

The Robert Burns World Federation Ltd

Executive Meeting

Venue: Dalziel St Andrews Church Hall, Motherwell

Date: Saturday 23rd June 2012 9:30am for 10:00am

MINUTES

1. Sederunt

Allister Anderson	David Hannah	John C Paterson
Elza Anderson	Irene Henry	Jim Robertson
David Baird	May Hyslop	Archie Shaw
Ralph A Balfour	Jane Jack	Jim Shields
Kay Blair	Patricia Leslie	John Skilling
Joe Campbell	Jean Macmillan-Forster	Margaret Skilling
Ray Connal	Frances Marshall	Annie Small
Bill Dawson	Bob McDonald	David Smith
Campbell Dickson	Joe McGinty	Bob Stewart
Mike Duguid	David Miller	Margaret Stokes
Anne Gaw	Margaret Morrall	Eva Stubbs
James Gibson	Tom Morrall	Alison C Tait
Willie Gibson	Hazel Morrison	Jim Thomson
Isa Hanley	Helen Morrison	Helen Waddell
	Murdo Morrison	Walter Watson

2. Apologies

Jean Abdulrahim	May Crawley	Gordon Jamieson
Enez Anderson	Graham Galbraith	Gordon Johnston
George Anderson	Cameron Goodall	A Anderson Kidd
Margaret Anderson	George Grant	Alex MacKenzie
Helena Anderson-Wright	Betty Haining	May McGuffog
Eddie Bonnar	John Haining	Angus Middleton
Jane Brown	Murray Henderson	Ted Murray
Eric Budgell	Harry Hutchison	James O'Lone
Barbara E Clayton	Mac Irvin	Lesley Richardson
	John Irvine	Jim Todd, Provost-East Ayrshire

Item		Action
3.	<p>Chairman's Remarks</p> <p>President Jim Shields opened the meeting and invited Patricia Leslie, Vice-President of Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs (LABC) to speak. Patricia welcomed everyone (on behalf of LABC) to Dalziel St Andrews Church Hall and gave us an interesting potted history of the Church.</p> <p>President Jim thanked Patricia for her input and welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Sadly, Jim announced the following obituaries and asked those present to stand for one-minute silence:</p> <p>Paul Webb, Past President, Atlanta Burns Club Alva See Jnr, Atlanta Burns Club James Grizzard, Atlanta Burns Club Mr W Thomson, Secretary, Earlsferry Burns Club</p>	
4.	<p>Minutes of Meeting 17th March 2012</p> <p>Remove Allister Anderson as spokesman for Renfrewshire & Inverclyde Association of Burns Clubs Change AABC rep from Margaret Skilling to Jim Thomson Approved – Murdo Morrison, seconded – Jim Thomson</p>	
5.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>None</p>	
6.	<p>Finances – ACT</p> <p>The bank balance as at our end-of-year 30th April 2012 stood at £55591.51. However, this includes restricted income for Schools Sponsorship and advance Conference payments, etc. Our accountants are currently working on EOY figures.</p>	
7.	<p>Reports</p>	
7.1	<p>President</p> <p>As most of you will know, Lynn and I have now divorced and I have moved house. Thank you to those who have been supportive to me during this past traumatic year.</p> <p><u>Events attended include:-</u></p> <p>Burns/Shevchenko Supper with Ukrainian Consul General in Edinburgh Edinburgh Schools' Competition Gala Burns Concert for retiring Lord Provost of Edinburgh Balerno Rotary Club Irvine Lassies Burns Club, where I gave a talk on "Burns the Songsmith" The Yorkshire Association Ball, in Barnsley Secondary Schools Final, in Cults Academy RBANA Conference, where I also gave a presentation on "Burns the Songsmith" Was also able to help persuade Les Strachan, to succeed Mac Irvine as USA director. This has been approved by the board, Les has been advised, and his formal appointment will take place at the AGM in September</p>	

	<p>Board meeting in West Lothian. We intend to try moving around and our next meeting will be held at Wellwood, the home of Irvine Burns Club</p> <p>Choral Competition in West Lothian, small number of choirs, but high standard and great enthusiasm from choirs.</p> <p>Holy Fair Mauchline, where during the afternoon, I visited Mrs Wylie, of Mossgeil, whose late husband's family have farmed there, since 1826. Also made a visit to the residents of the sheltered Burns Homes in Mauchline and spent a happy hour with them.</p> <p>Still to come:-</p> <p><u>JUNE:</u> Hosting a tour, of the Royal Mile in Edinburgh, for visitors from Williamsburg, whom I met at RBANA</p> <p><u>JULY:</u> Covington Mains celebration Hawick, for Wauchope House celebration Brow Well celebration, Dumfries Burns the Songsmith at Alloway Burns Club Wreath Laying at Burns Monument Alloway Wreath Laying at Burns Statue in Ayr Tom McIlwraith National Poetry competition, Edinburgh Burns the Songsmith at Stranraer Burns Club</p>	
7.2	<p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Although we have been unsuccessful in securing funding from Fiona Hyslop's Department of Culture & External Affairs at Scottish Government who insist we should apply for core funding through Creative Scotland – note that there is no core funding available through Creative Scotland so this is a non-starter, we are still in discussions with another couple of Departments within Scottish Government (Education, Enterprise & Tourism) and I will report back once we have made progress.</p> <p>I continue to keep in touch with Business Gateway and East Ayrshire Council Economic Development Team re potential support for business growth and I have submitted an Expression of Interest to Scottish Enterprise re support for Business Development.</p> <p>Diary events: 20th Mar – Boyd Tunnock introductory meeting. 21st Mar – Kilmarnock Howff Club Cloutie Dumpling event 22nd Mar – Business Gateway re Marketing Plan 22nd Mar – Grange Academy Burns Supper 28th Mar – East Ayrshire SDET rep 28th Mar – Neil McKenna, EAC funding officer 29th Mar – Carol Andrew – EAC Economic & Business Development Officer 29th Mar – Lord Provost's Retiral event, Edinburgh City Halls 2nd Apr – Liz Foster, RSCDS 3rd Apr – Business Gateway re Marketing Plan 6th – 13th Apr – holiday (Dower House closed 6th & 9th)</p>	

18th Apr – Shelley Breckenridge, Interface re potential International Marketing student
 19th Apr – Daniel Steel – EAC Tourism Officer
 21st Apr – RBWF Secondary Schools Competition Final, Cults Academy
 28th Apr – RBWF Primary Schools Competition Final, Cults Academy
 3rd May – Brenda Ritchie, West Sound
 3rd May – Irvine Lasses Burns Club Inter-Club event
 10th May – Jubilee Concert, Easterbrook Hall Dumfries
 11th May – Reid Kerr College Academy of Creative Arts production, RBBM
 12th May – RBWF Choral Competition, Armadale Academy
 13th May – Lasses Lunch, Tontine Hotel Greenock
 17th May – Innovation & Entrepreneurship Conference, Tods Murray, Blythwood Hotel Glasgow
 24th May – SCDI networking event, House for an Art Lover
 25th May – ACT Holiday
 29th May – Rosemary McGinness, Wm Grant & Sons
 18th June – University of West Scotland re Social Media / Marketing partnership project
 20th June – Barclays seminar – Ignite Business Growth

Forthcoming:

26th June – Castle Douglas High School trophy presentation
 28th June – Carol Andrew, East Ayrshire Council
 w/c 16th & 23rd July – ACT holiday

The invitation to membership letter sent to all schools who applied for competition certificates this year has now brought in over 80 new school memberships so far. I would reiterate, this is an ideal opportunity for the Regional Associations and Burns Clubs to connect with their local schools, keep up lines of communication, and build relationships which can only benefit the Federation in future. Many of the regions and Clubs are already actively involved with their local schools through the RBWF competitions, Burns Suppers, etc. If you know of any local schools you wish to be invited to join, please let me have the contact details. Once we have support in the office, obviously this can be expanded on.

The end-of-year stock take has been done, my sincere thanks to Jim Thomson for his assistance – a staff member from our accountants, Smith & Wallace, was also in attendance and happy with the results.

I have been in touch with Jim Caldwell at our accountants regarding the current financial state of the Federation and he has indicated that we will have a clause on our accounts this year with regards to the business as a going concern – this is standard procedure for any organisation with less than a year's operating costs in reserve.

So, it's all hands on deck. Obviously we will now take this information to Scottish Government and all other potential funders in the hope that we can obtain some funding to help keep the organisation afloat, at least until the Board & I have had the chance to look at changing the current business model to make us more self-sustaining.

	<p>At present, membership fees contribute less than 20% of the running costs of the business and, if the current drop-off rate continues, we will not exist in 5 years.</p> <p>We need to look at increasing membership numbers, I've made a start with schools, but it would be far more beneficial to increase individual, family, club and corporate membership numbers. Perhaps in your Club or local area, there may be people or businesses who would like to take up membership and I would encourage you to approach those who may wish to take advantage of joining, or advertising / sponsorship opportunities with the Federation.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>On a more positive note, Mike & I had a good meeting with the University of West Scotland regarding a potential partnership with a student to work on a Social Media strategy for the Federation and also, in the new academic year, the possibility of a Marketing Student to work on an international marketing strategy. Small world, student's sister is Alison Jones from Ayr, a former Young Burnsian!!</p> <p>Can I ask that all members giving a report today please email me a copy within the next week so that I can add this to the Executive minutes.</p>	
7.3	<p>Conference – David Baird</p> <p>Conference Convenor David Baird formally welcomed all Committee Members to the Meeting & stated that he was pleased to see former Conference Committee Members Ray Connal & Joe McGinty attending as observers. Both Ray & Joe were then asked by the Chairman if they would be interested in re-joining the Committee & both stated that they were & would look forward to working on the Conference Committee.</p> <p><u>Matters arising from Minute of 17th-March-2012.</u></p> <p>Jim Robertson asked who the Piper was for the Inaugural Dinner & was informed that it was Mr Tony Hindley who will attend the Inaugural Dinner accompanied with his wife as Guests of the Federation.</p> <p>Registration of Delegates attending Conference will take Place on Friday 14th-September commencing at 2-00pm at an area designated by the Hotel.</p> <p>There will not be a table plan for the informal dinner on Friday evening & in house entertainment will be conducted by Conference Committee Member John Caskie in the Promenade Suite.</p> <p>AGM will take place on Saturday 15th-September in the Promenade Suite commencing at 10-00am.</p> <p>Seminar will take place in the Mountbatten Suite commencing at 2-00pm & the speakers will be Professor Fred Freeman from Muirkirk a well respected Burnsian scholar & Professor David Purdie whose subject will be on his updating of Burns Encyclopaedia which will still be work in progress at the seminar.</p> <p>Table plan for the Inaugural dinner will be prepared by Ch Exec assisted by Conference Committee Members at a date to be decided when numbers have been confirmed.</p> <p>Inaugural Dinner will be held in the Promenade Suite commencing at 6-00pm for a 6-30pm</p>	

start.

Delegates will be met at the entrance of the Promenade Suite by Members of the Conference Committee who will provide assistance with seating arrangements etc.

JVP Jane Brown will be responsible for meeting the Mayor & Mayoress & introducing them to the pre Inauguration dinner reception.

Top Table Guests will be The Mayor & Mayoress of Harrogate, The President of the Yorkshire District Burns Association Jim Robertson(PP) accompanied by his wife Eileen & from Yorkshire District Mrs May McGuffog. They will be accompanied by Federation senior Office Bearers & their partners.

The Top Table will be piped in & the incumbent President will make a short speech of welcome & the meal will be served from a set Menu.

Prior to the Installation of the Federation incoming President & the exchange of Office Chains JVP Jane Brown will propose the toast to Harrogate & the Mayor will respond.

Following the installation of Office Bearers & completion of the meal, dancing & entertainment will follow & Master of Ceremonies for the evening will be a member of the Conference Committee.

2

Official photographer for the evening will be Mr George Grant of the Alamo Burns Club.

Raffle format will be as last year with each delegate having an envelope placed at their dinner placings. Raffle will be supervised by Conference Committee Ladies, Jean & Irene.

Conference Committee to ensure that that function suite is set up for inaugural dinner.

Sunday Morning Service will be conducted in house at a time to be arranged. Collection will be uplifted by Conference Committee Members & the Presiding Minister will nominate a charity of her choice to be the recipient.

There followed a general discussion on various requirements for Conference 2012. Raffle prizes to be donated & Arran Distillers to be approached re provision of miniatures, etc

Menu for Inaugural Dinner was discussed & it was decided to wait on the visit from the President & SVP to get their opinion & make the decision on what will be a set menu.

Voting card procedures were discussed to ensure that the problems associated with voting experienced at previous Conferences will be obviated & Delegates & Clubs will be made aware of the voting procedures. It was agreed that only scrutineers representing nominees & Jean & Irene from Conference Committee & two Past Presidents who will supervise the count.

Voting Cards to be issued by the Chief Executive at Delegate Registration.

PP Jim Robertson to obtain fillers for Delegate folders from Harrogate Advertising

There followed an in-depth discussion on Conference 2012 costs as it was the opinion of Conference Committee Members that proposed cost for Conference 2012 was out of line with Hotel costs etc. Keeping in mind that as we are an ageing organisation estimated costs should favour the Delegates who attend Conference regularly. However, it was generally agreed that future Conference Costs will be monitored & while Conference is expected to make a profit it is not a fund raising exercise.

President & SVP then visited the meeting & Menu for Inaugural Dinner discussed. It was agreed that a set menu will be preferred and Conference Convenor will make approaches to the Hotel to see what choices are available.

With the current financial status of the Federation the question "Do we need an Annual Conference?" when by law as a Federation we only require to hold an AGM was mooted & the feeling was that Delegates enjoyed the Conference & cancellation could cause upset.

Conference Convenor & Chief Executive will visit Conference 2012 venue early August.

	<p>Venues for Conference 2013 were discussed & Glasgow would appear to be favourite, but a decision will be made in the near future after various venues have been checked out.</p>	
<p>7.4</p>	<p>Literature – Mike Duguid</p> <p>The Literature committee discussions concentrated on the following issues related to the Chronicle:</p> <p>Digitisation</p> <p>Jim Thomson was actively pursuing the possibility of obtaining funding for a scanning machine together with an operator to digitize all the Burns Chronicles from the 1892 edition onwards. He was writing a detailed submission presenting the full business case for the project. Jim planned to have a strategy document ready for approval of the Board soon. There was no doubt that a fully searchable database providing access to all the articles in the Chronicle would be of huge benefit to anyone researching the life and works of Burns and raise the profile of the Federation. Discussion between Jim and the Editor had already taken place on the most appropriate type of scanner. The importance of having software which was compatible with the webmaster’s requirements was also acknowledged.</p> <p>Revised Format</p> <p>As tasked at the March meeting, the Convenor had obtained permission from the Board to continue with an investigation into the possibilities of a revised format Chronicle based on the Scottish Local History publication produced by the Scottish Local History Forum. It was agreed that a sub-committee (the Editor, the Convenor and John Irvine) would continue the investigation including printing and postage costs and report at the next meeting. It was agreed that in order to produce a magazine similar to the Scottish Local History version a group of around a dozen dedicated contributors would be required who were prepared to commit to supplying articles on a regular basis.</p> <p>Summer Chronicle</p> <p>Following comments from the Editor regarding the wasteful amount of pages being taken up in the Chronicle to record minutes of Executive meetings the Board decided at its meeting on 9th May 2012 to discontinue this practice. Instead, minutes would be sent separately either by post with the Chronicle or, ideally, electronically in order to minimise postal costs.</p> <p>It was hoped that an article on the seminar organized by the Greenock Burns Club featuring Professor Ross Roy, Dr Ken Simpson and Dr Gerard Carruthers would feature in the summer Chronicle.</p> <p>Chronicle Index</p> <p>The Editor was considering an update of the Chronicle Index which he had produced in 2005. The committee agreed this would be a very useful supplement to the digitized Chronicle, especially if it appeared in an electronic format.</p>	
<p>7.5</p>	<p>Editor – Bill Dawson</p> <p>The last Chronicle – Spring 2012 edition – was published in the last few days of March and sent out from our office in the first few days of April. There were one or two technical matters which arose in the production of this issue and I hope to have these addressed so that there is minimal recurrence.</p>	

	<p>I was out of the country for just over three weeks following publication but did get a fair bit of feedback from a number of contacts, some of it in embarrassingly glowing and complimentary terms, but within all these a number of useful points of view expressed and I take note of all these observations.</p> <p>During my trip I made a number of interesting visits and researched many Burns related aspects which may develop into features in future Chronicles in the fullness of time.</p> <p>The next, <u>Summer</u>, edition is in process, I have to report that I am not as far forward as I should be but I will endeavour to have all back on track within a couple of weeks. Copy deadline for submissions is next Saturday, although I will take items a week or so later if I am made aware that a submission is definite, the edition should be printing last week in July to be sent out shortly thereafter.</p> <p>Can I once again repeat? Contributions should be emailed to chronicle@rbwf.org.uk. They should be in a "word" document or similar format, as an attachment to the email, please do not embed within an email, if I have to copy and paste to a word doc and there is always the danger that I lose something.</p> <p>Can you please send in a simple clear format, I am not a totally pedantic gramatician, and I am aware that our global audience uses and understands a mid-Atlantic dialect, but can you please spell-check and correct, make sure the words are spaced etc, and punctuated as best you can. I have had submissions which have been completely capitalised, and that means that either I don't process them or I re-case them and there is the danger that I inadvertently miss a title or something which should correctly be in capitalised or in upper case. This may seem like it is picking but, particularly nearer print deadline, time is quite precious.</p> <p>Pictures should be sent separately, not embedded in the feature, jpegs or similar in as high definition as possible.</p> <p>If you cannot email send it on a DVD, USB stick, flashcard or similar. If anyone has problems in complying with these requirements speak to me. Make me aware of anything you have in mind to send, even before your event or whatever. editor@rbwf.org.uk</p> <p>Beyond this edition a provisional copy deadline for the Winter edition is 24th October, it is currently intended that this will be printed and out to the Membership 3rd week in November.</p>	
7.6	Archivist – John Haining	
7.7	<p>Website – Cameron Goodall</p> <p>Things have been very slow in progressing on the web front over the last three months, mostly owing to my own domestic circumstances. My wife is currently training as a paramedic and is therefore away from home Sun-Fri, leaving me with a mountain to climb in terms of domestic arrangements to attend to with 5 and 7 year old daughters. On top of this, I must continue to attend to my Territorial Army commitments, which preclude my attendance today, and balance these with filming with STV, hosting the Taste of Scotland show at Prestonfield and my myriad tour commitments - in short, my life is frenetic.</p> <p>This is not to excuse my tardiness, nor to engender pity, but to inform the community that I</p>	

	<p>don't have the time at present to harass and cajole individuals into providing content. That said, one or two individuals have presented content, or ideas for content, which have not been actioned and I must hold my hands up for this "ae wee faut they whiles lay to me".</p> <p>In recognition that real life does at times get in the way of important progress, I wish to schedule a training session with board members and other important, interested stakeholders to allow them to post content of their own volition.</p> <p>I'd also ask the community to get involved in the RBWF Facebook page, Twitter feed, YouTube channel and flickr account, as these are easy ways for anyone to have their say, irrespective of their web-saviness. Surely everyone with a wish to access the Internet must have a relative or friend who could instruct them in the few intricacies involved. Many libraries provide both Internet access and training courses to get you on your way.</p> <p>My aims for the progress of the site have not changed; they have just been pushed back a little. I had a perfect opportunity in late April - early May to push things forward, but unfortunately did not have the resources to hand at the time. I need to schedule a meeting with the Marketing executive, hopefully around mid-July, to ascertain prices for stock. This may require re-strategising pricing models to ensure a fit between the prices online and the price from other outlets, so it's not just as simple as getting the marketplace set-up.</p> <p>My wife should finish her training in the next three weeks, and July is not looking too hectic at present, so hopefully the next progress report will have a far more positive spin.</p>	
7.8	<p>Marketing – Murdo Morrison <u>Stocks of Books and Materials.</u></p> <p>The Convenor reported that the list of items and materials in stock had been received and now the information was professionally prepared and presented to facilitate decisions. A brief review followed on existing stocks and a suggestion was made about making some stock available to persons who would make efforts to sell at Burns functions. This merited further investigation.</p> <p><u>Potential assistance Admin/Marketing.</u></p> <p>The possibility of assistance via a Marketing Student was a welcome move and would be of assistance to the Chief Executive.</p> <p>There were some publications which contain e mail address information on various organisations with Scottish connections and a data base of this information could be compiled and utilised for sales and other promotions from the Federation.</p> <p><u>Articles in publications.</u></p> <p>There has already been a meeting and a follow up with the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and that would generate reciprocal articles in their key publication giving information about the Robert Burns World Federation. An article on RSCDS would appear in due course in the Burns Chronicle.</p> <p>Other avenues in similar publications should be investigated.</p> <p>It was suggested that a decision could be made as to what Committee would front this inter organisational proposal.</p>	

	<p><u>Homecoming Chronicle.</u> There were still remaining two hundred copies of the Homecoming Chronicle and these required to be sold off to generate revenue before becoming too outdated. An Antiquarian Bookseller in Edinburgh is including an advertisement at no cost to the Federation on the next issue of his periodical catalogue which has a national and international distribution.</p> <p><u>Possible Sponsorships</u> The association with the date 1759 and Guinness being also a significant date of Robert Burns should generate discussions to establish any likelihood of some sponsorship beneficial to the Federation. The Convenor would develop this idea with appropriate contacts.</p> <p><u>Ties.</u> Information about a new style silk based tie with a Burns logo had been passed to the Marketing Committee by President James Shields. The cost of these ties would be ascertained before any decision would be made.</p> <p><u>Web Page of Interest.</u> The Executive were advised to look at a Web Page under the heading of The Tam O'Shanter Scottish Country Dancers, White Rock British Columbia. This group organise an annual Burns supper which attracts a large audience and have stage sets prepared together with singing and acting to illustrate aspects of the life of Burns.</p> <p><u>*Any other Business.</u> As there were some remaining items to be finalised the Convenor would e mail the Chief Executive for a response as she had been unable to attend Marketing due to involvement at another committee meeting. The responses would be circulated to member of Marketing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items raised with Chief Executive and clarification of items. <p><u>Marketing Student</u> – there will be no progress on this until the new academic year. This will be revisited in September for further discussion/decision.</p> <p><u>Marketing Plans</u> – Business Gateway have put together a marketing strategy and this will be actioned as soon as feasible to do so. This is in itself a major item requiring the allocation of dedicated time along with many other current pressures.</p> <p><u>Place Mats</u> – a meeting has been arranged for final discussions on this item. Associated with this meeting will be an open review of what other items, if any, can be sourced via HMP activity.</p> <p><u>Quote for Fed Song Books</u> – a quote is forthcoming from Solway Offset.</p> <p><u>Quote for a Federation Calendar</u> – this has been pursued and an answer/quote is imminent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The items to be included in current minute and, if required, brought to the attention of the next Marketing Committee Meeting. 	
7.9	<p>Schools – Isa Hanley The main topic for discussion was the recent secondary and primary festivals which were held in Cults Academy, Aberdeen.</p>	

This was an excellent venue and most things went according to plan. However, there were a few points which had to be clarified regarding all disciplines. It seems that Recitation adjudicators asked competitors to recite their poems a second time and this ought not to have happened. No one could have anticipated this but clear instructions will be handed out next time around.

All placings **must** be decided at the end of each section and **not** at the end, as this causes confusion and waste of precious time. Most parents/friends/pupils are keen to get home as they have had a long day. Again this will be addressed in future.

Instrumental pieces, including Bagpiping, overran in some cases, although adjudicators have instructions to stick to the 3 minute limit – some chose to ignore this. This will also be addressed.

It was decided that pipers must stick to a certain category of tunes and we will consult with the “experts” regarding this. Some of the tunes used are unsuitable.

Next year’s competitions will be in Fife, possibly Dunfermline, and Bob Stewart is co-ordinating this at the moment. He and I will visit the chosen school in the near future.

Secondary – Saturday 20 April 2013

Primary – Saturday 27 April 2013

Choral – Saturday 11 May 2013

Karen McPhail has kindly offered to co-ordinate the Choral event once more, possibly once again in Armadale Academy, an excellent venue.

Graham Hill will deal with the Primary Art and Project entries and arrange for adjudication.

Murdo’s suggestion of how to involve schools more was discussed and followed through. In-school certificates had to be reprinted twice – a good sign that more schools/pupils are getting involved.

Helen Morrison provided us with a detailed International Literature Report. This year’s essay subject is *Man’s inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn*. It was decided by the Board of Directors that St Petersburg schools will send in only their best 10 essays, as the number in recent years has been increasing rapidly, last time almost 50 essays were received.

Australia and Canada initially showed interest in this competition but, as yet, no definite information from them has come through. Australian schools do not seem to be showing enough interest, despite the great efforts of Jim Miller in Bendigo.

Peter Kormylo has already received RBWF certificates for schools in Ukraine and we hope they will participate in this year’s essay-writing competition.

John Paterson has stood down as vice convener and was thanked for his help over the years. Frances Marshall has agreed to stand in with immediate effect and hopefully take over from me for the 2014 national festivals. I will continue to organise the Fife competitions with the help

	of Bob Stewart, the local contact.	
7.10	<p>Heritage –Walter Watson</p> <p>WELCOME Convenor accorded a welcome to members present but expressed disappointment at the number of absentees from whom reports would have been expected on issues from their area. No written submissions had been received.</p> <p>MINUTES The minutes of the meeting held at Cupar on 17th March 2012 having been circulated were taken as read and agreed correct on the proposal of J. Skilling, seconded by D. Miller. Convenor expressed thanks to J. Skilling for taking that meeting in his absence and to D. Miller for providing a minute.</p> <p>MATTERS ARISING Burns Statue, Montrose Convenor reported that a ceremony to mark the centenary of the unveiling of the statue would be held on 11th August 2012 and it had been hoped that the Heritage Committee would be represented. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend and it seemed that other members were committed elsewhere on that date. John Skilling agreed to consider attending.</p> <p>CHAIRMAN’S REPORT Convenor stated that several items would appear on the agenda. He expressed regret on the continuing lack of progress with the replacement of the plaque on the stone at the Rose Garden at the Dower House. He was considering a stainless steel plaque or an engraving on the side of the block in order to reduce the risk of theft and vandalism. He was in discussion with experts and hoped to report further to the next meeting.</p> <p>CORRESPONDENCE Convenor reported that he had been in correspondence with Campbell Dickson regarding Mount Oliphant, near Ayr. It was noted that the building was in private hands but nearing a semi derelict state although still occupied. It was felt unlikely to become a visitor attraction. An e-mail had been received from a gentleman seeking to erect a statue to RB in Glasgow and inviting support from the RBWF but it was agreed to take no action.</p> <p>REPORTS Burns Mausoleum, Dumfries D. Miller reported that the refurbishments were nearing completion. The building had been placed in a protective sleeve during the workings and a copper dome had been placed on the roof to prevent water ingress. He would be inviting comments on the copper dome and would submit photographs to the next meeting. The question of a formal reopening would be taken up with the Council.</p> <p>Burns Statue, Dumfries D. Smith reported that Dumfries & Galloway Council was still considering plans for the site and no further details were available. The Council had promised to display the final plans to local Burnsians and he hoped to report further to the next meeting.</p>	

Jean Armour statue, Dumfries

D. Miller stated that no reports of vandalism have been made other than two years ago when the culprits had been apprehended as a result of being seen from the flats overlooking the statue. This probably deterred vandals.

Globe Inn, Dumfries

D. Miller reported that major renovations to the Burns Howff Clubroom in the Globe Inn were nearing completion. Through the good offices of Dave Scott who donated a quantity of aged flooring from a demolished mansion in Aberdeenshire, it had been possible to refloor the clubroom in appropriate wood.

Theatre Royal, Dumfries

In the absence of Mrs. Shaw, D. Miller reported that a design team had been appointed to take the project forward. The adjoining building had been purchased and plans were in place to improve the back stage facilities. Earlier plans to create a glass tower on the site have been abandoned.

Burns Monument, Alloway

J. Skilling stated that he had written to Kate Mavor, CEO of the National Trust in August 2011 but had received no response or to a subsequent letter. Douglas Hemming OBE had also written describing the monument as a disgrace and submitted photographs. An Email had since been received on 25/05/12 stating that a reply had been sent but not received. No further progress was evident and Mr. Skilling agreed to write to First Minister Alex Salmond to seek his support. J. Skilling felt the monument should be closed to the public meantime as the poor state sent a wrong message. He confirmed that the Monument Trustees had had passed on funds amounting to £135K as well as two buildings and artefact to the NTS when the site was transferred. J. Skilling would report to the next meeting on the approach to the First Minister.

Auld Brig, Alloway

J. Skilling reported that some cobbles had been removed and this could lead to water damage and the bridge being put in danger. He agreed to investigate the extent of the damage and report back. The keystone of the bridge was not visible.

Trysting Thorn, Coylton

In the absence of Bill Duncan, convenor reported that a Mrs. Helen Grace of the Coylton Village Reunion Committee had written offering support for the possible move of the tree but that they had no funds for any work and hoped the RBWF would take it on. Bill Duncan had previously agreed to take a cutting but it was not known if this had been done. J. Skilling would approach Bill and ascertain the position.

Burns and Highland Mary Statue, Bathgate.

Convenor had nothing further to report but he believed the statue was now in place in an outdoors location.

Highland Mary's Grave and Monument, Greenock

Elza Anderson reported that safety issues had been addressed and the top stone had been made safe. It was hoped next to carry out remedial work on the monument figures. Funding is

in place to remove the artificial coating currently in place and to assess the extent of restoration work required. However, no funding is available for the restoration work and it was felt impractical to expose the masonry surfaces until the club was in a position to carry out the recommendations from the consultants, Stonemasonry Scotland Ltd. Applications were being made to the Heritage Lottery Fund under their "All our stories" programme but the deadline for applications was 31st July 2012. Meantime, the books and artefacts and memorabilia belonging to Greenock Burns Club have been moved to Greenock Customhouse Building for secure and watertight storage. D. Miller suggested that if there were any wind farms in the vicinity, the operators could be approached for funding.

Burns Statue, Paisley

Convenor reported that with the resignation of Rev. Douglas Hamilton, there was no representation from the Paisley area on the committee. As far as he was aware, there were no plans at the moment to relocate the statue from the park. It was agreed to seek the assistance of John Haining who was a Paisley resident.

Rose Garden, Dower House

Convenor confirmed the details expressed earlier.

Burns Statue, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Convenor stated that it had not been feasible to invite the gentleman to make a presentation to the previous meeting. He would try and arrange a visit to Newcastle to examine the statue. Elza Anderson stated that she had relatives in Newcastle and if possible, she would visit the statue and report back with a photograph.

Tombstone at Broughton

Convenor had no further progress to report on repairs to the stone of Rev. Hamilton Paul. He proposed to visit the Burial Records Office at Peebles to ascertain if any record existed of a descendant.

OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Betty Burns Grave, Glasgow

Convenor reported that he had been sent a note stating that the headstone of Betty Burns grave in Kirklane Cemetery, Glasgow, was lying flat and in a poor state needing refurbishment. It was agreed to ask John Haining to investigate.

Burns Cottage

J. Skilling reported that the garden was progressing but he repeated that the displays within the cottage were uninspiring. He had calculated only eight minutes were sufficient for a visitor to cover the exhibits.

Birthplace Museum

J. Skilling reported that a new statue had been erected on the "Poet's Path". This was a bronze fox which was quite attractive.

Leglen Wood

J. Skilling reported that the annual commemorative ceremony would be held on Sunday 15th July. The Auld Kirk at 11.00am and Burns Monument at 2.00pm

	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Convenor stated that in his report in the afternoon, he would ask that all members keep a watching brief on all monuments and other buildings related to Burns in their home districts and report any issues to the committee. Convenor noted that the commemorative plaques had been replaced at the graves of Burns' contemporaries in Mauchline Kirkyard. A Get Well card had been sent to Bill Duncan. J. Skilling stated that Mr. Duncan was still president of Alloway Burns Club.</p> <p>A vote of thanks to the Chair terminated the meeting.</p>																																				
<p>7.11</p>	<p>200 Club – Alison Tait</p> <p>The 200 Club is now a 145 Club. From last year, the plan is to collect 200 Club subscriptions over July & August, work out what the prize-money will be, then run the draw from September to June.</p> <p>With 145 members, the prizes will be as follows: Quarterly prize £108.75 (instead of £150) Monthly 1st prize £43.50 (instead of £50) and Monthly 2nd prize £21.75 (instead of £25)</p> <p>Draws will be made today to bring us up-to-date.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Apr-12</td> <td>1st prize</td> <td>£43.50</td> <td>138</td> <td>Frances Stewart</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2nd prize</td> <td>£21.75</td> <td>158</td> <td>Ruth Baird</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May-12</td> <td>1st prize</td> <td>£43.50</td> <td>78</td> <td>Alex Wilson</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2nd prize</td> <td>£21.75</td> <td>22</td> <td>Helen Morrison</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jun-12</td> <td>Quarterly Prize</td> <td>£108.75</td> <td>58</td> <td>Alamo Burns Club</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1st prize</td> <td>£43.50</td> <td>73</td> <td>Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2nd prize</td> <td>£21.75</td> <td>1</td> <td>Colin Blair</td> </tr> </table> <p>I would like to make a suggestion for the future administration of the 200 Club. At the moment, depending on who renews and who doesn't, there can be huge gaps between numbers taken up and those still not renewed – this makes it a bit of an administrative nightmare and I would suggest that, in future, numbers are allocated on a first come, first served basis, from No.1 onwards, thereby making it a lot easier to deal with in the office. Now I know that some members will have held their numbers for a long time, and traditionally they like to do so, however, when numbers are not renewed, I don't know whether it has been an oversight and the number may be required again the following year or not. It is therefore not easy to know if we can reuse numbers not taken up in any given year.</p> <p>So I put the new suggestion to you – I'm open to questions regarding this and then possibly a vote on the way forward.</p> <p>A vote was taken and unanimously agreed on the suggested changes.</p>	Apr-12	1st prize	£43.50	138	Frances Stewart		2nd prize	£21.75	158	Ruth Baird	May-12	1st prize	£43.50	78	Alex Wilson		2nd prize	£21.75	22	Helen Morrison	Jun-12	Quarterly Prize	£108.75	58	Alamo Burns Club		1st prize	£43.50	73	Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs		2nd prize	£21.75	1	Colin Blair	
Apr-12	1st prize	£43.50	138	Frances Stewart																																	
	2nd prize	£21.75	158	Ruth Baird																																	
May-12	1st prize	£43.50	78	Alex Wilson																																	
	2nd prize	£21.75	22	Helen Morrison																																	
Jun-12	Quarterly Prize	£108.75	58	Alamo Burns Club																																	
	1st prize	£43.50	73	Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs																																	
	2nd prize	£21.75	1	Colin Blair																																	
<p>7.12</p>	<p>Overseas – Jim Shields (on behalf of May Crawley, Mac Irvin & Jim O'Lone)</p>																																				

	<p>Canada – May Crawley The R.B.A.N.A. Conference was very successful, thanks to the Conference Committee. Lovely location in Williamsburg, excellent programme and, as always, the presence of guests from the U.K. added much to the event. Special thanks to R.B.W.F. Pres. Jim Shields, P.P. Mike Duguid and Pat, P.P. Bill Dawson and P.P. Jim Robertson and Eileen for making the long journey to be with us.</p> <p>Re.P.41-Exec.Minutes, Spring 2012 Chronicle-Distribution of Exec. Minutes. I fully agree that printing these in the Chronicle isn't a practical use of space. I repeat my previous suggestion that the Minutes be included as an insert with the Chronicle mailing or e-mailed.</p> <p>It was originally at my request that the Exec. Minutes were included with the Chronicle. I still feel that Members, especially those Overseas, enjoy and benefit from reading the Minutes, even if they might be outdated by the time they're received. Helps keep us "in the loop" and feeling part of the Federation, which in turn is a form of "marketing" the Federation.</p> <p>For family reasons we made an unexpected trip to Scotland in May. I was able to attend the May 9th. Board meeting, at which I was, as always, made very welcome. It was an interesting meeting covering a lot of business and ably chaired by Pres. Jim.</p> <p>I was also able to attend the Lasses Luncheon in Greenock. This is the 4th such event that I've been able to attend over the years and it was of the same high calibre that the Lasses have come to expect. Lovely surroundings, good food, excellent Speaker and ably Chaired and organised by the Lasses of the Greenock Burns Club.</p> <p>I touched base with many "old" friends and met several ladies with Canadian connections, including the Chairperson who is the sister of a former member of our Niagara Falls Club! Indeed a small world.</p> <p>Holding an Annual Lasses Luncheon was the brainchild of our former C.E. Shirley Bell, it has proven to be a wonderful idea which has given so much pleasure to so many Lasses. Best wishes for a productive meeting.</p> <p>U.S.A. – Mac Irvin No report submitted.</p> <p>Pacific Rim – Jim O'Lone No report submitted.</p>	
7.13	<p>Association Representatives</p> <p>Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs – Jim Thomson Since last Executive meeting the AABC have held their annual quiz hosted by Kilbirnie Rosebury Burns Club. With 11 teams competing all well supported the turnout almost filled the venue at the Garnock Social Club. A very successful night ended with Kilbirnie Rosebury A being crowned champions just ahead of West Kilbride, Kilmarnock Howff and New Cumnock.</p> <p>The quarterly meeting on May was held at Wellwood courtesy of Irvine Burns Club and was well attended by member clubs.</p> <p>The AABC World Lapraik Speaking Competition was held over the last weekend in May at Muirkirk. On Friday night the traditional 'sangs and clatter' evening featured Professor Fred Freeman and a group of musicians led by John Moran followed by poetry readings from local</p>	

poets including Rab Wilson. On Saturday morning the school recitation competition provided great entertainment with the standard being unusually high. In the afternoon 6 entrants competed in the main event, The World Lapraik Speaking competition reciting the First Epistle to J Lapraik. The contest was incredible close with David Baird, the chairman of the judging panel, stating it was the most competitive to date. The worthy winner was Bobby Jess of Dumfries Howff and New Cumnock Burns Clubs.

Borders Association – Murray Henderson

No report submitted

Edinburgh & District Association of Burns Clubs – Ralph Balfour

29th March

A Gala Concert was held in the Edinburgh City Chambers as a thank you to the retiring Lord Provost amongst the numerous entertainers was Annie Bowes who was to go on to become the Junior Burnsian at the National Primary Schools Festival in Aberdeen in April. The Concert was a great success with numerous presentations being made.

April

Saw the aforementioned Schools Competitions being held and Edinburgh was delighted to once again have a pupil holding the title of Junior Burnsian.

May

Our Secretary Gordon Jamieson attended the Lyon & Turnbull Auction in Edinburgh at which there were several Burns Books etc. for sale.

June

Ian Chisholm (President) and Gordon Jamieson (Secretary) attended a reception hosted by the Russian Consul on the occasion of The National Day of Russia.

28th July

The Poetry Competition for the Tom McIlwraith Trophy is progressing.

September

This year The Burns Monument is being opened for 2 days (The 22nd and 23rd) in conjunction with Edinburgh's Historic Buildings Doors Open Day. As in the past the EDBCA will be providing songs and poetry over the two days.

Fife Association of Burns Clubs – Frank Sandeman

No report received

Glasgow Association of Burns Clubs –

No report received

Grampian Association of Burns Clubs – Helena Anderson-Wright

No report received

Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs – Kay Blair

No report received

	<p>Renfrewshire & Inverclyde Association of Burns Clubs – Allister Anderson No report received</p> <p>Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association – David Smith The annual commemorative service at Brow Well, Ruthwell, will be held on Wednesday 18th July at 7.30pm and President Jane Brown and her members look forward to welcoming Burnsians from all over on that date. The oration will be delivered by Mr. J. Shields, President of the RBWF. Following the service, a social gathering will be held at the Cairndale Hotel, St. Marys Street, Dumfries. Tickets at £10.00 should be booked in advance from Mrs. Betty Haining, Tel: (01387) 267150</p> <p>A Robert Burns Open Air Pageant will take place in Dumfries on Sunday 22nd July to celebrate the life and times of the Bard during his Dumfries years. Under the auspices of Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival, John Cairney and his wife Alannah O’ Sullivan have prepared a script for street theatre performances in Whitesands, the first house in Bank Street, the Midsteeple, the Globe Inn, the Theatre Royal and the house in which he died. Professional actors have been engaged for the parts of Robert Burns and Jean Armour but some well known Dumfriesians will be taking part. The audience will promenade to the accompaniment of Burns’ music and songs. A detachment of the Royal Dumfries Volunteers (resurrected) will be on duty. A warm welcome will be accorded to all.</p> <p>Yorkshire Association of Burns Clubs – Jim Robertson Since the last Executive Meeting the Yorkshire District held their Tartan Ball at Ardsley House Hotel. This was well attended and we were pleased to invite the World President, Jim Shields as our guest for the evening. We were also pleased that PP David Baird and his wife were able to attend with Mr and Mrs Hanley.</p> <p>The Yorkshire District held their AGM on Saturday 9th June 2012 in Huddersfield. The afternoon started with the annual Inter Society crown green bowling competition. Bradford won the Bowls Cup. Wakefield being the runners up. After tea, the AGM took place and Jim Robertson was elected as President for two years. May McGuffog will continue as Secretary/Treasurer. Members agreed to continue with the Inter Society Quiz evenings. The southern area to be held in the Sheffield and the northern area in York, with the final to be held at the AGM in June next year hopefully in Wakefield. It was also agreed to hold another Tartan Ball at Ardsley House Hotel on 13th April, when we hope a few members of the Federation would join us on this occasion. Final costs will be available shortly. The District Representative (Jim Robertson) gave full report of the RBWF Executive Meetings to the members present..</p> <p>The evening continued with the final of the Inter Society Quiz, this year won by Bradford, with Clumber (Sheffield) being the runners up.</p> <p>The evening concluded with the President presenting the cups to the Winning Bowls and Quiz Teams.</p>	
8.	Applications for Membership Individual Membership	

Mrs Frances Imrie, 18 Riverview Avenue, North Ferriby, North Humberside
Mrs Mary Blackwell, 16 Crake Wells, Walkington, East Yorkshire
Mr John Hutcheson, 2/2, 2 Brownsie Mews, Glasgow
Mr George Davidson, Young Burnsian 2012, Ellon
Miss Annie Bowes, Junior Burnsian 2012, Edinburgh

Family Membership

Mr & Mrs Frank & Elizabeth Ferguson, 24 Flairs Avenue, Arbroath, Angus
Mr & Mrs James & Sue Young, 18 Chowilla Street, Eden Hills, South Australia
Mrs & Mrs Ian & Eileen Gordon, 10 Birkdale Drive, Walton, Chesterfield
Dr & Mrs Hugh & Valerie Mackay, 68 Leicester Road, Markfield, Leicestershire
Mr & Mrs W Leeuwenkamp, 30 Bole Hill Park, Hove Edge, West Yorkshire

Club Membership

None

Corporate Membership

None

School

Sacred Heart Primary School, No.2098, Girvan
Moncrieff Primary School, No.2099, Perth
New Farm Primary School, NO.2100, Kilmarnock
Laurencekirk Primary School, No.2101, Aberdeenshire
Bainsford Primary School, No.2102, Falkirk
Mosstodloch Primary School, No.2103, Moray
Greenmill Primary School, No.2104, Cumnock
South Park Primary School, No.2105, Glenrothes
Busby Primary School, No.2106, Glasgow
Cairneyhill Primary School, No.2107, Fife
Dunnottar Primary School, No.2108, Stonehaven
George Watson's College (Junior School), No.2109, Edinburgh
Linlithgow Bridge Primary School, No.2110, West Lothian
Ratray Primary School, No.2111, Blairgowrie
Townhill Primary School, No.2112, Hamilton
Houston Primary School, No.2113, Renfrewshire
Nether Currie Primary School, No.2114, Midlothian
Kirkinner Primary School, No.2115, Dumfries & Galloway
Carleton Primary School, No.2116, Glenrothes
Warddykes Primary School, No.2117, Arbroath
Gargieston Primary School, No.2119, Kilmarnock
Caledonia Primary School, No.2119, Saltcoats
Beith Primary School, No.2120, North Ayrshire
New Elgin Primary School, No.2121, Moray
Pitreavie Primary School, No.2122, Dunfermline
Chryston Primary School, No.2123, Lanarkshire
Drymen Primary School, No.2124, Glasgow
Hatton of Fintray Primary School, No.2125, Aberdeenshire

<p> Bracoden School, No.2126, Banff Ordiquhill Primary School, No.2127, Banff Carbrain Primary School, No.2128, Cumbernauld Whitecross Primary School, No.2129, Falkirk Eaglesham Primary School, No.2130, East Renfrewshire Strathdevon Primary School, No.2131, Dollar Loanhead Primary School, No.2132, Kilmarnock Carmuir Primary School, No.2133, Falkirk Ancrum Road Primary School, No.2134, Dundee Dalry Primary School, No.2135, Dalry, North Ayrshire Sorn Primary School, No.2136, Mauchline Dean Park Primary School, No.2137, Edinburgh East Wemyss Primary School, No.2138, Fife Port Erroll School, No.2139, Cruden Bay Whitecrook Primary School, No.2140, Clydebank Craigdhu Primary School, No.2141, Milngavie Alva Primary School, No.2142, Clackmannanshire Lawhead Primary School, No.2143, St Andrews James Aiton Primary School, No.2144, Glasgow Baird Memorial Primary School, No.2145, Cumbernauld St Patrick's Primary School, No.2146, Troon Kilmodan Primary School, No.2147, Colintravaie Catrine Primary School, No.2148, East Ayrshire Shielhill Primary School, No.2149, Falkirk Deanburn Primary School, No.2150, Falkirk West Linton Primary School, No.2151, Peebleshire New Deer Primary School, No.2152, Turriff St Machan's Primary School, No.2154, Lennoxton Banff Primary School, No.2155, Aberdeenshire Aileymill Primary School, No.2156, Greenock Pitteuchar East Primary School, No.2157, Glenrothes Holmston Primary School, No.2158, Ayr Bervie Primary School, No.2159, Aberdeenshire Ardler Primary School, No.2160, Dundee Park Road Primary School, No.2161, Rosyth Balgreen Primary School, No.2162, Edinburgh Buchanhaven Primary School, No.2163, Peterhead Duncan Forbes Primary School, No.2164, Culloden Ralston Primary School, No.2165, Paisley Torbain Primary School, No.2166, Kirkcaldy Lairhillock School, No.2167, Stonehaven Lhanbryde Primary School, No.2168, Moray Braehead Primary School, No.2169, Ayr Tynewater Primary School, No.2170, Pathhead, Midlothian Auchtermuchty Primary School, No.2171, Fife Duloch Primary School, No.2172, Dunfermline Colquhoun Park Primary School, No.2173, Bearsden Dalmellington Primary School, No.2174, East Ayrshire </p>	
---	--

	Whitehills Primary School, No.2175, Banff Carluke Primary School, No.2176, South Lanarkshire Re-Affiliation None	
9.	AOCB	
10.	Date of next meeting: Saturday 17 th November 10am – 3pm – venue tba	

DRAFT