

Selkirk Colonial Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on

Thursday 12th March 2020 at 19.30 in the Conservative Club

Agenda

1. Welcome and Apologies.

Chair welcomed 21 members to the meeting and completed the record of attendance with 17 apologies.

2. Minutes from previous Meeting.

Members agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24/10/2019 were a true and accurate record of the meeting and the minutes were approved.

Proposed, Pat Clapperton, seconded by Sandy Monks.

3. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising from previous minutes.

4. Correspondence.

There were 2 letters of thanks received. Blooming Selkirk for our donation of £50.

Sheila Lockie for £100 towards new Bunting.

5. Formal Appointment of Selkirk Colonial Standard Bearer 2020.

It was unanimously agreed by the members, that Andrew Millar from New Zealand be appointed as CSB for the year 2020.

Due to the current global situation with COVID19 we are awaiting advise from the CR Trust who will be attending a meeting of all the Borders Festivals Committee next week.

6. Treasures Report.

Accepted by the members.

7. Donations.

It was agreed that St. Joseph's Primary School will receive the £75 donation this year, as they will be singing at this years Bussin Concert. Each Band will receive £50, CR Trust £100.

Donations to other organisations will be deferred till the October meeting.

8. Subscriptions.

Membership subscriptions shall remain the same at £15 per annum. It was noted by the Chairman that we have gained 10 new members this year.

9. Common Riding 2020.

Everything is in place as it should be at this time.

Costs for the Bussin Programmes and Reception will remain unchanged from last year. An explanation with regard to the cost of the Reception was broken down into its component parts to demonstrate the true cost of the food element. Being mindful that the ticket cost had to cover the Hall rental, PA system, flowers, top table drinks, complimentary tickets and table cloths.

It was also discussed that careful monitoring at the entrances to the hall to ensure everyone was in possession of a Bussin programme.

10. High School Medal.

Due to lack of interest by pupils, and that we have only one medal left in stock, we are withdrawing from this venture after this year.

11. Appointment of Office Bearers.

The Treasurer and Secretary had indicated they are willing to continue in their posts for another year. However, it was agreed at the last meeting, that they should be shadowed by Margaret Rae and Elena Lawrie respectively to ease the transition next year.

Our Chairman had previously indicated he would standing down this year after five years as secretary and four years as Chairman. He proposed James Bunyan 2007 CSB as his successor. It was unanimously approved by the members. Jim thanked Ian for all the hard work he had done over the years to bring the Society into the 21st century in such good shape and financially sound. On a personal note. I'd like to say, the amount of 'behind the scenes' work Ian has put into this Society to raise it's profile locally and world wide. Having produced a life time history of the organisation and ensured its future to be seen by all is no mean feat. Also to thank him for help and support he has given me in my role as secretary. We wish him and Pat best wishes in their 'retirement'.

12. A.O.B.

Trust Report. See Annex

Bussin Ribbons for the years 2010-2019 are now being framed and will be ready by the CR.

13. Date of next extraordinary meeting TBN.

Meeting Closed at 20.45

Discussion topics for AGM 2019

We all know the criteria for local membership –

1. A Souter who has lived overseas for two years or more and has returned to live in Selkirk or
2. A blood descendant of a Souter who meets the conditions in section 1 above or
3. A Souter or blood descendant of a Souter who has lived away from the town for a minimum of two years

The most recent change (number 3 on the list above) was introduced by Lindsay in 2006/2007 and this was a sensible solution at the time which has resulted in the Society now having a significant number of members.

However, we still have a problem. Most of our new members are elsewhere in the UK which leaves the local membership rather thin (and elderly) on the ground. What happens, for example, when myself, Lindsay and Andy decide to retire as office bearers. Look around the local membership. Most of you are unlikely to be volunteering for the vacant posts. As a local group we are getting older and there are very few young contenders.

So, to ensure the continuity of the Society, it seems to me that we need to consider a further change in the membership criteria. Can I just make the point that “exiles” are not the problem, potential SBs are not the problem, it is only the local group that needs a review. Somehow, we have to find more local members between the ages of 30-55 and who would be in a position to act as office bearers in due course.

Here are some thoughts.

1. Existing local members need to encourage their own dependants. The current criteria allow for blood descendants to join, so maybe we have the solution within our grasp.
2. A press/facebook campaign should be undertaken to encourage people to come forward who already fit our criteria.

3. If all that fails, how about adding a fresh condition along the lines of “someone from abroad who has moved to Selkirk and lived in the town for more than two years”, or “a Souther living in the town with a descendant who has lived overseas for two years or more”.

These thoughts are just that – thoughts. You may have better ideas. Unless we recruit younger blood, the future is looking bleak. The time to make a change is now, when we are in a good position, not when it is too late.

Please come along to the AGM prepared to debate this item.

8. Newsletter.

Sincere thanks were recorded to Jane Graham for the excellent newsletter she produced on behalf of the Society, which is now on our website.

9. Remembrance Day.

Will be held on the 11th November. Annette Walker has asked to lay the wreath on behalf of the Society, and there being no objections was passed. Gerald will collect the wreath from Wull Scott on the 27th October. It will be an earlier start this year. 09.15 at O'Malleys for a 09.30 march off. As all the Casting Organisations will be parading their Standards, Sandy Monks will represent the Society by carrying the Colonial Standard.

10. Any Other Competent Business.

Members were asked to consider a prepossession to increase the fee of lifetime membership to £200/250. The current £150 fee was based on an annual membership fee of a £5, and not compatible with today's costings.

A discussion on the criteria for Hon. Membership took place, and to the number of persons who had been awarded this accolade over the last 20 years.

The Chair regretted to announce the death of one of our members. Peter Baillie, Canada.

The chairman has produced a book covering the history of the Colonial Society from its conception to present day, and is ready to be published. More than 100 pages of information, exiles stories, pictures, CSB/LB photo gallery, etc and about 35,000 words. It will cost £4 per copy to print but I think we could sell for £6.50. About 50p would go to the seller - the bookshop has agreed to do this in principle, and the Society would gain £2 per copy sold. The printers have proofed the book for free so there is no cost, bar the actual printing. Do you wish the book to be published? Are you happy to fund the printing? How many would you be happy to print? From my general enquiry a few weeks ago, it seems we could sell about 100 straight away to members and exiles. Peter Henderson has reviewed the book for me. If you agree, how will we manage sales to exiles and elsewhere in UK?

The members were all in favour of proceeding and agreed to the funding of 250 copies at an outlay of approx. £1000. The income produced from their sales would return £500.

Following the meeting, the Chair had discussions with the book shop who are also willing to take charge of all sales worldwide and local. The cost would be £1 per book and they have advised us to price them at £7.50 which gives the Society a £2.50 profit (£625 on 250 copies.) Allowing our sole agent to manage this alleviates the headache of postage and currency transactions from the Society.

The Chair announced that he'll be out of the country from December till February and requested that a volunteer be found to manage the CD sales during this period. The secretary has agreed to monitor this task.

11. Date of the next meeting AGM.

Thursday 7th March 2019 at 19.30 in the Conservative Club