



ANGUS FEDERATION

10th March 2010

Dear Members,

It is with much regret that your Executive Committee has come to the difficult but unanimous decision to cancel our annual Federation Show due to the outbreak of COVID-19. We are keenly aware that a huge amount of work will already have been done by many members in preparation for the show and that this decision will come as a major disappointment.

The show is such an important and valued part of our social calendar where we celebrate our members' skills and share them with our communities. Old friendships are renewed, and fresh ones formed as we work together to make a great show. That said however the welfare of our members and wider communities is paramount. We were conflicted in our reasoning for cancelling the show which made the decision very hard. The following are a summary of the points discussed:

1. Current government guidance is to continue with social gatherings at present and although no-one can predict with certainty it looks likely that the spread of COVID-19 is set to increase in the very near future and we may move to the 'Delay' phase within the next 10 days or so which would coincide with the show dates. The 'Delay' phase may see the banning of large gatherings.
2. The age profile of our organisation is such that most of the membership is over 65, the age group most likely to be badly affected by COVID-19. Many members in this age group will also have themselves or have close family members with underlying health concerns.
3. As the majority of people with COVID-19 will display only mild respiratory symptoms and the ability of the virus to survive in foodstuffs and on hard surfaces for some time, it may be possible for entries to the show to come from those already actually infected, putting our judges and those laying out the show at risk of infection.
4. The Executive has received feedback from concerned members that they would stay away from the show were it to go ahead.
5. It would be better to cancel the show before entrants prepare homeskills entries which would then be wasted if cancellation became necessary closer to the show date.
6. The executive considered the financial implications of the show going ahead with low footfall versus cancellation of the event. Cancellation will entail a £450 loss (£100 venue cancellation, £350 expenses incurred to date). Expenses already incurred include the printing of show labels which can be used again if we keep the show schedule the same for next year's show. Last year's show expenses were £3,482.53 and the raffle tickets sold via Institutes was £1,780.00. Thus £1700 would have to be raised from door entries, tearoom and sales of baking and SWI goods to break even. This would require at least 340 paying visitors who take tea/coffee (60% of footfall in 2019 and 100% of 2018).

7. Many raffle tickets will have already been sold and so the Executive propose to draw the raffle at the Federation meeting in June with the same cash prizes available as advertised. The income from the raffle will mitigate losses to the Federation due to the show's cancellation.

Your Executive are aware that not all of our members will agree with our decision, but we hope you will be supportive of our attempt to deal with a difficult and constantly evolving situation in a timely fashion.

Best wishes,

M. Macleod

Maureen Macleod
President, Angus Federation SWI

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "Frances M. Smith".

Frances Smith
Show convenor, Angus Federation SWI