

CLAN MACLEAN HERITAGE TRUST

MINUTES OF THE 13th MEETING

Held at The Western Club, Glasgow at 12.45pm on the
6th September 2001

Attendees: Canon Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch. Chairman
Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Morvern.
Lt. Col. Donald MacLean.
Dr. James MacLean. Treasurer.
Malcolm F MacLean. Secretary.

1. Apologies

None received all members present.

2. Minutes of the 12th Meeting

Accepted by all present.

3. Inverkeithing

a. Review of the occasion

Allan in a brief review of the Inverkeithing Project felt that the whole day went well. The rust appearing on the display stand had been reported to David Beveridge, who organised the stand. Payment has been withheld for this part of the project until the work is rectified.

b. Actual Costs

These are: £5816 [building cairn]; £830 [design of display, VAT exempt]; £595 [erection of two display panels, VAT exempt]; £100 [copying of posters]; £579 [making the plaques]; unknown sum for architect's expenses; about £50 for secretarial costs, postage, photocopies, telephones. Total so far: 7970+

c. Further expenditure on posters and leaflets

Councillor Eadie had asked for two more copies of the poster, for a school and a visiting heritage group. It was agreed that we should supply these two, but that any future copies should be at the cost of those requesting them. The same would apply to Nicholas Maclean-Bristol's article?

4. Finances:

a. Review of the last five years.

The Trust was established with £3600 the balance of the Special Projects Fund, with a commitment to add the Gaelic inscription [translated by Sorley Maclean] to the Drimnin Cairn [yet to be done], along with £3775 Capital and £1377 Accumulated Interest from the Fitzroy Donald Maclean Bursary Fund. These figures need to be confirmed. The Bursary funds had, by agreement of the Trustees, been absorbed into the General Trust Funds. It had also been agreed that in order to protect the Trust's [charitable] status, educationally based projects need to form a recognisable proportion of the overall expenditure.

Direct fund-raising, by writing to members of CMA, and appealing in the Battleaxe had not been successful, though certain individuals had been very generous. Now virtually all the funds have been used up on the projects we have undertaken.

b. Fulfilment of our commitments.

1. It was agreed that, to date, enough of our projects had fulfilled the overall spirit of the FDM Bursary Fund, but we need to keep this in mind when choosing new projects. It was agreed that the possible Piping Bursary would fulfil this well.

2. The Treasurer was asked to make contact with John MacLean, Ronald's son, about re-investing the capital of the FDM Fund. **Action: Dr James.**

c. Future fund-raising policy

1. It was agreed that our policy was now to fund projects from the Friends' subscriptions and target occasional projects for larger donations.

2. Col Donald talked about seeking funds from the Lottery and similar funding agencies for our projects, and pointed out that we might well have received considerable sums from the Lottery towards the cost of the cairn. Donald was asked to supply a brochure on the conditions under which the Lottery might support our projects. Other Grant Awarding Bodies might have different criteria. **Action: Col Donald**

5. Friends of CMHT

a. Current uptake and future promotion

Although we had only a few applications for membership so far, it was agreed that we must pursue this initiative. Allan agreed to identify and contact one or two individuals who may have overlooked making application. **Action: Allan**

The CMA was asked to include in the literature to do with 2002 Gathering, the venue of the Special Party, but point out the exclusiveness, so as to encourage people to join in order to attend. **Action: Col Donald**

Nicholas is to give a Report at the Clan Congress. It was also agreed that the Friends should have a stall at the Aros Hall, but the details were to be finalised. **Action Donald and Mac, in due course**

An Application Form for joining the Friends should be included on the website, which will need to be downloaded with hard copy with the required fee. The current use of the credit card by CMA might not continue after the Gathering, but if it did, no doubt the CMHT could use it too. **Action: Allan**

b. Special Party at the 2002 Gathering

The Chief offered Duart Castle for a drinks party, which was gladly accepted. Date and time to be confirmed. **Action: Allan and Lachlan**

6. Policy

a. Guidelines for choice of future projects and commitments

Over the first five years the choice of projects and commitments have been slightly random. Existing Policy, including the use of CMIA, and Guidelines are to be reviewed by Allan, for submission to a future meeting. **Action: Allan**

b. Trustees

Following discussion about the need for new trustees, including co-opted trustees, various names were suggested. **Action: Lachlan, Donald and Allan.**

Allan agreed to make informal [at no cost] contact Murray Beith and Murray about whether it was necessary for Trustees to assume office, by signing the Deed. **Action: Allan**

7. Accountability and Reports

a. Reports in the Battleaxe and Website

While there is no public accountability necessary for the trustees actions, there have been reports of some, if not all, of the projects in the Battleaxe, and recently in the web-site. These reports, though well intended, have not always been accurate, the Website also failing to mention that the work was undertaken by CMHT, rather than CMIA. Allan would prepare some revisions for Donald H. **Action: Allan**

b. Report to 2002 Gathering

Nicholas Bristol has agreed to give a report at 2002 Gathering of the first five years work. This would be at the Clan Congress. **Action: Allan**

c. Report for Friends.

The Friends will receive an annual report of the work of the Trust.

8. Library in Tobermory

The Clan Maclean Association Library, at present housed in Tobermory, was not transferred to CMHT, though some CMHT archives are also housed there. The Collecting and Receiving of Books could be considered a Heritage matter, as well as keeping the clan's collection of books up-to-date. Discussion of this was held over for another meeting, but in the meantime the CMHT was asked to provide the Secretary of the CMA with an aide-memoire to help her to answer queries; though the CMA's new CDROM should help her a lot. **Action: Allan**

9. Ross of Mull History Centre

Donald reported on his contacts both with the Ross of Mull History Centre and the Tobermory project/Nadar Trust. He will report further news and the possibility of formal contacts at the next meeting. **Action: Donald**

10. Ceremonial

There had been favourable comment about the use at Pitreavie of the two banners [borrowed from Sir Charles Maclean of Dunconnell]. The question of having one or both copied was passed to CMA, as also a similar suggestion about replica battle-axes. **Action: Donald [and Allan]**

11. Heraldic Heritage

There is concern about the 'destination' of the Maclean of Kingairloch arms, in the event of the failure of descendants of the current Kingairloch. He may not be aware that his current Matriculation leaves his arms, and with it the Chieftainship, in the event of no descendants of himself, over the head of any nearer relative, to Dr James Maclean ['of Glensanda'] and his heirs [i.e. James' brother's family in Australia]; and there is now also considerable dubiety as to whether Dr James was really of this family at all. It is considered that to point all this out, and its significance as to a future Maclean chieftain, is certainly heritage work. Nicholas Bristol had raised the matter originally and had agreed to do it. So far nothing has been done, and the Chairman was asked to write to Nicholas and urge him to write to Kingairloch. **Action: Allan**

12. Current projects:

a. Piping Bursary:

The School of Piping will arrange a two week course, and accommodation for £700. This was considered a very useful and beneficial project, within our probable financial resources, and fulfilling the spirit of the FDM Bursary. On the assumption that the money would be in place, advertising will be placed in the Piping Times and on the Web, so that everything can be in place for 2002. **Action: Donald**

b. Piping Book:

Although copies could not be ready for the 2002 Gathering, a mock-up and application forms for a Subscriber's List should be ready.

c. Maclean/Maclaine letters:

Iain Thronber has extended the date for purchase to end of 2001, and it was clearly felt that we should try and purchase these, particularly the Lochbuie Charter. Allan was to try and negotiate, especially over the latter. A photocopy and translation would be a good souvenir for the Friends. **Action: Allan**

d. Halifax [NS] Hatchment:

Correspondence had already been circulated. It was considered that this was a relatively inexpensive but important project, and would be a first project in Canada. Allan was asked to writ and confirm our interest, either alone or in conjunction with the CMIA in Canada. **Action: Allan**

e. Repair of Battleaxe railing at Killunaig.

Various members of the family of Maclean of Pennycross might finance this, but first a price is needed. It would be a good project to have completed by 2002. **Action: Allan, to get price**

13. Future Projects, and order of priority.

The following were noted, but not necessarily in this order of priority

1. Cairn at Lichlee, Isle of Mull

The site of this skirmish has been pinpointed by Lachlan, and the initial idea was to build a cairn, to be unveiled at the 2002 Gathering. Our finances, and disinclination to build another cairn so soon, lead the trustees at the last meeting to postpone this project.

2. Cairn at Knockmartin, Isle of Mull

Nicholas Bristol raised the suggestion that a cairn should be built here, where the Macleans gathered before going on an expedition.

3. Memorial at Glenlivet

This battle at which the Macleans were much involved has no memorial, and it has been suggested in the past that it should be added to our list.

4. Lochbuie Mausoleum

This ancient church was restored by the Maclaines of Lochbuie as their burying place. In the 1960s Brigadier Alasdair Maclean of Pennycross [a descendant of the Lochbuie family] raised funds to put the roof in order, and other tidying up to be done. Some slates have now slipped, and there is at least one hole, which needs repair urgently.

It is suggested that if the CMHT made approach to Lorne Maclaine of Lochbuie, he might get on and do something about it.

5. Editing and Publishing of Ian Maclean poetry

This was on the list of projects, and the Minutes then record that John Macinnes and Colum O'Baoil had started work on it. Presumably this is independent of the CMHT.

6. Lt Hector Lachlan Stewart Maclean VC

17 August 1997 was the centenary of Hector's winning the VC [The only Maclean holder of the award]. Ronald suggested that the anniversary might be marked by a plaque at Fettes. Hector's old school. This idea came to nothing, but I think should be kept on the list.

7. John Maclean of Maclean Ridge, Australia.

There has been a certain amount of correspondence about this suggestion. It needs to be checked whether it was rejected, or merely postponed. **Action: Mac**

8. Inscription at Breacachadh Castle, Coll.

Johnson and Boswell record an inscribed stone over the doorway of Breacachadh Castle, that recorded the friendship between the Macleans of Coll and the Macgillionies of Strone [Camerons]. Thirty years ago the CMA had the idea that they should replace it in some way. This was never done, and now Nicholas does not seem as keen as he once was on the idea.

9. Memorial to Hector Maclean, Ballygrant, Islay.

Hector Maclean was a great collector of folklore, and helped John Lorne Campbell with his collections. Recently there has been a great revival of interest in their work, and a memorial to him would be very much to the interest of contemporary Gaelic scholarship.

10. Genealogical Records.

Genealogy and Family History is of the essence of a clan heritage trust. At present there is some very inaccurate information on the web-site, and there is the genealogical part of the Maclean-net. There is a need both for reliable guidelines and pointers for researchers, accurate publication of genealogies, and a base for people to send their genealogies for safe keeping.

This needs to be addressed soon, before the initiative goes elsewhere.

11. Monumental Brass, Iona

Although this project seems to have failed, Allan thought he would try once again to see if we could be involved in some way, the money having been given for the project. **Action: Allan**

12. Other projects.

The Trust needs to try and identify future sites and people, and their anniversaries, both in Scotland and elsewhere in the world. With the internet, this should be much easier to do than it used to be.

Allan asked for a wall-plaque at Erray House, Tobermory, the home of the genealogist and historian, Dr Hector Maclean of Gruline, whose family were visited in his absence by Johnson and Boswell, should be considered.

14. Rejected Projects

It was agreed that the **Coll Mausoleum** and the **Register of Deeds** should now be deleted from the list of Projects.

15 AOCB

Commander Madden, Peterhead, had written to the Secretary about possible gifting a heraldic matriculation of his great Uncle, the Kaid Sir Harry Maclean, to the CMHT. Allan was asked to write to him to make accept. **Action: Allan**

16 Date and Venue for next meeting

To be advised.