

The Robert Burns World Federation Ltd
Executive Meeting

Venue: Alloway Parish Church Halls, Alloway

Date: Saturday 19th November 2016

MINUTES

1. **Sederunt:** Jean Abdulrahim, Enez Anderson, George Anderson, Jane Brown, Eric Budgell, Ray Connal, Robin Dodyk, Anne Gaw, Jim Gibson, Willie Gibson, Brian Goldie, Isa Hanley, Murray Henderson, Jim Hunter, Margaret Hunter, Bobby Kane, Karen Kane, Beth Kerr, Frances Marshall, Joe McGinty, Ian McIntyre, Angus Middleton, David Miller, Helen Morrison, Bill Nolan, Andrew Raeburn, Marc Sherland, John Skilling, Margaret Skilling, Annie Small, David Smith, Bob Stewart, Jim Thomson, Walter Watson,

2. **Apologies:** Margaret Anderson, Helena Anderson-Wright, Kay Blair, Bill Dawson, Betty Haining, David Hannah, Peter Hughes, Scott Hunter, John Irvine, Gordon Jamieson, Patricia Leslie, Bob McDonald, Murdo Morrison, Hazel Morrison, Len Murray, Ronnie O’Byrne, Jim O’Lone, John Paterson, Jim Robertson, Margaret Stokes, Les Strachan, Jim Todd, Chris Waddell

Item		Action
3.	<p>Chairman’s Remarks Thank you to everyone for attending today.</p> <p>Obituaries were read out and a minute’s silence observed.</p> <p>Announcement of Golden Wonder sponsorship for the schools comp on a 3 year sponsorship package.</p> <p>Thank you to everyone for the good wishes extended to both Karen and myself on Presidency.</p>	
4.	<p>Minutes of Meeting Proposed - Jim Thomson Seconded – Eric Budgell</p>	
5.	<p>Matters Arising No matters arising.</p>	
6.	<p>Finance Update – Jim Thomson</p> <p>The current financial position of the Federation as of Friday 18 November 2016 is a trading loss of £9,324 for the current financial year to date. This figure is considerably lower than similar figures for the past 4 years at this, the half way stage of the fiscal year.</p> <p>The reasons for this are the national raffle funds are included as is the sponsorship received from Golden Wonder for our School Competition. Tunnocks historically did not transfer the funds until the start of the New Year.</p>	

The current budget forecast spreadsheet which is based on a reasonably accurate prediction of spending and a more conservative estimate of income currently shows a financial year operating profit of just over £300. Copies of the spreadsheet are available for members as required and I have some with me which I will leave on the table for members to take away with them. Anyone who does not get a copy and wishes one please send me an email and I will provide a copy by return.

Conference 2106 was again a financial success mainly due to the generosity of our members who supported both raffles and the silent auction with their usual kindness. As has been the custom since 2014 an individual set of accounts have been completed for Conference which have now been approved by the Board and I have several copies with me for the information of members and they will be reproduced in the minute of this meeting. Again I will leave these on the table here and members who wish a copy may take one.

I have reported to members at several venues regarding the cost cutting and income increase strategies that have been employed by your Board of Directors since the inception of our Financial Management Plan in March 2014 and subsequently provided comparison information. I would now also advise members that the Board are now extending the cost cutting measures by including a need for tenders or multiple costings on all expenditure in excess of £500 in order to ensure that we get best value for money.

Any questions –

(Q)Would it be a good idea to behave like other charities and ask supporters to leave a bequest from members in their Will.

(A)We have had bequests in the past and believe that this should be left as a decision for the families.

Life membership has also been suggested in the past, but would be very difficult to manage.

RBANA suggestion –

Most Club Burns Suppers run their own Burns Supper for their own funds. This suggestion would be a good idea for bowling clubs etc, who are not affiliated to the Federation.

This was a formal proposal from RBANA – we went back to them and suggested that this was not something that we wished to do. We felt that the key target area was non-affiliated Clubs. By doing this, we would see a potential gain. As members we should be mentioning this at suppers that members speak at it.

Some clubs are already making the effort.

Fife Assoc – Frank Sandeman. Query raised re the email.

	<p>The email quite clearly states that this is entirely voluntary.</p> <p>We are prepared to travel to any Club in order to promote and further the Federation.</p> <p>(Q)If we require funds why not increase the membership?</p> <p>(A) We charge a membership to be a member of the Federation which is less than a third of our operating costs. We struggle every single year but we are reluctant to increase the membership as we are managing to get finance in from other areas. We have to examine other ways of raising funds.</p> <p>Thanks to Jim for his report and his time.</p>	
7.	Reports	
7.1	<p>President – Bobby Kane</p> <p>Hosted students from Russia to own Club. The students were fantastic and enjoyed trying on the chain.</p> <p>Medicine Hat Club dinner – fantastic venue and dinner.</p> <p>Stonehaven last week – commemoration service with Glenberrie Primary. One of the pupils is a direct descendant of Robert Burns, which they only discovered whilst doing the project.</p>	
7.2	<p>Conference –Jane Brown</p> <p>Hope everyone enjoyed Conference.</p> <p>Conference 2017 will again be at Peebles. The plan is for all rooms to be renovated by next year.</p> <p>The same band will be used on the Friday night along with the members doing a wee turn.</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing with Kirsteen McCue for the seminar on the Saturday and we have again booked the in house Ceilidh band for the Saturday night.</p> <p>Plans are ongoing for the following:</p> <p>Irvine 2018 Glasgow 2019 Dumfries 2020</p> <p>Open to suggestions – if anyone has any ideas for venues, please let us know.</p> <p>Announcement of Help for Heroes letter regarding the donation sent in relation to the collection at the Sunday morning service at Conference.</p>	

	<p>Thanks to the committee for all their hard work and to Jimmy for all his help in handing over to Jane.</p> <p>Confirmation that the 2017 Conference will be held on 7th-9th September 2017</p> <p>(Q)Votes – should we be publishing the actual numbers of votes for each candidate?</p> <p>(A)It was explained that the decision not to post the actual numbers was to avoid the scenario that if one of the nominees received a very small number of votes that they would be put off standing again in the future.</p> <p>In order to maintain this decision, but to ensure transparency, each nominated candidate chooses an observer to be present at the count and verify the counting of the votes. If the nominated candidate wishes to know what the actual voting numbers were, they could approach their representative for this information, but it will not be published.</p> <p>Thank you all again for your support with the raffles etc.</p>	
<p>7.3</p>	<p>Literature – Mike Duguid</p> <p>Discussed several issues. Very enjoyable meeting. Launch of Christopher Whatley’s Immortal Memory. Mentions the Federation on 21 occasions and Chronicle on 9 occasions.</p> <p>Mike read an exerpt from book.</p> <p>Very supportive of the Federation.</p> <p>Digitisation – 73 volumes completed already. This is a fantastic resource.</p> <p>Encouraged members to go on to website and read the Chronicles.</p> <p>The next newsletter will be out in early January. Please submit any items.</p> <p>Thanks from the Glasgow and District Burns Assoc for including items in newsletter.</p> <p>Vast improvement in the relationship between Federation, Glasgow District and University.</p> <p>Suggestion that every President sponsors the Chronicle that they are President.</p> <p>The Robert Burns Humanitarian Awards – Dr David Nott also won a Pride of Britain Award.</p>	
<p>7.4</p>	<p>Archivist – Bill Dawson</p> <p>No Report</p>	

<p>7.5</p>	<p>Marketing – Bill Nolan</p> <p>Murdo is in hospital, so not chairing the meeting today.</p> <p>Discussion took place with regards to expanding the remit into other areas from sales etc.</p> <p>Brand Management/Image Promotion and a Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Looked at communication i.e. social media.</p> <p>Looked at website – very interesting input from Beverley who attended a course last week on Social Media and Website.</p> <p>Put ideas together and will put forward some thoughts to the Board in due course i.e Burns Ambassador Scheme – there are many high profile people who have expressed a view on Burns e.g. Chris Hoy.</p> <p>Also discussed the image of the Federation – i.e. why do people resign etc. Set up a relationship covenant.</p> <p>Discussed a contract for Convenors outlining their remit.</p> <p>As an organisation we have committees that are effectively one man bands. Each convenor should find a deputy that could take over the job when the convenor is unable to attend.</p> <p>We are very aware at Board level of the importance of a succession plan.</p> <p>Bobby announced our first Non-Executive Director position has been filled by Marc Sherland , who is now our Membership Director.</p>	
<p>7.6</p>	<p>Schools – Isa Hanley</p> <p>The 2017 National Competition are being held in St. Athanasius Primary School, Carluke, Lanarkshire.</p> <p>The dates for the competitions are:</p> <p>Secondary: Saturday 22nd April 2017</p> <p>Primary: Saturday 6th May 2017</p> <p>Co-ordinators already have the dates and schedule.</p> <p>Adjudicators given advice. It was agreed that adjudicators would be asked for feedback.</p>	

	<p>The Choral competition is all in hand and Armadale Academy can accommodate up to 20 choirs.</p> <p>Any area can enter any number of choirs.</p> <p>The venue can be changed depending on number of choirs. Try to get into events team in your local authority to encourage participation of choirs.</p> <p>Patricia will liaise with Frances with regard to the Art and Project competitions.</p> <p>The international essay competition subject is: "The Rights of Woman merit some attention"</p> <p>Enez – Spoke of her project in Glasgow “Cool Burns” ; children were presented with Burns for Bairns. A talk will be given on Robert Burns and they will write a short poem on this.</p> <p>Compliments to Helen for all the organisation for the visit of the Students from St Petersburg. Russian Consul – Quote during visit “Politicians build walls – you build bridges”.</p> <p>Request that consideration for Falkirk to host the schools comps in 2018.</p> <p>Confirmation that there is no longer any need for school choirs to qualify in their region to go on to the Nationals.</p> <p>Question asked re cover of 50% of the cost of buses for choral comp. No guarantee given as there will be an increased number of choirs.</p>	
<p>7.7</p>	<p>Heritage – Ian McIntyre</p> <p>Burns Monument at Alloway – visit this morning, quite surprised how it has deteriorated. Funding for the renovation project is now in place and the work is due to start in July of next year.</p> <p>Photo of the restored Portpatrick Statue passed round.</p> <p>Browell is now complete.</p>	
<p>7.8</p>	<p>Admin – to include 200 Club Draw Website</p> <p>We continue to promote Club events, etc. via the Events Section of the RBWF website – check it regularly for updates. Latest events details updated include the Tartan Ball in Yorkshire, Glasgow University latest Seminar, 2017 Lasses</p>	

	<p>Lunch in Irvine and Club Burns Suppers and Club nights. Any Club that wishes their event to be uploaded onto the Website, please forward details.</p> <p>Web shop/Sales Web sales still going at a steady pace. We also generated good sales at the Conference with the diaries and pens being very popular.</p> <p>Social Media We now have 1299 followers on Twitter and 1035 likes on Facebook. We are maintaining regular interactions across the global network with some very positive feedback being received.</p> <p>Recent posts inc. Dumfries Ladies outing to Broughton House, the Russian evening hosted by Irvine Lasses, the visit to the Birthplace Museum from St Petersburg Russian Students and many more.</p> <p>If you are now already following us, please take a look.</p> <p>Membership Renewal notices will be going out next week along with the 2017 Burns Chronicle. We have around 54 members who have not renewed in 2016, which we have already sent renewal notices out to and we will contact personally if no response. This is mainly to find out why they have not renewed and if there is any improvement we can make to ensure that our membership is maintained.</p> <p>Premises There is no update on the new premises to date. We have now contacted the Chief Executive of East Ayrshire Council as there has been no progress and we are awaiting her response.</p>	
<p>7.9</p>	<p>Overseas</p> <p>Pacific Rim – Jim O’Lone Nothing to report</p> <p>Canada – Ronnie O’Byrne Nothing to Report</p> <p>U.S.A. – Les Strachan</p>	
<p>7.10</p>	<p>Association Representatives</p> <p>Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs – Annie Small</p>	

AGM in Broomhill Hotel – John Campbell – President, Snr Vice Annie Small, James Waite Junior President.

Fife Association of Burns Clubs –
No Report.

Glasgow Association of Burns Clubs – George Anderson

Event: St Andrews Day – evening £20 each for ceilidh and buffet. Gerry Carruthers is key speaker.

AGM – Enez is now official President. Marc is now in place as Secretary.

Annual wreath Laying – 21st January. Following day will be the annual divine service.

Falkirk & District – Jim Hunter

Proud to announce that the first area competition was held last year – 45 children turned up at Bantaskin School.

Two charity Burns Supper in last two years. There have been 24 trophies awarded.

Grampian Association of Burns Clubs

No report.

Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs – Bobby Kane

Schools comp – prep is well underway.

Murdo was at the meeting with a tv camera. Kay got interviewed for BBC Alba.

Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association – David Miller

St Michael Commemoration service – 25th January laying of wreath at the Mausoleum.

The schools competition will take place on 4th Feb.

Dover & East Kent Scottish Society –

No report.

Yorkshire District – Jim Robertson

Tartan Ball – Saturday 29th April 2017 to be held in the Holiday Inn, Dodworth, Barnsley.

Cost of the evening Dinner and Dance - £30.50p. Accommodation Double £50.00
Single £35.50 Same as last year.

When booking ring 01226 299571 – ask for in-house reservation and quote Tartan Ball 29th April 2017

8.	<p>Applications for Membership</p> <p>Individual Membership Mr Robert Barr, Dalry</p> <p>Family Membership Mr & Mrs William and Marjory Dickson, Irvine Mr & Mrs John and Carolyn Menzies, Camperdown</p> <p>Club Membership None</p> <p>Corporate Membership None</p> <p>School Membership Aileymill Primary School, Greenock</p> <p>Re-Affiliation None</p>	
9.	<p>AOCB GW sponsorship – 2 years work by Bobby for this.</p>	
10.	<p>Date of next meetings: Board – to be confirmed Executive – Saturday 25th March 2017 (Dumfries) (venue to be confirmed)</p>	