

Selkirk Colonial Society

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18th October 2018 at 19.30 in the Conservative Club

1. Welcome and apologies.

The Chair welcomed 7 members to the meeting and completed the record of attendance with 13 apologies.

2. Minutes from previous Meeting.

Members agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 31/5/18 were a true and accurate record of the meeting and the minutes were approved on the motion of Lewis Brydon, seconded by Sandy Monks.

3. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising from previous minutes.

4. Correspondence.

There were letters of thanks from Rosalie Saunders, Selkirk Silver Band, Selkirk Flute Band, The Haining Trust and Rowlands.

5. Feedback from the Common Riding 2018.

- Better signage to reserve seats for guests at the Bussin Concert in the Victoria Halls.
- Reserve specific tables for the entertainers at our Exiles Reception upstairs.
- The first meeting of all Casting Organisations Leads was held. The outcomes of which were:
 1. The Haining will become the principle venue for next year's Casting Practices.
 2. The High School on the Wednesday to be trialled as a morning event. Due to the changed format of this event, visiting exiles will not be invited to attend.
 3. A dress code will be introduced for those representing their Organisations and wishing to enter the enclosure for the Casting of the Colours.
 4. All Standard Bearers will be requested to curtail their enthusiasm for their colleagues till after the ceremony has ended.

Trust Report.

- The Trust was faced with two serious issues two weeks prior to the Common Riding. The availability of the Town Hall for any of the Ceremonial events during C.R. week was

jeopardised. It was necessary to refer the interested parties to the Trust Deeds, Sect 14 para 3.

- The Lang Burn crossing point by the Weaver's Well had been washed away during the heavy rains.
- Urgent steps had to be undertaken to rebuild the crossing point. Funding is to be sought from the Common Good Fund to make permanent repairs to this area.
- At the "Greet and Meet" meeting, the following points were raised.
 1. A general thanks to everyone who responded to the clean -up operation after the storm on Wednesday night. Future discussions regarding contingency plans for such events are planned.
 2. Traffic issues this year were far less problematic and no major concerns were raised.
 3. There are ongoing discussions regarding the continual rising costs of both platforms and it may be necessary to rethink the way in which they are utilised.
 4. Public Fund Raising this year was down, and the Executive Committee also ran at a loss due to the weather on the Saturday.
- The recent request to all Casting Organisations to parade their standards at the 100th Anniversary of WW1 on Remembrance Day has been supported by the Trust and is to include the Royal Burgh Flag.

6. Election of SCSB.

The election of Selkirk Colonial Standard Bearer for 2019 was approved.

7. Membership criteria

Discussion topics for AGM 2019 – paper from Chairman:

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 I, Lindsay or Andy decide to retire as office bearers. Looking 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 or 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 and be 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.

This 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 agreed. 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.

1. Members were asked to consider a proposition 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.

2. 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.

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

4. 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. Chair provided some notes –

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 which 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.

5. 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

