



	<p>Peter wishes thank Jim publically for his work with the finance as they are the best they have been for some considerable time.</p> <p>Surplus of around £4,000 over the conference weekend and I wish to publically thank the organising committee and the team on a successful conference.</p> <p>No questions asked.</p>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Reports</b>	
<b>7.1</b>	<p><b>President</b>  Spoke of his fantastic visit to Canada. Mike has covered the trip in the newsletter. Hospitality was outstanding from start to finish. Going back out in 2019 to do the immortal memory.</p> <p>Best wishes from Canada to all in the Federation.</p> <p>I have this week completed a Burns Federation PowerPoint presentation which is available from the Federation office.</p> <p>I was invited to attend Robert Burns the Musical in Kilmarnock. I was very disappointed in this production – we have no intention of the RBWF supporting this production in the future.</p>	
<b>7.2</b>	<p><b>Conference – Jim Gibson</b>  Report given by Jane in Jim’s absence.</p> <p>Conference 2015 was a great success. The camaraderie amongst the members was of a very high level.</p> <p>Summary of programme provided.</p> <p>A very enjoyable weekend with a few complaints. However over the next two years, we will see an improvement.</p> <p>Next year’s Conference will take place over the 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September 2016</p> <p>Photographs on Facebook and the Federation website.</p> <p>Speaker next year is Rab Wilson and A N Other who is still to be approached. We are also planning to have the in-house ceilidh band.</p> <p>All in progress for next year.</p> <p>Jane provided up to date details of the National Raffle – if every one person who is a member of the Federation took one book and sold 1 ticket per month, we would achieve our goal.</p>	
<b>7.3</b>	<b>Literature – Mike Duguid</b>	

	<p>The 2016 Chronicle has now been received at the office and will be distributed within the next week.</p> <p>The main item of discussion was the digitisation of the chronicles.</p> <p>Mike went through his presentation.</p>	
<b>7.4</b>	<p><b>Archivist – Bill Dawson</b> No report.</p>	
<b>7.5</b>	<p><b>Marketing – Murdo Morrison</b> There are a range of goods to any clubs/areas for sale.</p> <p>Discussed: Celtic connections – can we tap into this and events like this. To raise the profile of the Federation.</p> <p>How do we get the message of what we do and why we are here out there?</p> <p>Spoke again about the patron idea – if we can get some people on board to raise the profile e.g. Paulo Nutini.</p> <p>Corporate sponsorship – try to sell this to any companies that we are involved with.</p> <p>The possibility of a shop at the Big Burns Supper.</p> <p>Spoke about the new strapline – “A small charity with a global reach”.</p> <p>Radio Broadcast – details given and will be sent out by email.</p>	
<b>7.6</b>	<p><b>Schools – Patricia Leslie</b> All the Area Co-ordinators have been appointed.</p> <p>The dates for the Nationals are - 23<sup>rd</sup> April (Secondary) and 7th May (Primary).</p> <p>Propose that the next meeting be moved to Sat 19<sup>th</sup> March. Arrangements can be made with Lanarkshire.</p> <p>No objections to the change of date.</p> <p>Rorison Memorial Church in Ashgill is the proposed venue.</p> <p>No questions asked.</p>	
<b>7.7</b>	<p><b>Heritage – Ian McIntyre</b> Welcomed Ann Gaw as a new member of the committee. Discussion regarding Hamilton Paul headstone. Plan is to try and pursue the family who own the headstone. The roof at Souter Johnnie’s cottage being re-thatched.</p>	

	<p>Black Bull Hotel – Moffat: Discussion around the etched window known to have existed in the tavern visited by Burns. The establishment was now owned by Punch Taverns and up for lease and it was feared that any relics may have been disposed of. Jane offered to contact the current occupiers of the tavern to check if the window is still there.</p> <p>Brow well – almost the full amount has been raised.</p> <p>Theatre Royal will re-open next week.</p>	
<p><b>7.8</b></p>	<p><b>Admin – to include 200 Club Draw Conference</b></p> <p>Bev and I had a very busy but most enjoyable weekend at Peebles meeting with the members who attended. The website has been updated with the on goings and photographs of the weekend have been posted.</p> <p><b>Website</b></p> <p>We continue to promote Club events, etc. via the Events Section of the RBWF website – check it regularly for updates. A complete section of Burns poems are now available on the website with songs to follow.</p> <p><b>Web shop</b></p> <p>Sales still going at a steady pace and we have new products on offer from Caring Keepsakes. We also have taken delivery just this week of the 2016 Robert Burns Diary – stock is limited, so get yours today for £5.99. We also have special winter sale products i.e Burns Check Scarfs and Throws – see Beverley for details.</p> <p><b>Social Media</b></p> <p>We now have 1099 followers on Twitter and 905 ‘likes’ on Facebook with regular interactions across the global network. The photographs from the Peebles Conference are all on Facebook also.</p> <p><b>Membership</b></p> <p>Membership is continuing to grow with as you will see from your agenda, a fantastic number of new members since the last meeting.</p> <p><b>Premises</b></p> <p>There has been some progress since the last meeting with regards to the new premises. We have now had a meeting at the site with the contractors with</p>	

	<p>regards to the proposed renovation work. We have also met with the solicitors with regards to formalising the lease. However, the date of entry has still to be confirmed due to the renovation work required.</p> <p><b>200 Club</b> We have sold 206 shares this year. Draw took place.</p> <p><b>General</b> The Chronicles have been received this week and are prepared for posting. The schools certificates have also been ordered and the schools information has been posted on the website and details of the competitions have been forwarded directly to all schools in Scotland.</p> <p>First school to sign up – presentation next week.</p> <p>Chairs – if anyone knows anywhere who is disposing of any chairs, please let us know as we require chairs for the new premises.</p>	
<p>7.9</p>	<p><b>Overseas</b></p> <p><b>Pacific Rim – Jim O’Lone</b> Nothing to report</p> <p><b>Canada – Ronnie O’Byrne</b> Most clubs across Canada have just started their winter schedules – and as we approach the Burns Supper Season.</p> <p>I’m sure I’ll have more to report on as the clubs arrange their meetings and events for 2015 / 2016.</p> <p>The highlight in September was being invited to attend (and participate in) the Medicine Hat Burns Club – Jolly Beggars Banquet.</p> <p>Our RBWF President Peter Hughes flew in from Scotland - and RBANA President Robert Boyd from Texas - to take part in the event too At this point in time I would like to congratulate the Medicine Hat Burns Club for organizing a spectacular event.</p> <p>Regrettably due to business commitments I was unable to attend the RBWF Conference in Pebbles.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted Warm Regards – Ronnie O’Byrne</p> <p><b>U.S.A. – Les Strachan</b> Nothing to Report</p>	

**7.10****Association Representatives****Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs -**

No report

**Borders Association -**

No Report

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

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of November the EDBCA welcomed two Russian students – Robert Burns prize winners. They were accompanied by three members of the St Petersburg Forum. We met with them at Edinburgh City Chambers where we were joined by Russian Deputy Consul and his wife and met Edinburgh’s Deputy Lord Provost. He spoke of the warm friendship that exists between Russian and Scottish people.

The students were presented with certificates and gifts and Jim Shields also passed on a Burns Book to be given to the Consul.

The visitors were given a short tour of the City Chambers before they left to go for a visit to The Scottish Parliament.

St Andrews Day service at St Giles on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December – booked Celtic Lodge for lunch. Gather in signet library.

**Fife Association of Burns Clubs – Frank Sandeman**

Fife Association have been very fortunate in the past number of years as Fife Council Education and Children’s Services funded and ran Fife Schools Burns Competition, while we only assisted by stewarding and collecting winners names to put forward for National Competitions.

We were informed in August 2015 that due to funding cuts, Fife Council Education and Children’s Services were no longer able to run the Fife Schools Burns Competition and we were asked if we would take over.

We agreed to run the next Competition and after discussions with various officials we were offered assistance in the form of Auchmuty High School Glenrothes for the Competition on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March at no cost to us. This is on a “one of basis” at the moment. We have also been offered help by school staff and pupils on the day. As there are only ten Burns Clubs in Fife, some of which are quite small we are now exploring ways of extra fundraising to facilitate the continuation of Fife schools Competition in the future.

Fife Association have been previously been granted a civic reception by various Provosts for winner’s prize giving for a number of years but we do not know if this will continue.

Fife Association is now operating on the same lines as other Associations so we may be looking for advice on how they operate.

**Glasgow Association of Burns Clubs – George Anderson**

President Archie Shaw has resigned and Enez has taken over as Interim President for the moment.

The annual wreath laying ceremony will take place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016 and the service in the Cathedral.

**Grampian Association of Burns Clubs –**

No Report

**Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs – Bobby Kane**

Bhirnie Rhind Statue – worth a visit.

Allanton Jolly Beggars Competition – won by Cameron Kerr.

Visit by the Russian Essay Students.

Hosts for the next Executive meeting.

**Renfrewshire Association of Burns Clubs –**

No report

**Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association – Mike Duguid**

Event was held in the Globe Inn for Betty Haining in honour of her being treasurer for over 25 years. St Petersburg students enjoyed their visit to Ellisland Farm.

**Yorkshire District – David Hannah**

The district annual Tartan Ball will once more be held at the prestigious Holiday Inn, Barnsley on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

We have held the cost at £30 per person with a choice of menu, our band will be the very popular Iain McPhail and his Scottish Dance Band.

Accommodation including breakfast and the use of the leisure facilities is £50 double or twin room and £35 single. For those wishing to stay a further night, the cost will be the same.

To book accommodation, ring 01226 299571 quoting Tartan Ball 30/04/16. A warm welcome awaits you in Yorkshire.

As per usual on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in June, we shall hold our Summer Event of Crown Green Bowling Tournament, Inter-Society Quiz and the AGM.

	This has been a sad year in our district with the closure of The Leeds Caledonian Society and the Scots Society of St Andrew, Hull.	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Applications for Membership</b></p> <p><b>Individual Membership</b>  Mr Peter Matthews, Annan  Mrs Sheila Dickson, York  Dr Ruth Thomson, Dumfries  Mrs Isabel Lind, Greenock  Mr Henry Cairney, Calgary  Mr Jonathan Buchan, Glasgow</p> <p><b>Family Membership</b>  Mr &amp; Mrs Duncan and Jill Brown, Larkhall</p> <p><b>Club Membership</b>  Burns Club of St Andrew - Sarasota, Florida</p> <p><b>Corporate Membership</b>  Hamlyns of Scotland, Banffshire  Stirling 1314 LLP, Bridge of Allan</p> <p><b>School Membership</b>  Bantaskin Primary School, Falkirk</p> <p><b>Re-Affiliation</b>  None</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>AOCB</b>  Jim Shields – it has been a privilege and pleasure to host these meetings over the years.</p> <p>Jane –Border Cars are happy to provide the car for any shows in Scotland in order to promote the raffle. If any areas wish the car for a local event, please let us know.</p> <p>Bobby offered a vote of thanks to Peter and thanked everyone for coming along.</p>	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Date of next meetings: Board – 8<sup>th</sup> January 2016      Executive – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016</b>	