

The Robert Burns World Federation Ltd

Executive Meeting

Venue: Rorison Memorial Church, Ashgill,

Date: Saturday 14th March 2015

MINUTES

1. **Sederunt:** Jean Abulrahim, Enez Anderson, George Anderson, Margaret Anderson, Kay Blair, Jane Brown, Eric Budgell, Ray Connal, Robin Dodyk, Mike Duguid, George Fairlie, Alexander Beith Forrest, Anne Gaw, James Gibson, Willie Gibson, Brian Goldie, Isa Hanley, David Hannah, Peter Hughes, Joseph Hunter, Gordon Jamieson, Bobby Kane, Karen Kane, Patricia Leslie, Bob McDonald, Joe McGinty, Ian McIntyre, David Miller, Murdo Morrison, Hazel Morrison, Helen Morrison, John Paterson, Jim Robertson, Frank Sandeman, John Skilling, Margaret Skilling, Annie Small, David Smith, Bob Stewart, Margaret Stokes, Alison Tait, Jim Weatherston, Walter Watson,

2. **Apologies:** Allister Anderson, Helena Anderson-Wright, Eddie Bonnar, Richard Brown, Joe Campbell, John Caskie, Barbara Clayton, May Crawley, Bill Dawson, Moira Dunsmore, Cameron Goodall, George Grant, John Haining, Betty Haining, Emma Harper, Murray Henderson, Irene Henry, Graham Hill, May Hyslop, John Irvine, Jane Jack, Andy Kidd, Jean MacMillan-Forster, Jack McChesney, May McGuffog, Alex MacKenzie, Frances Marshall, Angus Middleton, Margaret Morrall, Tom Morrall, Sandy Murray, Ronnie O'Byrne, Wilson Ogilvie, James O'Lone, Lesley Richardson, David Scott, Archie Shaw, Shona Shaw, Jim Shields, Les Strachan, Eva Stubbs, Jim Thomson, Jim Todd, Chris Waddell

Item		Action
3.	<p>Welcome to Lanarkshire from Bobby Kane.</p> <p>Chairman's Remarks – Peter Hughes Thanks to LABC for organising meeting and particularly for lunch.</p> <p>Falkirk poem – passed round.</p> <p>Attended LABC primary school comp. Best recitations I have heard – standard is getting higher and higher.</p> <p>Board changes – focus on ensuring a strong financial position for the Federation. Convenors will be allocated clubs to build stronger links with the RBWF.</p>	
4.	<p>Minutes of Meeting 14th November 2014 Proposed – Enez Anderson Seconded - Jane Brown</p>	
5.	<p>Matters Arising None</p>	
6.	<p>Finance Update – Peter Hughes Anticipating still making a loss this year – hopefully less than the estimated £10,000. However, this is opposed to over £30,000 last year.</p> <p>Membership – late payment of fees is an issue. Directors will be given a list and make contact with members who have not paid. We need to know if there are any issues that can be addressed.</p>	

	<p>Planning to introduce Direct Debit to save chasing payments. This will be progressed in time for next year's renewals.</p> <p>We are changing Independent Financial Auditor to Mr Scott McPherson, due to issues in past years with the availability of the audited accounts in time for Conference. We will have the audited accounts by June this year.</p> <p>No questions were asked in relation to finance.</p>	
7.	Reports	
7.1	<p>President</p> <p>SVP Peter Hughes advised that there is a summary of the President's events available if required.</p>	
7.2	<p>Chief Executive Events</p> <p>Robert Burns the Musical Premiere at Tivoli Theatre Aberdeen on 25th January 2015 was excellent and played to a sell-out audience.</p> <p>I spoke at a few events in January, most notably the Glasgow Business Club Burns Lunch, HFD Holdings Burns Supper and the China-Britain Business Council Burns Supper.</p> <p>The Lasses Lunch 2015 is provisionally booked for Sunday 10th May 2015 at the Fenwick Hotel, Ayrshire. I'm still awaiting details of a Guest Speaker – will let you know asap.</p> <p>Howff Burns Club Kilmarnock celebrate their 90th anniversary with an event at the Fenwick Hotel on Sunday 29th March.</p> <p>Website</p> <p>We continue to promote Club events, etc via the Events Section of the RBWF website – check it regularly for updates. Currently promoting a variety of events.</p> <p>At some point, information from the old site will need to be transferred (poems, etc) but this will take some time.</p> <p>Webshop</p> <p>New candle scents have been added including the Burns range. Few new books on offer. Potential new products - range of posters and Unique umbrellas. New supplier of T-shirts and polo shirts.</p> <p>Social Media</p> <p>We now have 1011 followers on Twitter and 842 'likes' on Facebook with regular interactions across the global network.</p> <p>Funding</p> <p>Digitisation Project</p> <p>To be resubmitted by Literature Committee.</p> <p>Gerry Carruthers willing to partner with submission to HRC digi-transformation.</p> <p>Membership</p> <p>I am currently looking into the option of Direct Debit for members and hope to have this facility available in time for next year's renewals.</p>	

	<p>We have received several new membership applications this week which won't show on your agenda sheet.</p> <p>Whitecraigs Golf Club, No.2200 - Glasgow Mr & Mrs Geoff Depledge - Dumbarton John Hannah – California, USA Patrick Scott – South Carolina, USA Hugh Lockhart - Edinburgh</p> <p>Premises Removal date postponed to end of July at the moment, however, I expect this may not be the last postponement.</p> <p>200 Club Have sold 202 shares this year – March 200 Club draw and Raffle Draw took place.</p>	
<p>7.3</p>	<p>Conference – Jimmy Gibson</p> <p>Looking forward to Peebles, planning is going very well. Advised to get applications in very early. Friday evening in house event being organised by Joe McGinty.</p> <p>Seminars speakers are in planning stage at the moment with Margaret Anderson presiding over the Sunday service.</p> <p>Any raffle donations would be greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Looking for pianist for Sunday morning.</p> <p>Any information will be updated by email as it is available.</p> <p>Proposal for silent auction this year – if you have anything suitable please pass them on.</p> <p>There is no President's Gathering this year due to costs. Something informal will be put in place for those staying on the Thursday night.</p> <p>Confirmation that everything should be booked through the office.</p>	
<p>7.4</p>	<p>Literature –</p> <p>New member – Beith Forrest was welcomed to his first meeting and will join the Literature committee.</p> <p>Bill very enthusiastic about articles received for Chronicle so far. He is very keen to get articles from Federation membership.</p> <p>Very interesting article about the first publication of Tam o 'shanter from Studies of Scottish Literature.</p> <p>Past issues of Chronicle digitisation – the application for funding will be re-submitted.</p>	

	<p>We have been tasked to “Strengthen the Outcomes” – how to get through to a wider and new audience through this project.</p> <p>If we make the Chronicle available online – who could benefit? e.g. students, school pupils etc</p> <p>Review of Robert Burns in Edinburgh – on sale for £9.99.</p> <p>Newsletter – error re Sarasota . An apology will be put in next Newsletter.</p> <p>Peter thanked Mike for all his work with the newsletter. It continues to be very seen as a huge success by those who receive it.</p>	
7.5	<p>Editor – Bill Dawson Chronicle update provided within Literature Report.</p>	
7.6	<p>Archivist – Bill Dawson (report provided for meeting in absence of Archivist) I have been examining a number of interesting artefacts held in Kilmarnock and I am looking forward to the move to John Finnie Street with the display opportunities that this will afford with exciting new library facilities.</p> <p>Liverpool Burns Club has gone into abeyance and has deposited their President’s chain of Office with the Federation for safe keeping. This is a lovely artefact from a venerable club and it will be well looked after.</p> <p>A number of enquiries to the Federation have been passed to me and hopefully I have been able to provide some information.</p>	
7.7	<p>Website – See Chief Executive Report</p>	
7.8	<p>Marketing –Murdo Morrison</p> <p>Memory sticks under review. Burns umbrellas – too expensive.</p> <p>T-Towel – picture of these shown. These will be available soon at a cost of £4.</p> <p>Robert Burns Guild of Speakers.</p> <p>Tourist Guides – we are at the moment looking for sponsorship.</p> <p>Shop at Peebles – fully manned.</p> <p>Address to the Haggis – final will be held on 10th May alongside the Lasses Lunch.</p> <p>Parliament House – 30th November . Extra-special event – further details will follow.</p> <p>T-shirts being produced.</p>	
7.9	<p>Schools – Isa Hanley Competitions – everything in order. Entry forms are out and need to be back by 22nd March.</p> <p>The programmes will be done by Helena.</p> <p>Visit took place to Hutcheson’s grammar – school facilities are ideal.</p> <p>Catering will be done by the school catering team.</p>	

	<p>Choral comp in hand. Medals and certificates are on order. Link for Ukraine with Scottish school. We are trying to get a link in place.</p> <p>The Jean Armour Burns Trust – they have donated £1,000 to pay for the rental of Hutcheson’s Grammar. The logo will be put on the bottom of the certificates.</p> <p>No questions were asked.</p>	
<p>7.10</p>	<p>Heritage – John Skilling</p> <p>Burns Cottage and Monument Concerns still exist on the state of the monument and the presentation of the cottage displays. The sum of £250K had been identified by NTS as necessary for refurbishment of the monument and it was hoped that work would be put in hand when funding was available.</p> <p>Souter Johnnie’s Cottage, Kirkoswald Rethatching work on the roof would commence when the weather improves.</p> <p>“Dr. Hornbook” Convener reported that South Ayrshire councillor John Allan had arranged for the memorial tablet located between Tarbolton and Willie’s Mill to be refurbished and the area tidied up.</p> <p>Birnie Rhind Statue, Hamilton LABC had now raised the sum required for repairs and the matter had been passed to the council for completion.</p> <p>Newcastle Burns Statue It was noted that Newcastle City Council had refurbishments in hand.</p> <p>Burns Mausoleum, Dumfries Signs of dampness on the stonework which was to be expected as the building dries out. Further redecoration work was planned during the summer months.</p> <p>Theatre Royal, Dumfries The major redevelopment programme was now underway. The work was scheduled to take about twelve months to complete but would result in considerable improvements to the back stage facilities and “public areas”. The auditorium and Victorian ambience would be retained but new seating would be provided. Comment was made regarding the recent “Big Burns Supper” event in Dumfries which attracted many thousands of visitors to the nine day festival in January.</p> <p>Alloway Auld Kirk Due to an unfortunate accident to Mr. McGlashan of the RBBM, no further progress had been made on the project to place identifier plaques at the sites of Burns’ interest at the kirk.</p> <p>Rev. Hamilton Paul Difficulty in tracing descendents of the Rev. Paul. His grave in Broughton Churchyard was overhung by a tree in poor condition and an estimate for removal was £1500.00. It was feared that the Council would flatten the headstone on safety grounds. He would continue to monitor the situation.</p>	

Burns Monument, Dalkeith

Funding was still awaited. A site outside the library had been identified.

Burns Monument, Edinburgh

The Council had reinstated the programme of grass cutting at the monument on Calton Hill and to maintain the grounds. Members of EDBA would assist with this. Historic Scotland may arrange for access to the monument for special visitations.

Burns Statue, Falkirk

No further progress in securing funding. The Lottery Heritage Fund would only consider a match funding proposal and had ruled out any maintenance provision. The NTS had been unresponsive to a request for the services of their stonemason. Other options were being considered and he would report further to a future meeting.

Loreburn Church, Dumfries

Dumfries & Galloway Council had agreed that if the redevelopment went ahead, the plaque would be preserved and reinstated in the new building.

Benches at Alloway

The benches placed by Burns Clubs in Australia have been repainted. Contact has been made with J. O'Lone, the Pacific Rim representative, to try and identify the clubs concerned.

Highland Mary Monument, Greenock

A rededication ceremony was planned for a date to be announced. It was noted that the remains of "Highland Mary" were disinterred in 1920 and relocated to Greenock Cemetery. The lair is owned by Greenock Burns Club.

Burns Garden, Largs

The Burns Garden in Douglas Park, Largs, was in a mess. This would be referred to the local Burns Club for attention.

Burns Statue, Dumfries

The appearance of the statue since specialist cleaning was much improved but may discolour in time due to diesel fumes from the adjacent bus terminus. Some discussion ensued and the possibility was mooted of an approach by local Burnsians to the Council and bus company to consider the ecological and economic advantages of not allowing buses to sit idling at the statue.

Burns Memorials

A list of Burns Memorials worldwide had recently been unearthed in the RBWF office and had been passed to the Heritage Committee for review and updating. It listed 139 statues and busts and an estimated further 250 murals, statuettes, cairns, plaques, windows and gravestones, not including material associated with Burns' contemporaries. After some discussion, it was agreed that in order to make the list manageable and of use to Burns heritage visitors, it would be best if split in three, the first to consist of statues, busts and cairns, second, a list of existing general collections including murals, windows, etc, and third, cemeteries and buildings, etc. It was agreed that in the first instance, plaques and cemeteries would be omitted. Convener agreed to liaise with Gordon Ashley who was preparing a book of known Burns statues worldwide and would report further at the next meeting.

	<p>A wooden bust of Burns on a pedestal has been discovered during the renovation works at Dumfries House, Cumnock. The date and origin was not known.</p> <p>Poosie Nancies, Mauchline</p> <p>Recent damage to the pub caused by a vehicle colliding into the wall, The famous mural on the gable end may require to be replaced.</p>	
<p>7.11</p>	<p>Overseas</p> <p>Pacific Rim – Jim O’Lone No report available</p> <p>Canada – Ronnie O’Byrne No report available</p> <p>U.S.A. – Les Strachan No report available</p>	
<p>7.12</p>	<p>Association Representatives</p> <p>Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs</p> <p>Lanarkshire Association Schools comps underway.</p> <p>Borders Association –</p> <p>Edinburgh & District Association of Burns Clubs Wreath Laying Ceremony – 1st Feb, 21st Annual schools burns festival, Annual Burns poetry festival in July.</p> <p>Fife Association of Burns Clubs Cupar Burns Club – 70 entries for schools comp all of a very high standard.</p> <p>Bowhill People Burns Club – holding children’s comp today.</p> <p>Fife schools competition took place on 6th March in Lochgelly Centre. As usual, it was arranged and financed by Fife Education and Children’s Services in conjunction with Fife Association of Burns Clubs.</p> <p>There were over 170 entries from 46 schools.</p> <p>A request has been made to the Provost for a Civic Reception for the presentation of the trophies to the winners.</p> <p>Glasgow Association of Burns Clubs Wreath Laying – 24th January. Peter came along and represented the Federation. Front of statue will be re-turfed. Well entertained – winners of Bridgeton Burns club schools comp attending.</p> <p>Annual service in Glasgow Cathedral – being going since 2009</p> <p>Made an honorary life member of the association.</p> <p>Concert given by trade house of Glasgow attended by George and Enez Anderson.</p> <p>For the first time school competitions will be held in Glasgow.</p> <p>Grampian Association of Burns Clubs No report</p> <p>Refrewhire Association of Burns Clubs No report</p>	

	<p>Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association Very successful Schools Competition.</p> <p>Thanks to John Caskie for service in St Michael's church.</p> <p>Wreath laying took place at the Mausoleum</p> <p>Browell ceremony – 22nd July</p> <p>Yorkshire Association of Burns Clubs Tartan Ball – Saturday 18th April</p>	
8.	<p>Applications for Membership</p> <p>Individual Membership None</p> <p>Family Membership None</p> <p>Club Membership Whitecraigs Golf Club, Ayr Road, Giffnock, Glasgow</p> <p>Corporate Membership Centre for Robert Burns Studies, University of Glasgow – Scottish Literature</p> <p>Re-Affiliation None</p> <p>School Membership Newburgh Mathers Primary, Newburgh, Aberdeenshire</p>	
9.	<p>AOCB Ian McIntrye – membership. Missed an ideal opportunity at Club Burns Suppers - captive audience . Ideal opportunities to drive forward with membership and for promotion of membership. We have to be much more assertive.</p> <p>Individual commitment to turn up at Burns suppers with application forms required.</p> <p>This is the time to do it with the Direct Debit facility now being put in place.</p> <p>A presentation has been prepared which is available to everyone who wishes to use it.</p> <p>Re-print will be done on the song sheet .</p> <p>Thanks to all for attendance at the meeting and the vital work that the members of the executive do for the work of the Federation. This commitment is very much appreciated.</p> <p>Vote of thanks from Bobby Kane for the Chair.</p>	
10.	<p>Date of next meeting: Saturday 20th June – Camelon Labour Club, Falkirk</p>	