

CLAN MACLEAN ASSOCIATION OF LONDON

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held at the Caledonian Club, London SW1, on Friday, 2nd October 2009

Those present: Nigel Alington – President and Hon. Treasurer (acting)
Nicolas Maclean of Pennycross – Vice-President
Mary Wilson – Hon. Secretary (acting)
Lorna Denham
David Maclean-Watt
Gillean Miller
Alasdair White
Fiona White

1. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Alan Gillan.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10th October 2008 were approved as a complete and true record of that meeting.

3. **Matters arising**

(a) ***maclean.org, London page***

The President reported that the launch of a Members Only section on the London page of the maclean.org website had been delayed. He hoped however that this would be in place by the next meeting.

(b) ***Clan Maclean Heritage Trust***

The President reported that he had discussed with the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust the Vice-President's suggestion that Minutes of Trust meetings should be made available to Friends of the Trust. The Trust did not however consider this feasible, as the Minutes often reported on matters that were sensitive and/or confidential, e.g. regarding individual Trustees. It was felt that Friends should rely on the annual reports provided to them. Alasdair White suggested that these reports could be made available on a Friends Only section in the Trust's part of the maclean.org website. He proposed to discuss this with the President outside this meeting.

(c) ***Tulloch Pipe Band***

The Vice-President reported that Clan Maclean Association in Scotland had not been receptive to the idea proposed by David Maclean-Watt that funding should be provided to the Tulloch Pipe Band (which wears the Maclean of Duart tartan). In these circumstances, and given that the band is based in Aberdeenshire, it was felt that it was not appropriate for the London Association to provide funding. (See also item 8(b) below.)

4. **President's report**

Since the last AGM the Association had held a most successful Burns Night Supper, attended by 55 people. This had been fully reported in the International BattleAxe magazine (q.v.). The performance of Tam O'Shanter by Richard O'Connor had been particularly enjoyable. The Meeting thanked the Vice-President for arranging this.

The President reported on the death of Dr John McLean on 29th June 2009 at the age of 84. Links to three obituaries had been placed on the London page of maclean.org. He had been a good supporter of the London Association and will be much missed.

5. Secretary's report

Mary Wilson as acting Secretary reported on the changes to the membership over the past year.

Six new members had joined during the financial year under review, being Iain Donald Maclean, his wife Briony Maclean, his eldest son Andrew J D Maclean, Hew Dundas, Vivien McLean and Paul McLean, son of former President Patrick McLean.

Contact had been lost with six members, being Audrey McCormick, Janet Thain, Alan McLean (of Long Mickle), Craig McLean, Cameron McLean and Ewen D Maclean. The President noted that updated addresses for some of these were contained in the papers that he had collected from Nick Hart. He gave these papers to Mary Wilson, who will see if they help her to re-establish contact with any of the foregoing.

She had added four names, being Iain Maclean-Boyle, Maureen McLean, Morag Maclean and Malcolm McLean, to her list of e-mail contacts. She will try to convert these to Association members but was not optimistic.

No members had resigned, although one, Dr John McLean, had died (see above).

Mary Wilson proposed to continue 'cleaning up' the database, removing in particular non-paying members and others who do not use e-mail. Communicating with them therefore costs the Association money in terms of postage and stationery. This was agreed, although Nicolas Maclean pointed out that if the Association developed a programme of events it would be worth informing such people in an effort to convert them into paying members.

Mary Wilson also reported that she had despatched 55 requests for members to give their consent (a) to the Association holding their personal data on an electronic database, as required by the Data Protection Act 1998, and (b) to receiving e-mail communications sent for marketing purposes, as required by the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003. 23 consents had been received to date.

All present expressed their gratitude to Mary for all her hard work in updating and reorganising the membership list and in arranging the dinner that followed this meeting.

6. Treasurer's report and accounts for year ended 31st July 2009

Nigel Alington as acting Treasurer presented his report for the year ended 31 July 2009. It was noted that the major difference between the 2008 and 2009 accounts was that nothing had been donated to the Heritage Trust in 2008 and £600 had been donated in 2009. The reason for this was that, although a donation of £250 had been agreed, as usual, in 2008, this had not been paid. This had therefore been paid in 2009, together with another £250 donation for that year, as well as a one-off donation of £100 to the Lady Maclean Fund.

Alasdair White moved that the accounts should be approved. This was seconded by Fiona White and agreed by all present.

As at 31st July 2009 the reserves stood at about £600 above the agreed minimum amount of £1,000. As in previous years, therefore, it was agreed that a donation of £250 should be made to the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust.

7. Election of officers

Nigel Alington announced that, with this meeting, he had completed five years as President and in accordance with the Association's Constitution was now due to step down. Nicolas Maclean had consented to being nominated as President in his place and Nigel Alington therefore proposed that Nicolas should become the new President of the Association. This was seconded by Mary Wilson and agreed by all present.

Nicolas thanked Nigel Alington for his work as President for the past five years and proposed, with Nigel's consent, that he should become Vice-President. This was seconded by David Maclean-Watt and agreed by all present.

Nigel Alington and Mary Wilson agreed to continue for the time being as acting Treasurer and acting Secretary respectively. It was agreed that renewed efforts should be made to find more permanent occupants for these positions. Consideration should be given to dividing the role of the Secretary between two people, one being responsible for arranging the dinners and other events and the other responsible for maintaining the membership list and performing other administrative tasks.

8. Any other business

(a) Charities

Nigel Alington proposed that, given that its Constitution provided that the Association should fulfil its objectives through, inter alia, philanthropic activities, consideration should be given to supporting ScotsCare (the trading name of the Royal Scottish Corporation) and Borderline, who assist needy Scots in London. He offered to talk to these charities about how the Association could work with them in order to support Macleans in London, within the constraints of the Association's limited financial resources. It was agreed that Nigel should investigate this and report back at the next meeting.

The Royal Caledonian Schools Trust is another charity that could be worth supporting.

(b) Glen Duart Pipe Band

Mary Wilson reported that Andrew J D Maclean had brought to her attention the Glen Duart Pipe Band, which is based in Kent. Although the band's website (<http://glenduartpipeband.tripod.com/>) featured the Maclean of Duart tartan, its connection with the Clan is not clear. The band's Pipe Major is a Campbell. The band appears to operate on a commercial basis. It is not immediately obvious that this band warrants the support of the Association. It was agreed however that Mary would ask Andrew to investigate further.

(c) Speakers and other attractions

Nicolas Maclean reported that he had spoken to Chris Patten about speaking at an Association dinner. It was agreed that he should pursue this. The new President encouraged everyone to try to think of other possible speakers, including people with sept names as well as Macleans.

There remains also the possibility of inviting someone from the Royal Caledonian Schools Trust to perform at an Association event, as suggested by David Maclean-Watt at the previous meeting.

(d) Cooperation with other clans

The new President was keen that the Association should join forces with another clan association for a Burns Supper, in order to swell the numbers. He suggested the MacDougalls (or another clan based in the West Highlands) as a possible partner. The Clan Chattan Association sets a precedent for such a coming together (and one of that Association's constituent clans could be another partner for London).

(e) **Alternative venues**

The new President was keen to explore other venues for dinner, in an effort to reduce the cost. He suggested for example that a Chinese restaurant could be used.

(f) **2012 International Gathering**

The new President was keen to start promoting the 2012 (Centenary) International Gathering to be held on Mull. *[The Chief in his speech after the dinner that followed this meeting mentioned this and urged people to attend.]*

(g) **Battle of Waterloo Bicentenary**

The new President proposed that, ahead of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo in 2015, possibly in 2011 after a reconnaissance by him in 2010, the London Association, in conjunction with the Clan Maclean Association in France, should organise a trip to the site of the battle, in which Macleans had played a prominent role. Alasdair White, who has deep knowledge of the campaign and battlefield, has kindly offered to act as our Guide.

Time did not permit any discussion of the points raised by the new President as set out in items 8(d) – 8(g) above.