

Friends of The Black Watch Castle and Museum
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 10th December 2019

Present:

Sarah Riddell-Webster, Chairwoman (SRW)
James Watt, Treasurer (JW)
Major (Retd) Ronnie Proctor, Trustee (MRP)
Bill Macpherson, Trustee (BM)
Rosemary Pitcaithly, Secretary (RP)
Alec Johnston (AJ)
Jan Macpherson (JM)
Lt Col (Retd) Willie Coupar (WC)
Fred Campbell
Alanna Robertson (AR)
Ann Rogerson (Ann R)
Ann Strachan (AS)
Col (Retd) Ian Critchley (IC)
John Gorrie

Apologies:

Colin Stroyan
Bill Pagan
Sir Melville Jameson
Paul Compton
Kenneth Simpson
Sir Alistair Irwin
Andy Middlemiss
John Gauld
Lawrence Read
Ian Metcalfe
Marcus Pitcaithly
Philippa Gray

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 5th December 2018:

The Minutes were approved unanimously and signed by SRW

Proposed: MRP Seconded: AR Passed unanimously

2. Report and Accounts:

The Treasurer, James Watt, reported on the Accounts and Finances of the Friends.

The Accounts for the year to 31st March 2019 follow the same format as previous years. They were approved by Trustees on 30th September and then by Neil Morrison of Campbell Dallas, our Independent Examiner.

Using rounded figures, the Accounts show a deficit of £17,000 in the year. This deficit reflects the clearing of a backlog of donations to the Museum.

Cash receipts were £18,000. Membership Subscriptions were £11,500. Events and the Cocktail Party provided income of £5,500. Other income of £1,000 was received.

Cash expenses were £35,000. We made donations to the Museum of £30,000, including £2,500 for administration support. We spent £4,000 on Events and the Cocktail Party and had other expenditure of £1,000.

We had cash and bank balances of £2,000 at 31st March 2019. This is a much more normal level than the £19,000 we held at the previous year end.

The Trustees believe that the finances of the Friends are in a satisfactory state. Our thanks are due to Linda Campbell and Alison Cocker-Tough of the Museum staff who work closely with our Chairwoman during the year to keep everything in good order.

James Watt invited comments or questions on the Accounts from the meeting but there were none.

The Report and Accounts were formally received by the Meeting.

Proposed: AJ Seconded: AR Passed unanimously

3. Comments by Chairwoman:

Sarah Riddell-Webster reported that the Friends organisation, now in its 9th year, continues to recruit new members. Numbers remain static overall, and the 396 memberships represent 522 individuals. We gained 25% more new Friends during 2018/19 than in the previous year, and current figures indicate that this will be repeated in 2019/20.

An increased number of memberships are made and renewed by Standing Order which make administration simpler and ensures continuity.

The lecture programme has now been handed over to the Museum. Lectures continue to be organised and run by the Events Committee, but ticket money is paid directly to the Museum. This results in a decrease in Friends insurance premiums. This change will not affect the experience of our guests. It does, however, explain our drop in revenue. In previous years, we received £8,000 per year in lecture ticket sales, and paid the Museum for the use of the café. The new system has simplified this arrangement.

SRW thanked Willie Coupar, Bill Macpherson, Hugh Rose and Rosemary Pitcaithly for their continued support in running events.

SRW reported that we made the following donations to the Museum:

£10,000	Audio/visual system in the Queen Mother Room and A/V upgrade in the café.
£2,500	Repair to the Wreck of the Birkenhead painting.
£1,000	Travel bursary fund for schools.

£2,800	Contribution to “There but not there” exhibition.
£500	Purchase of a microphone.
£400	Contribution towards the “Sporting Soldiers” exhibition.
£9,500	Contribution towards the salary of the Learning and Education Officer and materials for the education programme.

SRW announced that numbers attending the annual Cocktail Party have declined steadily in recent years. In 2019, fewer than 10% of our members came, so we may change the format of this event, and suggestions were welcomed.

SRW thanked Ronnie Proctor, James Watt, Bill Macpherson, Rosemary Pitcaithly and Anne Kinnes for their work on the Friends Management Committee.

4. Independent Examiner:

The meeting re-appointed Neil Morrison of Campbell Dallas as our Independent Examiner.

Proposed: AR Seconded: JM Passed unanimously

5. Appointment of Management Committee:

There were no further nominations for the Management Committee. The following committee members were appointed:

To re-appoint Sarah Riddell-Webster

Proposed: MRP Seconded: IC Passed unanimously

To re-appoint James Watt

Proposed: AR Seconded: WC Passed unanimously

To re-appoint Ronnie Proctor

Proposed: Ann R Seconded: JW Passed unanimously

To re-appoint Bill Macpherson

Proposed: WC Seconded: AJ Passed unanimously

To re-appoint Rosemary Pitcaithly

Proposed: AS Seconded: MRP Passed unanimously

6. AOB:

JW thanked SRW for all the work she carries out on behalf of the Friends of The Black Watch Castle and Museum.

7. Closure of AGM:

There being no further business, SRW declared the Meeting closed.