

CLAN MACLEAN ASSOCIATION OF LONDON

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held at the Caledonian Club, London SW1, on Friday, 14th October 2005

Those present: Nigel Alington – President
Nicolas Maclean of Pennycross – Vice President
Nick Hart – Hon.Treasurer and Secretary
Bill Denham
Lorna Denham
Allan Maclean
David Maclean Watt
Mary Wilson

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Sir Lachlan Maclean, Mr Malcolm Maclean and Mrs Emma Amati. They were also received from Mr and Mrs Charles Maclean, Mr David Maclean, Capt. Donald McLean, Mrs Glenda McLean, Mr Patrick McLean, Mrs Shuna MacLean, Mrs Isla Cross, Mr Allan Gillan, Mr George Gillon (President of the Caledonian Club), Mrs Marion Hart, Mrs Janet Thain and Mrs Jenny Wilton.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22nd October 2004 were distributed and, subject to one amendment proposed by the Vice President, were accepted as correct by all those present who had attended that meeting.

3. Matters arising

The Secretary reported that his efforts to persuade the persistent non-payers to pay a subscription had not met with success. In general they had not responded at all. The President pointed out that the constitution of the Clan Maclean Association provided that non-payment of the annual subscription for a period of two years automatically terminates membership. He suggested that the London Association should follow this example. This was agreed.

The outstanding matters relating to the status and constitution of the Association were considered under separate headings, as reported below.

4. President's report

Since the last AGM the Association had held an enjoyable and successful Burns Night Supper. This had been fully reported in the International BattleAxe magazine (q.v.).

The President reported that he had represented the Association at the Annual General Meeting and Dinner of the Clan Maclean Association, held in Glasgow on 30th October 2004.

He, together with the Vice-President, had represented the Association at the Memorial Service for Veronica, Lady Maclean, held in London on 12th May 2005.

He reported that the current President of the Clan Maclean Association, Marcus Maclean, had decided to step down at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of that Association. Having married an Australian lady, he proposed to divide his time between the UK and Australia. This did not permit him to devote enough time to the affairs of the Association. It is proposed that Robin Maclean of Ardgour (first cousin of London's President) should succeed him.

The President reported that the planned change in the Presidency of the International Association had been postponed. Colonel Donald will now stay as President until the 2007 Gathering in Mull. He will then be succeeded by Duncan S. Maclean, immediate past President of California/Nevada (and brother of London member Mrs Shuna Maclean).

5. Accounts for year ended 31st July 2005

The accounts were presented by the Treasurer, Nick Hart.

The two dinners held during the period of account had both made small surpluses, although in each case the surplus was smaller than that of the same dinner in the previous year. In the case of the AGM dinner, this was due to the large attendance at the 50th Anniversary Dinner in 2003. There was however a significant increase in the level of subscriptions and donations received. This had produced an overall surplus for the year of £330.94 and an increase in the cash held in the Association's bank account.

It was agreed that, if and when the accumulated surplus exceeded £1,000, consideration should be given to making a donation to the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust and/or another worthy cause.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Nicolas Maclean, seconded by Mary Wilson and approved unanimously.

6. Election of officers

The Treasurer/Secretary advised that, due to increasing commitments at home, it was possible that he may not be able to continue to fulfil both roles. He would be happy to continue as Treasurer but may wish to step down as Secretary in twelve months' time.

Subject thereto, the re-election of Nigel Alington as President, Nicolas Maclean of Pennycross as Vice President and Nick Hart as Secretary and Treasurer was proposed by Mrs Lorna Denham, seconded by Mrs Mary Wilson and agreed by all present. There were no other contenders.

7. CMA London status and constitution

The President reported that, as requested at the previous meeting, he had taken soundings in Glasgow concerning their view of the London Association as a branch of the Clan Maclean Association in Scotland. At the previous meeting a majority of those present had expressed the view that for London to be treated as a branch of CMA International was inappropriate, given that the London Association was based in mainland Britain, and that we should be a branch of the Association in Scotland.

Unfortunately this view was not shared in Glasgow. It was clear that the London Association was considered by them to be part of the International Association and there was no interest in having London as a branch of Scotland. Moreover London was also viewed by the International Association as being part of them.

Although therefore reverting to branch status was not an option, the President suggested that there were merits in being an independent Association, including more freedom of action and greater leverage for seeking subscriptions from members of the Scottish Association. He proposed therefore that the Clan Maclean Association of London should be formally constituted as an autonomous association within Clan Maclean International Association. This was agreed by all present.

On this basis the president tabled a draft constitution, based on the constitution of the Clan Maclean Association that had been agreed in November 2003. He requested that members should review this and submit their comments to him in writing. The matter would be considered again at the next meeting of the Association.

8. **Any other business**

(a) **Honorary appointments**

The Secretary proposed that members, such as Patrick McLean, who had given outstanding service to the Association over a period of several years should be recognised with the title of Honorary Member and should be exempted from paying annual subscriptions.

The President agreed that the recognition should be given to members who had given outstanding service. He suggested however that the title of Honorary Member was not appropriate. This suggested that the person concerned did not qualify as a full member. Also, the Constitution of the Clan Maclean Association, on which he was proposing that the constitution of the London Association should be modelled, specified that Honorary Members were not entitled to vote. We clearly did not want to disenfranchise members such as Patrick McLean. The President suggested that Honorary Vice President would be more appropriate. Another member suggested Life Vice President as another option.

The President also suggested that people who had given their services to the Association may not all wish to be exempted from paying a subscription. They may positively wish to continue paying, as a continuation of their contribution to the Association. He proposed therefore that such exemption should not be automatic but instead should be considered in a case-by-case basis.

This matter was deferred for further consideration.

(b) **Charitable status**

The President wondered if it might be possible to gain charitable status for the Association, in order to generate more revenue by allowing subscriptions to qualify for Gift Aid. It was not clear however if the Association would qualify and this matter was deferred until the appropriate enquiries could be made.

(c) **Junior members**

It was agreed that there was a need to encourage younger members of the Clan to take an active part in the affairs of the Association. Such members effectively get free membership of the Association, as the £10 subscription covers a whole family. A separate table for junior members at Association dinners was suggested. It was hoped that the Chief's children could be encouraged to take a lead in this respect.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 19.15 hours.