



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Edinburgh Sutherland Association held at 7pm on Monday 25 June, 2017 at the Royal Overseas League, 100 Princes Street, Edinburgh

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Lorraine Smith, David Mackay, Rachel Haworth and Matthew Williams, Val and Jim Logan, and Klaire Norwell.

Those present were:

Andrew Mackenzie, Steven Anderson, Anne and Willie Macintosh, Lorraine and Christine Smith, Sandra and Stewart Chalmers, David Paterson, Helen Foreman, Wilma MacLeod, Marie Mackay.

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 Christine, seconded by William.

3. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

We celebrated our 150th anniversary with a grand ceilidh dance in Edinburgh, bringing together musicians and performers from across Scotland, including many from Sutherland, for the celebratory event on 26 November.

The band was made up of **Bob Massie, Kenny John Matheson, Rory Matheson**, with **Neil Macgillivray** joining them later with his drums. Kenny John travelled down from Clachtoll and Rory is from Drumbeg. Bob has strong links to Assynt and Neil is a regular visitor to the parish. Singers from Sutherland included **Annella Bulch** from Culkein, **Joan Mackay** from Skerry and me. **Andy Sanders**, who used to live in Nedd, entertained the large crowd with some poetry and prose. Other performers included **Rab Ferris** on drums and **Neil John MacPhail** on pipes. Gaelic singers, **Emma Scalpay Macleod** and **Darren Maclean**, delighted with some well-known songs.

The event was generously sponsored by **Bothan Dùn Èideann**, a Gaelic music association in Edinburgh; **Arthur & Carmichael Solicitors**, Dornoch; **Hector Mackenzie Contractor**, Clashmore, Stoer; and **David Morrison Sangobeg**, Durness. Prizes were donated by various supporters, including **Glenmorangie**, which provided bottle of Dornoch, and **Alex Mackay, Sandra Chalmers** and **Heather Mackenzie**, who all donated bottles of whisky.

It was a great pleasure to celebrate our 150th anniversary with such a great event and with so many people from Sutherland, some traveling from the north coast to attend. The Association has a long history of bringing people from Sutherland together in Edinburgh for social, cultural and other events, and this was one of the best in recent times. Furthermore, the event raised over £800 for good causes linked to the county.

The final event of the anniversary year was the Christmas dinner in Edinburgh on 10 December at the Royal Over-Seas League in Edinburgh. Around 30 guests joined the celebration, enjoying a lovely meal and views of Edinburgh Castle. We also had entertainment from **Andy Sanders** and **Rory Matheson** from Drumbeg, who played the accordion to the delight of those attending. Rory also auctioned off a tune he and a friend had written. We had a raffle, which included a star prize of a bottle of Glenmorangie, donated by **Glenmorangie**. We also had our 150 anniversary grand draw raffle. The winners were as follows.

£150 - **Elizabeth Sutherland**, Rogart

Golf at Royal Dornoch, donated by Royal Dornoch - **Neil Macgillivray**, Glasgow

Night at An Grianan Guest House, Inverness, donated by Terri Mcintyre - **Ruth Grant**, Stoer

Free Edinburgh Sutherland Association annual event pass - **Ian Gilmour**, Edinburgh

Crystal decanter, donated by Christine Smith – **Angela and Neil Robertson**, Clashmore, Stoer

Bottle of Glenmorangie, donated by Glenmorangie - **Sarah Lynchehaun**, Edinburgh

We also repeated the bake-off from 2014. There was less take-up for the initiative this time, but we still raised some money.

We held a pub quiz in Edinburgh on 17 January with a focus on Robert Burns. This was again excellently coordinated and hosted by **Matthew Williams**, our quizmaster. We also saw some new faces, including some from Helmsdale, Rogart and Tongue.

We held our annual ceilidh in Loanhead, near Edinburgh, on 11 March. Around 80 people attended, with music from the Dave Husband Scottish Dance Band, a song or two from me, and special guests

Emma Scalpay Macleod and **Joan Mackay** from Skerray. We raised an impressive amount of money for good causes in Sutherland. I am very grateful to **Anne, Christine** and **Lorraine** for all their work organising this event, especially the coordination of the buffet.

Our 150th celebration events were very successful, but involved significant effort from our small committee. I am extremely grateful to everyone involved in making those events such a success. The increased income meant that there was less pressure to have fundraising events in 2017.

We have received some good media coverage, with the **Northern Times** covering our Ceilidh 150 and Christmas dinner.

We received sponsorship for our Ceilidh 150 and donations of prizes from the **Carnegie Club at Skibo** and **Glenmorangie**. We also involved other bodies in that event, including **Bothan Dun Eideann**, with representatives the **Glasgow Sutherland** and **Edinburgh Caithness** attending.

We must attract more new members to the committee to ease the burden for us all and look at opportunities to collaborate with other similar bodies in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Proposed by Andrew Mackenzie, Seconded by Steven Anderson.

Summary report from Treasurer:

AGM 26062017 - I am pleased to say we have ended the accounting year with a balance of £4610.46 in the Current Account and £2939.86 in the NS & I making a total of £7550.32 compared to £5248.15 last year. The increase is due to the additional function we held, in the Royal Overseas League, and the Grand Draw which was drawn at the Christmas Dinner, to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Association. We made a surplus of:

£925 at the 150 Ceilidh, which was helped by the generous donations and sponsorships made by Norman Mackay, Mr & Mrs Mackenzie, David Morrison, Veronica Daly, Arthur Carmichael IIP, Sandra and Stewart and Am Bothan.

The Grand Draw realised £728.70. (810.70-82.00 in last year's accounts).

Our Ceilidh in the Croft made £860.68.

and the Scourie Ceilidh 741.06.

£113 from our Quiz night and £30 from the Bake Off.

We also had generous donations throughout the year of £540.15.

4 new Life members but no Annual members.

Gift Aid was down from last year – 122.55 against 169.75 last year.

The Association made Donations of £2500 which are listed on page 5 of the accounts.

If anyone would like to see the breakdown of the figures I can pass round the analysis sheet.

5. DONATIONS

Steven Anderson 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 applications were discussed and the following were awarded funding from the Association:

- **Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust**, £250 to support the cost of outdoor events for local families at Falls of Shin.
- **Sutherland Schools Pipe Band**, £200 towards the cost of uniforms, as well as piping and drumming supplies.
- **Golspie High School**, £350 to pay for the hire of a bus to take pupils and French exchange students to Landmark.
- **Dornoch Heritage SCIO**, £125 to cover the cost of folders for Ancestry Packs at HistoryLinks Museum.
- **Kinlochbervie Football Team**, £300 towards transport costs for away games.
- **Strathnaver Hall Committee**, £400 to support a project to collect and collate oral history about the resettlement of Strathnaver after the Clearances.
- **Lori Macleod**, Tongue, £200 to assist student with voluntary mental health placement in Sri Lanka.
- **1st Brora Scouts**, £400 to assist with sending local scouts to International Friendship Camp in Austria.
- **Chrisanne McCulloch**, Strathnaver, £200 to assist Glasgow School of Art student with cost of art materials.
- **Connie Mackinnon**, Bonar Bridge, £360 to assist Glasgow University student pay for a month of accommodation in Glasgow for summer research project into Cystic Fibrosis.
- **Caladh Sona**, Talmine, £300 towards the purchase of a powered wheelchair.

In summary:

Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust	£250
Sutherland Schools Pipe Band	£200
Golspie High School	£350
Dornoch Heritage SCIO (Historylinks)	£125
Kinlochbervie Football Club	£300
Strathnaver Hall Committee	£400
SLV – Lori Macleod	£200
1 st Brora Scouts	£400
Chrisanne McCulloch	£200
Student Research Uni of Glasgow-Connie Mackinnon	£360

Friends of Caladh Sona	£300
TOTAL	£3,085

This means the total donations from the Association this year amounts to £3,085

It was also discussed that the wording within our award letter and cheque to the above applicants should include a request that where possible the Association's contribution should be credited in any literature/reporting from the applicants.

6. FUNCTIONS 2017/18

2018 Loanhead Ceilidh

- Anne to look into booking hall and band again. Andrew stated an early March date would be preferable. Anne to confirm date.

Autumn 2017 Quiz night

- Matthew has offered to organise – welcomed but not discussed further as Matthew had sent his apologies.

Xmas dinner 2017

- This has been booked for Saturday 9th Dec 2016, Royal Overseas League, Princes Street.
- Discussion about other events – suggest another Sutherland Ceilidh in 2018 – perhaps on the north coast.
- It was noted that there would be fewer events this year, given the increased number last year during the 150th anniversary celebrations. Further events and fundraising initiatives would be required in 2018/19.

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
Secretary – Steven Anderson

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. Sandra Chalmers remains Honorary Vice-President.

New committee members: **Helen Foreman** nominated by Andrew seconded by Anne.

8. AOCB

- Anne noted rates on savings accounts were going down – Steven has discussed with Gordon and his advice is that there are not really better options at the moment.
- William noted concerns about the bar at ROSL and provided his views on ways to improve ceilidhs and quiz nights.

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