

CLAN MACLEAN ASSOCIATION OF LONDON

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held at the Caledonian Club, London SW1, on Friday, 10th October 2008

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

1. Apologies

No apologies were recorded.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19th October 2007 were approved as a complete and true record of that meeting.

3. Matters arising

The President reported that the access to the maclean.org website which he had been given for the purpose of amending the page relating to the London Association, about which he had reported at the previous meeting, had been terminated by a change in the system. It would probably not be necessary to reinstate this, however, as the new webmaster was very efficient at making any changes requested. As the result, good progress had been made on establishing a Members Only section on the London page of the website and this should be launched shortly.

The outstanding matter relating to the accounts for the year ended 31st July 2007 was considered as part of the Treasurer's report, as minuted 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 20th October 2007.

He reported that George Gillon, a member of the Association and a past Chairman of the Caledonian Club, had been elected Sheriff of the City of London. It was hoped that he would attend the 2009 Burns Supper.

The President reported the sad death of Patrick McLean on 28th June 2008. Patrick had been largely instrumental in the re-establishment of the London Branch (as then was) in the 1950s and had supported the branch for many years. He had been made an Honorary Vice President of this Association in recognition of his considerable contribution. It is hoped that a tribute to him will appear in the next edition of the Battleaxe magazine.

He also advised that Duncan Maclean had been forced by ill-health to step down as President of the Clan Maclean International Association. The Vice-President, Ian MacLean, had been elected to become President in Duncan's place. Peter MacLean, Past President of Clan Maclean Association in Western Australia, had been elected Vice-President.

5. Secretary's report

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

Six new members had joined during the financial year under review, being Mrs Audrey McCormick, Mr and Mrs Kevin Simms, Mr and Mrs Bob Maclean, Mrs Phoebe Croyston, Mr James Croyston and Mrs Catherine Part. Since the end of the financial year one more member had joined, being Mrs Vivien McLean.

No members had resigned.

6. Treasurer's report and accounts for year ended 31st July 2008

Nick Hart as Treasurer presented his report for each of the last two years, as he had not been able to present his report for the year ended 31 July 2007 at the previous meeting. Both reports were approved by all present.

As at 31st July 2008 a surplus had been achieved and reserves stood at about £700 above the agreed minimum amount of £1,000. As in previous years, therefore, it was agreed that a donation should be made to the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust. As the donation that had been agreed in respect of the previous year had not in fact been paid, it was agreed that a donation of £500 should be given this year. In addition, it was agreed that a one-off donation of £100 should be made to the fund established in memory of the late Lady Maclean (Mary).

7. Election of officers

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 and Nicolas Maclean of Pennycross as Vice President was proposed by Mr Nick Hart, seconded by Mr David Maclean Watt and agreed by all present.

Nick Hart had previously advised that he wished to stand down as Treasurer and as Secretary. The President, acknowledging the considerable time and hard work that Nick had given to both roles, thanked him for his important contribution to the Association. This appreciation was supported by all present.

Mary Wilson had kindly undertaken to organise the next event planned by the Association, being the 2009 Burns Supper. Her precise role remained to be clarified when she returned from Australia.

No-one had offered themselves for election as Treasurer. The President undertook to seek a volunteer. Meanwhile it was acknowledged that the position remained vacant.

8. Any other business

(a) Clan Maclean Heritage Trust

David Maclean-Watt suggested that the Trust should encourage Friends to complete Standing Order forms and Gift Aid declarations. The President undertook to check the Trust's practice in this respect. *[Afternote: the President subsequently ascertained that the Trust does in fact provide both forms to new Friends as a matter of course.]*

The Vice President asked if copies of the Minutes of Trust meetings could be published, to Friends if not all Association members. The President agreed to put this suggestion to the Trust, although he pointed out that the Trust does issue an annual report to all Friends.

(b) **Tulloch Pipe Band**

David Maclean-Watt reported that this year was the 85th anniversary of the formation of the Tulloch Pipe Band, which wears Maclean of Duart tartan. In celebration of this anniversary, the band is raising funds for its hall. David Maclean-Watt suggested that the Clan Maclean Association should contribute to this campaign. It was agreed that the Vice-President would raise this at the forthcoming meeting of the Clan Maclean Association in Glasgow on 1st November 2008, which he will be attending.

(c) **2009 Burns Supper**

As the 2009 Burns Supper will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the poet's birth, it was agreed that efforts should be made to make this a special event and to attract a larger than usual number of guests. The Vice President undertook to see if an actor whom he had met could recite Tam O'Shanter. There could be both singing and dancing. *[Afternote: Barbara Maclean undertook to check the availability of Paul Baker, who had appeared in several musicals.]* David Maclean-Watt reported that the Caledonian Schools Trust, based in London, had this year given a scholarship to a clarsach player. It was agreed that detailed planning for the event should start when Mary Wilson returned to the country in November.

(d) **After dinner speakers**

At last year's meeting it had been agreed that speakers should be sought for the dinners that follow the annual general meetings. The Vice-President suggested that David Bruce, a godson of Elizabeth, Lady Maclean, could be a possible candidate.