**St Andrews Burns Club UNAPPROVED DRAFT**

**Minute of Meeting of the Annual General Meeting held in the St Andrews Bowling Club at 4.00pm on Sunday 4th December 2022.**

**Present**

Ian Johnston, Michael Joy, Colin McAllister, Jim McArthur, Keith McCarthy, Alan Macdonald, George MacIntosh, Neil McNair, John Mitchell (Mick), Kyff Roberts (Chair), Frank Quinault and Graham Watson.

**Apologies for absence**

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Andrew Aitken, David Joy, Angus Peters, David Sandford and Irene Walker.

1. **President’s welcome**

Kyff welcomed members to the meeting and received confirmation that the papers had been issued and received timeously and that there was a quorum allowing the meeting to progress within the constitution.

1. **Minute of the AGM held on 5th December 2021**

The meeting considered the minute of the previous AGM and approved it with a small amendment to lines 5 and 6 of the Presidents Report to read “ the Charles Alexander Trophy”.

1. **Matters arising**

Mick confirmed that the issue relative to the positioning of the plaque at Southgait Apartments had been resolved.

1. **Presidents Report**

Kyff spoke to his report which had been previously circulated and referred to the challenges faced by the Club through the covid pandemic. Committee meetings had been successfully held by electronic means but that the schools competitions, which are a main objective of the Club, had been restricted. The Club was looking forward to the upcoming Supper and to increasing its membership including lady members as encouraged in the recent changes to the Constitution.

Kyff continued by congratulating George on his 17 years of service as the Club Secretary recognising his efforts in organising the various events over the years.

He also recognised that Ian Johnston had decided to step back from organising the Schools Competitions which he had done for over 10 years. He asked for it to be put on record that Ian’s hard work was greatly appreciated by the Club. The competitions have helped the Club achieve one of its core objectives by promoting interest in the life and work of Burns to the young by the organisation of competitions in the schools for the singing and recitation of his works leading to the award of prizes.

He acknowledged that George was to take over from Ian and felt sure the schools competitions were in good hands.

He also intimated his extreme pride in his holding of the role as President and confirmed his ongoing support in upholding the traditions and objectives of the Club.

1. **Secretaries Report**

George spoke to his report which had been previously circulated and referred again to the disappointments of losing so much of the Clubs activity due to the pandemic. However the time had been used to update the Club Constitution. He congratulated those who had participated in the Virtual Burns Supper in 2021 which kept Burns in peoples minds.

The Fife Association of Burns Clubs had been restored and with the involvement of Alan, Neil and himself it was hoped to recommence the Fife schools competitions without which these school pupils could not progress to the Scottish finals.

George spoke fondly of his seventeen years as Secretary and warmly thanked Frank, Graham and Kyff for their support and contribution to the work of the Club.

He wished the Club well for the future while hoping to retain a strong link**.**

1. **Schools Report**

George presented the report by firstly intimating that Ian had stepped back from his leadership role in judging the schools performances. He thanked Ian for his long service to the Club and made reference to the detailed folder of advice and guidance he had handed on to him as the new team leader.

George informed the meeting that Frank, David Joy and he had been the judges on the day when at Madras 29 pupils over all six years of the curriculum had performed in the singing competition in the morning. Standards had varied but enthusiastically performed with an outstanding rendition of My Heart is in the Highlands by Nadine Dawood who performed entirely without notes which was not always the case.

In the afternoon nine pupils overall years recited poetry with an excellent rendition of A Man’s a Man by Robin Hutchinson again entirely without notes.

The Club representatives were warmly hosted by the school staff, namely, Ken Currie, Lynne Miller and Vicki Birmingham with an excellent lunch provided.

Unfortunately due to the late change in the date of the competition, Len Pennie had not been available to attend but would become involved going forward.

The judges had conferred to identify the winners of the competitions including the Burns Club award of

The Bert Dawson Vase

The Colin Risk Trophy

The Jack Pettigrew Vase

The Maronski Shield

The Allan Russell Trophy

The AB Paterson Vase

The David Joy Vase and

The Doc Malcolm memorial Trophy whose winner might be asked to perform at the Supper.

The award winners remain confidential until the Madras College Burns Supper.

The primary schools competition was scheduled for January.

It was hoped that in addition to the advice given to pupils by this year’s judges, further coaching might be offered to help maintain the high standard already achieved.

In response to the congratulations offered to Ian he responded by saying how much he had enjoyed his involvement over the many years and that he remained available as a consultant and would continue to assist in any way he could.

1. **Treasurers Report**

Graham spoke to his report previously circulated and confirmed that the Accounts for the year to 30 June 2022 had been independently audited and signed off by Mick.

The General Account reflected income of £600 leaving a surplus of £91 which resulted in a funds balance of £4448.

The Grubb Trust had seen no income or expenditure and therefore reflected a balance of £7212 as per the previous year.

Graham went on to confirm that the membership stood at 129 members of whom 6 were Life Members. 117 members had paid by standing order and reminders would be sent out in due course. Recruitment had been challenging over the two year period when there had not been a supper.

However the cost of tokens for the school competitions could easily come out of the Grubb Trust and the Club had invested in a card/bank machine to help process payments for much of the Club activity.

The Accounts were approved by the meeting.

1. **Membership**

Reference was made to the membership statistics reviled in the Treasurers Report and Mick intimated that he had had an informal word with the Captain elect of the New Golf Club where he understood that they were not offering their usual Mixed Burns Supper this coming year. It seemed an opportunity to attract additional members from the NGC, hopefully on a permanent basis, and to encourage attendance by the ladies. The St Andrews Burns Club was already a mixed gender club but had not been successful in adding to the small number of lady members notwithstanding the significant vote in favour of mixed membership.

Various options of approach were discussed and after a full exchange of views it was agreed to delegate to Mick the formation of an approach to the NGC which would offer full membership and access to the 2023 Supper.

1. **Subscriptions**

It was confirmed that the current subscription was £5 and had been at that level for some time. It was also recognised that members paid by standing order and there were would be effort required to affect a change in time for this year.

The meeting went on to consider increasing the subscription to allow £1 to be remitted to the national organisation. Acknowledgement was also given to the levels of inflation experienced in all areas of expense.

Ultimately it was agreed to increase the level of subscriptions to £6 per annum with effect from 2023 allowing sufficient time to organise the changes to existing standing orders.

1. **Authority to Operate the Club Bank Accounts**

The Annual General Meeting approved giving authority to the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer and the Secretary to operate the Club Bank Accounts.

Graham Watson the Treasurer would remain the main signatory with counter signatures required above the level identified in the Constitution from Kyffin Roberts, John Mitchell and Alan MacDonald. President, Secretary and Vice President respectively.

An extract of the minute of the meeting would be required by the Club’s Bank.

1. **Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members**

The appointment and reappointment of Office Bearers and Committee members annually is required under the Constitution and the existing committee had given consideration to these appointments at recent meetings. It was agreed that in these circumstances it was appropriate to consider their recommendations.

They were:

**Office Bearers**

President for an additional year Kyffin Roberts

Vice President Alan Mac Donald

Secretary John Mitchell

Treasurer Graham Watson

**Committee Members**

Frank Quinault

Michael Joy

Colin McAllister

Keith Macartney

Marylin Rhind

Ian Johnston

David Joy

Neil McNair

**Supper sub committee**

Office bearers

Michael Joy

George Gordon Co Opted

Venue Representative Co Opted

**Membership**

Vice president

Treasurer

Secretary

**Schools**

Ian Johnston

Marylin Rhind

Keith Mc Cartney

George McIntosh Co Opted

David Joy

Len Pennie Co Opted

These recommendations were accepted and approved.

1. **Preparations for the 2023 Burns Supper**

The meeting heard some detail of the plan for the upcoming supper which were well in hand and engaged to make suggestions re issues relative to vegetarian options and allergy information to be included in the invitation to attend. It was also agreed to obtain a table top lectern for the evening.

There was disappointment that Len Pennie who had been approached to perform at the supper was not now available but had offered to make available a video performance of both a Burns poem and one of her own Scots language poems. There was some discussion re the IT complexities but Frank agreed to take charge of that aspect and it was agreed to include this in the programme.

1. **AOCB**

Kyff read from a letter received from George in his role in the Fife Association which asked for the financial support from the Club to support the Associations activity. It was understood that other Clubs would also be invited to contribute but that there remained issues relative to receipts and banking arrangements in the Association.

The costs were estimated to be in the region of £600 for the year to cover medals and engraving costs and sadly the charges to be made by schools for the hire of accommodation for the functions involving their own pupils.

Kyff suggested that this Club should make a contribution because it was funding for a main aspect of the Clubs purpose and it was agreed to contribute £100 this year on the understanding that the financial issues in the association were resolved.

Frank reminded the meeting that The University of St Andrews had agreed to house the Minute Books and other memorability in their library. These documents would become the property of the University but there would be no restriction to access.

It was agreed to gift this documentation to the University on the understanding of access rights.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.00 pm.**

**UNAPPROVED DRAFT**