



**SCOTTISH REGION**

**MINUTES OF REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT ST JAMES' PARISH  
CHURCH HALL, PAISLEY ON SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2008**

**Present:**

Chairman	Mr Jim McDonald
Vice-Chairman	Ms Mary Guild
Treasurer	Miss Helen Gray
Secretary	Miss Georgina Hay

**Branch Representatives:**

ABERDEEN	Mrs Jenny Jones
EDINBURGH	Mrs Elspeth Harrison
PAISLEY	Mrs Ann Farmer Mrs Marion McCulloch
UNALIGNED	Mr Bill Fenwick
LANARKSHIRE GROUP	Mr Archie Leyden
CO-OPTED MEMBERS	None
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE	Mrs Maureen Baikie Miss Elsie Sutherland Margaret Roffe (Central Office) Catherine Thornton (Central Office)

The Regional Chairman, Jim McDonald, welcomed everyone to the meeting of Council, and apologised for his slightly late arrival. He explained that he had been interviewing in Stirling. He introduced Cat Thornton and Margaret Roffe to members of Council and also welcomed Maureen Baikie and Elsie Sutherland from Paisley Branch.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Mr John Callander, Mrs Ilene Taylor, Mrs Frances Keal and Mr Ron Hume.

1. INTIMATION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

The following additional items were intimated: date and venue for Regional Annual General Meeting, Scottish Super Forum 2009 and the Warm Front Heating Campaign.

1. CONFIRM MINUTES OF REGIONAL MEETING HELD ON 30<sup>th</sup> August 2008

With a minor correction to remove a comment made by the chairman on page 4 of the minutes, the minutes were then proposed by Mary Guild and seconded by Marion McCulloch.

1. MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

There were no matters arising which would not be covered elsewhere in the agenda.

1. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- A. From VisitScotland, invitation to showcase
- A. From Graham Ball, synopsis of Trustee meeting
- A. From Glasgow Science Centre, invitation to food launch
- A. From Aberdeen Branch, copy of branch newsletter
- A. From Auchentoshan Distillery, declining to donate whisky miniatures for Burns' lunch
- A. From Fyfe Ireland, Solicitors, Edinburgh, donation from Nancy Roberts Charitable Trust
- A. Email regarding publication of Jean Denecke's book "Walking Isn't Everything"
- A. From Apex Hotels, cheque for overpayment of Dundee lunch
- A. Email from Joanna Watson, giving names of members of Yorkshire attending the Burns' lunch
- A. Emails from Bryan Rowley, Linda Evers, Mike Egan and Brigit Flint, declining invitation to Burns' lunch.

Jim also reported that he had received an invitation to view the upgraded facilities at the Stirling Management Centre.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Jim welcomed everyone to the last regional meeting of 2008. Over the past few months he has been extremely busy behind the scenes putting the final touches to the Big Lottery bid along with Margaret Roffe and Helen Bailey. The one last piece of the jigsaw is that it would be very helpful if we could get someone to endorse the bid that knows the Fellowship but will not benefit from the award.

Interviews for the post of Temporary Network Coordinator will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November in Stirling and Jim indicated that he would report on this at the meeting.

Jim indicated that Margaret Roffe, Support Services Manager, would be giving a presentation at the meeting on the role of Information and Support officers. He was hopeful that anyone interested in the role within branches or group's, would be welcome to attend the meeting to hear this presentation.

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Along with several other members, Jim attended the National AGM in Blackpool earlier this year. It was quite a poignant affair with the National Chairman Sir Bryan Askew retiring after three years in office. We wish him well in all that he does. The AGM is now quite a small affair with very little to discuss and all “matter of fact” – this is now the way of things.

Jim reported that we will be hosting a ‘Super Forum’ in October 2009 as part of our contributions to the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. This, again, will be held at the Stirling Management Centre, and will be organised and funded by Central Office. It will have a main theme with several workshops for members to attend.

The Burns’ lunch for next year’s 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fellowship has been booked for 24<sup>th</sup> January in the Stirling Management Centre. Invitations have been sent out to all members and guests. Jim reported that he hoped to be able to announce a donation towards the event, but, at the moment, has not had confirmation of this. At the meeting Jim was able to announce that his employers had agreed to make a contribution towards the lunch.

With Christmas just around the corner, branches and groups were preparing to party. Jim had received a copy of the letter sent to all branch and regional treasurers from the National Treasurer. The practice of giving cash gifts at Christmas was highlighted by the auditors and it has to be discontinued.

It just remained for Jim to wish everyone in all branches and groups, along with our unaligned members, a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Jim updated the meeting by acknowledging the tremendous amount of work done on the Lottery bid by both Margaret Roffe and Helen Bailey. Margaret explained that much of the work involved fleshing out a business plan for five years.

Interviews had been held for four candidates – out of 20 applications. All those interviewed were seen as strong candidates. The successful candidate would be starting on 12<sup>th</sup> January, following an induction period at Central Office.

## 6. SECRETARY’S REPORT

The lunch for members in the Dundee area takes place on November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Apex Hotel, Dundee. An update on progress regarding reinstating the Dundee group will be given at the meeting.

Letters inviting members to the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary Burns’ Lunch on 24<sup>th</sup> January have been sent out with December 6<sup>th</sup> as the deadline. In addition to postal returns, a number of returns have been received via email, which is equally acceptable as well as less burdensome for my postman. A number of those who have indicated that they will not be attending, have stated the possibility of bad weather and their ability then to travel as their reason for not attending.

We await a response from Auchentoshan Distillery regarding a possible donation of whisky miniatures for those attending the lunch. At the time of writing, we have confirmed attendance of only two members from Yorkshire, but I have written to their

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secretary and to Central Office asking that they provide numbers of those who will be attending by the same December 6<sup>th</sup> deadline as applied to our own members.

Georgina had also written to the Royal Purse Bearer who deals with the invitations to the Church of Scotland Garden Party, asking about the possibility of extra places being granted for 2009 due to our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary and was awaiting his reply.

#### Dundee Lunch

22 members, including some members of the regional council, had lunch at the Apex Hotel, Dundee on 9<sup>th</sup> November. All enjoyed meeting up as well as their lunch. They discussed the possibility of re-establishing the group and the majority were in favour. Bill Fenwick, at least initially, was happy to take on the role of group leader. Members from the Dundee area currently have very little contact with anyone else who has had polio and none of them attend the Get-Together as the distance is too great. Members were keen to have a follow-up meeting – possibly another lunch – to further discuss among themselves how they want to proceed. Bill Fenwick and Susan Campbell undertook to organise this.

Following a short discussion regarding this event, Council agreed to support it financially until such times as the group is formally re-established by the board of trustees.

#### Working Group

Georgina reported that, by chance, she had become aware of a working group set up by the Scottish Parliament to look into polio and post-polio syndrome under the chairmanship of Professor Jim McKillop, one of our members. Also on the group are Nigel Thorp and Helene MacLean, although neither of them is actually representing the Fellowship. Georgina brought this to the attention of Central Office who will be in contact with Professor McKillop to offer any information which may be useful. She was concerned that as a Fellowship we knew nothing of this group being set up and that no-one from the Fellowship was invited to take part in their own right. It is hoped that we may receive reports of the discussions and decisions of this group.

#### PPS Awareness

Georgina reported that an article on PPS, including a case study of a Fellowship member, will shortly be published in the “Scottish Primary Care Journal”. This is part of the Fellowship’s campaign to raise awareness of PPS among health professionals.

## 6. TREASURER’S REPORT & METCALFE LEGACY

Helen Gray reported that she had received cheques for £1000 (donation), £118.05 (refund from Dundee lunch) and £10 (donation from member). In addition she had asked for an additional £3000 to be transferred to the region’s account from the Metcalfe account. She also reported that, at this time, she did not have up-to-date details of the Metcalfe Legacy.

## 6. TRUSTEE REPORT

The first meeting of the new trustee board was held on the Sunday morning of the AGM weekend at Blackpool. The first item of business was the appointment of the new national office-bearers. Pam Jones was elected chairman and Aidan Linton-Smith was re-elected treasurer. There was no appointment of a vice-chairman made and it was decided to leave this appointment until the next meeting as two trustees were absent from this meeting.

Each trustee then introduced themselves and gave a brief indication of what they wanted from the Fellowship and what they could contribute in the next three years.

There was a presentation about the proposed plans for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary programme next year. Much of it was dependent on the necessary finance being available. Subsequently we have heard that a grant of £48K has been received from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a history project. This will lead to a website on the history of the Fellowship and a DVD.

The next meeting of the Trustees takes place on 8<sup>th</sup> November and a further update will be given at the meeting.

All trustees were present at the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> November. There has still not been an appointment of a vice-chair. This will hopefully be made at the meeting in March once trustees have had the chance to get to know each other.

Trustees are all getting an invitation to visit Central Office – to meet staff and see what goes on.

The Fellowship is likely to have a £200K deficit this year. Loan unit interest is likely to be 3% this year, with the capital sum protected.

Branches are being asked to set a budget for 2009 and to try to stick to it. General headings will be acceptable – it is not necessary to go into great detail. Draft accounts for 2008 are to be with Central Office by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2009, with audited accounts to be sent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. There is the possibility of fines being levied on branches for accounts which are submitted late.

There will again be British Polio Awards in 2009, but 2008 winners will not be eligible to be nominated again.

The decision regarding holding a National Annual General Meeting will be put to the membership, since there is no legal requirement for us to have one.

Trustee champions – Archie has taken responsibility for campaigning and I have volunteered for holidays, the Burnham bungalow and the GRP Panel.

The ‘Red Book’ which was presented to Frederic Moreno on “This Is Your Life” has been offered to the Fellowship as a result of the ‘History Corner’ in the Bulletin.

The next trustee meeting is 17<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at Leicester.

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## 6. SPORTS REPORT

Jim reported that next year's games would be held at the Marriott Hotel, in Leicester on the weekend of 6/7/8 February. This was earlier than previously and all entry forms have been sent out.

As reported at the last meeting there will not be a coach hired this time as the majority of competitors had expressed as wish to make their own way to Leicester. Travel costs incurred by all competitors would be reimbursed. Jim emphasised that it would be actual costs, not expenses that would be paid. Currently one couple planned to fly down, with remaining competitors travelling by car.

It was hoped by Jim to be able to announce the final team selection at the meeting. Due to a late entry, it has not been possible to announce the team at the meeting. However, details of the team would be distributed as soon as possible.

Jim reported that at the last NCOC meeting, it was unanimously agreed that all motorised wheelchairs, scooters, etc must be operated at 'tortoise speed' within the hotel. This is in compliance with Health and Safety regulations and for the safety and comfort of other guests. Jim indicated that he would be sending a letter to all competitors who use a scooter to inform them of this.

## 6. WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

This would be subsumed within the general welfare presentation by Margaret Roffe later in the agenda.

## 6. RALLY SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Helen Gray reported that, as in past years, we would be unable to set a definite date for the Get-Together until early in 2009, when the dates are published for the Race for Life. The following dates have been reserved provisionally: 14<sup>th</sup> June, 21<sup>st</sup> June and 28<sup>th</sup> June.

## 6. BRANCH REPORTS

Aberdeen: Jenny reported that many members of the Aberdeen branch were elderly or cannot travel to meetings. Therefore the branch decided that a newsletter would help keep members aware of what was happening within the branch. It would be distributed three times a year, the first edition was sent out at the end of October.

The next event would be a Christmas lunch to be held at the Patio Hotel, Aberdeen on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

Edinburgh: Elspeth reported that since the last regional meeting, the branch has had its usual monthly Drop-Ins at the Redford Barracks where members chat, drink tea and have a raffle or a bring and buy. At the October Drop-In, the branch were able to meet the new Commandant, 'Tug' Wilson, who gave members a warm welcome and was delighted to continue to allow the branch the use of the Officers' Mess. The branch also had a trip to Stirling with a meal at the Riverside Restaurant. Members are currently looking forward to their Christmas lunch at Duddingston Golf Club on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

Paisley: Georgina reported that the last meeting of the branch saw the celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a lunch for members and their guests on 19<sup>th</sup> October at the Normandy Hotel, Renfrew. We had a civic reception from Renfrewshire Council, but unfortunately, the Provost was unable to attend. The National Treasurer, Aidan Linton-Smith, joined us, representing Central Office and kindly said a few words, as did our Regional Chairman, Jim McDonald. The previous branch chairman cut our birthday cake which was served to all our guests after lunch and our entertainment which was provided by some members of the Rowanberries singing group. Everyone who attended received a souvenir of the event. A Christmas outing, has been organised for Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at the Hurler. At our February meeting, we plan a presentation by a physiotherapist who has worked at the Douglas Grant Rehabilitation Centre, which is based at Irvine Central Hospital, Irvine in Ayrshire. We would be happy to be joined by any member who is able to join us for this meeting.

Lanarkshire: Archie reported that the monthly meetings continue with a regular attendance.

#### 6. 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Final numbers for the Burns' Lunch are due by December 6<sup>th</sup>. Georgina indicated that currently there were over 60 members who had indicated a desire to attend. Jim then explained that the menu would be a traditional one – he read out a proposed menu and indicated that it would be distributed to members.

Jim also intimated that the region would be receiving an invitation from Yorkshire Region to participate in their annual Air Rifle Event, taking part in a triangular team competition between Yorkshire region, North West region and ourselves. The teams would each be made up of four members, plus one reserve. However, it was hoped that as many people as possible would be involved, taking part in other activities, other than the rifle competition. The proposed date would be in June 2009. Further details would be provided later.

#### 6. AOCB

As previously noted, there would be a super forum in October to be held again at the Stirling Management Centre for all members in Scotland.

There was no definite date set for the Regional Annual General Meeting, but the suggestion of May 16<sup>th</sup> was proposed. There was a desire to avoid the date that would be selected for the Holyrood Garden Party as this would enable Council members to attend without missing the Annual General Meeting. It was suggested that there may be at least one speaker invited to the event, similar to that used at the recent National AGM. There was also the possibility of having a welfare conference to follow the AGM, since we have not held such a conference for a number of years.

The application for a grant under the warm homes campaign had been unsuccessful, however it was agreed that the distribution of packs to include a fridge magnet with useful telephone numbers and a number of other leaflets would go ahead and would be paid for from existing funds. The total cost would be in the region of £300, including

postage. It was also noted that currently those aged over 60 were eligible for free central heating installation in Scotland.

6. WELFARE PRESENTATION – Margaret Roffe

Margaret explained that she had been in Scotland over the past week and had made contact the others through Befriending Scotland and Volunteer Development Scotland. She also explained that it may be possible to get a grant from Lloyds TSB which is another option to the Lottery application.

She explained the process by which the appointment of the temporary welfare coordinator had been made. Initially the advert had appeared in the Daily Record as well as in the Bulletin and on the website. This had generated a lot of phone calls from other publications which may prove useful in the future. The appointment will be made within the next week, with the appointee commencing work on 12<sup>th</sup> January for a period of six months. The aim of the project is to bring in volunteers to support members and provide a structure for those volunteers to enable to support members in Scotland. The person appointed will be working with Cat Thornton, who works in as similar capacity in England.

It is hope that this short-term appointment will lead to a successful Lottery bid for a five year project. It is hoped that the appointment of a full-time worker will allow them to be more pro-active. Once the five year project is underway, we will be reapplying for a further grant to continue at the end of the initial period. This is common practice. It is hoped to start initially with ten volunteers.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2009. The meeting will be held in Edinburgh.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.15pm with a vote of thanks to the chair.