



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of
THE CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY
held in The Tryst, Church of Scotland, Pitlochry
on Friday 13th September 2019 @ 12 noon

1 Welcome

The Chair Gillespie Robertson welcomed all attendees, especially Struan our Chief and Bridget, and two of our Honorary Vice Presidents, Dr. Jean Munro and Andrew Duncan, as well as Council members and Clan Secretary Catriona Macaulay.

The Chair invited the meeting to note, with appreciation for his service, the death earlier this year of our late Hon. President Sir Sandy Reid, who like his father before him had given the Society long and faithful service and support. The Society had expressed our deepest condolences to the family, who had passed on to us Sandy's own very specific wishes that his death be allowed to pass quietly without any formal ceremony or memorial service. The Chair looked forward to members attending having the opportunity to meet and welcome our new and both domestically and internationally very distinguished Hon. President, Lord (George) Robertson of Port Ellen. Although he could not attend the AGM, George would be at the Chief's dinner later in the day.

2 Apologies: Faith Robertson, Jean Robertson, Council members Christy Duncan Lange and Billy Duncan, and Rannoch & Highland Branch Chair Jenny Stark.

Both of the Chief's sisters were prevented by illness from attending. Christy's husband John had also had severe health problems this year and their impact had understandably prevented Christy and John from attending. Warmest wishes were expressed to all affected for better health.

- 3 **Approval of the 2018 AGM minutes:** proposed by Duncan Huie, seconded by Suzi McNutt, and duly signed by the Chair.
- 4 **Council Report by Chair:** Calendar 2018, the Accounts for which would be discussed later, saw a significant improvement over 2017, both financially and more generally in the overall well-being of the Society. The Chair also advised that the Clan Council, in its meetings earlier in the week was making good progress in planning for a continued increase in membership numbers, further improvement in our finances, and new elements to strengthen our capacity to preserve and improve our Clan Centre and especially our Museum and access to its contents. Our Clan Secretary's energy and enthusiasm and constructive ideas had played a large part in raising both the Society's profile in the local community and its morale in general.

The most important element raising our spirits had been the rescue of Struan Kirk by the new Trust, to which the Society and its members had contributed extremely generously. Apart from the Trust's founding families, individual members of the Society and the Branches had together already raised in excess of £Stg30,000. Those attending the Clan Service on the coming Sunday would see for themselves the quality and positive impact of the extensive restoration work carried out to date, with more to come. A more detailed report with illustrations is on the main Clan website.

Council has still not finalised detailed arrangements for public recognition of donors to our Kirk fund who wish to be so recognised, but is hopeful of doing so shortly. A handsome leather-bound book has already been donated for recording of donors.

Two new locally based members of Council, David Duncan and Eddie Stewart, have been co-opted to Council since last year after recommendation by the Clan Secretary.

The Chair drew attendees' special attention to the hugely impressive Jacobite exhibition currently running for some months at Perth Museum. Those who had visited it with Donald Reid earlier in the week had all been struck by the remarkable prominence of Clan Donnachaidh. The highly visible exhibit on ourselves was the very first among all Clans featured to meet the visitor's eye, and with great impact, at the entrance to the entire exhibition. It was also outstanding in its striking presentation of some of our most precious historical artefacts. Council is considering how best to leverage this both in and outwith Scotland for the benefit of the Society, and all ideas are welcomed.

Relationships with our neighbour House of Bruar at the Clan Centre continue to be constructive and positive. Sharing of space in our Museum building is expected to continue in the short term while longer term options are further explored.

- 5 **Financial Report followed by Acceptance of Accounts:** five pages (copies attached) were distributed to attendees. The first ("Summary of Results") had been specially prepared by our accountants. The other four are extracts from our formal 2018 Report and Accounts. The Chair summarised the contents. Attention was drawn to the impact of donations for Struan Kirk on the income versus expenditure figures, which without this element would have shown a more significant deficit, although well below that of 2017. The substantial increase in Reserves reflected a recent market-based revaluation of our buildings at Bruar

and demonstrated the positive effect both of the improvements carried out and paid for by House of Bruar and of their long-term lease of one of the buildings. Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Mary Reid, seconded by Mark Robertson and agreed.

6 Election of Office Bearers/Nominations to Council

One office-bearer (Christy Duncan Lange, International Vice Chair) and two other Council Members (Duncan Huie and Stephanie Robertson) were due to retire under the Society's "9 year rule." A fourth Council Member Tim Duncan, who had also reached the 9 year limit, had already retired earlier in the year to permit co-option of another member within our permitted maximum number of trustees (15,) and Council member Ron Hobson had also volunteered to retire to make room for new blood. Members were asked to join in thanking all of the retiring members most warmly for their service, and to approve the following : re-election of existing office-bearers Chair Gillespie Robertson, Vice Chair Donald Reid and Secretary/Treasurer Catriona Macaulay; the election of Council member Jonn Duncan as International Vice Chair; and elected Council membership for nominated/co-opted members Iain Reid, Alasdair Robertson, Eddie Stewart and David Duncan. This was duly proposed by Robbie Robertson, seconded by Brenda Reid and approved. The Chair noted that Christy Lange had accepted the position of Hon. Vice President, which recognised her exceptional service to the Society over many years.

7 IVC Report (copy attached)

This report was submitted by retiring IVC Christy Lange and read out by newly elected IVC Jonn Duncan. Jonn stated he was very much looking forward to working closely with all Branches and was going to ask each Branch to ask each of their Members to introduce another New Member. He also reported on Council discussions, held at the suggestion of himself and Mark Robertson of Gulf Coast Branch, around seeking/establishing a group of members of the Society who might be interested in receiving recognition as Guardians of the Clan Museum in return for a commitment to regular financial support in different categories. Support for this concept was evident from members attending.

8 Affiliated Branch Reports

Reports were given or read out from the following Branches: Rannoch and Highland, Rocky Mountains, Gulf Coast, Mid-West, S. California, N. California, London and Southern Counties, New Zealand and Spain. All were greeted with warm applause. It was noted that we had 22 International visitors in attendance.

9 DNA (report attached)

It was noted that the DNA project has to-date 1755 Members.

10 CLAN SECRETARY / MEMBERSHIP REPORT / CLAN ANNUAL: report attached.

11 Subscription review for 2020

The Clan Secretary reported that Council recommends, subject to as much consultation as possible with the Branches before implementation, that Individual membership subscriptions to the parent Society be increased by £5/\$5, and 5 Year Memberships be increased by £20/\$20. The meeting indicated support for these increases, noting that they

are modest and should avoid the negative reaction of several years ago, when a much larger increase was adopted without prior consultation. Jonn Duncan reported that Gulf Coast membership had already been consulted and were unanimously supportive.

12 Appointment of Auditors

Re-appointment of Walton Kilgour was proposed by Duncan Huie, seconded by Suzi McNutt and approved.

Appointment of Clan Annual Editor

Re-appointment of James Irvine Robertson was proposed by Andrew Duncan, seconded by Stuart Robertson and approved with acclamation.

13 Any Other Business

A Member in the audience asked if there was a Policy/Procedure regarding bullying. It was clearly stated that NO bullying would be accepted by the Clan Society. Our written Policy & Procedures Manual specifically provides for friendly and courteous behaviour towards members, colleagues and non-members alike, at all times. Jonn Duncan agreed to try to meet with the Member in private to discuss and resolve whatever issue had provoked the question.

Donald Reid Vice Chair mentioned he was going to investigate the possibility about having a coach trip to Glen Lyon (the longest glen in Scotland) in the future, possibly for 2020.

The meeting closed with repeated appreciation for all the hard work put in by the Clan Secretary and others towards what was proving another very successful Gathering.

14 Intimations – none

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING
22nd AUGUST 2020**