# CLAN MACLEAN ASSOCIATION OF LONDON

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held at the Caledonian Club, London SW1, on Friday, 27th October 2006

Those present: Nigel Alington – President
Nicolas Maclean of Pennycross – Vice President
Nick Hart – Hon.Treasurer and Secretary
Bill Denham
Lorna Denham
Marion Hart
John Hart
Shuna MacLean
David Maclean Watt
Alasdair White
Fiona White
Mary Wilson

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mr Malcolm Maclean and Mrs Emma Amati. They were also received from Mr and Mrs Alec Maclean, Mr Hamish Maclean, Mr and Mrs Charles Maclean, Mr Alan Maclean, Mr Patrick Maclean, Mr and Mrs Donald H. Maclean, Mrs Helen Bailey, Mrs Isla Cross, Mr Allan Gillan, Mr George Gillon, Mrs Gillian Miller, Mrs Jennifer Pinder, Mr and Mrs Kevin Simms and Mrs Jenny Wilton.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14th October 2005 were distributed. As these were somewhat lengthy and could not be read thoroughly in the time available, the President invited those who attended that meeting to send him their comments, if any, on the Minutes by e-mail.

3. **Matters arising**

No progress had been made as regards establishing whether or not the Association was eligible for charitable status, in order to generate more revenue by allowing subscriptions to qualify for Gift Aid. The general feeling however was that the Association was not so eligible. The Treasurer confirmed that any surpluses generate by the Association were not subject to tax, as the Association was non-profit making. It was agreed that this matter would not be pursued for the time being.

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 5th November 2005.

He confirmed that, as anticipated at the previous year's meeting Robin Maclean of Ardgour had succeeded Marcus Maclean as President of the Clan Maclean Association. Hamish Maclean of Breda had resigned as General Secretary of that Association and had not yet been replaced.

5. **Secretary's report**

Nick Hart as Secretary reported on the changes to the membership over the past year.

Three new members had joined during the financial year under review, being Mr James Maclean, Mr Hamish Maclean and Mrs Jennifer Pinder. Since the end of the financial year three more members had joined, being Mr and Mrs Bob Maclean, Mrs Audrey McCormick and Mr and Mrs Kevin Simms.

Two members had resigned, being Mrs Glenda Maclean and Mr and Mrs Ian Maclean.

6. **Treasurer's report and accounts for year ended 31st July 2006**

The accounts were presented by the Treasurer, Nick Hart.

He reported that the deficit in relation to the AGM dinner was due to the fact that fewer people attended the dinner than had been expected when its costs were budgeted. The Caledonian Club had also imposed a cover charge which had not been budgeted.

The reduction in the amount of subscriptions and donations received was due to the fact that the amount of these in 2005 had been inflated by one-off donations for the painting presented to the Chief. The 2006 figure was in line with previous years.

Notwithstanding these adverse movements, the Association had achieved a surplus overall. In accordance therefore with the agreement reached at the previous year's meeting, it was agreed that a donation of £250 should be made to the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust. There was discussion as to whether or not the donation should be made subject to a condition that it should be used for a project to be specified by the Association. It was however agreed that no such restriction should be applied.

The President requested views ion whether or not the amount of the annual subscription, which had been fixed at £10 for several years, should be increased and whether or not a distinction should be made between individual members and family members. After discussion it was agreed that no change should be made.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Mr Alasdair White, seconded by Mr Bill Denham and approved unanimously.

7. **Election of officers**

Although Nick Hart had warned at the previous year's meeting that he might not be able to continue as both Secretary and Treasurer, he now expressed his willingness to continue fulfilling both roles. Nigel Alington and Nicolas Maclean advised that they were willing to continue as President and Vice President respectively.

There being no other candidates, 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 Fiona White, seconded by Mr David Maclean Watt and agreed by all present.

The meeting expressed its appreciation for all the considerable work undertaken by Nick Hart in his dual role.

8. **CMA London status and constitution**

At the previous meeting the President had tabled a draft constitution, based on the constitution of the Clan Maclean Association that had been agreed in November 2003, and had requested that members should review this and submit their comments to him in writing. No comments had been received.

He proposed now to give the draft constitution a wider distribution among members and to set a specified consultation period for comments. A final version of the constitution would then be submitted to next year's meeting for adoption. This was agreed.

9. **Any other business**

(a) ***Honorary appointments***

At the previous year's meeting the Secretary had 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 had advised however that Honorary Members were not entitled to vote at meetings of the Association and that another title would be more appropriate. This matter had been deferred for further consideration.

It was now agreed that such members should be given the title of Honorary Vice President and that this title should be awarded to Patrick Maclean. The President undertook to notify him accordingly.

It was further agreed that Honorary Vice Presidents should be exempted from paying membership subscriptions, although it would remain open for them to make donations if they wished.

(b) ***Dates of meetings***

It was agreed that efforts should be made to get longer notice of the date of the Burns Supper next year. Longer notice would help to attract more guests, as well as the Chief, to this event. In the past the Caledonian Club has not confirmed acceptance of the Association's booking for this event until late December. It seemed unlikely that the Club left it this late to fix their January/February programme. It was agreed that the Vice President should seek the assistance of Mr George Gillon, immediate past President of the Club, to obtain an earlier confirmation of our booking.

One member suggested that the Association's dinners should be held on a weekday other than a Friday. There was however little support for this proposal and it was agreed that no such change should be made.

*Afternote: in a show of hands during the dinner afterwards, there was an overwhelming majority in favour of retaining Fridays for the dinners.*

(c) ***Maclean.org website***

Mr Alasdair White, the President of MacleanNet, advised that the maclean.org website was about to be reorganised. Among other things, this would enable selected persons to change web pages themselves, without having to involve the webmaster.

He also advised that it was possible to set up pages with restricted access, allowing for example, only members of the Clan Maclean Association of London to view minutes of the Association's meetings. Access is provided through IDs and passwords given to eligible members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 19.10 hours.