

The Robert Burns World Federation Ltd
QUARTERLY MEETING

Venue: RBWF Head Office, Kilmarnock

Date: 17th November 2018

MINUTES

1. **Sederunt:** Margaret Anderson, Enez Anderson, Helena Anderson Wright, Kay Blair, Eric Budgell, Martin Cassidy, Ray Connal, Margaretann Dougall, Brian Goldie, Joyce Goldie, Ann Hamilton, David Hannah, Peter T Hughes, Jim Hunter, Gordon Jamieson, Bobby Kane, Beth Kerr, Frances Marshall, Melvyn McCrostie, Lesley McDonald, Bob McDonald, Ian McIntyre, Fred McKenzie, David Miller, Murdo Morrison, Hazel Morrison, Bill Nolan, Andrew Raeburn, Janice Ross, Marc Sherland, John Skilling, Margaret Skilling, Annie Small, David Smith, Robert Stewart, Walter Watson, Jim Weatherston,

In Attendance: Laura Hoggard (Admin) Bev Thomson (Office Manager)

2. **Apologies:** Jean Abdulrahim, Jane Brown, Bill Dawson, Robin Dodyk, Mike Duguid, Jimmy Gibson, Betty Haining, John Hannah, Joe McGinty, Moira McIntyre, Ronnie O'Byrne, Jim O'Lone, Jim Robertson, Patrick Scott, Margaret Stokes, Les Strachan

Item		Action
3.	<p>Chairman's Remarks</p> <p>The Chair, Bill Nolan (BN) welcomed all present to the meeting at 12.58pm</p> <p>Before proceeding with the published agenda, BN expressed thanks to Mrs Enez Anderson for allowing those present who attended the funeral of her husband and Past and Honorary President, George Anderson to share in the memories of such a truthful, unbiased and unpolitical man.</p> <p>His sentiments were echoed by Peter T. Hughes who gave a further tribute to Mr James Fairweather of the Arbroath Burns Club and expressed sadness at having lost two such strong gentlemen and Burnsians and then a minute silence was observed.</p>	
4.	<p>Minutes of Meeting – June 2018 Proposed – Enez Anderson Seconded – Marc Sherland</p>	
5.	<p>Matters Arising No matters arising.</p>	
6.	<p>Finance Update – Jim Thomson (read out by BN) The Chair reminded those present that whilst Jim Thomson has stepped back from his role as Finance Director, he is continuing to support us in this area and has produced his report as follows:</p>	

	<p>Finance Report November 2018</p> <p>The current Profit and Loss Report on RBWF finances shows an operating loss of £4,886 in the current financial year. This is misleading as the Lasses Lunch figures indicate a loss of £1,355 due to the collection of income during the previous fiscal year. The Lunch actually made a profit of £695 which is a differential on the current accounts of £2,050. There also other small anomalies which effect the current net position and I calculate the immediate operating loss to be £2,761.</p> <p>This is at a time when Membership income for the current year has not yet been requested from members and as a result the second quarter of the year has always shown a deficit and the current one is in no way alarming.</p> <p>I would refer members to the Budget Information Spreadsheet (copy attached) which indicates a year end operating profit of £12,262 and even allowing for the £10,000 of sponsorship for the Irvine Conference shown in this figure and year end profit should still occur.</p> <p>There are some intangibles, particularly in relation to office operating costs, that may reduce the final amount but all indicators are that the RBWF will finish the year in the black. However, I would continue to advise Members that financial management and adherence to the Financial Management Plan is essential as is continual searching for additional income streams.</p> <p>Jim Thomson</p> <p>The Chair concluded this section by reiterating a sizeable profit from this year's Conference – a massive lift and discussions around the importance of membership income will be discussed later by Marc Sherland in his report.</p> <p>Adoption of the Finance report was proposed by Ian McIntyre and seconded by Peter T Hughes.</p>	
7.	Reports	
7.1	<p>President – Bill Nolan</p> <p>BN began his report by commenting on how hard it was to believe how quickly the first few months of his presidential year have gone with him meeting so many very interesting and genuine people along the way and receiving such goodwill.</p> <p>His first “official” event had been at the Dumfries Howff Burns Club with entertainment from Russian students whose clear love of Scotland had been an inspiration; local youngsters from D&G had also been involved at this event which had again underlined that RBWF was a Global Organisation that has a duty to be much more outward looking.</p> <p>This had been the message that he had carried on his recent visit to Calgary and to Medicine Hat where both he and his message had been warmly welcomed. The same warm welcome had also been evident during his visit to the Burns Club of London to celebrate their 150th Anniversary. The Burns Club of London had crammed a lot into his three day visit, including Reading of The First Psalm as paraphrased by Burns on Sunday morning followed by wreath laying (in torrential rain) at the Burns Statue on The Embankment and a floral tribute being laid in Poets’ Corner in Westminster Abbey. He</p>	

	<p>had also managed to attend a private lunch in the House of Commons, with an opportunity to promote Burns being restored to the Scottish CforE, followed by a gathering in The Caledonian Club. During the evening, he had also attended a superb production of The Jolly Beggars in The British Library, produced and directed by Professor Kirsteen McCue of Glasgow University. A fuller report is to be found online in the President’s Blog and in the Newsletter.</p> <p>The Chair concluded his Presidential Report by expressing concern and urging caution over the suitability of the premises at John Dickie Street, Kilmarnock (the locus of the meeting) for Plenary Quarterly Meetings, or even for meetings of the various Committees on a Quarterly basis. His attention had been drawn to the constraints on numbers attending created by a combination of Fire Regulations, Insurance, and Building Regulations that made it almost impossible to host full meetings. He would report on his deliberations to the Board in an effort to find a solution but stressed that the meetings being held in the mornings of Quarterly Meetings would by necessity have to be restricted to accredited members of the various Sub-Committees with no room for observers, guests or even spouses attending because of spatial constraints. This could also impact on the be capacity for Quarterly Meetings and a possible return to the previous system of taking Quarterly Meetings round different parts of Scotland should not be dismissed. The Chair stressed that restricting numbers on Sub-Committees because of lack of space should not be viewed as a viable permanent solution but asked for members to appreciate the difficulties that various Regulations were creating.</p>	<p>BN</p> <p>BOARD/BT</p>
<p>7.2</p>	<p>Conference – Apologies from Jane Brown (report read by Margaretann Dougall)</p> <p>“I hope you all agree that Irvine was a great success. We were really pleased with it and the feedback. Thanks must go specifically to Irvine Burns Club, Irvine Lasses Burns Club, North Ayrshire Council, Bill Nolan, Annie Small and Margaret Greenlees.</p> <p>We will be trying to replicate its success in Glasgow with the help of Glasgow clubs and Marc Sherland, Jim Thomson and I (Jane Brown) are meeting with the hotel this Thursday (22nd November) to put arrangements in place and finalise prices. Marc Sherland and Enez Anderson have now joined our Conference Committee on a temporary basis as their local knowledge will be invaluable in creating and managing local items for the weekend’s agenda e.g. venues for a Ceilidh and the Installation Dinner, as well as bus tours to various sites within Glasgow relating to Burns.</p> <p>The 2019 Conference is now firmly in the planning stage at the moment and we remain confident of being able to announce a full programme during March 2019.”</p> <p>There were no questions and the Sub-Committee’s Report was noted.</p>	<p>JB</p> <p>JB</p>
<p>7.3</p>	<p>Literature – Apologies from Mike Duguid (with a Report read by Janice Ross)</p> <p>“We have had an exciting and riveting committee meeting despite Mike Duguid not being here today.</p>	

	<p>Among the issues discussed by the Literature Sub-Committee in Mike’s absence were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Centralisation of all Burns memorabilia that exist in Scotland with a specific need for the collation of all memorials that exists in Lodges, Clubs etc. which could then be catalogued. Such an in-gathering could promote research if we knew what existed although Literature recognised that this was much more within the remit of the Heritage Committee for appropriate action. 2. Newsletter was “a wonderful piece of literature” which could benefit from a regular feature focussing on the personal life-story of a prominent Burnsian. 3. Reference made to the “wonderful 2019 calendar” which could readily become the basis for a tourist trail around those places that featured in the calendar. Perhaps there was a possible link with cycling clubs etc. which the Literature Committee saw as a good way to raise the prestige of the Federation and also in encouraging people to get involved with places where Burns stayed. 4. The Literature Committee suggested that the Federation should undertake a study of the revenue value of Burns books sold in Scotland with a view to negotiating a sales commission of (say) 1p per book sold via publishers as revenue earner. Perhaps as a starting point, someone from Glasgow’s Mitchell Library could be invited to attend a meeting of the Literature Committee to advise members on new Burns books being published with the Literature Committee meeting in The Mitchell Library on the morning of a Quarterly Meeting before the Plenary Session. 5. The Literature Committee commented on £40k grant that once been received but was no longer available from The Scottish Government and invited the Board to enquire if this funding source could be reinstated. 6. The Literature Committee enquired if enough was being done to involve young people especially in creating a new role that was different from the current exclusively performing role of Young Burnsians and acknowledged that not all young people wanted to recite poetry, sing or play instruments. <p>The Chair made various comments on the practicalities of some of the above and advised that, for example, an Ambassador scheme for young people was being considered by the Board but would require funding that was not currently available, nor was there any likelihood in the current economic climate of The Scottish Government re-instating what had been a one-off payment.</p> <p>The Chair invited Marc Sherland to respond by clarifying the role of Burns Scotland in collating information on Burns artefacts, etc. which they were already actively doing via their website for the National Collection. MS outlined the part that RBWF and its members could play in this activity by identifying its within their ownership or locale and</p>	<p>BOARD</p> <p>MD/BN</p> <p>BOARD</p> <p>BOARD</p> <p>BOARD</p> <p>BOARD</p> <p>BOARD</p> <p>MS</p>
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	<p>that they might wish to keep him informed as he already represented RBWF on Burns Scotland.</p> <p>MS also commented on The Mitchell Library and specifically on the Burns Room which he indicated was not only a hired space for which payment would be sought but also that there were no scheduled tours of The Burns' Room on Saturdays unless by special arrangements.</p> <p>David Hannah commented that at a previous Conference, delegates had been invited to visit The Mitchell Library and MS confirmed that he hoped to include this opportunity as part of the 2019 Conference.</p> <p>The Chair indicated that the Board would consider these observations along with the Literature Convener.</p>	MS/JB
7.4	<p>Archivist – Apologies from Bill Dawson</p> <p>While there was no report from Bill Dawson, the Chair commented that the 2019 edition of The Burns Chronicle should be available next week for distribution. He had also had informal discussions with Bill Dawson over displaying some artefacts and paintings within the new office and would progress this with Beverley Thomson over the next month.</p> <p>Bill Dawson had also expressed concern over the current website, a view that was shared by the Chair and others with a full “fit for purpose” assessment being required early next year subject to costs.</p>	BN/BD/BT
7.5	<p>Marketing – Peter T Hughes</p> <p>PTH reported on a meeting of “some very enthusiastic committee members resulting in very positive input” who had created and supported a Marketing Strategy based on Key Activities as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Generation of funds</i> 2. <i>Sponsors</i> 3. <i>Sale of goods</i> 4. <i>Encouragement of donation</i> 5. <i>Sales of Friendship tiles</i> 6. <i>Recruitment of individuals</i> <p>YOTH (Year of the Haggis): Despite a previous relationship, there was no support funding available from the Fresh Meat Traders Association but permission was given to them as a goodwill gesture to let them use the “Blue Burns” logo. Further efforts to involve Hamlyn Oats in this sponsorship were on-going but with limited success only via product in kind.</p> <p>IOA (Isle of Arran) updating deal from 2014</p> <p>Went back to see managing director and invited him to sponsor newsletter. Asked to increase sponsorship to £7k – is having a serious look and we will look at what we will do in return i.e. advertising in Newsletter and Chronicle.</p>	<p>PTH</p> <p>PTH</p>

	<p>Identified a major company for schools competition – confidential at the moment and discussion ongoing. They might even do a 1 year deal to begin with. 3rd sponsor for outreach fund. E.g. schools, MSPs, MPs etc. 7k was requested.</p> <p>A major drinks company – not in conflict with IOA – is also being targeted as a Corporate Member but is likely to be a longer term prospect</p> <p>If we get one of these sponsors we will be happy with Hamlyn’s in addition as a minor sponsor</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Recruitment was a major funding source for RBWF and anyone involved with Club events, dinners, etc. should take the new form and hand out freely as we need to improve recruitment. 2) Encourage each club to have one raffle per annum to raise funds for Federation – we might need to promote this ourselves through associations etc. or with President making a direct appeal to Members and Member Club to “Back Burns on his Birthday2. 3) Clubs – £15 made for the Federation by selling each tile – quick and easy. Let’s start by selling first hundred. A great opportunity for overseas Clubs to get involved. 4) Decision taken that RBWF will not carry any sizeable stock of small items but only operate on a sale or return basis only. While it was useful to sell pens etc. they should not be a core element in fundraising with a need to explore big hitters. <p>To conclude, a really enthusiastic group on the marketing committee with Ken Montgomerie of RBANA participating as almost an ex-officio member – given us his thoughts of overseas members who might even be loosely associated with the Federation.</p> <p>Chair invited questions of which there were none and the Marketing Report was noted</p>	<p>PTH</p> <p>BOARD</p> <p>BT</p>
<p>7.6</p>	<p>EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Lesley McDonald (LM)</p> <p>LM started report by advising that they are now bringing in tertiary education hence the new name of the education committee and that a very encouraging meeting was delivered with dates and locations confirmed as follows:</p> <p>23 March – Secondary competition at Irvine Royal Academy 27 Apr - Choral competition at St Athanasius PS, Carluke 11 May – Primary competition at Irvine Royal Academy</p> <p>Regarding the choral competition, potentially 8 choirs are expected from Lanarkshire alone – hoping for others from other areas e.g. New Cumnock Discussion was had around the Friendship Tiles and Membership Forms.</p> <p>Programmes at previous competitions sold at £1 and this year will include reference to membership of the RBWF. Hope adults at meetings will take the opportunity for Friendship Tiles which will be on sale at the various National Finals.</p>	<p>LM</p> <p>LM</p>

	<p>There is a current revamp of the Schools Curriculum and Schedule to include Scots Language for P4/5 and this was noted too as being part of our own RBWF Constitution. However, it was agreed that if you wished to be considered as a candidate for the Young Burnsian award, then you must have something Burns in your repertoire at the National Finals.</p> <p>After discussion, the meeting agreed to holding raffles in schools for first time and indicated that it was seeking to make the Education Committee self-funding.</p> <p>Other items included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adjudicators – confirmed that from now on there will be no need for an accompanist and that USB flash drives will be permitted as long as not commercial. This decision will save £150 per year. If volunteer Burnsians were to act as Adjudicators, there would be considerable savings and IM reported that the response to this had been outstanding. 2. A budget has been presented to and accepted by the Board that indicated considerable savings in the costs of staging the National Finals. Sponsorship etc. was still being sought as we need as much money as possible coming into the Federation. 3. Encourage schools to become members should become a priority and LM commented on how in the past she has given one of her own copies of the Burns Chronicle to the local high school. Old chronicles (from 2014) have been given offered by the office for distribution. <p>An enquiry for assistance has been received from the Sunday Mail re creative writing and specifically in relation to a Boyd Tunnock competition whereby the winner will get a tour of the factory – the competition involves the writing on a biscuit wrapper. Education Committee has now agreed a national competition for creative writing being extended into a new competition for poetry writing and a trophy will be provided for this. Kay Blair confirmed that such a competition already existed in Larkhall and offered to share her experience of this.</p> <p>Confirmation was given that there would still be a contribution made available towards school transport costs in the budget for the Choral Competition.</p> <p>Martin Cassidy asked about the possibility of creating a Children’s Federation with a national event for children in the afternoon of the AGM and offered to sponsor such an event which, while agreed in principle by the Education Committee, would now be discussed further with the Conference Committee for implementation.</p> <p>The Chair asked for questions and the Education Committee’s report was adopted.</p>	<p>LM</p> <p>BOARD</p> <p>EdCom/MS</p> <p>IM/K Blair</p> <p>IM</p> <p>LM/Martin Cassidy/JB</p>
<p>7.7</p>	<p>Heritage – David Miller</p> <p>A full meeting with a wide range of subjects as summarised below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leglen Wood – nothing happening regarding the footpath. Walks are now being diverted through Federation land as the path is quite safe. Stable as it can be. Mac McCrostie, a new member to the Heritage Committee from Ayr 	<p>DM for all</p>

	<p>Burns Club, reported on trying to tidy up pathways at Leglen Wood. Surprised SAC council hasn't done something regarding the path.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Alloway Monument – scaffolding is now down and confident will be done by January – a good news story. 3. Mauchine's Poosie Nansie's – some work has been carried out but not sure if the part knocked down will be rebuilt. 4. Sale of The Globe Inn, Dumfries: close to going through – new owner is Annandale Distillers – not quite finalised yet. 5. Dumfries statue – repaired and cleaned. Luath nose repaired – a great result. 6. Ellisland Farm – Applying for major grants. Too early to say what is happening here. Just seeing first presentations. 7. Robert Fergusson grave – Edinburgh Burns Club and Fergusson Society aware. Not good at night to keep tidy. 8. Also concerns re Clarinda grave. Edinburgh BC looking at this and will keep us informed. 9. Highland Mary Memorial at Greenock being surveyed (?). 10. Drukken Steps/Eglinton Woods Cairn at McKinnon Terrace in Irvine – BN in discussion with council who are maintaining it. In good condition – one to watch. 11. Burns Monument in Edinburgh – meeting to review being held on 9 December, 11am-4pm – mould growing out of it but Council not doing anything yet. 12. Prestonpans monument reported to be in good condition. 13. Trysting thorn – looks nice and tidy but might move plaque to front. 14. Mac reported on a statue – another good news from North East England 15. Citizens Theatre statue – we should write to them – keep an eye on this (see note below) Thanks to Marc Sherland – regarding the reminder of Burns Scotland website and also for updating on Citizens Theatre statues which are definitely being refurbished in some way and will move to front of building. MS in contact with Union Bank. 16. BG in touch with Mr Keenely / Hamilton Paul grave – Mr Keenely has been a great help. 17. Nephew of Robert Burns buried in Glasgow Necropolis and the site is now much more presentable site. 18. Biggar Statue – purchased by Carluke Historical Society – will be moved. PTH – an amicable outcome and now safe. <p>Question raised as to who could clean the statue in the foyer of the Head Office building (here!) IM will speak regarding this to DM. (Suggestions given of John and team in Failford and stone expert – Alan Menzies)</p> <p>Committee Report noted with congratulations on diligence.</p>	<p>DM for all</p> <p>MS</p> <p>PTH</p> <p>IM</p>
<p>7.8</p>	<p>Membership Report – Marc Sherland</p> <p>Confirmation of the expectation for all clubs to hand out membership forms.</p>	<p>ALL</p>

	<p>Discussion around the following topics which are currently ongoing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A letter will go to clubs re Backing Burns on his Birthday. 2. Writing to all MSPs – if we could say we had x number of politicians signed up that would be advantageous. 3. Fireside – ref Cotter Sat Night 4. St Andrew Night – an ideal opportunity for mentioning the Federation. 5. Schools for Burns – parents – once a school joined how else to maximise their membership? 6. Young ambassadors as a project for involving young people 7. Student – further education – possibility of recruitment on campus 8. Scholarship 9. Promoting Burns – Mauchline Holy Fair 10. Actively attending events where worthwhile and choosing carefully – Scottish theme etc. 11. Get engaged to Burns– contacting lapsed affiliated clubs – encourage them to re-join. 12. Song and dance <p>MS reiterated to all present of the importance of the first ever lecture between the RBWF and the Centre for Robert Burns Studies on the 30th November at the Kelvin Hall - Nigel Leask and Catherine Czerkawska – a free event and all present should consider attending.</p>	<p>MS for all</p>
<p>7.9</p>	<p>IAN MCINTYRE RE ALZHEIMER PROECT</p> <p>IM was invited by the Chair to discuss his progress with a new project regarding the possibility of the RBWF involvement with Alzheimer’s Scotland.</p> <p>IM explained that as Alzheimer’s has reached almost epidemic levels there is good evidence of benefits from reminiscence therapy. Benefits till latter stages of the disease-pleasure derived from music and song. The production of a CD had been suggested with advice having been received from experts suggesting it needs to be bespoke and tailored to individuals to be more effective. IM commented that would not a problem and that he will be meeting with Alzheimer Scotland in the next week and that he has already had initial discussions with both medical consultants and our IT support at Head office. This is a good news project that will be cost neutral and will hope to have an update for the next board meeting.</p> <p>This report was met favourably from those present.</p> <p>BRIAN GOLDIE RE PROF. MURRAY PITTOCK</p> <p>BN then made reference to an earlier point made by the Literature committee and confirmed that the RBWF have been in touch with Professor Murray Pittock and that BG been putting together a questionnaire to assist his team.</p> <p>BG updated those present as follows:</p>	<p>IM</p> <p>BG all</p>

	<p>The Robert Burns World Federation will be assisting Professor Murray Pittock with the project he has undertaken to establish the worth of Robert Burns, in terms of finance to the Scottish economy.</p> <p>This will be a lengthy process and will involve a questionnaire which will be sent to all members, clubs and associations.</p> <p>The federation will be grateful for the cooperation of everyone in this matter.</p> <p>It will also be necessary to contact other groups because as we are all aware the numbers of * unregulated * Burns suppers and events which take place out with the influence of RBWF are many and we will also have to rely on the goodwill of these organisations to obtain a reasonably true picture.</p> <p>I will also try to speak to individuals, who like many here entertain at numerous events, albeit any information received from our own people is easier to obtain and is of course easier to collate.</p> <p>As you will all be aware, the range of expenses relating to Burns themed events differs from club to club but I will try to cover the whole gambit including of course the financial benefits of events specifically run for charities and sponsorships.</p> <p>The study will obviously require to be as comprehensive as possible and in that respect, I would like to direct this aspect of the enquiry to those who organise events and who incur expense from a different perspective in that they incur costs relating to venue, catering, transportation/overnight accommodation, entertainment, payment and or gifts for guest speakers.</p> <p>There is also the question of expenditure incurred for the provision of raffle prizes. I appreciate that in the case of many local club events raffle prizes are donated by members.</p> <p><u>Questionnaire</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many Burns themed events do you attend as an individual in the course of a year? 2. Typically, what is your cash outlay? Including ticket, transport, drinks, highland wear dress hire, or any other outlay associated with the event? 3. Do you participate in the entertainment aspect of Burns suppers for example? If so how many do you take part in, in a season? 4. Do you organise events and can you give any indication of the costs for venue, catering and miscellaneous outlays for expenses especially relating to guest speakers? 5. If your events are run for the benefit of charity/charities, what level of donation are you likely to attain? 	<p>BG all</p>
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	<p>6. Do you seek sponsorship from business, local authority or any other organisation?</p> <p>This will go to everyone we have an email address for – please send in suggestions. The information supplied will be forwarded to Prof Pittock’s researcher and an economist has been engaged by them with the intention to distil an overall value with the results being presented to the Scottish Government.</p> <p>BN confirmed that the RBWF are not involved in the mechanics of the project but important that we get as much information as we can to enable us to assist.</p> <p>BG closed his report by confirming that he will be contacting as many bowling clubs, masonic lodges etc. as possible with the latter having over 4k in Scotland and all have at least one Burns Supper.</p>	<p>BG</p>
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Admin – to include 200 Club Draw</p> <p>Feedback from the Conference at Irvine was excellent – only slight complaint was from some people at Saturday lunch regarding a lack of bar staff but otherwise it was very well received.</p> <p>Chronicle/Renewals Notices are slightly delayed as we won’t have the Chronicle with us until the end of next week. To try and reduce postage we will liaise with as many local people as possible to assist in distribution.</p> <p>New office administrator Laura has now been with us for a few weeks and has settled in very well.</p> <p>Once we have the completed schools schedule then we will be sending that out to all the schools in Scotland in anticipation of lots of requests for certificates.</p> <p>We have had an initial meeting with Alloway Burns Club in relation to next year’s Lasses Lunch – a reminder that this is to be held in the Brig o Doon House Hotel in Alloway. It is slightly earlier on the 7th April 2019 and details will be coming out soon for this.</p> <p>200 club draw was completed.</p>	
<p>8.1</p>	<p>International Reports</p> <p>BN reiterated the importance of conference calling and this technique should be fine tuned and in place by January.</p> <p>Pacific Rim – Jim O’Lone</p> <p>The Pacific Rim AGM, I attended in Melbourne went very well (refer November Newsletter). All going well - The Canberra Highland Society and Burns Club have agreed to host next year’s AGM on the 19th – 20th October 2019. This is still to be confirmed by all Pacific Rim members. Hope all goes well at meeting and best wishes to all attending</p>	<p>JO’L</p>

	<p>Canada – Ronnie O’Byrne RBANA conference 4-6 May Most clubs in Canada started winter program Concert program discussed and looked very attractive as they were really positive people and can hopefully see benefit of them coming on board</p> <p>U.S.A. – Les Strachan Nothing to Report.</p>	<p>R O’B</p> <p>LS</p>
<p>8.2</p>	<p>Association Representatives In ideal world reports will be sent in advance – not what happened in past that matters but what happens in future. Let’s look forward – newsy and happening.</p> <p>Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs – Ray Connal James Waite been helping keep clubs up to speed with individual events Wreath layings and January celebrations were being arranged and organised</p> <p>Glasgow Association of Burns Clubs – Marc Sherland “Aye Can” in July and again in 2019 Concert in Oct – and one again next year if possible. Will work with Conference Committee to make it best it can be. Wreath laying around 25th January not sure of date yet Book I am writing for conference – “Burns in Glasgow” Rev Whitley funeral – staunch Burnsian</p> <p>Falkirk & District – Brian Goldie Brian and Joyce judging P1-3 next Thursday 4/5/6/7 will be the following week Will be attending St Andrew night events Busy organising area for central Scotland area competitions taking place on 22 Feb More interest than last year from schools</p> <p>Dumfries and Galloway – noted in absentia Anniversary service at St Michael’s advancing 16 February for D& G Schools competition</p> <p>Edinburgh District – Gordon Jamieson Been in contact with Ruth Fisher of Underbelly – 24 days of advent 9 December will open – 24 buildings open one per day St George School for Girls - for Edi burgh Schools competition on 2 March Emailed Rob McGregor – re meeting with First Officer of US Reserved 6 seats for St Giles event Booked annual wreath laying for 27 January –let us know if coming EDBCA – Tom McIlwraith date now on 1st June – changed date</p> <p>Grampian Association of Burns Clubs – Helena Anderson Wright Very successful concert for school winners – RNLI Mr and Mrs Goldie and Lesley McDonald and Marc Sherland attended</p>	<p>ALL LOCAL ASSOCNS.</p>

	<p>St Andrews day event at end of month School comp to be held in March 2019</p> <p>Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs – Kay Blair School competitions are as follows: Allanton Jolly Beggars - 26 January Kilbryde Burns Club - 4 Feb Larkhall Burns Club - 9 Feb</p> <p>Yorkshire District – David Hannah June meeting is ok for next year as AGM been moved Tartan Ball is on 13 April at same place – Holiday Inn, Barnsley First year closing in the black at Yorkshire district (no info had been passed over from previous secretary)</p>	
<p>8.3</p>	<p>Applications for Membership</p> <p>Individual Membership Barbara Lewis, Annan William Hughes, Perthshire Alan Hughes, Edinburgh not aberdeenshire! Alan Scherr. Lanarkshire Willie McKie, Glasgow Drew McDonald, Lanarkshire Beverley Graham DL, Aberdeenshire Colin Gibson, Dumfries Margaretann Dougall, North Lanarkshire</p> <p>Family Membership John & Gillian Hannah, Ayrshire Ron & Louise Pratt, Canada</p> <p>Junior O. Higgins</p> <p>Club Membership</p> <p>Corporate Membership</p> <p>School Membership New Deer Brownies Pack, Aberdeenshire</p> <p>Student Membership Moira Hansen, Glasgow</p>	<p>BT/MS</p>

	<p>Re-Affiliation Canberra Highland Society and Burns Club Ltd Bridgeton Burns Club Eglinton Burns Club</p>	
9.	<p>AOCB Chair reminded everyone of his previous indication that nothing of substantive business would be permitted under AOCB unless over a point of order or an Emergency Resolution.</p> <p>Enez Anderson wished to thank all present for their support, telephone calls and emails on the passing of George and advised that £343 has been raised at the collection.</p> <p>The Chair thanked all present for their attendance and called meeting closed at 2.47pm and wished all present a Happy Christmas and New Year</p> <p>Vote of Thanks to the Chair from BG</p>	
10.	<p>Date of next meeting: Executive – Saturday 16th March 2019 – RBWF HQ then 22nd June 2019 at a venue to be determined.</p>	BT/BOARD

DRAFT