

The Robert Burns World Federation Ltd

Executive Meeting

Venue: Lodge Liberton, 60 Mount Vernon Road, Edinburgh, EH16 6JQ

Date: Saturday 16th November 2013 - 9:30am for 10:00am

MINUTES

Change Requested by	Change Requested	Change Made

1.	Sederunt: Jean Abdulrahim, Enez Anderson, George Anderson, Margaret Anderson, Helena Anderson-Wright, David Baird, Ralph A Balfour, Kay Blair, Jane Brown, Eric Budgell, Barbara Clayton, Ray Connal, Mike Duguid, Anne Gaw, James Gibson, Isa Hanley, Irene Henry, Peter Hughes, Gordon Jamieson, Frances Marshall, Bob McDonald, Joe McGinty, Ian McIntyre, Karen McPhail, Hazel Morrison, Helen Morrison, Murdo Morrison, John C Paterson, Jim Robertson, Jim Shields, John Skilling, Margaret Skilling, David Smith, Bob Stewart, Margaret Stokes, Alison Tait, Jim Thomson, Walter Watson , Margaretann Dougall (minutes)
2.	Apologies for Absence: Allister Anderson, Elza Anderson, Eddie Bonnar, Richard Brown, Elizabeth Caine, Joe Campbell, John Caskie, Bill Dawson, Moira Dunsmore, Willie Gibson, Brian Goldie, Cameron Goodall, George Grant, Betty Haining, John Haining, David Hannah, Murray Henderson, Graham Hill, Jim Hunter, Joseph Hunter, Scott Hunter, Harry Hutchison, May Hyslop, John Irvine, Jane Jack, Joe Kennedy, A Anderson Kidd, Alex Mackenzie, Jean Macmillan-Forster, Jack McChesney, May McGuffog, Angus Middleton, David Miller, Margaret Morrall, Tom Morrall, Sandy Murray, Wilson Ogilvie, James O'Lone, Lesley Richardson, Frank Sandeman, David Scott, Archie Shaw, Shona Shaw, Annie Small, Les Strachan, Eva Stubbs, Jim Todd, Helen Waddell
3.	Chairman's Remarks Jane welcomed everyone and thanked the Edinburgh District Burns Club for hosting today's meeting. Jane also thanked all those who have sent cards and gifts. A reading was done from ?.
4.	Minutes of Meeting of 22nd June Proposed by : Jim Robertson and seconded by : Enez Anderson
5.	Matters Arising None
6.	Finance Update – Alison Tait The current account is holding a balance of £26,000. Subs renewals are due soon. The decision has been taken by the Board to appoint a new Finance Director – this will be completed soon.
7	Reports
7.1	President Jane spoke of her most enjoyable trip to Medicine Hat in Canada and has attended various other functions during her first months as President.

Announcement

As many of you will already know, Corinne has moved on to pastures new – all the way to beautiful Auchterarder no less. We are very grateful for the contribution Corinne made during her year with us and we wish her all the best in Perthshire. The Board presented Corinne with a card and gift at the last Board meeting and we received a lovely letter of thanks.

I'm delighted to introduce Margaretann Dougall as our new Admin Assistant and I'm sure you'll all enjoy getting to know her over the next few months.

Key Meetings:

- 24th June – John Hodgart, Association of Scottish Literature Studies
- 24th June – Legalbot
- 26th June – UWS re Social Media Strategy
- 28th June – Potential new Event Co-ordinator
- 2nd July – Get2Grips with Funding – professional Funding team
- 2nd July – Infotology – website update
- 2nd July – Douglas McKie, Robert Burns Quiz re potential partnership
- 3rd July – UWS Social Media Strategy sign-off meeting
- 10th July – Club 29 Quiz meeting
- 15th July – 26th July – holiday
- 24th July – Coila sculpture unveiling – University of West Scotland, Ayr
- 31st July – Chris Waddell, NTS
- 1st Aug – Jim Caldwell, Smith & Wallace
- 1st Aug – New Burns Encyclopaedia launch
- 2nd Aug – An evening with Ian Rankin, Burns Monument Centre
- 8th Aug – Get2Grips with Grants re potential funding opps
- 9th Aug – Conference committee
- 12th Aug – Bill Dawson
- 12th Aug – Ronnie O'Byrne, new Director for Canada
- 16th Aug – John Scade – Burns cottage replica donation
- 16th Aug – Burnsong, Bladnock Distillery
- 19th Aug – Jim Caldwell, Accountant
- 20th Aug – Sarah Plant, events' organiser
- 24th Aug – Marymass
- 27th Aug – Business mentor
- 28th Aug – Richard Mackay re Whiskipad
- 5th Sep – President's Gathering/Quiz
- 6th – 8th Sep – Conference
- 10th Sep – Colin Harris, Canada
- 14th Sep – Stall at Centrestage Hub, Kilmarnock
- 24th Sept - St Joseph's / Grange for National Finals recce
- 30th Sept - Craig Johnstone, Giglets re ebook funding
- 1st Oct - Walter Watson & John Skilling - Heritage funding meeting
- 4th Oct - Sarah Plant re Red Rose Ball event
- 5th Oct - ASLS/RBWF Awards Presentation
- 8th Oct - Linda Graham re IT updates, conference phone, etc.
- 9th Oct - Board meeting to discuss Frontline Report
- 11th Oct – Ian Capstick, Burns singer

- 14th Oct - Bill Nolan IBC & David Baird re 2014 Conference
- 15th Oct - Linda Graham, Infotology re website progress
- 16th Oct - Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh visitors
- 16th Oct – Walker Hamilton, Bridgeton Burns Club
- 18th Oct - Carol Speir re potential products from Many Thanks, Mauchline
- 21st Oct – 25th Oct - holiday
- 23rd Oct – Margaret Skilling presentation, RBBM
- 29th Oct - Chris Waddell & Stuart Cochrane, Robert Burns Birthplace Museum
- 30th Oct - Eddie Anderson, Beautiful Biscuits with Murdo
- 1st Nov – Get2Grips with Grants
- 4th Nov – Board Meeting
- 4th Nov – Dundonald Parish Church Guild with President Jane
- 6th Nov – Robert Caw, Wilson Digital with Corinne & SVP Jim
- 6th Nov – Douglas & Caroline Scott, SFMTA with Corinne & Murdo
- 9th Nov – Irvine Burns Club Wits Dinner
- 10th Nov – Centrestage Market, Kilmarnock
- 12th Nov – Guild of Speakers Lunch, Paisley
- 14th Nov – David Baird re Conference

RBWF Events:

- 14th Feb - Red Rose Ball in February at Marine Highland in Troon – ticket price £59

Proposed Events:

- 3rd May – Burns Supper in Corn Exchange Edinburgh
- 29th Nov – St Andrew’s Night in Stirling Castle

Other Events:

- 11th Jan – Homecoming Burns Supper – ticket price £70
- 18th Jan – West Sound Burns Supper

Website

The website continues to progress and you will notice several changes recently. We now have direct links on the front page (in the form of buttons) to News, Events, Contact, Shop and most importantly to Join the Federation. Several Clubs have sent information on their events which we have now added to the Events section. After your events, I would encourage you to send a photograph with information about the event and we will post this up also.

Webshop

We continue to add to our product offering – the latest being graphic artwork on a Burns theme by Gordon Cunningham, a local Kilmarnock designer. There are additional products from the Sheila Kerr jewellery range. The Burns Check scarves and throws are also now available, as is a new Federation tie in blue with the RBWF logo, as modelled by our Senior Vice President Jim!

Frontline Consultants

Draft strategy was received on 5th September and has been seen by the Board. Jim Thomson & I have a telephone meeting scheduled with Scottish Government on Friday 22nd November to discuss the strategy content.

200 Club

We now have a 201 Club which is a vast improvement on last year’s 112. This means a larger prize payout for the winners. Many thanks to all who have supported this fund-raising opportunity.

	<p>Projects Joint venture eBook project with Giglets – the initial funding application was declined. However, the revamped application has now been submitted to Creative Scotland and we should have a decision by mid January.</p> <p>Funding Our funding application to cover the 3 awareness raising / fund-raising events for next year was turned down by the Barcapel Trust. We will continue to look for support for these events.</p> <p>We intend to apply for funding for a Development Co-ordinator / Youth Ambassador, the Digitisation project which Mike will speak about and organisational running costs.</p> <p>New Partnership Opportunities We have partnered with Beautiful Biscuits who will give RBWF a percentage of all sales made via the Federation. We won't hold supplies of biscuits due to lack of storage space. Instead there will be a link online to order via the RBWF tab on the BB website – that way they can track sales and feed back accordingly. For larger quantities of biscuits (e.g. Burns Club events) please contact Eddie Anderson at Beautiful Biscuits for a preferential rate.</p> <p>We have the option to sell the new Whisklpad – an iPad stand made from recycled whisky barrels. It smells lovely!! Murdo has a sample if you wish to have a look.</p> <p>Holidays Forthcoming staff holidays: The Dower House will close at 12 noon on Tuesday 24th December and re-open at 9am on Monday 6th January.</p>
5.3	<p>Conference – David Baird No report received.</p> <p>Notes from Meeting: Firstly, the Conference in Glasgow in 2013 was very successful, providing lots of fun and friendship and various activities.</p> <p>The 2014 Conference will be held in Irvine from 12th-14th September. The venue will be the Menzies Hotel and it is proposed that the formal dinner will take place within the hospitality suite at Greenwood Academy. More details to follow.</p>
5.4	<p>Literature – Mike Duguid</p> <p>Literature Committee Report Much of the discussion centred round the project for digitization of all back issues of the Chronicle from the 1892 edition to the current one. Although a proposal to outsource the scanning had been examined the committee thought it preferable that the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) should be for the purchase of a scanner plus an operator. Corinne had already done a lot of preparatory work on submitting a project bid to the HLF and Jim Gibson agreed to take on the role of project manager to progress the bid. Three quotes would be obtained as this formed one of the requirements of the bid. Chief Executive Alison was able to confirm that suitable software was already available in the office to enable the scanned data to be made searchable.</p> <p>As the annual Chronicle had not yet been printed the committee was not able to discuss it. However, the Editor had requested that we encourage readers to submit their comments on the format and content of the revised Chronicle. This will be communicated in the January Newsletter.</p> <p>The Newsletter continues to be well received and the editor was pleased with the continuing willingness of members to submit articles. The November issue was well advanced.</p>
5.5	<p>Editor – Bill Dawson</p>

	No report
5.6	Archivist – John Haining No report
5.7	Website – See Chief Executive report.
5.8	<p>Marketing – Murdo Morrison Present: Murdo Morrison (Convenor) Andrew Kidd, Eric Budgell, Hazel Morrison, Peter Hughes Apologies: Angus Middleton, John Haining, Annie Small, Lesley Diack The following persons attended at some stage in the meeting.. President Jane also attended towards the closing stages of the meeting Past President James Shields together with an acquaintance Paul Fraser, the Chief Executive Alison Tait together with Margaretann Dougall Administration of RBWF</p> <p><u>Annual Conference</u> The Committee were informed that the staffing schedule for the Marketing Shop with the help of Corinne had incorporated the voluntary assistance of members of Irvine Lasses and this had been supplemented by Mary Letham and Frances Stewart and Eric Budgell, Hazel Morrison Corinne had been an absolute support through all the stages of preparation and delivery, Other Members of the Marketing Committee had volunteered their help which was appreciated. Two matters arising 1- The location and security within the Hotel had met our requirements. 2- A need for more careful consideration about disabled persons for Car Parking and allocation of accommodation required to be conveyed to the Robert Burns World Federation. This aspect to be sent from the Marketing Convenor</p> <p><u>Consultancy</u> The Convenor remarked upon the Consultancy outcome arising from the funding routed from the Scottish Parliament. This had not resulted in any concrete or constructive suggestions of Marketing use to the Federation.</p> <p><u>Beautiful Biscuits</u> A Meeting had been held with the potential providers of the special biscuits and an explanatory insert would be put in the next Newsletter together with prices and delivery details. There would be a password requirement to access the appropriate web site and this would, in turn, ensure that there was a financial gain for the Federation. The committee discussed the proposal and were of a mind that price would be a major factor.</p> <p><u>Merchandising Opportunities.</u> Discussion took place on sales opportunities at functions identified as being associated with Robert Burns Examples quoted were large Burns suppers. Ravensraig Cupar Arbroath West Sound The consensus was that the Federation were missing out on potential sales and that Burns Clubs should be offered a prepared package of materials in a price range of £50 This would be containing items that could be either used to resell at a function or be used as thank you gifts for speakers etc If there were additional items of low cost/no cost they could also be included.</p> <p><u>Year of the Haggis</u> This project had been adopted and required to be continually promoted by the Federation Prior to the start of today’s proceedings photographs had been taken of the President with various delegates for forwarding to local Newspapers with the Year of the Haggis details.</p>

Posters had already been distributed to 417 Retail Meat Traders in Scotland and there was a requirement for the momentum to be maintained.

The Convener had been invited to address the forthcoming conference of the Scottish Federation of Meat Traders Association. Close co-operation had been forthcoming at all levels and a competition for school children to create a drawing of a Haggis and a simplified competition for participants was also to hand. This would be judged in consultation with Hamlyn Oats and the first ten winners would receive an Oats identified Teddy Bear.

The quiz featuring the ode to the Haggis would be judged routed via the Federation and submissions forwarded to Black and White Publishing for final decision.

For the quiz the prizes would be signed copies of a book by Sally Magnusson featuring one of her Horace and Haggis stories.

Sell in occasions.

It was suggested that every sales opportunity for our existing stocks should be identified and utilised. Major Burns suppers held each year at Ravenscraig, Cupar, Arbroath, West Sound, were all possibilities.

Kittochside National Museum East Kilbride

There is another fair type event coming up on January 26th when a facility will be available for the Federation goods to be sold. This is at the end of January.

Discussion took place about Federation stocks being retailed by outside agencies and in some cases the high percentage demanded by some retailers – 40/45 per cent in some cases made the prospects unattractive and certainly not economical.

National Trust Robert Burns Centre Alloway

Good relations now existed and retailing of Federation generated goods was possible on a permanent basis.

University of Strathclyde Centre for Scottish Studies

The University of Glasgow's Robert Burns involvement comprised of a section with which the Federation should be more closely associated.

Peter Hughes offered to investigate possibilities of a closer liaison between the Federation and the University of Strathclyde. It was noted that Annual Conferences based on Robert Burns were being held but with little or no Federation presence.

New Lanark Events

Information was shared about Victorian Fairs which are held at New Lanark and which have a National Trust presence. Alison Tait agreed to obtain further information on this via Alloway NTS.

The Robert Burns Motor Cycle Centenary Run

There was to be an event of prize giving in relation to this event and Murdo Morrison and Peter Hughes had been invited to attend.

Robert Burns Whisky

This Whisky is currently distilled and distributed by Arran Distillers but the original understandings and agreements about payment for their association with RBWF were unclear. Chief Executive Alison Tait has this matter in hand to progress towards a resolution.

iPad Rests

A sample of this item carved from the staves of a whisky barrel was handed round for examination. The consensus was that at £25 it was outwith an acceptable price and the offer of stocking and selling was recommended to be declined,

Talking Newspapers

A possible involvement was being developed to establish future association with the Newsletter. Gaelic Medium Schools. Contact had been made with Gaelic Medium education with a view to having a Schools contest based on Robert Burns. Response was awaited.

5.9

Schools – Isa Hanley

A venue has now been arranged for the national finals and that is Prestwick Academy. Thanks to Margaret Skilling, Ayrshire Co-ordinator, for arranging this. (Margaret and I visited the school yesterday and it is very suitable. The janitor was very helpful and Margaret will follow up the catering arrangements.)

The new, more modern, certificates were approved and these will be printed nearer the time of the festivals as usual.

It has been decided that P4/5 will recite Burns poems only but they can use any Scots poem in their local competitions and, as only the top two (ie best) go on to the nationals, there ought to be no problem for these two children to switch to a Burns poem (they may have chosen Burns anyhow, as many of them do so already).

It was agreed that, due to the very low number of entries in Bag-piping in P4/5, over the years, there will now be only one section to cover Primary 4 – 7. It was agreed that bag-piping is really due to ability rather than age. Professional pipers have been consulted on this point and this is the general consensus of opinion.

The Choral Festival was discussed at length and Karen has agreed to finalise this and contact co-ordinators. Probably a disc will be issued with the song on it. The piece chosen for May is The Deil's awa' wi' the Exciseman. A date has to be finalised and Karen will consult Armadale Academy on this.

We have received the Australian essays and they will be judged by Helen Morrison, Jane Brown and me.

One of our national competitors addressed the haggis at the SFTA dinner on 14 November in Glasgow Radisson Blu hotel and another winner is going to do the honours at the Scottish Parliament in January 2014.

I suggested that we replace one of the trophies with a new one to be called The Tunnock Trophy and it was thought to be a good idea. It will have to be decided which one.

Isa P Hanley
Schools' Convenor

Mike asked about the sponsorship for the schools competitions. It was confirmed that negotiations will take place next year when the current sponsorship ends.

Discussions took place regarding making all competitors in the National Finals recite Burns only. Jim Thomson confirmed that this had already been discussed by the Board and confirmed that we should proceed as per that decision.

Heritage Committee Report – Walter Watson

Burns Statue, Dumfries. I am pleased to report that a proposal by Dumfries & Galloway Council to reverse the flow of public transport around the statue has been overturned. There can be no doubt that pressure placed upon them by representation from the SSCBA in particular and other locally based Burns Clubs in general, notably the Howff Burns Club, made the Council planners think again. I had written a letter of protest at the original plan on behalf of the RBWF Limited and was privileged to attend the meeting held in the Globe Inn when the planners presented a completely revised plan, which was accepted by all club representatives present. Work on the new layout is scheduled to start soon and I am convinced that everyone, both local and visitor alike, will be pleased with the end result.

Threatened Closures of Museums in Dumfries & Galloway. In common with other councils, D&G council were finding it hard to justify keeping open museums and visitor centres that were clearly losing money. They had drawn up a detailed plan to close quite a number of them including the Burns House. Here again pressure was brought to bear by those listed above and this decision has been overturned.

Theatre Royal, Dumfries. I understand that the refurbishment is going ahead.

Burns Monument, Alloway. I was privileged to be one of a party given access to the building on 4th September at the invitation of Mr Nat Edwards, Chief Executive of the Birthplace Museum. He was joined by Mr Kinlay Laidlaw, Architectural Advisor to the NTS and Mr Andrew Easton from the firm who will carry out the immediate repairs and the ultimate repair programme once the costing out procedure has closed. Because the scaffolding was still in place we were able to examine the entire building at close quarters. The full magnificence of the fine carving and stone work in general is sadly not seen by those at ground level however there are plans to mount a display of close-up photographs of certain features either within the monument or at the Birthplace Museum. Having attended a lecture about the monument and heard more about the damage caused by the ingress of rainwater over some time it is evident that the repairs will be very costly indeed. One of the volunteer helpers at the museum is setting up a 'Friends of the Burns Monument, Alloway' in the near future and I will report on that when more information comes to hand.

Highland Mary Monument, Failford. Members of the Alloway Burns Club have been very busy in tidying up the site, painting the railings surrounding the monument and also alongside the path leading up to the same. Funds have been raised to cover some of the costs but there is still a shortfall to be met. More information still to come and I will keep you advised.

Highland Mary Monument & Burial Place, Greenock. I am indebted to Bill McCready, who is the Project Manager in charge of the repair programme for bringing me fully up to speed on the condition of the monument and providing recently taken photographs to clarify the situation. Application has been made to the local Council for funding but the overall cost for repairs is in the region of £13,000. Some £5,000 has already been spent on making the monument and surrounding area safe, building up the plinths for the engraved slabs which form part of the monument and also creating a path alongside the raised plinths. The shortfall in funds has still to be raised.

Trysting Thorn. Members of the Alloway Burns Club are to be congratulated upon the expert way that the site has been restored to its former glory.

The Plinth & Memorial Tablet, Dower House. Past President John Skilling has completed the task of refurbishment and a fine stainless steel plaque commemorating those who lost their lives to terrorism is firmly in place.

	<p><u>Rev'd Hamilton Paul Memorial, Broughton.</u> I have established at recent date that Scottish Borders Council have undertaken a programme of repairs to headstones that may be in danger of falling or presenting a danger to the general public. This involves removing the stone from its base, renewing the foundation, re-mounting the stone and if necessary drilling and fitting stainless steel rods to ensure long-term stability. I have decided to take no further action at this time in the hope that this particular stone will be on the list of those to be treated.</p> <p><u>The Birnie Rhind Statue, Hamilton.</u> We are all indebted to Gordon Ashley for drawing our attention to the plight of this particular statue of our National Bard. I am pleased to report that help is at hand regarding a rescue operation and that Cllr Lesley McDonald is making strong representation to have the statue recovered, restored where necessary and to be installed in a civic building in the town. Members of the LABC are keeping a watching brief and will keep us all informed of progress.</p> <p><u>General Remarks.</u> A meeting was held at the Dower House on 1st October, chaired by our C/E/O Alison, to discuss the possibility of making a claim to the Historic Lottery Fund. This would be based on multiple projects based principally in Scotland but possibly extending further afield where the need for funding has been established. This will take some time to come together and you will be kept informed of progress made in due course.</p> <p>A query was raised regarding the plaque at the Old High Kirk. It was confirmed that the plaque was being replaced on the wall as near to the grave as possible and maintenance will be carried out by the buyers.</p>
5.11	<p>200 Club – Alison Tait</p> <p>The 200 Club is now a 201 Club. This is a vast improvement from 112 in 2013. Thank you to everyone for your support.</p>
5.12	<p>Pacific Rim Director – Jim O’Lone Nothing to report</p>
	<p>Canada – Ronnie O’Byrne</p> <p>My intention over this next year or two - is to visit each and every Burns Club in Canada. I want to try and personally encourage all the clubs to push members to individually join RBWF.</p> <p>I’m planning on putting together a short presentation on the benefits of membership that I will present during my visit to each club..... I’ll send on a copy for your review when I get it prepared.</p> <p>The process begins in November with a visit to Calgary BC and hopefully (if it can be arranged) I’ll be able to visit and meet up with the guys in Medicine Hat too.</p> <p>I have already accepted invitations to attend (and perform) at the Calgary Burns Club Supper on the 24th Jan - and with the Argyle & Sutherland Highlanders of Canada on the 25th Jan 2014..... I’ll do what I can at each - to do some recruiting.</p> <p>I have now ticked off my list the first two of the Burns clubs here in Canada that I intend to visit over the next year or so.....</p> <p>On Monday 11th November - I met up with the Executive of the Medicine Hat Burns Club, Alberta. We had an entertaining evening together and explored areas of cooperation going forward. They are a very active group and invited me to participate and represent the RBWF at their 4th Annual Jolly Beggars Dinner on Saturday, September 21st 2014. (I’ll send Mike D a short news report on this visit - and their plans for 2014)</p> <p>On Tuesday 12th November – I visited the Calgary Burns Club, Alberta. I have accepted their invitation to</p>

perform at their Annual Supper on Friday 24th January 2014.
Just for the RBWF Executive's information – please find attached the minutes from the Calgary BC Meeting - that they sent on to share with me.
This is for the Executive information only – but I wanted all to see that this is a very active club – well managed - and financially strong.
Not sure how many of you know this – but they will have over 700 people attend their Burns Supper in January.
I'm sure there are opportunities to expand cooperation with such an active club..... I'll work at it.....
OK that's about it for now.
More will follow in the New Year.
Regards to one and all
Ronnie

U.S.A. – Les Strachan

At this time I have nothing to report for the November meeting except to say that arrangements for the RBANA conference are well in hand and I have been fielding questions from members in the UK and am happy to be a point of contact.

5.13 Association Representatives

Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs – John Skilling

Burns Monument, Alloway

While scaffolding enveloped the Monument the opportunity was taken to do a thorough wide ranging examination of the stonework. The 3 types of stone were identified and their source quarries found as it will be important than any infills be of the same lineage as the existing materials.

The details of the Monument's measurements were carefully recorded and the craftsmanship of the carvings photographed. Pieces of stone were removed and minor repairs carried out but, as many of the joints between the stones are open, a considerable amount of skilled work needs to be done to refurbish the Monument for present and future generations. Thus funding and craftsmen will be sought and it is hoped that work might start in the middle of 2014. The scaffolding has been removed meantime.

Highland Mary's Monument, Failford and Trysting Thorn at Millmannoch Farm

These Burns sites have now been largely refurbished at a cost of £2,729 against a budget price of £3,500. Monies were given by South Ayrshire Council, the RBWF, Ayrshire Burns Clubs and private donations. In addition, work was done free of charge by Menzies Contracts Ltd, Ayr, Proclean Services, Symington with paint donated by Crown Paints. New railings were obtained from Kerr Agricultural Engineers, Ayr.

Past Presidents Jimmy Gibson, Angus Middleton and I together with Willie Dick of Cumnock BC and members of Alloway Burns Club cleared the sites of brambles, whin, gorse and hawthorn. Many thanks to all of our sponsors and labourers.

On 30th October Helen Mooney, Provost of South Ayrshire, visited the Trysting Thorn for a photo-shoot and to thank us for the excellent job done in refurbishing the site.

Burns Cottage, Alloway

The Cottage is undergoing remedial work to the flashings between the gables and the thatched roof. It is also being examined in detail to determine the original paint finish, etc with a view to refurbishment in the Spring of 2014.

Hugh Rodger's Schoolhouse, Kirkoswald

The restaurant built on the site of Hugh Rodger's schoolhouse was burned down last year. It has now been rethatched and will reopen for business very soon.

Old High Kirk, Kilmarnock

This has been sold to a funeral undertaker but a condition of sale was that they will maintain the graveyard. John Wilson, printer of the 'Kilmarnock Edition of Burns Poems Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect' is buried there.

Borders Association – No Report received. Discussed at the meeting the sponsorship of two girls in St Petersburg.

Edinburgh & District Association of Burns Clubs – Gordon Jamieson

The Edinburgh and District Burns Clubs Association have enjoyed a good year with the Celebration of Burns Life at the Burns Monument and later at Lodge Liberton the poetry competition for the Tom McIlwraith Trophy on 20th of July. The trophy was won by Cameron Goodall, representing the EDBCA. A detailed report has been sent into the Federation.

On the 28th and 29th of September, Edinburgh held their Annual Historic Buildings Open Days. The EDBCA provided poetry and song at the Burns Monument over the 2 days from 11am until 4pm which was very successful with over 600 visitors enjoying the entertainment. A detailed report has been sent into the Federation.

We now look forward to the wreath laying ceremony on 2nd of February and the Primary Schools Children's competitions on the 1st of March 2014.

Fife Association of Burns Clubs – Bob Stewart

The A.G.M. of the F.A.B.C. was held on Sunday 13th October in Torbain Parish Church Hall, Kirkcaldy, Fife.

1) The financial report indicated that, after paying for the Fife Schools' Burns Competition trophy engraving and medals plus, expenses for the catering at the National Festivals and the R.B.W.F. annual subscription, the Association was still in good heart having received donations from the following clubs in Fife:-

Bowhill Peoples B.C., St. Andrews B.C., Pittenweem B.C., Markinch B.C., Cupar B.C., Balmullo B.C., Dunfermline United B.C., Poosie Nansie Ladies B.C., and Cupar Round table.

The Chairman thanked the treasurer and secretary for their work and dedication and also Fiona Cunningham for providing the catering & refreshments at the National Festivals.

2) The Election of Office Bearers resulted in the following appointments:-

President – Robert Stewart, Vice President – Vacant,
Treasurer - Craig Rodger, Secretary – Frank Sandeman.

Committee :- Fiona Cunningham, Grace Balfour, Willie Miller and David McDonald.

A general meeting followed the A.G.M. when various items of business were discussed and dealt with, including the following:-

- a) The National Festivals – Re. standards and non – participation of Fife Schools in the 2013 Choral Festival;
- b) Disposal of three old trophies when it was agreed that the Bowhill Peoples B.C. would keep these for display purposes.

Glasgow Association of Burns Clubs – No Report received. Notes from the meeting that reference was made to Burns House and the Jean Armour Burns Trust.

Grampian Association of Burns Clubs – No Report received

Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs – No Report received

Renfrewshire & Inverclyde Association of Burns Clubs – No Report received

Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association – No Report received

	<p>Yorkshire Association of Burns Clubs – Jim Robertson</p> <p>We had our meeting last month to make arrangements for the Tartan Ball. I am pleased to say it will be held once again at Ardsley House Hotel, Barnsley on Saturday 12th April 2014. The price is still £30 and overnight accommodation is £50, single room £30. Iain MacPhail’s Band has been booked.</p> <p>We have invited the President and Chief Executive to this function.</p> <p>If anyone is interested in spending the weekend in Yorkshire please contact May McGuffog our Secretary or myself. I am sure you will have an enjoyable evening.</p> <p>Most Societies in the District are holding their St Andrew’s Dinner at the end of the month.</p>
6.	<p>Applications for Membership:</p> <p>Individual Membership</p> <p>Mr Jack Mc Chesney, 29 Northfield Avenue, Ayr, KA8 9AL Ms, Margaret Greenlees, 1 Shawholm Gardens, Irvine, KA12 0AR Mrs Eileen McKoy, 4307 Rous Street, San Diego, California, CA92122-2630 Ms Annie Lennox, Swilebog Farmhouse, Banff, AB45 2HJ Ms Hannah Wyness, Faraway, Honeyfield Road, Jedburgh TD8 6JN Ms R Tayler, The Dell, Inchmarlow Road, Banchory, Aberdeenshire, AB31 5RR Mr David Templeton, Templars Barn, Wapseys Lane, Hedgerley Green, SL2 3XG Mr John Saxton, 14 Sandhill Gardens, Troon, Ayrshire KA10 7BA Dr Corey E Andrews, 444 Garden Valley Drive, Youngston, Ohio, 44512, USA Ms Kirsten Easdale, 3 The Cottages, Silverhills, Rosneath, G84 0SB Mr Ian Capstick, 15 Gallowhill Ave, Tarbolton, Mauchline, East Ayrshire, KA5 5QN</p> <p>Family Membership</p> <p>Mr & Mrs E & R Harper Wellen, 30 Lovers Walk, Dumfries, DG11 1LX Mr & Mrs Alex Sutton, 124 Kurrajong Drive, Nanago, Queensland, 4615, Australia</p> <p>Corporate Membership</p> <p>Mr Douglas McKie, Robert Burns Quiz, No 2189, 1 Barony Court, Cambussbarron, Stirling, FK7 9NG Ms L Niven, Glasgow Life, No.2191, The Mitchell Library, 201 North Street, Glasgow, G3 7DN</p> <p>School Membership</p> <p>None</p> <p>Re-Affiliation</p> <p>None</p> <p>Junior Membership</p> <p>Ms Seraphima Nechaeva, 30-1 Khudozhnikov Prospect, Apt 432, St Petersburg 194352, Russia</p>
7.	<p>AOCB</p>
8.	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>Date of next meeting will be 15th March 2014 – Cupar Old Parish Church Centre</p>