



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Edinburgh Sutherland held at 7pm on Monday 6 July, 2015 at the Scottish Arbitration Centre, Level 3, 125 Princes Street, Edinburgh

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Bill Manson, Mairi Manson, Stewart Chalmers, Christine Smith, Lorraine Smith and Rachel Haworth.

Those present were Andrew Mackenzie, Matthew Williams, Steven Anderson, Anne and Willie Macintosh, Sandra James.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

The Minutes of the last AGM had been circulated prior to the meeting. Andrew Mackenzie, President, asked for concerns and questions. None were raised. The Minutes were duly proposed by Steven Anderson, seconded by Anne Macintosh.

3. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The President made the following remarks:

Death of Honorary President

Jimmy Maclean, who was our Honorary President, died not long after our last AGM. He had been active in the Association for over 50 years, and was well-known to many of us here. It is only right that we record our gratitude to Jimmy for his long service to the Association.

Christmas dinner in December 2013

Organised by Steven, with assistance from Anne, our Christmas dinner was held at Channings Hotel in Edinburgh in December. Brora donated a beautiful blanket for the raffle. Including a generous donation from David Morrison (Sangobeg), we raised £280 for good causes in Sutherland at our Christmas dinner. Thanks to all those who attended.

Annual ceilidh

We held our annual ceilidh in Loanhead, near Edinburgh, on 20 February. Around 80 people attended, with music from the Dave Husband Scottish Dance Band, piping from Neil John MacPhail, poetry from Andy Sandrers, and a few songs from David Morrison Sangobeg. We raised a fantastic £500 for good causes in Sutherland at our annual ceilidh. I am very grateful to Anne for all her work organising this event.

Quiz night

We held another pub quiz in Edinburgh on 11 March, and raised a very impressive £190. I am grateful to Matthew Williams, our quizmaster, for organising, and hope we will have another one soon.

Glasgow Sutherland Association Ceilidh

I attended the GSA ceilidh in May. We have supported the recent efforts from new members of the Committee of that Association to keep it going, so it was good to be able to attend the event.

Sutherland ceilidh

We held another Sutherland ceilidh this year. We went to Rogart on 13 June, and enjoyed a very successful trip. We danced to the Rogart Ceilidh Band, and enjoyed music from Annella Bulch, Rory Matheson, Jack Ross, Robert Mackay, and Fraser Roach. It was great to see all the Committee making the trip north, and seeing old friends in the county. We witnessed a massive turnout and raised almost £1,200. I am hugely grateful to Steven for organising this event, but also to all the Committee for their attendance and input.

We have had a busy year with a number of enjoyable and successful fundraising events, culminating in our excellent ceilidh in Rogart. We have also continued to support the Glasgow Sutherland Association, and it was a pleasure to attend its ceilidh recently. We will continue to support where possible.

Going forward, we should also consider joint events with other similar associations, such as the Edinburgh Caithness, the Edinburgh Argyll, and Bothan Dun Eideann. We should also aim to have more fundraising events, such as more quiz nights or new events. However, we must engage more people in the committee and with the organisation of such work if we are to develop. We must also press ahead with our work on the archive, so we can write to landowners requesting support and consider a book on the Association in advance of our 150 anniversary in 2016. We must turn our attention to that anniversary now.

I would like to thank everyone who assisted this year and for your continuing support.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Report on 2014/15 was tabled by Anne Macintosh who explained that as of yearend (30 April 2015) the bank balance is £3,737.76, so £2,900.55 in the savings account and £837.21 in current account. She noted it had been £4,088.86 at the same time last financial year. She added that income for the year was £2,883.38 which came from fund raising (£2,638.67 from the Bake Off, Christmas Dinner, Annual Ceilidh, Quiz Nights and Bake Off) and donations of £150 (£100 from David Morrison and £50 from Ann Davidson), £67 from Gift Aid, £22.71 bank interest and £5 membership. Expenditure was £876 (£856 for ceilidh band and supper and £20 Quiz Night prize). We made donations of £2,350 in 2014/15 (£2,000 in July 2014 and £250 for early donation in 2015).

The Report was proposed by Andrew Mackenzie, seconded by Matthew Williams.

In addition, Anne noted that the latest balance (27 July 2015) is £4,976.58, so £2,900.55 in savings account and £2,076.03 in current account. It was confirmed that we made a profit of £1,178.11 at the Rogart Ceilidh.

5. DONATIONS

Matthew Williams handed out the summary of applications for funding received this year through the application page of the website and by email. These came as a result of the call for applications spread through word-of-mouth, via the Northern Times and through our Facebook page and website.

The following groups were successful in their application for funding:

Golspie Primary School PTA, £50 as a raffle prize to encourage additional uptake of tickets in their annual fundraising raffle.

Loth and Helmsdale Flower Show Society, £150 to purchase additional materials to widen participation by children and provide increased sustainability of resources year-on-year.

Centre for History, Dr David Worthington, £100 toward public engagement support costs for 'Firths and Fjords: A Coastal History Conference' taking place in Dornoch in April 2016

Feis an Iar Thuath, Scourie, £200 to help keep participation fees affordable for children participating in in Scourie.

Gledfield Primary School, Ardgay, £90 towards 8 lessons of Drama classes provided by Eden Court at the school.

Transport for Tongue, Tongue, £360 towards providing transport to Thurso for a Melness-based girl unable to take the necessary classes to apply to study Veterinary Medicine at University at her local school in Farr.

NOTE: The committee debated this question of funding this application as it was strongly felt that local government should be covering the costs of wider access to educational opportunities for those in rural areas (as was the case in the past), or the provision of high-speed broadband to enable remote participation (as should provide a future solution.) It was agreed at the meeting to ring fence the funds pending further discussions with Transport for Tongue about the political and logistical issues involved. Following contact by Matthew Williams and Andrew Mackenzie the view was that these funds should be released.

Dornoch Beach Regeneration and Improvement Group, £400 to cover the costs of an eco-bench at the beach, to include an Edinburgh Sutherland Association plaque. This is part of a wider 3-phase regeneration scheme for the public areas at the beach to provide better use and improve visitor access.

It was noted that it had been agreed to provide £350 to the Sutherland Schools Pipe Band to pay for vital equipment for those participating in the Band competitions in Calgary, Canada.

This was agreed by a special motion earlier in the year, with Committee Members unanimously agreed that this was the right course of action.

The Strath Fleet Buttons & Bows, £300 to kit out 37 members of a beginners/intermediate accordion & fiddle group based in the Rogart Hall, Sutherland with fleeces for outdoor performances.

Feis Chataibh, Golspie, £200 to help part fund winter workshops for children providing tuition in traditional music and song.

In summary:

Golspie Primary School PTA	£50
Loth and Helmsdale Flower Show Society	£150
Centre for History	£100
Feis an Iar Thuath	£200
Gledfield Primary School	£90
Transport for Tongue	£360
Dornoch Beach Regeneration and Improvement Group	£400
Sutherland Schools Pipe Band	£350
The Strath Fleet Buttons & Bows	£300
Feis Chataibh	£200
TOTAL	£2200

This means the total donations from the Association this year amounts to £2200.00

6. FUNCTIONS 2015/16

It was suggested that Matthew Williams should become a Co-ordinator for an programme of events surrounding the 150th Anniversary of the Association in 2016.

There followed some discussion of potential events which might include another pub quiz in September, a ceilidh in October, Christmas Dinner at a new venue (to be decided) and perhaps an extra-special ceilidh for the 150th celebrations. The idea for a grand prize draw in 2016 was also suggested, along with a repeat of the very successful Bake Off from last year.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

It was agreed that the following would remain in their current positions:

President – Andrew Mackenzie
Vice-President – Willie Macintosh
Treasurer – Anne Macintosh

Matthew Williams indicated that he would prefer to stand down as Secretary due to other commitments and now being resident in Glasgow.

Steven Anderson was proposed by Andrew Mackenzie to replace Matthew, which Matthew duly seconded.

Committee Members:

Rachel Haworth, Christine Smith and Lorraine Smith opted to remain on the committee. It was noted that Gordon Black would happily remain as Honorary Auditor.

8. BANK ACCOUNT SIGNATORIES

Remained unchanged.

9. AOCB

Andrew Mackenzie thanked everyone for attending and brought the meeting to a close