

# CLAN MACLEAN HERITAGE TRUST

## MINUTES OF THE 26th MEETING Held at the Western Club, Glasgow at 12.00 Noon on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2007

**Attendees:** Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Morvern. [Chairman]  
Canon Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch.  
Lt. Col. Donald MacLean.  
Mrs Fiona Maclean of Ardgour.  
James Beaton  
Dr. James MacLean. Treasurer.  
Malcolm F MacLean. Secretary.

Prior to the formal opening of the meeting the newly appointed Chairman of the CMHT Sir Lachlan, together with the Trustees thanked Canon Allan for his 5.1/2 years service as Chairman of the Trust. Under his guidance the Trust had launched the Friends of the CMHT through which many Maclean historical sites and former Maclean figures have been commemorated. Allan will of course remain as a CMHT trustee.

**1. Apologies:** Apologies for non attendance received from Ian MacLean Nova Scotia, (e/mail comments submitted), Brian McLean, Australia (e/mail comments submitted), Nigel Alington, (e/mail comments submitted), Robin Maclean of Ardgour, and Prof. Ephraim McLean. Atlanta(e/mail comments submitted).

**2. Minutes of the 25th Meeting:** Accepted by all present.

### **3. Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

#### **a. Marking significant MacLean's.**

Nigel in his notes suggested that representatives in the Associations could be made responsible for submitting Maclean items of historic interest to be featured on the website.. Such submissions from the Associations to be vetted, and written up before being updated onto maclean.org. Sir Lachlan to contact Nigel with regards to how this proposal could best be implemented.

#### **b. Culloden Stone.**

Allan reported that the cost of a stone was more than he had anticipated, and was not a particularly significant stone, so he had not furthered the purchase for the CMHT. He indicated that there was no urgency with this proposal as stones can be bought at a later date.

#### **c. 2007 Souvenir Magazine.**

Ian was thanked for his excellent article on the Birlinns and the Maclean Waterways for the 2007 Souvenir Magazine.

### **4. Finances:**

#### **a. Accounts 2006/7.**

Allan and Dr James had now arrived at a final version of the accounts and the trustees made one adjustment to show that Dr John McLean's £200 was all donation, and specifically for the Piping Bursary. With this adjustment, Allan was asked to produce the figures, according to the model that OSCR suggested, to accompany the Chairman's Report, also along the lines of the example that OSCR had given, and the External Examiner's Report. Allan was asked to check with Nigel that they fulfilled the requirements, before submission to OSCR.

#### **b. Current Position**

The Treasurer at the meeting gave the current cash position as £4,809 at bank.

#### **c. Personal Tax Incentives for overseas Donations**

Nigel had raised in his notes the question of how we could set up an organisation that encouraged overseas citizens to give donations to the CMHT. The personal tax-deductibility aspects of such a scheme needs to be clarified. With some 25% of current Friends funding coming from the USA, Nigel was to be contacted by Sir Lachlan to take this proposal further with the assistance of Ephraim. Sir Lachlan recommended that Garry, Treasurer, of the N.W. Pacific Branch, should be contacted as he has experience in this field.

## **5. Secretary's Comments.**

### **a. OSCR requirements.**

Mac introduced the "induction pack", together with a more formal invitation and acceptance letter which he feels will be in more accord with OSCR procedures. The introduction letter was modified after some discussion, and recent newly invited trustees will in due course receive the induction pack. Mac commented that the CMHT has some way to go before it can be said that the trust has achieved, "best or good practice", against the OSCR Guidance for Charity Trustees. To this end he has scored the CMHT against a check list extracted from the OSCR Guide using a YES/NO/Partial scoring against the examples of OSCR good practice. The check list can be viewed at the end of these minutes; any comments from trustees will be welcomed. Please bear in mind that we are a small charity and therefore will not be expected to achieve best practice under all the statements listed. On the Rolling Review Proposals of the regulator Sir Lachlan reasoned that we would not be high on the regulators list so why not sit back and see what happens to others once the reviews commence.

## **6. Manuscripts and Archive.**

### **a. Further Maclean Papers:**

Allan spoke about the American lady who had further Maclean Papers for sale; the Trust will make an offer when further details of the quality, and quantity of the papers became available. Mac had written to the lady concerned but had rejected her offer of having the papers posted to the UK for viewing. The Trust had been expected to pay all packing, postage and insurance costs. However at the Congress, Judge Sandra McLean had offered to view the papers and give her opinion on whether or not the Trust should consider making an offer. Allan asked Mac to contact Sandra and supply copies of the correspondence to Sandra.

## **7. Library.**

### **a. Additions.**

Mac reported that whilst on Mull he had spent some 90 minutes with Jean Whittaker during which time he had been shown how the library cataloguing system operated for both Maclean books and Mull Library additions. He was also able to verify that the message about the Library receiving all Newsletters was getting through to the Associations.

It was agreed to accept the kind offer, being made through Ian MacLean, of both Kelties History of the Highlands. Vol. 2.

and J P Maclean's Book on the 1897 Gathering in Chicago.

Sir Lachlan asked Allan to provide the meeting with a list of books that could be purchased with the approval of the trustees, for the Maclean Library. In addition Duncan (President CMIA) is to be asked by Mac to include in the forthcoming edition of the Battleaxe a list of the magazines and books donated to the library.

## **8. Promotion of the CMHT:**

### **a. General.**

#### **i. Website.**

a. Nigel's points on the editing and keeping the CMHT website accurate and up to-date illustrated the need to have our own control over the site. Sir Lachlan said that with Nigel happy to carry out this function then he should take up the mandate as soon as possible. Nigel to action.

#### **b. Leaflets for Tents.**

With Marcus unable to provide the required leaflet and Ephraim requesting a CMHT flyer for the USA Highland Games tents it would be necessary for some other trustee to take on the task. Nigel to be requested by the Chief to produce such a leaflet. Action; Letter to Nigel by Sir Lachlan. Allan will provide the photographs.

## **9. International Gathering, June 2007.**

### **a. Stall in Aros Hall, Tobermory.**

Mac and his wife plus other trustees who helped on the stall were given a vote of thanks. Thanks were also given to Fiona for her safe delivery of the maps to Tobermory. The Kilties display attracted a lot of attention but on the day the sale of maps was disappointing. The overall appearance of the CMHT stall on the day was thought to be excellent, showing, how it did, the "benefits", sent to Friends together with past projects. A nearby table arranged by Allan showed items of general Maclean interest, and the whole array of CMHT stalls was considered to have been a very worthwhile project.

### **b. Stall at Duart on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

The stall at Duart got off to a bad start with no tables and lack of space. Special thanks to Ian for his

efforts on returning to Aros Hall to retrieve tables and recover the situation. The delay meant the formal unveiling of the Maclean Map failed to take place; on the day sales of the map were disappointing. Allan added that lessons had been learnt, certainly the logistics of moving displays from Tobermory to Duart; and for all future unveilings/ presentations to take place at the Clan Congress.

**c. Boat Trip to Drimnin.**

Allan reported that the trip to Drimnin went well with 28 people taking the trip, twice the number planned. The Lewis's put on a splendid lunch, followed by a memorable Ceremony at the old chapel.

**d. Trip to Inch Kenneth.** (Invitation of Clare Barlow)

Donald had made all the arrangements for this trip with 16 people making the boat trip. Allan led the party and talked about the points of historical interest. Refreshments were provided at Inch Kenneth House.

**e. Unveiling the Memorial at Torloisk.**

This was regarded by all the trustees as one of the highlights of the Gathering. Allan estimated that there were some 200 people on the day with 9 trustees including the Secretary and Treasurer. Brigadier Macfarlane read the Gaelic poetry and the Canadian High Commissioner sent a representative who laid the wreath. The Trust paid for him and his wife, along with the Brigadier and Fiona to have lunch at Calgary prior to the ceremony.

**f. Friends Tea at Torloisk House**

Allan estimated that some 80 Friends attended this Friends only part of the day. The Macleans arranged a sumptuous tea which the Trust has paid £320, plus a letter of thanks for the day.

**10. Completed Projects.**

**a. Map of Clan Lands and Castles. (No Cost)**

Allan said that the maps looked very attractive but not many were sold, due in part to the misunderstanding at Duart on the Saturday. Ian in his submission believed that more prominence should have been given to the maps at the Gathering. On the point of presentations all future events of this kind will be given prominence at the Clan Congress.

Ian felt that one of the concerns was that the selling price was higher than most Macleans are prepared to pay. Following discussions with IR Mapping it is proposed that the selling price be changed to \$10 per map. The mapping company will receive \$3, the CMHT \$3, and the seller \$4. Ian also asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Curt Speight the owner of IR Mapping. Action Allan.

**b. Piping Bursary. (2007: £1100)**

Donald reported that Nicholas McLean from Kilmartin in Argyll had attended the Piping College for two weeks although he had not spoken to Nicholas he had heard from the college that Nicholas had benefited greatly from the experience. James Beaton put forward the suggestion that the National Piping Centre website be a possible for future publicity when considering the 2012 bursary. Allan raised the question that in his mind Nicholas should now be entitled to life membership of the clan. Donald to investigate and action if necessary.

**c. General Allan Maclean, Torloisk. [£2186 including Unveiling etc]**

Allan reported that advice was received that a site outside Kilninian Church would not require planning permission. Allan went on to say that Col Donald arranged for the foundation to be built in advance [£300], and the St Mary's Workshop built the cairn for free, but there were costs in the hire of a lorry, ferry crossing and accommodation, as well as the sand needed [£1362 for building costs]. Stone was given and delivered by the quarry at Pennygown. An additional cost was for the plaque, which originally was going to be Workshop cut [£319].

**11. Current Projects.**

**a. Piping Book. (2008: £3500)**

Donald reporting on the progress of the Piping Book stated that Allan will write an introduction to the book, but there was still a problem with the question of copyright, on some, but not all of the tunes. Overall there were now some 75 tunes selected. Sir Lachlan commented that we need to start thinking about how we present the Piping Book; perhaps a significant day could be set aside in the Maclean Room at the College of Piping.

**b. CD version of Seneachie's History (2008)**

Allan to complete by next Spring.

**c. The Bard's stone at Glenbard.**

Ian had emailed photographs of the Bards stone for the trustees to view. It was agreed that the Trust would support this project, perhaps in a joint venture, like we did with the hatchment in Halifax, with CMA Maritimes and John Sinclair combining the gravestone renewal of lettering together with the translation. The trustees at the meeting felt that a suitable place for the translation plaque might be at

the foot of the grave if this was permissible. Costs and plaque design to be established by Ian. Allan to write to Ian

**d. Tombstone at Killean.**

Sir Lachlan reported that with the help of Colin Martin [Marine Archaeologists] drawings of the stone had been prepared and sent to Heritage Scotland, but they were not particularly interested in the project. The Stone Conservation Centre had not yet been contacted. After discussion it was agreed that Sir Lachlan should write to the De Klee family, and ask if they were going to do something about the stones, and pointing out that now that they were known about there might be many people trying to visit the site. Thus moving them for conservation and possible re-siting at Duart would probably suit the De Klees very well. An alternative would be a protective box at Killean, but this might encourage visitors to go there.

**e. Dr Archibald Lang McLean**

At the Tobermory meeting Brian had introduced the idea of commemorating Dr Archibald Lang, the Trust are in favour of a plaque but suggest that a more central site perhaps in Sydney where it would be seen by a greater number of people. Mac to write to Brian.

**12. Projects under consideration.**

**a. Maclean Calendar**

Doug McLean from St John, New Brunswick had put forward this suggestion; the calendar would include significant Maclean anniversaries on each day and pictures of completed CMHT projects, significant Clan Maclean places and clan lands. The meeting felt after due consideration that this was not a practicable suggestion. It would require a great deal of work with the prospect of very little return and probably many unsold stock, which being dated could not be re-used.. Although rejected by the CMHT it was felt that the CMIA website be used instead. Sir Lachlan to write to the CMIA.

**b. Edition of Dr Hector Maclean's Genealogy. (2007)**

Allan stated that it was now a much easier project but would still take time and perhaps be completed next winter.

**c. Hon. Angus Maclean. Premier of Prince Edward Island.**

Ian to be requested to go ahead with this project, with perhaps an approach to descendants of the Hon. Angus Maclean in Prince Edward Island, to gain agreement to the idea. Mac to contact Ian.

**d. Chapel restoration at Drimnin**

Allan report that Mr Lewis had written to ask if the Macleans/CMHT were interested in supporting the ongoing restoration project of the Gordon Chapel built on the site of the Maclean of Drimnin Castle. James Beaton also said that considered that rebuilding work is nothing to do with CMHT, and he thought that each of the suggestions should be measured against the question: Does it fit in with the objective of the Trust? Looking at the suggestions put forward by Mr Lewis the trustees expressed the view that their remit did not cover the naming the Chapel tower, the Maclean tower, or the commissioning of a stained glass window. The restoration of Allan Maclean of Drimnin's tomb, however, might be of interest to Locker Madden because of family connections. Allan to connect Locker to gauge his interest. Allan felt that a board on the castle wall about the clan would hold some interest, but would prefer to see how the project evolves before the Trust would consider any input. Ian in his submission liked the idea of the stained glass window and was supportive of the principle of a board offering a permanent record about the castle. Allan to write to Mr Lewis explaining the Trusts position.

**e. 'McLean Law'.**

There is an idea that we should commemorate the McLean who was responsible for the 'McLean' enactment in the USA. Fiona said that Judge Sandy McLean had been helpful but it showed up the problem of getting any action out of the USA. Fiona felt that any commemorative plaque should be in Ohio rather than in Washington.

**14. Database of Ideas and possible future projects.**

The list at present stands at [but not in this order of priority]:

- 1. Lichlee, Isle of Mull** - Possibly an inscription on boulder, rather than building a cairn. Date 1587.
- 2. Knockmartin, Isle of Mull.** This was the rallying place for Macleans on the west side of Mull.
- 3. Memorial at Glenlivet,** Battle at which Sir Lachlan Mor took a leading part, see Nicholas Maclean-Bristol's, Murder under Trust, p187-94. Date, October 1594 and we missed the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- 4. Inscription at Breacachadh Castle, Coll**

Replacement of the inscribed stone recording the amity between the Macleans of Coll and the MacGillonies [Camerons] of Strone, Lochaber. The original wording is known.

**5. Benjamin Franklin McLean, Kansas.**

This was a project suggested to Col Donald by a lady in USA who had attended the last Clan Congress in 2002. Donald to action.

**6. Kilbrannan, Rankin College of Piping.**

This was the Rankin College of Piping.

**7. Dr. Hector Maclean of Gruline.** This project has been put off meanwhile, but the idea was to commemorate him in the Gorbals, and/or at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons; or at Erray House, Tobermory. (See past minutes for additional information).

**8. Neil McLean, the Railway Builder in Nevada.**

In 2003 Duncan, Nevada, began to investigate Neil McLean, and was in touch with his grandson Neil, in Southern California. No further word received.

**9. Alexander Maclean Sinclair.**

It was agreed that rather than a plaque we should instigate a sort of conference in Canada, perhaps with the Celtic Studies Dept. of StFX University.

**10. Eilean Amalaig.**

There is a suggestion that we should mark this island, and its 'galley harbour'.

**Sir Lachlan stressed the need for more attention to be given to future projects at the next meeting.**

**15. Friends of CMHT:**

**a. Current uptake**

Mac reported that the current uptake for 2007 had now reached 69 (including 4 Honorary Friends). The hope was that the new USA Friends who had joined because of the Gathering would renew their membership in 2008.

**b. 2007 Benefit.**

This will be the 'Maclean Map', with all the accompanying notes supplemented by an introduction from Allan, which would make this a "unique" benefit for the Friends. Mac to establish P & P costs of sending tubes and inform Trustees.

**c. 2008 Benefit.**

Sir Lachlan said that the 2008 benefit will be decided at the March meeting. In advance of the meeting will Mac please look at a possible source in the Birmingham/Midlands to undertake the lead pressing of a small quantity 70/100off crown size medallions. The establishment of a manufacturing source and cost estimates will be a factor in whether or not to go ahead with the medallion 'Friends' gift.

**16. A.O.B.**

**Pre-eminent Macleans**

i. Donald will discuss with Alistair White (Webmaster) the suggestion by Nigel that current MacLean's who achieve pre-eminent positions or deserve their achievements to be recognised by the clan via an entry on the web site.

**Maclean Sites at Risk**

ii. It was decided following Nigel's note that as and when such sites are known to the CMHT, and if they are relevant, CMIA will be notified.

**Scots at War Trust.**

iii. Alistair White to be asked to provide a link between mac.org and the website for The Scots at War Trust. Mac to contact Alistair White.

**17. Date and Venue for next meeting.**

**12th March 2008**

**Time: 12.00 Midday,**

**Venue: The Western Club, Glasgow.**

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