St Andrews Burns Club.

Committee meeting Sunday 24th September 2023.

3pm St Andrews Bowling Club.

Present. President Kyff Roberts, Secretary George McIntosh, Marilyn Rhind, Mike Joy, Colin McAllister, Keith McCartney, Frank Quinault and Gordon Howe. Ian Normand was present representing St Andrews Bowling Club.

1. President Kyff welcomed those present to the meeting, especially Gordon Howe to his first meeting. Gordon had been a committee member over 20 years ago!

2. Apologies were received from Graham Watson, Jim McArthur, Neil McNair and David Joy.

3. Minutes of the last meeting 3oth July 2023 had been previously circulated and taken as read.

4. Matters arising. None. Covered under the following business.

5. Schools Burns competition.

Marilyn reported that as she had been invited by the Club to co-ordinate the Burns competitions for the Primary schools, she now had dates for these events.

Each competition, five in total, will require 3 judges. These competitions are extremely enjoyable and it is most rewarding to see some very little people becoming involved in Robert Burns’ works at such an early opportunity.

It has been suggested that some Club members may wish to participate in the judging, and, if so, please email me. The following dates have been arranged for our five primary schools.

18th January 2024, Strathkinness Primary school, 19th Jan. Leuchars , 25th Jan. Lawhead , 26th Jan. Canongate, 29th Jan. Greyfriars.

On receipt of names, Marilyn will confirm the dates and the judges as soon as possible to enable members to get names in their diaries.

The Madras competition will be arranged by Lynne Miller and Vicki Birmingham for sometime later in November 2023.

6. Burns Supper this year January 2023. Kyff ,went over the list of points from our past dinner, drawn up by John Mitchell, to bring these to the attention of the committee and Ian Normand the Bowling Club representative. Many of the points, referring to the meal etc. will have to be referred to a meeting of the Dinner sub committee with the caterer before the AGM in December.. The wine prices should be clearly stated although there was some discussion about the overall price charged to Burns Club members and Bowling Club members. Some discussion as to the price of a bottle of whisky. Ian will check on these points with the Bowling Club committee. He stated that the price for corkage ( bring your own bottle!) was £5. The committee agreed, that bringing your own bottle should not be encouraged.

Dinner Saturday Jan. 27th 2024.

Jim McArthur will be President having received the President’s Stick from Kyff at the dinner and also act as Croupier. Jim will also deliver the Immortal Memory. Toast to the Haggis ?, Toast to St Andrews David Strachan ( tbc) Toast to the Lasses Gordon Howe ( Also Fiddling!) Reply to Lasses Toast, Dorothea Morrison. Recitation Alan McDonald ( tbc) Singing Charlie Braid. There was some discussion as to involving some of the schools prizewinners in Toast to the Haggis and a recitation but committee agreed that they were possibly too young for the event.

Seating plan , place names etc were discussed and attendance of guests. It was agreed that an early invitation to members, possibly in November, requesting possible attendance at the dinner could be issued to the membership along with the notification of the increased subscription to £6.

Frank also suggested that we could possibly invite Simon Lamb, the resident Screiver ( poet) at The Burns Centre and Museum, in Ayr to perform, either for the dinner in 2024 or the following year. Simon also being a Graduate of St Andrews University. Frank will attend to this.

7. Secretary’s report.

Although the last few months have been rather disappointing, our committee, especially President Kyff and Marilyn Rhind, have continued business in a professional way, in preparing for our annual dinner in January 2024 and beginning the organising of our schools Burns competition. They are both to be thanked for this.

Although I am happy to carry out the duties of Secretary for now and the immediate future, I still wish eventually, to be replaced as Secretary.

One way forward, is to possibly split the duties. A Minute Secretary would prepare the agendas for our meetings, take the minutes etc and write up the Minute Book. A Dinner Secretary would be involved in organising our Supper in January, invitations, seating plan etc. Very involved on the day.

A decision on this can be made at the AGM in December.

8. Treasurer’s report.

Due to Graham’s illness. No report.

9. President’s report.

Kyff expressed his regret that both John Mitchell (Mick) and Vice President Alan McDonald had decided to resign but was very pleased that the committee had given him their full support and the business of our Club was continuing in a healthy way. He thanked the committee and the Club for allowing him to be President over these years and he was looking forward to Jim McArthur taking over as President at our AGM in December and to handing over the President’s Stick to Jim at our Supper in January 2024.

10. Correspondence.

George reported on an application for membership from Reise Watson a PhD student at St Andrews University who expressed is deep interest in Burns from an early age. He has completed both the membership and Standing Order forms so is welcomed as a member. Reise is partially sighted and has a guide dog.

Also an email from Flora Selwyn’ daughter , Miriam, looking for help in supporting her efforts in arranging for an MBE for her mother. Frank reported that he already had this in hand.

11. AOCB. None.

12. Next meeting. St Andrews Burns Club AGM Sunday December 3rd. 4pm St Andrews Bowling Club function room.