

# The Robert Burns World Federation Ltd

## Executive Meeting

Venue: Coldstream Community Centre, High Street, Coldstream, TD12 4AP

Date: Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2013

### MINUTES

Sederunt		
Attendees		Apologies
Jean Abdulrahim	Jean McMillan-Forster	Helena Anderson Wright
Allister Anderson	Frances Marshall	Eddie Bonar
Elza Anderson	Bob McDonald	Elizabeth Caine
Enez Anderson	Joe McGinty	Joe Campbell
George Anderson	Karen McPhail	John Caskie
Margaret Anderson	Hazel Morrison	May Crawley
David Baird	Helen Morrison	Bill Dawson
Ralph A Balfour	Murdo Morrison	Moira Dunsmore
Kay Blair	John C Paterson	James Gibson
Jane Brown	Jim Robertson	Willie Gibson
Eric Budgell	Jim Shields	Joseph Hunter
Corinne Buivenga	John Skilling	Harry Hutchison
Barbara E Clayton	Margaret Skilling	John Irvine
Ray Connal	Bob Stewart	Alex McKenzie
Mike Duguid	Margaret Stokes	May McGuffog
Anne Gaw	Jim Thomson	Margaret Morrall
Betty Haining	Alison Tait	Tom Morrall
John Haining	Helen Waddell	Angus Middleton
Margaret Haining	Tom Myles	David Miller
Isa Hanley		Sandy Murray
David Hannah		Jim O'Lone
Murray Henderson		Lesley Richardson
Irene Henry		David Scott
Graham Hill		Frank Sandeman
Jim Hunter		Archie Shaw
Scott Hunter		Shona Shaw
May Hyslop		Annie Smail
Jane Jack		David Smith
Gordon Jamieson		Les Strachan
Joe Kennedy		Eva Stubbs
A Anderson Kidd		Walter Watson

**A warm welcome was extended by John Elliot, secretary of Coldstream Burns Club, thanking the Executive for coming to Coldstream. The meeting had been planned initially by Graham Galbraith who has since died, Graham is very fondly remembered by all who knew him. John spoke of Burns connection to Coldstream and the Coldstream Bridge which has a plaque to Robert Burns to commemorate his 1787 visit. (There will be a bridge ceremony on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May – contact John for details)**

1.

**Chairman's Remarks**

President Bob Stewart thanked Coldstream for hosting the meeting and mentioned it was originally set up by Graham Galbraith who has sadly died.

I take this opportunity to thank our C.E.O. Alison, our office administrator Corinne and the Directors of the Board for all the dedication and productive effort they make for the overall success of the business of the R.B.W.F. Ltd. I also wish to thank them and the ordinary members of the Federation for the kindness and helpful assistance they have given me throughout this first six months of my Presidency.

It has been a very busy six months and "I have not been idle" and since the last Exec Meeting in November, here is a swatch of the things I've been up to:

- C.B.C St Andrew's Ceilidh on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> November in aid of Spina Bifida Association
- Festival of St. Andrew Service in St. Giles, Edinburgh on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December
- Dumfries St Michael's Burns club, I.M. Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January
- Saltire Society Burns Lunch, Kirriemuir, Chair, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January
- Strathmore speakers club, Burns Supper, I.M. Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January
- Dundee Western Burns club, Burns Supper, Invercarse Hotel, I.M. Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January
- Cupar Burns club Annual Anniversary Dinner, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January
- Coldstream Burns Club, Burns Supper, I.M. Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January
- Edinburgh & District B.C. Association, Wreath Laying Ceremony at Burns Statue in Scottish National Portrait Gallery on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January
- W.A.A.M. Burns Supper, I.M. in Church Hall Kirriemuir on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February
- Kilmarnock School Burns Supper, Speech & Bards Works on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February
- Webster's H.S. Kirriemuir Burns Supper, I.M. on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb
- Northeden Eventide Home Burns Supper, Bards Works on Wednesday
- Cupar B.C./Fife Herald Schools' Competitions on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February
- Cambuslang B.C. Burns Supper, I.M. on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March
- Greenock B.C. "Open Night" in Tontine Hotel, Greenock on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March
- Edinburgh & District Burns Association Schools' Competition on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March
- F.A.B.C. Meeting in Torbain Parish church Hall on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March
- Dunfermline H.S. meeting regarding R.B.W.F. National Festivals on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March

**Future Meetings:**

- Provost of East Ayrshire – Burns Supper in Dean Castle, Kilmarnock on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March
- Allanton Jolly Beggars B.C. – a "Nicht wi Burns" in Wishaw on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April
- Yorkshire Tartan Ball in Barnsley on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April
- R.B.A.N.A Conference in Niagara, Canada 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> April

Finally, and it really goes without saying, but I'll say it anyway, I wish the R.B.W.F and its Members all success in future years.

	<p>Respects were paid to the passing of the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ian Murdoch, Individual member and Editor of Melbourne Burnsian</li> <li>• Hugh Macadie, individual member</li> <li>• Ted Murray, individual member</li> <li>• Norrie McGowan, Secretary of Dundee Burns Club</li> <li>• James (Jimmy) Fisher, Alamo Past President/Treasurer and founder member of the club</li> <li>• Prof G Ross Roy</li> <li>• Lawrence Cormak, President of Winnipeg Robert Burns Club, Secretary/Treasurer of RBANA, last of Aberdeen</li> </ul>
2	<p><b>Minutes of Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> November 2012</b></p> <p>Proposed by Jim Robertson and seconded by Jane Brown.</p>
3	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>Ralph Balfour wanted to clarify that in the minute of the previous meeting he had been referring to Harrogate and not Glasgow in 2013</p> <p>This was the statement in section 4 of the minute:  <i>Ralph Balfour brought to our attention his concern regarding request by people to sit beside each other at the conference had been ignored.</i></p>
4	<p><b>Finance Update – Jim Shields</b></p> <p>Income up to the end of February was £79K, while expenditure was £73K giving a surplus of approx. £6K</p> <p>Projected income to the year end was £111K and expenditure £105 , which will leave us with the £6K</p> <p>This has been achieved without going into reserves and our bank balance is still quite healthy.</p> <p>Of the YTD expenditure, £2K has been a prepayment of the deposit on 2013 conference in Glasgow</p> <p>Most of the subs have been paid, but many individuals and clubs are still outstanding, if anyone here today falls into that category, see Corrine or Alison.</p> <p>President’s appeal has brought in £7900 and a big than you to those who have donated. Anyone still wishing to do so, see me, Corinne or Alison.</p> <p>A budget for 2013-14, will be prepared for next board meeting.</p>

## 5 Reports

### 5.1 President

See above – Section 1

### 5.2 Chief Executive

#### Key Meetings Attended:

- 22<sup>nd</sup> November – EAC Marketing Seminar
- 10<sup>th</sup> December – Board Meeting – Dower House
- 14<sup>th</sup> December – Conference Committee Meeting
- 18<sup>th</sup> December - Website
- 8<sup>th</sup> January – Website Update with Board of Directors
- 14<sup>th</sup> January – Euan Mitchell Isle of Arran Distillery
- 16<sup>th</sup> January – Tam’s Ride Wall Hanging, Ayr Town Hall
- 17<sup>th</sup> January – Craig Johnstone, Giglets
- 21<sup>st</sup> January – Past Presidents Meeting,
- 21<sup>st</sup> January – Guild of Speakers Lunch & Presentation
- 25<sup>th</sup> January – Mauchline 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Burns Supper
- 28<sup>th</sup> January – Jennifer Jones & Gayle McPherson, UWS Ayr Campus
- 29<sup>th</sup> January – Alison Butchart, IAC/Scottish Enterprise
- 30<sup>th</sup> January - Brenda Ritchie, West Sound Radio
- 31<sup>st</sup> January – Ayr Pupils Anniversary Dinner
- 1<sup>st</sup> February – Grand Central Hotel, Charity Ball
- 5<sup>th</sup> February – Marilyn Cairns, Business Advisor
- 6<sup>th</sup> February – Buy2Give Information evening
- 11<sup>th</sup> February – Nick Downes, Frontline Consultants

#### Management Summary:

As always, we are very busy in the office at the moment. Herewith a summary of what has been keeping me busy since our last meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

- Government Project Funding
  - Intellectual Property
  - Chronicle
- 2 Key Projects Ongoing
  - Social Media
  - Consultants – Business Plan
- Current Membership Numbers
- Donations
- Website
- Admin Support
- Newsletter
- Credit Card Payments
- Events Planning
- Raffle
- Schools Update
- Social Media
- Ebay
- Buy2Give
- Partnerships
  - West Sound Radio

- Giglets

### **Government Funding**

We have received funding from the Government for 2 areas.

1. 19.7k for IP Protection, see above
2. Up to 6.5k for Publishing the Chronicle.

Paperwork for the Chronicle has already been sent to claim the funding. This equates to £6302.72, For Intellectual Property I am currently working with lawyers. The claim for this funding must be submitted before the end of March.

---

### **We have 2 key projects at the moment:**

1. Social Media with University of the West of Scotland. This is in the early stages and the RBWF team is now myself, Mike Duguid and Corinne Buivenga. This project is looking outwith the RBWF and we will leverage off the work they are doing.
  - a. Project Scope:
    - Develop Social Media Strategy for RBWF
    - Improve use of digital communication to include video/audio and social media platforms
    - Grow brand of RBWF and Robert Burns through Social Media
    - Ensure "Brand Scotland" is fit for 21<sup>st</sup> Century
    - Launch a Digital Burns night in June 2014, to complement the Commonwealth Games activities
    - Ensure capability is in place for future events
    - Create a Digital Burns Supper toolkit for the Federation with capability to measure and track.

To summarise this from an RBWF perspective the plan is to ensure that RBWF are engaged in Social Media and have the ability to measure the success, or otherwise, of our endeavours.

2. Frontline Consultants
  - a. Project Scope for Frontline
    - *understanding of our needs – we understand the importance of supporting organisations to adapt and survive in the current financial environment*
    - *directly relevant experience – we have extensive experience of business strategy and performance reviews, industry sector studies and the development of pragmatic steps for improvement, as well as working with third sector and voluntary organisations*
    - *robust method – we bring a proven project design for individual organisation review as well as wide ranging stakeholder and engagement experience that will provide the quality and quantity of evidence you require for a project of this importance*
    - *skilled, senior team – with an excellent mix of skills and experience in business strategy and business review as well as policy analysis*
    - *value for money – this project is important and we are proposing a team with the seniority appropriate to the work*
    - *flexible and supportive approach – we build excellent client relationships, transfer skills to our clients and leave you with enhanced understanding as well as a high quality report*

To summarise this from an RBWF perspective – Frontline will help develop a Sustainable Business Strategy which should support funding request from the Scottish Government. I have had my first meeting with the Consultants and they are now talking to the Directors.

**This project is due to complete in early June 2013**

**Current Membership numbers (including email availability) are as follows:**

Membership Type	Feb-13		
	Members	# Email	% email
Association	4	4	100%
Chronicle	24	19	79%
Club	236	148	63%
Corporate	2	2	100%
Family	95	61	64%
Honorary	6	2	33%
Individual	288	144	50%
Junior	2	0	0%
Patron	2	2	100%
School	98	82	84%
	757	464	61%

On recent correspondence we have added a “keep in touch” label encouraging our members to provide us with their email address. I have received a few positive responses to this. Whilst recognizing email is not a method of communication all of our members would choose it is our intention to have the email address for those members who are willing to accept information in this manner.

### Donations

We have received a very generous donation of £3775 from Harrogate St Andrew’s Society. This was given in the understanding we will use for books for children in Scottish Schools and to keep Burns to the fore in Scottish Education. The Schools committee intend to give a book to all winners at the National Schools Final.

As of March 5th 2013, the total donations for the President’s appeal stands at £ £7,990. Clubs have donated almost 50% of this with a few large donations from Bendigo & Dist Caledonian Society, Cupar Burns Club & Dumfries Ladies BC. Every donor has been sent a ‘Thank You’ email or letter.

An official thank you has been prepared for the March Chronicle by President Bob Stewart

### Website

We have been working with Linda Graham from Infotology on the website

We have already tidied up the front page but recognise there is still work to do here.

Our primary focus has been the creation of a web shop which is officially launched today! Check out [shop.rbwf.org.uk](http://shop.rbwf.org.uk)

### Admin Support

It was agreed at the last Board meeting that we would extend Corinne’s contract for a further 6 months until November 2013

### Newsletter

With thanks to Mike Duguid we have a newsletter, with Board approval. The intention is to publish this every 2 months. So far we have published in January and March.

We have had a very positive response to the email so far. We have also heard from members of clubs who have had the Newsletter forwarded to them which is exactly what we had planned for.

This Newsletter is not for members only; we want it to circulate widely with no restrictions with the intention of raising the profile of the organisation. **If you have friends that would like to see this please send the email address to [admin@rbwf.org.uk](mailto:admin@rbwf.org.uk)** and we will add them to our distribution list.

This will clearly not be an academic newsletter, like the Chronicle, but general information that we think may be of interest to our members (including sharing good practice, Club news, etc)

### Accepting Credit Card Payments

We now have the capability to accept credit card payments online, this is a significant improvement on the very manual process we had. We have been able to do this by opening a paypal account. Again this has been very positively received, particularly by our members abroad. From a security perspective this is also a significant improvement as they no longer need to call us with the credit card number but can enter this data themselves through a secure online payment system.

### Events

I was recommended an events co-coordinator have had an initial meeting with her. My intention is to discuss a Burns Celebration in September/October 2013. This would be a "trial" prior to arranging a larger event in 2014 for the Homecoming. This will be around the same time as the Conference to allow overseas visitors the opportunity to attend.

### Raffle

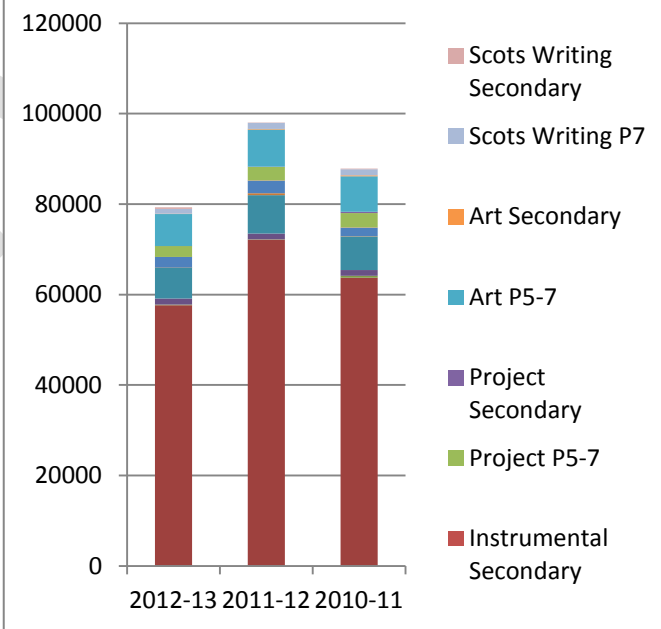
Unfortunately we were unable to find anyone who would be willing to organise a national raffle on our behalf so this has been put on hold for the moment.

### Schools

The number of pupils overall participating in the Burns competition is down in 2012/2013, see table below. We had a number of schools who called the office to advise they had not received notification of the competition this year. In 2013/14 we need to improve on the communication of the competition, my current plan is to go directly to the schools via email but we will work on this over the next 6 months. All certificates were sent in a timely manner.

### Graph + Table showing participants by category:

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
ation Nursery	32	35	38
ation P1-7	57598	72141	63655
ation Secondary	166	64	430
eh P7	1332	1250	1316
ng P4-7	6856	8511	7433
ng Secondary	22	398	70
imental P4-7	2281	2772	1837
imental Secondary	5	61	60
ct P5-7	2423	2945	3201
ct Secondary	22	82	223
5-7	7095	8188	7912
condary	20	143	170
Writing P7	1056	1359	1330
Writing Secondary	344	63	203
	<b>79252</b>	<b>98012</b>	<b>87878</b>
er of SCHOOLS	315	382	347
ge Pupils/School	252	257	253



**Social Media**

We are embracing Social Media too, with twitter and facebook accounts. A policy for the use of Social Media has been presented to Board, this offers clarification on what we can or cannot do/say using this medium of communication.

I have a goal to tweet at least once per day. So far on twitter we have over 200 followers. Our current goal is to have 250 by the end of our fiscal year, we started in January with around 100 followers

**EBay**

We now have our EBay shop up and running. We have sold 2 ties and 3 books through this method. Whilst this is not a significant amount it is worth doing in my opinion. We also sold a picture for the Provost for £68.53. Sales through Paypal to date total £483.

**Buy2Give**

This is a new concept in charity fundraising which allows buyers to use a charity card when they purchase goods in participating shops. The participating shop then pays a donation to the nominated charity, in our case RBWF. This is primarily in Ayrshire at this stage but with a plan to set up across Scotland.

If you would like a card please contact [admin@rbwf.org.uk](mailto:admin@rbwf.org.uk)

**Partnerships**

West Sound has offered 2 tickets to the 2014 Burns Supper for any new members of RBWF. This offer will be distributed to our own membership and also the 22,000 West Sound VIP members, together with details of RBWF membership rates and encouragement to join.

**Giglets**

The proposal from Giglets regarding a potential partnership for ebooks, received Board approval and I am currently in discussion with Giglets regarding content/costs, etc and potential funding.

**Work Placement**

We have agreed to give a 1-week work placement opportunity to a student from Kilmarnock College. This will happen towards the end of April.

I would like to record my thanks to Corinne for all her hard work in the office which has released some of my time to concentrate on more pressing matters.

5.3

**Conference – David Baird**

A couple of very dynamic meetings with the conference committee, one in December and one today, have taken place.

The conference flyer will be out by 22nd of March. The delay in sending has been due to the fact there have been a few great offers that need to be considered.

On the Friday of the conference we will have a presentation of Clarinda, the musical after dinner. This will be delivered at no cost to the Federation.

The Saturday will be AGM, Saturday afternoon will be “free time” with a number of options available in Glasgow. We will also have a seminar as an option with Helena Anderson’s Book “A Secret of No Importance” on the rediscovery of an important letter of Burns and the effort to publish the book.



Saturday evening will be the annual dinner and Andy Kain Band.

On Sunday morning the church service will be in Glasgow Cathedral.

David is mindful that the Cathedral is a 30minute walk to the Cathedral and a bus will be subsidised, it costs £150 and will take 53 people. Transport will be provided one way or another. There may be a charge for this. Helen Morrison suggested that in this day and age there would be no expectation that transport would be included.

Parking is available at a subsidised rate nearby to the hotel.

David is conscious that this is an expensive conference but is confident that the costs will all be covered.

Cost of the conference is £200 for members and £230 for non members

Friday dinner will be in informal in The Grand Ball Room with a performance of Clarinda the musical planned. Saturday will be a formal dinner and dance. For those not wishing to stay in the hotel.

All in all it is shaping up to be another great conference.

David has already been in talks with Irvine on the Conference in 2013 and Irvine Burns Club is very well engaged.

Menzies hotel is already pencilled in as the venue although the large functions may be held out with the hotel. We are indebted to the Irvine Burns Club for their early offer and enthusiasm.

5.4

### **Literature – Mike Duguid Present**

Mike Duguid (Convener), James Thomson, Allister Anderson, Margaret Anderson, Gordon Jamieson

#### **2 Apologies**

Campbell Dixon (who has also intimated he wished to resign from the Literature Committee), Bill Dawson and Jim Gibson.

#### **3 Minute of 17 November 2012**

Agreed with one correction in matters arising changing Allister Anderson to Margaret Dickson.

#### **4 Matters Arising**

Chronicle print size agreed and editor advised. All other matters covered in agenda.

#### **5 Chronicle Issues**

Digital Chronicle Project discussed at length with members being updated on position to date. Agreement was reached that we should maximise our specification to obtain the best outcome possible. The issue of a Project Manager was discussed and it was decided that further enquiries should be made regarding assistance in this area from academic sources. A meeting with the Chief Executive to consider options was agreed and MD and JT to arrange.

With the Chronicle moving to an annual edition guidance to the editor was considered. The publication should be in full colour with between 100 and 150 pages but further information is required before deciding on a hard or soft cover. The editor will have complete freedom as to the length and content of articles and each issue will have a price on the cover.

Discussion on club details took place and it was decided that clubs should be listed alphabetically with their Federation Number.

The Chronicle will be issued in November and be badged for the following year which will allow a synopsis of the AGM minutes to be included. Final date for submissions is the end of September with a request from the Editor that any article ready before that date should be submitted when ready.

The Spring Chronicle will go for printing during the week beginning 25 March 2013 and again it was emphasised it should include web site information to encourage readers to use this facility.

## **6 Electronic Media**

The newsletter has had January and March issues sent by electronic and postal means. The feedback has been extremely positive from all over the world. The electronic transmission also allows club secretaries to resend it to all members, thus increasing circulation and visibility of the Federation. To date about 40% of the issue is by email and efforts will continue to increase this number and there are positive signs this is happening. [Secretary's note: Chief Executive briefed the meeting later that the figure has risen to 60% which was very encouraging]

The website is now back in house under control of the CEO and discussion took place on the changes happening already and those needed. Merchandising is now possible on line and the facility for enrolment in the Federation will be available soon.

MD advised members on the Social Media Interface Project in conjunction with West of Scotland University to create a social media strategy using Facebook and Twitter.

## **7 Burns Scotland**

MD outlined the work being done academically by this group highlighting the paper database project to authenticate manuscripts, which has been funded by the Coca Cola Foundation. A Literary Congress is due to be held at Glasgow University in June 2014 and the Federation has been invited to sponsor one of the Burns panels consisting of three speakers. MD also highlighted the recently upgraded RBBM website as being an excellent source for research.

## **8 Book Reviews**

*The Man's A Gowd* by James Andrew Begg has been reviewed by JT and will be submitted for a future newsletter.

JT also advised that *Robert Fergusson and the Scottish Periodical Press* by Dr Rhona Brown had been received at the office and would be reviewed for information of members.

5.5	<p><b>Editor – Bill Dawson</b></p> <p>Included in Literature Update</p>
5.6	<p><b>Archivist – John Haining</b></p> <p>Defunct Robert Burns Club chains of office have been valued by John McIntyre of Glasgow, at no cost to the Federation, at £24,500. Board has taken a decision to retain these chains in safe keeping for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>RBWF Minutes of Board and Executive Meetings now in possession of Dr Christine Ewing, at The Robert Burns Centre, Kay Park, Kilmarnock, where they will be kept under controlled conditions.</p> <p>Archivist was aware that artifacts e.g. William Donnachie's illustrations of Tam O' Shanter had been removed from Kilmarnock to Aberdeen without permission or indeed the knowledge of the Archivist. Anyone wishing to remove any artifacts from Dean Castle must in the first instance seek the permission of the Archivist and sign the designated form acknowledging the date, time and a description of the artifact/s</p>
5.7	<p><b>Website –</b></p> <p>Now included in the Chief Executive update (see above)</p>
5.8	<p><b>Marketing – Murdo Morrison</b></p> <p>The meeting commenced with appropriate remarks in memory of the late Ted Murray who had been a supportive participant in Marketing for many years.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Corinne in attendance at the meeting gave up to date information on the stocks at Dower House and in this were a number of Tri Lingual Books. It was suggested and agreed that some could be distributed to Gaelic Schools and used as a PR opportunity.</li> <li>2. The Shop on the Web is now operational and stock levels should be maintained according to replenishment availability. This would minimise the amount of Federation Funds required to be tied up in stock.</li> <li>3. An opportunity for sales and membership had been taken at Kittochside Farm – the National Museum of Agriculture.</li> </ol> <p>Chronicles. There is a considerable stock of old Chronicles and that provides an opportunity for either selling on E Bay or submitting for auction. John Haining will investigate the auction possibilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tea Towels were available and they are a slow seller.</li> <li>- Place Mats are very seasonal but profitable</li> <li>- A new mug has been produced and is available for sale.</li> <li>- There is possibly a requirement which was identified for pens to be purchased with a Burns</li> </ul>

Federation logo in advance of the main schools competitions.

- The Federation now owned a Badge Making facility and that should also feature at Schools competitions and any other appropriate events.

4. Project 14. An Ad Hoc Committee had been set up by the Board to investigate and consider Major Fund Raising events during 2014. Further information as to findings to follow as soon as available.

- At present there were outline plans underway for a naming of 2014 by the Robert Burns World Federation as the "Year of the Haggis" This project is designed to be a light hearted approach with the intention of involving Retail Butchers. This is also in development stage. David Hannah took the action to come up with a possible Haggis that could be used on our marketing material Alison is also in discussions around events with penciled in a possible event around the time of the Conference and a Glasgow event at the time of the Commonwealth games and perhaps an event around the Ryder Cup in Scotland

5. Events. Discussion and recommendation from Marketing was that the Federation should be represented at Ayr Flower Show and investigation to take place for some association with the World Pipe Band Championships. This had to be progressed via Glasgow District Council; Corinne will draft a mail for Murdo's approval.

6. Other Matters. - A new Book, A Secret of No Importance, was now available which was produced by Helena Anderson Wright costing £12. Also a series of compact books with so far unpublished aspects of the life of Robert Burns were currently being produced. These Books by Peter Westwood would generate funds for the Federation.

5.9

### Schools – Isa Hanley

The meeting heard that Bob Stewart, Frank Sandeman and I had a meeting with the Headteacher of Dunfermline HS on Monday 11 March to finalise the arrangements for the national festivals on 20 and 27 April 2013. Mr Blanchflower was very helpful and cannot do enough to make everything run smoothly on the days. We can get access on the Friday evenings before each competition to set up trophies, signs, documentation into rooms, etc.

Guidelines for adjudicators will be sent to them well in advance, to prevent some mishaps which took place last year happening again. Stricter rules on who requires the official accompanist will be adhered to so that the accompanist can organise her time before the event begins

The Choral Festival arrangements are in hand for Armadale Academy and Karen McPhail will keep me (and HQ) informed on progress.

The committee was informed that next session's Schedules will now be issued by e mail only and Education Authorities will be asked to forward to all their schools.

New entries this year will come from Graham Hill in West Dunbartonshire and from Willie Gibson, Clackmannan.

Helen had distributed her report from St Petersburg Forum before the meeting and a successful visit had taken place in January/February. As usual some Russian students will visit Scotland again this year.

Jim Millar, Bendigo, had been successful in getting essays from Australia and he sent us a report on the coverage done by the local press in Bendigo, where a Member of Parliament from Victoria had presented the medals and certificates which were sent to them from RBWF.

There were essays from Ukraine for the first time and they also received medals/certificates.

	<p>Allocation of Duties on the day on the day has still to be finalised but, again, Dunfermline HS offered some senior pupils to show people around and run errands. The First Aid cover will also be done by trained First Aiders from the school.</p> <p>John C Paterson announced he was stepping down as Vice Convenor of the Schools Committee although John will remain on the committee.</p>
5.10	<p><b>Heritage – John Skilling (covering for Walter Watson)</b></p> <p>Present: Elza Anderson, Joe Kennedy, John Skilling, Murray Henderson  Apologies: Alex Mckenzie, David Miller, Shona Shaw, David Smith, Walter Watson</p> <p><b>Matters Arising:</b> all covered in agenda</p> <p><b>Chairman’s Report:</b> None as such but several reports via email covered in Agenda Reports</p> <p><b>Correspondence:</b> 21 pages of emails regarding agenda items, Bin in Queens Park, Highland Mary’s Monument at Failford and a Quotation regarding painting of railing at the latter. All discussed at RBWF Heritage meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2013</p> <p><b>Reports:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Burns Statue Dumfries (by David Smith) – “Refurbishment delayed pending the delivery of granite slabs from China. Why not source from Creetown or Dalbeattie is beyond me, but it’s probably cheaper”</li> <li>b) Theatre Royal, Dumfries (David Smith) - “Major repairs and refurbishment going ahead and fundraising underway. Grants have been received from The Hollywood Trust and others. Ongoing.</li> <li>c) Burns Monument, Alloway – No progress report</li> <li>d) The Auld Brig, Alloway – Still a few cobbles missing but bridge is in good condition</li> <li>e) Trysting Thorn – Brambles, etc cleared from site by W Gibb (New Cumnock Burns Club), J Gibson (PP), A Middleton (PP) and J Skilling (PP). Quote for repairing and levelling fence being sought as also is assistance from Trusts managed by South Ayrshire Council. (<i>CF General Purposes Panel (meets 15.5.13); Rural Panel (meets 30.5.13); S.A.W.E.T. (meets 27.6.13).</i>)</li> <li>f) Highland Mary Statue, Greenock. – Financial assistance still to be acquired</li> <li>g) Burns Statue, Paisley –</li> <li>h) Rose Garden, Dower House –</li> <li>i) Plinth, Dower House, J Gibson (PP) has looked at this and reports that the plinth in the Rose Garden can be easily repaired and he will seek a quote to replace the plaque on the plinth.</li> <li>j) Burns Statue, Newcastle-upon-Tyne – “No further news or progress (Report from Chris Baglee by email to W Watson on 12.3.13)</li> <li>k) Tombstone @ Broughton – No Progress</li> </ol> <p><b>Any other Competent Business:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Bin in Queens’s Park – Discuss “Do nothing with it?”</li> <li>b) Highland Mary’s Monument, Failford. Quote to paint railings received (£1800). Trust Funds to assist being sought from South Ayrshire Council.</li> </ol> <p><b>Burns Room</b>  Inverclyde council have made proposals recently for the development of the Watt Library and McLean Museum. Consultants have been appointed and are carry out interviews and discussion with groups which have an interest in these facilities</p> <p>Greenock Burns Club was invited to participated in Focus Group meetings held recently to discuss the proposals and to contribute suggestions that might be incorporated in the development.  The Club’s main interest is in reaching a long term solution to our need for secure storage and display of our artefacts and library.</p>

	<p>Joe Kennedy reported that the Old High Kirk in Kilmarnock has closed down and that John Wilson, Burns printer, is buried in the Kirkyard. Joe will monitor this situation.</p>
<p><b>5.11</b></p>	<p><b>200 Club – Alison Tait</b> The 200 club draws are up to date.</p>
<p><b>5.12</b></p>	<p>Overseas – Bob Stewart (on behalf of May Crawley, Jim O’Lone &amp; Les Strachan)</p> <p><b>Pacific Rim Director – Jim O’Lone</b></p> <p><b>Canada – May Crawley</b> Mr. President, Herewith the Canadian Report.</p> <p>1) January, of course, saw many and varied Burns Celebrations some of which were shared in the recent Federation Newsletter.</p> <p>2) I sent by regular mail and e-mail my customary Burns Season Greetings to Canadian Members and to some in the U.S. I added a postscript mentioning Pres. Bob's appeal for donations and received a response from a member of the Burns Club here in Sarasota, who said she would send a donation. She is also an Individual Member of the Federation. Hopefully she followed through, and others will also.</p> <p>3) Alex and I attended the St. Andrew Society of Sarasota's Burns Supper of which the Burns Club is an offshoot. Now has several Canadian members, including us, who winter here. The Club was founded by the late Frank Campbell and it's encouraging to see it continue and to grow. I'm delighted to say that Dr. David MacMillan, Club Secy., recently sent in his application for Individual Membership in the Federation.</p> <p>4) We're looking forward to the R.B.A.N.A. Conference which will be held in Niagara Falls April 19th.-21st., and to once again welcoming guests from the U.K. The Principal, staff and students of St. Margaret of Scotland School in Mississauga are looking forward to Pres. Bob's visit on April 18th.</p> <p>5) I'm saddened to report the recent death of Mr. Lawrence Cormack, C.D., who was the President of the Winnipeg Burns Club. Those who attended the 2007 Federation, and the 2011 R.B.A.N.A Conferences in Winnipeg will remember Lawrence as a keen Burnsian and a friendly and gracious host.</p> <p>Best wishes for a productive meeting.</p>

**U.S.A. – Les Strachan**

Please accept my regrets for missing this meeting and I have nothing to report at this time.

I hope it will be a successful and productive meeting.

**5.13 Association Representatives**

**Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs – Joe Kennedy**

Burns Club commemorative Ross Roy competition. Annual wreath laying Jim Thomson attended. 130 entrants in the schools competition and will go forward to Dunfermline.

**Borders Association – Murray Henderson for Sandy Murray.**

As I'm sure most of you will know our President Graham Galbraith died very suddenly in December. He had only taken on the post last October and in typical Graham style, in that short time had organised this meeting here at Coldstream his home town. He was a very enthusiastic Burnsian and we are all going to miss his contribution along with his pawky sense of humour. He would have been so proud to be welcoming you all here today.

On 7<sup>th</sup> March the Association held another very successful schools competition at Howick Burns club. Over 120 compete d for the Sandy Hogg and Galbraith Trophies, hopefully we can encourage the winners to the National finals in Dunfermline.

Coldstream bridge ceremony will be on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May. Contact John Elliot, secretary of Coldstream Burns club for details.

Wauchope House Cairn day at Hawick will be on second Sunday in July, again please confirm details with Hawick Burns Club.

The association applied to the Tesco Charity Trust for funding and to our amazement received a cheque for £1000 to help with the schools competition.

Dave Scott also managed to secure a substantial sum of money to pay for a recording studio to make a CD of the Borders schools competition winners.

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

Since our last Federation meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2012 the EDBCA have been in attendance at the following events.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2012 the EDBCA attended the Annual St Andrews Celebration Service in St Giles Cathedral. The EDBCA was headed by Ian Chisholm the President. Joining other members of the World Federation for the Service; led by Robert W. M. Stewart President of the Robert Burns World Federation.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2013 the EDBCA held their annual Wreath Laying Ceremony within the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, 1 Queen Street, Edinburgh. The morning started at 11.am sharp with Guitar playing Cameron Goodall and Jim Weatherston on Banjo singing beside the Flaxman Statue of Robert Burns. This was followed by Gordon Jamieson the secretary of EDBCA reciting a welcomed to the guests and friends. The EDBCA president gave an interesting history of the Ceremony. The Secretary then invited

Guests to lay their Wreaths at the base of the Flaxman Statue.

These included the Lord Provost of Edinburgh Donald Wilson and Zoja B. Bazarnic from the American Consulate in Edinburgh, Robert W. M. Stewart President of the World Federation, The National Trust for Scotland, Scottish

Freemasonry, the Depute Provost of East Lothian, the Provost of Mid Lothian along with Imogen Gibbon Senior Curator of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

The party sang A Mans a Man, and then retired for tea and Coffee.

The President of the EDBCA then presented The Lord Provost and Zoja B. Bazarnic from the American Consulate with copies of the RBWF Homecoming Chronicle.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of March the EDBCA. Held their Annual Primary Schools Festival within Tyncastle High School, Edinburgh, with entrants from 16 Schools taking part. The entrants winning first and second places in each group have the opportunity to go forward to the National Finals. Robert W. M. Stewart the World President was on hand to present the prizes. The overall Winners were Maddy Wilson for verse, Adhi Chowdhury for Singing, and Ellie Shek for Instrumentals.

**Fife Association of Burns Clubs – Bob Stewart**

The schools competition is on 25th of March and the children will go throw to the finals.

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

The AGM of the Club was held on 15 November 2012 and the following Committee members formally elected –

President – Charles Newlands

Senior VP - Archie Shaw

Junior VP - Enez Anderson

Secretary - Ken Dagleish

Treasurer - Archie Shaw

Federation Representatives – Graham Hill and George Anderson

There was an excellent turnout for the annual Wreath Laying ceremony at the Burns Statue in George Square. Of interest is the complete turnaround by the City of Glasgow Council to postpone plans for the development of George Square which would have meant removal of all Statues with no certainty over their future. The process of cleaning and repairing will continue however.

Over 100 people attended the event and retired to Merchants House for a soup and sandwich lunch. All were entertained by choirs and solo performers from the recent Bridgeton competition and clearly we have some star performers for the future.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January saw members of GDBA gather for the morning service at Glasgow Cathedral. Despite the bitter cold President Charles Newlands delivered two readings and we were welcomed as usual by the regular congregation with tea and biscuits after the service. This is an excellent tradition and rounds off the main Burns celebration period each year. All are welcome to join this service and information will be provided later in the year to Federation members in connection with 2014 arrangements.

**Grampian Association of Burns Clubs –**

No Report

**Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs – Kay Blair**

Lasses Lunch is progressing well.



**Renfrewshire & Inverclyde Association of Burns Clubs – George Grant**

Our Renfrewshire local heat of the schools festival took place in the Wynd Centre, school wynd Paisley on Tues, the 12th of March at 1000hrs, Inverclyde have a separate competition which I believe takes place this sat. the 23rd Mar, our full team entrants will be sent to Isa prior to the end of the month

**Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association – Jane Brown**

Our annual burns service and wreath laying on the 25th of January was very well attended with lots of schools represented and children taking part. The mausoleum was looking wonderful, and we were very proud to show it off. The day was quite magical as it was snowing and everything looked so beautiful.

**Yorkshire Association of Burns Clubs – Jim Robertson**

Full details of our Tartan Ball have been circulated by our CEO.

We are pleased that the President and CEO will be attending, together with some Executive Members.

On Sunday (17<sup>th</sup> March) will be our quarterly meeting. Main item will be to arrange our quiz and bowls finals which will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> June. This will also be the 2013 AGM for the Yorkshire District.

**6. Applications for Membership:**

**Individual Membership**

Mrs Irene Furneaux, 108 North Deeside Road, Bielside, Aberdeen

Mr. David McDonald, 5 Cowie Terrace, Gilmour Street, Alexandria,

Mr. Robert Sommerville, 10 Linkwood Place, Lawthorn, Irvine

Mr Ernie Munro, 7 The Heugh, Tranent, East Lothian

Mrs Ruth Baird, 3 Urquhart Court, Calside, Dumfries, DG1 4XE

Mr Alex Hanley, 24 Kirkland Road, Heathhall, Dumfries, DG1 3RN

Mrs Wendy McNab, 49 Whitemoss Road, East Kilbride, G74 4JB

Rev James B Watson, 49 Lennel Mount, Coldstream, Scottish Borders, TD12 4NS

Mr Graham Hill, 1 Kidston Gardens, Rhu Road Higher, Helensburgh, G84 8JS

Mr William H Fulton, 313 Landside Road, Devon, Pennsylvania, 19333, U.S.A.

Mrs Carolyn McAllister, West Sound Radio Ltd, Radio House, 54A Holmston Road, Ayr KA7 3BE

**Family Membership**

Mr. & Mrs John Sanders, 18 Vespasian Road, Bitterne Manor, Southampton

James Thorburn, 29 Battlefield Court, Wharfdale Road, London

Mr & Mrs McKenzie, 73a Loudon Street, Mauchline, KA5 5BQ

**Corporate Membership**

None

**School Membership**

Clerkhill School, No.2187, Cairtrodlie, Peterhead

Coaltown of Balgonie Primary School, School Road, Coaltown of Balgonie, Glenrothes, KY7 6HY

	<b>Re-Affiliation</b> None
<b>7.</b>	<b>AOCB</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ralph Balfour asked about the website report, this has been included in the Chief Executive Update.</li><li>2.</li></ol>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Date of next meeting:</b> <i>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, confirmed SSCBA in Dumfries, venue TBA</i> <i>Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup>, confirmed Edinburgh District</i>

DRAFT