

Press Release

### **Highland Field Sport Fair 2021 at Moy – Cancelled**

We rightly cancelled the Fair at the Committee meeting at the end of April last year but we know so many people and local businesses were sorely disappointed not to mention the charities that we usually donate to.

The committee were looking forward enormously to the Fair going ahead this year as there are considerable benefits to so many people. The Fair is an event that very many local people and those from further afield, love and look forward to each year. In fact it has become something of an institution over the years in the North of Scotland and August is not the same without it. We appreciate that Mrs Celia Mackintosh of Mackintosh and the Moy Estate have hosted the event for over 40 years and as a result of this the Committee has been able to donate £792 600 to local charities and clubs .

We were given a glimmer of hope from the results of the research at Edinburgh University that the roll out of the vaccine is making a huge difference to the number of cases of serious illness. The other bit of good news is there are studies that indicate it may also reduce transmission.

However, it is with much disappointment and regret that the Committee of the Highland Field Sports Fair have unanimously decided to cancel the 2021 event due to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> August.

The decision was made even though the committee had been awarded a grant from Scotland's Events Recovery Fund to help with extra costs that would have been incurred to make the event covid safe and compliant.

The decision has been deferred as long as possible as the committee are conscious of the negative economic impact cancelling this popular event will have on so many people and local businesses.

Unfortunately, the continued lack of clarity around capacity constraints at mass gatherings; the uncertainty around the current situation; ongoing health concerns; and not being able to run some of the competitions due to social distancing restrictions, the committee decided they had no alternative but to cancel the 2021 event.

It was important that this decision was made before any further set-up costs were incurred, and to inform all participants and attendees in good time.

We would like to thank everyone for their support at this time. Our focus will now be on making the Highland Field Sports Fair on **5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022** and memorable and successful event.