

The Robert Burns World Federation Ltd

Executive Meeting

Venue: Lodge Liberton, Edinburgh

Date: 19th November 2011 at 10:00am

MINUTES

1. Sederunt

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| Jean Abdulrahim | Anne Gaw | Tom Morrall |
| Allister Anderson | Willie Gibson | Hazel Morrison |
| Enez Anderson | Cameron Goodall | Helen Morrison |
| George Anderson | George Grant | Murdo Morrison |
| Margaret Anderson | Betty Haining | Ted Murray |
| Mrs Anderson | Isa Hanley | John C Paterson |
| David Baird | David Hannah | Jim Robertson |
| Ralph A Balfour | Murray Henderson | Frank Sandeman |
| Kay Blair | Irene Henry | Shona Shaw |
| Jane Brown | Graham Hill | Jim Shields |
| Eric Budgell | Joseph Hunter | John Skilling |
| Elizabeth Caine | May Hyslop | Margaret Skilling |
| John Caskie | Gordon Jamieson | David Smith |
| Ronnie Crichton | Gordon Johnston | Bob Stewart |
| Bill Dawson | Joe Kennedy | Margaret Stokes |
| Campbell Dickson | Alex MacKenzie | Alison Tait |
| Anne Donnan | Frances Marshall | Helen Waddell |
| Mike Duguid | Bob McDonald | Walter Watson |
| Anne Fawbert | Karen McPhail | |
| Graham Galbraith | David Miller | |
| | Margaret Morrall | |

2. Apologies

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| Helena Anderson-Wright | Graham Hill | James O'Lone |
| Joe Campbell | Harry Hutchison | Lesley Richardson |
| Barbara Clayton | Mac Irvin | Annie Small |
| May Crawley | Andrew Kidd | Eva Stubbs |
| Moira Dunsmore | Jean Macmillan-Forster | Jim Thomson |
| James Gibson | May McGuffog | Provost Stephanie Young |
| John Haining | Angus Middleton | |

| Item | | Action |
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| 3. | <p>President Jim Shields welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Ian Doyle and his team from Liberton Lodge for hosting today's meeting.</p> <p>Ian Doyle welcomed everyone, thanked them for travelling to Lodge Liberton and closed with the message 'Haste Ye Back'.</p> <p>Gordon Jamieson also welcomed everyone then read from Burns Poem 'Mauchline Belles'.</p> <p>President Jim sadly announced the following obituaries and asked those present to stand for 1 minutes silence:</p> <p>Eric Robertson, Allanton Jolly Beggars Burns Club, Past President RBWF, Past Treasurer & Honorary President of Allanton Jolly Beggars Burns Club</p> <p>Jimmy Hempstead, Dumbarton Burns Club, Elected an Honorary President of the Burns Federation 1994</p> <p>Gordon Posnett, Blane Valley Burns Club</p> <p>Betty Williamson, Larkhall Burns Club</p> <p>Fergus Duncan, Kilbryde Burns Club</p> <p>Jim Rooney, Motherwell United Services Burns Section</p> <p>Frank Campbell, Past President RBANA</p> <p>Jock Smith, Milwaukee Burns Club</p> <p>Bob Allan, Edmonton Burns Club</p> | |
| 4. | <p>Minutes of Meeting on 25th June 2011</p> <p>Proposed – Jim Robertson</p> <p>Seconded – Betty Haining</p> | |
| 5. | <p>Matters Arising – none</p> | |
| 6. | <p>Finances – Bob Stewart</p> <p>BS presented an income & expenditure breakdown for the period 1/01/2011 - 14/11/2011. AT added the caveat that these figures are not comprehensive and should be used for guidance only at present until further work can be done on the accounts system.</p> | |
| 7. | <p>Reports</p> | |
| 7.1 | <p>President</p> <p>As my year of office begins, I am filled with an air of anticipation. There are already many functions, events, celebrations to look forward to and, as I am already finding, it is almost a full time job.</p> <p>During the Aberdeen international Youth Festival this year, at which our major prize-winners were present to represent the Federation, someone asked me...</p> <p>"What does it take to become President Jim?"</p> <p>I responded by saying..." A love and knowledge of Burns, a love and knowledge of the workings of the Federation, willing to give unselfishly of your time and talent, and it also helps if you are 'aff yer heid'.</p> <p>We have been through a stormy year last year, but, we are through it. Standing in the</p> | |

corridor of the foyer at Peebles Hydro welcoming our delegates to the conference, I had warmth and a glow from the hearts of attendees who, like me, proudly state that we are a Burns Family and how we love to meet with each other and celebrate our mutual love for all things connected with Burns.

This was all too apparent at the conference which has been generally acknowledged to have been one of the best for many years. Again may I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your good wishes, gestures of support and the beautiful cards, some of which were individually hand crafted for the occasion? I shall treasure them among my souvenirs.

A working committee has been set up to look at the three MMM's of:
Membership, Management & Money

Progress is evolving as we discuss in depth, how best to resolve the problems facing the Federation in these three areas and as mentioned at the AGM, I had already started to re-build the bridge with the Scottish Government by having a preliminary meeting in July. This, as I write, is now moving forward with another meeting to discuss core funding and how we can be of help to them in many differing spheres of activity in promoting Scottish Culture, Literature and History.

The board have now confirmed the appointment of Alison Tait as a full time employee and as our interim Chief Executive. Interim, because the remuneration of this position, will be funded from the core funding we anticipate receiving from the Scottish Government and to comply with their rightful demands, we will have to advertise this position and we will also interview any other applicants who respond to the advert for the position.

Better views are on the horizon as we move forward and I have a great team behind me both on the board of directors and on the Executive Committees and together, with your continued support, we can not only restore this wonderful Federation, but improve our workings, making the wider public aware of who we are, what we do and be seen to be an organisation with two way vision, one which looks back to a proud heritage of where we have come from and another, which is looking to the future, a future we can help to shape, a future in which the bond we share will drive us forward to look for ways and means of not just keeping ourselves afloat, but of sailing forward, heads held high, proud of who we are and what we represent.

I am YOUR President. As stated above, my time and my talents are at your disposal, so please do continue to invite me to your events and be assured that if I am not already committed, I should be delighted to offer my services to assist in any way I can.

JS thanked AT for her efforts during the past few months.

JS advised that Margaret Craig is still unfit for work, having lodged a sick-line for another 4 weeks. JS acknowledged the length of service MC has given to RBWF and advised that a health review has been requested from MCs doctor.

JS welcomed first-time visitors to the Executive meeting and asked that they introduce themselves:

John Irvine, Angus – Past President Burns Club of London
Graham Galbraith, Vice President, Borders Association of Burns Clubs
Campbell Dickson, Senior Vice President, Inverness Burns Club

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| | <p>JS read thank you letter from MacMillan Cancer Care for our recent donation.</p> <p>JS spoke of the recent meeting with Boyd Tunnock and was delighted to announce that Tunnock's have agreed to sponsor our Schools Competitions for the next 3 years at £9,000 per annum.</p> <p>JS confirmed that the St Giles Cathedral Service will be held on Sunday 4th December at 11:30am.</p> | |
| 7.2 | <p>Chief Executive</p> <p>AT advised that, as expected, things were rather hectic in the RBWF office at the moment as she tries to fit two jobs into one. However, things are progressing.</p> <p>In conjunction with our accountants, we are slowly but surely sifting our way through the old accounts system and trying to produce figures which will be of some use to our Board & Finance Directors. We will probably have to run with the old system for this financial year. However, we have a new ERP (Enterprise Resource Programme) System in place which should be a great help in future – the only issue here is getting the time to populate it in the first place before we can start using it. It should be able to deal with, not only accounts, but stock control, membership, purchases & sales, events and so on.</p> <p>Jim, Shirley & I had a fairly successful meeting with Scottish Government and are currently awaiting their decision as to the option of core funding for the Federation.</p> <p>We are coming up to one of the busiest periods for the Federation. The Winter Chronicle is due to be mailed at the beginning of December and orders have already started to come in for Burns Supper supplies.</p> <p>Looking forward, I have a meeting with Business Gateway this coming week to find out if they can offer any support. I am also in contact with the local CVO office re funding opportunities. I am due to attend the John Cairney event at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum on Thursday 1st December.</p> <p>AT took this opportunity to record her thanks to Shirley Bell for her invaluable help and support to date.</p> | |
| 7.3 | <p>Conference – David Baird</p> <p>No report submitted.</p> | |
| 7.4 | <p>Literature – Mike Duguid</p> <p>The Literature Committee was very strong with 3 new members attending their first meeting and making worthwhile contributions. The Committee had held a meeting in October at which the Terms of Reference for the committee were discussed and agreed. This gave the group a focus around which to concentrate their discussions.</p> <p>One of the primary functions of the committee was to provide support to the Editor of</p> | |

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| | <p>the Chronicle, Bill Dawson, and also to the Webmaster, Cameron Goodall. Both these were now members of the Literature Committee and this provided a direct contact with the members of the Committee and also allowed the Convenor to act as conduit to the Board on matters relating to these two vital posts within the Federation.</p> <p>Several issues relating to the future of the website and other electronic media were discussed in committee but as the Webmaster presented his thoughts at the plenary session, these will reported elsewhere.</p> <p>Much discussion revolved around the Chronicle. The Committee agreed that the publication of minutes of meetings in the Chronicle, often running to double-digit pages, was not a cost effective way of disseminating them. The Committee recognized that the Federation, as a charity, had a legal requirement to publish minutes of meetings but the Board would be encouraged to find an alternative to the Chronicle. The other issue which would be put to the Board was the need to set up a sub-committee with the specific objective of analyzing all aspects of the Chronicle with a view to recommending the future size, frequency and content of the magazine before the current printing contract comes up for renewal in the autumn.</p> <p>Questionnaire</p> <p>MD provided an outline of the prominent points from the 32 responses to the questionnaires handed out at the Peebles Conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good feedback on the sort of articles members would like to see in the Chronicle.. - Opinion divided on whether Chronicle should move to being a once a year publication - The website came in for the most criticism because people recognised we were missing its potential as a valuable tool for getting out the Federation’s message and for marketing. - Only 4 of 32 had no access to the internet although not all had their own computer. - The need to attract younger members was stressed by many. - Vast majority considered the membership fee to be good value although some questioned the relative cheapness of family membership versus individual membership. - All members needed to be active in recruitment. Current members have to be ambassadors. Let it be known individuals can join whether Burns Club members or not. In other words we are all in this together! <p>MD pointed out that so far we have had responses only from Burnsians keen enough to attend conferences and executive meetings so we need to reach deeper into our membership to ask the average club member what the Federation could do better.</p> <p>MD has designed an on-line version and this would be sent out in the near future.</p> | |
| 7.5 | <p>Editor – Bill Dawson</p> <p>I was, of course, delighted to be appointed Editor for the ensuing three year term at Conference. I eagerly anticipate the opportunities that will present in taking the Chronicle forward in this challenging environment.</p> <p>I thank all who have contributed to the Chronicle and I continue to encourage Clubs, Associations and individuals to send in reports and news of anything happening that is</p> | |

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| | <p>related to Burns and their activities. It is the Federation's publication and it should be populated by material from the body. Individual's contributions on fields that particularly interest them will be most welcome; specialist articles are always well received by the readership and may well give a springboard to others to develop their own researches.</p> <p>I must also say a word of thanks to the many who have sent messages of congratulation to me since my appointment, this support is very much appreciated.</p> <p>The current edition is well in hand, most of the copy is with the printer now, I hope to have the last pages to them subsequent to this meeting and have a proof for approval within a week or so. I need to finish before the end of the month as I will be going on holiday and not returning until well into December.</p> <p>I trust you will find my first edition as Editor satisfactory.</p> <p>I look forward to your many reports following our main activities in January for the inclusion in the Spring edition for which the submission deadline is 25th February.</p> | |
| <p>7.6</p> | <p>Archivist – Jim Shields (on behalf of John Haining)</p> <p>Frank Campbell had left his collection of books to RBWF and his son would be visiting the family home in Florida over the festive season and would hope to wrap up his father's affairs during this period.</p> <p>Contacted Pamela o' Rourke re old Burns books she wishes RBWF to examine.</p> <p>We had contact from Eric McKenzie re potential old books, but he has not responded to communications.</p> <p>Helensburgh Burns Club asked if we held their chain of office, we advised no.</p> | |
| <p>7.7</p> | <p>Website – Cameron Goodall</p> <p>We are all aware, I believe, of the strong necessity of replacing our present with website with something more current. The website, as it stands at present, has not changed significantly in the last ten years and as a result probably scares off many more individuals than it helps.</p> <p>I have interviewed a few luminaries to discover what may be worth saving on the site and it is my opinion that the only elements which may be mourned, were the current website to become unavailable tomorrow, would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President's Blog. I believe this is worth resurrecting. It gives an instant point of contact between the president and the members and is a very easy way of adding new content to the site on a regular basis. • Discussion Forum. The forum is nowhere near as busy as it once was. I don't believe that this down to a slackening of interest in Burns per se. However I believe at least some of the traffic could be diverted from the forum to social networking sites. More of this later. • Translations. Some individuals may find the verbatim translations of use. Personally I feel it's a terrible over simplification and believe our users would be better served by a series of lectures explaining possible meanings of poems at large, rather than simply 'what the words mean'. <p>I believe the main purposes for our website going forward can be categorised as:</p> | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing. Our best product is ourselves. I am as convinced as ever that our membership can achieve exponential growth using e-marketing, when correctly implemented. • Education. We need to position ourselves as the first port of call for inquiry into the life and work of Robert Burns. • Secure Information handling. Password protected information of our internal organisation to keep secretaries of our daughter organisations abreast of our structure and points of contact. • Discussion area. There may be wisdom in devolving such functions to social media. Facebook is not a dirty word, but it needs to be governed correctly. • Online resources. We probably all have experience of using the online version of Maurice Lindsay's encyclopaedia. Other such resources would be greatly welcomed by academics and amateurs alike. The Burns Chronicle is just a point of departure. <p>It is my intention to deliver the website through a content management system (CMS), Wordpress. The main benefit of a CMS is the ability to devolve responsibility for certain aspects of the website to the individual stakeholders. This won't be done in the short term or in any case where the stakeholder feels uncomfortable with the technologies. An email auto-responder system will be employed to harvest email addresses of individuals who show an interest in Burns matters. These addresses will then be used to market the Federation more smartly than at present.</p> <p>It is also intended to utilise such social media portals as YouTube, Facebook and Twitter to engage within and outwith our community, thus offloading potentially memory-hungry aspects of our online presence (video content, photographs, sound files, etc.). It is my intention to have at least some of the new content live on the web prior to the New Year in order to capture valuable data during the upcoming Burns season.</p> | |
| <p>7.8</p> | <p>Marketing – Murdo Morrison</p> <p>The Convenor welcomed Cameron Goodall to the meeting and invited him to give an outline of the work currently being undertaken for the Web. Cameron advised the Committee of the background and the aims and objectives and he would be expanding on this theme during the afternoon's Executive Meeting.</p> <p>Matters discussed and decisions.</p> <p>Minutes of the last Meeting - Saturday 25th June 2011 -of the Marketing Committee were adopted on the proposal of Ted Murray and seconded by Jane Brown.</p> <p>Conference Shop.</p> <p>The Convenor thanked the members of Committee who had worked at the Shop during the Conference and congratulated them on the success obtained. Financially the result was good and from a turnover of just over £1000 a net profit of £426 was generated. The Committee recommended that all future Conferences should feature a Shop facility and wherever possible and practical goods should be obtained for sale on a sale or return basis.</p> <p>Pewter Gifts Ltd.</p> <p>As a result of the retiral from Business of Mr Jim McLaren -a former supplier to the</p> | |

Federation various items had been purchased from him. An attractive discount was obtained and some of the good were available after this meeting. They would also be advertised in due course via the Burns Chronicle.

Lapel Badges and Blazer Pocket Badges.

In the time lapse since the last meeting of Marketing the Board had given consent to the ordering of a quantity of Lapel Badges and Blazer Pocket Badges. The suggested price for selling Lapel Badges at £4 each was not completely acceptable to the members who preferred that a lower price should apply. The actual price will be re-visited but in the meantime the £4 price pertains subject to review. The Blazer Badges of which an initial order of 25 had been placed would retail at £10.00

Burns Check Ties.

A new order had been placed and ties were now available for resale. Discussion took place about the price to be charged and it was considered that £12 was in excess of what other ties may cost. Therefore a price of £10 is recommended.

Laminated Table Mats.

Samples of existing Table Mats were passed around and it was decided that the Federation should get a Table Mat produced which would consist of the designs already on the Tea Towel, the Federation Crest and appropriate wording in the centre and that these should be available for sale. The end price will be decided once the possible costs of production have been established but it was felt that there was a market for this product.

Christmas Fair at Dower House, Dean Park.

The Convenor relayed the information to the Committee about the two day event being held in Dower House and in the surrounding areas. This was being organised by East Ayrshire Council. A stall facility was being made available for the use of the Federation on a no cost basis. This would be an opportunity for sale of Federation goods and the stall was available on Saturday only. Another two volunteers would be required to assist the existing volunteers of Murdo Morrison, Joe Campbell and Eric Budgell. The Convenor would recruit as necessary.

Christian Aid Fund Raising Burns Suppers.

A booklet and leaflets were circulated which represented a starter pack for potential volunteers to organise a Burns Supper. This campaign was entitled "More Poetry Less Poverty" and was being widely advertised through Church and other Publications. This could be a large project and the Committee recommended that contacts could be established with a view to offering Speakers for appropriate occasions.

E Mail addresses for Burns Clubs.

Consideration was given for a uniform easily remembered e mail address for all Burns Clubs. The Committee were supportive of this prospect and further investigations on feasibility to be carried out.

Membership Forms.

Discussion took place about membership recruiting prospects and of special note was

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| | <p>the fact that many members attended a number of Burns suppers, These were recruitment opportunities that should not be missed. Forms were available today and also from Dower House and the Convenor was asked, that when reporting to the Executive, emphasis should be made to all Members about collective responsibility for getting new members.</p> <p>History of the Federation. A brief History had been compiled from the Bi Centenary Review Book by John McVie. This could be forwarded for inclusion on the Web Site when the new one was operational.</p> <p>President and Interim Chief Executive. At the close of the Meeting President James Shields and Interim Chief Executive Alison Tait attended and President James complimented the Group on the achievements at Peebles and the time and enthusiasm they were devoting to Marketing. The Convenor assured the President and the Interim Chief Executive of the continuing support of the Marketing Committee.</p> | |
| 7.9 | <p>Schools – Isa Hanley The meeting began with confirmation that the 2012 National Festival would be held in Cults Academy, Aberdeen, and Bob Stewart and I would be going there to visit the school, which Helena Anderson-Wright has already seen.</p> <p>The date for the secondary festival will be Saturday 21 April and the primary will be on Saturday 28 April 2012. This will be confirmed after the visit to the school.</p> <p>The date for the Choral Festival will be 12 May 2012 but no venue has been decided as yet as we are looking at one or two possibilities. Hopefully it will be in the Central Belt.</p> <p>It was announced that the Schedules for in-school competition had been distributed to 32 local education authorities and, now that a sponsor (Tunnock's) has been secured, the in-school certificates will be ordered in the next week or so.</p> <p>There was discussion on various topics relating to the national festivals - adjudication fees, providing copies of poems/music, etc.</p> <p>Committee were told of communication with Professor Murray Pittock of Glasgow University regarding his article on teaching of Scots Literature in schools. A reply has been received thanking us for our interest.</p> <p>I have received an excellent Project from a school in Dumbarton and it was agreed to ask if they could supply any more copies. It was from S1/2 but at the moment only P6/7 are involved in this competition. However we may extend it to S1/2.</p> <p>Canada and Australia have expressed an interest having an essay competition on the same lines at the one run for schools in St Petersburg. It was agreed to do this but these countries would run their own competitions and judge them themselves, only sending us the names of winners. The winning essay might be printed in the <i>Chronicle</i>.</p> | |

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| 7.10 | <p>Heritage – Walter Watson The meeting was called to order shortly after 10am and followed an agreed agenda.</p> <p>The convenor welcomed members David Smith (minute Secretary); David Miller; John Skilling; Mrs Shona Shaw; Alex Mackenzie and two joining members to our meeting in the persons of Mrs Elza Anderson of Greenock Burns Club and Gordon Johnston of the Dumfries Burns Howff Club. Murray Henderson of the Borders Burns Clubs Association also re-joined after a lengthy absence. The convenor was sorry to lose member Donald Ross owing to ill health and gathered that member Dr Tom Morrall had elected to join another committee. Apologies for absence were tendered on behalf of Joe Kennedy and Bill Duncan who has been seriously ill of late. It was resolved to send Bill a card on behalf of the Committee.</p> <p><u>The minutes</u> of the meeting held on Saturday 25th June were proposed for adoption by David Miller and seconded by John Skilling. Adopted as a true record and signed as such by convenor Walter Watson.</p> <p><u>Matters arising</u> were raised under separate headings of today's agenda.</p> <p><u>Chairman's Report.</u> Walter indicated that two items of concern had not been advanced since the date of the last meeting, namely the inscribed plate on the plinth in the Rose Garden at the Dower House and the tombstone to the memory of the Rev Hamilton Paul in Broughton Kirkyard. Both items were receiving his attention. Meetings with Graciela Ainsworth, Sculptress and Gordon Ashley would be reported under agenda items (g) and (l) respectively.</p> <p><u>Correspondence</u> had been routine with letters to committee members who were aware of content. Correspondence with Mrs Helen Gage of the Coyllon Village re-union Committee and concerning the Trysting Thorn would be discussed under item (f) of the agenda.</p> <p><u>Reports:</u></p> <p>a) David Miller reported that a very positive meeting had been held with representatives from D&G council and that work on the Mausoleum would commence in the spring of 2012. Our concerns would be met in full.</p> <p>b) David Smith reported that the facsimile of the window inscribed by Burns had been safely installed in the Globe Inn, Dumfries and that framed copies had been made and erected to assist the reading public.</p> <p>c) & d) John Skilling confirmed that he had written to Mr Nat Edwards of the NTS concerning the state of disrepair at the Burns Monument, Alloway and had received a reply indicating that a budget had been allocated and that repairs would be put in hand fairly soon. Other issues as previously reported concerning the RBMM and the Cottage were being closely monitored.</p> <p>e) <u>Leglen Wood.</u> A question raised at the previous meeting by Margaret Morrall</p> | |

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| | <p>concerning our insurance cover for personal injury had been taken by the convenor to the Board and an assurance given that cover was in place.</p> <p>f) <u>Trysting Thorn</u>. The letter from Mrs Gage indicated that a local farmer was offering ground with safe access to the public if it was thought fit to move the tree from it's current location. The meeting felt that it was a matter for the farmer and South Ayrshire Council. Doubt was cast on the feasibility of moving the tree and it was suggested that a cutting be taken for posterity. Convenor to reply.</p> <p>g) <u>Burns & Highland Mary Statue, Bathgate</u>. The convenor reported upon his visit to the Studio in Leith where the sculpture is undergoing repair by Graciela Ainsworth. It would seem that it may be re-sited in a garden to the rear of a public building in Bathgate. Convenor to investigate.</p> <p>h) <u>Highland Mary Statue, Greenock</u>. Application for lottery funding to effect repairs had failed however the local Council and two other public bodies had subscribed and 9K collected. The most essential repairs had been completed at a cost of 5.5K and other less essential work would be put in hand. Riverside Inverclyde had offered suitable storage space for the Greenock BC library and collection of artefacts within the Custom House, Greenock.</p> <p>i) <u>Burns Statue Paisley</u>. It would seem that the statue is to remain in situ which is a good outcome from RBWF perspective.</p> <p>j) <u>Bust of James Lane Waugh</u>. David Smith confirmed that he had attended the unveiling of the refurbished bust in conjunction with other Dumfries based folk.</p> <p>k) <u>Plinth / Dower House</u>. In hand.</p> <p>l) <u>Greenshields Statue of Burns at Camperdown</u>. Correspondence continues with Gordon Ashley regarding the unveiling and the possibility of a plaque from the Scottish Parliament outlining Scotland's contribution in the development of Australia being presented.</p> <p>m) <u>Highland Mary Statue, Failford</u>. John Skilling continues to monitor.</p> <p>n) <u>Burns Statue, Newcastle-upon-Tyne</u>. The convenor tabled several photographs of the statue in its vandalised state supplied by the architect appointed to effect repairs and design a suitable plinth for re-erection.</p> <p><u>AOB</u>. Convenor agreed to provide the details of a foundry that would cast memorial plaques to Gordon Johnston. It was agreed that Shona Shaw would take responsibility for monitoring the repairs to the Theatre Royal, Dumfries.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 11.55.</p> | |
| 7.11 | <p>200 Club – Alison Tait</p> <p>AT advised that the 200 Club is currently a 102 Club which means the prize money is not as much as we had hoped. The redesigned renewal form shows the plan to collect</p> | |

200 Club monies over July & August, work out what the prize-money will be, then run the draw from September to June each year.

With 102 members, the prizes will be as follows:

Quarterly prize £76.50 (instead of £150)

Monthly 1st prize £30.60 (instead of £50) and

Monthly 2nd prize £15.30 (instead of £25)

Draws will be made today to bring us up-to-date.

If anyone still wishes to have a 200 Club number, this can still be arranged, however, note that you will have missed the first draw for this year.

Draw took place and winners are as follows:

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| Sep quarterly prize | £76.50 | 171 | Greenock Burns Club |
| Sep 1 st prize | £30.60 | 69 | Allanton Jolly Beggars |
| Sep 2 nd prize | £15.30 | 152 | Roberta Copland |
| Oct 1 st prize | £30.60 | 101 | St Andrews Society of York |
| Oct 2 nd prize | £15.30 | 73 | Lanarkshire Association of BCs |
| Nov quarterly prize | £76.50 | 31 | Lanarkshire Association of BCs |
| Nov 1 st prize | £30.60 | 102 | Hazel Morrison |
| Nov 2 nd prize | £15.30 | 92 | Bryan Keenan |

7.12 Overseas – Jim Shields (on behalf of May Crawley, Mac Irvin & Jim O’Lone)

Canada

My apologies for not being at today’s meeting, I hope all goes well and you have a productive day.

1) It was gratifying to see a good turnout of Canadian Delegates at Peebles. All 16 of us plus 4 guests, including Eileen & Jim Robertson who are Honorary Members of R.B.A.N.A., met in our room for a pre-dinner 'reception' on the Friday evening. It was a great opportunity for folk who live up to 2000mIs apart to get together.

We thoroughly enjoyed the Conference and wish to thank the Conference Committee and all others who contributed to its success.

2) As you know, the R.B.A.N.A. Conference will be held April 27-29th, 2012 in Historic Williamsburg, Virginia, U.S.A. Further to the info given out at Peebles, I've been informed that Hotel Rate will be U.S. \$105.00, per night (double or single) which includes breakfast. Same rate available for 2 days before/after Conference. Conference fee will be finalised in December. Further info from Jim Cunningham, Chairman, e-mail jcunnin@golden.net or tel no. 519-894-6366 or go to www.rbana.com Hotel website www.williamsburghosphouse.com

Williamsburg is in a very beautiful part of America and the weather in late April/May is usually lovely.

3) About 25 yrs. ago a group of members of the Scottish Studies Foundation, based in Toronto, began a project to raise ONE MILLION DOLLARS to fund a permanent Chair of the School of Scottish Studies at Guelph University, Ontario. I'm delighted to report that they reached their goal this year, a major achievement for a volunteer group. Incidentally, Prof. Ted Cowan, Glasgow Univ, is a former Chair of the Guelph School. The late Gordon Hepburn, a member of the Federation, was a driving force in the

Foundation and one of his major accomplishments for many years was to organize a very successful Burns Supper in Toronto. Many members of the Federation, including Elma Connor, Joan Turner (both P.P.'s of R.B.A.N.A.) and Alex and myself are also members of the Foundation and on our behalf I would respectfully request that a letter of congratulations be sent to the Foundation from our President. Should this be approved, I'll forward the contact info.

May Crawley

"Some merry, friendly, countra folks

Together did convene.....

An haud their Halloween

Fu blythe that night"

U.S.A.

I have reviewed membership records for USA members. It appears that we had 13 clubs and 29 individual members. Unfortunately, the latter is diminished by two because of the death of Frank Campbell and Jock Smith. The good news is that Alison reports that we have two new individual members. I have written both new members welcoming them and inviting their participation in an email information and perhaps roundtable discussion of subjects such as availability of speakers for Burns Night and other events. I will send out an emailing in the next few days encouraging USA clubs and members to communicate with one another and reporting some brief facts about the Federation.

A topic of disappointment is the decision by the Robert Burns Club of Milwaukee that it will not renew its Federation membership, meaning we will have only 12 club memberships. Both May Crawley and I have written to the club expressing gratitude for past contributions and urging that they join again if circumstances permit. My understanding is that declining membership is the cause for the decision. I think this is a predictable outcome with the death of members who act as the catalyst for Federation activity; in this case perhaps Jock Smith.

As clubs decline in membership, we may want to be proactive in developing a reduced membership fee scale to account for reduced funds on a club level.

Now more than ever we must move in directions that helps avoid the loss of membership – by offering helpful services to current members and outreach for new members. I do not believe that occasional postal mailings re events in Scotland will work toward increasing and preserving membership across the globe. Such mailings are outdated upon delivery. The current economic events show that globalization is here to stay; failure to recognize the reality of globalization in that money moves faster than sound and communications move at the same rate will only speed the decline of Federation influence. Enhancing our communications will allow us to attract members almost by accident as individuals bump into the Federation in the digital world of contact. Congratulations on Cam moving forward on the website – this is only the first step toward establishing a global presence. We must reach out to younger prospective members through all legitimate avenues of social media.

Otherwise, the sad fact is that Robert Burns may become a captive of Scotland, a

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| | <p>memory that may fade across the globe if nurtured only by a generation that soon will pass -- if we do not energize the next generation. Regrets and best wishes for a productive meeting.</p> <p>Pacific Rim I also fully agree with Mac and May's comments. With proposed increase in fees, small clubs such as Fremantle, Bendigo and South Australia will struggle. I, like May would appreciate this problem being discussed at Saturday's meeting and hopefully some resolution is achieved. As I said at the AGM at Peebles, it's difficult trying to attract new members. All the best for Saturday.</p> | |
| <p>7.13</p> | <p>Association Representatives</p> <p>Borders Association – Murray Henderson No report submitted</p> <p>Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association – David Smith Members were shocked and saddened at the sudden death in June, 2011, of Mrs Rose Edgar, secretary of the SSCBA since 1997 and it is a tribute to the affection and esteem in which she was held that seven past presidents of the RBWF attended her funeral in Dumfries.</p> <p>At the AGM in the Globe Inn 11th June, Jane Brown was elected president in succession to David Baird. David Miller was elected senior vice president and Mike Duguid, junior vice president. John Caskie was elected secretary and other office bearers were unchanged.</p> <p>Dumfries & Galloway Council recognised the election of David Baird as president of the RBWF with a Civic Reception in the Municipal Chambers, Dumfries, on 9th June. A large gathering of family and local Burnsians heard tributes paid to David for his years of service to the Burns movement generally.</p> <p>The annual commemorative service at Brow Well on 20th July was well attended and heard a moving tribute to Burns and his final days from Mike Duguid. An enjoyable social gathering was later held in the Cairndale Hotel, Dumfries.</p> <p>Dumfries and Galloway Burnsians were delighted to witness the election of Mrs Jane Brown as junior vice president of the RBWF at the annual conference at Peebles in September and continues a long line of distinguished office holders from the area.</p> <p>Association members are concerned at the deteriorating appearance of Burns Mausoleum and are in contact with the Council to pursue a programme of urgent refurbishments.</p> <p>The three facsimile window panes from the Globe Inn, with verses etched by Burns, have been reinstated in the Globe Inn by the Burns Howff Club and are on public view.</p> | |

Looking ahead, a warm welcome will be accorded to all to the annual Commemorative Service to mark the birth of Robert Burns on Wednesday 25th January 2012, with a service arranged by the SSCBA in St. Michaels Kirk, Dumfries at 2.00pm, followed by a wreath laying ceremony at Burns Mausoleum thereafter.

Fife Association of Burns Clubs – Bob Stewart

There are currently eleven 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) Cowdenbeath S.W.H. B.C.-No 1040,
- 5) Cupar B.C.-No 62,
- 6) Dunfermline United B.C.- No 85,
- 7) Earlsferry B.C.- No 967,
- 8) Markinch B.C.-No 350,
- 9) Pittenweem B.C.-No 1103,
- 10) Poosie Nansie Ladies B.C.- No ?, and
- 11) St. Andrew's B.C.-No13.

These clubs all support the aims of the F.A.B.C. in its endeavours with the awarding of medals and trophies to the winners of the Annual Fife Schools' Burns Competitions. The Clubs do this by sending in financial donations to the treasurer which go entirely for the purchase of medals and the upkeep and engraving of the 22 trophies awarded each year.

The F.A.B.C. held its first meeting since 2000 on Sunday 23rd October, 2011 in The Lomond Centre, Glenrothes when the following decisions were taken:-

- 1) The F.A.B.C. would offer to host the R.B.W.F. Executive Meeting in March 2012, in Cupar, Fife;
- 2) The F.A.B.C. would seek re-affiliation to the R.B.W.F.;
- 3) That the frequency of meetings of the F.A.B.C. would be three times per year;
- 4) That the newly elected officials were as follows:-
President- Robert Stewart; Vice-President- Kevin Thomson;
Secretary- Frank Sandeman and Treasurer-Craig Rodger.

Finally, the President of the Poosie Nansie Ladies B.C., Ms. Fiona Cunningham, said her club wished to donate a new trophy to the F.A.B.C. and this was gratefully received.

Edinburgh Association of Burns Clubs – Gordon Jamieson

Burns Anniversary Celebration on 16th July 2011

This was an all day event starting off at the Burns monument on Regent Road in Edinburgh where the company were entertained with songs and poetry. The Lord Provost gave a talk on how important Edinburgh had been to Robert Burns opening up the world to his works. David Baird President of the World Federation reported that Edinburgh was now on the map of Burns events. The party removed to lodge Liberton for lunch which was followed by the Poetry competition. This was won by William Horne representing the EDBCA. Reciting Epistle to Davie, Alastair Lindsay representing

Scottish Borders was second and third was John Campbell representing West Lothian. David Baird World President presented the Quiche and certificates.

The company then gathered for a meal which was followed by an evening harmony which was a great success.

Edinburgh's Historic Buildings Open Day on September 24th 2011.

As part of the open day the EDBCA provided entertainment within the Burns Monument on Regent Road starting at 11am until 4pm. This consisted of songs and poetry and Ian Chisholm President of EDBCA was on hand to greet the visitors. The music was from two Folk Bands over the day. Professor David Purdie gave short interesting talks about Burns visits to Edinburgh and a History of the Monument. Burns poetry was provided by Ian Buick, Gordon Jamieson and Cammy Goodall. The open day was a great success with over 600 visitors from all over the World.

Glasgow Association of Burns Clubs – George Anderson

The Association held its Annual St. Andrews Night at the end of November, 2011, in The Merchants House in Glasgow. Almost 100 people attended what was regarded as a great success.

On 21st. January, the Association celebrated its Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at Burns Statue in George Square. Included in the large attendance was J.V.P. of the Federation, Jane Brown. After the ceremony, the company retired to the Merchants House for light refreshments and entertainment by pupils of Springburn Academy.

The first Burns Festival, a joint effort between the Association and the Trades House of Glasgow, took place on Saturday, 18th February. This was for pupils from Primary 6&7. The afternoon was voted a success by all who attended, including President Jim Shields and Isa Handley from our Schools Committee. Verse, Singing and Instrumental were the areas in which the children performed.

A concert for the winners and runner up pupils at the Festival was arranged at Trades House. This was held on Monday, 27th February. Once again, the entertainment was of the highest order from the pupils, aided by contributions from Hugh O' Rourke and Kelly Burley, both of whom had adjudicated for singing and instrument, at the Festival. As sponsors, Trades gave medals, Certificates to the pupils, with a trophy going to the school the winner came from, to retain for one year. These were presented by Mrs. Ann Steel, wife of Deacon Convener, Mr. Jack Steel. As ever, the evening ended with Auld Lang Syne.

Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs – Margaret Skilling

Mrs Skilling reported that the Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs was in good heart with regular meetings and inter-club activities taking place. As developments concerning the new Robert Burns Birthplace Museum and work on Ayrshire monuments had been covered in the Heritage Report she felt nothing more should be added at this point.

Recent good Inter-Club Nights had been held by Irvine Lasses, New Cumnock Burns Club and Alloway Burns Club. Fourteen Clubs had competed in the Annual Quiz this year with Kilmarnock No 0 again winning 1st place. Wreath layings had again taken place in

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| | <p>July at Alloway's Burns Monument, Burns Statue Square in Ayr and the Federation's Leglen Wood at Auchincruive. Several members of the AABC had already started going out to judge Burns Competitions in schools throughout the county in preparation for the Ayrshire Schools Competitions to be held in March next year. St Petersburg schools' winners had once again been taken on a tour of the local Burns Country and had been well looked after by members of both Alloway and Ayr Burns Clubs. We are pleased that Newmilns Burns Club (No 900) has rejoined the AABC and recently become re-affiliated to the Federation.</p> <p>Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs – Eric Budgetell No report submitted</p> <p>Yorkshire Association of Burns Clubs – David Hannah No report submitted</p> <p>Renfrewshire & Inverclyde Association of Burns Clubs – Allister Anderson This report has been distilled from comments and snippets I have heard from various sources. I was not present at the recent meeting but, in the absence of any RIABC delegate, the Federation President has invited me to contribute what I know, to place it on record. There was discussion at the Association meeting concerning a possible return to the previous name, this being Renfrewshire Association of Burns Club. If this proposed change is preferred, then I'm sure that this will be discussed with the Federation. Another matter which was discussed was a home for the Richardson Library that had been gifted to the Association in a bequest from the late Jenny Richardson. Jenny and her husband Bill (who pre-deceased her) were stalwart members of Erskine Trusty Fieres BC, the Association and were well known within the Federation. Each, in their time, had involvement in the Schools Festival activities both at Club and Association levels. Following discussion, the Association agreed to locate the Library in the Alamo Burns Club's base within the Alamo Bar in Paisley. The reporter thought that this was a sound decision and commended it to the Federation Meeting.</p> | |
| 8. | <p>Applications for Membership</p> <p>Individual Membership</p> <p>Mr Robert Shaw, 3 Muirburn Avenue, Muirend, Glasgow, G44 3HL Mr James Thomson, 6 Glebe Court, Kilmarnock, KA1 3BD Mr Steven James Mack, 12F Warwickhill Road, Bonnyton, Kilmarnock, KA1 2LT Mr Frank Nicol Manson, Migdale, Johnstone Park, Dumfries, DG1 4AE Ms Joanne B Wilson, 62 Whyte Avenue, Irvine, KA12 0EQ Mr William J McCready, 39 Brisbane Street, Greenock, PA16 8NR Mr Robert Stuart Lyon, 7 Clearmont Avenue, Newmilns, KA16 9ER Mrs Annie Small, 1 Willow Gardens, Stanecastle South, Irvine, KA11 1QY Mrs Hazel M D Morrison, Craigellachie, 108/110 Campbell Street, Wishaw, ML2 8HU Mrs Margaret Dickson, 177 Finnart Street, Greenock, PA16 8JA Sgt Linden G Johnson Jr Rtd, 650 Permitter Road, Burke Veterans Parkway, Waynesboro, GA30830, U.S.A. Brigadier Alistair MacMillan DL, Skiff Cottage, Howwood, Johnstone, PA9 1AG</p> | |

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| | <p>Mr Alf Cranner, Bergemestervn 3, 3770 Kragero, Norway Mr Colin T Lewis, 30 Te Rama Place, Wainoni, Christchurch 8061, New Zealand Mrs Alison Hemmings, 3 Woodborough Road, London, SW15 6PX Mr Stewart R Houston, 21 Rowhead Terrace, Biggar, ML12 6DU</p> <p>Family Membership Mrs Kerry Burley, 164 Glasgow Road, Garrowhill, Glasgow, G69 6EU Mr & Mrs William & Jean Kerr, 35 Marle Park, Ayr, KA7 4RN Ms Alison Dunhill, 19 St Anne’s Walk, Welton, East Riding, HU15 1NP Mr Andrew Mushet, 13A Buclair Road, Bearsden, Glasgow Mr & Mrs Ian & Moira McIntyre, ‘Airds’, 273 Annan Road, Dumfries, DG1 3HF Mr Paul Eric Ross, 1920 W Jalisco Pl, Tucson, Arizona 85745-2159, U.S.A. Mr & Mrs Robert & Anna Farmer, 43 Eden Court, Cupar, Fife, KY15 5US Mr & Mrs George & Ellie Ellis, P.O.Box 480, Merrylands, New South Wales, Australia Mr Wilfred R I Lakie, 6A Kelso Street, Dundee, DD2 1SJ Mr & Mrs John & Moira Baird, 37 Hogarth Drive, Parklands, Glasgow, G32 6NU Mr & Mrs Andy & Irene McLaughlin, 6 Locher Way, Houston, Renfrewshire, PA6 7AH</p> <p>Club Membership Wellcroft Bowling Club No.2092 Robert Burns Society of Maastricht No.2093 Caledonian Society of London No.2094 The Scottish Society of Jersey No.2095</p> <p>Corporate Membership none</p> <p>Re-Affiliation The Dublin Burns Club, No.146 The Poosie Nansie Ladies Burns Club, Fife No.688 Newmilns Burns Club No.900 Robert Burns Club of Guildford No.952 Lodge Liberton, Edinburgh No.1201</p> | |
| 9. | <p>AOCB Letter from Jim McGregor – issues re conference passed to Conference convener. JS will reply re membership fees.</p> <p>JS invited to judge Burns Humanitarian Award. Met with John Cairney who will perform at RBBM event on 1st December. JS suggested we offer John Cairney the title of Honorary President of RBWF – unanimous decision from the floor. JS will now take this to the Board for approval.</p> <p>Gordon Jamieson in possession of Collinton Burns Club documents and chain of office. Collinton BC was founded in 1907 and ran until 1974. Resurrected in 1988 – 2005. GJ will bring the items to RBWF office soon.</p> <p>Gordon Johnston</p> | |

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| | <p>Question Time 7pm???</p> <p>Margaret Morrall asked if Young Burnsians would be invited to Executive Meetings. It was lovely to have Leona Evans at conference. DB confirmed that the winner would be invited to conference each year.</p> | |
| <p>10.</p> | <p>Date of next meetings: Saturday 17th March 10am-3pm – Fife Association, full details tba Saturday 23rd June 10am-3pm – Lanarkshire Association, full details tba</p> | |

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