

The Robert Burns World Federation Ltd
Quarterly Meeting
Venue: Virtual
Date: 21st November 2020
MINUTES

1. **Sederunt:** Marc Sherland, Enez Anderson, James Shields, Jane Brown, Jean Abdulrahim, Mike Duguid, Ronnie O'Byrne, Alan Beck, Murdo Morrison, Eric Budgett, Claire Murdoch, Bobby Kane, Margaretann Dougall, Tom McDonald, Kay Blair, David Hannah, Bill Dawson, Walter Watson, Ray Connal, Annie Small, Helena Anderson Wright, Robert Stewart, John Hannah, Margaret Stokes, Lesley McDonald

2. **Apologies:** Iain Gordon, Bill Nolan, Les Strachan, Bob McDonald, Helena Anderson-Wright, Fiona Evans

Item		Action
3.	<p>Chairman's Remarks Marc thanked all for their attendance at the meeting.</p> <p>This will be a strange year; we are not going to let it lock the Federation down. We are beginning to make an impact virtually and this will continue and improve.</p> <p>A list of obituaries as follows was read out and a minute's silence was duly observed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ John Macmillan ❖ John Easdale ❖ Jim Minns ❖ Jack Bell 	
4.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting – March meeting was cancelled Proposed – xxx Seconded – xxx</p>	
5.	<p>Matters Arising None</p>	
6.	<p>Finance Update – Ken Dalglish</p> <p>Quiet period in terms of finance.</p> <p>As we have been unable to hold events, there has been no opportunity for fundraising. Membership renewals will be going out by the end of the month. Our bank balance is adequate and there are no issues.</p> <p>Any questions on finance? None</p>	
7.	Reports	

7.1	<p>President – Marc Sherland</p> <p>In the period between September and now, the Board have been very active on your behalf, meeting twice by zoom and in multiple smaller groupings to further the mission of the Federation, to Educate, Celebrate and Promote the life of Robert Burns, Scottish heritage and the Scots Leid.</p> <p>I am pleased to confirm that the committees have all met in the last few weeks so the underpinning democratic structure of the RBWF is continuing, and of course this is the first Quarterly Meeting held since November last year and we are committed to ensure the pattern of engagement continues and is developed even further. To this end the Quarterly meeting will also be held in February and May next year and the committees will meet separate from the Quarterly meeting from this time forward, so the cultural change of the committees becoming ‘task and completion’ committees becomes embedded.</p> <p>Website - brighter, better organised, more informative and more inclusive, now carrying newsletters from Australia, America, Canada and Scotland, videos from various Clubs and Associations, Lectures by prominent Burnsians. If you have items for consideration for the website, please let the Office know.</p> <p>Forging new Connections and sustaining those already in place - For the first time the Federation engaged with Tamfest and mounted lectures and a competition as part of our response this will continue over the next few months as Tamfest will be offering a Tam Sunday once a month till April.</p> <p>RBWF Tartan - The Robert Burns World Federation tartan arose from a conversation with the Deacon of the Incorporation of Weavers of Glasgow, who offered to design a new tartan on our behalf. This was designed based on a legend which I created and was accepted by the Board at the October meeting. The tartan is now being woven and six of the Directors have chosen to purchase kilts made of it, which will pay for the initial weave, leaving some material over for ties and scarves. The tartan has been properly registered to the RBWF and the design is owned by us.</p>	
7.2	<p>Events – Marc Sherland</p> <p>The events committee have met virtually. We have not yet appointed a convenor and will work as a committee to organise any events.</p> <p>We have changed the title of the committee as, if the Federation is to survive, we must develop a variety of events regularly.</p> <p>The 2021 Conference will be at the Glynhill Hotel. They have been very accommodating in respect of the arrangements and all plans are in place for next year with no price change.</p> <p>The following events were advised:</p>	

	<p>November – St Andrews Lecture taking place on 27th November by Prof. Patrick Scott</p> <p>December – Yule Concert will take place on Sunday 13th December. This will involve many Young Burnsians – thanks to Jane for her assistance with this.</p> <p>January – There will be a virtual Burns Night. The committee have decided that the current Board members should be the speakers/entertainers. A programme has been prepared for this and the date of the event will be advised soon.</p> <p>February – Love event, which Ray Connal is organising.</p> <p>March – Quiz night</p> <p>We are also considering the possibility of holding a presidential dinner around this time, if lockdown restrictions allow, at Westerwood Hotel. More information on this will follow in due course.</p> <p>April – Jean Armour Night</p> <p>Another event that we are involved in is Tamfest. After the success of our recent involvement with this, we will now take part in monthly events. We have Andy Harrower putting together something for the first session.</p> <p>When restrictions allow, we plan to have regular events in the HQ i.e. coffee mornings, lectures etc. An outline plan will be prepared for this.</p>	
<p>7.3</p>	<p>Literature – Mike Duguid</p> <p>One of the advantages of the lockdown is that our committee meeting had to be conducted by Zoom and so we were able and delighted to welcome Henry Cairney from Calgary to join our meeting.</p> <p>Although only five-strong, it was the largest committee we had in a long time. As well as Henry we also had two other new members to join Murdo Morrison and myself. One was Peter Pringle a semi-retired Director of Creative Arts at the West College Scotland and the other a highly acclaimed Scots poet Stuart Paterson. All the new members brought exciting ideas to the discussion and our task now is to bring some of those to fruition.</p> <p>In particular, there was a recognition that, through Burns, we could promote a greater understanding of the Scots language. There was also a huge opportunity to harness new technology to promote other aspects of Scotland’s cultural heritage through the literature, art and music of other practitioners while as well as Burns but making sure he remained our main focus.</p> <p>Just a reminder that the next Newsletter is due out at the end of December so I encourage everyone to think about submitting some copy which would be of interest to a wider audience.</p>	

	<p>Jim Shields – asked about the closing date for January edition – Mike confirmed last week in December.</p>	
7.4	<p>Archivist/Editor – Bill Dawson Archivist No website enquiries with regards to Archivist.</p> <p>Despite the issues with regards to water ingress at the office, confirmed that all archives were safe and undamaged.</p> <p>Editor The first EUP edition of the Chronicle is rolling along and I am looking forward to seeing the copy. This will be out in March.</p> <p>We are now starting to look at the October edition.</p>	
7.5	<p>Marketing – Neil McNair I have had an intial meeting with the marketing committee.</p> <p>Work packages were discussed and the marketing plan is taking shape.</p> <p>I have been in contact with the previous Marketing Convenor and have received some handover notes.</p> <p>The Marketing Plan is still under development but rapidly taking shape with the support of new collateral such as the logo, tartan and possibly a new Strathspey tune. Meeting held with the Comms Manager to agree a way forward with Social Media.</p> <p>Meeting held with the Membership Director, President and SVC to discuss membership pricing and options. The outcome of meeting was that the Marketing Plan is clearly an integral part of the pricing policy.</p> <p>The material provided to the Literature Convenor was used in the last newsletter (“I sing Burns songs too...” and “A Scots Musical Museum - A Glimpse into the Musical Landscape of Burns’ Edinburgh”). There is now a stock of articles available and others being developed for next year’s newsletters.</p> <p>The first Ambassador is about to be appointed, and a press release will go out on 30th November. (St Andrews Day). I am continuing to search for other suitable candidates as Ambassadors.</p> <p>Earlier this month a proposal was made to the President to take advantage of the fact that many Clubs will not be having a Burns Supper in 2021. The proposal called “A Burns Supper in a box”.</p> <p>Stuart Paterson – could we get a local butcher involved i.e. Faulds in Kilmarnock. Yes, this is a possibility.</p> <p>David Hannah – What about licensing issues regarding the alcohol in the hamper? This is something we are looking at.</p>	

<p>7.6</p>	<p>Education – Lesley McDonald</p> <p>I have met virtually with the Education Committee. All who attended were in support of a competition of some sort.</p> <p>Tradeshouse already have 67 schools participating in the area competition.</p> <p>Jane B: Is all the information going out? Yes, by the end of the month.</p> <p>Bob S: Could you confirm if recitation/singing, if recorded can be submitted? Yes, as long as local authority does not have an issue or can be recorded at home.</p> <p>Lesley confirm that only certificates of participation will be given by RBWF.</p> <p>All entries received have to be sent to Lesley at education@rbwf.org.uk</p>	
<p>7.7</p>	<p>Heritage – John Hannah</p> <p>Due to the current global pandemic people are now finding the opportunity to explore more within their local areas and are reminded of the history that surrounds them.</p> <p>This has led to an increase in awareness of heritage and historical sites as more and more people are coming across these. I have recently experienced along the River Ayr Way where I found sites pertaining to John Lapraik and Isobel ‘Tibby’ Pagan. As mentioned in my annual report we need to consider what potential opportunities may exist to advance the education of the life, poetry and works of Robert Burns through our Heritage sites.</p> <p>Whilst the Heritage Committee have unfortunately not been able to meet in person, I have been grateful for the likes of John Skilling who has kept me updated on a number of sites in Ayrshire. I would encourage anyone who is regularly maintaining our sites or has a concern or update on any heritage site to contact me directly by email.</p> <p>In addition, I have communicated regularly with Roger Griffith who has identified a number of ‘gravestones’ related to friends of Robert Burns which need consideration. There is still much to learn about these sites, and I will continue to record.</p> <p>There is much work that goes on unnoticed and many heritage sites that without the work and commitment of local Burns Clubs would be left to decay. I would again like to thank all those who have been involved at this time.</p> <p>Stuart Paterson – Spoke about Ellisland Farm, who have a new board of trustees. They are looking for volunteers.</p>	
<p>7.8</p>	<p>Membership – Alan Beck</p> <p>The RBWF fee structure has been discussed.</p> <p>We must think about changing and what we have to offer. Why do people join the Federation?</p>	

	<p>The Federation does a lot for the memory of Robert Burns.</p> <p>We will be working alongside the Marketing Committee with regards to attracting new members and retaining members.</p> <p>Special Event – Greenock Burns Club are hosting a variety of lectures. The first one being on 10th December 2020 at 7:30pm by the Lord Lyon (King of Arms) – the subject will be ‘A New Coat for the Bard’. If you wish to join this, please email Alan.</p> <p>A point noted re the RBWF Coat of Arms is that the matriculation was paid for by Dumfries Burns Club and gifted to RBWF.</p>																																																								
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Admin – to include 200 Club Draw Margaretann started on Monday 2nd November.</p> <p>Office Repairs – We have had a number of meetings and visits to the site by EAC and contractors. A work plan has been agreed and repairs will commence early in January.</p> <p>Renewal notices have been prepared for posting and will be sent out by the end of the month as usual.</p> <p>200 CLUB WINNER DETAILS</p> <p>116 shares sold to date. Prize fund has been adjusted accordingly</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="293 1083 1330 1640"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Prize</th> <th>Amount</th> <th>Share No</th> <th>Winner</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sep-20</td> <td>Quarterly Prize</td> <td>£ 87.00</td> <td>49</td> <td>Robert Dinwiddie</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1st prize</td> <td>£ 34.80</td> <td>81</td> <td>Mike Duguid</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2nd prize</td> <td>£ 17.40</td> <td>171</td> <td>Mauchline Burns Club</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oct-20</td> <td>1st prize</td> <td>£ 34.80</td> <td>86</td> <td>Alex & May Crawley</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2nd prize</td> <td>£ 17.40</td> <td>2</td> <td>David & Margaret Cook</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nov-20</td> <td>1st prize</td> <td>£ 34.80</td> <td>22</td> <td>Ronnie O’Byrne</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2nd prize</td> <td>£ 17.40</td> <td>4</td> <td>Brian Keenan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dec-20</td> <td>Quarterly Prize</td> <td>£ 87.00</td> <td>157</td> <td>Ronn Pratt</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1st prize</td> <td>£ 34.80</td> <td>182</td> <td>Melvyn McCrostie</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2nd prize</td> <td>£ 17.40</td> <td>167</td> <td>Mauchline Burns Club</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Prize	Amount	Share No	Winner	Sep-20	Quarterly Prize	£ 87.00	49	Robert Dinwiddie		1st prize	£ 34.80	81	Mike Duguid		2nd prize	£ 17.40	171	Mauchline Burns Club	Oct-20	1st prize	£ 34.80	86	Alex & May Crawley		2nd prize	£ 17.40	2	David & Margaret Cook	Nov-20	1st prize	£ 34.80	22	Ronnie O’Byrne		2nd prize	£ 17.40	4	Brian Keenan	Dec-20	Quarterly Prize	£ 87.00	157	Ronn Pratt		1st prize	£ 34.80	182	Melvyn McCrostie		2nd prize	£ 17.40	167	Mauchline Burns Club	
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<p>8.1</p>	<p>International Reports Pacific Rim – John Menzies Nothing to Report</p> <p>Canada – Ronnie O’Byrne Virtual meetings are continuing to be the main contact method for now within clubs. RBANA has a virtual meeting this weekend.</p>																																																								

	<p>Niagara Falls and Halton/Peel clubs are hosting monthly virtual meetings etc.</p> <p>Clubs are reporting that they really appreciate the efforts to do online seminars, events and RBWF involvement.</p> <p>Newsletters from RBWF and RBANA (Tattler) and Calgary (Claver) are also much appreciated and being widely distributed.</p> <p>Calgary and Edmonton Burns Clubs have cancelled their 2021 Suppers and will both proceed with small virtual events.....</p> <p>I expect more will follow this path as we get towards December.</p> <p>U.S.A. – Les Strachan Nothing to Report</p>	
<p>8.2</p>	<p>Association Representatives</p> <p>Mike Duguid/DGBA Although initially disappointed that we could not hold the Brow Well service in the normal way, we were delighted with the results of a virtual event. We had 35 people reading lines from the poem ‘A Man’s a Man’ , including a representative of every member club from Dumfries and Galloway Association; local politicians & VIPS; past presidents & youngsters representing the Association’s schools’ competition. We also have eulogy by Bill Nolan past president of the Federation, a Blessing by Rev. Gerald Moule, a History of Burns and the Brow Well by Professor Gerard Carruthers and a piper’s lament by Callum Watson. The whole event was masterminded by Emma Harper MSP’s husband Robertson, who has worked tirelessly to edit all the clips and put them together in a series of short films.</p> <p>Afterwards we realised how memorable & special our message had been, not only to those who had taken part but for those who watched it. Since the message has been aired it has been shared all around the world, and President Fiona Evans received many emails of congratulations.</p> <p>Although we are not directly involved as an Association, we will take a close interest in the proposed developments at Ellisland Farm under the direction of the new Board of Trustees and do all we can to support them in their endeavours.</p> <p>Ken Dalgliesh /GDBA There has been a lot of activity around the education packs.</p> <p>We have been more pro-active in our attempts to mix with clubs in the area. It has been good to talk about the Federation with the Clubs. It is all about working together. The Federation is involved in remarkably important things and the key is communication.</p>	

	<p>Claire Murdoch/EDBA We missed out on Open Doors Day. We are working on our Facebook page and keeping in touch with schools.</p> <p>Annie Small/Ayrshire Association James Waite is our new President. We have great hopes for the Assoc under James' presidency. Marc commented on the new logo – very impressive, so unique.</p>	
8.4	<p>Applications for Membership. No new members since last Board meeting.</p>	
9.	<p>Forum: Prior to the Open Forum, Marc spoke on the following items:</p> <p>Ambassadors – As a board we had previously discussed the idea of RBWF Ambassadors.</p> <p>As the idea was being developed, Marc attended a lecture at the Trades House in Glasgow, which was being delivered by Sir Geoffrey Palmer. During the course of his lecture, he quoted Burns on three occasions.</p> <p>Marc considered him to be an ideal candidate to be appointed our first Ambassador. He is a well-known speaker on various humanitarian subjects.</p> <p>This was agreed with the board and he will be inducted on 30th November.</p> <p>New RBWF Tartan – after I was appointed President, I was approached by the Deacon of Weavers in Glasgow who offered to design an RBWF tartan for us.</p> <p>After discussion with the Board, it was agreed that we would proceed with the design for this.</p> <p>This process has now been completed and we have a registered RBWF tartan, registered to the Federation. It is entirely our property.</p> <p>This tartan will not replace the Burns check.</p>	
	<p>Open Forum</p> <p>Jim Shields – Offered his congratulations to Marc, Henry and Alan. Jim asked why there had been a change of Marketing Convenor after the AGM. Marc explained the Peter had stepped down at the Board meeting after the AGM due to personal reasons. Due to marketing being crucial to the organisation, we decided that we needed to appoint a new convenor. Jim agreed that Neil was a welcome addition to the Board.</p> <p>Claire – RBWF Tartan – will there be ladies' scarves? Marc – The weight of the tartan as it is, is very scratchy. We will be looking at lambswool scarves down the line.</p> <p>Murdo – commented that the Federation have hosted at least one Burns Supper in the past.</p>	

	<p>Also mentioned that Mr Faulds (Butcher) had shown goodwill in the past to the Federation during the Year of the Haggis, through the Assoc of Scottish Meat Traders.</p> <p>Murdo’s question was around policy on Independence/BLM etc when answering questions directed to the Federation on these matters.</p> <p>Marc advised that Trekker Armstrong has prepared a statement on these issues, which can be disseminated to clubs and associations for their use.</p> <p>Trekker is also working on a statement with regards to Burns Suppers etc, which will be made available.</p> <p>Marc then stated that the Federation is committed to these meetings throughout the year. The February meeting is likely to be by Zoom – 20th, then perhaps the May meeting will be in person – advance notice will be given.</p> <p>The committees are now working on a task/completion basis.</p> <p>Alan confirmed that the Lord Lyon’s talk is at 7:30pm</p> <p>Meeting closed</p>	
10.	Date of next meeting: 20th February 2021	