

# The Robert Burns World Federation Ltd

## Executive Meeting

Venue: Park Hotel, Kilmarnock

Date: Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2012 9:30am for 10:00am

### MINUTES

Sederunt			
Attendees		Apologies	No Response
A Anderson Kidd	Jane Jack	Bill Dawson	Anne Fawbert
Alex MacKenzie	Jean Abdulrahim	Cameron Goodall	Archie Shaw
Alison C Tait	Jim Hunter	Campbell Dickson	Eva Stubbs
Allister Anderson	Jim Robertson	David Baird	Gordon Johnston
Angus Middleton	Jim Shields	David Hannah	Helena Anderson-
Anne Gaw	Jim Thomson	David Miller	Joe Campbell
Annie Small	Joe Kennedy	David Scott	John Caskie
Barbara E Clayton	Joe McGinty	David Smith	Joseph Hunter
Betty Haining	John C Paterson	Eddie Bonnar	May Hyslop
Bob McDonald	John Haining	Elizabeth Caine	Murray Henderson
Bob Stewart	John Skilling	Enez Anderson	Shona Shaw
Corinne Buivenga	Karen McPhail	Frances Marshall	Ted Murray
Elza Anderson	Margaret Anderson	George Anderson	
Eric Budgell	Margaret Morrall	Graham Hill	
Frank Sandeman	Margaret Skilling	Harry Hutchison	
George Grant	Mike Duguid	James O'Lone	
Gordon Jamieson	Moira Dunsmore	Jean Macmillan-Forster	
Graham Galbraith	Murdo Morrison	Jim Todd, Provost-East Ayrshire	
Hazel Morrison	Ralph A Balfour	John Irvine	
Helen Morrison	Ray Connal	Kay Blair	
Helen Waddell	Sandy Murray	Les Strachan	
Irene Henry	Scott Hunter	Lesley Richardson	
Isa Hanley	Tom Morrall	Margaret Stokes	
James Gibson	Walter Watson	May Crawley	
Jane Brown	Willie Gibson	May McGuffog	

Item		Action																																								
1.	<p><b>Chairman's Remarks</b>            Bob offered a warm welcome to the group. Bob complimented the lunch and thanked Alison Tait for organising.</p> <p>Sadly, Bob announced the following obituaries and asked those present to stand for one-minutes silence:            Ian Murdoch, Individual Member &amp; Editor of Melbourne Burnsian            Margaret Hume, Individual Member &amp; Schools Committee</p>																																									
4.	<p><b>Minutes of Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012</b></p> <p>Re 7.3: Table plan for the inaugural dinner will be prepared by Ch Exec assisted by the committee members ...</p> <p>Ralph Balfour brought to our attention his concern regarding request by people to sit beside each other at the conference had been ignored. Bob expressed his regret at this. Jim Robertson said this had been discussed at the past presidents meeting and would be addressed.</p> <p>Minutes Approved – Jim Robertson and Seconded – Jane Jack</p>																																									
5.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>Bob Stewart advised it should have been announced at the AGM that Jim Shields had been appointed as a Finance Director. There was some concern in the room that this had not been done and that the Board appeared to be growing. An explanation and apology was given for this oversight.</p>																																									
6.	<p><b>Finance Update – Jim Shields</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p>Income &amp; Expenditure 1st May 12 - 14 Nov 12</p> </div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin: 10px auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">Category</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Income</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Category</th> <th style="width: 35%;">Expenditure</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Subs</td> <td>£3,940</td> <td>Staffing</td> <td>£9,360</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donations</td> <td>£200</td> <td>Occupancy</td> <td>£2,200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Events</td> <td>£1,480</td> <td>Chronicle</td> <td>£2,400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>200 Club</td> <td>£1,200</td> <td>Schools</td> <td>£2,600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conference</td> <td>£22,000</td> <td>Conference</td> <td>£20,400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sales</td> <td>£1,800</td> <td>Admin</td> <td>£4,400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Schools</td> <td>£1,900</td> <td>Sundry</td> <td>£2,400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Misc</td> <td>£4,980</td> <td>Events</td> <td>£1,740</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>£37,500</b></td> <td></td> <td><b>£45,500</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>“Having had the chance to peruse an analysis of accounts from the format in which they are currently produced, I have assembled them into a very simple format which will be more easily understood by most of the membership, i.e. an income and expenditure summary.</p>	Category	Income	Category	Expenditure	Subs	£3,940	Staffing	£9,360	Donations	£200	Occupancy	£2,200	Events	£1,480	Chronicle	£2,400	200 Club	£1,200	Schools	£2,600	Conference	£22,000	Conference	£20,400	Sales	£1,800	Admin	£4,400	Schools	£1,900	Sundry	£2,400	Misc	£4,980	Events	£1,740	<b>Total</b>	<b>£37,500</b>		<b>£45,500</b>	
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We have many different categories of both income and expenditure , but I have summarised them into the categories you can see on the flip chart , which will I hope give you a picture of how much we have received and how much we have spent during our current financial year.

Please bear in mind that this is only a snapshot of the transactions which have been processed through our accounts up till 14th November and there are still several items to be added to this which have not yet been processed, however, it is painting a picture and the picture does not make pleasant reading, as it shows that we are at this stage through our financial year, showing a deficit of around £8000. As intimated by Alison, we still have a payment to make to the Cairn Hotel from the conference and Alison's salary has not yet been processed for October, so this in effect makes the deficit around £11000.

You will also see for example that the income from the conference was £22000, while expenditure was £20400. This only relates to the present financial year. Other income was received and other payments made in the previous year. More detailed breakdown of conference costs will be produced very shortly, once all outstanding payments have been made.

We have a serious situation ladies and gentlemen, which I know will partially be addressed by President Bob, when he makes his own report to you about future funding, especially in the area of subscriptions, but be in no doubt that the very future of this organisation in its present format, is undoubtedly in jeopardy, unless we can retrieve the situation and find some source to replace the Core Funding, previously enjoyed from the Scottish Government."

## Reports

### 7.1 President

#### Events attended include

**1) Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2012-** Attended the Dumfries Ladies Burns Club No 1 "Tam O' Shanter" Competitions held in the Globe Inn, Dumfries as one of the three judges. Six adult males competed, a very high standard, presented the Trophy to the winner who came from Langholm.

**2) Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2012-** Attended the Glenbervie Burns Memorials Association Ceremony at Hillside, Montrose. Delivered the Keynote Speech and unveiled the new plaque to commemorate the four men of Hillside who placed the original plaque in the wall in 1930 to commemorate the visit of Burns and Nicol to Hillside in 1787.

**3) Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2012-** Attended Coupar O' Fife, Lodge No 19 Masonic Meeting where I was presented with a ceremonial engraved trowel by the R.W.M. and invited to sit along with other senior persons present.

**4) Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2012-** Attended Strathclyde University to present Certificates to the winners of the Association for Scottish Literary Studies writing competitions.

**5) Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2012-** Attended a seminar in the University of Glasgow Centre for Robert Burns Studies entitled: ' Robert Burns's " Kilmarnock" Edition'

**6) Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2012-** Attended a Celebratory Dinner hosted by Committee Members of Cupar Burns Club and

which was held in Yeomanry House, Cupar.

7) **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October**, 2012- Attended the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the founding of the Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association. This event was held in the Globe Inn, Dumfries and I gave the Toast to the S.S.C.B.A

8) **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**, 2012- Attended my first Board Meeting at the Dower House, Kilmarnock while serving as President of the R.B.W.F.

9) **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October**, 2012- Attended and Chaired an AGM and General Meeting of the Fife Association of Burns Clubs held in Lodge 19 in Cupar, Fife

10) Along with C.E.O. Alison and Finance Director Jim, I attended a meeting with Mr Angus Hogg of the Andrew Carnegie Trust. The meeting was held in the Andrew Carnegie House; Dunfermline for the purpose of exploring which source(s) and levels of funding might be available for the benefit of the R.B.W.F.

**Future Events to be attended this year :-**

Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> November- Cupar Burns Club St.Andrew's Tide Ceilidh;

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November- Participating as a member of the judging panel to choose the winner of the Robert Burns Humanitarian Award 2013;

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December- attending the Festival of St Andrew in St Giles Cathedral at 11.00 a.m.

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December- attending a St Andrew's Concert held in the Irvine Burns Club, Wellwood and which is organized by the Irvine Lasses Burns Club Fed. No 936;

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December- attending my second R.B.W.F. Board Meeting as President.

Bob Stewart discussed the concerns of the deficit in the club and thanked Alison for the work that has been done to get to this point. After a lot of debate it was decided that we would not increase the subs as it may have an impact on the membership. It has been decided we will make an appeal to clubs and members to donate money to RBWF in the form of a letter being sent out with the next chronicle. Bob read out the letter which will be sent out which lays out the seriousness of the situation and appealing for financial assistance.

Ralph expressed his concern that this would only clear up the deficit and not give us a sustainable future. Alison responded that the plan was that we would seek external funding to help sustain the future of the Federation and subscriptions would only be increased if we were unsuccessful in this.

Margaret Morrall asked to ensure there would be a gift aid form on the letter.

Jim Gibson said that in the letter we should lay out what RBWF are about and explain how the money is spent. Bob said this would be adopted if the board approved.

Jim Hunter suggested that we send out a leaflet on what we have to sell as well as donation requests. Bob said this was an excellent suggestion and would be discussed later in the meeting.

## 7.2 Chief Executive

I am delighted to announce that Corinne Buivenga has been appointed as P/T Administrator. She has already made a difference in the office and, once I have cleared my current backlog of work, this should hopefully give me time to look at potential funding opportunities, etc.

I have attended various meetings and events since the last Executive meeting – see below.

### Diary events:

18/06/2012	University of West Scotland re Marketing/Social Media Student
20/06/2012	Barclays seminar – Ignite Business Growth
26/06/2012	Castle Douglas High School trophy presentation
02/07/2012	Tom Cassidy, Media House
09/07/2012	Cllr Jim Todd, Provost of East Ayrshire
12/07/2012	Scottish Government re secondment
2-5/08/2012	Ayr Flower Show
08/08/2012	RBWF Board meeting
09/08/2012	Ross McGregor, Burns Monument Centre Kilmarnock
09/08/2012	Gerard Carruthers & Pauline Gray Mackay, Glasgow University
14/08/2012	Chris Waddell, National Museum of Country Life
16/08/2012	Neil Bolland, HMP Bowhouse Commercial Enterprises
17/08/2012	Wendy Carle Taylor, Angels & Demons Edinburgh
30/08/2012	National Business Convention, RBS Edinburgh
13-16/09/2012	RBWF 2012 Annual Conference
20/09/2012	Kilmarnock No.0 Club – Burns the Songsmith
28/09/2012	Dearcan Media re Irish TV documentary on Burns
11/10/2012	Gillian Swan, Event Scotland
12/10/2012	Visit from Tony Grogan, RBANA President
18/10/2012	Kilmarnock No.0 Inter-Club night
19/10/2012	Carol Smith, Caring Keepsakes re Chronicle advert
25/10/2012	SNABC/CASE event, HSBC Edinburgh
13/11/2012	Angus Hogg, Andrew Carnegie Foundation, Dunfermline
15/11/2012	Taste Ayrshire Event

### Forthcoming:

19/11/2012	Scottish Government – secondment interview
02/12/2012	Festival of St Andrew's
10/12/2012	RBWF Board Meeting

We recently sent a reminder letter to those who hadn't paid their 2012 membership fees and the results were as follows:

Member Type	Follow-up	Renewed	Closed
Individual	63	19	10
Family	24	4	
Club	45	13	
Corporate	2		1

So, although this was a worthwhile exercise, bringing in over £1300, there are still many others we haven't heard from and they will be lettered again at renewal time.

Once again, I would ask that you, as the Executive Committee think long and hard about ways in which you can help the Federation go forward. Be that from contacts who can offer financial support, either from grant funding or sponsorship opportunities, Clubs holding events / raffles in aid of the Federation, right now we're open to ideas. We will give as much help from the office as we can.

Thanks to all those who signed a gift-aid form with their membership renewal – this has brought in a valuable £2040.71 to the RBWF accounts.

You will be delighted to note from the Agenda that new members are still joining and this is great. I would encourage all Clubs to promote RBWF membership to their own members.

If you haven't done so already, can I ask that all members giving a report today please email a copy to the office within the next week so that we can add this to the Executive minutes.

I still have some spaces for the Homecoming Burns Supper on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2013 – this is a Butterfly Event in aid of Cancer Research – tickets are £70 and if you would like to go, please let me know asap.

**7.3 Conference – Ray Connal**

In the absence of the convenor David Baird, Ray Connal provided an update on the meeting in the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> November

The meeting discussed the following:

Concerns over the parking for the next Conference which is being held in the Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow. These concerns should be resolved at the December meeting.

Ralph mentioned that the hotel appeared to be cheaper on the internet than the rate RBWF had been given. This will be discussed at the next conference meeting in December

Alison advised that the intention was for the Conference committee to meet on a more regular basis throughout the year, the first of these meetings to be in December in the Grand Central Hotel. Bob Stewart expressed his delight on the fact that the group will meet more regularly in future.

**Literature – Mike Duguid**

## Digitisation

Jim Thomson has written a comprehensive strategy document which outlines the preferred route for producing digital copies of the Burns Chronicle. The intention is to purchase a scanner and employ an operator for a year to do the scanning. This is expected to cost in the region of £40K. A funding application will be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Letters of support for the project have been received from South, North and East Ayrshire councils as well as the National Library and East Ayrshire Library Service. These will be used to enhance the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

## Current Chronicle

Some complaints had been received about the small print size in the chronicle. The editor has addressed this in the current issue and looks forward to feedback on whether the changes are an improvement. In order to help with the problem of print size the Editor has been allowed greater flexibility in the number of pages rather than be confined to exactly 48 pages.

## Future Chronicle

The Literature Committee had a stimulating discussion on the future format of the Chronicle. Bearing in mind the precarious state of the finances of the Federation, the printing and postage costs were rightly considered to be an importance factor. Secondly, there was a need to consider how best to increase readership of communication from and about the Federation. Lastly, there was a clear desire to restore the Chronicle to being the publication of first resort for those interested in the life and works of Robert Burns and also to have it as an historical record of the proceedings of the Federation. As a result of these discussions the Literature Committee would be strongly recommending to the Board that we move towards having an annual Chronicle supplemented by regular electronic newsletters. The electronic newsletters would allow for much wider circulation of information currently contained in the Chronicle but often not passed on by club secretaries to the members. Details of how we transition to this situation are still to be fully worked out but it should be possible to set November 2013 as a target date for the first annual Chronicle.

## Burnsong

Since 2005 an organization known as 'Burnsong' has been promoting Scottish music through residential songwriting workshops and conferences. The Federation has been asked if it would be interested in partnering Burnsong in an equivalent project but with poetry and prose writing as its core purpose. The Literature Committee were fully in favour of the concept and as Convenor of the Literature I will be attending a Burnsong on 21 November 2012 to explore further the proposal of having a residential workshop for writing in Scots. Burnsong depends on external funding to be able to stage their events and this would also be essential to bring the proposed writing workshops to fruition.

## Glasgow University Annual Burns Conference

A one-day conference, hosted by the Centre for Robert Burns Studies at Glasgow University, is due to be held in the Western Infirmary Lecture Theatre on Saturday 12 January 2013. Further details can be found on their website at: <http://www.gla.ac.uk/robertburnsstudies>

7.5	<p><b>Editor – Bill Dawson</b>  Editor report was read by Alison Tait as Bill was unable to attend.</p> <p>There have been some recent comments about the print size of the last Chronicle, I was, of course, aware that the edition was overcrowded and had already made moves to resolve this in the Winter edition, but since the complaints I have chosen a font which is perhaps a little more dense, and increased the size employed by a couple of points. I will be interested to have your comment whether this has been a valuable alteration, whether it is easier read etc.</p> <p>The Winter Chronicle is with the printer, in the last stages prior to printing and should be out in the coming week. Worthy of note in this edition, besides the outstanding academic content of course, are the 2 ½ pages of colour advertising that are being carried, which make an appreciated contribution to the costs of the issue.</p> <p>Deadline for the Spring edition is 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013. Projected publication thereafter will be week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p>The Board have recently advised me that I could I could at my discretion increase the number of pages in the Chronicle, subject of course to agreed limits. It is quite heartening that even in these hard times, the value of the Chronicle is recognised in this way, and the Members can take the opportunity to contribute so much more by way of reports of their seasonal celebrations, Club occasions and indeed individual scholarship to the Chronicle, I look forward to the flood of submissions.</p>	
7.6	<p><b>Archivist – John Haining</b>  <b>No report from the Archivist</b></p>	
7.7	<p><b>Website – Cameron Goodall</b>  <b>No report from the web master</b></p>	
7.8	<p><b>Marketing – Murdo Morrison</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Discussions had taken place with reference to the current stocks of items being held at Dower House and arising from this was a requirement to e mail clubs advising them of what was available. Consideration had to be given to providing a financial incentive to the Clubs for onward selling of items.</li> <li>2 Currently there was a sufficient stock of Burns Check Ties and until the level was depleted considerably no new ties should be bought in.</li> <li>3 New placemats each with a Burns theme had been produced and were now available. As they are lightweight costs for posting abroad or in the UK is not prohibitive. They are available in any specified quantity to all applicants.</li> <li>4 Publications. An ongoing effort to publicise Robert Burns in general and also the work of the Federation is meeting with some success. Already there has been an article published in the widely circulated “Scottish Country Dancer” magazine. Communication had been established with Rotary International and an article about the Federation will, in due course, appear in that publication. The current Editor is a very keen supporter of the Bard and a reciprocal article will be written for potential publication in the Burns Chronicle. Another endeavour will be made to have a similar relationship with the National Trust for Scotland and another attempt should be made to get articles in to Scottish associated publications in North America.</li> <li>5 The National Museum of Rural Life in Scotland is situated at Kittochside, East Kilbride will be the location for a large Christmas Fayre on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December. At this event there will be a Federation stall to sell goods. This facility is being provided at no cost to the Federation.</li> <li>6 The Committee were informed about the large scale Burns supper scheduled for Ayr with the First Minister being the proposer of the Immortal Memory. This event is a fund raiser on behalf of a cancer charity and this could be an opportunity for Federation goods to be present on a sale or return basis to assist the charity. Past President Joe Campbell offered to contact the organisers and establish what might be an appropriate involvement.</li> </ol>	

	<p>7 The National Trust for Scotland should be contacted to offer sale or return goods at their Alloway location.</p> <p>8 Web Site. There was great disappointment expressed about the current state of the Federation web site. Out of date information about Office Bearers continued to be seen and there now is an urgent need for a complete clean up of the content. Web site information has to be current and accurate these being two aspects not applicable at present to all the information on the site.</p> <p>9 Art Exhibition Kirkcudbright. The committee were told about the Art Exhibition which continues for seven weeks in the summer time and the incoming year will be themed on “Tam O’Shanter” Joe Campbell who is associated with this event indicated that this could be a selling opportunity for Federation goods and volunteer workers could supervise and sell from a stall in the main location. This involvement will require to be planned in detail.</p> <p>10 Year 2014. The possibility and the potential for a Big Burns Supper in 2014 would be investigated further and a report back to the Board on the possibilities. A likely location would be the Thistle Hotel in Glasgow which has the proven capacity for catering and accommodation. A tentative date would be the 4th of July and a link established with America’s independence day.</p> <p>11. The Robert Burns Guild of Speakers. This Guild which is a Federated Club and is now operational is already providing speakers in response to received requests. The Dean of the Guild is Len Murray and the majority of the members are either Club or Individual Federation members.</p> <p>12. A Television Crew from Dearcan Media had been, by arrangement, directed to meet up with contact persons to assist them in gathering accurate information about Robert Burns and various locations. There was now an identified list of persons, approved by the Board, for this purpose. A question was asked if this negated the existing policy of having three persons only speaking with the media on behalf of the Federation. The response was that the existing policy continued and the new persons involved were on an advisory basis. Mike Duguid commented that he had met up with the TV crew and admired the enthusiasm they exhibited, including having an actor in the Nith replicating the advised cure for Robert Burns in his illness. Also they filmed the entire Whistle Competition held at Ellisland.</p>	
7.9	<p><b>Schools – Isa Hanley</b></p> <p>The opening discussion was about the national finals which will be held in Dunfermline HS on 20 and 27 April 2013. The school has been visited and it will be an excellent venue. The Head teacher and the Business Manager accompanied us on the visit and they are very helpful as far as giving us the required accommodation. We are assured there will be no charge for the let of the school premises.</p> <p>First Aid will be covered by fully trained pupils on both days and we have been offered the services of a few senior pupils to act as stewards at the beginning of each day as they are familiar with the layout of the building.</p> <p>Some unforeseen instances at Cults Academy this year have been addressed and any changes will be stressed to adjudicators and assistants. Clearer instructions as to what bagpipers are required to play have been clarified by consulting bag piping “experts” and the suggested changes will be given to area co-ordinators along with the other entry forms which will be distributed by the end of the month.</p> <p>The Choral event is again in Armadale Academy and is being arranged by Karen McPhail. Karen has chosen the set piece and schools will be refunded the cost of purchasing the required setting of the music from schools’ sponsor money. Once again the let is free of charge to RBWF.</p> <p>Dates of all festivals now appear on the website along with a copy of the Schedule for in-school competitions. Schedules have been sent to all Scottish education authorities and requests are now coming in to HQ from a number of schools.</p>	

Graham Hill has organised a competition in West Dunbartonshire for the first time and we hope to have representation at the nationals in Dunfermline.

Helen Morrison gave each committee member a copy of her International Literature Report, mainly on happenings in St Petersburg schools. Their essays will be coming in shortly to be judged before the end of the year. Jim Millar in Bendigo has been successful in getting 2 essays from Australia and he is reasonably confident that more will follow next year as he has now contacted a Scottish-born English teacher who is very keen on the works of Robert Burns. The essay title has been requested from Ukraine so, hopefully, essays will also come in.

The question of singing in Gaelic was raised but, once again, it was agreed that all the singing has to be done in English/Scots.

- *Frank Sandeman has contacted a number of eminent Scots, for example Lord Elgin, Gordon Brown to invite them to the Burns Competition.*

## 7.10 Heritage –

### **John Skilling :**

**Work on the Trysting Thorn** is at a standstill until funds become available at South Ayrshire Council.

People are still acquiring cobbles from the **Auld Brig o' Doon**.

**Burns Monument.** No work has been done to repair the seriously deteriorating plasterwork inside the Monument. However, the National Trust for Scotland has highlighted the need for funds to do the work here and at other NTS sites.

Lead coping was stolen from the **Statue House** in the Burns Monument Gardens. It was replaced and stolen again after a couple of weeks. It requires to be replaced again.

The **Auld Kirk** in Alloway has been relit to give a more atmospheric presentation at night.

A model has been made of **Burns' head** using the cast of his skull displayed in the Birthplace Museum and this will be exhibited by STV on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

### **Walter Watson:**

**Welcome:** The Convenor welcomed Mrs Elsa Anderson, Alex Mackenzie, John Skilling and Joe Kennedy to the meeting today and intimated that apologies for absence had been received from David Smith, David Millar and Mrs Shona Shaw. Murray Henderson had tendered his resignation with great regret owing to domestic circumstances. Joe Kennedy volunteered to take the minutes in the absence of David Smith.

**Minutes** of the meeting held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at Motherwell had been circulated prior to the meeting today and were proposed for adoption by John Skilling, seconded by Elza Anderson.

**Matters arising.** None.

**Correspondence.** The convenor tabled correspondence that would be dealt with under individual reports relating to

matters of interest to the Heritage Committee.

**Reports.**

David Smith had e-mailed a report covering the situation in Dumfries indicating that there was no visible progress with alterations to the Theatre Royal or to the site of the Burns Statue.

John Skilling reported on the new floodlighting system installed at the Auld Kirk, Alloway and confirmed that he was monitoring the Auld Brig and The Monument.

Dundee University were creating a bust of Burns using the latest forensic science techniques. This lifelike bust will be featured on STV on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013. The convenor tabled ongoing correspondence with Mrs Gage of the Coylton Village Reunion Committee, which confirmed that the access road to the Trysting Thorn had been repaired and was open to the public. John Skilling was able to confirm that the tree remained in-situ and that the necessary funds to have it removed to a site close by the original site were not available at this time. He would continue to monitor the situation.

Elza Anderson reported that unfortunately the bid made by the Greenock Burns Club for Lottery funding to assist with repairs to Highland Mary's grave and monument had been rejected, however, they were hopeful that an appeal to be made to the local Council in January would meet with success.

Christopher Baglee, the architect responsible, had indicated by e-mail that work on the Burns Statue, Newcastle-upon Tyne was at a standstill while re-tendering by contractors was ongoing.

The convenor tabled correspondence with George Black, Chief Executive Officer of Glasgow City Council indicating our concern at the plan to remove the statue of Robert Burns from George Square to a site as yet unknown. This letter confirmed the willingness of our President to be involved in any discussions about a new site.

- *Jim Hunter mentioned that Caron Iron works in Falkirk put a plaque up to commemorate Robert Burns visit to Falkirk*
- *Jean Jack mentioned that the statue in George Square has been repaired and cleaned by Glasgow Council. Jean mentioned a couple of statues in George Square will not be moved although we are not sure if Burns is one of these.*
- *Margaret Morrall mentioned that a statue owned by Ayr Burns Club was handed over to the council and assumes that all other statues are the same*
- *Murdo Morrison mentioned that in his opinion the Federation should officially write to Dumfries Council thanking them for the great work, this had already been done by Jim Shields*

**7.11 200 Club – Alison Tait**

The 200 Club is currently running as the 109 Club.

The draw was made to bring us up to date and the results are as follows:

Date	Prize	Amount	Share No	Winner
Sep-11	Quarterly Prize	81.75	56	Mary Letham
	1st prize	32.70	76	Derby Scottish Assoc
	2nd prize	16.35	67	Elizabeth Clark
Oct-11	1st prize	32.70	68	John Caskie
	2nd prize	16.35	87	Willie Gibson
Nov-11	1st prize	32.70	68	John Caskie
	2nd prize	16.35	65	Joyce Edgar

**We will revert to drawing this on a monthly basis as of December.**

**7.12 Overseas – Bob Stewart (on behalf of May Crawley, Jim O’Lone & Les Strachan**

**Pacific Rim Director – Jim O’Lone**

All is well down under, still chasing new members.

As you probably already know, all members of the Pacific Rim were shocked at the sad loss of Ian Murdoch, our very meticulous treasurer and lovely person.

Ian suddenly passed away two weeks after our AGM gathering in Camperdown, as sad as I thought he was looking so well.

Bill Graham (Melbourne Burns Club) and a native of Patna will take over after mutual agreement within our membership.

I don't have a lot else to report at the moment other than I will be attending the Armadale Highland Gathering on Sunday 18th November.

It is the biggest Scottish gathering in Western Australia and as always the Fremantle Burns Club makes sure we are represented.

It is a great day for older people from Scotland who have been living here for 50 / 60 years, a wee bit of nostalgia.

The Address to a Haggis will be recited by me, so I better not make any mistakes. The Haggis is auctioned and the proceeds subsidise the cost of the Haggis and Whisky.

Armadale is about 45 minutes drive from Fremantle and Sunday's weather is predicted to be in the high twenties.

I hope the meeting goes well and best wishes to all attending.

**7.13 Association Representatives**

**Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs – Joe Kennedy**

**Borders Association – Graham Galbraith (acting on behalf of Graham Galbraith)**

Since your last meeting in June we have not had a great deal going on in the Border area. The Hawick Burns club held their Wauchope Cairn ceremony on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in June which was well supported, with everyone returning to the club rooms in Hawick for refreshments and entertainment.

Also myself and committee member Rob Cockburn attended the Edinburgh and District recital competition in July which we both enjoyed very much.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> October we held our AGM for the Border Association of Burns Clubs in Kelso where I Graham Galbraith was installed as president for the next 2 years. This is something I am looking forward to very much.

All the Borders clubs seem to have all their forthcoming suppers well organised.

My own club of Coldstream this year will play host to both Bob Stewart and Helen Morrison who shall be delivering the immortal memory at our gent's supper in January and the Tribute to Robert Burns at our mixed evening in February.

**Edinburgh & District Association of Burns Clubs – Gordon Jamieson**

The Edinburgh and district Burns Clubs Association have enjoyed a good year with the Celebration of Burns life at the Burns Monument and later at Lodge Liberton the Poetry competition for the Tom McIlwraith Trophy on 28<sup>th</sup> of July. The trophy was won by Bobby Jess representing Southern Counties. A detailed report has been sent into the federation. On 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> of September Edinburgh held their Annual Historic Buildings Open Days. The EDBCA provided poetry and song at the Burns Monument over the 2 days from 11:00am until 4:00 pm, which was very successful with over 700 visitors enjoying the entertainment. A detailed report has been sent into the Federation. We now look forward to the Wreath laying Ceremony in January and the Primary Schools Children's competitions in March.

**Fife Association of Burns Clubs – Bob Stewart**

The AGM of the Association was held on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October at 2.00pm in Cupar Masonic Lodge No. 19 and representatives from the following Burns Clubs were in attendance:-

Poosie Nansie Ladies B.C., St. Andrews B.C., Bowhill People's B.C. and Cupar B.C.

All offices were declared vacant, nominations were invited for the various appointments and the following Office Bearers were duly elected:-

President- Robert W.M. Stewart;

Vice- President- Kevin Thomson;

Secretary- Frank Sandeman;

Treasurer- Craig Rodger.

There are currently ten Burns Clubs functioning in Fife and they are as follows;-

1) Auchterderran Jolly Beggar's B.C.-No 768,

- 2) Balmullo B.C.-No1013,
- 3) Bowhill People's B.C.- No 803,
- 4) Cupar B.C.-No 62,
- 5) Dunfermline United B.C.- No 85,
- 6) Earlsferry B.C.- No 967,
- 7) Markinch B.C.-No 350,
- 8) Pittenweem B.C.-No 1103,
- 9) Poosie Nansie Ladies B.C.- No ?, and
- 10) St. Andrew's B.C.-No13.

These clubs are all requested to send financial donations to the treasurer for the purchase of medals and the upkeep and engraving of the 22 trophies awarded to the winners of the Fife Schools' Burns Competitions each year. Unfortunately, not all of the clubs do make a donation each year and the result of this is that the Association quite often finds it difficult to cover all the expenses incurred.

Members present were advised that the 2013 R.B.W.F. Schools' Festivals were to be held in Dunfermline High School as follows:- Secondary Schools' Festival, Saturday 20th April and Primary Schools' Festival, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

It was stated that as the Fife Association was hosting the Festivals in 2013 help would be required from the members for stewarding etc.

**Glasgow Association of Burns Clubs –**  
No report received

**Grampian Association of Burns Clubs –**  
No report received

**Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs**  
Lasses lunch is arranged for Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May at Shawlands Park Hotel and the Speaker is Liz Lochhead

**Renfrewshire & Inverclyde Association of Burns Clubs – George Grant**

Our new president of The Renfrewshire Association, the Rev. Douglas Hamilton sends his kind regards and best wishes to the executive meeting.

I, George Grant serve as secretary to the seven clubs in the area, all currently having steady memberships, good annual outings, meetings and Burns suppers. The association only meets biannually mainly to discuss the schools festivals and our wreath laying in the Fountain Gardens in Paisley, as an association we have no social calendar, however our good Reverend Douglas hope to change this in the near future

Do a couple of things a year, including the schools competition which are well supported

**Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association – Jane Brown**

### **Yorkshire Association of Burns Clubs – Jim Robertson**

The Tartan Ball has been booked at the Ardsley House Hotel, near Barnsley for Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April. We look forward to welcoming the RBWF President and his wife together with the Chief Executive to this event.

If you wish to attend this Dinner and Dane, please contact the Yorkshire District Secretary – May McGuffog (101274 582577)

The cost of the Dinner and Dance is £30 and accommodation is available at the Hotel for £60 (01226 309955). Please state you are attending the Tartan Ball to get the reduced rate. It would be good to see a few executive members at this function.

We have agreed to cancel our Inter Society Quiz nights in February due to travelling and also the possible bad weather. It was agreed that we hold all the Quiz rounds at our AGM in June. This hopefully will be held either in Wakefield or York.

Most clubs in the area will be holding their St Andrew Dinner and Dances this month and also looking forward to Burns Night Events.

### **8. Applications for Membership:**

#### **Individual Membership**

Mr Neil Johnston, Reigmor, Stoop Loaning, Dumfries  
Mr Michael Dunlop, Brigend House, Alloway  
Mr John McCheyne, 37 Livingstone Walk, Fareham  
Dr Ruthven Mitchell, 2 Byron Court, Bothwell  
Mr Paul Rhu-Mhor Fraser, 2 Drybrough Crescent, Edinburgh  
Mr Melvyn McCrostie, 190 Woodhorn Road, Ashington  
Mrs Irene Furneaux, 108 North Deeside Road, Aberdeen  
Mr David McDonald, 5 Cowie Terrace, Alexandria  
Mr Robert Somerville, 10 Linkwood Place, Irvine

#### **Family Membership**

Mrs Violet Millar, 4 Riverview, Ayr  
Mr Dave Ramsay & Ms D Miller, 8 South Row, Stonehaven  
Ms Wendy Carle Taylor, 50/1 Leamington Terrace, Edinburgh  
Mr & Mrs John Sanders, 18 Vespasian Road, Southampton

#### **Club Membership**

The Robert Burns Guild of Speakers, No.2182  
Lugton Burns Club, No.2186

#### **Corporate Membership**

None

#### **School Membership**

Kilmaurs Primary School, East Ayrshire, No.2177  
The Royal High Primary School, Edinburgh, No.2178  
St Mark's Primary School, Irvine, North Ayrshire, No.2179  
Cockenzie Primary School, East Lothian, No.2180  
Stoneyhill Primary School, Musselburgh, No.2181  
Kennoway Primary & Community School, Fife, No.2183  
Mauchline Primary School, East Ayrshire, No.2184  
Windyknowe Primary School, Bathgate, No.2185

#### **Re-Affiliation**

None

<p>9.</p>	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alison Tait read a letter summarised: Jim McGregor proposed that the federation run a national raffle. Bob mentioned he had discussed with Jim and that Jim had put forward £100 prize, he was so passionate about doing a raffle. George Grant proposed we accept this suggestion to have a national raffle and Helen Morrison seconded. There was no volunteer to take the opportunity to arrange this. Margaret Skilling suggested she would discuss in December and get back to Bob/Alison with the outcome of the meeting</li> <li>2. Alison Tait read a letter of thanks from the Scottish War Blinded for the £300 donation which came from the offering taken at the 2012 Conference Sunday Service.</li> <li>3. Bob Stewart gave his sincere thanks for cards and letters congratulating him on becoming President and he felt honoured to receive them. Bob had visited the Carnegie Hall in Dunfermline to see the Muirson Collection and would not hesitate to recommend a visit. The collection contains a Kilmarnock Edition.</li> <li>4. Jim Shields extended an invite on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December to the Festival of St Andrews at St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh. Assembly and Robing will be in the Signet Library between 10:30 to 11:00 for and 11:30 am start. Alison asked that those interested should advise the office as she must notify the ministers secretary in advance</li> <li>5. Colinton Burns Club artefacts and minutes have been handed in to the Dower House for safe keeping</li> <li>6. Margaret Morrall described the work that is being done on a Scotland Youth Robert Burns</li> <li>7. Jim Gibson suggested that we may be making decisions in the Executive that should be brought to the Board Meeting</li> <li>8. Jane Brown advised there had been a Letter from Mayor of Harrogate thanking Jane for her help and support during the conference in Harrogate</li> <li>9. Vote of thanks to Bob Stewart.</li> </ol>	
<p>10.</p>	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b></p> <p><b>Coldstream Burns Club on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b></p> <p><i>Meetings for the rest of 2013:</i>  <i>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, confirmed SSCBA in Dumfries, venue TBA</i>  <i>Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup>, confirmed Edinburgh District</i></p>	