



AGM 2018

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Edinburgh Sutherland Association held at 7pm on Wednesday 27 June, 2018 at the Kenilworth, 152-154 Rose Street, Edinburgh

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from....

Hilary and Bob Mackay
Norman Mackay
Bill and Marie Manson
Andy Sanders
Chris Fraser
Lynne O'Brien
Sandra and Stewart Chalmers
Matthew Williams
Rachel Haworth
David and Shona Morrison

Those present were:

Marie Mackay
Wilma Mackay
Andrew Mackenzie
Steven Anderson
Willie and Anne Macintosh
Christine Smith
Lorraine Smith

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

The Minutes of the last AGM had been circulated prior to and at the meeting. Andrew Mackenzie, President, asked for concerns and questions – none were raised. The Minutes were duly proposed by Christine, seconded by Anne.

3. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President's Remarks (AGM 2018)

Events

Christmas dinner, December 2017

We held our Christmas dinner in Edinburgh on 9 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 **Neil John MacPhail**, who played the accordion to the delight of those attending. We appointed **David Morrison** Patron of the Association, **Sandra Chalmers** Honorary President and **Andy Sanders** and **Alex Gordon** Honorary Life Members. We also received a donation of £1,000 from David Morrison.

Quiz Night, January 2018

We held a pub quiz in Edinburgh on 23 January. This was prepared by **Matthew Williams**, but hosted by **Steven Anderson**. We also saw some new faces attending.

Annual Ceilidh, Loanhead, March 2018

Our annual ceilidh was due to take place on 2 March, but had to be cancelled due to heavy snow. It has been rescheduled to take place on 26 October.

Sutherland ceilidh, May 2018

We held a Sutherland ceilidh in Tongue on 19 May. We had a good turnout, with music from the **Rory Matheson** (Drumbeg) and band and singing from "The Big Sing" Tongue Choir, and **Annella Bulch** (Stoer). We raised about £450 for good causes in Sutherland. I am very grateful to all the committee members involved and to the local community in and around Tongue, especially **Frances Gunn**, and local business, such as the hostel, the Tongue and Ben Loyal hotels.

General comments

We have received some media coverage in the Northern Times and paid for an advert in the Am Bratach.

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, such as the Edinburgh Caithness. We understand there is interest from the Mackay Clan.

We awarded over £3,000 last year to good causes in Sutherland, meaning that over the last eight years the Association has donated over £15,000 to good causes in the county. This demonstrates we really are making a difference with various important projects in Sutherland.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Proposed by Ann, Seconded by Steven.
Summary report from Treasurer:

AGM 27062018

We have finished the accounting year with a balance of £2445.78 in the Current Account and £2953.71 in the NS & I making a total of £5399.19 compared to £7550.32 last year.

A difference of £2150.83, which is partly due to the cancellation of our Ceilidh in the Croft loanhead due to the weather and last year we had an extra function in the Overseas Club.

The only fundraising events we held were:

The Quiz night from which we raised £111 and the Christmas Dinner £158.
(136 from raffle)

A very generous donation of £ 1000 was received from David Morrison at the Xmas Dinner and a further £50 from mr & Mrs Mackenzie.

2 new annual members but no new Life members.

Gift Aid was down from last year- £15 against 122.55 last year.

The Association made Donations of £3329 which are listed on page 5 of the accounts.

£3085 as shown in the Minutes plus £244 donated for the Quaichs in March this year.

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:

- **Alexander Murray John**, Lairg, £300 to attend the National Youth Choir of Scotland (NYCoS) Summer Course in Merchiston School
- **Dornoch Firth Campus**, £150 to pay for approx. 80 pupils in P7-S2 from the Dornoch Firth Campus to attend workshops about the Clearances at Timespan in Helmsdale as part of an inter-disciplinary learning event.
- **Connie Mackinnon**, Bonar Bridge, £400 a self-funded research project in Professor Dan Walker's research Lab at the University of Glasgow.
- **Lairg and District Learning Centre**, £300 Gaelic classes to children in the community to raise awareness and usage of Gaelic language, art and literature.
- **Rosehall Primary School**, £200 to create a vegetable garden with raised beds, grow seasonal produce including the purchase raised bed kits, garden equipment, seeds and plants.
- **Dornoch Allsorts Afterschool Club**, £200 to contribute to the cost of running a Woodland Live Action Role Play Activity, including costume making, writing scripts, culminating in a site specific piece of interactive theatre.
- **Golspie High School**, £360 to assist transport costs with 24 pupils going to Outward Bound Trust outdoor centre in Loch Eil Centre
- **Dornoch Festival Week**, £200 to assist funding new activities and resources for children during Festival Week.
- **1st Golspie Brownie Guides**, £280 to purchase a tent for camping activities.
- **Feis Chataibh**, Golspie, £300 to assist with purchase of 3No. keyboards for workshops and performances.
- **Sutherland Provincial Mod**, £244 purchase of 3No. prize Quaichs engraved by the Association.
- **1st Brora Cubs**, £200, towards the travel cost for the group to attend Dalguise activity centre.

In summary:

Alexander Murray John	£300
Dornoch Firth Campus	£150
Connie Mackinnon	£400
Lairg and District Learning Centre	£300
Rosehall Primary School	£200
Dornoch Allsorts Afterschool Club	£200
Golspie High School	£360
Dornoch Festival Week	£200
1st Golspie Brownie Guides	£280
Feis Chataibh	£300
Sutherland Provincial Mod	£244
1st Brora Cubs	£200
TOTAL	£3,134

This means the total donations from the Association this year amounts to £3,134

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. -Loanhead Ceilidh 26 Oct 2018
Band and hall booked
Perhaps incorporate something new – bottle throw, true false etc
Normal Loanhead ceilidh would resume – probably March 2019

Autumn 2018 Quiz night

- Looking to book a quiz night in autumn – date tbc maybe November

Xmas dinner 2018

Options for new venue sought - Royal scots club – option, look into.options
Cote brasserie? TBC.

- Discussion about other events – Clan Mackay/ Edinburgh Caithness
- Look to bring together for an event with either?
- We agreed a Sutherland Ceilidh would be perhaps every two years so not in 2018/19
- 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 the Honorary President.

David Mackay and Matthew opted to remain.

8. AOCB

Willie raised young people on committee - as always we need to strive to get younger folk involved.

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