

# The Robert Burns World Federation Ltd

Executive Meeting

Venue: Alloway Parish Church Hall, Murdock's Loan, KA7 1PQ

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> June 2014

## MINUTES

1. **Sederunt:** Ralf Balfour, Kay Blair, Jane Brown, Joe Campbell, Ray Connal, May Crawley, Bill Dawson, Margaretann Dougall (minutes), Mike Duguid, Anne Gaw, James Gibson, Brian Goldie, John Haining, Betty Haining, Isa Hanley, Peter Hughes, Joe Kennedy, Andy Kidd, Alex MacKenzie, Jean MacMillan-Forster, Frances Marshall, Bob McDonald, Joe McGinty, Angus Middleton, David Miller, Margaret Morrall, Tom Morrall, Murdo Morrison, Helen Morrison, Hazel Morrison, John Paterson, John Skilling, Margaret Skilling, Annie Small, David Smith, Bob Stewart, Margaret Stokes, Alison Tait, Jim Thomson, Bryce Weir, John Campbell
  
2. **Apologies:** Jean Abdulrahim, Allister Anderson, Enez Anderson, George Anderson, Margaret Anderson, Helena Anderson-Wright, Eddie Bonnar, Richard Brown, Eric Budgell, Elizabeth Caine, John Caskie, Barbara Clayton, Moira Dunsmore, Cameron Goodall, George Grant, David Hannah, Emma Harper, Murray Henderson, Irene Henry, Graham Hill, Josephn Hunter, Jim Hunter, Margaret Hunter, Harry Hutchison, May Hyslop, John Irvine, Jane Jack, Gordon Jamieson, Karen Macphail, Jack McChesney, May McGuffog, Ian McIntyre, Sandy Murray, Ronnie O'Byrne, Wilson Ogilvie, James O'Lone, Lesley Richardson, Jim Robertson, Eileen Robertson, Frank Sandeman, David Scott, Archie Shaw, Shona Shaw, Jim Shields, Les Strachan, Eva Stubbs, Jim Todd, Walter Watson

Item		Action
3.	<b>Chairman's Remarks</b> Thank you to Alloway Burns Club and Ayrshire Association for welcome and lunch.	
4.	<b>Minutes of Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> March 2014</b> <b>Proposed</b> – Margaret Skilling <b>Seconded</b> - Ray Connal	
5.	<b>Matters Arising</b> Duplicated paragraph on Page 8. Confirmation of Statue referred to on Page 9 and Page 11 – Birnie Rhind  Amendment to the Marketing Committee Report – page 6, paragraph headed (University of Strathclyde Centre for Scottish Studies). Should read Glasgow University Centre for Robert Burns Studies and the last paragraph should read "Peter Hughes offered to investigate possibilities of a closer liaison between the Federation and the Centre for Robert Burns Studies at the University of Glasgow".	MD
6.	<b>Finance Update – Peter Hughes</b>  Profit/ Loss report for 2013/2014 is showing a substantial operating loss – around £26,000. The full details are still to be checked out.	

	<p>The membership subs unpaid as at end of April amounted to over £8,000 alone.</p> <p>These losses are a great concern therefore, a Finance Exec committee has been appointed to address these issues and report back. The committee members are Jane Brown – President, Jim Thomson - Snr Vice President, Peter Hughes – Jnr Vice President and Alison Tait – Chief Executive.</p> <p>Current to date profit of £6,000</p> <p>By the end of this financial year we will return to operating profit.</p> <p>Q– Where is the overspend showing? A - The main area is Conference 2013. The financial package is not clear in that some of the coding was incorrect, this is being looked at.</p> <p>The point was made that this loss means that Bob’s appeal has been completely wiped out.</p> <p>Q - How do we anticipate overturning this? A - All unnecessary purchases have been stopped, more revenue streams are being investigated, this years conference will run at a surplus.</p> <p>Unable to go into all the details of the conference.</p> <p>Q - Why have the figures changed so dramatically? A - It was stated that Alison alerted the Board at last year’s conference of the fact that the Conference stood to make a loss. Other items have been offset against it in an attempt to make it less.</p> <p>The Conference will make money this year.</p> <p>Budgets in the future will be based on facts and figures.</p> <p>Q - A professional firm of accountants were involved so why were the budgets based on conjecture?</p> <p>A - The budgets set where not based on reality. The budget set did not stand scrutiny.</p> <p>There was discussion regarding the bank account balances. The account balances are correct. The Profit and Loss is different from bank account balance.</p> <p>Some of the Conference fees for 2014 Conference are included in the end of year figure also and in the bank balance. The accountants will correct this at the end of the year when the accountants check for prepayments and accruals.</p>	
7.	<b>Reports</b>	
7.1	<p><b>President</b></p> <p>Very busy doing various visits etc - RBANA Conference – very well looked after.</p>	

	<p>Regards sent from Atlanta. We visited the University Library in Columbia – Ross Roy Collection. Held original Kilmarnock Edition and a Merry Musses.</p> <p>Visiting Frank Shaw. Great time and passed on Fraternal Greetings from The Federation.</p> <p>Looking forward to going to Australia to Camperdown Festival etc</p>	
7.2	<p><b>Chief Executive Key Meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20th March – Scott McPherson, KFMCO re Treasurer vacancy</li> <li>• 21st March – Frontline Consultants</li> <li>• 1st April – Airport presentation to Scottish Parliament</li> <li>• 8th April – Provost re RBWF lease / new premises</li> <li>• 10th April – Burns Monument Centre re potential new offices</li> <li>• 12th April – Tartan Ball, Barnsley</li> <li>• 16th April – Chris Waddell, RBBM</li> <li>• 23rd April – 1st May – USA trip / RBANA Conference</li> <li>• 8th May – RBWF Board meeting, Globe Inn</li> <li>• 10th May – Primary School Festival, Prestwick Academy</li> <li>• 13th May – Karin Sullivan, Robertson Trust re funding application</li> <li>• 16th May – East Ayrshire Leisure Trust meeting re lease</li> <li>• 18th May – Lasses Lunch, Easterbrook Hall</li> <li>• 19th May – CVO Conference</li> <li>• 19th May – East Ayrshire Leisure Trust re BMC premises</li> <li>• 21st May – Peebles Hydro</li> <li>• 23rd May – Allan Brown re potential premises at Kilmarnock Rail Station</li> <li>• 28th May – Graeme Maciver, Ayrshire &amp; Arran Tourism</li> <li>• 28th May – East Ayrshire Council re lease / new premises</li> <li>• 31st May – Choral Festival, Armadale Academy</li> <li>• 4th June – Fiona McKenzie, Centrestage re potential joint event</li> <li>• 10th June – Greenwood Academy to view Conference venue</li> <li>• 10th June – Annie Small re forthcoming events / stall requirements</li> <li>• 10th June – Allan Brown &amp; architect re Kilmarnock Rail Station premises</li> <li>• 11th June – Andrew Deighan, Marine Hotel re potential product sales</li> </ul> <p><b>Forthcoming Meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23rd June – James Brodie, China Trade &amp; Economic Forum</li> <li>• 30th June – Wreath-laying &amp; Jean Armour dinner, Globe Inn</li> <li>• 5th July – Del Hanlon re Dalkeith statue / walk</li> <li>• 6th July – Covington Mains wreath-laying</li> <li>• 19th July – Tom McIlwraith poetry comp, Liberton</li> <li>• 19th July – Life, Love &amp; Liberty event, Dumfries</li> </ul>	

- 21st July – RBWF Board meeting
- 23rd July – Isle of Arran contract signing
- 27th July – Howff BC wreath-laying, Kilmarnock
- 28th July – 8th August – Alison on Holiday
- 16th Aug – Irvine Harbour Festival
- 22nd – 24th Aug – Ayr Flower Show
- 11th Sept – President’s Gathering
- 12th – 14th Sept – RBWF AGM & Conference

### **Website**

Please keep sending details of events to add to the Events Calendar - we are happy to promote these for you. Also, photos and information which you would like us to add. I am currently working on levels of access for members, with Linda at Infotology, to progress the sign-in option for members but this is proving to be a bit trickier than we originally thought.

### **Webshop**

We continue to sell products on a fairly regular basis and we’re always looking for new ideas. The new range of scented candles has proved popular – please spread the word as much as possible and encourage others to order gifts via the RBWF webshop.

### **IT Issues**

As many of you will realise, we are having intermittent issues with our server and email system. The server is getting near the end of its shelf-life and needing replaced and our multi-function printer has now also packed in – we have funding applications in with several Trusts awaiting results.

### **Frontline Consultants**

Peter and I had a good meeting with Nick Downes of Frontline Consultants and we continue to progress options for moving the Federation forward.

### **Scottish Government**

On 1st April President Jane, SVP Jim and I presented our case for renaming Prestwick Airport to The Robert Burns International Airport. We were asked to undertake further research and meet with the management consultant appointed by ScotGov to look at revitalising the airport. Jim Thomson & I met with Romain Py, however, he didn’t seem overly keen on the renaming idea. There is huge support via Social Media and the RBWF online petition is still open for anyone wishing to add their name – please help us to promote this as much as possible.

### **Funding**

Funding applications have been submitted to:

Creative Scotland for the joint eBook project – unsuccessful for the 3rd time  
Heritage Lottery Fund for the digitisation project – unsuccessful although we will resubmit  
Big Lottery Awards for All, The Weir Foundation, Corel Samuel, Craignish Trust and  
Foundation Scotland for joint Education/IT projects - Awards for All have made a conditional  
offer for £4982 – we have submitted the requested documentation and await a final  
decision. Foundation Scotland and Weir Charitable Trust have declined support. Await  
decision from Craignish and Coral Samuel due at end of June.  
The Moffat Trust, Robertson Trust and Foyle Foundation for a Youth Project Co-ordinator –  
the Moffat Trust application has been successful and £6000 has been awarded. Await  
decisions from Robertson Trust and Foyle Foundation – decision due 31st July.

#### **New Partnership Opportunities**

West Sound – again this year, West Sound are offering 2 tickets for their 2015 Burns Supper  
to one of the new RBWF members joining in 2014 (names in a hat at end of year).  
A new 3-year agreement with Isle of Arran Distillers has been negotiated, thanks to JVP  
Peter, which will bring in £3.5k each year – there will be an official signing ceremony on  
23rd July at Kilmarnock.

#### **RBWF Premises**

The lease for the Dower House expires on 31st August and our new landlords, East Ayrshire  
Leisure Trust, have indicated that this will not be renewed. We are still looking at other  
options. John Scott MSP was keen to have us within Alloway and near RBBM and  
Monument Cottage did become available, however, NTS wanted £800 in rent which RBWF  
could not afford. East Ayrshire Council, however, are keen to keep us in Kilmarnock. They  
originally offered us space within the Burns Monument Centre and, although this was a  
lovely 'fit' with the Federation, unfortunately there just wasn't enough space. Since then, 2  
other options have become available – 2 large offices and a storage facility within the 'soon  
to be refurbished' Kilmarnock Railway Station and EAC have in mind a larger building within  
Kilmarnock Town Centre due to be vacated by December 2014. EALT have agreed that they  
could extend our lease at Dower House until the end of December 2014 latest. It may be  
that the new premises will be ready for December 2014 and, if not, Margaretann and I may  
be working from my dining-room table for a few weeks!

A comment was made that the Federation should be here in Alloway. There are thousands  
of people here day in day out – tremendous opportunity for the Federation. Alison  
explained that she has spoken to John Scott re assistance, but advised that there is no  
support available and the cost is too high for the Federation.

#### **Events**

President Jane and I had a very successful trip to the US and attended the RBANA  
Conference. As a direct result of this, several more people have booked to attend

	<p>Conference. We were made very welcome by everyone we met in the US and thoroughly enjoyed the trip – it’s lovely to put a face to a name! The conference was very interesting and informative - we were given a personal tour of the University vault and had the opportunity to see and hold first editions of the Kilmarnock Edition and the Merry Muses, together with many other Burns items, too many to take in! Next year’s RBANA Conference will be held in Calgary – full details to follow.</p> <p>Due to the US trip, I missed the Secondary School Final this year - however, I did attend the Primary Final and the Choral Festival where I was delighted to see so much talent on display once again. Thanks to all involved in organising these events – they are absolutely superb. I’d like to add my personal congratulations to our overall winners for 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young Burnsian – Scott Figgins of Ayrshire (bagpiper)</li> <li>• Junior Burnsian – Kirsty Duncan of Grampian (recitation)</li> <li>• Choral Winners - Bankton PS of West Lothian</li> </ul> <p><b>200 Club</b></p> <p>Time to make the final draws for this year. Subscriptions for 2014/2015 will be collected during July &amp; August for next year’s 200 Club.</p> <p>Jane congratulated Peter on his negotiations with Arran Distillers.</p>	
<p><b>7.3</b></p>	<p><b>Conference – Ray Connal</b></p> <p>Everything is in place for full programme of events.</p> <p>At the moment 120 delegates are booked with the hotel. There has been a meeting at the venue which was very successful. We were very impressed with the venue and the quality of the people who are organising the event and their support of the Conference.</p> <p>The venue for the 2015 Conference will be confirmed in the near future.</p> <p>Numbers of Saturday – approx 200 for Saturday with numbers still coming in.</p> <p>No questions were asked.</p>	

7.4	<p><b>Literature – Mike Duguid</b> Digitisation project – the funding request was unsuccessful but will be resubmitted.</p> <p>London Burns Club – Hosting 2018 Conference – Mike has spoken with a member of the Club and advised they will be in touch with proposals for 2018.</p> <p>We have taken steps to cut down on the printing of the Newsletter. Mike is also considering the possibility of a crossword to be included and a Junior Newsletter. There may be an option to get schools involved in producing this. Please keep sending in articles.</p> <p>Books for review – none.</p>	
7.5	<p><b>Editor – Bill Dawson</b> Readership Survey –has not met with a substantial response. This is not unexpected but disappointed that the Board/Executive has not returned the survey.</p> <p>No e-edition. And no software. Deadline for contributions for the 2015 Chronicle is by the end of June.</p> <p>Number of items in process and promised. Content for around 50 pages and 60 pages promised.</p> <p>It is to be with the printer in August – publication by 10<sup>th</sup> November.</p> <p>Suggestion that the end of June seems early. Agreed that the timescale is early, however, please offer support for Bill and he is working on this alone. This is the Federation’s view of Burns and it is important that this is supported. Please let Bill know if you have something you wish space held for.</p> <p>Space is being left for Isle of Arran advert.</p> <p>Discussed that all feedback relating to the 2014 Chronicle received at the office has been very favourable.</p> <p>Talks at Literacy Conference. Bill may get articles from this.</p>	
7.6	<p><b>Archivist – John Haining</b> Betty Burns painting has been returned.</p> <p>Book by Rev P Waddell which has been launched in the library and when monies allow it should be repaired.</p>	
7.7	<p><b>Website – See Chief Executive Report</b></p>	
7.8	<p><b>Marketing –Murdo Morrison</b> Very good constructive meeting this morning. The Convenor welcomed those present and asked Chief Executive Alison Tait to show samples of goods which could be available and sold by the Federation, These included T</p>	

Shirts for Adults and Children, samples of Red Rose Candles Fridge Magnets and Key Rings. A good profit margin could be obtained.

Alison explained that in the current financial situation appertaining to the Federation a restriction was currently in place for all expenditure. The goods being demonstrated were available from the suppliers direct and there was to be no financial outlay by the Federation. The Convenor thanked Alison for her attendance and explanation of the merchandise available. Items of this nature could be advertised on the Web

Minutes of the last Meeting of the Marketing Committee. Held at Cupar, Fife on Saturday 15th March 2014. These were approved and the following matters discussed as business arising.

In the absence of David Hannah who was investigating the provision of Memory Sticks for sale by the Federation and also Pens the Convenor was asked to contact David and ascertain what, if any, progress had been made. Rulers were another possibility to be included as they had proved to be popular in the past.

#### **Irvine Festival**

With the upcoming Festival at Irvine Harbour it was recommended that this opportunity should be taken to sell goods. As the event would include a "Guess the weight of the Haggis" competition a note had been sent to the Scottish Federation of Meat Traders for a Haggis to be donated from any local contacts.

Year of Haggis Aprons to be available and any other relevant materials for the stall. There are selling possibilities at this well attended event and best use should be made for selling Federation items.

#### **Ayr Flower Show 22nd to 24th August**

Annie Small agreed to take custody of the staffing requirements for this three day event and a chart was prepared to ensure that full coverage would be given by volunteers from Marketing and other sources.

Selling opportunities are limited at this event but orders can be taken for subsequent dispatch.

An appeal for other assistance would be made at the main Executive Meeting in the afternoon.

The theme for the overall show as that of World War 1 and Angus Middleton undertook to assist in procuring suitable items for enhancement of the theme at the Robert Burns Federation Stall.

Old photographs of known family or associate participants who had taken part in WW1 would also be appropriate and in addition copies of the Burns Chronicle for the war period might be available from Dower House. An incentive of a £50 prize for the best in show stall was mentioned.



**Address to a Haggis Competiton**

The Committee were informed of the competition that was staged at the Globe Inn Dumfries on the day of the Lasses Lunch in May. The competition had nine entries and the Judging had David Smith (Past President) as the Chief Judge and Past Presidents Wilson Ogilvie, Robert Stewart, Jim Robertson, John Skilling. Winner was Jimmy Law of Ayrshire. Hamyln (Grampian Oats) are willing to make appropriate packages of oats available for any future competitions and also present the winner with a hand made spurtle. The Convenor advised the committee that an outline of a communication to all Clubs was nearing completion and one Lanarkshire Club is already contemplating a similar competition. This would be put on the web site with organisational and other advice to encourage as many Clubs as possible to participate.

The committee were supportive of this project.

**Isle of Arran Whisky**

Discussion took place about the Patronage of Isle of Arran Whisky and Peter Hughes advised the committee that there had been a very positive outcome to his approach and that an agreement was now being finalised. Following negotiations there will be a signing ceremony at Dower House to give commitment and agreement to the deal which was organised.

The Committee congratulated Peter Hughes on his notable achievement in the circumstances which he had to face.

**Annual Conference Irvine 12th to 14th September**

There would be a shop requiring staffing for the Conference and a lockable room was being made available.

Annie Small advised that the Irvine Lasses are encouraging some stall holders to be present and a charge will be made for any commercial display facility. Dependant on take up there may be free of charge stalls for charity groups such as Rotary.

Suggested staffing of shop would be undertaken by the Convenor and circulated as necessary.

It was anticipated that the following might take part but confirmation would have to be sent together with establishing times they may be available.

Angus Middleton, Eric Budgell, David Hannah, Frances Stewart, Mary Letham, Hazel Morrison, Murdo Morrison – any shortfall in staffing level to be made up by the Convenor approaching others.

**Packages for sale to Clubs**

A previous decision of providing packages containing various Federation items to be sold to Clubs was discussed.

In the present financial situation it was decided that this matter should be postponed to some future date.

**Year of the Haggis Update**

The initial Launch of the Year of the Haggis at the Scottish parliament got off to a good start.

A great deal of publicity was generated and with the help of members of the Robert Burns Clubs many local newspapers followed up with photographs of Butchers with their own "mini" shop specific launches. Recently a group of Butchers who were all Annual Haggis Competition winners were invited to the Bannockburn Centre for a Champion of Champions event. This was won by Scotts of Huntly, Aberdeenshire. The Convenor represented RBWF at the event and was one of the Judges.

#### **Federation – Stocks of materials**

The recommendation from the Marketing committee was that every possible effort should be made to dispose of all sellable stocks which are currently available. The already discussed financial restrictions once again points to the future ordering as being on sale or return basis or direct from suppliers.

Wherever an opportunity exists to showcase sellable goods (such as in Hotels or other locations) should be maximised. Liaison with individual Hotels where goods could be in a secure glass cabinet is a possibility.

An appeal would be made at the afternoon meeting for any possible locations.

#### **TOURIST BOARDS. AYRSHIRE AND ARRAN AND DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY**

The committee were advised that a four page advertisement in the Glasgow Herald was full of information about the places associated with Robert Burns. Throughout the comprehensive description of all places on a route through the areas covered by the Tourist Boards there was no mention made of the Robert Burns World Federation. Following this article the Convenor had contacted the main official involved in this project and a meeting was held at Dower House.

Contact has now been established in the hope that there are many areas of mutual support which can be developed.

#### **Burns Tourist Guides**

The Convenor outlined the proposal and the desired result would be for Burns Tourist Guides specially trained in Guiding duties to be available at Burns related locations. A pilot project was under way with a Vancouver based tour operator and communication is now established with the tour operator and two Burns Club members in Edinburgh. A similar contact is being put in place for Ayrshire.

The concept for this overall project was warmly welcomed by the Committee and they endorsed the action so far taken and encouraged further developments.

A two day training course could be available and the approximate costing of £1200 would require a source for sponsorship.

This matter to be developed via the Convenor and the Chief Executive

#### **Security of Stock at events**

During a recent event where Federation goods were on open display there were two items removed. This is an ongoing problem and the main solution suggested is for constant vigilance as goods on display are always going to be at risk items.

	<p>There is a need for minimising the risk as far as possible compatible with the need to sell goods.</p> <p><b>Lomond Books</b> Some books were obtained from Lomond Books and on a sale or return basis there is a need for some more children’s books to be put into stock.</p> <p>The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.</p>	
<p><b>7.9</b></p>	<p><b>Schools – Isa Hanley</b> The first topic discussed was the 2014 National Festivals which were held in Prestwick Academy on 26 April and 10 May 2015. It was agreed that both of these were very successful and only good reports were heard.</p> <p>Positive feedback came from all adjudicators, a number of who offered their services at a future date if need be.</p> <p>The Choral Festival attracted five choirs and it was a most enjoyable and successful day. Thanks to Karen McPhail who organised the whole event but, unfortunately, Karen has decided to stand down as from now. A successor for the Choral event will have to be found.</p> <p>It was decided that both the Choral and the Art/Project competitions would be handed over completely to someone else, and Graham Hill has offered to take on the latter. Graham already co-ordinates the entries but would now send out letters, notification, etc. I would continue to acquire the certificates from Solway Offset, and medals (choral only).</p> <p>We are currently looking at High School of Glasgow to host next year’s national festivals and Bob McDonald is following this through with the Bursar. They would be held on the last two Saturdays in April probably.</p> <p>Helena and I have selected competitors from the nationals to attend the Aberdeen International Youth Festival at the end of July, once again. It is a wonderful opportunity for training/performing for our entrants.</p> <p>Helen updated the committee with the International Essay/Knowledge of Scotland report from Russia. Ukraine has sent results and photographs of winners. Australia have done likewise and also sent the local newspaper with photographs of their students receiving their awards from Jim Millar and their MP from the Victorian Parliament.</p> <p>This year’s essay title is Then let us pray that come it may, As come ..... etc. Notification will be sent to the relevant countries immediately.</p> <p>Competitions went according to plan. Very positive feedback.</p> <p>The Choral competition – only five choirs this year. Possible that the competition should be moved to another day to see if we can encourage more entrants. The area co-ordinators</p>	<p>Area Co-ordinators</p>

	<p>will ask the Head Teachers for feedback regarding this. Thank you to Karen MacPhail for all her work.</p> <p>Spoken about Glasgow for next year's competitions. Bob is negotiating with Glasgow as a venue.</p> <p>Aberdeen International Youth Festival 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> July - Performance on Friday or Saturday.</p> <p>No questions were asked.</p>	
7.10	<p><b>Heritage – John Skilling on behalf of Walter Watson Burns Monument, Alloway</b>  J. Skilling reported that cost estimates to renovate have risen to £240K. Lead stolen from roof requires to be replaced. A group known as 'Friends of the Burns Monument' has been formed to raise funds for repairs.</p> <p><b>John Lapraik Monument (100 years old this year)</b>  J. Skilling reported that New Cumnock Burns Club has completed repairs to the memorial cairn to John Lapraik near Sorn and a ceremony to mark this is planned for 18th June at 6.00pm.</p> <p><b>Tarbolton</b>  Efforts are being made by Councillor John Allan to approach St. James Lodge to refurbish the memorial to Death &amp; Dr. Hornbook near Willie's Mill.</p> <p><b>Hamilton Birnie Rhind Statue</b>  Reported that Lanarkshire Association are fundraising for repairs to the full size statue at Hamilton, removed during renovations to the Council Offices and placed in storage where it lay forgotten. Costs estimated at £7,500.00. Council have agreed to put up £4000.00 if the Association would raise the balance. It is intended to locate the statue in the public library. An update may be given at the afternoon meeting.</p> <p><b>West Kirk, Kilmarnock</b>  J. Kennedy reported that the plaque marking the grave of John Wilson, printer of the Kilmarnock Edition, which had been removed when the Kirk closed, had been recovered. The building was now owned by an undertaker but an approach would be made to have the plaque reinstated.</p> <p><b>Falkirk</b>  Brian Goldie reported a proposal to erect a statue at Falkirk Cross to commemorate the visit by Burns in 1787 to Falkirk and Carron Iron Works. The suggestion was to create a kneeling figure of the poet at the tomb of John De Graham, a supporter of William Wallace. It was hoped that Andy Scott, the artist behind the "Kelpies", would undertake the commission if funding from the Lottery Fund was forthcoming. Falkirk Burns Club was pursuing this.</p> <p><b>Betty Burns</b>  No further information of the site of the grave believed to be at Pollockshields.</p>	

	<p><b>Dumfries</b> D. Miller reported that the “improvements” at Burns Statue were progressing slowly. Delays had been occasioned by the need to relocate underground services but it was hoped that the works would be completed by July. It was planned to provide planting round the statue but a pathway to the base would be in place for the annual wreath laying in January. The statue had been cleaned but it was feared that further cleaning would be required in a year’s time. Due to inappropriate treatment in the past, the surface of the Carrera marble had become pitted with hairline cracks appearing. Ideally, the statue should be relocated to an indoor site and replaced with a bronze figure. However the marble plaques round the sides of the statue had responded well to treatment and the Chinese granite as a surround would be effective. Unfortunately, busses would still have access to the square but car parking would be banned.</p> <p><b>Theatre Royal, Dumfries</b> D. Miller reported that the contract for the £2Million renovation scheme would commence shortly. This was a major project which would enhance the cultural facilities in Dumfries and maintain the Burns connection. The historic bust of the poet which had occupied a niche in the auditorium had been removed and temporarily relocated in the Globe Inn, courtesy of the Burns Howff Club until the renovations were complete. Colin Hunter McQueen had agreed to make some cosmetic repairs to the bust.</p> <p><b>Burns Encyclopaedia</b> Noted that some inaccuracies appeared in the revised edition recently compiled by Professor David Purdie and Gerald Carruthers.</p> <p><b>Site Visit</b> On the suggestion of the Chair, members walked to the nearby Burns Monument to inspect the ongoing repairs then on to the Auld Alloway Kirk to read the inscribed slabs in the pathway (Burns’ precursor to ‘Tam o’Shanter’) and on to see Mungo’s Well which is nearby.</p> <p>No questions were asked based on the above report.</p>	
7.11	<p><b>Overseas</b> <b>Pacific Rim – Jim O’Lone</b> No report available <b>Canada – Ronnie O’Byrne</b> No report available <b>U.S.A. – Les Strachan</b> No report available</p>	
7.12	<p><b>Association Representatives</b> <b>Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs – John Skilling</b> Muirkirk Lapraik Festival very success over subscribed - 10 contestants with 5 on the waiting list . Neill McGillivray was the winner, Previously won the Tam O’Shanter. Had a young lady take part this year - Julie Holden from Irvine Lassess.</p> <p><b>Lanarkshire Association – Kay Blair</b> Schools competitions went down very well this year, with increased number in many areas.</p>	

	<p>Wreath Laying – Covington Main on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2014 – Kay confirmed that RBWF SVP Jim Thomson will present the eulogy at the Cairn at 2pm. Thereafter there will be an afternoon tea at Shieldhill Castle Hotel. Invitations have been sent out so that the hotel can be advised of numbers attending. There have not been many replies as yet. Kay will invite some of the winners from the Schools Festival to perform at the hotel. Craig Easton has confirmed he will play the pipes at the Cairn.</p> <p>Thanks to Cronies at Fauldhouse and Crofthead it is all cleaned and powerwashed, and the stonemason has redone all the lettering. Another Cairn well restored.</p> <p><b>Birnie Rhind Statue</b> - bought by a John Watson in 1870's. Remained with the Watson family until gifted to the Town Council.</p> <p>It was re-iterated that South Lanarkshire council are fund matching any monies raised by LABC for the restoration of this important statue and the sooner we raise our share the earlier the work can be undertaken.</p> <p>There is a raffle being organised. The prize will be 2 prizes of 6 bottles of whisky. Deadline for Association is 1<sup>st</sup> November.</p> <p>On the 17<sup>th</sup> October there is a concert being held in aid of the statue – tickets are £10 where the raffle will be drawn. It is hoped that the fund raising concert and our appeal to other Burns organisations would enable LABC to reach their target of £3,500 by 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014.</p> <p><b>Borders Association – No report</b>  <b>Edinburgh &amp; District Association of Burns Clubs – Ralf Balfour on behalf of Gordon Jamieson</b>  Attended reception with new Russian consult and everything is in process for the Tom McIlraith.</p> <p><b>Fife Association of Burns Clubs – No report</b>  <b>Glasgow Association of Burns Clubs – No report</b>  <b>Grampian Association of Burns Clubs – No report</b>  <b>Refrewhshire Association of Burns Clubs – No report</b>  <b>Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> of July – Browell.</b>  Jane will be the speaker at this event. Life Love and Liberty is on 19<sup>th</sup>/20th July.  Dumfries Burns Club are putting on a Dear Mr Burns. There is a concert at Ellisland on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.  <b>Yorkshire Association of Burns Clubs – No report</b></p>	
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Applications for Membership</b></p> <p><b>Individual Membership</b>  Mr Alexander James Beith Forrest, 11A South Back Road, Biggar, ML12 6AL  Mr Jerry Brannigan, 6 Coltpark Avenue, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow, G64 2AT  Miss Julie Holden, 33 Pladda Crescent, Broomlands, Irvine, KA11 1DP  Miss Sheona Cameron, 59 West Portland Street, Troon, KA10 6AB</p> <p><b>Family Membership</b>  Thomas &amp; Lesley McDonald, 88 Meadows Avenue, Larkhall, ML9 2JG</p>	

	<p><b>Club Membership</b> None</p> <p><b>Junior Membership</b> Mr Scott Figgins, Young Burnsian 2014, 11 Hepburn Way, Lawthorn, Irvine, KA11 2EE Miss Kirsty Duncan, Junior Burnsian 2014, 36 St Ternan's Road, Newtonhill, Aberdeenshire, AB39 3PF</p> <p><b>Corporate Membership</b> None</p> <p><b>Re-Affiliation</b> None</p> <p><b>School Membership</b> New Cumnock Primary School Muirkirk Primary School &amp; Early Childhood Centre</p>	
9.	<p><b>AOCB</b> This is Jane's last Executive meeting. Jane thanked everyone for all their help and support – thanks to all the convenors and committees on behalf of the membership.</p> <p>Peter offered the vote of thanks for Jane.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Date of next meeting:</b> 15<sup>th</sup> November – Edinburgh, Lodge Liberton</p>	