**FESTIVAL SECRETARY’S REPORT**

**SCDA DISTRICT MEETING 17 MAY 2017**

* Our thanks and appreciation to FADS personnel for efficiently organising the social and technical aspects of our District Festival on 4 and 5 March in Menzies Hall Fintry.

The Saturday/Sunday dates allowed teams to rehearse during the afternoon of their performance although there was no evidence that the introduction of a Sunday performance significantly improved audience numbers.

Trophies awarded:

Munro Trophy (Winners) FADS ‘The Pushcart Peddlers’

Proctor Trophy (Second) Barony ‘The Real Inspector Hound’

Jean Sinclair Quaich (Best Moment) ‘The Real Inspector Hound’

Tarmachan Trophy (Stage Presentation) FADS ‘The Pushcart Peddlers’

District Youth Trophy Killin Youth ‘Can You Hear the Music’

JMS McCabe Trophy (Scottish Life) no award.

Our Reserve Adjudicator Liz Candy was in attendance both evenings with her husband.

FADS ‘The Pushcart Peddlers’, Barony’s ‘The Real Inspector Hound’ and Killin’s ‘Bluey is the Colour’ qualified for places at Divisional Open Final at Albert Halls, Stirling 23 – 25 March.

Regrettably on the day of performance Barony were prevented from appearing due to licensing difficulties. Adjudicator Robert Meadows awarded the Jean Fleming Quaich (Best Comedy), John Duncan Quaich (Production) and Outlook Tower Trophy (First place) to FADS production.

The Divisional Open Final was hosted by Stirling District this season and we thank everyone who assisted in the planning stages and on a nightly basis at the event.

‘The Pushcart Peddlers’ progressed to Scottish Final at Pitlochry Festival Theatre where Adjudicator Jan Palmer Sayer awarded the team Grampian TV Trophy (Décor), Donald T Farmer Trophy (Best Moment) and Connie Fisher Trophy (Direction).

The Killin DC Youth Production of ‘Can You Hear the Music’ represented the District at the Divisional Youth Final held in Church Hill Theatre, Edinburgh, where performances were assessed by Colin Peter.

* Our District Festival Adjudicator Yvonne Moffat, a new SASDA member, adjudicated all plays at the conclusion of each evening. Pre and Post event communication with her proved difficult. FADS were the only group to return their Adjudicator Feedback Form but I am sure their views would be reflected by other competing teams and the organising committee.

She appeared nervous and inexperienced making teams and audience less confident in her adjudications. Her public adjudications were overlong and remarks repetitive.

Pertinent points were mentioned but short on insight with insufficient emphasis on movement, clarity, sound and lighting and the challenges of each production.

There was no evidence she had properly read the plays. Hopefully she will improve with further adjudicating experience.

* Members comments on all stages of Festival 2017 would be appreciated at the meeting.
* Advance planning for District Festival 2018 is required with dates, venue and adjudicator to be confirmed. Final entry date will be Saturday 11 November.
* The Full Length Festival is active once again with Gavin Orr as Adjudicator. Entry details from Divisional Secretary Susan Wales.
* Don’t forget to support the Scottish Youth Final at Birnam Arts and Conference Centre on Saturday 17 June. Adjudicator Russell Boyce. Tickets selling fast!

Also British Final at MacTheatre, Belfast 7 – 8 July. Adjudicator: Walker Ewart.

* National AGM and Conference Weekend 17 – 18 November 2017. Venue to be confirmed.
* Advance notification that the British Final will be held at Macrobert on 6 – 7 July 2018. National Committee members have already been allocated responsibilities but local personnel will also be required to assist nearer the event.

Stephen Lambert

Festival Secretary