

Minutes St Andrews Burns Club A.G.M. Friday 29th Nov 2019.

Present. President Frank Quinault, Vice President Kyffin Roberts, Secretary George McIntosh, committee members Mike Joy, Colin McAllister, Sandy Bolland, Norman Morrison, George Gordon, John Spittal, Ian Johnstone members Irene Walker, Marilyn Rowan Rhind and Barron Steven.

Welcome. President Frank welcomed those present to our A.G.M.

Apologies. Received from Treasurer Graham Watson, David Joy, John (Mick) Mitchell, David F. Murdoch, Gordon Moir, Alan Chalmers, Emil Pacholek and James Orr. The last two, Emil and James have indicated their resignation from the committee.

Minutes of AGM 2 Dec. 2018. These had been placed on the club's website and taken as read. Minutes of the last meeting 29th Sept.2019 had been circulated to the committee and those members requesting them. Also taken as read.

Matters arising. A correction was agreed to the minutes of the committee meeting held on the 29th Sept.2019 under the heading "Lady members" the words – "since there were no objections" are to be replaced by "The three names were added"

This is because under the present Constitution, once a membership application form has been registered with the Secretary and Treasurer and the subscription paid, the membership is accepted. This way of proceeding will be considered as part of the next biennial review of the Constitution.

The meeting agreed that the remaining Anniversary glasses should be used as gifts to our guest speakers at the dinner and for new members.

Also at the request of Colin McAllister the statue box should be adjusted.

Schools competition. Ian reported that the Madras competition was held the previous week where entries were good at both singing and recitation from S1, S2 and S3 but seniors in S4, S5 and S6 seem to be reluctant to compete with the result that two trophies cannot be awarded. Even so there were as usual one or two outstanding performers, particularly in singing. They will be involved in the school Burns Supper in January.

Times are to be arranged in January for the Primary schools' competition.

After a meeting with President Frank, Sec. George and Treasurer Graham it was agreed that the £200 donation from the ABC club in memory of past member Charles Alexander should be used as an award for the best Burns performer from the Primary schools. It was initially envisaged that this could be done by having a concert at Kilrymont school one evening in February or early March. However due to the pressure of time and the cost of hiring Kilrymont it was agreed to attempt to identify the best performer simply from our visits to Primary schools. The eventual winner would be presented with a suitable book about Robert Burns, a certificate and a book token for £25. A lovely glass trophy inscribed with Charles' name by David Joy will be

presented to the winner's school. In future we are hoping that the winning school can be persuaded to host an event involving all 5 primary schools the following year.

Lastly, the cost of book tokens will be £700.

President's report.

President Frank commented on our celebration of our 150th Anniversary last year. We did so in some style, starting with our group photograph at the R&A steps along with our Anniversary flag and continuing with our parade from Southgait Hall (formerly The Royal Hotel) with the St Andrews Day Piper – Angus Kennovin. Our Anniversary Dinner with the special fiddle composition by Michael Philip played by our own Gordon Howe and a Civic Reception for our 150th Anniversary held in The Town House Kirkcaldy in April 2019 hosted by Fife Provost Jim Leishman.

The Southgait Plaque to commemorate our founding seems to have stalled due to some planning issue. Frank is to contact Jim McArthur. The cost of planning is approx. £200 is to be paid by the club.

Frank also reported on the meetings he held with the Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and incoming Secretary Mick in preparation for the committee meeting which had been very useful.

Treasurer's report.

In Graham's absence, Frank handed out copies of the accounts and mentioned the deficit from our last dinner. This is mainly due to the cost of our special anniversary glasses. Overall our funds are in a healthy condition so there is no need to increase the annual sub. The cost of our dinner in 2020 should remain at £30 for members and £35 for guests.

Our use of Mailchimp to contact a significant majority of members by email has saved us large amounts on postage. Graham is still searching for an account with better interest rates. He also suggests that we keep the value of prizes (book tokens) for our schools Burns competition at the same level. There will be an extra school this year, Strathkinness primary. We will review this next AGM.

Those present thanked Graham (in his absence). Thanks, must be given to member Bruce Clark for financially inspecting the accounts.

Secretary's report.

F.A.B.C. No real progress with arranging a Fife Schools Burns competition with the problem being funding. It costs £500 to £600 to run this competition with only £300 coming from the Fife Burns clubs. There could be some help from Fife Cultural Trust on which President Frank is a Board member. Possible use of Lochgelly Centre at a reduced rate. Frank is to investigate.

At a meeting with Frank, George, Mick and Mike Joy it was agreed that Mick taking over from George as Secretary will be delayed until the 2020 A.G.M. Mick is to shadow George over preparations for our dinner in 2020. George produced a duty list for the Secretary, which was discussed at some length at

the same meeting. With Mike's help two boxes of, programmes and other memorabilia belonging to the Club were looked at to ascertain value etc. The A.G.M agreed that Mike would with Frank and George's help produce the programme for our 2020 dinner. This will be circulated for proof reading before printing.

Dinner. Saturday January 25, 2020.

The dinner was moved to Saturday 25th January to celebrate Burns birthday itself also to accommodate the Bowling Club and to allow Barnetts Caterers to do the catering.

Because of the tightness of the programme it was decided not to invite the Doc Malcolm trophy winner Natalie Rengger to perform. Natalie in fact sang for us last year.

Our speakers for the dinner are

Address to the Haggis	John Heaphy
Immortal Memory	Bill Lamond
City of St Andrews	Dr Robin Evetts
Toast to the Lasses	Rev. Graeme Beebee
Reply	Marilyn Rowan Rhind

Croupier Jim McArthur Recitation Clive Russel

Songs of Burns Billy Anderson Song Graham Dalton

Fiddle Gordon Howe.

A separate table for the sale of wine will be set up away from the main bar. This will have to be cash only due to the lack of automatic card reading facility. This will be intimated to members on the dinner invitation.

Southgait Plaque.

As noted previously President Frank is to continue to contact Jim McArthur to resolve the planning issue.

Possible changes to the Constitution.

Those present agreed to accept the minor changes suggested by Sandy Bolland and Sec. George to amend certain parts to make the Constitution more gender friendly. The Constitution will be looked at this coming year.

Membership and procedure.

Those present agreed to the Status Quo. Whereby any person interested in joining St Andrews Burns Club will complete a membership application form which they can download from the Club's website or have one sent from the Secretary. Once completed the form is returned to the Secretary who give a copy to Treasurer Graham. Since at present the membership is well under 200 and the applicant fills in a Standing Order form or pays for a year's subscription the applicant thereby becomes a full member of the Club. Any new member is announced at the next committee meeting. As stated above, this way of proceeding will be looked at by the committee before the next A.G.M in 2020.

Vice President election.

Due to circumstances this was the first opportunity to formally elect Kyff Roberts to the position of Vice President of St Andrews Burns Club. Those present unanimously agreed with the decision. Kyff was warmly thanked for his decision.

Life and Honorary Members.

Those present affirmed that Life Membership is an award to existing members who have served the Club in an exemplary way over a substantial number of years. An Honorary Membership has similar attributes but is not for an existing member. Charlie Braid was such a case. However, a few years ago David Joy proposed that Charlie should be made a Life Member so as to make him the same as all other Life Members. This was accepted at the time. This possible anomaly will also be looked at when the Constitution is reviewed.

A.O.C.B.

Barron Steven brought up the subject of using the excellent facilities of the Bowling Club to raise funds for St Andrews Burns Club and FABC Fife Schools Burns Competition. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting in March 2020.

It was also agreed that both Barron Steven and Marilyn Rowan Rhind be invited to join the committee of St Andrews Burns Club.

Next meeting.

Sunday March 1st, 2020 4pm St Andrews Bowling Club.