



Registered charity SCO42014

Company registration 386646

## **6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017**



### **Unity Festival – August 2017**

We were pleased to be able to reopen the Arena in May 2017 (following the very delayed completion of Scottish Water's Shieldhall Tunnel works) and to witness, thanks to our new partnership with Inhouse Stewards Ltd, an unprecedentedly active, successful summer 2017 event programme and a rebranded café with extended opening. We were also happy to put on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Southside Shindig, having been unable to hold the event in 2016. This marks the beginning of a new phase in the development of the company and the Arena. We are proposing several administrative adjustments and seek our members' endorsement of these changes and invite their greater involvement through nomination of Board members.

## **The site**

The originally predicted nine -month duration (September 2015 – May 2016) of the Scottish Water subterranean works in connection with the Shieldhall Tunnel project proved to be massively under-estimated. Access to the Arena itself was only renewed in spring 2017. Access for the public was restored in May 2017 and there remain security fences at the northern perimeter of the site to enable re-seeded grass to establish. Other remedial works, notably the removal of dead trees adjacent to the facilities block and their possible replacement, and the security and planting of the SUDS pond should be undertaken in due course by Glasgow City Council.

£7,500 compensation was received from Scottish Water on the basis of the originally scheduled period of disruption and this has been vital. However, the disruption lasted more than twice as long as forecast and the Arena approach remains compromised so the compensation cannot be regarded as adequate. However, from advice received, it is most unlikely we can get any increase in the compensation.

## **Inhouse Stewards Ltd (SC414807) partnership**

In the light of this prolonged hiatus and the uncertainty about when full access would be restored and, thus, event planning viable, the Board, led by the Chair and Treasurer, have pursued negotiations both with Inhouse (as reported in 2016 Annual Report) to operate events on behalf of QPA Ltd., and with Glasgow City Council to ensure that the partnership with Inhouse is acceptable, fully understood and possible future on-site development to enhance performance facilities is likely to be considered positively.

These negotiations have gone well and the commitment, energy and ambition of Inhouse has been apparent throughout, as has their credibility with officers. These developments have been consulted on and communicated with the Board electronically. Inhouse have already invested time and money to carry out on-site repairs and improvements, set up a new website and facebook page with a new logo. While this is work in progress and there is still much to learn we feel optimistic about future programming bringing variety,

excitement and many opportunities for collaborations and participation, with the potential to appeal to audiences throughout and beyond Glasgow's south side.

We are now at a stage where:

1. the extent of both the core Arena site to be covered by the lease, as well as the extension area of city-approved, consolidated ground where additional event-related structures can be erected have been established and accepted by QPA and Inhouse.

2. The draft agreement with Inhouse has been revised and was approved unanimously at the Board meeting on 30 August.

3. The financial agreement with Inhouse Ltd. has been revised in the light of the revised timescale and their investment in site repairs and improvements. This too has been approved by the Board on 30 August. In essence the agreement forgoes income in 2017-18 because of the scheduling delays outside QPA control and in acknowledgement of Inhouse's site investment. The annually varying profit-sharing arrangement due to be phased in has been dropped. A flat annual payment, with periodic review, always part of the original draft agreement, provides an equitable and administratively straightforward arrangement. Guaranteeing an annual income to QPA Ltd. is essential to enable the charity to discharge its basic administrative and maintenance responsibilities and to build up an adequate reserve to meet emergencies and support future capital development.



4. . Inhouse have established a new website, booking arrangements and moved ahead with programming a series of events, starting with a community taster day on Saturday 27 May when the Arena was formally relaunched by Nicola Sturgeon as MSP for Glasgow Southside.

**Right: Nicola Sturgeon with Chet Capkiner at the reopening**

5. QPA Ltd. will continue to lead on appropriate grant applications in support of mutually agreed capital developments.

6. Once the site extent and Inhouse agreement have been signed off the completion of the lease for the site from GCC should finally be completed in the coming months, the operation of the site having been on a Permission to Use basis up to the present. This in turn will enable Inhouse to seek a Public Entertainment Licence for the site.



**Aerial Edge 7 July**



## Events

Inhouse events from May to August have already attracted 6,808 audience while the facebook page already has over 2,000 likes. A list of events and attendance is appended to this report. Lessons have been learned and some infrastructure and operational issues identified, notably with site drainage, WC provision and event marketing. These and the developments to date were reviewed at the Steering Group meeting on 30 August. It was agreed that the focus for the rest of 2017 should be on ensuring the Arena was well prepared for 2018 events.



QPA has initiated one major event, the third Southside Shindig, which took place on Saturday 5 August. 1,742 people including many young families, enjoyed music and dance, tastings of food and drink from round the world, and hands-on children's activities. The free community event was organised for

QPA by Marie Davidson with support from Glasgow City Council Langside, South Central and Pollokshields Area Committees, Glasgow Life's Arts Development Fund and Glasgow City Council's Vibrancy Fund.

For the first time the Mela took part. Performances by Abhinaya Dance Group (right), Fidhol (Dhols & Fiddles) and Bollywood Dancers, Desi Bravehearts, and craft workshops were enthusiastically



received. There is growing support for this southside community event and Marie Davidson is planning to set up a Shindig social enterprise company to take the event forward for the future, a development welcomed by Inhouse.

### **Company matters**

The Board has met once this year, on 30 August 2017, with negotiation with Inhouse and the city council carried on by the Chair and Treasurer, with the Board consulted and advised electronically. We have welcomed Geoff Harker who is confirmed as the representative of Shawlands & Strathbungo Community Council. Les Rice (representing Mt Florida Community Council) resigned from the Community Council and a replacement is pending.

Now that Inhouse are the full operating partner for the Arena, the role of the Board has been reviewed. No change to the Constitution is envisaged. However, the role of the Board becomes one of

- oversight and monitoring site maintenance and activity including attendance at events
- reviewing and responding to Inhouse reports on past and planned future activity and site issues
- fulfilling its commitments in relation to GCC (assuming lease completion) and Inhouse.
- determining and leading grant applications for further site improvement requiring capital investment, In liaison with Inhouse
- Four Board meetings will be scheduled for 2017-18 to be linked with Steering Group meetings which Inhouse attend and report to, provisional dates being December 2017, March, June (preceding Annual Meeting).
- Full Board membership is 13 maximum. With a present Board of seven there are six vacancies which can be filled by nomination and election from member organisations and/or co-option.

Evelyn Silber (Chair, representing Langside, Battlefield & Camphill Community Council)

David Seers (Company Secretary) co-opted

Bob Marshall (Treasurer) co-opted

June Bell - co-opted

Keith Hawley (representing Crosshill/Govanhill CC)

Geoff Harker (representing Shawlands/Strathbungo CC)

pending (representing Mt Florida CC)

My warm thanks to Marie Davidson, Chet Capkiner, Kirsty Hood, Mark Ballantine and my fellow Board members, especially Bob Marshall, for their work over the past year.

Evelyn Silber

## Children's activities at the Shindig



### EVENTS 2017

Date	Title	Event type	Attendance
27.5	Community Open Day	free	382
7.7	Cirque de Southside-Glasgow Games	ticketed	817
12.7	Twelfth Night (Folksy Theatre)	ticketed	122
15-16.7	Watch the Final (Wimbledon)	sports link	62
5.8	Southside Shindig	free	1742
8-9.8	The Smartest Giant in Town	ticketed, theatre	237
25-28.8	Glasgow Unity Festival 160 school + 82 public	free	232
26.8	Govanhill International Carnival	free	2463
27.8	Roots Rock Reggae Against Racism	ticketed	756
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>6,808</b>