### **Proposed initiatives to make the station more relevant to the N.E Scotland community at large.**

- Inclusion of more churches - Ministers could be invited to record a series of devotional thoughts which could be slotted in at certain times of day so that in one hour of music, there may be two devotionals.
- Seasonality: such as Easter, Christmas...Rememberence bring with them seasons of the church which could fit in with series of sermons produced by direct ministers also different out reach run by churches at different times of the year. Programmes from different groups. The rational behind this was that because of schools, holidays, work, people are not going to be available all the time so seasons would not only enable Gospel4Grampian to adapt to changes of availability better but also bring a freshness into our output.
- Some programmes can be repeated at other times such as at night to take account of a different listenership at that time.
- Bearing in mind our high overheads, current funding and lower listenership numbers and the need to train staff and consolidate output Frazer made a radical suggestion which could be discussed at the next Board of Trustees meeting.
- Consider the possibility of take an air break for as long as is needed to prepare the station for a re-launch, then relaunch
- Something else also which could be considered by the Trustees is a statement made by Ken Sturgeon, our newest member during the evening..

#### **“Revolution or Evolution”**

Revolution - could involve taking the station of the air for a period and then having a re-launch.

Evolution – could involve a strategy to more gradual change carrying supporters and listeners with it. At some point in the future have a formal re-launch the station to a wider public.

While being open to all suggestions, I sensed that the mood of those present and certainly my own thoughts tended towards evolving the station and carrying our listeners and supporters so keeping the station on air.

These thoughts formed a basis of discussion during the AGM and afterwards and are to be considered as the basis of prayer and praise.

Here are some prayer points to consider in conclusion:

1. Praise God for where He has brought us so far.
2. Praise God for a home for Gospel4Grampian



3. Praise God for our Trustees and supporters
4. Praise God for the hope those present felt during the evening.
5. Pray for Guidance of the way forward - Guide the Trustees
6. Pray for wisdom as to how to get new help then apply that wisdom
7. Pray for expansion that we would achieve the whole vision that as we do so that God would resource us with man power and funding.
8. What's to be the starting point to start expanding.

## **Initiatives to increase listener numbers and volunteers - Rob.**

A general discussion continued about to sort of initiatives that we can take forward to maintain/increase the listener base and generally increase the effectiveness of the station in realizing its stated objectives.

TBC

## **AOB – all general discussion**

There was no other substantial business.

See <http://g4g.podbean.com/e/gospel4grampian-agm-9-march-2014/> to listen to the AGM Prodcast.

Refreshments: Everyone enjoyed some refreshments – thanks to Rob Rowe for the coffee and Ann Brown for the home bakes which were enjoyed by all present.