

**Scottish Association of Churchill Fellows**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**held on Saturday 21 April 2012  
at Perth Concert Hall, Perth**

**Present:**

**Committee members:** Catriona Prebble (Chairperson), George Weir, Lindsay Walker (Treasurer) and Kitty Kilburn (Secretary).

**Fellows:** Alyson Little, Ann Pascoe, Annabel Irvine, Cathy Bache, Claire Chapman, Colin Fraser, Ebby Sigmund, Elizabeth Leighton, Jan McClory, Janet Watson, Jennifer Cook, Jenny Olley, Julia Nelson, Keith MacGillivray, Ken Smith, Lesley Holdsworth, Lesley Manson, Peter Campbell, Ro Scott, Roddy MacDonald, Ruth Lunan, Stephanie Morrison, Tommy McLeod, Norma Clark.

**Special guests:** Jamie Balfour, Director General of the WCMT and Anne Boyd, Trustee and Chairman of the WCMT Council.

**1. Apologies:** Baroness Linklater, David Smith, Elaine Haycock Stuart, Jonny Shaw, Vyv Wood Gee, Les Ward, Joanne Fraser, Vanessa Halhead (committee member), Matthew MacIver (committee member), Peter J Campbell, Sarah Roberts, Katy Martin, Maggie Watts, Jack Sanderson, Stephen Owens, Bill Cormack, Andrew Johnson, David Comins, Anne Murray, Hugh Rose, William Murray, Rajat Roy, George Biddlecombe Anne Cordiner, Charles McGhee, Ian Hird, Mike Baughan, Carolyn MacGillivray, Juliet Robertson, Paul Merchant, James Robinson, Kenneth Wardrop, Donald Fisher, Alexander Tulloch, John Ferguson, Irene Paterson, Neil Smith, Andy McAlpine, John Millar, Ricky Munday, Gwen Chessell, Robert McCabe, John Gardner, Alex Boyd, Mike Beale, Dave Hutchinson, David Black, Audrey Macdougall, Douglas Phillips, Mary Craig, Roger Hemming,

The Chairperson welcomed all Fellows and their guests to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. She was pleased to see so many new Fellows able to attend, and particularly thanked Jamie Balfour, Director General WCMT, for coming up from London and for Anne Boyd, WCMT Council member and regular supporter of the Scottish Association.

Jamie Balfour then provided an update on the Trust's activities:

*He reported that the Trust is in good heart having awarded 113 Fellowships this year. He said that all Fellows were part of a family and that it was important that Fellows encourage new applicants and tell the story of Fellows' achievements.*

*In 2010 the Trust had undertaken a strategic review (to which Anne Boyd contributed) to ensure the Trust is doing enough to make a difference. The Director General said that the Trust had been giving people the chance of a lifetime since 1966, but that there needed to be more focus on Fellows making a change on return from their travels and that Fellowships should also be for the benefit of others.*

*As a consequence, the Trust is now seeking to support Fellows more on their return. This is, in part, to be achieved through the establishment of partnerships: work with both The Baring Foundation and The Rank Foundation is already in their second years and this year, the focus of a further joint venture will be on Prison Reform, led by Baroness Linklater. This three year partnership programme will seek to support 30 Fellows. There will be annual meetings for Fellows in this category to promote the learning from each across this theme. The second new partnership theme is on Education: the aim is to raise the standards of basic learning for those aged 15-19, and to provide an opportunity for Deputy Heads who have been elected for a Head Teacher's post to be supported in taking a sabbatical to see best practice in action.*

*The Director General confirmed that there will always be an open category for Fellowships but that out of the eight or nine categories, in future four or five will be in such partnerships, the aim being to link Fellows up and to promote the collaborative findings of their Fellowships.*

*The Trust now accepts reports in the form of a website or blog – it is felt that such flexibility is required to help Fellows to deliver their message in the best or most appropriate way.*

*The average Fellowship is for six weeks with an average grant of £6,000, and increasingly travelling is split in order to assist Fellows to take the time off work. Fellows are being encouraged to travel to places other than North America and Australia in order to reflect the diversity of Britain.*

*The Director General reported that the Trust is undertaking a fundraising campaign in the build-up to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Churchill's death in 2015. He explained that Fellows would shortly be receiving a newsletter together with a brochure and a letter. The brochure is to be used to spread the word, and the letter from Jamie Balfour himself will explain the objectives of the campaign. The Trust currently receives an annual income stream of £1.3m from its investments. The Trust continues to support undergraduates at Churchill College, Cambridge, with ten bursaries awarded each year and 31 students currently being supported. Churchill College has the highest proportion of students from financially difficult backgrounds.*

*It is hoped that the current level of Fellowship awards can be raised from 100 to 150 in time for the anniversary in 2015. The Trust has budgeted for 127 Fellowships next year, acknowledging that the partnerships are contributing to meeting these costs.*

*With respect to the fundraising campaign, Fellows will be approached for donations in June this year through a telephone campaign run by a Fellow.*

*The Director General highlighted the importance of the work of the regional Associations which are the bedrock of the Fellowship network but these are now being complemented by the newly established themed groups across the Fellowship, which the partnerships are establishing, and which the Trust's revamped database will increasingly facilitate.*

*Finally, it was noted that the House of Commons dinner this year will be held on 9 November 2012 with David Ramsbotham, former Chief Inspector of Prisons, who will speak on prison reform. The dinner will be hosted by Nicholas Soames MP.*

## **2. Chairperson's Report**

The Chairperson thanked Jamie Balfour for his encouraging update and said that it was exciting to learn that so much is happening within the Trust.

She also thanked the 50 Fellows who had sent their apologies, including Committee members Mathew MacIver and Vanessa Halhead, and Trust Council member Baroness Linklater – it was encouraging to know so many were engaged, even if they were unable to attend.

The last Fellows' event had been held in April 2011 in Inverness which had been well-attended. She noted that the Committee endeavours to hold events in different locations in Scotland in order to make them accessible to as many Fellows as possible.

The minutes of the 2011 AGM were approved (proposed: Peter Campbell; seconded: Ro Scott).

The Chairperson advised that the Association has a constitution and she recapped its aims:

- Support all work of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust;
- Publicise the opportunities offered by the Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowships;
- Encourage good quality applications for the Travelling Fellowships;
- Maintain the network of Fellows in Scotland and, in particular, ensure that new Fellows are welcomed to the Scottish Association and its activities.

Further to this, she welcomed the four new Fellows present and encouraged them to take advantage of the opportunity to talk to other Fellows. She read out their projects:

- Alyson Little        Spatial decision-making of the Scottish North Sea fishing fleet
- Ann Pascoe         Early dementia symptoms & carer stress detection training for lay people
- Jan McClory        Old and healthy? Can Scottish communities ever become Blue Zones?
- Tommy McLeod     Early intervention in First Episode Psychosis: an innovative approach

The Chairperson reported this year there had been 17 successful Scottish Fellowship awards, the highest number for a decade and, again, second only to London.

She encouraged Fellows to publicise the Fellowships and, on receipt of the new categories in May, to disseminate the information to work/interest groups; the Committee targets appropriate organisations to circulate the details about the Fellowships.

The Chairperson reported that the Committee aims to complement the publicity work of the Trust office in publicity and encouraging local press coverage. She noted that Kitty Kilburn had been able to arrange coverage of Julia Nelson's Fellowship with BBC Radio Highland. The press releases of Scottish Fellows are uploaded onto the Association website. The website also provides blog space for Fellows to use on their travels.

She noted that Head Office now has a Facebook page and that this may be something which the Scottish Association could link into in future.

With regard to organising future Fellows' events, the Chairperson acknowledged the costs of travelling long distances; she invited Fellows to offer suggestions for the types of events they might be interested in. She noted that the Committee had explored the possibility of hosting a bigger event in connection with another organisation but that the costs would have been prohibitive.

The Chairperson referred to the annual meeting of the Regional Associations held in London and which she had attended in March. She said these were useful events and it was helpful to hear what other Associations are doing. The idea of holding committee meetings via Skype had come from talking to the representative from Wales the previous year.

She had also attended last year's House of Commons dinner at which Rory Stewart MP had spoken and she encouraged those Fellows who were able to attend.

The Chairperson referred to a couple of issues raised under AOB at the 2011 AGM on which to report:

1. There had been a suggestion to promote the Trust through access to pop-up promotional banners. However, she reported that the cost and logistics of transferring these back and forth from head office would not be feasible. [However, the Director General subsequently said he would look into providing banners for the associations].
2. There had been an enquiry about the use of promotional flyers: the Director General confirmed that Fellows would receive flyers when the categories are announced.

The Chairperson closed by expressing her thanks to all staff at Head Office for their support to the Committee; she also thanked the Committee members – both present and absent – for the time and effort they give voluntarily; and finally she thanked Kitty Kilburn who was standing down from the Committee. Kitty had been a member of the committee on and off for a number of years and had worked on promoting the Trust to school leavers before taking on the role of secretary. A gift was presented to Kitty as a token of thanks.

### **3. Financial Report**

The Treasurer (Lindsay Walker) referred to the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2011, which had been tabled. He reported that a balance of £407.02 had been brought forward from the accounts ending 31 December 2010. Income received included: £500 annual subsidy from Head Office; £110 attendance fee for the 2011 AGM. Expenditure comprised: £337.73 to Eden Court for the 2011 AGM; £19.22 for the Association website; and £46.50 retiral gift to the Social Convenor. The Treasurer highlighted that this was in no way indicative of the level of work which Annabel Irvine had dedicated to the Association over many years. The balance at 31 December 2011 was £613.57. The accounts were approved (proposed: Annabel Irvine; seconded: Ro Scott).

### **4. Election of Office-bearers**

The Chairperson referred to the composition of the Scottish Association Committee listed on the agenda and explained that whilst there were two vacancies listed, there was no maximum limit. She advised that Kitty Kilburn was to stand down in her role as Secretary and that Matthew MacIver was standing for re-election. She said that she wished to expand the committee and to ensure it is continually refreshed; committee membership is for an initial three year term.

The re-election of Matthew MacIver was approved (proposed: Peter Campbell; seconded: Janet Watson).

Nominations for new members were then invited.

- Claire Chapman was approved (proposed: George Weir; seconded: Lindsay Walker)
- Julia Nelson was approved (proposed: Annabel Irvine; seconded: Keith MacGillivray)
- Keith MacGillivray was approved (proposed: Kitty Kilburn; seconded: Cathy Bache)
- Liz Stewart was approved (proposed: Lindsay Walker; seconded: Annabel Irvine)

The Chairperson proposed that rather than appointing a Secretary immediately that the Committee meets to discuss respective roles. She welcomed the new members onto the committee and said that she looks forward to working with them.

### **5. Any Other Business**

Jamie Balfour told the group that a new Publicity Manager, Helen Aherne, was now working two days a week for the Trust. If any new Fellows require more advice on how to handle PR, or if other Fellows could use her help, he suggested they get in touch with her.

Jamie reported that a trial initiative is underway with the Welsh Association in conjunction with the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) with new Fellows being mentored by member of the RSA with relevant expertise. The Chairperson said she understood that the RSA had appointed an officer for Scotland in recent years and would try to find out more.

*After the AGM, presentations were delivered by the following three Fellows:*

*Claire Chapman – Harnessing Hydropower in Africa and Europe*

*Julia Nelson – Building Parents' Confidence through Community-Based Support*

*Kenneth Smith – Reducing Vessel Losses in the Fishing Industry*

*Peter Campbell closed the meeting offering a vote of thanks to the committee.*