

The Robert Burns World Federation Ltd

Executive Meeting

Venue: Lodge Liberton, Edinburgh

Date: Saturday 15th November 2014

MINUTES

1. Sederunt

Jean Abdulrahim, Enez Anderson, George Anderson, Ralf Balfour, Kay Blair, Jane Brown, Eric Budgell, Robin Dodyk, Mike Duguid, Anne Gaw, James Gibson, Willie Gibson, Brian Goldie, Betty Haining, Isa Hanley, David Hannah, Peter Hughes, Joseph Hunter, John Irvine, Gordon Jamieson, Bobby Kane, Patricia Leslie, Jean MacMillan-Forster, Karen Macphail, Bob McDonald, Joe McGinty, Ian McIntyre, Karen McPhail, Frances Marshall, David Miller, Murdo Morrison, Hazel Morrison, Helen Morrison, Sandy Murray, John Paterson, Jim Robertson, Frank Sandeman, Jim Shields, John Skilling, Margaret Skilling, Annie Small, David Smith, Bob Stewart, Margaret Stokes, Alison Tait, Jim Thomson, Chris Waddell, Margaretann Dougall (minutes)

2. Apologies

Allister Anderson, Margaret Anderson, Helena Anderson-Wright, Eddie Bonnar, Richard Brown, Elizabeth Caine, Joe Campbell, John Caskie, Barbara Clayton, Ray Connal, May Crawley, Bill Dawson, Moira Dunsmore, Cameron Goodall, George Grant, John Haining, Emma Harper, Murray Henderson, Irene Henry, Graham Hill, May Hyslop, Jane Jack, Joe Kennedy, Andy Kidd, Jack McChesney, Alex MacKenzie, Angus Middleton, Margaret Morrall, Tom Morrall, Ronnie O'Byrne, Wilson Ogilvie, Jim O'Lone, Lesley Richardson, David Scott, Archie Shaw, Shona Shaw, Les Strachan, Eva Stubbs, Jim Todd, Walter Watson

Item		Action
3.	Chairman's Remarks President Jim Thomson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Lanarkshire Assoc – Bhirnie Rhind statue - £250 short of target for refurbishment of statue. If you wish to contribute see Bobby Kane today. Read obituaries and a minute's silence was observed.	
4.	Minutes of Meeting 14th June 2014 Proposed by Joe McGinty , Seconded by Frances Marshall	
5.	Matters Arising Question asked re finance – this will be covered during finance report.	
6.	Finance Update – Jim Thomson Query regarding financial information provided at the June meeting and the difference in the annual accounts: The information that was produced at the June meeting was produced from Quickbooks – this is not the final audited accounts. The accounts that were provided in the annual report are the only accounts with full accuracy.	

	<p>Accounts have been reviewed since 2009 to provide an accurate summary of accounts. We are currently starting each year with a loss.</p> <p>We have considered many aspects of ways to balance the books. We are looking to have parts of the business sponsored – it is based on this format that we plan to go forward i.e. chronicle, newsletter, conference etc.</p> <p>The Board of Directors are confident that in the not too distant future we will break even.</p> <p>Some of the costs are accurate and some are estimated. All the estimated costs have been overestimated and the income underestimated.</p> <p>The membership figure does not include fees that came in after 30th April 2014. This amounted to almost £3,000.</p> <p>There will be an increase of £2 across the board in all membership categories for this year.</p> <p>Why were the figures not know earlier... Are their plans in place to ensure that the annual report is received on time in future?</p> <p>Finance director explained the change of accounts system, explained the accountants auditing procedure and the fact that final figures are not available until the accounts are audited.</p> <p>Plans are in place to meet with the accountant in January to make sure that the figures are available by June next year thus ensuring that the annual reports are available to members prior to conference.</p> <p>Explained that a finance committee has now been put in place in order to ensure that the Federation will break even within the next three years or so. There are plans with regard to sponsorship. Purchases will only be made when orders are in place. Main sponsorship being sought for Chronicle, Conference and Newsletter.</p> <p>Why are we still producing the Chronicle? Part of the membership requires us to provide members with a Chronicle as part of their membership.</p> <p>We also require to have professional staff – the Federation cannot run with volunteers.</p> <p>The Board are working very hard to bring in income. If this does not work, we will revisit this. Let us put our ideas in place.</p> <p>No further questions asked.</p>	
7.	Reports	
7.1	<p>President Has already attended over 20 events since taking over as president.</p>	

7.2	<p>Chief Executive Lasses lunch – provisionally booked at Fenwick Hotel, Kilmarnock on 10th May 2015.</p> <p>Website – events are being updated. Webshop – new children’s books available. Also a new book by Tony Capaldi.</p> <p>No definite date as yet for new premises.</p> <p>Robert Burns the Musical – launch Thursday 20th November</p> <p>200 Club – Draw was completed.</p>	
7.3	<p>Conference – Jim Gibson Very productive meeting. The 2014 conference was very successful and thanks to both Irvine Burns Clubs and the conference committee.</p> <p>The Conference made a surplus of £10,000 – due to sponsorship and bills not been received.</p> <p>Agreement reached with Peebles – will keep the fee fixed for 3 years. Price will be £225.</p>	
7.4	<p>Literature – Mike Duguid Chronicle is now available. Deadline for 2015 Chronicle will be June next year.</p> <p>Book reviews are being completed.</p> <p>History of the Federation – should be updated and discussions have taken place with regard to this.</p> <p>November newsletter is with the office and will be sent to the printer next week.</p>	
7.5	<p>Editor – Bill Dawson Please see Literature Report for details.</p>	
7.6	<p>Archivist – Bill Dawson At the date of writing, (28th October 2014) there has been no paperwork, e.g. detailed inventory etc, passed on by the previous Archivist. I look forward to having this.</p> <p>Once this is in hand and the holdings of artefacts have been viewed I will be able to make further reports more detailed.</p> <p>The transfer of our Headquarters to a new town centre location offers exciting opportunities to develop display and library facilities which could enhance the profile of the Federation and hopefully encourage further participation. Provision of appropriate facilities for all manner of artefacts requires careful consideration. I look forward to active participation in everything to do with our collections and artefacts.</p> <p>I have had no enquiries directed to me about any items of Burnsiana.</p>	
7.7	<p>Website – See Chief Executive Report</p>	

<p>7.8</p>	<p>Marketing – Murdo Morrison Welcomed two new members of the marketing committee.</p> <p>Details of the recent Marketing Report to Board of RBWF were discussed and further actions considered.</p> <p>Limited funding curtails expenditure and sale or return possibilities have to be considered.</p> <p>Credit card type/size Memory sticks could be a possible purchase. These should sell well at Meetings and Conferences.</p> <p>Tourist Guide Project- Training Course Available £2k requirement for Training Course Funding only available via sources for accredited training. There were ten applicants waiting for information re training.</p> <p>Year of the Haggis. Address to the Haggis Competition has already been held on the same day as the Lassies Lunch in Dumfries. Fauldhouse and Crofthead also held an evening's competition which was acclaimed as an entertaining event. Current plans are ongoing for 30th November in the Golf Tavern in Haddington. Allanton Jolly Beggars Burns Club's event is on Wednesday the 3d of December at Cambusnethan Miners Welfare. The Buffet available will cost £5.</p> <p>Year of the Haggis next Version 2015 Year of Food and Drink/ Proposed . Challenge based on Ice Bucket Principle with celebrities. Launch possibility on 25th January in Ayrshire. This will be developed with the Scottish Federation of Meat Traders Association.</p> <p>Robert Burns Shocking Truth Book... launch 3 pm 24th Nov @ RB Birthplace Museum. A far from serious Burns book in cartoon illustrated form. Initial reservations were removed when this newly published book was circulated and it was agreed that it was a marketable item produced and presented for a particular market.</p> <p>Proposal re Involvement with University of Strathclyde. This matter has been remitted to Marketing from the Board and consists of the involvement of Marketing Students in the University of Strathclyde. A fee of £500 was required and the payback will be an overall Marketing Plan This University has an acknowledged reputation for excellence in Marketing and could be of great benefit to the Federation. Bobby Kane will be making contact and advising the interest in the project and due to our financial situation-possibly a delay until next year</p> <p>Discussion took place on the Prestwick Airport situation and in particular the potential involvement of Donald Trump. The consensus was that this was certainly an avenue to be explored further to ascertain what, if any, benefits could ensue for RBWF</p>	
<p>7.9</p>	<p>Schools – Isa Hanley 2015 Primary and Secondary Competitions will be in Hutcheson's Grammar School:</p> <p>18th April – Secondary Competition</p>	

	<p>30th May – Primary Competition 9th May – Choral Competition at Armadale</p> <p>International essay comp – sent to all schools.</p>	
7.10	<p>Heritage – John Skilling Birthplace Museum – steering group has been set up. Burns Cottage – works to start shortly. Souter Johnnie’s Cottage to be re-thatched Burns Statue – Gordon Ashley- article in Chronicle and newsletter. Bhirnie Rhind Statue – fundraising nearly complete</p>	
7.11	<p>Overseas Pacific Rim – Jim O’Lone Nothing to Report.</p> <p>Canada – Ronnie O’Byrne Not a lot of activity taking place in Canada since my last report - as most of the clubs close down during the summer months - and only start up their meeting schedules again in September.</p> <p>One event that did take place was the Medicine Hat Burns Club – “Jolly Beggars Dinner” – on Saturday 27th September in Medicine Hat, Alberta. I was invited to attend and participate as Canadian Director for RBWF. I will send on a full report of the event to Mike Duguid for inclusion in the Newsletter.</p> <p>U.S.A. – Les Strachan Nothing to report at this time. Best wishes for a successful gathering.</p>	
7.12	<p>Association Representatives Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs - Joe McGinty Alistair Sim – New President, Jo Campbell (Snr Vice) and Annie Small (Jnr Vice) Nothing further to report Borders Association No report</p> <p>Edinburgh & District Association of Burns Clubs – Gordon Jamieson 911 people at open days. St Giles, annual poetry competitions - 21st Feb</p> <p>Fife Association of Burns Clubs – Frank Sandeman New treasurer – John Baillie. Schools comps 6th March 2015. Bowhill Burns Club and Cupar Burns Club are preparing for their schools comps.</p> <p>Glasgow Association of Burns Clubs – George Anderson AGM on Tuesday – Enez will become Snr Vice President, Wreath laying 24th January, Glasgow Cathedral on 25th January, for annual divine service.</p> <p>Jean Armour Burns Trust – up and running. Clubs can apply for money for projects. Projects out with Glasgow can also apply to the trust.</p> <p>Another 10 houses have been built and will be ready for occupancy by December. The</p>	

	<p>existing houses will have to be altered to meet new regulations.</p> <p>Grampian Association of Burns Clubs – No report.</p> <p>Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs – Kay Blair New President Bobby Kane, Patrica Leslie Snr Vice and Kay Blair Jnr Vice.</p> <p>Refrewhshire Association of Burns Clubs – No report.</p> <p>Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association – David Smith Schools comp – St Michaels anniversary service.</p> <p>Yorkshire Association of Burns Clubs – Jim Robertson The Annual Tartan Ball will be at the Holiday Inn, Barnsley on Saturday 18th April. The President Mrs May McGuffog extends a warm welcome to anyone wishing to attend. The cost is £30 (same as last year). Accommodation is available at a cost of £50 or £25 for a single room. When you phone the hotel to book a room please dial 0800 40 50 60 quoting Tartan Ball 18 04 15. Dancing will be by Ian MacPhail and his Scottish Dance Band. It is hoped that you will mention this event to your members.</p>	
8.	<p>Applications for Membership</p> <p>Individual Membership None</p> <p>Family Membership Mr & Mrs Andrew Niven, Falkirk Neil Mudie and Helen Brown, Newport on Tay</p> <p>Club Membership Lamlash Burns Club, Whiting Bay</p> <p>Corporate Membership None</p> <p>School Membership None</p> <p>Re-Affiliation None</p>	
9.	<p>AOCB Enez – Spoke about the “English” version of Auld Lang Syne performed at the Horse of the Year Show.</p> <p>Jim Shields – thanked Jim for his work with the finances.</p> <p>Jim Shields made a presentation to Ronnie Crichton. Ronnie works very hard with the Edinburgh Association. The presentation was made in recognition of great kindness and support of the EDBCA over many years on the occasion of his retirement.</p>	
10.	<p>Date of next meetings: Saturday 14th March – Lanarkshire Saturday 13th June - Falkirk Saturday 14th November - TBA</p>	