

**MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING of THE ROBERT BURNS WORLD FEDERATION HELD IN
DUMFRIES GEORGETOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE ON SAT 25 JUNE 2011**

President David Baird welcomed the members attending and also thanked the Southern Scottish Burns Association for the arrangements for today's meeting.

Sederunt. (names and description as signed) *denotes Past President Burns Federation. ** Hon. President Burns Federation

David Baird President. RBWF

*J H Skilling P.P

Robert Stewart Junior Vice President, RBWF.

*David Smith PP Burns Federation

**A Gowans, Hon. President - Tayside

David Miller, Individual Member

A. Mackenzie Ayr Burns Club

Ted Murray, Individual Member.

Tom Morrall, Ayr Burns Club

**Murdo Morrison, PP & Hon President Burns Federation.

Margaret Morrall Ayr Burns Club.

Ralph W Balfour, EDBCA

Elizabeth Caine, Allanton Jolly Beggars Burns Club

Frances Marshall, Individual Member

Helen C G Morrison Individual Member.

*John C Paterson, Vice Convenor Schools Committee

Anne Fawbert, Individual Member

Nellie Waddell Individual Member

Margaret Stokes, Individual Member

Jane Brown, President, SSCBA, Individual Member

Jean Mary Allan-Foster, SSCBA

Shona Shaw, SSCBA and Individual Member

Betty Haining SSCBA

Eva Stubbs, SSCBA

May Hyslop Individual Member

*Bill Dawson Individual Member

*Angus Middleton, Past President and Individual Member

May Ross, Individual Member/ Sandyford

Donald Ross, PP Sandyford Burns Club, Glasgow

*Mike Duguid, PP and JVP SSCBA, President

Gatehouse of Fleet B.C

*Wilson Ogilvie PP Burns Federation, Individual Member

Allister Anderson, Family Member

Elza Anderson, Family Member

Sharon Low, Individual member

David J Scott, Ind.Member, BABC, Sponsor

*James Gibson, PP RBWF – Individual Member

Joe McGinty, Largs Cronies

Ray Connal, Largs Cronies

James Thomson AABC

Joe Kennedy AABC

Hazel Morrison, Allanton Jolly Beggars

Margaret Skilling, Individual Member

Bill Duncan Alloway Burns Club

*Jim Robertson, PP Yorkshire District

Eileen Robertson St. Andrew Society York, Individual Member

Apologies noted. James Shields, Kevin Thomson, Joe Campbell, Anne Gaw, John Haining, Moira Dunsmore, George and Enez Anderson, John Caskie, Reverend Pennington, Mac Irvin, Kay Blair, Eric Budgell, Harry Hutchison, Cllr Stephanie Young, Provost of East Ayrshire. Andrew Kidd, Babara Clayton,

The President asked the delegates assembled to stand in a silent tribute to those who had passed away since the last Meeting. They had given dedicated service to the cause of the Robert Burns Federation in so many ways.

Morag McMinn, Senior Vice President Alloway Burns Club, Lena Brown, Dumfries Ladies Burns Club No.1, Rose Edgar, Past President Dumfries Ladies Burns Club No.1 Donations received in Rose's memory will go towards a memorial trophy for the local Robert Burns' Children's competition.

Minutes of the quarterly Meeting held at Alloway on 19th March.

An objection was raised by Margaret Morrall of Ayr Burns Club as to the accuracy of the Minutes and stated that they were incorrect. Of particular complaint was that her contribution to the Any Other Competent Business part of the meeting had not been noted.

Past President Murdo Morrison who had been responsible for the minutes advised the meeting that an e mail message to Margaret Morrall which was receipted as appearing on her computer on the 24th March asking for information for insertion had not got any response until now.

A correction paragraph for inclusion in this current minute will be again requested..(this is now attached to these current minutes.)

The acceptance of the minute subject to amendment of the Alloway meeting was proposed by Jane Brown and seconded by Jim Robertson.

Margaret Morrall challenged a statement that Membership was a remit for the Marketing Committee and Murdo Morrison, Convenor, Marketing stated that the remit had come from the Board.

The President intimated that Mr Sam Judge had been dismissed from his position of Chief Executive of the Robert Burns World Federation. Appropriate procedures were followed and an appeal was considered and the dismissal decision was upheld.

Schools.

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A1. SEDERUNT

Chair : John Paterson (Vice Convener), Helen Morrison (Minute Secretary),
Ralph Balfour, Elizabeth Caine, Anne Fawbert, Alistair Gowans, May Hyslop, Frances Marshall, Jean MacMillan-Forster, May Ross, David Scott, Margaret Skilling, Bob Stewart, Margaret Stokes, Eva Stubbs.

Observers

Helen Waddell Allanton Jolly Beggars Burns Club/LABC.
David Baird RBWF President (Part of meeting)

A2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Isa Hanley (Convener), Helena Anderson Wright, Kay Blair, Ena Brockwell, Barbara Clayton, Anne Gaw, Willie Gibson, Bob McDonald, Karen McPhail.

A3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 19/03/2011

The minutes were approved by Margaret Skilling and seconded by Jean MacMillan-Forster . Clarification was given that the local pipe band did not require to perform.

A4. MATTERS ARISING NOT ON AGENDA Nil

A5. NATIONAL FESTIVALS

SECONDARY SCHOOL COMPETITION	30/04/2011	LOCKERBIE ACADEMY DG11 2AT
PRIMARY SCHOOL COMPETITION	14/05/2011	LOCKERBIE ACADEMY (01576 205170)
CHORAL COMPETITION	07/05/2011	PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL

Margaret Skilling commented that it would be preferable if the Adjudicators for Burnsian of the Year sat in front of the performers. This was not done at the Secondary Festival but corrected for the Primary Festival.

Margaret Skilling enquired as to Adjudication Fee given – Bob Stewart was able to say the Board had agreed that all Adjudicators were paid the same fee – Isa could confirm what payment was given.

Anne Fawbert was asked to conduct Double Entrants and as some of the entrants had already registered this was very difficult. Proposal that in future person conducting Double Entrants should have desk near Registration desk so that Double Entrants can be referred on and informed what section they will attend when so that 'Double Entrant Co-ordinator' can inform appropriate Sections.

It was also suggested and agreed that the person presenting the medals and prizes should be identified early to avoid confusion.

Due to last minute changes the rota duties had to be changed – if possible can a spare modified rota be prepared for all to see?

Dave Scott confirmed that LABC were given cheque for £250 to compensate for their loss.

Frances Marshall raised issue of Tenor Drummer entrant not being up to standard and having lack of content and playing over the allocated time. It was agreed that entrant had come through Area finals and it was our role to encourage children to participate. The issue was dealt appropriately by the Adjudicator who marked accordingly. No need for any further action.

Generally speaking the Festivals went well. Lockerbie was an excellent venue. John Paterson reported on behalf of Isa that there had been a complaint regarding the adjudication of a poem by a primary boy from Lanarkshire. Jean MacMillan-Forster stated the child transposed two of the verses – this was also done by another child – it was decided not to mark down on this occasion

Another issue was that the Adjudicator at Lockerbie Academy had marked lower than the Adjudicator at the Local Competition. It was advised that the two Adjudicators marks were not comparable. Isa dealt with complaints.

John Paterson informed committee that Isa is in process of establishing whether the National Festivals can be held in Edinburgh next year and possibly Aberdeen in 2013. Ralph Balfour reminded committee of cost of £340 from 9am-1pm and to take this in to consideration. Bob Stewart, JVP, when attending presentation of Award Winners in Fife was asked by Assistant Director of Education when Festival would be hosted by Fife. Helen Morrison suggested Isa should contact Bob on her return from holiday as no definite decision has been made regarding Edinburgh or Aberdeen. It was agreed Helen would ask Isa to pursue same.

A6. CHORAL FESTIVAL PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL 7/5/2011 SET PIECE AFTON WATER

Everyone who attended agreed it was an excellent day and the standard of entrants was high. Dave Scott was thanked for his valuable contribution.

Dave Scott stated the only hiccup was that Peebles high School had been asked for a piano but provided a Key Board. It had been agreed an electronic keyboard was okay but for future reference if a piano is being used and it has been moved there is the additional cost of tuning.

Dave also reported there had been a complaint from a parent saying favour had been shown to theatrical content and had been assured this was not so.

The cost of transport is prohibitive for schools and the numbers of participants has increased with the financial assistance of £250 per school towards transport costs – this year there were seven school s competing. David asked if the money had been paid to the schools – Bob Stewart confirmed Fife had received their money but was unsure of the others – Dave will clarify same with President David Baird.

Dave Scott informed committee that it is his intention to stand down as Choral Co-ordinator. He has enjoyed his involvement. John Paterson, on behalf of the committee, thanked him for his support.

A7 Issue of In-School Certificates

Isa to take this to Board for decision.

A8. INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE REPORT 2011

Unfortunately there will not be students attending the Aberdeen International Youth Festival but the Knowledge of Scotland Winners and The Burns Winner and her teacher will visit in November.

The SPF will pay the cost of the air fare of Ross Forester, LABC, to visit St Petersburg in February 2012 with the SPF delegation. The LABC will organise a concert to raise the rest of his costs. Helen stated if any clubs are interested in sponsoring a young talented Scot from their club or Association to go over to St Petersburg please contact her.

Following discussion it was agreed the topic for 2012 will be taken from the poem To A Mouse – ‘An’ forward, tho’ I canna see, I guess an’ fear!

Helen Morrison spoke of her recent visit to Australia and the interest shown by Bendigo Burns Club and Melbourne Burns Club to have details of the Literature Competition which Helen will pursue with the agreement of the committee.

A.9 ART & PROJECT COMPETITIONS

Margaret Skilling gave the following report – although there were fewer entries this year in both Art and Project Competitions the standard of workmanship was generally of a high standard.

ART

Although a total number of 67 entries had been received from 14 schools, only 42 pieces of artwork were eligible for judging as once again the Schedule had clearly stated that ‘Each school is invited to send for the adjudication the **three** best individual works on the chosen theme’. Mr Bill Kerr was the judge this year.

Margaret Skilling then read out the results noting that a girl from Blackwood Primary in Larkhall had won first prize in the Primary Section. Consequently that school had been presented with a monetary prize of £100 and the Toshio Namba Trophy. A girl from Douglas-Ewart High School had won £100 and the Provost Coffey Quaich for her school in Newton Stewart. Unfortunately no entries had been received from any Scottish Secondary School this year.

The Schools Convener, Isa Hanley had suggested that the Secondary Art Competition be withdrawn, but following discussion by the Committee it was strongly felt that, as the trophy and funding would be available anyway, the Secondary Schools section should be maintained. Isa had intimated that she felt the Board would have to make the final decision on this matter, but the Committee suggested that she explains to the Board that the Schools Committee all felt strongly that the Secondary pupils still be given the chance to compete.

It was also suggested that Committee Members and School Conveners look at ways of promoting the competition. It was also suggested that Isa make contact with Teaching and Learning Scotland to promote the competition. It was further emphasised that personal contact with schools is the preferred way to motivate entrants as the Schedules are not always read or understood.

PRIMARY SCHOOL PROJECT

Out of a total of 17 entries judged by John and Margaret Skilling, the overall winner selected was a pupil from St Boswells PS in the Scottish Borders. The Alex McIver Rosebowl and £100 monetary prize had been presented to the school.

Margaret then explained that all the Art and Project entries had been returned to the schools with accompanying letters adding that where schools had sent more than the requested 3 entries, she had drawn their attention to the conditions of entry quoted in the Schedules. Isa had left a note pointing out that she felt the cost of over £30 spent returning entries had to be addressed. Margaret pointed out that most of the entries had been passed over by hand where possible. The Committee did not see that cost as being excessive and we were joined by President, David Baird, who agreed this was a very modest cost.

10. CONTENT OF SCHOOL SCHEDULES

It was agreed that Isa form a sub-group to look at this.

11. AOCB

11.1 Thanks to Dave Scott

John Paterson, Chair, thanked Dave Scott for his sponsorship of the Schools Festivals and Choral Competitions.

11.2 Test Pieces

Ralph Barbour stated getting test pieces was becoming very difficult. He had to collect pieces from Post Office due to underpayment. He proposed that Test Pieces be omitted from the competition.

At this point John Paterson read out comments from Isa Hanley, Schools Convener, which stated she and a number of other committee members think that the time has come for not asking for copies of Burns poems to be provided. Out of 19 entrants in P6/7 there were only nine different poem land the change of a word here or there makes no difference to the delivery of the poem.

Following discussion Frances Marshall stated it was a good idea for the Adjudicator to have test piece in front of them. It was pointed out there is no test piece for bag-piping. It was agreed there may still be a need for Test Piece for Instrumental Competition. Bob Stewart supported and Seconded Ralph’s

proposal and as the decision comes up in the Rules not in the Schedule it was agreed to put it on the Agenda, for further discussion, at the next Schools Meeting.

11.3 Notification of Resignation

Isa would like someone to consider taking the post of Schools Convener after Conference of 2012. John Paterson indicated he would like to resign as Vice Convener also.

12. DATE/VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

To be decided – Offers to host future meetings welcomed.

HELEN C.G. MORRISON

MINUTE TAKER

25/06/2011

President David Baird commented on the sterling work carried out by the Schools Committee and the identified requirements for replacements in due course for the Convener and Vice Convener.

Heritage.

WELCOME

Convener Walter Watson welcomed members present and a special welcome to Elza Anderson, Greenock Burns Club and Wilson Ogilvie, Past President, attending as observers.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held at Alloway on 19th March 2011, having been circulated were taken as read and agreed correct on the motion of John Skilling, seconded by T. Morrell.

MATTERS ARISING

Nil.

CONVENOR'S REPORT

Convener thanked D. Smith for presenting the Heritage Committee report in his absence at the previous meeting and for preparing the minutes. He proposed that members take "ownership" of issues within their areas and given power to act on the committee's behalf as thought appropriate. Members would be issued with WRBF letterheads and to write with the authority of the Board.

CORRESPONDENCE

Convener reported copious correspondence from Gordon Ashley, Australia, regarding the Greenshields Statue which would arise later on the agenda.

REPORTS

Dumfries

Burns Mausoleum

D. Miller referred to recent press comment and correspondence regarding the poor condition of the Mausoleum. He reported that the SSCBA was taking action and a meeting had been arranged with a senior architect in the Property Department of D& G Council and others, including a representative of Dumfries Burns Club who had a historical interest, on site on 5th July. D. Miller stated that an assurance had been given that the unsightly disabled access ramp would be removed and a more sympathetic ramp formed to the rear of the building and the CCTV pole would be replaced.

The Council had accepted that the maintenance of the Mausoleum was a priority. He expressed regret at recent negative publicity and would report further to the next meeting. W. Ogilvie stated that a letter of complaint addressed to the First Minister had come from an Australian academic.

Theatre Royal: D. Smith reported concerns locally that the theatre's long term future was in doubt following the decision by the Council to withdraw funding in aid of major refurbishment. The building was operated by the Guild of Players, the Dumfries dramatic society, which had limited means and a local campaign had been launched to draw attention to the situation. It was agreed that a watching brief would be kept.

Globe Inn

D. Smith reported that the window panes with inscriptions by Burns had now been copied on glass by an expert glazier and would be on display in the Burns Bedroom in the Globe Inn later this year.

Ayrshire

River Doon: J. Skilling reported that due to the successful national campaign to prevent the diversion of the river and the concomitant risk to salmon fishing and tourism, Scottish Power had now agreed to withdraw the proposal. Convenor congratulated J. Skilling.

Burns Monument: J. Skilling reported little progress by NTS in arresting the water damage and the monument was deteriorating quickly. This was disappointing as the Monument Trustees had handed over £135,000 to the NTS which had not been spent on maintenance. The Descriptive Boards in the interior had been replaced by signs pointing to Burns Monuments worldwide which had attracted adverse comment. Convenor asked J. Skilling to continue to bring pressure to bear on the NTS meantime but the committee would act in the event of no progress.

Birthplace Museum: J. Skilling stated that visitor numbers were reported as good mainly due to bus parties. There were some negative perceptions including poor acoustics, a poor layout in the cafeteria and noisy PA system in the display areas which interfered with the guided tours. A full programme of events and activities had been announced for the summer which included a "Murder Mystery" for audience participation. Joe Kennedy and Joe Campbell had been appointed "Museum Ambassadors" but their duties were unclear.

Burns Cottage: J. Skilling reported that the "developments" at the Cottage were a disaster. The garden had all but been destroyed and the exhibits had been replaced by cardboard cut outs and "graffiti" had appeared on the internal walls masquerading as Burns' verses. The homely atmosphere had disappeared and the audio visual show had been removed. It was noted that erroneous information was being given by Museum guides but the site had gained an award for excellence. Some discussion ensued on both issues. J. Skilling was asked to take the matters up with a personal and diplomatic approach to the Museum Director.

LEGLEN WOOD: B. Duncan reported that all documentation relating to the Title Deeds and insurance had been lodged with the Federation CEO. Public Liability Insurance of £2M was held by Alloway Burns Club but Property Insurance cover was also required and this would be put to the Board. He and J. Skilling had arranged to cut the grass and tidy the environs and costs were met by the Federation. It was noted that the annual ceremony would be held on 24th July.

Trysting Thorn: B. Duncan reported that the ground surrounding the tree was subsiding dangerously and public access was prohibited due to the steep bank. A fence had been erected round the tree but the road surface had deep crevasses. The sum of £5M had been estimated for repairs but no Council funds were currently available. Future plans include a footpath for access. A letter to the Scottish Government had brought a helpful reply but it was a Council responsibility. B. Duncan was asked to keep a watching brief. It was confirmed that a commemorative plaque, not a cairn, marked the site.

Bathgate Statue: Convenor reported that no member had been identified in the Bathgate district and he would follow up the matter himself and report to the next meeting.

Highland Mary Statue, Failford: J. Skilling reported that the statue had been "adopted" by the Council but it was thought that they would not spend any money on refurbishments. He was confident that the Federation did not own the statue and would continue to monitor the situation.

Highland Mary Statue, Greenock: Elza Anderson thanked convenor for letter of support to Lottery Heritage Fund for the application by Greenock Burns Club for grant aid for repairs. A decision date of 21st July had been notified but competition for available funds of only £175K and applications amounted to £400K. The plans which included landscaping, disabled access were well advanced but depended on the outcome of the application. Also, the artefacts and library of Greenock Burns Club previously housed in the Watt Library had been evicted by the Council and been packed up ready for relocation therefore no current access was possible for reference or research. It was not known to where the collection would be relocated and no date had been given and no information as to the suitability. She would keep the committee informed

Alexander Anderson: J. Kennedy referred to the plaque at Kirkconnel Railway Station marking the connection between the local poet known as the "Surfaceman" and his employment on the railway. The plaque had been removed during renovations to the station and its whereabouts were unknown. D. Smith reported that enquiries revealed the plaque had been taken to Glasgow for

cleaning and would be replaced at Kirkconnel Station in due course. The Kirkconnel Heritage Society was following this up

Plinth at Dower House: Convenor reported that the descriptive plate on top was now illegible. He had consulted Colin Hunter McQueen who had suggested the plate should be replaced and manufactured from a resin base. This could be costly but he understood that the original fund for the Rose Garden was still in place unless it had been incorporated in the General Fund and would make enquiries.

Greenshields Statue: Convenor reported that voluminous correspondence was circulating from Gordon Ashley. It was known that the statue had been moved from the public park to the foyer of a building to prevent further damage. G. Ashley was attempting to have the statue placed on the Register of Significant Artefacts to the State which if successful, could lead to repairs being made. Helen Morrison could have further information during the afternoon session.

Tombstone at Broughton: Convenor reported that the stone marking the grave of Rev. Hamilton Paul at Broughton Kirkyard in Peeblesshire was tilting due to pressure from a tree. Rev. Paul chaired the first known Burns Supper and died in 1854. There was a risk that the Council could flatten the stone on safety grounds if it became unsafe. Some discussion ensued. It was agreed that an attempt would be made to trace any descendants who may own the lair and convenor would contact the Council Cemetery official and Peebles Historical Society.

OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Paisley Statue Convenor reported the resignation from the Federation of Ian Skene as he was disappointed with the response of the Federation to the proposed relocation of the statue to the town centre. Convenor would approach the Alamo Burns Club to take the matter up and contact Douglas Hamilton, Vice President of the Renfrewshire Burns Association

Joseph Laing Waugh: D. Miller reported that the SSCBA hold funds which were set up for maintenance to the bust of Joseph Laing Waugh and £1000.00 is to be put to renovations of the bust of the Thornhill author and poet who died in 1922. The SSCBA had a constitutional obligation to the upkeep of the bust on the wall of the former Savings Bank at Thornhill.

CONCLUSION

Mr. D. Baird, president of the RBWF entered and was welcomed by the Convenor. Mr. Baird expressed congratulations on the work of the reinvigorated Heritage Committee.

Theatre Royal Dumfries.

So far the local Council have been unable to source funds to meet the costs envisaged in repairs , maintenance and operation of this historic building.

The River Doon

John Skilling advised that ,following a campaign, the diverting of water from the River Doon would not now happen.

The Burns Monument at Alloway.

This monument is still in a poor state of repair and no sign of any action in this respect.

The Burns Museum and Exhibiton.

An award had been won and the facility was chosen out of 300 entries. Being placed second was a narrow miss from getting the top award of £100,000

There was a continuing flow of visitors to the museum and over three thousand school children had already visited.

There were a number of matters of concern and these would be relayed to the National Trust for Scotland. Included in this were the acoustics and this together with other comments would be submitted on behalf of the Federation.

Leglen Wood.

An existing requirement is for Public Liability insurance to cover this asset wholly owned by the Federation. The surrounding grounds also needs a similar insurance policy

The Trysting Thorn. There are some problems at this location which require attention and Bill Douglas is taking charge to assess exact requirements and supervise the commencement of remedial work.

Bathgate

The condition of the Statue which is under care and custody in Bathgate will be monitored by Walter Watson.

The Highland Mary Statue.

This statue is in the care of the local Council and there is a need for over £400,000 to make the statue secure and give appropriate treatment to the surrounding area.

Lottery Funding is much appreciated.

Plaque ex Kirkconnell Railway Station.

At the time of refurbishment this plaque was removed and effectively went missing. It was discovered with a cleaning specialist in Glasgow and will be re-instated by the Kirkconnell Heritage Society. It marks the connection between Alexander Anderson (The Surfaceman), local poet and author in the 19th C. He wrote "The Bairnies cuddle Doon" a well known and popular addition to the poetic traditions in Scotland.

Australian Visit.

Helen Morrison who had just returned from a visit to Australia was able to give up to date input on the Greenshield Burns Statue of Camperdown Park in Victoria Australia.

Helen advised that the statue is now in the hands of a sculptor and the welcome news that it is being re-instated and undergoing a full repair. The final location for this, when completed, is not definite but there is an appreciation now of the real value of the statue and it will probably end up in a secure inside place. Local consultation will decide where it will be placed, and possibly will be sited inside rather than outside. Helen brought fraternal greetings from Freemantle Burns Club, Melbourne Burns Club and Bendigo all of whom had been magnificent and generous hosts in true Burnsian traditions.

Marketing.

Sederunt. Murdo Morrison (Convenor) Jane Brown, Gordon Johnston, Hazel Morrison, Angus Middleton, Sharon Low, Ted Murray.

Apologies. John Haining, Joe Campbell, Lesley Richardson, Eric Budgell.

Convenor Murdo Morrison stated that various subjects had been discussed and the need for recruiting new Members was of priority. The Board had asked the Marketing committee to look at this matter. Delegates were reminded that this was also a matter for action by everyone in the Federation and particular mention was made of the recruiting efforts of Jane Brown through her employment location – the Globe Inn.

The Convenor had been asked to ascertain the availability of recruitment leaflets which had been printed and were possibly available at Kilmarnock. Dependant on the outcome of this enquiry the leaflets were a definite need for recruiting of Members purposes.

For consideration at the next meeting of the Board was a suggestion of incentives to Clubs to recruit with a recognition via a certificate of achievements in this activity.

The Convenor reported that a forthcoming day's Conference of the Board of Directors would be considering the three aspects of the Federation's activities in Membership, Management and Money.

An appeal has to be made to organisers of various regional functions including schools competitions for them to avail themselves of the unsold stock at present at Dower House. At three Schools competitions this year there had been a good response to the shops set up at each location. Lockerbie on two occasions and Peebles for another competition.

Shop at Peebles Conference. In addition to available surplus stock at Dower House there was also an opportunity for books and cds on a sale or return basis. Angus Middleton would ascertain available of some cds and Gordon Johnston undertook to investigate and action a supply of tea towels with RBWF identification. Gordon had considerable experience of handling merchandisable goods when he was involved as Marketing person for Ellisland.

Membership

Returning to the subject of membership the current Web site needs updating to include an invitation to join the Federation.

There was also a clear need for using e mail in newsletter form to keep the existing members informed about the Federation and ongoing events and activities.

Involvement of Marketing with any Events

Opportunities for Marketing were being missed through lack of information about locations and events taking place. Information could open opportunities for marketing both membership and, if available, identified goods.

Relationship with the National Trust for Scotland, Alloway.

The Marketing Committee were conscious of the potential and possibilities for closer involvement with this location.

An approach to the Marketing Manager on site there should be organised and an investigation as to areas where there could be mutual benefit

The Theatre Royal Dumfries.

President of the SSCBA Jane Brown appealed for assistance from any source for the Theatre Royal and quoted that a party of Russian school children would be giving a performance there and were willing to share profits with the Theatre. All Burnsians were invited to assist by attendance at these concerts or in any other way possible.

The National Trust for Scotland.

Advice was given about a photographic exhibition which was to be held at the Museum and Exhibition centre at Alloway commencing on the 7th July. The delegates were also advised that there had been a very good and close association with the Trust and that there was a full programme of events organised.

Literature

Convenor Bill Dawson reported that a very good meeting had taken place and that the immediate past year had been an exceptionally good one. It had been a pleasure being a member of the committee.

There had been some discussion on the advertisement published for a new Editor for the Chronicle and also a general discussion had ensued on how the Federation is managed.

There was continuing work underway for the digitising of the Chronicle and there was an identified need for new publications in the future.

The new Editor will be selected and appointed bearing in mind the various considerations for the future of the Chronicle.

There were no questions to the Literature report.

The Burns Chronicle.

Editors report

Only some positive feedback had been received. There were complaints about the lateness of publication and also about a lack of professional writing in the Editorials. Although recent Chronicles had been evenly matched in terms of academic and non academic with previous Chronicles there was the suggestion that more academic articles were required.

There had been questions asked about some advertisements which were considered inappropriate in the Chronicle but this had been out with the control or input of the Editor.

This incoming Friday was the deadline for the issue currently being prepared and it was hoped that the whole publication would be ready for printing by the end of July.

The Chronicle should be ready for distribution by mid August.

There had been comparatively little input from Clubs.

There were no questions to the Editor.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Report from Conference Committee Meeting Chairman -Ray Connal

On Friday 17th-June SVP Jim Shields & myself held a meeting at the Peebles Hydro Hotel with the Deputy Manager-Caroline Raeburn to discuss the forthcoming Federation Conference.

Caroline was extremely professional & very helpful to what facilities etc.the Federation required & was prepared to go along with what was requested.

The Facilities for Delegate registration, Federation shop,Dining,Seminar,Church Service (in house) etc are first class & it is felt that there will be no problems over the week-end with the facilities available & there is a lift from the Car Park to Reception area & all floors.

The Hotel will provide all sound & if required any visual display equipment to support all of the events as the Hotel is geared up to for all Conference requirements.

A hospitality area for top table guests etc has been allocated(very impressive) & the Hotel will provide a Piper & also a Pianist to play background music during the Inaugural Dinner.

The informal dinner on Friday will be served from 7-00 to 9-00pm & the guests will order their meals from the standard menu but for the Inaugural Dinner it will be a set Menu decided by the Conference Committee & approved by the Board(I hope to receive sample Menus before the Meeting in Dumfries on Sat.25th) unfortunately none as yet to hand.

We requested a list of Delegates who have booked accommodation in the Hotel to try to reconcile the list provided by Alison prior to preparing the Inaugural Dinner table plan.I have asked May McGuffog to prepare a table plan with this input as she has had many years of experience & she will be delighted to help. Once the table plan has been completed the Hotel will set up the tables with place cards, raffle envelopes & table decorations

Of course there are many other areas of responsibility that require to be set in concrete & these areas of Conference Committee areas of responsibility are detailed in the Minute of to-days Conference Committee Meeting.

The Hotel are looking forward to the Federation Conference & now that there are faces to put to names I am confident there will be no embarrassments to the Federation.

There will be continual dialogue between Conference Committee & the Hotel therefore if you feel that there is anything that has been omitted let me know asap.

Conference 2012 will be held at "The Cairn Hotel"-Harrogate but more details of that venue in due course

Suggestions for a venue for Conference 2013 were discussed & it was suggested by a Conf Cmttee Member that perhaps it would be a good idea to put this to the Federation Members & if any Federation Member has a location for Conference 2013,if they wish to E-Mail myself with this information then the majority location will be considered & Conference Committee will put any such proposal to the Board

Ray Connal-19th-June 2011-E.Mail-rconnal@googlemail.com

Web Site.

Some comments from this quarterly meeting would be passed to the web master Kevin Thomson.

Other Matters.

The meeting was informed that Mac Irvin of the USA was standing down and a replacement for him as an overseas Director was required.

Pacific Rim Report.

There had been no report received from Jim O'Lone representing the Pacific Rim.

RBANA REPORT – received from May Crawley.

The 31st. Annual Conference of R.B.A.N.A was hosted by the Winnipeg Robert Burns Club from May 13-15th., with approx.40 Delegates in attendance, with an additional 20 plus guests at evening events. President Lawrence Cormacks,Winnipeg and R.B.A.N.A. President Chrys Ballantyne, gave a warm welcome to all and especially to R.B.W.F. President David and Mrs. Ruth Baird and two other overseas guests from Yorkshire.

A Board meeting was held Friday afternoon, we were very pleased to have President David in attendance. Friday evening saw the "traditional" ceilidh after dinner, followed by gatherings, including another ceilidh, in various Suites. Lots of conversation and laughter as old and new friendships were pursued.

Saturday's A.G.M. went smoothly under the competent Chairmanship of President Chrys. . A period of silence was held in memory of the late Jock Smith.

An R.B.A.N.A lapel pin, designed by U.S.Director Robert Boyd, was greeted with enthusiastic approval.

These are available for sale for 4 dollars.

The afternoon programme included:-

- 1)A Seminar on "Robert Burns' Place in the World", conducted by Paddy McLellan,Winnipeg.
- 2)The Dr.Jim Connor Memorial Quiz. Alex Crawley, Niagara Falls Club and Pres.David were the prizewinners. A Burns supper was held on Saturday evening. Speeches were interspersed with entertainment from local Scottish Country dancers and musicians.

On Sunday morning delegates, led by Presidents David and Ruth ,followed a Pipe Band to Knox Church, where an excellent Service was held.

Thus concluded a most enjoyable Conference thanks to the time and effort expended by President

Lawrence Cormacks, Conference Committee Chair Colin Harris and his Committee.

Further Conference info. can be found at www.RBANA.com

The 3rd. Annual Schools Competiton took place at St.Margaret of Scotland School, Mississauga, Ontario on May 16th. Once again, Jack Jackson, R.B.W.F. Schools Coordinator for Ontario, greatly assisted the Staff with the planning of another successful event. Approx.400 students, ages 6-14, participated. Certificates were awarded to the Prizewinners in Art and Recitation.

Jack and I will be meeting with the School V.P. Adrian Scigliano on June 13th. to begin planning for next year.

RBANA Web Site.

Jim Robertson wished to advise that this web site is now operational.

President David Baird closing remarks thanked all for attending and that the date and location of the next meeting was open to invitation from any District and any offers would be welcome..

Junior Vice President Robert Stewart proposed a vote of thanks to the President for his chairing of this quarterly meeting.

Correction/addition to Minutes of Quarterly Meeting held in Alloway on Saturday 19th March. These were reported by Margaret Morrall as being incorrect due to omissions made of her remarks during the Any Other Competent Business section of the meeting. This omission also appeared in the Burns Chronicle. What should have appeared and attributed to Margaret Morrall was the following to record her personal involvement with Schools in Ayrshire..

Ayr Burns Club in Partnership with South Ayrshire Council Schools.

Ayr Burns Club Project 2011/2012 "Cluster Primary Schools"

Building on the existing strong foundation from 1996 with

Alloway Primary Robert Burns Club and Doonfoot Primary Robert Burns Club.

These two very active Robert Burns Clubs are within the catchment area of Belmont Academy. Ayr & District Youth Robert Burns Club is based at Belmont.

This latest initiative, in the future if successful, can be the template for Scotland's Educational Establishments.

Apologies are tendered from Murdo Morrison who was solely responsible for this error.

Please note that the minutes of the 19th March were approved but the above section will require to be homologated at the next quarterly meeting to ensure accuracy of record.