

SELKIRK COLONIAL SOCIETY

Minutes of AGM held in Conservative Club on 19 February 2015 at 7.30 pm.

In attendance	Apologies received from
Lindsay Cockburn (Chairman)	Sheena/Larry Chappell
Ian Clapperton (Secretary)	Nancy Carroll
Gerald Beggs (Treasurer)	Bill Edgar
Christine/Lewis Brydon	Lorna Lawson
Pat Clapperton	Craig Douglas
Lorraine Cassidy	Jean Grieve
Jim/Irene Henderson	Peter/Anne Henderson
Heather Beggs	Mary/Mike Hughes
Andrew/Jean Proudfoot	Catriona Livingston
Many Cockburn	Sheila Lockie
Annette Walker	Andy Moyes
	Rosalie Saunders
	John Graham

Welcome and apologies

Chairman welcomed everyone and apologies were taken and recorded as above. Chairman reported the recent death of member Patricia Jamieson.

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes had been circulated to everyone prior to the meeting. These were approved on the motion of Mandy Cockburn, seconded by Lorraine Cassidy.

Matters arising from previous minutes

There were none.

Appointment of office bearers, as necessary

Chairman advised that the post holders of Secretary, Treasurer and Trust had completed three years and in line with the procedural guidelines must now seek re-election.

Secretary and Treasurer had indicated prior to the meeting that they were prepared to continue, therefore unless another member wished to be considered for one of the posts, the existing postholders would continue. No other members were nominated therefore Ian Clapperton and Gerald Beggs were duly re-elected to Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Chairman reported that Jim Henderson had decided to call it a day after 10 years on the Trust and asked members to thank him for his sterling work on our behalf. Accordingly, since we now need to fill the position of Trust representative, Chairman proposed Andy Moyes to the

post but also asked those present if anyone else wished to be considered for the position of Trust representative.

In the absence of any further nominations, Andy Moyes was unanimously elected to the position of Society representative to the Trust.

CSB 2015

At the meeting on 30 October 2014 the members approved the selection of Christopher John Yardley from NZ as the CSB 2015. In line with the procedural guidelines the Chairman asked the members present to formally ratify the appointment. This was duly done and members wished every success to the new Standard Bearer. The press advert will be issued mid-March.

Treasurer's report followed by any remarks from Auditor

The accounts were previously distributed to all members via email and also by hand to those without IT access. Chairman asked Treasurer to explain the Society's financial position.

Treasurer guided members through the financial statement and highlighted several matters as follows -

1. the surplus from the Bussin'
2. the loss from the Reception
3. large donation from overseas member
4. the work by Lewis/Christine Brydon and Joyce Anderson to repair old ribbons, flags, etc all of which attracted one-off costs

Overall the Treasurer reported that the Society made a small loss of less than £50 in 2014/15.

Andrew Proudfoot remarked that the Society seemed to have a particular reliance on donations and this was picked up later in the Auditor's comments.

Chair then asked Auditor for any remarks.

Auditor confirmed that the accounts were being maintained in a highly satisfactory manner with no reservations. However the Auditor did have several matters which he recommended that the members needed to act on, asap. These were -

1. the loss of £2.50 from every ticket sold for the Reception. Such accounting could not be allowed to continue and every Society function had to "wash it's face". As a minimum, purely to cover all costs, the price per ticket last year should have been £20.
2. the member subscriptions must increase to enable the Society to continue to meet regular expenditure.

3. the Society has been relying on donations for too long. Donations should be viewed as a bonus and the Society has to take action to ensure that they have sufficient income to cover outgoings without donations.

Chairman thanked Treasurer (Gerald Beggs) and Auditor (Ian Clapperton) for their efforts and asked for a proposer (Jim Henderson) and seconder (Annette Walker) for the financial statement.

Chairman then continued the debate started by Treasurer and Auditor by stating that the Society must now make decisions to ensure that we are able to continue as a successful organisation. We cannot continue to rely on the generosity of overseas members. Things have to change and it is imperative that we act now.

In the matter of the Reception he remarked that "every ticket we sold last year lost us money and if we wished to commit to having a meal again then the amount we must charge would have to be £22.50 per person. To cover costs the minimum charge has to be £20. But that is not enough. We must make a profit on events. A charge of £22.50 would give us a return of between £150 and £200 which is more realistic than a loss of about £200".

Chairman also stated that "the only alternative to a meal at £22.50 is to re-visit the actual need for a meal. Why not go back to the snack laid out on platters on each table? There is therefore the option of having a sandwich type spread at a cost of approx £8.00 per head (plus the amount necessary to cover all costs of at least £6.00 per head), giving a realistic price per ticket of £15.00.

After much debate members opted for the cheaper option of a "platter of food on each table" for at least one year. Debate on the list of complimentary tickets resulted in "no change this year".

With regards to member subscriptions Chairman stated that the current level had been as it is for so many years he could not remember anything else. We had to increase the subscription. Chairman proposed that the member subscriptions increase to £15 for full members and £7.50 for associate members. Members countered by asking why we had to continue with associate members and after debate Andrew Proudfoot proposed that everyone (member and associate) pay one subscription of £15 and the term associate member be removed. This proposal was unanimously accepted.

A further discussion ensued with regard to Life Membership which is open to anyone paying £100. The members decided that Life Membership should be raised to £150. By paying that amount they would have no further subscriptions to pay.

Secretary was asked to inform members via IT and newsletter.

Chairman thanked everyone for their positive contributions to the financial debate.

Donations for 2015

Chairman reminded members that the existing, approved annual donations were - High School £60, Flute Band £25, Pipe Band £50, Silver Band £50, CR Trust £50, Scott's Selkirk £50

Following a proposal by Andrew Proudfoot it was agreed that these be changed to - **High School £60, three local bands £50 each, CR Trust £50 = £260**

The donation to Scott's Selkirk has been cancelled in view of its expected demise.

In addition, because this year we will be relying on the High School to provide singers due to the absence of our regulars, it was agreed that the HS donation be raised to £100 for this year only.

Member subscriptions

Already resolved during financial discussion.

Common Riding 2015 arrangements

Secretary confirmed that all matters were in hand and that at the next meeting he would be able to give a complete round-up of the arrangements. At this time Secretary had all the information he required to progress things.

Minor discussion took place on (a) the Foy - Mandy and Christine will be in charge, (b) the need for a fridge - matter CF to a later meeting and (c) the need to invite the Lady Busser of 1965 to the Bussin'.

There were no other matters raised by members. Secretary will continue to progress.

Any other competent business

1. Storage of old Bussin' ribbons. The Society retains all the ribbons from 1911 however it is becoming increasingly difficult to preserve some of them. Secretary advised that he had asked Lewis Brydon to investigate a more permanent solution to the problem and this is being done at the moment. Matter CF to a future meeting.

2. Secretary reported on our involvement with the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry which tells the story of Scots folk who have emigrated to "a' the airts" and how we were approached by the organisers to be part of the story in view of our unique status as a Society for "exiles". Heather Beggs, Christine Brydon, Sheila Lockie and Mary Hughes have volunteered to do the embroidery necessary for our part of the tapestry. Again this matter was CF to a future meeting. Secretary advised that anyone interested could read about the tapestry on the web (www.ScottishDiasporaTapestry.org).

3. Jim Henderson informed the members of the latest developments with the Trust and their desire for Casting Associations to have input into the RBSB selection. There was little enthusiasm among members to become so closely involved and the overall view was to maintain the status quo.

4. The next meeting was fixed for 16 April 2015, same place, same time.

Chariman thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution and he then closed the meeting at 9 pm.