

The Robert Burns World Federation Ltd

Executive Meeting

Venue: The Cupar Old Parish Church Centre, Cupar

Date: 17th March 2012 at 10:00am

MINUTES

1. Sederunt

A Anderson Kidd	Eric Budgetell	James Thomson
Alison C Tait	Frances Marshall	Jean Abdulrahim
Anne Gaw	Frank Sandeman	John C Paterson
Annie Small	George Anderson	John Haining
Barbara Clayton	George Letham	John Irvine
Bill Dawson	Graham Galbraith	John Skilling
Bob McDonald	Graham Hill	Kay Blair
Cameron Goodall	Hazel Morrison	Margaret Skilling
Craig Rodger	Helen Morrison	Margaret Stokes
David Baird	Helena Anderson-Wright	Mike Duguid
David Hannah	Irene Henry	Murdo Morrison
Elizabeth Caine	Isa Hanley	Murray Henderson
Enez Anderson		

2. Apologies

Alex Mackenzie	Jean Macmillan-Forster	May Crawley
Allister Anderson	Jim Robertson	May Hyslop
Angus Middleton	Jim Shields, President	May McGuffog
Bill Duncan	Joe Kennedy	Moira Dunsmore
Campbell Dickson	Joe McGinty	Provost Stephanie Young
David Smith	John Caskie	Ralph A Balfour
Elza Anderson	Lesley Richardson	Ray Connal
Eva Stubbs	Mac Irvin	Ted Murray
Harry Hutchison	Margaret Anderson	Tom Morrall
James Gibson	Margaret Morrall	Walter Watson
James O'Lone		

Item		Action
3.	<p>Chairman's Remarks</p> <p>Senior Vice-President Bob Stewart opened the meeting with a welcome to the Kingdom of Fife before handing over to Craig Rodger, Club Bard at Cupar Burns Club who amused us with his welcome poem 'Welcome to Executive Burnsians'. We were then entertained by three girls from Bell Baxter High School:</p> <p>Fiona Cooper with her rendition of 'To a Louse'</p> <p>Anna Whittock who sang 'The Slaves Lament' and</p> <p>Margaret Mellon who gave us a medley of tunes on the violin.</p> <p>SVP Bob sadly announced the following obituaries and asked those present to stand for one-minute silence:</p> <p>Jock Smith, Milwaukee Burns Club</p> <p>Archie Fleming, Hon President Greenock Burns Club, Director Sandyford Burns Club</p> <p>Alan W Weir, Individual Member</p> <p>David Shankland MBE</p> <p>Elsie May Coom, great-great-great-grand-daughter of Robert Burns</p> <p>Peter (Terry) Lyon, White Rock Tam O'Shanter Burns Club</p> <p>Archie McArthur, RBWF Honorary President</p>	
4.	<p>Minutes of Meeting 19th November</p> <p>Approved – Cameron Goodall, seconded David Baird</p>	
5.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>None</p>	
6.	<p>Finances – ACT</p> <p>The bank statement at end of February was £45917.08. We currently have approx £1500 to pay out and approx £1500 to bring in from sales.</p>	
7.	<p>Reports</p>	
7.1	<p>President</p> <p>Dear friends,</p> <p>I am truly sorry not to be with you today.</p> <p>The number and variety of functions attended, since my last report to you, are too numerous to mention, but I would firstly say that I have been performing from Aberdeen to Berwick on Tweed, Edinburgh to Greenock and as far west as Georgia in the USA.</p> <p>The visits made to each and every place, have been wonderful times and I would firstly like I to say a big "thank you" to all who have invited me and to thank you for your kindness and hospitality.</p> <p>I have been given the privilege of visiting parts of Scotland which I otherwise might never have been to, which has been a reminder to me of what a truly beautiful country we live in.</p> <p>I have also been given the privilege of meeting so many wonderful people, members and guests at your clubs, for the various functions and witnessing first hand, how very much alive is the spirit of Robert Burns and the unceasing devotion by thousands of people to learning and performing his works. We may, from time to time, concern ourselves about the Federation, but, believe me, we need never concern ourselves that interest in Burns or</p>	

his work is waning in Scotland or elsewhere in the world.

There have been some unique and unforgettable experiences though which I would like briefly to share with you.

A visit with Isa, to the Douglas Ewart High School in Newton Stewart, to present prizes to pupils of that school with special needs, was one of the most rewarding and touching experiences of my life.

My all expenses paid (by the Americans...by the way) trip to Georgia where I:

- gave the Immortal Memory for the St Andrews Society of Atlanta
- visited Oglethorpe University, saw their collection of Burns books and presented them with a facsimile copy of the Kilmarnock Edition.
- visited the Martin Luther King Memorial, to pay my personal respects and where I sang "The Slaves Lament". The curator and staff were in disbelief that a white man, especially a Scot, could put into words, the pain and sorrow felt by the transported slaves.

Down then to Savannah, where again I was giving the Immortal Memory to the Savannah St Andrew Society, formed in.....wait for it, 1737, yes 1737. During the day, which was in fact the 25th January, I made an appearance on the local TV station where I was interviewed for 15 minutes by Savannah's answer to Morecombe and Wise. In the afternoon, I gave a talk at a secondary school to 200 5th and 6th year students, who were very attentive and threw some interesting questions to me at the Q and A session at the end. They have been persuaded to set up a Burns competition next year in their school and we are currently in negotiation with the school, to give them all the help we can, to promote this in their city.

Back to Atlanta again, where Mac Irvin was my host and he had me up at the crack of dawn the next day giving a talk at his church to a businessmen's breakfast club at 7.30 in the morning.....

The Burns Club of Atlanta held their supper in the Burns Cottage, to which I know many of you have been, but when the tables are set, the candles are burning and a buzz of expectation swirls round the room, it is an unforgettable experience for anyone present and a setting where Burns, had he walked in, would have felt right at home.

In each and every place I visited, I presented certificates of appreciation signed by Alison and myself and I can assure you, these were very much appreciated by our American friends, who put so much effort into their respective events and whose love for the works and life of Burns are as strong as ours here in Scotland.

I attended a wonderful event in Aberdeen organised by Helena Anderson-Wright, where again, our young prize-winners from last year put on a great show.

Down in Dumfries I was invited by the Ladies Club on 14th February, so for them I did a program of the love songs of Burns and one lovely member came up to me afterwards and said....." That wis better than getting' a Valentine caird.....!"

In Glasgow, I witnessed the revival of GDBCA school completion along with Isa and Gordon Jamieson, (secretary of EDBCA). Well done to Bob McDonald for getting this going again and it will be a delight to see some youngsters from Glasgow compete in the national finals.

My last performance was down in Eyemouth where a supper was being held by H M Coastguard. This was a night I shall remember for a long time as they, and their guests from the ambulance service, police service and fire brigade, were all men who every day of their working career, put their own lives at risk rescuing people. There was a wonderful other

	<p>performer called Bruce who sang “A man’s a man for a’ that” accompanied on a home-made banjo, the base of which was made from an old tin of “BASSETT’S LIQUORICE ALLSORTS”</p> <p>For me, as your president, this has been the most wonderful Burns Season in my life and I hope that everywhere I travelled in this capacity, I represented to the best of my ability, all the good things that we, in the Federation stand for.</p>	
7.2	<p>Chief Executive</p> <p>It’s been a hectic few months, but in a good way, with lots of membership renewals (and arrears being paid), an even greater number of applications for school certificates than last year (we’ve had to reorder certificates twice!!) and various orders for stock items and supplies for Burns Suppers (£4355 invoiced)</p> <p>Unfortunately I have to report that Shirley Bell is unwell. After losing her sister recently, Shirley then contracted flu and a chest infection which really laid her low and, just this week, doctors have found a DVT in her leg.</p> <p>We have been unsuccessful in securing funding from Scottish Government. They are encouraging us to apply for core funding through Creative Scotland. Their core funding stream opens in April with a 12-week lead time so it will be at least August before a decision is made and funding received, IF we are successful (although previously we have not qualified under Scottish Arts Council criteria).</p> <p>Business Gateway</p> <p>Currently working with Business Gateway to update RBWF business plan, as required when applying for funding. BG are also helping us create a Marketing Strategy, again, as expected by funders.</p> <p>We have secured £2,000 through BG for our website update.</p> <p>Diary events:</p> <p>25th Jan – Kilmarnock College – my Young Enterprise team were making and selling ‘Burns’ smoothies</p> <p>28th Jan – Humanitarian Awards</p> <p>I was delighted to attend the Robert Burns Humanitarian Awards ceremony at RBBM. The well-deserving winner was Karen Graham, a Scots nurse, originally from Clydebank and now matron/nursing services manager at the Oil Clinic in Tripoli, who risked her life to treat patients from both sides of the Libyan civil war, with little regard for her own personal safety.</p> <p>29th Jan – Wreath laying ceremony, Irvine Burns Club</p> <p>10th Feb – Past Presidents Burns Lunch</p> <p>11th Feb – Irvine Lasses Burns Supper</p> <p>23rd Feb – Margarett Bryan, Beggs of Ayr, re potential sales items for lady Burnsians</p> <p>1st Mar – SCDI (Scottish Council for Development & Industry) AGM and subsequent meeting with a view to RBWF joining as members – awaiting proposal from SCDI. Approx £250 membership fee. Benefits to RBWF include overseas trade missions, networking opportunities, influencers events, etc.</p> <p>Forthcoming:</p>	

	<p>20th Mar – Boyd Tunnock 21st Mar – Kilmarnock Howff Club Cloutie Dumpling event 27th Mar – Liz Foster, RSCDS 29th Mar – Lord Provost retiral Edinburgh 6th – 13th April – plan to be on holiday (Dower House closed 6th & 9th)</p> <p>Letter drafted, to be sent to all schools who have applied for competition certificates this year, inviting them to membership.</p> <p>On display, borrowed from Grange Academy Kilmarnock, a model of the printing press which produced Burns Kilmarnock Edition – this is one of Grange Academy’s Young Enterprise projects.</p>	
<p>7.3</p>	<p>Conference – David Baird No report submitted.</p>	
<p>7.4</p>	<p>Literature – Mike Duguid Chronicle</p> <p>A small sub-committee had been set up to examine possible changes to the format and frequency of the Chronicle. The group met in Edinburgh on 29th February and the main outcome of the meeting was to recommend a study to examine the feasibility of having an annual Chronicle supplemented by a new-style magazine along the lines of the <i>Scottish Local History</i> publication produced by the Scottish Local History Forum. This group has a similar membership to the Federation and members receive 3 copies per annum as part of their subscription. However, additional copies are printed for sale at selected retail outlets such as the National Library</p> <p>This suggestion of a revised format for the Chronicle represents a radical departure from the present situation and needs to be properly researched, not least to establish the funding implications. No change to the present format of 3 Chronicles per year was envisaged before the end of 2013 at the earliest but preparatory work needed to start soon even to meet that timescale.</p> <p>Digitisation</p> <p>There was general agreement that having the scanned Chronicles in a single searchable archive was considered essential to the success of the digitization project. It needed to be more than just an electronic version of the paper copy. In the ideal situation with one keystroke the user should be able to access information about a particular topic drawn automatically from the database of all the Chronicles. So, for example, on typing ‘Ellisland’ all articles about the farm or articles mentioning the farm would appear. This would make the database an invaluable research tool for scholars throughout the world and help raise the profile of the Federation.</p>	

	<p>Questionnaire</p> <p>The Convenor had compiled an online version of the questionnaire and although it contained some flaws the 115 responses still gave useful feedback on members' thoughts and ideas. One of the main reasons for the questionnaire was to get feedback on the type of articles members wanted to see in the Chronicle.</p> <p>Perhaps not surprisingly, the highest rating average was for academic articles on the life and works of Burns. In other words most want to see the Chronicle as a highly regarded publication which features the best of writers airing their views and sharing the results of their research into the poet's life and works and other relevant topics.</p> <p>The second highest rating was for members wishing to see contact details of clubs and associations. Perhaps the website could better fulfil this requirement although issues of data protection would have to be addressed.</p> <p>Next highest was news from clubs and associations and details of forthcoming events. Again, the website can certainly complement this aspect of the Chronicle.</p> <p>The lowest rating was for quizzes so perhaps should appear only occasionally as a stocking-filler rather than as a regular feature.</p> <p>The next lowest rating was for articles in the Scots language which might seem ironic for an organization which has as one of its objectives the promotion of the Scots language. This is a particularly interesting result which deserves further investigation. It would seem to confirm what is known as the <i>Pinkerton Syndrome</i>. John Pinkerton (1758-1826) was an English poet and historian but a real Celtophobe and he wrote that while "none can more sincerely wish a total extinction of the Scottish colloquial dialect than I do," because Scotticisms are "barbarisms," "Yet, I believe, no man of either kingdom would wish an extinction of the Scottish dialect in poetry"</p> <p>The third lowest rating was for a Bairns' Section. This would seem to confirm that we need to find a different way on engaging the younger generation.</p>	
<p>7.5</p>	<p>Editor – Bill Dawson</p> <p>I have been greatly disappointed by the level of submission I have received this last period. I circulated a request for reports etc. to our entire database, but have received only a handful of responses with details of celebrations and commemorations. It is your Chronicle and newsletter; you have to provide the content if that is what you want published.</p> <p>The next edition is well in hand, some content is with the printer and the bulk of the remainder is ready to go. The person who sets our pages at the printer is off work otherwise we would be further advanced. A return to work is expected on Monday after which I will have a clearer idea of when the issue will be published.</p> <p>I repeat my request for contributions of all shapes and form, in electronic format please. A question was asked about the deadline for the next edition, I responded that this had</p>	

	passed some time ago.	
7.6	<p>Archivist – John Haining</p> <p>Have had numerous enquiries sent to me via Alison which have all been satisfactorily dealt with.</p> <p>About 4 weeks ago I received a box containing books bequeathed to the Federation by the late Frank Campbell from Canada. The majority of books were Burns Chronicles and all of recent origin which we already had in stock at Kilmarnock. The remainder were common or garden Burns books in wide circulation. The sole book of illustrations is held at the library at Kilmarnock. There was no book of outstanding monetary or cultural value. I e-mailed Frank Campbell Jnr at Canada to thank him for sending his late father's books to the Federation.</p> <p>About 2 weeks ago Alison asked if I would call at a firm of solicitors at Glasgow as they had possession of Burnsiana that was bequeathed to the Federation by Mrs Janet Binks and Miss Mary E Thomson, both of Rutherglen, both of whom are now deceased grand-children of Betty Burns who herself was the result of the union between Anna Park (Globe Inn) and Robert Burns.</p> <p>I travelled to the solicitor's office where I was handed the Thomson family Bible; 4 volumes of the Gilfillan Burns; a small book entitled "Views in North Britain Illustrative of the World of Robert Burns", printed 1805 in London, engravers James Storer and John Greig; John Thomson, discharge Army certificate dated 1814, signed by him; numerous lawyers letters and Genealogy Charts and a portrait of Betty Burns. There were also 2 framed certificates in the names of Mrs Janet McCutcheon Binks and Miss Mary Elizabeth Thomson dated 7 March 2002 indicating that they were Life Members of Rutherglen Burns Club.</p> <p>Personnel from the firm of Robert McTear, auctioneers at Glasgow, have examined the portrait and placed a value of circa £1000. However, if we could establish who the painter was, perhaps we could have an extremely valuable painting on our hands.</p> <p>Jim Shields and I have discussed this matter and Jim tells me that he has a contact at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh, and I hope I can meet with this person quite soon.</p> <p>My immediate intention is to write an article for the next issue of the Chronicle so that we have a record of these articles in our possession and, thereafter, they will be kept in storage at Kilmarnock.</p> <p>Some time ago, I came into possession of Ridgeway pottery all depicting various scenes connected with Robert Burns, i.e. Burns Themes. I took the Ridgeway to Robert McTear's at Glasgow where I was told that Ridgeway was not so much in fashion or collectable for a number of years. The lady concerned, whom I later learned was a pottery, textile expert, valued the collection at circa £100. I made some further enquiry at e-bay where there were dozens of pieces of Ridgeway, all depicting a Robert Burns theme, on sale for small sums.</p> <p>I waited a few months to see if the situation would change but to no avail. Last week I again took them to Robert McTear's and this time a different lady put exactly the same valuation</p>	

	<p>on the set. However, she cautioned me by saying the valuation was no guarantee that the sum would be achieved. The Ridgeway is up for sale on 29 March 2012 at Robert McTear's and you can view the catalogue and bid online which, I understand, is how many of the Auctioneer Houses do their business these days.</p>	
<p>7.7</p>	<p>Website – Cameron Goodall</p> <p>The website as it stands at the moment is a more attractive advert for the federation than was the case last year, but nonetheless it serves little other purpose to the federation at present. Its main benefit up to now has been in the harvesting of details of individuals interested in Burns. Around 5 individuals a month are presently engaging with the federation by this means. Thus far we have attracted fresh interest in the federation from around 50 individuals presently pursuing their interest outwith our organisation. In time, it's projected that 20% can be converted to members.</p> <p>In order to maintain the website at its present quality, it is necessary to consistently refresh the material on it. I have already fallen behind in the production of the Song and Poem of the Month series, mostly because my own computer at present is creaking with age a little. I have recently bought a new Mac and hope to get up to speed fairly quickly, though transition has not been as smooth as I'd hoped. Executive members are enjoined to actively seek keen Burnsians to commit to producing new material for the series. They are also strongly encouraged to think how they can present their own news for inclusion on the site.</p> <p>Three major developments are planned to upscale the website in terms of functionality and usefulness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a store - a social network application - a digitised, searchable archive of the Burns Chronicle. <p>I was aiming to have the store live by the end of the month of March, however lack of digital images of stock and prices may foil this attempt [The Chief Executive had a CD of images at the meeting, however I failed to pick them up prior to the end of the meeting]. As there will be a cost entailed in selling the stock online, new price points will have to be set for the stock, which should not be undersold in physical sales. There has been a little discussion over the best payment gateway. It may be expedient in the first instance to simply use PayPal, for which we shall have to create a federation PayPal account. As PayPal have punitive rates for withdrawing funds from PayPal, it is recommended that where possible, the Chief Executive identifies services which can be paid using PayPal. Sage Pay is another gateway worthy of review, should Internet marketing prove to be worth pursuing.</p> <p>The social network application will be a Burns specific facebook type app allowing Burnsians a great level of interaction, and allowing clubs to set up their own pages on the RBWF site. The benefit to the RBWF is the demographic information to be gleaned and the enhanced possibility to promote individual membership of the Federation to a much wider audience.</p> <p>The Burns Chronicle has a long record as the premium vehicle for Burns Scholarship and throughout its history has carried a great wealth of Burnslore within its pages. It would be of inestimable value to all future generations to have this information online and searchable</p>	

	<p>and would democratise a wealth of information to Burnsians great and small. Whilst the work could be done piecemeal as a labour of love by the literature committee, it is estimated that such an undertaking would take 10-15 years to complete. Far preferable would be to either a., pay to have the work done offsite or b., purchase the necessary equipment and make suitable payments to our own people to assure timely completion. I have a strong preference for b., as I perceive fringe benefits for the federation, to which we will have the equipment for future similar enterprises and perhaps to lease to other organisations and more importantly in the scanning and OCRing of the chronicle by interested individuals, articles of curiosity are bound to come to light that can be developed to the benefit of the website, the modern day chronicle and ultimately the Burns community at large.</p> <p>A thorough costing of the website has now been sent to the Chief Executive. It is recommended that the running cost of the site is reviewed at least annually to ensure it provides value for money. It is also essential that legal ownership of the site is transferred to the federation as soon as practicable. In the short term, it is practical for ownership to rest with the webmaster as the mechanics of the site, not just the content, is in flux, but once this situation stabilises we must make the changeover a priority.</p>	
7.8	<p>Marketing – Murdo Morrison</p> <p>The Minutes of the last meeting of the Marketing Committee held on Saturday the 19th November 2011 were accepted as a true and correct record on the motion of Jane Brown seconded by David Hannah. Matters arising would be reflected in the agenda for the meeting for today.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Robert Burns World Federation Web Site was available for viewing and at present to be considered as “work under progress” The Web Site was being developed as an essential tool for all aspects of the Federation and an update would be made at the afternoon’s Executive meeting. 2. A comprehensive discussion ensued to review the position of various items held in stock at Dower House. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Blazer Pocket Badges - These are in stock and the initial 25 are either sold or out on a sale or return basis with three retained at Dower House. - Comment was made about only having black background which. The cost of alternative appropriate colours would be investigated. - In the Globe Inn Dumfries through the good offices of Jane Brown there was a showcase with various Federation items on display and this generated regular sales. - Sales of all available stock needs the assistance and involvement of Clubs and Alison Tait has secured the services of a professional photographer to compile a comprehensive Product List. This will be on A5 format and will be distributed in a future mail shot. Identical information to be inserted on the Web site and also in the Burns Chronicle. - Laminated Table Mats. The artwork is available for reproduction. Due to circumstances outwith our control this item has not yet been progressed to production level. Hopefully action will be forthcoming very soon. - Burns Federation Song Books. Now at a depleted level and requiring reprinting. Costs for this require to be established as the former printer is no longer in operation. Quotations to be obtained from Solway Offset or other reliable source. - The Deltiology Book. This has served a good purpose for the Federation but considered not to be a viable reprint candidate. 	

-The Homecoming Chronicle. An assessment of the income and expenditure for this publication requires to be completed. Existing stocks of over 250 require to be disposed of as they are now becoming very dated. A decision on their final destinations has to be made and it is recommended that they are either incorporated in to future School prizes in the main Competition or sold off at a reduced rate.

- **Mackay's History of the Federation.** Retain without reprint and sell at £5 per copy.

- **Surplus stocks.** To be included in information to Clubs with prices.

- **Tea Towels.** Proving popular and a stock is being maintained.

- **Mugs.** A new sample mug from the suppliers of the Tea Towels was viewed but the cost of £4.00 (with a minimum order stipulation of 36 mugs) to the Federation did not leave much room for a profit margin and the proposal was rejected. It was felt that an equivalent quality could be obtained for a much lower price.

- **Appropriate items for Ladies.** There has been an ongoing request for items/materials to be made available. Contact has been made with Beggs of Ayr a reputable national and international quality manufacturer of a wide spectrum of merchandise. A range of Scarves, Stoles, Throws, Travel Rugs in wool and cashmere were available. Some items would lend themselves to an overprint or embroidery of the Federation Logo. The wholesale prices were very attractive and further investigation would be made to fine tune on items and costs.

3 - **The Christmas Fayre** hosted by the Council of East Ayrshire was offering a selling opportunity to the Federation. A few days before the event and when all the Federation plans for staffing and stocking were in hand it was indicated that there was a requirement to provide a public liability insurance for the event. The cover required was for £5 Million and the cost of this policy would be far in excess of any anticipated profits for the day. The Federation withdrew from the event and it is understood that at least two other organisations re-acted in the same way.

4- **Big Burns Supper event.** Jane Brown would ascertain the possibility of selling Federation materials at this event next year and would approach the Arts Council with this proposal

5- **Ties.** Federation Burns Check ties are available for £10 and this is 50 per cent cheaper than elsewhere.

6- **Marketing Strategy.** Through contacts at Business Gateway a Marketing Strategy will be developed. A sample of the basic background information was circulated. This was taken as a very positive step for the future of Marketing and would be an essential element for future funding applications.

7 **Inherited Items.** Information was given about Ridgeway crockery and other items which had been donated to the Federation. Some of these items would not generate much financial return but the amounts would be known after the auction sale on 29th March at McTears premises.

8 **Recognition Certificates.** It was suggested that an appropriate Federation certificate could be prepared to be sent to persons nominated as worthy recipients. The costs and wording and monitoring would have to be developed further.

9 **Federation Calendar.** There was an opportunity for a Calendar with Burns pictures and costings were awaited.

10 **Possible Contact with Guinness.** The year of Robert Burns birth (1759) is much used by Guinness (Now Diageo) Jane Brown will find out if there is any merit in pursuing the connection for any financial benefits which may be obtained either via sponsorship or other support.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

7.9	<p>Schools – Isa Hanley Isa Hanley, Schools Convener, welcomed everyone to the meeting and as this was Graham Hill's first meeting he was welcomed and introduced to the other members of the committee.</p> <p>A3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 19/11/2011</p> <p>Amendment P2 A6 Item 6.5 The venue was Grand Hall Kilmarnock not Gravehall. Following this amendment the minutes were approved by Margaret Skilling and Seconded by Anne Gaw.</p> <p>A4. MATTERS ARISING NOT ON AGENDA - Nil</p> <p>A5. NATIONAL FESTIVALS Secondary School Competition 21/04/2012 CULTS ACADEMY ABERDEEN AB15 9TP Primary School Competition 28/04/2012 CULTS ACADEMY ABERDEEN AB15 9TP Choral Competition 12/05/2012 ARMADALE ACADEMY EH48 3LY</p> <p>5.1 Rules/Entry Forms for 2012 Festivals Following discussion it was agreed only to ask competitors for copies of poetry P4/5 who are not reciting Burns poems. If an extract, the exact lines should be indicated. The adjudicator should still have a copy of music for singing and Instrumental, but not for bagpipes. If official accompanist is required please provide extra copy of music. Entries should have been in yesterday and will be accepted by end of month. LABC will submit theirs after competition on 27/3/12 and Fife following their competition on 19/3/12.</p> <p>Following discussion it was suggested if it is not Burns Song being sung or played by instrument the original book music and copy for official accompanist should be on the premises and photocopies destroyed after the competition. The same might apply to poems which are not Burns poems. This will be researched and professional advice sought.</p> <p>Isa informed committee Tunnock's sponsor money for the first year has been received by RBWF.</p> <p>5.2 National Primary & Secondary Festivals Cults Academy, Quarry Road, Cults, Aberdeen AB15 9TP Isa Hanley, Bob Stewart, Helena Anderson-Wright & Aberdeen Burns Club have everything in hand for both Festivals. Catering, Adjudicators, Accompanist, First Aid, etc</p> <p>The Enlightenment Exhibition will be on display. There will be a Guess the Panda's Birthday raffle and monies raised will go to RBWF.</p> <p>A6. CHORAL FESTIVAL 12/05/2012 ARMADALE ACADEMY WEST END ARMADALE BATHGATE EH48 3LY Karen McPhail confirmed the premises have been booked from 10.30am – 3pm and West Lothian Education Authority are providing a free let and bottled water for the competitors</p>	

and RBWF will provide them with crisps. The RBWF has dealt with the Liability Insurance. Karen will arrange the Adjudicators, Accompanist, Stewards etc. Isa will organise the programmes. It was also agreed that Karen McPhail should be asked to invite West Lothian to send in a third choir this year.

A7. LOCAL SCHOOLS COMPETITION COMMUNICATIONS

Isa Hanley, RBWF Schools Convener, introduced the discussion by stating that in the majority of areas the local schools were notified of competitions via The Education Authority. She had been approached by Biggar and Airdrie to ask why they did not hear anything about the Federation competitions locally.

The Lanarkshire Schools Convener outlined how competitions were currently run under the auspices of local Burns Clubs and a Rotary Club. Following further discussion, and some suggestions from other delegates, the LABC Convener stated she will further research the matter and follow up the requests and make every effort to widen the Lanarkshire Competition. The subject had to be held in abeyance and no conclusion was made due to shortage of time.

Another difficulty highlighted was that of cross-bordering competitions. It was proposed and Seconded and unanimously carried that children from one area should not be represented in another area as this goes against the rules of the RBWF. On this occasion the school involved should be advised they are not allowed to enter the competition – Isa to inform local Schools Convener.

Another difficulty highlighted was that Renfrew & Inverclyde have no representative on Schools Committee – Isa to pursue with George Grant who is currently co-ordinating role locally.

A.8 COLLECTION OF TROPHIES

Everyone was reminded to bring the trophies for both festivals. The Lanarkshire Convener reported the McMillan P6/7 Overall Reader Trophy has gone missing despite all efforts having been made to trace same. Following discussion, Anne Gaw offered a replacement Quaich which was unanimously accepted. She will bring same to the festival.

A.9 ROTA DUTIES

9.1 Duty Rotas

A copy of rota will be kept at registration desk – Helen Morrison and Isa Hanley will co-ordinate changes on the day. Committee Members availability requested.

Non Availability on 21/4/2012

Kay Blair	Karen McPhail	Substitute Gordon Thomson & Alex Stein
Anne Gaw	John Paterson	
Graham Galbraith	Graham Hill	

Non availability on 28/4/2012

? Anne Gaw		
Graham Galbraith	John Paterson	
Bob McDonald		
Karen McPhail	Substitute Gordon Thomson & Alex Stein	

	<p>A.10 Website There was no time to discuss this.</p> <p>A11 Learning and Teaching Scotland Karen McPhail did make contact with LTS but has had no response from them. Graham Hill offered to pursue this.</p> <p>A12 In-school certificates Alison Tait, CEO, deals with requests as she gets them - she has had them re-printed twice because of demand.</p> <p>A13 OVERSEAS NATIONAL LITERATURE REPORT MARCH 2012 Helen provided a written update and made available a file containing Elizabeth Clark's report on visit to St Petersburg which contained photos of some of the highlights of the visit. There was no time available to speak to the report.</p> <p>A.14 PROJECT COMPETITIONS 14.1 Isa and Willie Gibson visited the school in Dumbarton and the Board have to be asked if the project can include S1/2 in future competitions. 14.2 Margaret Skilling reported she had received 61 Primary and 6 Secondary Art entries.</p> <p>15. AOCB 15.1 LABC Schools Competition Clydevalley High School Castlehill Rd Wishaw M12 OLS 6PM on Tuesday 27th March 2012</p> <p>Kay Blair, LABC Schools Convener invited Isa and any members of committee to attend above. The Sponsor of RBWF Schools Festival, Mr Tunnock, will be in attendance.</p> <p>16. DATE/VENUE OF NEXT MEETING 23/06/2012 Dalziel St Andrews High Church Hall, Motherwell , Lanarkshire.</p>	
7.10	<p>Heritage – David Miller (in absence of Convener Walter Watson) Trysting Thorn; John Skilling tabled photographs which highlighted the dangerous condition of the road and area around the Trysting Thorn. No reply has yet been received from Mrs Helen Gage of the Coyllon Village Re-union Committee, however, there was general consensus that we should take up the offer of a safer site being offered by a local farmer and to look into the possibility of taking a cutting of the existing Thorn and propagating same for planting in the new position, re-locating the railings and plaque when it is in position. John Skilling highlighted that existing Thorn was thought to be a cutting from the original Trysting Thorn.</p> <p>Burns and Highland Mary Statue, Bathgate; Walter Watson had reported that he had not, as yet, re-visited the studio, however, he believed that the work was progressing well. Walter had also raised the matter of trying to convince the Council to house the statue inside a building, however, during the Executive Meeting later in the day Bill Dawson was able to report that the statue was completed and was now on site.</p>	

Highland Mary Statue, Greenock;

No report had been received from Elza and so this item was continued to the next meeting.

Burns Statue, Paisley;

No report at this meeting.

Plinth and Flower Beds at the Dower House;

Walter Watson is now following up the proposal to replace the plaque with one made from stainless steel. Method of fixing to be discussed further.

Alison Tait requested that a quotation was sought as she had a route for possible funding.

Walter has been discussing with the Council the replanting of the rose beds at Dower House where the Jean Armour Rose has not flourished as expected although the Robert Burns Rose had fared better. Funding of the replanting may fall to the Federation and this is also being discussed.

Burns Statue, Dumfries;

David Miller reported that plans are being developed by the Council to refurbish the environs around the statue. A large sum of money is being reported as having been put in place. First indications are that the planting will be pulled away from the statue, however, there does not at this time appear to be plans to move the bus stops.

Burns Statue, Timaru, New Zealand

Following vandalism which resulted in the statue being damaged Walter Watson reported that he is monitoring the situation through a family member living close by. During the Executive Meeting Bill Dawson was able to report that the head has been found and repairs are going to be arranged.

Burns Monument, Ayr

John Skilling tabled photographs indicating the serious deterioration of plasterwork and decoration. John reminded the meeting that when the Monument Trust handed over the Monument to the National Trust it also handed over a large sum of money which could have been used for maintenance. He referred back to correspondence with Nat Edwards at the National Trust for Scotland but highlighted that the National Trust had many places on which to spend their money and as such the Monument was just one of many projects to be considered.

Burns Mausoleum, Dumfries

David Miller reported that the eagerly awaited refurbishment of the Mausoleum was about to start, including substantial repairs and decoration, removal of the unsightly metal ramp, new paving around the structure and including the addition of a copper roof.

OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

During the Executive Committee Meeting Bob Stewart reported on the centenary of the Montrose Statue where the Federation has been invited to have an input at the ceremony on 11th August 2012. Bob reported that it had been Andrew Carnegie who had dedicated the statue at the original ceremony.

	DATE OF NEXT MEETING 23 rd June 2012 - Motherwell																																														
7.11	<p>200 Club – Alison Tait The 200 Club is now a 145 Club and the draw took place to bring it up-to-date. Alison thanked Jane for her help with the draw – results as follows:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Dec-11</td> <td>1st prize</td> <td>£43.50</td> <td>40</td> <td>Thomas MacFarlane</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2nd prize</td> <td>£21.75</td> <td>13</td> <td>Liverpool Burns Club</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan-12</td> <td>1st prize</td> <td>£43.50</td> <td>119</td> <td>Bob Stewart</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2nd prize</td> <td>£21.75</td> <td>60</td> <td>Aberdeen Burns Club</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Feb-12</td> <td>1st prize</td> <td>£43.50</td> <td>107</td> <td>John & Margaret Skilling</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2nd prize</td> <td>£21.75</td> <td>190</td> <td>Elaine Whitehead</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mar-12</td> <td>Quarterly Prize</td> <td>£108.75</td> <td>184</td> <td>Dumfries Ladies Burns Club</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1st prize</td> <td>£43.50</td> <td>163</td> <td>Margaret Hopkin</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2nd prize</td> <td>£21.75</td> <td>65</td> <td>Isa Hanley</td> </tr> </table>	Dec-11	1st prize	£43.50	40	Thomas MacFarlane		2nd prize	£21.75	13	Liverpool Burns Club	Jan-12	1st prize	£43.50	119	Bob Stewart		2nd prize	£21.75	60	Aberdeen Burns Club	Feb-12	1st prize	£43.50	107	John & Margaret Skilling		2nd prize	£21.75	190	Elaine Whitehead	Mar-12	Quarterly Prize	£108.75	184	Dumfries Ladies Burns Club		1st prize	£43.50	163	Margaret Hopkin		2nd prize	£21.75	65	Isa Hanley	
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7.12	<p>Overseas – Alison Tait (on behalf of May Crawley, Mac Irvin & Jim O'Lone)</p> <p>Canada – May Crawley President Jim and All, January saw the customary Burns Events, large and small. My January mailing re."Greetings to Clubs/Individual Members in Canada" elicited many replies. I was especially pleased with the reply from Medicine Hat Burns Club, one of our newer Members, which included their Burns Supper Programme and also asked others if they would share their Programmes. I'm encouraging Clubs to respond to that request. Also circulated our Webmaster's request for info from Clubs to produce a "World Map". Alex and I attended the St. Andrew Socy of Sarasota (Florida) Burns Supper. The late Frank Campbell was a member of the Society and co-founder of its Burns Club. Their Programme began with a Tribute to Frank written by one of their members which mentioned his membership in the Federation and R.B.A.N.A. and included an excerpt from a "Tribute to the Bard", penned by Frank in 2008. At my request, President Jim sent a letter from the Federation which was very well received by the guests. We are looking forward to the R.B.A.N.A. Conference to be held in Williamsburg April 27-29th. At time of writing the following U.K. Members of the Federation will be attending:- Past Pres. Jim and Eileen Robertson, P.P. Bill Dawson and P.P. Mike and Pat Duguid. You don't have to be a P.P. to register! The deadline is April 1st, contact Jim Cunningham at tel.519-894-6366 or e-mail jcunnin@golden.net. Williamsburg is an Historic town situated in a very lovely part of the U.S.A. and a very warm welcome awaits you. With every good wish for a productive meeting, Respectfully submitted, May Crawley, Director for Canada.</p> <p>U.S.A. – Mac Irvin</p>																																														

	<p>The Burns season in the Southeastern U.S. was benefitted by Pres. Jim's strong representation of the Federation. He delivered the Immortal Memory in Atlanta twice, to the Atlanta club and to the St Andrews Society. In between those presentations, Jim delivered the Immortal Memory at the Savannah, GA St Andrews Burns Night Dinner. He ventured off the Burns course with a presentation to a robust Breakfast group I chair; Jim's presentation was entitled a Journey through Scotland in verse and song. Jim represented the Federation in an A+ fashion and did his best for marketing by distributing applications for individual membership.</p> <p>I have communicated with several other clubs that experienced another successful Burns season.</p> <p>I want to commend Alison for following up with an individual member with whom I have communicated. This particular person experienced some communication difficulty (of his own making because of inexperience in phoning Scotland). Alison and I exchanged emails to resolve the problem and I think that all is well with this new member who also ordered some items. This illustrates how difficult it is to operate globally (the individual has no Internet access), certainly something I experienced from the other end when I chaired the AGM and many in Scotland were frustrated in attempting to use telephonic and snail mail avenues. Fortunately statistics show that digital access will be almost universal within a decade, making communications less expensive and more reliable as the Federation attempts to thrive as a global organization.</p> <p>I am planning on attending the RBANA meeting in Virginia during April and look forward to renewing contact and friendships with those who will attend.</p> <p>Pacific Rim – Jim O'Lone I'm pleased to say the Fremantle Burns Club had 149 people attending our Burns Nicht in the Esplanade Hotel Fremantle on Saturday 11th, some from Argentina, Spain, China and Malaysia (O how I wish all attending would become members, I'll just keep trying). We had the Coastal Scottish Pipe Band performing for 20 minutes plus the Heel and Toe Ceilidh Band raising the roof with some Burns and traditional Scottish songs. The nicht drove on with songs and clatter. To our President Jim, "the wind did blow high, but the kilts were kept low." The Bendigo Burns Club, Robert Burns Club of Melbourne and the Robert Burns of South Australia all had very good Burns nights with slightly lower attendances but quality is better than quantity. The clubs from New Zealand will hopefully become members of The Pacific Rim, I'm waiting on feedback from our Secretary (Bev) in Melbourne, will keep you updated.</p>	
7.13	<p>Association Representatives</p> <p>Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs – Margaret Skilling December meeting cancelled due to inclement weather. February meeting hosted by Prestwick Burns Club with 30 representatives in attendance. In addition to normal business, the organisation of the AABC Annual Quiz to be hosted by Kilbirnie Rosebury Burns Club in the Garnock Social Club on 28 March 2012. For past 5 years the Association has not had a dedicated Secy with Past president J Thomson</p>	

and current President L Richardson carrying out the duties and, after discussion on this, a new Hon Secy was appointed, James Waite of Barrmill Jolly Beggars Burns Club. Contact details will be circulated in due course.

AABC Schools competition took place on Saturday 3 March 2012 in Kilmarnock Academy. Recent years have seen a drop off in entries but thanks to sterling work by M Skilling and her sub-committee this year we had over 130 competitors taking part. 350 seats set out but more were needed due to the interest show by parents and well wishers.

Next meeting to be hosted by Irvine Burns Club in Wellwood Irvine on 12 May 2012 at 7.30 pm.

Borders Association – Murray Henderson

No report received

Edinburgh Association of Burns Clubs – Cameron Goodall

On the 23rd of November 2011 the EDBCA attended the annual St Andrews Celebration Service in St Giles Cathedral. The Association was headed by Ian Chisholm President of the EDBCA., they joined other members of the World Federation for the Service; there were a total of 21 members of the Federation attending.

On the 22nd January 2012 the EDBCA held their annual Wreath Laying Ceremony within the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, 1 Queen Street, Edinburgh. Guitar playing Cameron Goodall singing "There was a Lad" started the Ceremony off. The secretary welcomed the guests and friends and the EDBCA president gave an interesting history of the Ceremony. The invited Guests then laid their Wreaths at the base of the Flaxman Statue. The guests included Fiona Hislop on behalf of the Scottish Government, The Depute Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Robert Stewart Senior Vice President of the World Federation, The National Trust for Scotland, Scottish Freemasonry, East and Mid Lothian Provosts offices and James Holloway Director of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. The President of the EDBCA then presented James Holloway with a framed memento for his kindness and support over the years and wished him a long and happy retirement. After a short adjournment and refreshment, the party were given a short tour of the Gallery.

On the 3rd of March the EDBCA held their annual Primary Schools Festival within Tyncastle High School, Edinburgh, with entrants from 14 Schools taking part. The entrants winning first and second places in each group have the opportunity to go forward to the National Finals. Jim Shields the World President presented the prizes. The overall Winners were Anne Bowes for verse, Charlotte Murdoch for Singing, and Alistair McWhirter for Instrumentals.

Fife Association of Burns Clubs – Frank Sandeman

No report received

Glasgow Association of Burns Clubs – George Anderson

No report received

Grampian Association of Burns Clubs – Helena Anderson-Wright

No report received

Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs – Kay Blair

No report received

	<p>Renfrewshire & Inverclyde Association of Burns Clubs – Allister Anderson No report received</p> <p>Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association – Jane Brown No report received</p> <p>Yorkshire Association of Burns Clubs – David Hannah No report received</p>	
8.	<p>Applications for Membership</p> <p>Individual Membership Mr James Taylor, 3 St Olave Place, Cruden Bay, AB42 0HQ Mr D W Ward, Flat 5, 21 Millbrook Road, Bedford, MK42 9HJ Mr Andrew F McMillan, 18 East Kilbride Road, Burnside, G73 5EB Mr Walter Findlay, 54 Kinloch Avenue, Stewarton, KA3 3HQ</p> <p>Family Membership Mr & Mrs John & Agnes Duncan, 17 Woodlands Avenue, Lanark, ML11 9FF Mr & Mrs Jim & Patricia Leslie, 72 Sutherland Way, East Kilbride, G74 3DL</p> <p>Club Membership The Stick Lum Street Burns Club No.2096</p> <p>Corporate Membership None</p> <p>School Kyiv School N.56 (Ukraine)</p> <p>Re-Affiliation The Fife Association of Burns Clubs No.1136</p>	
9.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>Murdo Morrison stated he was delighted re input from all the Associations, this was a vital part of the Federation and he urged all involved to contact their local radio stations and media outlets to keep Burns and the Federation in the public eye.</p> <p>Ayr Burns Club request for Dansarena to produce Tam O’Shanter Ballet – this was discussed at the last Board meeting and the decision was not to go ahead as the Board wish the ballet only to be performed by a professional ballet company. Helena Anderson-Wright had previously produced the ballet with Ballet Romberg, a professional company.</p> <p>Vote of thanks – Jane Brown Fife Association and Cupar Burns Club for hosting Church ladies for their wonderful catering Craig Rodger from Cupar Burns Club for his welcome poem Bell Baxter pupils for their performances – we wish them luck in the Fife Competition</p>	

	Alison Tait, CEO Bob Stewart for Chairing the meeting.	
10.	Date of next meetings: Saturday 23 rd June 10am-3pm – Lanarkshire Association, full details tba	

DRAFT