

The Robert Burns World Federation Ltd

Executive Meeting

Venue: Rorison Memorial Church, Ashgill

Date: Saturday 17th June 2017

MINUTES

- Sederunt:** Jean Abdulrahim, Kay Blair, Eric Budgell, Ray Connal, Bill Dawson, Mike Duguid, Jim Gibson, Brian Goldie, Isa Hanley, Peter Hughes, Bobby Kane, Joe McGinty, Ian McIntyre, Helen Morrison, Murdo Morrison, Hazel Morrison, Len Murray, Bill Nolan, Jim O'Lone, Marc Sherland, John Skilling, Margaret Skilling, David Smith, Bob Stewart, Walter Watson
- Apologies:** Enez Anderson, George Anderson, Margaret Anderson, Robin Dodyk, Anne Gaw, Betty Haining, David Hannah, Jim Hunter, Scott Hunter, John Irvine, Gordon Jamieson, Karen Kane, Patricia Leslie, Bob McDonald, Angus Middleton, David Miller, Ronnie O'Byrne, John Paterson, Jim Robertson, Annie Small, Margaret Stokes, Les Strachan, Jim Thomson, Jim Todd, Chris Waddell, Jim Weatherston

Item		Action
3.	<p>Chairman's Remarks Bobby welcomed all to the meeting.</p> <p>Jim O'Lone our Pacific Rim director was at the meeting and was invited to say a few words.</p> <p>Jim had the pleasure of presenting Honorary President medals to Bev Tait and Jim Millar.</p> <p>They had a great weekend in Camperdown where the festival is getting bigger and bigger each year.</p> <p>Thank you to the Federation for giving me the honour of presenting these awards.</p> <p>Bobby advised that thanks were received from Jim and Bev on their awards.</p>	
4.	<p>Minutes of Meeting Proposed – Helen Morrison Seconded – Brian Goldie</p>	
5.	<p>Matters Arising Bobby advised that no further contact was made by Frank Sandeman with regards to the meeting in Fife.</p>	
6.	<p>Finance Update – Jim Thomson Annual Accounts The fiscal year of the RBWF terminated on 30 April 2017 and the Quickbooks accounting system indicates an overall operating profit of £2,990.69 for the 2016/17 financial year. This figure will be amended when the audit is done by our accountant and will reduce when the reconciliations are complete.</p>	

	<p>However, as members are aware, the routine management of our funds in accordance with our Financial Management Plan is carried out by our Budget Information Spreadsheet. This tool provides a budget prediction at the start of the financial year and is amended in real time over the year depending on actual figures. Where possible this spreadsheet uses actual figures for events, such as Conference, as the income for events tends to enter over multiple fiscal years.</p> <p>In terms of the 2016/17 year the Budget Spreadsheet shows an operating profit of £4220 despite a drop in income from membership fees of £3,451. However, an overall profit in excess of £4,000 is welcome given the 2013/14 year showed an operating loss of £34,751 and indicates that RBWF management processes are working.</p> <p>The 2107/18 year budget prediction indicates an operating loss of around £8,500 at this time but it is much too early in the financial year for any concern regarding this figure and we will be better placed to provide a more accurate assessment by Conference in September.</p> <p>Budget Spreadsheets and School Competition accounts are available for members.</p> <p>No questions were asked.</p>	
7.	Reports	
7.1	<p>President – Bobby Kane</p> <p>The Choral Festival in Armadale went very well. Thanks to Peter for providing entertainment. Additional choirs took part this year and we already have interest from other choirs for next year.</p> <p>Special thanks to West Lothian Council and Fauldhouse & Crofthead Burns Club.</p> <p>Visit to Canada – hosted in Ontario region with Ronnie O’Byrne. Visited Winnipeg Burns Club meeting and then on to Calgary.</p> <p>Attended the RBANA Conference where there was fantastic camaraderie.</p> <p>Recently attended the Lapraik Festival. This year there was a Masters in the afternoon, which was won by Susan Chown. A deserving winner of a fantastic competition.</p>	
7.2	<p>Conference – Jane Brown (Jimmy Gibson reported in Jane’s absence)</p> <p>Conference as you know this year again in Peebles.</p> <p>Entertainment on the Friday will be provided by Luath and also the company as usual.</p> <p>Saturday’s seminar will be delivered by Dr Rhona Brown on the subject of Robert Ferguson and his influence on Burns.</p> <p>The band on the Saturday night will be the same as last year. Donations for the raffle on the Saturday night would be appreciated.</p> <p>The Silent Auction will also run again this year throughout the weekend. Any donations would be appreciated.</p>	

	<p>Advance notice that the next planned conferences will be as follows:</p> <p>2018 – Irvine 2019 – Glasgow 2020 – Dumfries</p>	
7.3	<p>Literature – Mike Duguid The Chronicle is almost complete for this year but still some time for articles from Clubs. Please pass on any articles to Bill.</p> <p>Finances – we are putting the printing of the Chronicle out to tender this year.</p> <p>Digitisation – we now have over 90 Chronicles digitised. Anyone wishing to sponsor a Chronicle, please get in touch with the office.</p> <p>Deadline for the next newsletter is end of next week.</p> <p>Mike has reviewed the book “Immortal Memory of Robert Burns by Christopher Whatley” – Mike recommends this book as an excellent read.</p>	
7.4	<p>Archivist – Bill Dawson Looking forward to the move to new premises and how we might display our archives and how we can provide a library resource.</p>	
7.5	<p>Marketing – Murdo Morrison We had a very constructive marketing meeting this morning.</p> <p>Allanton Jolly Beggars 60th Anniversary is happening this week.</p> <p>We are indeed looking forward to the move to our new premises. The potential for sales at Dower House is severely restricted.</p> <p>We continue with our admiration for the newsletter. Please show your wholehearted support for the newsletter and supply emails of those who may wish to receive this.</p> <p>Shows/Festivals – the opinion is that we are very insular with regards to this i.e. Edinburgh Festival, we should be in there.</p> <p>We are interested in what is happening in Clubs/Assocs – please provide information on any events coming up.</p> <p>Looked at sample of calendar – must be ready for Peebles Conference.</p> <p>The Address to the Haggis competition will take place this year in Kirkcudbright on the 21st/22nd of October. We will run a competition for the Juniors on the Saturday and for others on the Sunday.</p>	
7.6	<p>Schools – Patricia Leslie (Isa Hanley in Patricia’s absence) Bobby expressed his thanks to Isa for stepping in at both schools festivals and today.</p>	

	<p>Isa thanked the Federation for the flowers she received after the schools competitions.</p> <p>A lively discussion this morning. Good reports were received for the two competitions. Thanks go to all the stewards and to Peter and Ian for the entertainment.</p> <p>SSCBA is now known as Dumfries & Galloway Burns Association.</p> <p>We are currently talking about the dates for the 2018 competitions. Confirmation will be given in due course.</p> <p>The venue for the competitions will also be confirmed in due course as we would like the competitions to move around.</p> <p>The art and project numbers were down this year.</p> <p>Helen provided a report for the St Petersburg Forum. The committee has the dates for the students visiting which will be passed on.</p> <p>Some areas may change – this has been passed back to co-ordinators.</p>	
<p>7.7</p>	<p>Heritage – Ian McIntyre</p> <p>John Skilling provided a report on the Burns Statue in Alloway. A survey and preparatory work has been done and the work is due to start next year as the funding is in place.</p> <p>The memorial cairn in Leglen Wood, which belongs to us, has suffered a serious land slippage. Ian will ask David Miller to visit the site and provide an expert view on the situation.</p> <p>The Hamilton Paul statue has now been fully restored.</p> <p>The Kirkcudbright Bi-Centenary Lamp – the repair work is about to be done.</p> <p>The Black Bull has now been taken over and seems to be in good hands.</p> <p>The Globe Inn is up for lease.</p>	
<p>7.8</p>	<p>Membership</p> <p>A meeting of the membership forum has taken place and a new membership form is ready to go to the printer.</p> <p>Part of the process was looking at the membership offer and some work has been done on this. A full report will be given at Conference.</p>	
<p>7.9</p>	<p>Admin – to include 200 Club Draw</p> <p>Website</p>	

We continue to promote Club events, etc. via the Events Section of the RBWF website – check it regularly for updates.

Web shop/Sales

Sales still going at a steady pace.

Social Media

We now have 1413 followers on Twitter and 1111 likes on Facebook. We are maintaining regular interactions across the global network with some very positive feedback being received.

Recent posts include the winners of the schools competition, Lasses Lunch review and photos and of course Club news and events that is sent to us.

Membership

The figures as mentioned previously are down for this year so far. However, some Clubs do pay after their AGM, so we are still hoping to receive some outstanding payments. As always, prior to the AGM, there is another opportunity to remind members in arrears that unless their membership is up to date, they will be unable to vote in any forthcoming election(s).

Premises

At last some news on the premises. We have been contacted by East Ayrshire Council to advise that work is now planned for the building and they are hoping to start of the summer months with a view to us taking occupancy of the premises around the end of September. So, fingers crossed, there are no further delays.

Other

Bev and myself attended the Lasses Lunch in Irvine last month, which was fantastic. Great feedback was received. Thank you to all who attended and a big thanks to all who organised the event on behalf of the Federation.

Executive Committee

It may not seem like nearly 2 years since the last call for Executive committee members. After the Conference this year, a letter will go out to all members inviting them to join our Executive team.

	<p>Existing Committee members who wish to remain on the Executive should also return the form to contact that they wish to continue serving on the Executive and if you have a preference to either stay with the same committee or you would like to serve on a different one.</p> <p>All appointments continue to be for a period of 2 years.</p>	
<p>7.9</p>	<p>Overseas</p> <p>Pacific Rim – Jim O’Lone Nothing to report</p> <p>Canada – Ronnie O’Byrne</p> <p>U.S.A. – Les Strachan Nothing to Report</p>	
<p>7.10</p>	<p>Association Representatives</p> <p>Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs – Ray Connal Ayrshire clubs all seem to be very active with various projects active and in process. There have been lots of highlights. The Holy Fair in June was an enjoyable day out but it would seem that the presence of Robert Burns theme was conspicuous by its absence, credit to Willie Stewart for doing his best to retain the theme. As there is a town committee running the event now, it would seem to be changing to a “Family Day Out” and why not.</p> <p>The Lapraik Competition weekend was another successful event due to the efforts of New Cumnock Burns Club and friends and the Champion of Champions Trophy was won by Susan Chown, a worthy winner and congratulations to participants.</p> <p>Kilbirnie Roseberry with Barrmill Jolly Beggars and Garnock Valley held a dedication service on Burns association with the Kilbirnie horse sales where he had purchased “the rid wig Kilbirnie Blastie” which caused him no end of trouble. There is now a commemorative plinth in the Auld Kirk, Kilbirnie in recognition of this event due in no small measure of the input and efforts of Jim Thomson and Colin Hunter McQueen of Kilbirnie Roseberry Burns Club.</p> <p>On Saturday 24th June, Alloway Burns Club are hosting a coffee morning in the village hall to raise funds for their “Burns for Life” primary schools Burns Supper. AABA will be hosting the St Petersburg schools 61 Tam O’Shanter play in November. All of the Clubs will be organising their annual wreath laying celebrations.</p> <p>These are not the only highlights as all of the Ayrshire clubs do have, in the main a very busy programme of events, meetings, club nights and visits to locations associated with Robert Burns.</p> <p>Fife Association of Burns Clubs – No report</p>	

Glasgow Association of Burns Clubs – Marc Sherland

Member group includes Centre for Robert Burns Studies. Paisley are also going to affiliate.

The Newsletter is proving very successful going from 14 to 225 recipients since June last year and is read in many different countries.

Currently working with the Mitchell Library on an event. We are planning on hosting the Russian group for at least one day.

Royal Conservatoire event “Aye Can” for young people between 12 and 17. Out of 25, 22 are sponsored by various Burns Clubs.

Breaking Burns out of the traditional mould.

Falkirk & District –Brian Goldie

Continuing work with the local schools. Working on a project with Falkirk High School covering deeper aspects of Burns.

Organising a visit for the Russian students.

Consideration to be given to Falkirk High School or Denny High School for the 2018 Schools competitions.

Grampian Association of Burns Clubs – No report

Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs – Kay Blair

Delighted to be part of the very successful schools competitions this year.

Allanton Jolly Beggars – 60th Anniversary.

Had a stall at the Shotts Highland Games.

Covington Main, wreath laying. Some of the school children are taking part. Thanks to Fauldhouse & Crofthead for keeping it tidy.

Dumfries & Galloway Burns Association – Mike Duguid

We were delighted to have won both the Primary and Secondary Competitions.

The annual Browwell Service is coming up on 19th July.

Dover & East Kent Scottish Society – John Paterson

No report.

	<p>Yorkshire District – Jim Robertson (read by Margaretann) The Yorkshire District held their Bowls, Quiz and AGM at West Bretton near Wakefield on Saturday 17th June. The host Society this year was Doncaster Caledonian Society.</p> <p>The bowls matches managed to complete all games in dry weather with the winners again being Bradford ‘A’ with their other team Bradford ‘B’ being runners-up.</p> <p>This was followed by afternoon tea which was attended by 30 members prior to the AGM.</p> <p>Mrs May McGuffog retired as President and the new President elected was Mr Ian McMasters, with Prof Ann Macaskill being appointed Vice President. Mrs Vivien M’Itwarmwari was elected Secretary/Treasurer for the coming year.</p> <p>After the AGM the Inter Society Quiz took place, with seven Societies taking part. After a tight contest the eventual winners were Bradford with Clumber (Sheffield) being runners up.</p> <p>The Tartan Ball was very well attended on 29th April when we welcomed the SVP Mr Ian McIntyre and his wife. The Toast to the Federation and Scotland was proposed by Prof Ann Macaskill Past President of the Caledonian Society of Sheffield. Ian MacPhail and his Scottish Dance Band played for the dancing after the dinner.</p> <p>Advance Notice for all to note: The Tartan Ball next year will be held once again at the Holiday Inn on Saturday 28th April. Further details later.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Applications for Membership</p> <p>Individual Membership Mrs Georgina Parker, Kilmarnock Mr Alexander McFarlane, West Lothian Mr Gordon Thomson, West Lothian</p> <p>Family Membership Mr & Mrs A Meldrum, Kilmacolm</p> <p>Junior Miss Sophie Craig, Alloway</p> <p>Club Membership None</p> <p>Corporate Membership None</p> <p>School Membership St David's RC Primary School</p> <p>Re-Affiliation None</p>	

9.	AOCB Thank you to LABC for hosting the meeting again and for the fabulous lunch.	
10.	Date of next meetings: Board – 30th June 2017 Executive – 18th November 2017	

DRAFT