

The Robert Burns World Federation Ltd

Executive Meeting

Venue: Georgetown Community Centre, Dumfries, DG1 4DF

Date: Saturday 25th March 2017

MINUTES

- Sederunt:** Enez Anderson, George Anderson, Margaret Anderson, Kay Blair, Jane Brown, Eric Budgell, Ray Connal, Robin Dodyk, Mike Duguid, Jim Gibson, Brian Goldie, Betty Haining, Isa Hanley, David Hannah, Murray Henderson, Peter Hughes, Jim Hunter, Scott Hunder, Bobby Kane, Karen Kane, Patricia Leslie, Ian McIntyre, David Miller, Helen Morrison, Murdo Morrison, Hazel Morrison, Andrew Raeburn, John Skilling, Margaret Skilling, David Smith, Bob Stewart, Margaret Stokes, Walter Watson, Frances Stewart, Beith Forrest, Dave Scott, Marc Sherland, Beth Kerr
- Apologies:** Jean Abdulrahim, Helen Anderson-Wright, Bill Dawson, Anne Gaw, Willie Gibson, Gordon Jamieson, Frances Marshall, Bob McDonald, Joe McGinty, Len Murray, Ronnie O'Byrne, Jim O'Lone, John Paterson, Jim Robertson, Annie Small, Les Strachan, Jim Thomson, Jim Todd, Chris Waddell,

Item		Action
3.	Chairman's Remarks Busy time since last meeting. Highlights Irvine Burns Club – 50 th year since opening of Wellwood. Filmed video blog on 25 th January. Great feedback. Also Radio Scotland. Messages from the states, Australia and Canada. Arbroath – an award to the chairman of Arbroath Football Club. Police college at Tulliallan – Burns Supper.	
4.	Minutes of Meeting Proposed - Brian Goldie Seconded – Enez Anderson	
5.	Matters Arising Frank Sandeman – concerns re Medicine Hat proposal. Arranged to go on 11 th March but the meeting was cancelled.	
6.	Finance Update – Jim Thomson As of Thursday 23 March 2017 the Company accounts Profit and Loss Report for the Financial Year to Date shows an operating profit of £393.76. This includes RBWF income and expenditure including restricted funds. The Budget Information Spreadsheet, which we have been using as the tool to manage our routine financial affairs since 2014, has been brought up to date with real expenditure and income figures for the 2016/17 fiscal year added. The only estimated figures within the spreadsheet relate to the final month of the financial year, April, and	

	<p>I would suggest this tends to support the accuracy of the predicted end of year position.</p> <p>At this time the spreadsheet is indicating a year end operating profit of £1,254. Copies of the spreadsheet are available for members on request.</p> <p>The past 3 financial years have been difficult for the organisation with a need for strict management of funds and a greater need to increase income. The current Board of Directors have worked tirelessly to this end and I commend them for their dedication to the continuing financial wellbeing of the Federation.</p> <p>Whilst the future financial security of the RBWF cannot be described as secure, the base is now at least in the position members were promised at Conference 2014 with systems in place to ensure that information is available to Directors that allow better financial management decision making.</p>	
7.	Reports	
7.1	<p>President – Bobby Kane</p> <p>Nothing further to add to Chairman’s remarks.</p>	
7.2	<p>Conference –Jane Brown</p> <p>The Conference will run the same as last year. Last year was a great success and no reason why it will not go the same this year. Same entertainment etc.</p> <p>The following year, 2018, the Conference will be in Irvine. The plan is to be the same as the 2014 Conference.</p> <p>The 2019 we hope will be in Glasgow. In 2020 – Dumfries Burns Club are celebrating 200 year so hope to have the Conference in Dumfries.</p> <p>Raffle prizes are always appreciated.</p> <p>Silent Auction will run again as in previous years.</p>	
7.3	<p>Literature – Mike Duguid</p> <p>Update on digitisation – 88 have been put online. We still have 50 to go.</p> <p>Next newsletter will be May. Articles to be sent to Mike.</p>	
7.4	<p>Archivist – Bill Dawson</p> <p>Meeting will Bill on Monday, does anyone have any comments they wish discussed with Bill.</p> <p>Nothing to add.</p>	
7.5	<p>Marketing – Murdo Morrison</p>	

	<p>Sales – anything over £4 is not creating any interest from our members.</p> <p>Pens/Diaries are popular.</p> <p>Schools Competition – location of shop discussed.</p> <p>What do we get for our money – from the Federation? Further discussion will be had on this.</p> <p>Newsletter – very well received and compliment Mike on this.</p> <p>Corporate membership was discussed. This will be revisited by the marketing committee.</p> <p>Allanton Jolly Beggars – Diamond Jubilee on 23rd June.</p> <p>Burns event in Japan and China.</p> <p>Congratulations to members of the Speakers Guild who attended the Ayr Racecourse for a Burns Supper where over £11,000 was raised for Charity.</p>	
<p>7.6</p>	<p>Schools – Patricia Leslie (Isa Hanley) Arrangements for Finals are in place.</p> <p>Visit to school will be made this week to tie up loose ends.</p> <p>Trophies will all be there.</p> <p>First Aiders are required.</p> <p>The new dates for the Nationals will always be on the 3rd and 4th Sat of March every year. The Choral will remain on the 2nd Saturday. The Choral next year will again be in Armadale Academy.</p> <p>Helen provided a comprehensive report at the meeting on St Petersburg.</p> <p>Ukrainians are actively seeking ties with schools in Scotland.</p> <p>Thanks to Isa for stepping in.</p>	
<p>7.7</p>	<p>Heritage – Ian McIntyre</p> <p>The monument at Alloway has not had any work done as yet and does not look likely to take place this year.</p> <p>The Hamilton Paul headstone – Walter is working hard at potential finance pathways to finance the upgrade.</p>	

	<p>Report on Burns Statue in Dumfries which was refurbished about 6 or 7 years ago and is beginning to deteriorate again.</p> <p>Spring outing to Browwell!!</p> <p>Membership – Marc Sherland</p> <p>The task force has met once since Marc has come on board.</p> <p>A review has been done on the membership form. New membership form will be produced. We have looked at what we offer to members? The offer needs to be distinct for each of the categories. A membership covenant.</p> <p>Corporate Membership – the fee should be negotiable with different offers available.</p> <p>Mission Statement – needs to be strong.</p> <p>A number of Club members feel that there is no need for them to be Federation members.</p> <p>These are all the items that the membership committee will be focusing on.</p>	
<p>7.8</p>	<p>Admin – to include 200 Club Draw</p> <p>Website Over the Burns season we have been promoting Club events and wreath laying ceremonies via the website and social media – please check this regularly for updates. The latest news is the Lasses Lunch and Conference for 2017 are now available for booking.</p> <p>Shop Sales Web shop sales have been steady over the last couple of months, with napkins being very popular during January.</p> <p>We also had a stall at the recent Kilmarnock Family History Fayre, which generated a few sales.</p> <p>Social Media We now have 1401 followers on Twitter that is an increase of over 100 since the last meeting and 1084 likes on Facebook, an increase of nearly 50 since November.</p>	

	<p>Recent posts include the Burns Day video message from our President, news of many of our Club Burns Suppers, RBBM events and talks and news of the new Irvine Lassies Club logo.</p> <p>If you are not already following us, please take a look.</p> <p>Membership Membership payments have been coming in over the past few months, which is great. However, there is still a few payments to come in, which we are sending reminders for. We are also enquiring with these members, if they are not renewing, the reasons for this, so that we can try to resolve any issues.</p> <p>Premises Jim Thomson has made contact with the Provosts office and is awaiting a reply. I have been assured that the budget has been set aside and has been for the past 2 years, and that the will of the Council is that we move to this particular premises. However, the renovation work is on a “job list” for contractors and we are waiting for our job to reach the top of the list!</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 No report.</p> <p>Fife Association of Burns Clubs – Frank Sandeman There are 10 burns clubs in Fife, all clubs ran their own competitions. Cupar had over 90 entrants this year. Good entry to the National Festivals from Fife.</p> <p>Difficulty getting people to come on the committee.</p> <p>Glasgow Association of Burns Clubs – George Anderson</p> <p>Enez has been involved in 25 events since January.</p> <p>Wreath Laying ceremony – we were delighted once again to have Bobby at Glasgow this year.</p>	

	<p>Very disappointed in turnout at Glasgow.</p> <p>Later in the year we are joining up with the Conservatoire in Glasgow with an event for young people.</p> <p>We would be delighted to have the Conference in Glasgow in 2019.</p> <p>Falkirk & District – Passed on details of another school in the area to tie up with the Ukrainian school. Schools Comp - 71 young people took part.</p> <p>Grampian Association of Burns Clubs No report.</p> <p>Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs – Bobby Kane Had 3 choirs attend the choral festival and one of our choirs took second place. Schools finals is this week.</p> <p>Club inter-visitation night on 7th April in bowling club in Dalserf in Ashgill.</p> <p>Looking forward to welcoming everyone to Lanarkshire for the Schools finals.</p> <p>Covington mains wreath laying is on 3rd July.</p> <p>Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association – David Miller</p> <p>Very successful St Michael’s commemoration with 120 children taking part.</p> <p>Wreath laying at mausoleum</p> <p>Great schools comp.</p> <p>Browwell Service – Wednesday 19th July.</p> <p>Dover & East Kent Scottish Society – John Paterson No report.</p> <p>Yorkshire District – David Hannah Highlight of the year – Tartan Ball, will be on 29th April.</p> <p>AGM – 10th June.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Applications for Membership</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Individual Membership</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Family Membership</p>	

	<p>Club Membership</p> <p>None</p> <p>Corporate Membership</p> <p>None</p> <p>School Membership</p> <p>Re-Affiliation</p> <p>None</p>	
9.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>No other business discussed.</p> <p>Vote of thanks for the chair – Ian McIntyre.</p>	
10.	<p>Date of next meetings: Board – to be confirmed Executive – Saturday 17th June 2017 in Lanarkshire</p>	

DRAFT