

Agenda Item	5
Report No	G/18/21

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Gaelic Committee

Date: 16 December 2021

Report Title: Royal National Mòd 2021

Report By: Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this interim report is to give a general overview of the Royal National Mòd (RNM) which took place between October 8th – 16th (inclusive).

Members will be aware that the RNM took place in Inverness and was delivered by An Comunn Gàidhealach (ACG) by adopting a hybrid approach, which included a comprehensive programme of events, and competitions taking place both 'face to face' and virtually.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- i. Note the RNM full programme for 2021; and
 - ii. Agree that a detailed report is submitted to the next meeting of the Gaelic Committee which will include a financial update and the findings and outcomes of the Consultancy and Media Evaluation Reports.

3. Implications

- 3.1 Resource - The RNM receives financial support from the Highland Council Discretionary Gaelic Grants Budget.

Due to COVID-19, additional resources were approved through the Corporate Resources Committee enabling the Mòd to be hosted in the Inverness area for the second consecutive year and this was contingent on the basis that the event would be held 'face to face' and not just virtually.

- 3.2 Legal - The Council's Gaelic Language Plan takes account of and is in line with the Scotland Gaelic Act 2005.
- 3.3 Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island) - The RNM was attended by participants and competitors from across the Highlands and Islands.
- 3.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever - The RNM was a hybrid event which included both 'face to face' and online events and activities. The online events did no doubt reduce the carbon emissions and the support provided by the Council through online Microsoft Teams meetings enhanced and added to the climate change agenda.
- 3.5 Risk - The RNM was affected by the pandemic and the impact of associated Scottish Government restrictions and guidance.
- 3.6 Gaelic - The RNM is an established event which takes place annually and provides a huge platform for Gaelic and cultural development locally, nationally, and internationally.
The RNM is included as one of the key performance indicators and actions points within the Council's Gaelic Language Plan.

4. Inverness Royal National Mòd 2021

- 4.1 Members will be aware that due to the Scottish Government's announcement in early August regarding the lifting of social distancing restrictions, combined with the then on-going uncertainty over the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, ACG planned and continued to organise a hybrid approach to the RNM. ACG developed and achieved this by building on the successes and learning from the Virtual Mòd which took place last year.

The Mòd Programme can be found here:



Inverness Mod A5
Booklet 2021 Full Proc

https://www.ancomunn.co.uk/images/uploads/Clar-eagair_air-loidhne_luchar_2021.pdf

- 4.2 ACG held flagship competitions including the Gold Medal, the Traditional Gold Medal and Silver Pendant in person at Eden Court. There were also a series of live, broadcasted concerts held in Eden Court all of which were well attended.
- 4.3 ACG ran 2 choral concerts, an event that ran over 2 days. 18 choirs participated with an average of 20 members in each choir. A particular highlight was the 'Ar Cànan 's Ar Ceòl' concert which took place on the Opening Saturday, a celebration of the vibrant and thriving musical heritage of the Highlands featuring an all-star line-up of guest musicians with some of the Highland's most gifted up and coming young musical talent.

- 4.4 The massed choirs event was well attended in the Northern Meeting Park. The Council and Highlife Highland supported this event.
- 4.5 8 events were available online via live streaming. These were well received and had audiences from Japan, Australia, Europe and the United States. An additional 7 online compilation programmes were broadcast throughout the week highlighting the best of the online participants who submitted pre-recorded performances for the RNM.
- 4.6 The Appendix attached lists all winners and participants from across Highland.
- 4.7 The RNM received very positive media coverage within hard copy national broadsheets such as the Herald, regional papers, TV, radio and online, including social media. The Council Communications Team, Gaelic Team and Innes Campbell Communications worked in partnership to promote the event.
- 4.8 The hybrid approach developed this year attracted a wide audience and ACG was able to capture and build upon the online community which was created during the 2020 Virtual Mòd. There were high numbers of engagement especially regarding viewing figures and participation from overseas.
- 4.9 The hybrid approach also created an opportunity to showcase Inverness, and the wider Highland area on the local, national, and international arena as well as Eden Court as a venue. This was possible via the 'traditional' media coverage and the various social media platforms utilised for exposure and engagement. This helped to enhance the overall event experience, but with greatest prominence still given to the actual 'traditional' RNM where the coming together and gathering of audiences and participants are of significance importance in realising the linguistic, cultural, social, community, and wellbeing benefits of the Mòd, all of which are critical within the wider economic benefits of the whole event.

5. RMN Fringe

- 5.1 A RNM Fringe programme also took place. However, given the restrictions it was not as comprehensive as a 'traditional' face-to-face Fringe Programme. There was a great deal of engagement with venues and the public to deliver what was realistically achievable both face-to-face and virtually.
- 5.2 The Gaelic Team in conjunction with CnaG organised an activity programme for young people and The Gaelic Team in conjunction with the Communications Team created an online video which aimed to encourage and promote the Highlands as a good place to live, socialise and work within Gaelic and cultural related employment. A Principal Teacher at BSGI fronted the video. The video was well received and was placed on the Council's social media platforms during Mòd week.

6. RNM Liaison Group

- 6.1 On the lead up to the RNM the Gaelic Team set up a RNM Liaison Group to provide advice and support to ACG regarding the event. The Group was chaired by the Area Inverness City Manager and included representatives from the Council's various Teams and Services – Education, Roads, Environmental Health, Licencing, Communications, Inverness BID, VisitScotland, Eden Court, High Life Highland and the RNM Local Organising Committee (which is a voluntary group).

7. Evaluation

- 7.1 ACG has engaged the services of Glamis Consultancy who have devised and distributed an online survey. The Consultancy firm are currently drafting an Economic Impact Study which will include an events assessment study. The full report will be available at the end of January 2022. Innes, Campbell Communications are also drafting a media report which will also be available at the end of January. The main conclusions of both studies will be reported to the meeting of the Gaelic Committee in February 2022.
- 7.2 As stated in the Gaelic Committee report of September 16th it was highlighted that there would be a further meeting following the RNM to monitor the governance of Council funds for the delivery of the event. Council Officers are scheduled to meet with ACG in December and will report back to the Gaelic Committee in February 2022.

Designation: Kate Lackie, Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance

Date: 1st December 2021

Author: Morag Anna MacLeod Mitchell

Background Papers:

Appendix 1

Royal National Mod 2021 Competition Results & Online Performances

Competition winners and online performances receiving commendations from schools/groups/individuals from Highland Council area, collated from The Royal National Mòd Inverness 2021 results page: <https://enter.ancomunn.co.uk/competitions/winners/lang:eng>

Results listed to the best of our knowledge – Apologies for any omissions.

Òigridh / Junior

Live Competitions

Seinn Fileanta - Balaich aois 13-15 - Bonn Airgid a' Chomuinn Ghàidhealaich / Solo Singing Fluent - Boys ages 13-15 - An Comunn Gàidhealach Silver Kilt Pin

1st Anndra Cuimeanach, Àrd-Sgoil Gheàrrloch

Seinn Luchd-ionnsachaidh - Nigheanan aois 13-15 - Bonn Chuimhneachan Sheumais C Mhic a' Phi / Solo Singing Learner - Girls ages 13-15 - James C McPhee Memorial Medal

3rd Rosie MacLennan, Àrd-Sgoil Lochabair

Air Loidhne / Online

1 - 'Sònraichte'; 2 - 'Air leth math'; 3 - 'Ri moladh'

1 - 'Exceptional'; 2 - 'Highly Commended'; 3 - 'Commended'

Seinn Fileanta - Nigheanan Aois 5-6 / Solo Singing Fluent - Girls ages 5-6

1 - Muireann, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Mhalaig; 2 - Alyth, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis

Seinn Fileanta - Balaich Aois 5-6 / Solo Singing Fluent - Boys ages 5-6

1 - Ruairidh, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis

Seinn Fileanta - Nigheanan Aois 7-8 / Solo Singing Fluent - Girls ages 7-8

2- Carys, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar; 3 - Isobel, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis

Seinn Fileanta - Nigheanan Aois 9-10 / Solo Singing Fluent - Girls ages 9-10

3 - Halle, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis

Seinn Fileanta - Balaich Aois 9-10 / Solo Singing Fluent - Boys ages 9-10

1 - Fionnlagh, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis; 2 - Iain, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis; 3 - Alasdair, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis

Seinn Fileanta - Balaich Aois 11-12 / Solo Singing Fluent - Boys ages 11-12

3 – David Àrd-Sgoil Loch Abar

Seinn Fileanta - Nigheanan Aois 16-18 / Solo Singing Fluent - Girls ages 16-18

1 - Laura, An Gearasdan

Seinn Luchd-ionnsachaidh - Nigheanan Aois 5-6 / Solo Singing Learner - Girls ages 5-6

3 - Erin Cait, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis

Seinn Luchd-ionnsachaidh - Nigheanan Aois 7-8 / Solo Singing Learner - Girls ages 7-8

3 - Kate, Bun-Sgoil Smithton

Seinn Luchd-ionnsachaidh - Balaich Aois 7-8 / Solo Singing Learner - Boys ages 7-8

1 - Ceilean, Bun-Sgoil Chnoc na Creige

Seinn Luchd-ionnsachaidh - Balaich Aois 9-10 / Solo Singing Learner - Boys ages 9-10

2 - Oren, Còisir Òg Loch Àlainn

Seinn Luchd-ionnsachaidh Fosgailte - Aois 16-18 / Solo Singing Learner Open - ages 16-18

2 - Floriana, Còisir Òg Loch Àlainn; 3 - Archie, Còisir Òg Loch Àlainn

Fosgailte - Nigheanan Aois 13-15 / Solo Singing Open - Girls ages 13-15

3 - Emma, Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis

Fosgailte - Nigheanan Aois 16-18 / Solo Singing Open - Girls ages 16-18

2 - Laura, An Gearasdan

Fosgailte - Balaich Aois 16-18 / Solo Singing Open - Boys ages 16-18

2 - Archie, Còisir Òg Loch Àlainn

Dràma - fo aois 13 Fosgailte / Drama - Under 13 Open

1 - Clas 5 - 7 Bun-Sgoil Chille Mhoire

Còmhlan - fo aois 13 / Folk Group - Under 13

1 - Còmhlan Ciùil Chnoc na Creige

Innse Sgeulachdan Fosgailte - aois 9-10 / Storytelling Open - ages 9-10

1 - Jonathan, Sgoil Stafainn; 2 - Isla, Bun-Sgoil Bruach a' Mhuilinn

Innse Sgeulachdan Fosgailte - aois 11-12 / Storytelling Open - ages 11-12

2 - Hannah, Bun-Sgoil Chnoc na Creige

Aithris Bardachd Fileanta - aois 7-8 / Poetry Recitation Fluent - ages 7-8

3 - Carys, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar

Aithris Bardachd Fileanta - aois 9-10 / Poetry Recitation Fluent - ages 9-10

3 - Ross, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis

Aithris Bardachd Fileanta - aois 11-12 / Poetry Recitation Fluent - ages 11-12

1 - Niamh, Bun-Sgoil Chnoc na Creige; 2 - Hannah, Bun-Sgoil Chnoc na Creige

Aithris Bardachd Luchd-ionnsachaidh - aois 5-6 / Poetry Recitation Learner - ages 5-6

1 - Iona, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar

Aithris Bardachd Luchd-ionnsachaidh - aois 7-8 / Poetry Recitation Learner - ages 7-8

2 - Zara, Còisir Òg Loch Alainn

Aithris Bardachd Luchd-ionnsachaidh - aois 9-10 / Poetry Recitation Learner - ages 9-10

2 - Oren, Còisir Òg Loch Àlainn

Piàna - fo aois 13 / Piano - under 13

1 - Eilidh Mairead, Bun-Sgoil Ath-Tharracail

Fidheall - fo aois 13 / Fiddle - under 13

3 - David, Àrd-Sgoil Loch Abar

Fidheall - fo aois 19 / Fiddle - under 19

1 - Raonaid, Àrd-Sgoil a' Phluic

Bogsa - fo aois 19 - Co-aimsireil / Accordion - under 19 - Contemporary

3 - Anndra, Àrd-Sgoil Gheàrrloch

Feadan Fosgailte / Chanter Open

1 - Ronnie, Inbhir Nis; 3 - Iain, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis

Pìob-mhòr Fosgailte / Bagpipes Open

2 - Seonaidh, Bun-Sgoil Shlèite

Pìob-mhòr - Caismeachd, Srath-spè agus Ruidhle - fo aois 19 / Bagpipes - March, Strathspey and Reel - Under 19

2 - Declan, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach; 3 - Laura, An Gearasdan

Pìob-mhòr - Puirt co-aimsireil - fo aois 13 / Bagpipes - Contemporary Tunes - Under 13

1 - Charlie, Inbhir Nis

Pìob-mhòr - Puirt co-aimsireil - fo aois 19 / Bagpipes - Contemporary Tunes - Under 19

1 - Laura, An Gearasdan; 2 - Declan, An t-Eilean Sgitheanaich

Pìob-mhòr - Ùrlar Pìobaireachd – Fosgailte / Bagpipes - Pìobaireachd Ground - Open

2 - Seonaidh, Bun-Sgoil Shlèite

Pìob-mhòr - Pìobaireachd - fo aois 19 / Bagpipes - Pìobaireachd - Under 19

1 - Laura, An Gearasdan

Clàrsach - A' chiad ìre / Clàrsach - Elementary

2 - Ava, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis; 3 - Lachlan, Acadamaidh Inbhir Pheofharain

Clàrsach - Càraid / Clàrsach - Duet

3 - Ava & Hunter, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis

Clàrsach - Seinn òran leis a' chlàrsaich / Clàrsach - Self-accompanied song

1 - Isabella, Inbhir Nis

Ealain - fo aois 13 / Art - Under 13

3 - Miss Niamh Robertson, Bun-Sgoil Chnoc na Creige

Litreachas - fo aois 13 / Literature - Under 13

2 - Hannah, Bun-Sgoil Chnoc na Creige; 3 - Isla, Bun-Sgoil Bruach a' Mhuilinn

Dannsa - aois 7-10 / Dancing - ages 7-10

1 - Niamh, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis; 3 - Grace, Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis

Inbhich / Adult

Live Competitions

Inbhich - Seinn Luchd-ionnsachaidh - Mnathan / Adult - Solo Singing Learners - Ladies (Silver Pendant Qualifier A250)

2nd Shona MacQueen, Drumnadrochit

Inbhich - Seinn Luchd-ionnsachaidh - Fir / Adult - Solo Singing Learners - Men (Silver Pendant Qualifier A251)

1st Peter MacPherson, Inbhir Nis

Inbhich - Seinn Luchd-ionnsachaidh - Mnathan / Adult - Solo Singing Learners - Ladies (Silver Pendant Qualifier A252)

2nd Shona MacQueen, Drumnadrochit

Inbhich - Seinn Luchd-ionnsachaidh - Fir / Adult - Solo Singing Learners - Men (Silver Pendant Qualifier A253)

1st Peter MacPherson, Inbhir Nis

Farpais Crìochnachaidh An Aigeallan Airgid - Mnathan / Silver Pendant Final - Ladies

1st Shona MacQueen, Drumnadrochit

Farpais Crìochnachaidh An Aigeallan Airgid - Fìr / Silver Pendant Final - Men

1st Peter MacPherson, Inbhir Nis

Inblich - Seinn - Mnathan / Adult - Solo Singing - Ladies (Gold Medal Qualifier A220)

2nd Saffron Hanvidge, Inbhir Nis

Inblich - Seinn - Fir / Adult - Solo Singing - Men (Gold Medal Qualifier A221)

3rd Iain Gordon, Inbhir Narann

Inblich - Seinn - Mnathan / Adult - Solo Singing - Ladies (Gold Medal Qualifier A222)

2nd Saffron Hanvidge, Inbhir Nis

Inblich - Seinn - Fir / Adult - Solo Singing - Men (Gold Medal Qualifier A223)

2nd Iain Gordon, Inbhir Narann

Farpais Crìochnachaidh nam Bonn Òir - Mnathan / Gold Medal Final - Ladies

2nd Saffron Hanvidge, Inbhir Nis

Farpais Crìochnachaidh nam Bonn Òir - Fir / Gold Medal Final - Men

3rd Iain Gordon, Inbhir Narann

Inblich - Seinn - Mnathan / Adult - Solo Singing - Ladies (Traditional Medal Qualifier)

3rd Carolyn Groat, An Gearasdan

Saffron Hanvidge, Inbhir Nis

Inblich - Seinn - Fir / Adult - Solo Singing - Men (Traditional Medal Qualifier)

1st Eòin Cuimeanach, Ros an Iar

2nd Calum MacColla, An Gearasdan

3rd Torquil Maclean, Muir of Ord

4th Eòghan Stiùbhart, Inbhir Nis

Farpais Crìochnachaidh Bonn Òir an t-Seann Nòis - Mnathan / Traditional Gold Medal Final - Ladies

3rd Carolyn Groat, An Gearasdan

4th Saffron Hanvidge, Inbhir Nis

Farpais Crìochnachaidh Bonn Òir an t-Seann Nòis - Fir / Traditional Gold Medal Final - Men

1st Calum MacColla, An Gearasdan

2nd Eòin Cuimeanach, Ros an Iar

3rd Torquil Maclean, Muir of Ord

4th Eòghan Stiùbhart, Inbhir Nis

Air Loidhne / Online

1 - 'Sònraichte'; 2 - 'Air leth math'; 3 - 'Ri moladh'

1 - 'Exceptional'; 2 - 'Highly Commended'; 3 - 'Commended'

Inblich - Seinn Aon-neach - Puirt-a-beul - Fosgailte / Adult - Solo Singing - Puirt-a-beul - Open

2 - Saffron Hanvidge, Inbhir Nis

Inblich - Coisir Fosgailte / Adult - Choral Open

1 - Còisir Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis

Inbhich - Bogsa / Adult - Accordion

1 - Ciorstaidh Chaimbeul, Caol Loch Aillse

Inbhich - Bogsa - Bhalsaichean Gàidhlig / Adult - Accordion - Gaelic Waltzes

1 - Ciorstaidh Chaimbeul, Caol Loch Aillse

Inbhich - Litreachais - Bàrdachd / Adult - Literature - Poetry

2 - Ceitidh Campbell, Inbhir Nis