

MINUTES

1. Welcome everyone to the AGM

The Chairman, Alec Mutch (AM), welcomed everyone to the 2025 AGM. A total of 26 members were present and signed in at the AGM. (A copy of the attendance is in the APPENDIX).

There were two apologies - from T Todd and N Simpson.

2. To receive and adopt the Minutes from the previous AGM of 1st February 2024

These were proposed by D Ross & and seconded by D Hutcheson. Agreed by all present.

3. To receive and adopt the Chairperson's report.

See attached report. The Chairperson Alec Mutch (AM) presented his Annual report.

He requested that anyone with any questions that they should bring them to the meeting's attention at any time. There were no questions.

Alec has been Chairman for 6 years and he thanked the Committee for their great help in running the Club. He had enjoyed the period of time Chairing the Club but was now stepping down from the Chair and the Committee.

4. To receive and adopt the Treasurer's report and verified annual accounts covering the affairs of the Club during the previous year.

The Treasurer Alan Geddes (AG) presented his Annual report *which is attached below*. Copies of the Statement of Income and Expenditure to 31st December 2024, which are signed by G Potter and M Baglioni were available for inspection at the AGM. AG highlighted the figures in the statement. The Club has a healthy bank balance.

AG particularly thanked A Mutch for being the Chairman. AG noted the effort which goes into the running of the Club and Training throughout the year and especially the robustness of the organisation for the future.

AG invited any questions. There were none.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by D Ross and seconded by D Hutcheson. Approved by all.

5. To dissolve the current Committee/Board.

The current Committee was dissolved by AM. AM noted that A Mutch, G Potter (GP), J Ruickbie, D Line were stepping down and would not be standing for re-election.

6. The election of the whole Committee/Board.

AM advised that the elected Board members would select the Club's Officers ie Chair, Treasurer and Secretary - from amongst themselves.

AM stated that N Simpson, A Geddes, D Hobson, S Drew, A Smith, K Brown, B Cumming, B Bull, M Baglioni and E Levings were put forward by the present Committee for re-election/election to be Charity Trustees and to be members of the Board following this AGM.

These 10 were all nominated by David Hutcheson and Seconded by F Campbell.

All 10 were unanimously elected by all present by a show of hands. There was no one against.

7. To receive and decide on any other competent motions on the running of the Club.

AM requested that anyone with the computer skills who wished to take forward the HWC website could contact him or the Secretary GP. AM suggested that the longest serving member

DH would propose the election of a Chair at the first meeting of the new Board of Trustees following this AGM.

AG was remaining on the Board to help in establishing the bank account.

E Levings gave AM his thanks for the work he had put in as Chair of the Club since Covid.

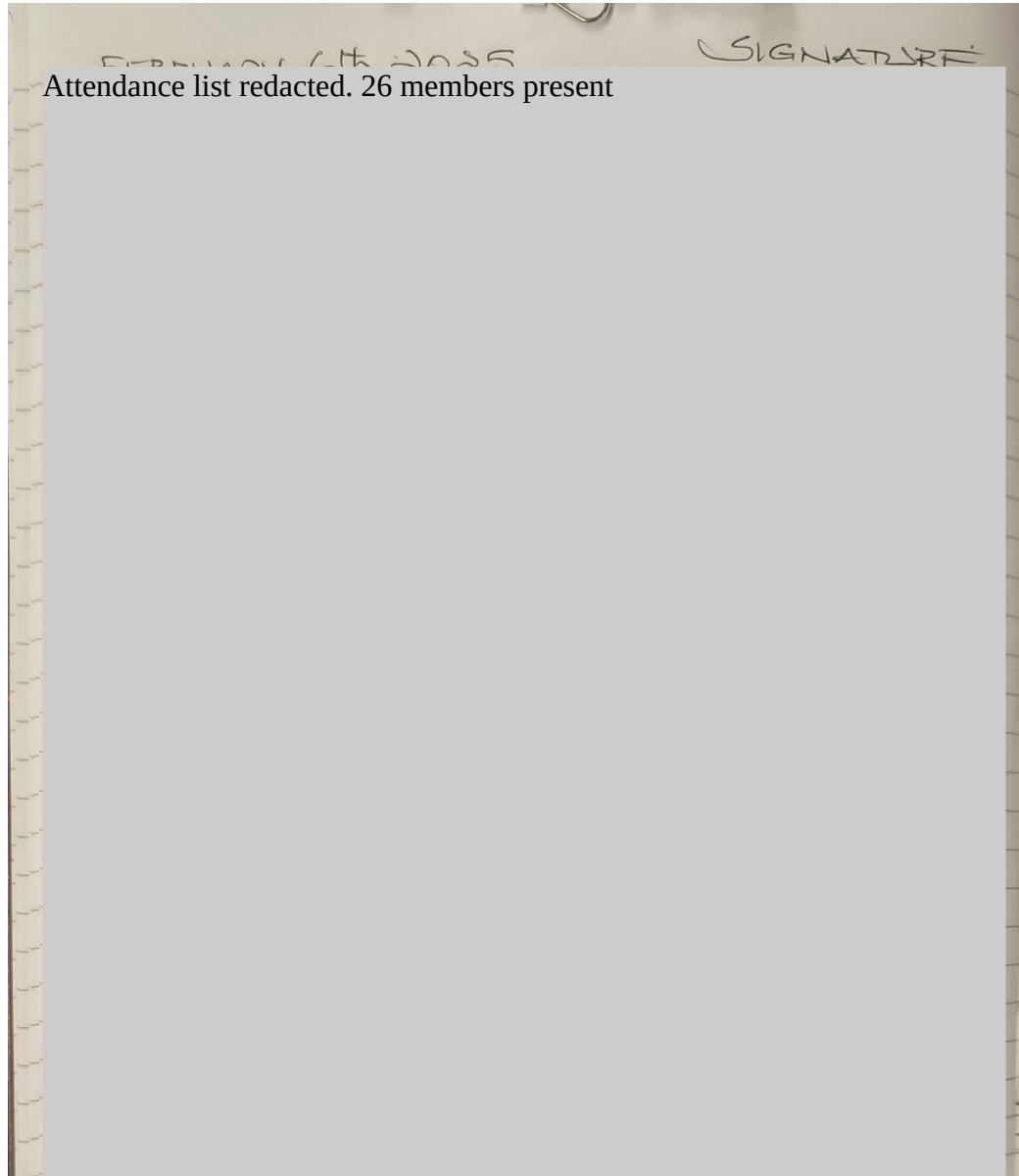
A warm vote of thanks was given to A Mutch by all.

8. END OF MEETING

Minutes approved by A Mutch by email 9/2/2025

APPENDIX

Attendance List



Chairman's Report for 2024.

1.

2024 started very nicely on the 4th January 2024, Geoff Potter was handling the meeting working on Bowls and Platters, he had arranged for the other 4 lathes to be working and all doing some sort of Bowl or Platter. However moving on to the next meeting on the 18th January, this meeting had to be cancelled due to bad weather, lots of snow. It was due to be handled by Nick Simpson but we moved it to the 15th February, keeping the subject matter. In between both of these events was our AGM meeting on the 1st February 2024 where the Chairman and the committee members would be elected on to the committee, most wanted to retain their position on the committee except for 3, Errol Levings, Joe Webster and Peter Lawrence chose to resign from the committee. Our first committee meeting was on the Saturday 3rd February 2024 where the new committee were allocated their responsibilities and duties in their

respective roles, also included in the allocations was the dates of all the competition dates. During this meeting the subject of us having fewer membership people after Covid was of great concern to the whole committee, we were then looking for ways where we might increase our membership, that's when the open day came into the discussion, that still didn't resolve the problem of getting more youngsters involved, this would be a work in progress situation. Other suggestions of having an auction or possibly attending the Black Isle Show were all considered and to be discussed at a later date. It was around this time February 24 that the name badges were introduced. There were some hiccups along the way with the name badges causing a bit of a stir due to mandatory wearing if you entered any competition, it caused the disqualification of a member that was not well received. This policy was re-assessed after at our next committee meeting and it was agreed to change the rules from mandatory to recommended only. Moving on to March 28th and at that committee meeting Geoff Potter revealed that our membership was down to 38 members, it was agreed something had to be done to attract more members, the auction idea and the Black Isle Show were again considered, and both were dropped for various reasons. However it was agreed the open day would go ahead and a date for the open day would be the 10th August 2024. In early May we got a safety wake up call when Keith Brown was injured by an

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item coming off the lathe, fortunately no lasting damage was done to Keith but it did highlight the need for another assessment of the effectiveness of the screens, this was done and it was agreed modifications to the screens needed to be done and some new advice to our members on how the screens should be used, the screens were altered by our maintenance team led by John Ruickbie before the next meeting took place. By the end on May our membership had not altered that being still 38, further discussion took place on the open day and it's preparation. Also at that meeting Keith Brown produced a draft copy of the new safety procedure in light of the recent incident. Moving onto 18th July and our membership was still only 38. Preparation for the open day was well underway and the mood in the committee for this to happen was very eager. It was at this meeting that changes to our status was discussed, it was agreed we would try to become a charity, and it was agreed Geoff Potter (secretary) should look into the procedure for joining. John Ruickbie put forward on behalf of the Black Isle Mens Shed an idea for them to alter the outside overhang area to a workshop for the BIMS, this would also require the agreement of the Hall Committee, also our members as there would be a need for the BIMS to use part of the areas we use, it was agreed in principle and is still in the pipeline. The Open Day on the 10th August 2024 was a huge success much better than I had hoped for, the purpose for the Open Day was to raise funds for a Defibrillator and to try to attract some new members, we took in a total of £950.30 which will go a long way to paying for the Defibrillator. At the Open Day I came across some people from Munlochry that told me they were unaware of the club being based in the hall cellar, this situation I had never even thought about but I did realise that we had to change that, and now we have an outside sign courtesy of Susan Drew with contact details on it. The other reason for the Open Day was to attract new members, on that we had a few people who signed up to be a member at the Open Day but the spin off in the following few weeks was to attract over 20 new members most of which needed some level of training, so a training programme was set up by Nick Simpson and that too is now almost complete. There was a period of time just after the Covid Pandemic that we were getting very few people enquiring through our web site, I can now tell you that we are again attracting enquiries on a regular basis through

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our web site just as it was before the Pandemic. On the 19th September 2024 we received confirmation that our bid to become a charity had succeeded and we had been issued with a SCIO number, that being SC053651. That led us onto an EGM (Extra General Meeting) in order for the members to vote on the proposal to become a charity. There were no objections so the proposal was carried, we would now be a charity, being a charity did have some minor changes that the committee had to adopt although the members would see very little difference as the name of the club would remain the same. Moving into November 14th the committee discussed the merits of various Defibrillators and it was agreed the Zoll AED be purchased, Alan Geddes and Joe Webster were tasked to finalize. The 14th November was to be the last committee meeting before the new year, there was quite a long discussion on the club's future as there were no less than 5 individuals who wished to step down from the committee at the AGM on the 6th February 2025, who they are will become apparent at this meeting, all I can tell you is that I'm one of the 5. It was agreed that we would try to fill as many of the posts before the AGM if possible.

For my own part in this club I have now served you as your Chairman for the past 6 years, I have found this role very rewarding although challenging from time to time, I could not have managed this on my own, I needed the help and expertise from your committee members to make the club what it is today, I will be continuing to be a club member and part of the training team but it is time for me to make way for a new Chairperson who may have many new ideas. I thank you all, committee members and club members for the support you have given me over the past 6 years.

Regards to you all,

Alec Mutch 6th February 2025.

**Treasurers Report
Year ended December 2024**

The club has had a very busy year with a complete programme of Club meetings and activities.

As will be seen from the statement circulated the starting position for the year began with an opening balance of £1678.74.

During the year the Club received £4735.74 in income from various sources and incurred expenditure of £3618.64 leaving a surplus balance at the end of the year of £2795.84. This represents a surplus from the activities throughout the year of £1117.10.

On the income side membership fees for the year came to £1867.50, slightly down on recent years with the regular raffle generating income of £1084. This is slightly lower than previous years and will no doubt relate to there being fewer members during the year than previously. In addition, the Club generated £320 from the provision of training and for which a vote of thanks is given to the voluntary work undertaken by all concerned.

On the expenditure side the Club spent £80.39 on fixing one of the lathes.

The Xmas raffle raised a sum of £295 off set by expenditure of £202.79 generating a surplus of around £92.

Members will be aware that for the first time the Club arranged to have an Open Day held in the hall and this turned out to be a great success. The event raised a net surplus of £944 and will go a long way to meeting the costs associated with a defibrillator to be purchased by the Club. In addition, and perhaps more importantly, the event raised the profile of the Club in the local area and as a result we have recruited a significant number of new members joining us during which is a great achievement.

Since the accounts were closed the Club has now purchased a defibrillator with a set of spare pads for £1191.60.

Finally, I would like to place on record a vote of thanks from the Committee for all the voluntary effort and contributions made by individuals that allow the Club to continue and thrive. The forthcoming year of 2025 promises to be a year of change with the status of the Club altering into a charity and a new Board being created to meet the new environment.

In particular a vote of thanks from myself to Alec Mutch who will be standing down from the role as Chair he has held for a considerable number of years now. There is little doubt the Club has grown in confidence and activity since he took over the role and now sits in a good place to move forward to meet new challenges.

The accounts have been checked and signed off by Geoff Potter and Marco Baglioni. My thanks to both.

Alan Geddes Treasurer, Highland Woodturners Club, 23rd January 2025