



Clan Donnachaidh

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

Saturday 23rd August 2025

1.30 pm, The Tryst, Pitlochry, UK

1 Welcome

Following the piping in of the Chief, Chairman Jonn Duncan extended a warm welcome to all. A list of those in attendance is attached to this minute (Appendix 1).

2 Apologies

Apologies were recorded from the Honorary President, Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, Faith Elliot, D'Arce Reid, Jim Robertson, Ewan Duncan, Graham Reid.

3 Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on Friday 13th September 2024

A copy of the draft minutes of the AGM held on Friday 13th September 2024 had been previously circulated. There were no questions from the floor nor amendments to note. Suzi McNutt proposed the minutes be accepted. The proposal was seconded by Kathy Duncan and unanimously approved by the members in attendance.

4 Chairman's Report

Jonn Duncan spoke to his written report – a copy of which is attached to this minute (Appendix 2).

On behalf of Clan Council members and all Society members, the Chief recorded thanks to Jonn Duncan for his loyalty to the Clan Donnachaidh Society and leadership of the Council over the past year.

5 Financial Report and Acceptance of 2024 Accounts

Statements of the Financial Position at 31 December 2024 along with a draft Trustees' Annual Report were circulated to members in attendance for approval. The full draft unaudited accounts for the year under review had also been previously considered and approved by Council members at their meeting on 20th August 2025.

In response to questions from the floor, the Chair confirmed:

- Struan Kirk has not yet been professionally valued and has instead been included in donations income at the valuation of £364,282 used for insurance purposes.
- The Clan Museum, Clan Office and Reading Room, and Fish and Chip Shop buildings are currently valued at £615,000 for insurance purposes. It has been recommended by our accountants that a review of this valuation should be undertaken before the end of the next financial year.
- That cash in hand does not currently achieve any annual interest. Council undertook to review this during the next financial year.

Suzi McNutt proposed the Trustees Report and Financial Statements be approved. The proposal was seconded by Stacy Reid and unanimously approved by the members in attendance.

6 Election of Office Bearers/Nomination to Council

All current Council members had confirmed their willingness to serve on Council for the coming year. In response to a call for new nominations to Council, Stacey Reid proposed D'Arce Reid, President of the Northeast Branch. The proposal was seconded by Suzi McNutt and unanimously approved by members present.

Office Bearers, as listed below, indicated a willingness to continue to serve for the forthcoming year. A formal proposal to their reappointment was offered by Gillespie Robertson, seconded by Kathy Duncan, and unanimously approved by the members present.

Jon Duncan (Chair)
Emma Reid (Vice-Chair)
Suzi McNutt (International Vice-Chair)

7 International Vice-Chair Report, Affiliated Branch Report and Branch Reports

The Chair thanked Suzi McNutt for her work as IVC over the year, particularly as her recent move from California to Tennessee during the year had been fraught with internet challenges.

Prior to sharing the Branch reports, the Chair welcomed Major Alastair Nicol, Quartermaster, 19th Royal Artillery (The Scottish Gunners) to the Annual General Meeting. Major Nicol was attending on behalf of the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Christof "Mash" Masheder, RA.

Major Nicol expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome and, again, extended apologies from this Commanding Officer who had a previous engagement and was unable to be present on this occasion.

A copy of Major Nicol's formal report and update is appended to this minute (Appendix 3).

Branch Reports and messages were shared from the following branches - Mid-West, Gulf Coast, Southern California, Northwest Pacific, Spain, New Zealand, London & Southern Counties and Scotland (see Appendix 4).

8 DNA Project

Stephanie Robertson drew attention to the recent update on the DNA project and genealogy in the 2025 Clan Annual. There had been an opportunity for members to discuss DNA/genealogy at the Clan Centre earlier during the Gathering, at which she had held several discussions with individual members.

9 Membership and Review of Membership Subscriptions

The Chair confirmed there were 1044 members in good standing as at the date of the AGM. He suggested, with many games still to be held, that this number may increase to a similar figure of 1164 recorded at 31 December 2024.

The Chair noted that the print cost for the annual had increased by around £200 for the current 2025 publication. On this basis, Council considered that there was no immediate need to increase the membership subscription for 2026.

Billy Duncan proposed that memberships subscriptions should remain at 2025 rates for the coming 2026 membership year. The proposal was seconded by Gillespie Robertson and approved by the members present.

10 Appointment of Clan Annual Editor

Grateful thanks were recorded to James Irvine Robertson his editorship of the 2025 Clan Annual and many before that! It was noted that James now wished to retire from the post. Stephanie Robertson had been approached and accepted the offer of Editorship.

Emilio Ferrero Guevara formally proposed Stephanie Robertson to the position of Editor of the Clan Annual. Billy Duncan seconded the proposal and Stephanie's appointment was unanimously approved by the membership.

11 Appointment of Auditors

BLK Plus (formerly Walton Kilgour), Chartered Accountants, had expressed a willingness to continue to act as auditors. A motion to re-appoint BK Plus was proposed by Brenda Reid and second by Bridget Robertson. Members present unanimously approved the re-appointment for a further year.

12 Any Other Business

Alasdair Robertson estimated that heritage visits have experienced double digit growth in the last few years and commented that the Clan is strong and there are many opportunities to grow our connections which is very encouraging.

Mary Reid suggested that the Facebook page is providing an opportunity for bigger exposure and congratulated Alasdair and Jane Robertson on their efforts.

In closing, the Chair confirmed that the 2026 Annual Gathering would take place between 18 and 23 August 2026. Members would be encouraged to attend Pre-Gathering events, such as the Kinloch Rannoch Highland Games which will be held on 15 August 2026.

Message of thanks from the Chief

The Chief offered a personal welcome to all in attendance at the AGM and, on behalf of all members of the Clan Donnachaidh Society, extended grateful thanks to the Chair, Vice, Clan Council and Clan Secretary for their hard work and achievements over the year, and to his Piper, Billy Duncan, for his continued loyalty and commitment.

16 Date of Next AGM

The Chair confirmed the next AGM would be held on Saturday 22nd August 2026 at 1.30 pm at The Tryst, Pitlochry.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting.

APPENDIX 1

AGM 2025 - Attendance list

Robertson of Struan
Bridget Robertson
Jonh Duncan
Kathy Duncan
Emilio Ferrero Guevara
Kathy Duncan
Stephanie Robertson
Suzi McNutt
Linda Myers
Melissa L Capps
Lynda Robertson
Stuart Robertson
Emma Reid
Eddie Stewart
Matthew Scott Dye
Angela Hays
Isabel Conde Chao
Stacy Reid
Mary Reid
Alastair Robertson of Drumchuine
Iain Reid
Brenda Reid
Kim Robertson
John Ker-Reid
Jane Robertson
Gillespie Robertson
Matthew Robertson
Betty Robertson
Elspeth Robertson
Billy Duncan
Major A Nicol RA

APPENDIX 2

Chairman's Report

Greetings to all. It is wonderful to see everyone here. Many have traveled great distances to be here today and that, as well as the continued local support, is most appreciated.

We have had great weather and many wonderful activities this week. We look forward to a lovely evening tonight at the Chief's Reception and Dinner along with the Kirk service and luncheon on Sunday where many of us will offer our "until next year" farewells.

The recipients of the 2025 Honoured Scotsman award will be announced at the dinner tonight.

Most are aware from past announcements that the Clan Donnachaidh Society Museum is the recipient of a most generous bequeathment from the Estate of Mary Robertson. The Council has worked diligently on plans and ideas as to how best utilize the funds and honor Mary Robertson. We are now in the final planning stages and look forward to a wonderful addition to the current museum space. Initially, we had great hopes to add on to the back of the current Museum building. However, in light of extremely high building costs we have been forced to reconsider those plans and scale down the size. It has also proven to be much more cost effective to consider making the addition to the front of the Secretary office and reading room building and essentially tying the two buildings, the Museum and Secretary-Reading Room buildings together. This is an exciting project and we look forward to sharing the progress with you all in the future. Not only would an addition offer a much needed increase to the current display space of the Museum, it will also increase our property values.

I am also pleased to report to you that we are in the process of a painting update to the interior of Struan Kirk. This includes the porch, entire interior of the building as well as the interior windows. Those of us attending the Kirk service on Sunday will notice that work has already started but ceased temporarily for this week's activities. Work will resume next week. We will also notice that the back rock wall that was in serious disrepair has now been fully restored courtesy of the Perth Kinross Council. Some electrical work has also been completed that resulted in reducing the Kirk down to one electric meter which will greatly reduce the electrical usage fees. I urge everyone to please keep in mind that the Clan Donnachaidh Society is 100% responsible for the upkeep of the Struan Kirk, continued donations for Struan Kirk are most appreciated.

Our membership numbers are holding strong. A membership report will be given later in the meeting. I encourage everyone to help us grow our membership which will help ensure that we remain financially stable.

Sadly, again this year we report the loss of two iconic members of the Clan Donnachaidh Society. Both Donald Reid and Brian Donnachy have passed in the last few weeks. The contributions to the Society, from both gentlemen, are far too many to list. Our condolences go out to the family. Both Donald and Brian will truly be missed. The void from their passings is great. Condolences are also offered to the families of others that have passed throughout the year.

I sincerely wish to thank the Council for all the hard work and dedication carried out behind the scenes. I especially want to recognize our Secretary Irene Cameron. Irene continually goes above and beyond her typical duties to ensure the smooth running of the Society.

By now, everyone should have received their copy of the 2025 Clan Annual. The Editors, James I. Robertson and Stephanie Robertson have done another outstanding job with the publication. James has reported that he wishes to not continue on as Editor long term. Thankfully, Stephanie has agreed to take the lead and continue Editorship.

As always, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the support of each and every member. And I leave you with well wishes and the prayer "Cuimhnich air na daoine as an tainig u". Let us all "remember the people from whom you have come".

Jonn Duncan-Chair

APPENDIX 3

Report on activities of the 19th Royal Artillery (The Scottish Gunners) by Major Alastair Nicol RA, Quartermaster

23 August 2025

Good Afternoon, Clan Donnachaidh and firstly I would like to thank you for the opportunity to deliver you a short brief update on the Regt (Our Clan) and its activities over the past year and upcoming events.

The CO sends his apologies, he has a pre-planned overseas event.

Change of Command. New Commanding Officer Lt Col Christof Masheder RA took command from Lt Col Ben Baldwinson in May 25. Col Mash has a new mantra, (Which maybe controversial to some who have game or livestock in the audience) the Clan must act like the **FOX** - *Find Opportunities to eXploit*.

Promotion. For those who know Col Ben, he has been selected for promotion to full Colonel in December.

Inaugural ARCHER Live Firing.

- In Finland on Ex DYNAMIC FRONT last year.
- This year it fired in the UK on Saulsbury Plan.
- More recently on Operations in Estonia.

Archer. The Archer is a highly capable gun and is a welcome interim solution until RCH 155 comes into service.

Deployments. The Regt has deployed to well over 12 different countries

Sports:

- **Tug of War.**
 - The Regt are Army and Gunner Champions 2025.
 - They will be competing at Braemar next month, so a team to watch out for.
- **Gunner Orienteering champions.** The Regiment are the current Gunner Orienteering Championships
- **Rugby.** The team reached two finals of the Army Rugby Knockout Competition Sept-Dec 24 and Jan-Mar 25, unfortunately missing out on both occasions.
- **Table Tennis.** The Regt has the Army and Tri Service Table Tennis champion 2025 winning 5 categories.

Pipes and Drums Regeneration. Pipe Major **Macey-Lillie** retires after a long a prestigious service. With a new PM starting the 1st Sept 25 PM **Garry Grant**.

ALDP. The Regt has also continued to develop its soldiers through delivering 2 Army Leadership Development Programme's this past year, and has another planned for Oct. This is a course our soldier must complete to be eligible for promotion.

Bty Updates.

5 Bty.

They have conducted live fire in Finland and in Estonia. Currently in Estonia due to come home next month ready to take on UK Support Battalion (UKSB) and re-role to Light Gun later this year.

19 Bty.

Have been busy, all over the globe, from Sudi Arabia, the USA to Scotland controlling aircraft.

127 Bty.

They have converted to Archer and conducted live fire in Finland and in the UK, currently on Pre-Deployment Training for Op CABRIT and will replace 5 Bty in Estonia next month.

28/143 Bty.

They have live fired Light Gun in Kenya on Ex BULL STORM; the first time Light Gun has fired in Kenya for several years. A great opportunity for the soldiers to also get involved in community projects.

Also have converted to Archer and will commence Pre-Deployment training for Op CABRIT over the next 6 months in preparation to replace 127 Bty in Estonia next year.

13 Bty.

Have been busy supporting all activities the other Sub Units conduct as well as 12X in the USA, Italy, Germany and the Regt day to day in camp and is preparing to control UKSB over the Christmas period.

Closing Remarks. As you will all see the Clan has been extremely busy and continues to be over the next 12 months, but moral is high, and the Clan is strong.

APPENDIX 4

Branch Reports

Midwest Branch Report

Linda Myers apologised that there was, sadly little to report by way of activities over the last year due to a reduction in branch membership and a dip in motivation. It was also proving challenging to encourage new members to take on committee roles. The Annual Tulsa Scot Fest had, unfortunately been cancelled at the last minute due to a break in at their storage units. Nevertheless, Midwest do still plan to have representation at two more festivals later in the year.

It was with a heavy heart that Linda continued by announcing the passing of long-time member and Secretary/Treasurer, Karen Robertson. A memorial service celebrating Karen's life had been held in July.

Linda concluded by sharing this AGM would be her final attendance at Donnachaidh Gatherings here in Scotland after many happy visits. Describing Pitlochry and the surrounding clanlands as "the home of my heart", she shared "Missing the faces of members I met so many years back, knowing they have gone on, is so difficult to accept. I have truly enjoyed and been so proud of my years in our Clan. You are forever embedded in my heart".

Gulf Coast Branch Report

Kathy Duncan shared

"Greetings and salutations from the Gulf Coast Branch states of Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia to our Chief Gilbert Robertson and family, Council members and fellow Donnachaidh clansmen.

"The year 2025 has been another successful year for the Gulf Coast Branch thus far, with our busiest time yet to come. We began the year with our branch AGM held in January followed by our 4th Annual Robert Burns dinner. This event continues to grow and has added several attendees that are from Clans other than Donnachaidh and some attending with no Scottish affiliation. We have a total of six games that we attend across our three states. With our three states we cover an area of 170,284 square miles.

To date we can report a branch member count of 52. This number will most likely increase with our busiest season ahead.

Well wishes to everyone and prayers for safe travels home, wherever that may be. We hope to see you all in 2026!"

Southern California Branch

Stacy Reid shared, on behalf of Jim Werner, President, Southern California Branch

"Warm greetings from sunny Southern California to our Chief, Council in Scotland, fellow clansmen in attendance and worldwide.

This year our branch was represented at multiple events; we honored long time active members Charles and Kathleen Ables at our 16th Annual Scotsman's Ball. We were in full force at the Seaside Games in Ventura and revealed our new custom Donnachaidh canopies at the Costa Mesa Scotsfest. We are partnering with the Clans of the Highlands and The Inland Empire Scottish Society to participate in more events in the coming year.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for The Seaside Games, our annual Christmas Party, New Member Brunch and our Chili Cookoff before our AGM. Our 17th annual Scotsman's Ball will be next March in Long Beach. All are welcome to attend. We look forward to strengthening our branch and sharing Clan Donnachaidh's proud history in Southern California and beyond.

Slàinte mhath “

Northwest Pacific Branch

The Chair reported that discussions are currently being held with NW Pacific Branch to consider the formation of an independent Montana Branch.

Spain

Emilio Ferrero Guavera shared his vision of growing and forming a branch in Spain. Currently he described the branch as comprising “all my family members”. However, interest is widening and he is hopeful that the formalization of a branch in Spain will, in itself, encourage wider interest and membership. He asked that all members give consideration to who they may know who live in Spain and may have an interest in the history and heritage of Clan Donnachaidh and to extend a warm welcome to them to consider becoming part of the Spanish branch.

New Zealand

Kim Robertson, who was attending the Gathering as an individual, shared that she had been unaware there was a formal New Zealand Branch affiliated to the Clan Donnachaidh and reassured members she would connect with the branch on her return.

London & Southern Counties Branch (and History Branch)

Alasdair Robertson reported that the branch had held it's annual Dinner at the Caledonian Club in London in April of 2025 which had proved very successful. Lynda Robertson, long time Branch Secretary, had now stepped back from the position and the branch is urgently seeking a new volunteer for the position. Although the Branch started originally as a gathering of members from the south of England, it now embraces membership from all areas of the country. All are welcome!

Alasdair further reported that the long proposed History Branch had now launched during the last 12 months. This is a “virtual branch” which meets via a private Facebook group page and is open to all. 72 members have joined over the period since its launch nine months ago and it is hoped that this Special Interest Group will continue to grow further as word, and interest spreads.

Scotland Branch

Eddie Stewart shared the challenges of bringing together a Scotland Branch. Locally, within Pitlochry, a small group had attended Pitlochry Festival Theatre and it is hoped this group will gather momentum. The February Spring Lunch with the Chief had, again, attracted a good group at the Atholl Arms Hotel, in Blair Atholl.