

St Andrews Burns Club
AGM
New Golf Club
Sunday 8 December 2024 At 4.00 pm

Attendees – Jim McArthur (President), George McIntosh (Secretary), Dale Caton, (Secretary Elect), Gavin Galloway (Treasurer), Gordon Howe, Michael Joy, Colin McAlister, Neil McNair, Frank Quinault, Marilyn Rowan, Graham Watson.

Minutes

1. Welcome
 - The President welcomed the Committee members and thanked them for their support and attendance.
2. Apologies
 - Apologies were received from the following members:
 - Allan Chalmers, David Joy, Alan MacDonald, Jan MacDonald & Kyffin Roberts.

Remembrance

 - The President asked for a brief period of silence in memory of members of the Club who had passed away during the year.
3. Minutes of AGM Sunday 3 December 2023
 - The meeting noted the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
4. Matters arising
 - There were no matters arising not otherwise covered by the agenda.
5. President's report
 - The President proposed that the Club should consider a mid-year event to maintain more regular contact with the members. This could take the form of, for example, a putting evening at the Himalayas, a visit to The Murison Collection in Dunfermline, the Burns Collection in the Mitchell Library in Glasgow or Bill Zachs Collection in Edinburgh.
 - The meeting agreed ideas would be taken forward for 2025. *1)
6. Secretary's report
 - The Secretary Elect had provided a brief report for the website and thanked George McIntosh for his introductions and work for the Club operations, together with all Committee and Convenors for their reports submitted for meetings on a timely basis.
7. Schools report
 - 7.a) St Andrews Schools Report
 - Marilyn Rowan had provided a report for the website and an additional summary dates report – attached – that have been set out with the local schools for January 2025.
 - It was noted that Scottish Literature and particularly Burns Works were not included in current school teachings which was a matter of some alarm and surprise.
 - The meeting considered requesting additional help from Simon Lamb, a Scottish Burns specialist, to assist with school visits on Burns.
 - Simon Lamb is Scribe at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, 2022–2025.

- This suggestion would be reviewed for the future visits to schools with possible contribution from the Grubb Trust foundation funds. *2)
- The President thanked MR for her work with the schools.

7.b) Fife & National Schools Competitions Report

- George McIntosh had provided a report for the website and it was welcome that Burns competitions were continuing in Fife and Nationally, with a particularly strong presence in Dumfries & Galloway schools.
- The meeting considered the minute books of the Club, held at the St Andrews University Library – now Volume 3 – and agreed to keep summary minutes hand written to complete the current minute book at least.
- GM proposed to continue the hand written summary minutes and the President thanked him for that proposal.

8. Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts for the year to 30 June 2024

- The Treasurer had provided the Club Accounts to 30 June 2024, independently verified by an Accountant, which were posted to the Club website.
- Gavin Galloway provided a brief overview of the year's Accounts, summarising the key items in the Club finances.
- The President thanked GG.

9. Membership

- The Secretary Elect summarised the current membership:
- Listed members are over 140.
- Active members on the Club mailing list receiving news updates are over 90.

10. Annual Subscription

- It was agreed to increase the annual subscription rate from £5 to £10 for 2025.
- This would be the first increase in 14 years.

11. Authority to operate the Club bank accounts

- It was agreed that GG would finalise the update to operate the Club bank accounts with the President and Secretary Elect.

12. Election of Club Positions

- The following Club Positions roles were agreed for 2025:
 - President (Jim McArthur).
 - Vice President (Neil McNair).
 - Secretary (Dale Caton).
 - Treasurer (Gavin Galloway).
- The following Convenors roles were agreed for 2025:
 - St Andrews & District Primary Schools (Marilyn Rowan).
 - Madras College & Fife & National Schools Burns Festivals (George McIntosh).
- The Club would seek additional assistance in any areas thought welcome where suitable.

13. Preparations for the Burns Supper Friday 24 January 2025 New Golf Club

- The President confirmed the plan for the 2025 Supper which was a work in progress and included an Immortal Memory by Professor David Purdie, a Recitation by Dr Bobby Robertson and other guest presentations across several areas progressing well, including plans for Fiddling, City Of St Andrews, Speed The Plough, The Lassies, The Reply and Songs o' Burns.

- The introduction would include the St Andrews Citizen award, the Doc Malcolm award and the St Andrew's Day Piper.
- It was agreed to request the Piper play from 6.00pm on the evening of the supper. *3)
- The President proposed and the meeting agreed that the following awards be made:
 - St Andrews Citizen - Ronald Sandford, for his work on the Tom Morris statue.
 - Dr Malcolm - Robert Hutchinson, a local Burns Schools prize winner.
 - The meeting watched a brief video (to be posted on the Club website) of a recitation by 14-year-old Robert Hutchinson of a poem written by Robert Fergusson at that same age. This was part of a commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the untimely death of Fergusson, held at the Wardlaw Museum on the Scores and organised by the University of St Andrews, which also featured an original musical tribute to Fergusson by Michael Philip, played by Michael with Gordon Howe.
 - The President thanked Frank Quinault for that work.
- Programme artwork should be presented to Michael Joy.
- Table plan details should be presented to Marilyn Rowan.

14. AOCB

- George McIntosh raised the annual greetings with other Burns Clubs and it was agreed to send January 2025 best wishes for the season to local Burns Clubs and old Burns Clubs with up to 6 in total.
- Gordon Howe raised the farmers group and proposed to contact local farmers in the East Scotland region to encourage them to support the Speed The Plough at the 2025 Supper.
- Neil McNair suggested that future meetings begin with a summary reading of Burns.
- It was agreed to review and hold Club memorabilia in the Cupboard at the New Golf Club.
- It was agreed to update the various paperwork forms for 2025 for the Club website.

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 5.15pm.

Footnotes – Matters arising to take forward from the meeting

**1) Mid year Burns Club event.*

**2) Assistance from Burns Specialist for schools.*

**3) St Andrews Piper to play outside the Golf Club from 6.00pm.*