

Ye Cronies Annual General Meeting

Thursday 27th October 2016, Waverley Suite, 5.15pm

Minutes

Present	Initial	Role
David Roger	DR	President
Mike Graham	MG	Vice-President
David Cameron	DC	Secretary & Treasurer
Roy Henderson	RH	Committee Member
Bill Harvey	BH	Ordinary Member
Peter Howitt	PH	Ordinary Member
-	-	16 Past, Ordinary, and Honorary Ye Cronies members

Apologies

Thomas Cordiner

Iain Douglas

Andrew Smith

Angus Meldrum

Tony Cassidy

Crawford Farquar

Ian Mundie

Graham McWiggan

Ian Young

Gregor Cameron

Martin Sim

Brian Morrison

Alasdair Gillies

Cameron MacIntyre

Danny Miller

Gordon Wilson

1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1	NOTE	DR	The President welcomed the members to the AGM and thanked them for their attendance.
1.2	NOTE	DC	At the request of the President, Secretary announced the list of apologies received in advance of the AGM.

2. Intimation of Members Deaths

2.1	NOTE	DR	<p>The President asked all attendees to stand and observe a moments silence in remembrance of Ye Cronies members who had sadly passed away over the last year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Robert Healey OBE • Mr. Graham Clark • Mr. Ian McDowall • Mr. George Livie • Mr. Alastair Thomson • Mr. David J Murdoch • Mr. Morton Milholm • Mr. Colin MacGregor • Mr. Tom McKay
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3. Approve the minutes of AGM 29th October 2015

3.1	DECISION	DR	Adoption of the minutes of the AGM of 29 th Oct 2015 was proposed by Mr. Mike Graham, and Seconded by Mr. Roy Henderson.
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4. President's Remarks

[Please refer to attached remarks below]

5. Secretary & Treasurer's Report

5.1	NOTE	DC	<p>Treasurer Report – Summary The Club reports a deficit of £505 last season, with two key reasons noted for this:</p> <p>Artiste accommodation last October – This was unusually high due to the hotel being used by athletes competing at the European Junior Championships. The Club are now using the Marriotts loyalty reward scheme to significantly reduce the cost of overnight accommodation.</p> <p>Poor attendance figures in October and January concerts - The Club’s contract with the Hotel requires us to have a minimum of 180 attendees per concert, otherwise we must pay the shortfall cost per head.</p> <p>October 2015 saw 173 attendees, resulting in a cost to the Club of £193. January 2016 saw 166 attendees, resulting in a cost to the Club of £385.</p> <p>Investigation into poor attendance did identify that the Bridgeton Burns Supper being held on the same week as Ye Cronies had a significant impact on our numbers, we have therefore moved forward our concert this coming January to avoid such conflict.</p> <p>It is worth noting that had we met our 180 minimum at each concert the Club would have, at the very least, broken even last season.</p>
5.2	NOTE	DC	<p>Treasurer Report – Club Jewels The Club purchased a stock of 17 office bearer jewels covering President, Vice President and Past President positions. This has been reported as an asset within the Club’s Balance sheet and will reduce over time as Past President badges are awarded each year.</p>
5.3	NOTE	DC	<p>Treasurer Report – Children’s Charity The Club raised £4,015 last November for Children’s Charities, beating the previous season’s taking. Details of how these funds were distributed are included in the Report for your reference.</p> <p>Particular thanks to Mr. Brian Morrison who’s Foundation continue to provide a significant annual donation which goes towards funds donated to the Yorkhill Children’s Hospital.</p>
5.4	NOTE	DC	<p>Treasurer Report – Thanks Thank you once again to our Account Examiner – Jimmy Miller, who has reviewed the accounts and agreed to sign these off.</p>
5.5	NOTE	DC	<p>Treasurer Report – Ye Cronies Opera Award Account Dividend Shortage - Our dividend income per season continues to fall short of the £2000 prize fund required to support our Opera Awards event.</p> <p>Deregistered Charity - The Club took the decision to re-register themselves as a Charity last season but remain a Trust.</p> <p>We are no longer eligible for a tax rebate and therefore the additional reporting requirements to OSCR was deemed an excessive overhead.</p> <p>The Opera Awards funds must still be used for Charitable purposes and OSCR will continue to receive an Assets & Liabilities report each year to attest to this.</p> <p>Thanks to the support of Vice President Mike Graham and his solicitors MacRoberts, we are continuing to reclaim dividends due to the Club from previous seasons. We hope to have this resolved this season.</p>
5.6	DECISION	DC	<p>Both Club and YCOA Accounts were approved by Mr. Roy Henderson and seconded by Mr. Graham McWiggan.</p>

5.7	NOTE	DC	<p>Secretary Report – Attendances</p> <p>Total Attendance - numbers for last season were 1,342 with 50% of those being members. This is 6% down from the previous season, primarily due to less guests being invited.</p> <p>Highest Attendance - February's concert was the highest attended with 235, and as mentioned, January was our lowest with 166.</p> <p>Ladies Night - Numbers at Ladies Night was down by 10% to last season with 374.</p> <p>Members Attendance - Of the 221 registered Members, 98 attended 2 or fewer concerts last season. It was noted that the Club Constitution expects each member to attend a minimum of 3 to sustain the Club's operation.</p>
5.8	NOTE	DC	<p>Secretary Report – Membership Status</p> <p>Movements - 8x New Members have joined us this season, with 12 resignations since last March.</p> <p>Membership Numbers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ordinary – 174 • Honorary – 6 • Past – 28 <p>Contact Method - 11x Members continue to be contacted by Post which incurs a cost to the Club, 6 of these are Past Members.</p>
6. Elections			
6.1	DECISION	DC	<p>The President proposed that Mr. Mike Graham Roger be elected into the office of President for the coming season.</p> <p>This was seconded by Mr. Andrew Primrose</p>
6.2	DECISION	MG	<p>The new President proposed that Mr. Don Matheson be elected into the office of Vice-President for the coming season.</p> <p>This was seconded by Mr. David Roger</p>
6.3	DECISION	MG	<p>The new President proposed that Mr. David Cameron be re-elected into the office of Secretary & Treasurer for the coming season.</p> <p>This was seconded by Mr. Alan Carlaw</p>
6.4	DECISION	MG	<p>The new President proposed the election of Mr. Tom Arbuckle (in absentia) to the committee.</p> <p>This was seconded by Mr. David Roger</p>
6.5	DECISION	MG	<p>The new President proposed the re-election of Mr. Jamie MacDougall as Concert Director.</p> <p>This was unanimously seconded by all attendees.</p>
6.6	DECISION	MG	<p>The new President proposed the re-election of Mr. James Miller as Accounts Examiner.</p> <p>This was seconded by Mr. Graham McWiggan.</p>
6.7	NOTE	MG	<p>The new President recognised Mr. Hugh Campbell stepping down from the Committee and thanked him for the last 3 years of service.</p>
7. AOCB			
7.1	NOTE	PH	<p>Mr. Howitt asked for clarification on whether the entry fee charged by the RCS for the Ye Cronies Opera Award was in any part given back to the Club. Mr. David Roger confirmed this was not the case, the entry fee is used to cover operational costs of the RCS to host the event.</p>
7.2	NOTE	BH	<p>Mr. Bill Harvey highlighted to the Committee that he is aware of members not bringing guests to Ye Cronies due to the increasing drinks menu costs. Mr. Harvey also noted that the Bridgeton Burns Club receive a preferential discount on pre-orders which Ye Cronies does not.</p> <p>The President confirmed that the Committee are investigating competitor's prices to ensure Ye Cronies are receiving fair treatment.</p>

7.3	ACTION	DC	The Secretary agreed to bring the matter of the Bridgeton Burns club arrangement to the attention of the Marriott management to understand whether a similar arrangement can be made for Ye Cronies.
7.4	NOTE	DR	Mr. David Roger asked that the Club consider whether a second Ladies Night should be introduced to the Calendar, possible in December, to help bolster attendance figures. Mr. Roger suggested after further consultation this season it could be proposed at the next AGM.
8. Meeting Adjournment			
8.1	NOTE	DR	President Mike Graham closed the meeting at 5:35pm.

President's Report

My second year in office seems to have flown by, but was as enjoyable as the first! It has indeed been a season of highlights to which I shall refer later.

I would like to thank the committee for their support during the last two years and, in particular, David Cameron (Secretary / Treasurer) who really has 'bedded in' this exacting job.

In the main, we have been well served by the Marriott Hotel, with no complaints about ducks this year! We thank Ms Angela Kerr for all her assistance. Regrettably we have been unable to do anything about the prices the hotel wishes to charge for drinks and I expect they will see volumes fall. It would be great shame if such prices had a negative effect on attendance.

Also of some concern, is the fact that attendance is down overall – over 6% on last year, but 15% from about five years ago. The Secretary is about to remind members that membership used to be conditional on minimum attendance level.

As ever we have been joyously served by Jamie MacDougall and Ms Julia Lynch. Jamie has ensured members enjoyed a rich and varied programme and the particularly special evenings for me included the traditional singers Robyn Stapleton and Clare Hastings in November – a breath of fresh air indeed – tenor Rafael Rojas in January and the four outstanding RCS students in February. Ladies Night in March was graced by the wonderful Ayoub Sisters making their third Cronies appearance – and I hope not their last.

Ye Cronies Choir continued to excite! Anno Domini, however, is taking its toll, but steps are being taken recruit new members. Our thanks to Ronnie Stuart, stalwart accompanist and keeper of the music.

Our relationship with the Royal Conservatory of Scotland continues to flourish and Professor Timothy Dean, Director of the Opera School, and Dr Gordon Munro, Head of Music, were both guest of Ye Cronies this year. Last year Ye Cronies Opera Award was held very late in the summer term of the RCS and only seven students entered. This year, after discussion with RCS, it was held in February and sixteen students entered. As always, the standard was extremely high and the adjudicator, Mr Neal Davies, awarded first prize to baritone Euros Campbell (last year's joint runner-up) and second prize to soprano Charlie Drummond.

Thank you Ye Cronies for honouring me as your President for two years that I will always treasure.

David M Roger