



**MSTC Inverness**  
**Annual General Meeting for the year to 31 December 2008**  
**Minute**

<b>Date and time</b>	22 October 2009	14.15
<b>Location</b>	The MS Therapy Centre, Burnett Road, Inverness, IV1 1TF	
<b>Purpose</b>	Annual General Meeting	
<b>Present</b>	Sheena Crumlish, Kenneth Macleod, Linda MacLean, Janet Campbell, Ken Mackinnon (Board Members); Shirley Murdoch, Jayne Scanlan, Doreen and Paul Gander, Rona Macleod, Jim McCormick, Roddy and Christine Cameron, Helen MacRitchie, Alison Ferguson, Alix Grant, Audrey Fraser, Christine Duncan, Jackie Barclay, Helen Hamilton, Morag Laing, Lucy Clarke, Dan Jenkins, Rod and Noreen Wilson, Mairi Johnston, Maggie Wynton(Members)	
<b>Apologies</b>	Brian Hill (Board Member), Gale Falconer, Patricia and Ian Young, Stuart and Irene Robertson, Sid and Trudy Elgar, Victoria Shanks (Members)	
<b>In attendance</b>	Margaret Murie, Jill Williams, Linda Dove, Katarzyna Jarzymowska, Jean Kelly, Norman Macleod, June MacLennan, Mary Holden, Cllr John Finnie, Cllr John Holden.	
<b>Chair</b>	Sheena Crumlish	
<b>Minutes</b>	Ken Mackinnon	
<b>Minute status</b>	Approved for distribution	

Ref	Item
	<b>Welcome</b> Sheena Crumlish gave a warm welcome to all.
<b>1</b>	<b>Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 30 October 2008</b>  Proposed by Alison Ferguson and seconded by Jayne Scanlan
<b>2</b>	<b>There were no Matters Arising from the minutes</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Chair's report</b> (full copy appended)  The Chair reported on the activities over the year and itemised many of the fundraising activities currently being undertaken or considered.  She thanked the board and staff for their efforts throughout the year and expressed the wish that we should all – board, staff, members and friends - work as a team throughout the difficult period ahead. She especially thanked Kenneth for providing the new computer system.
<b>4</b>	<b>Accounts for the year to 31 December 2008</b> Ken Mackinnon presented a report on the account to 31 December stating that despite a loss in trading activities, the company had both net current and total assets at the end of that year. Ken paid tribute to the auditors, Ernst & Young, who had completed the audit extremely quickly and at exceptionally low cost to the company. There were no questions on the accounts.  Ken then outlined the difficulties facing the company and that restructuring would be required. The board considers it necessary to cut or reduce costs in a number of areas.



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	<p>It considers that, in line with other centres in Scotland, more non-therapy duties will have to be undertaken by volunteers if the centre is to survive. Staff had been informed that in order for directors to abide by the rules of the Companies Acts, redundancies prior to a period of consolidation and restructuring would be likely.</p> <p>A lively discussion ensued, with the following being the main points raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cllr Holden described the board as defeatist and further, that what other centres do is of no relevance to Inverness.</li><li>• the membership proposed that a Highland-wide press and radio appeal should be launched.</li><li>• the membership proposed that they should all use their individual wide circle of family and friends for fundraising.</li><li>• Cllr Holden had informed the manager that he is confident of raising £30,000 from Asda but the board was unaware of this.</li><li>• Cllr Finnie asked if withdrawal from Company Limited By Guarantee status or from Charitable Status would remove the obligation on directors to issue the redundancy notices. Cllr Finnie was informed that the liability on directors in withdrawing from Limited Liability status would be similar to the action already being considered and that losing charitable status would eliminate the majority of funding opportunities.</li><li>• Cllr Finnie expressed concern that the Common Good Fund award may be regarded by some as being used to finance redundancy.</li><li>• by a show of hands at the request of June Maclennan, the membership stated it is confident in raising £35,000 in the coming year.</li><li>• Cllr Holden stated that some Highland-based millionaires should be approached for funding. He named two.</li><li>• Care Assistant Jill Williams expressed concern that inadequately experienced volunteers might be asked to fulfil the role of care assistant during transportation to and from the centre.</li><li>• Cllr Holden stated that the board should be strengthened with people with vision who would secure funding but declined a request from the floor to join the board.</li><li>• Cllr Holden stated that he and Cllr Finnie are working to have the ownership of the land on which the Centre is built transferred to MSTC Inverness.</li><li>• The manager stated that known income forecast this year is understated by some £4,000.</li><li>• The manager stated that during the period, early in the life of the centre, when the centre did have more volunteer input, very few chamber dives and therapies were on offer.</li><li>• The manager stated that originally, board members and volunteers had undertaken fundraising and bookkeeping responsibilities and that for a recent period of two years the board had not undertaken any fundraising at all.</li><li>• Mr Gander voiced concern over member lack of awareness of fundraising activity.</li><li>• Cllr Holden asked if the board would withdraw the threat of redundancy. The chair stated that the board would withdraw for a short meeting.</li></ul> <p>The reappointment of Ernst &amp; Young as auditors was unanimously approved.</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Manager's report</b> (full copy appended)</p> <p>The Manager reported on operational highlights throughout the year, the key elements of which were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Therapies continue to be well-attended.</li><li>• Sadly, we have lost some members but continue to enrol others.</li><li>• The Centre is being used by other groups for meetings.</li></ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thanks to those who have helped in increasingly difficult fundraising.</li><li>• Thanks to staff and members.</li></ul>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Election of board members</b></p> <p>All existing board members were eligible for re-election. There being no other nominations, there was no need for an election and the following were re-elected for a further year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sheena Crumlish</li><li>• Kenneth Macleod</li><li>• Janet Campbell</li><li>• Linda Maclean</li><li>• Brian Hill</li><li>• Ken Mackinnon</li></ul>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>There was no other competent business and the meeting was adjourned whilst the board withdrew to discuss Cllr Holden's request.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Board Statement</b></p> <p>The board re-elected Sheena Crumlish as chair.</p> <p>On its return from a short discussion, the following statement was read out:</p> <p>"The members and guests have added their ideas to the work already being done by the Board.</p> <p>The Board will meet early next week to take stock.</p> <p>Until then, the immediate intention of implementing redundancy is on hold.</p> <p>That may also give time to Councillor Holden to realise the Asda £30,000 and others that the Board may approach themselves.</p> <p>We will keep members informed."</p> <p>The meeting closed at 16.15</p>

Signed	Date
<b>Sheena Crumlish</b>	<b>10 November 2009</b>