

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of DANIEL STEWART'S AND MELVILLE COLLEGE CLUB
held at Inverleith on 17th October, 2017



The meeting convened at 7:30pm with President Bert Barclay in the chair and the following members in attendance: Charles Wilson, Laura McIntosh (Secretary & Treasurer), Laurie Brown, Bob Young, Bobby Clark, Finlay Marshall, Robert Young, Coll Gardner, Hugh Cowan, Denise Mitchell, George Bee, Neil Leitch, James (Hamish) Muirhead, Jim Hall, and Fred McLeod

1. Welcome by the President

Prior to the meeting commencing President Bert Barclay asked for a short silence in memory of those who passed away in the last year including three past Presidents of the Rugby Club, Alastair Birrell, Chubby Armstrong and Gavin Calder.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from the following; David Gray, Ken Richards, Shaun Murphy, John Archer, George Will, Michael WF Grieve, D. Graham, Dr Ian Adam, Tom Scrimgeour, Lennox John, John Hughes and Sandy Frost.

3. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 18th October 2016

Copies of the minutes were available at the meeting and upon request, prior to the meeting, from the Secretary.

Matters arising:

9. Appointment of Independent Examiner: It had been left to the Council to fill the vacancy and Ian Hastie, who fulfils similar roles for many charities, was appointed.

There being no further matters arising adoption was proposed by Laurie Brown and seconded by Finlay Marshall.

4. President's Report

Bert Barclay read out the following and highlighted he had concentrated on the positive aspects of the Club in his report;

As I reflect on my two years as President I have found one of the most satisfying duties is attending the SMC prize-giving when all the sixth form leavers are presented with an FP Club tie and then hosting an informal reception at Inverleith for the SMC boys and MES girls as new former pupils. Not many clubs can say they recruit more than a hundred new members every summer (and that's just the boys!). The challenge is of course to continue to engage with these new members beyond that first day particularly when 80% of leavers continue their education out with Edinburgh. While in the past at different times my focus has been on the rugby and cricket clubs I see it is to the benefit of all sections to have a strong and vibrant FP Club in touch with all its members.

In order to better communicate with our membership, Council have developed the Club's Facebook page and have just introduced a new website where we hope those living both in Edinburgh and elsewhere can see what is happening within the club, where and when. "ESMS Connect" run by the school development office fulfils a slightly different function but continues to attract former pupils as well as parents and present pupils. I would encourage FPs to visit it and sign up to the registration process.

Inverleith remains home to the affiliated rugby, hockey and cricket clubs. All participate in an increasingly competitive environment but notwithstanding their "open" status significant numbers of former pupils populate their playing numbers and all welcome support to their games and the clubhouse on match days. All three clubs are hugely involved in providing competition and practice to school pupils out with normal school games.

It would be remiss not to mention the success of the golf club in retaining for the third successive year the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Cup for Schools. Also the golf club has to be commended in the range of ages it attracts to its ever popular events.

In the past year, in conjunction with the school, significant refurbishment work has been carried out in the clubhouse including the replacement of the balcony off the upstairs lounge. Thirty four years on, the clubhouse remains the envy of visiting clubs and an attractive venue for functions.

Our branch clubs in Glasgow, Aberdeen, the Borders and London continue to hold annual dinners and I was pleased to attend all of these as a guest in my two years as President. Our own club dinner was held at Inverleith in September when, as well as David Gray attending his last dinner as Principal, we had former pupil Gavin MacColl QC and Willie Allan excelling as guest speakers while school captain Forbes Jackson impressed all with his tales of his time at SMC.

Each year the FP Club President lays a wreath at the War memorial in the school grounds. It remains a tremendously moving event and a fitting reminder of the ultimate sacrifice made by so many former pupils during the two World Wars. The number of the total lives lost equates to the sum of the current 4th, 5th and 6th years.

As President of the FP Club I have been invited to attend meetings of the ESMS Governing Council. This gives a unique insight into how the school operates and its successes. The school community has been fortunate indeed to have Mike Sims and David Gray leading it and I wish their successors well when the time comes.

Also I have had the pleasure of attending the school's annual Sports Day, the Boarding House's Christmas Party, the Merchant Company Court Dinner and the FP / school debate as well as the Watsonian and Heriot Club dinners and the Melville College Trust AGM,

Once again the FP News which was published at the beginning of the year was full of interesting articles telling us of former pupils' activities and honours earned both here in Scotland and throughout other parts of the World. Bob Young remains our Editor and is forever discovering untold stories of former pupils which reflect well on the school and club.

Vice-President Charles Wilson has continued to arrange a variety of social activities for members and is pretty much an ever present with friends at the end of month lunches at Inverleith. I think I speak for all of the Council in thanking him for his work in putting together the arrangements.

On behalf of all I wish to acknowledge the contributions of Laura McIntosh, Denise Mitchell and Joyce Waterston in ensuring the success of so many of our activities and events in the clubhouse at Inverleith.

It has been both an honour and privilege and always interesting to be your President for the past two years and I wish my successor, Charles Wilson, every success as he takes over.

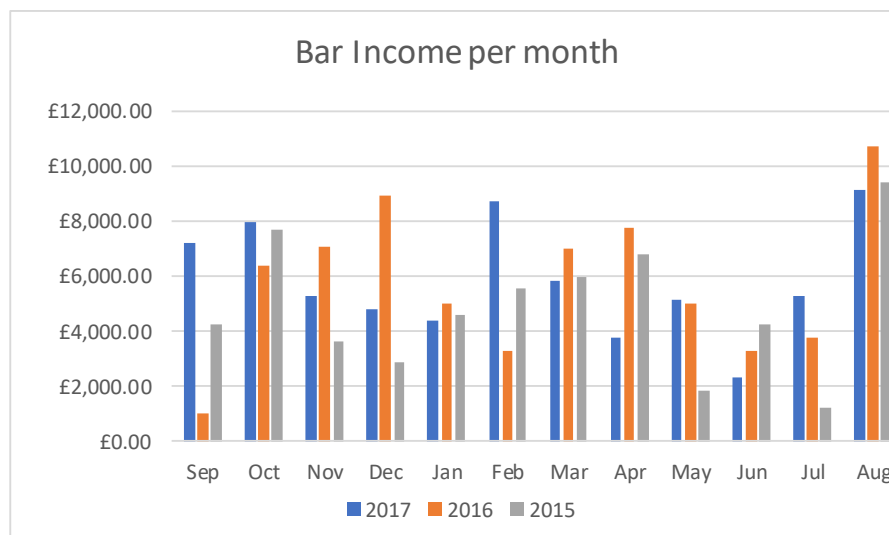
5. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement

Laura McIntosh presented the following report;

House Account

Bar Income

We have maintained the same level of bar sales as last year. However, I have produced a graph, just for interest, which shows the different spread of sales over the year. September, December and February vary greatly, others are roughly similar and August is always busy! September 2017 sales were actually higher than that of September 2016.



Bar Gross Profit

I am satisfied with our Bar Gross Profit percentage for the year ended August 2017 of 57.4%. Last year was 58.2%.

Catering Income

This represents the 15% of club catering in lieu of rent from Joyce Waterston. Joyce continues to provide an excellent service to the Club.

Hire Income

This category includes income from function bookings, funerals and regular classes held in the clubhouse. Function bookings were down from 50 to 40. These are recorded on the date of the booking, not when the actual function takes place. June, July and the start of August (2017) were particularly quiet. The number of funerals were roughly the same as last year. For funerals we charge a rate per head and my records show that this year the funerals held were small in size resulting in poorer income per funeral.

Bar Payroll

Bar Payroll includes Denise's salary (and related NI and PAYE) and casual bar staff wages. The School previously paid Denise for clubhouse cleaning and this was added into our rent. The FP Club now pay this. The increase is a result of this change and the pay rises (in line with the School's rate) which were given to all bar staff.

Rent

The decrease is the result of Denise's cleaning (as mentioned above) no longer being paid directly by the School. Our annual rent review is scheduled for 7th November 2017.

Sundries

At the start of last season / the new financial year we installed a Sports TV package. Also, as a trial, we hired in TV's in the downstairs room to allow the Lions and parents to watch one of the Internationals. Another similar function is being held this weekend. The costs of these are included in this category.

Uninsured Loss

The Clubhouse was broken into in May. Various doors, external and internal, were damaged. The school carried out the repairs and replacement shutters have been ordered. The cost of which was borne by the School.

Alcohol and cash were stolen and glasses broken. Not all of this was covered by the Insurance. This amount also includes the policy excess.

Reserves

£6,500 has been transferred to the Clubhouse Maintenance Reserve to boost the balance back to a similar level as the previous year following some expenditure.

We intend to distribute £7,500 to our affiliated sports clubs. This was approved by Council.

Clubhouse Maintenance Fund and Reserve

The Clubhouse has been spruced up!

Following the cleaning of the carpets we invested in some new door mats to protect the carpet. Every year we carry out a stock take of the crockery and cutlery and the cost of replenishing stocks is shared 50:50 with the Caterer.

New blinds were purchased to replace the original curtains which didn't fare well after their clean. The blinds are blackout blinds and are more practical. The carpets have been professionally cleaned and the foyer has been redecorated. A replacement glass washer was required as the previous was unable to be repaired.

Reserves have been replenished from Funds from the House Account.

Income and Expenditure Account

Income

Member charges

As more and more members choose to choose to receive communications by email, for which there is no charge, the amount we receive reduces.

Life Subscriptions (collected by ESMS)

The actual amount received from ESMS remains at a similar level but the VAT element deducted for the accounts is higher. I am happy to explain the VAT calculation after the AGM, should anyone wish. No one asked for an explanation.

Investment Income

An increase was made to our investment in May. There is not a full year of increased income to compare as yet.

Expenditure

Secretary and Treasurer

As of December 2016 I took over The Secretary's role from Bobby. The amount in the accounts is the two salaries combined (along with NI and PAYE) and an amount where Bobby and I both worked together for a handover.

Collegian and FP News

The reduction reflects that this year we distributed Collegians to only first year leavers and not the first three years leavers as in previous years. The cost of the production of the FP News reduced marginally from last year.

Stationery, Printing and Postage

This is the cost of all design and printing of mailings other than the above, and office stationery and postage. Although numbers of items posted have reduced the cost of postage is higher. The cost of printer ink has increased and my printer is not efficient!

FP events and expenses

Includes the cost (and in some cases a small profit) of hosting events, tickets to dinners, gifts etc. Increases from last year include a new laptop which was purchased for Denise and a contribution to the Lion's dinner held at the Clubhouse this year.

Advertising

At the end of last year we started to advertise in the local EH4 directory. A full year comparison is not available. It is difficult to tell how much business comes directly from here. We plan to continue advertising next year.

Website Design

At the time of writing the new website was near completion with all static data uploaded and tested. Development will be ongoing. Training has now taken place although it may take a while to get up to speed!

Deferred Income

This is the amount by which the Deferred Income in the Balance sheet reduces.

Balance Sheet

Investment Portfolio

In May we increased our portfolio from £130,000 to £165,000.

The Market Value is currently £197,000. Our Investment Manager reported,

“Over the 12 months to 31 August 2017, the portfolio added 9.3% in total return terms, against a rise in the benchmark, WMA Income index until 6th of April 2017 and Brewin Dolphin Risk Category 6 thereafter, of 9.2%. Despite a number of political events throughout the Club's financial year, including Donald Trump's presidential election victory and elections in the UK, France and the Netherlands, the portfolio has slightly outperformed its benchmark with an underweight to UK government bonds proving particularly beneficial. Furthermore, income generation remains encouraging, with an estimated annual income as at 31 August 2017 of £6,554, equating to a yield of 3.3% per annum.”

Our annual review meeting is on 13th November 2017. We are considering further Investments and this will be discussed at this meeting.

Cash at bank and in hand

The reduction is the amount which was transferred to our Investments.

Deferred Income

This is the monies collected under the Decadal Scheme. As the amount the boys now pay in S1-3 is for “life” membership the amount of deferred income we need to account for reduces. In 2031 the last boy, who paid into the decadal scheme, will have left school for over 10years and we no longer have a liability, the balance will be zero.

I would like to thank Ian Hastie, our Independent Examiner, for reviewing the Club's accounts.

6. Associated and Branch Club Reports

The full reports from the Associated and Branch clubs can be read on our website.

The representatives present at the meeting were invited to speak and added:

George Bee (Curling):

The curling Club are several members down this year although we are delighted to welcome Chris Morris (school leaver in 2017) and his older sister Sarah. Their arrival has reduced the average age of members considerably!

Neil Leitch (Cricket):

It was hard to follow on from last year's success but the cricket club won 4 matches in the hardest league. They had found it hard to get a regular team out over the summer. Davy Gibson continues a huge effort with the juniors

Hamish Muirhead asked about the policy for the Professional. Neil Leitch explained that the job of recruiting the overseas personnel was mainly carried out by Bert Barclay. This season's coach, Shaylin Pillay from Johannesburg, was an excellent player and an even better (the best so far) coach of youngsters and has been recruited for next season.

Rugby, Hockey and Golf – Bert Barclay highlighted some of the comments in the reports.

Bert mentioned the following points in respect of the Branch Clubs:

London – regular meeting date changed from Wednesdays to Mondays

Borders – annual dinner date changed from April to May

Aberdeen – annual dinner in January

Glasgow – annual dinner next month, 9th November 2017

Finlay Marshall thanked the Parent Club's members for their continued support at the Border's club dinner.

7. Proposed constitutional changes

Item 7

- a) It is proposed that Subscriptions for Associate Members shall be determined by Council.
An additional sentence would be added to Section 4(c) and would read
"Subscriptions for Associate Members shall be determined by Council."
- b) It is proposed to increase the number of ordinary members on Council from six to eight.
Paragraph 6(b) would read
"Eight Members of the Club, not more than two of whom are Associate Members; these Members shall be elected annually by the general body of Ordinary Members at the Annual General Meeting and will be eligible to serve for a maximum consecutive period of five years."
- c) It is proposed to add a paragraph relating to Communications
Paragraph 12 COMMUNICATIONS would read
"Communications may be by electronic means unless otherwise specifically requested".

Finlay Marshall and Neil Leitch questioned the wording in 7c). They would prefer the word “shall” to be used instead of “may”. Following a short discussion Bert Barclay suggested that Charles Wilson could look further into this and the proposed constitutional changes were approved.

8. Members' Charges

Item 8

It is proposed that there be no alteration to the charge for issuing correspondence other than electronically. This was approved.

9. Election of Council

In accordance with Item 6(b) of the Constitution, Ordinary Members of the Council, providing they have not held office for a period of five consecutive years and are willing to serve again, will present themselves for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

Four Ordinary Members – Sandy Frost, Dave Clarke, Gordon Esslemont and John Hughes – having served less than five years have intimated that they wish to stand for re-election. Approval was given for them to continue in office.

We have 4 vacancies for the Council and we would appreciate anyone stepping forward to fill these roles.

Bert Barclay commented that recently the affiliated clubs, if not their President then a representative, had been in attendance at Council Meetings – these were confirmed as having no vote.

Fred McLeod suggested that those clubs presently attending could be approached to have a member join Council. Charles Wilson confirmed this could be done as long as they were ordinary members of the club.

10. Election of Office Bearers

Laura McIntosh is an employee of the club and fills the role of Secretary and Treasurer.

In accordance with Item 5 of the Constitution, the President and the Vice-President shall be elected annually by the general body of Ordinary Members at the Annual General Meeting. The holders of these offices will retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election, save that their terms of office will be restricted to a maximum consecutive period of two years.

President Bert Barclay having completed his two years in office was delighted to pass on the role to his Vice-President, Charles Wilson. The appointment was approved. Charles has been a keen supporter (along with wife Irene) of the club and a loyal member of Council.

Charles Wilson gave the following acceptance speech;

First of all, I would like to congratulate Bert on two very successful years as our President. As well as undertaking the normal duties that are a President's lot; attending innumerable meetings with ESMS Governors, the Principal, the Bursar, the Development Office, the Melville College Trust, the MES Guild, the FP Parent & Affiliated Clubs – to name but a few – and attending the usual round of dinners, locally and further afield, Bert has been a great ambassador for the Club attending numerous Club and school Cricket, Golf and Rugby matches, school sports days & prize giving's and was instrumental in establishing the successful annual FP Club & School Debate. Following the demise of the FP Club website, Bert oversaw the introduction of the FP Facebook page. Unfortunately, this did not find

favour with the more senior members of the Club and, to address this issue, Bert has been heavily involved, since February of this year, with a website designer to create a new website culminating in its release last month. The site – www.smcfpclub.co.uk – is a work in progress but it is worth a visit and we would appreciate both positive and negative feedback. As you will gather from the foregoing small snippet from his workload, Bert has hardly sat down during his term in office and I will have to look to my laurels if I am going to go any way towards emulating his work ethos.

As many of you know, I belong to that small, select and dying breed; Melville College FPs. I started at Melville College in September 1954 and left in July 1965. While at school, I enjoyed playing rugby, reaching the giddy heights of the 3rd XV, I also enjoyed hockey but took great pains to avoid cricket as it was a bit too pedestrian for my liking. I was a Junior and Senior Prefect, a platoon sergeant in the CCF and recipient of the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

On leaving school, I joined both the FP Parent and Rugby Clubs. In those days, FP rugby was a very social affair with as much time, if not more, spent in the bar as on the training field and pitch. Having said that, I managed to play in the 2nd XV on a regular basis and even managed to gain access to the 1st XV, via the back door, only to be promptly thrown back out, via the back door. Changed days, rugby now – even Club rugby – is big business and is taken seriously by all who partake; it is no longer the norm to pop into the bar after training for a pint – good for the fitness levels, bad for bar profits.

The FP Club is in good heart and, as you heard earlier, financially sound. However, we cannot be complacent. It is obvious, as you look around, that the “active” membership tends to be in the upper age bracket which, in the long-term, is not sustainable. We need to find ways of attracting, and retaining, younger members. Initiatives to-date include; altering the Decadal system to one of life membership; inviting two S6 pupils to attend Council meetings with a view to bridging the gap between Club and school; inviting all leavers, from both schools, to an informal do in the Clubhouse to show-case our facilities and to meet representatives from the sports clubs. The latter attracts around 120 individuals but we know for a fact that a large percentage of them, each year, are destined to further their education outside of Edinburgh; we persevere with these events as there is always the off-chance that they might, at some point in the future, come back into the fold. The Council needs to address this age issue; if anyone has any thoughts on how to go about achieving our goal, we would be interested in hearing from you.

In concluding, may I say that it is an honour and a privilege to be your President for the next two years.

11. AOCB

Bert Barclay highlighted that there were still some things on his “to do list”

- a) Membership database – there are many members whose contact details are out of date; work in obtaining up to date information continues.
- b) Member's photos – a couple of new photos of distinguished FP's are to be added to the gallery in the upstairs bar.
- c) Data was collected many years ago by Ernie Wilkins and Jack Davidson that needs to be saved in an up to date and more readable format on the new website.
- d) A revision to the constitution should be considered in light of current licensing rules applicable to the Club.

Tickets are still available for the upcoming events of Muckle Ado, the ESMS Carol Party and the Christmas Lunch. Further details are on the website.

A vote of thanks to Bert was proposed by Laurie Brown.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Laura McIntosh 18/10/17