

SELKIRK COLONIAL SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES

Location: Conservative Club, Selkirk

Date: 4th May 2023

Time: 7:30pm



Agenda Items

1. Welcome and apologies – Ian Clapperton welcomed everyone.

18 members attended the meeting and apologies received from 7 members.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Sheena Chappell proposed minutes and seconded by Andy Moyes.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes

No issues raised.

4. Correspondence

Email received from Shona Grieve to ask if the Society would like to sponsor a race at the Kid's Common Riding Picnic at £10 per race. It was agreed we will offer to sponsor 5 races costing £50. Elana will reply to Shona to confirm.

5. Common Riding Trust update

Report will follow.

6. CSB 2024 Applications

We have received 2 applications for CSB2024, applications were issued to members present. Ian gave a summary of each applicant, a secret ballot then took place.

Ian Clapperton then announced to the members that ??? from Preston, Victoria, Australia will be Colonial Society Standard Bearer 2024. The name is withheld until the formal announcement at the next AGM.

7. Common Riding 2023

Ian Clapperton confirmed actions complete so far:

Place names / Reception tickets – thanks to Andrew & Jean Proudfoot

Bussin' Ribbons etc. thanks to Sheila Lockie

Reception ticket requests have been sent (He reminded Members to get ticket orders in!)

Approx 24 exiles returning

Bussin' ribbon being prepared

Catering arranged - Shona Grieve (members agreed that no tea & coffee is necessary)

Bar arranged – Les Mallin

Table service for official part of reception then Bar service

Ball tickets arranged.

Spurs Night attendance – Gerald and Heather Beggs

Lady Busser presentation - Heather Beggs

Waldie Presentation – Sandy & Althea Smith

Flowers – Pat Clapperton & Annette Walker

CR Foy Last orders will be called at 2:30pm

Community Council attendance – Sheila Lockie & Catriona Heatlie

Kids Club attendance – Keith Rodgerson

Casting practice – Society will not take part until 6th June 2023

Presentation Tankards arranged

At next meeting, we will need names of volunteers for meeting, selling, escorting, etc on the 14th June

A discussion then took place around the appropriate time to add SB's embroidered names to the Colonial Sash. See separate note at end of the minutes of this discussion. It was agreed that this will be added as an Agenda item in our October meeting.

8. Donation of Bench update

This has progressed since the AGM 2022 and Stuart Davidson (BID Selkirk) is responsible for the area. We have been quoted approx. £750 cost for the bench. This was discussed by members and agreed to go ahead with the bench, subject to the bench design. Chairman to liaise with BID Selkirk/Stuart Davidson.

9. Any other competent business

Ian Clapperton raised that the Tory Club stairs are an issue for some members attending due to mobility issues and suggested changing meetings back to the Victoria Halls from our October meeting. This was agreed by members.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting will be on Thursday 1st June 2023 at 7:15pm in Selkirk Conservative Club.

Meeting closed 8.40pm

Please now see the document/report on the next page which relates to item 7

Note for members – Item 7

At the meeting, a question was asked by Jim Bunyan –

Why does the Society not embroider the sash with the CSBs name until after the Common Riding?

Chairman advised that his understanding of this policy stemmed from 1911, when our first elected CSB failed to arrive (because of ill health) and a replacement had to quickly be found. This meant that in 1911 we ended up with two names on the sash. Thereafter the Society maintained a policy/tradition of only embroidering the name of the CSB after the CR. This policy (which incidentally mirrored the approach by the Ex Soldiers Association, as reported by Andy Moyes) meant that the Society could avoid issues caused by travel problems, passport issues, and so on, all of which were more peculiar to the Society as opposed to the Casting Associations with home based SBs.

Jim was not convinced by this practice and felt that CSBs should have their names on the sash at the CR, and that just because something happened in 1911, it need not still apply in 2023. He also made the point that in his year as CSB (2007) the sash was embroidered before the CR.

It was agreed that the Chairman would approach former Chairman, Jim Henderson, for a view, and then inform members of the outcome.

Report on the view of Jim Henderson

As agreed at the meeting on 4th May, an approach was made to our former Chairman to establish his understanding/view on the matter of the sash embroidery. Should it be pre-CR or post-CR? Below you will find Jim's comments which have been cut & pasted from his email, with no editing –

Certainly it was the practice I inherited and saw no reason to change. I guess Bill Hogg and Jack (Harper) would argue that though the SB had been appointed, he had not yet carried the standard and therefore was not yet an SB. In any case I did not just have the Craig Douglas debacle to deal with, but in 1979 when Stewart Horsburgh from New Zealand had been appointed I got a call in Ireland asking if I would stand in because he had had a heart problem and did not know if he could make it to the CR! I volunteered but Stewart recovered and made it home so I was not needed.

I guess the Society, dealing at long distance over many years had several such instances so it made sense not to rush with embroidery (and save some money!)

Where does that leave us?

As chairman, I am of the view that the Society has a long-established tradition of only embroidering the sash with the CSB's name after the CR. We remain at the mercy of long-distance travel, war, border controls, and the like, so ultimately nothing has really changed since 1911. Of course, in the past there may have been one or two instances of the Society "putting the cart before the horse" and being premature in the embroidery (2007 for example), but that does not mean our tradition has changed. The Society today must take cognizance of the views of past Chairman – Hogg, Harper, Henderson.

However. I am only the Chairman. It is the members who must make the decision after considering the "pros and cons" and taking account of all member's opinions. I intend adding this matter to a future meeting (October) and then we will see what develops. Whatever is ultimately decided, will be noted in our Society guidelines, to avoid any future confusion.