



***Annual Report
and
Business Meeting***

Conference

Riverside Lodge Hotel, Irvine

14th September 2024

***Chair
Neil McNair (President)***

THE ROBERT BURNS WORLD FEDERATION LTD

CONFERENCE OF COUNCIL – 2024

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

14th September 2024

AGENDA

Chairman’s welcome and introductory remarks

Apologies for absence

Minutes of 2023 AGM

Report and Discussion on Federation Accounts 2023-2024

Annual Reports:

(i)	President	Alan Beck (president@rbwf.org.uk)
(ii)	Admin (inc. 200 Club)	Margaretann Dougall (admin@rbwf.org.uk)
(iii)	Literature	Peter Pringle (literature@rbwf.org.uk)
(iv)	Heritage	John Hannah (heritage@rbwf.org.uk)
(v)	Schools	Beth Kerr (education@rbwf.org.uk)
(vi)	Events	Jean Abdulrahim (events@rbwf.org.uk)
(vii)	Marketing	Alan Beck (marketing@rbwf.org.uk)
(viii)	Editorial	Bill Dawson (editor@rbwf.org.uk)
(ix)	Archivist	Bill Dawson (archivist@rbwf.org.uk)
(x)	Membership	Jean Abdulrahim (membership@rbwf.org.uk)
(xi)	Lifelong Learning	Grace McKelvie (gmckelvie@rbwf.org.uk)
(xii)	Sponsorship	Neil McNair (nmcnair@rbwf.org.uk)
(xiii)	Director at Large	Phyl Smith (psmith@rbwf.org.uk)
(xiv)	American	Paul Kennedy (americandirector@rbwf.org.uk)
(xv)	Canadian	Henry Cairney (canadiandirector@rbwf.org.uk)
(xvi)	Pacific Rim	John Menzies (pacificrim@rbwf.org.uk)

Election of Office Bearers

Election of Conveners

Any Other Business

Date and place of next conference

The Robert Burns World Federation Ltd

A.G.M.

Venue: The Cairndale Hotel, Dumfries

Date: Friday 8th September 2023 at 3pm

MINUTES

Item	Details																																
1.	<i>In accordance with the Companies Act of 2006 and due notice having been served to all members of the meeting, the Annual General Meeting of the Robert Burns World Federation was called to order.</i>																																
	President President Alan Beck welcomed all to the meeting.																																
	<p>Obituaries The President referred to the sad passing of Burnsians during the past year:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Alex Tyrrell</td> <td>Robert Burns Club of Melbourne</td> </tr> <tr> <td>George Murdoch</td> <td>Tranent 25 Burns Club</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kay Blair</td> <td>Member of RBWF Schools Committee, Lanarkshire Assoc and Larkhall Burns Club</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jim Hunter</td> <td>Past President of Stirling, Clacks Association</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Frank Shaw</td> <td>Burns Club of Atlanta</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Margaret Hunter</td> <td>Stirling, Clacks Association</td> </tr> <tr> <td>George Porter-Mutch</td> <td>France</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ina Dawson</td> <td>Niagara Falls B C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bill Dawson</td> <td>Past President of Niagara Falls B C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mary Bell</td> <td>Former Treasurer of RBANA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Cairney</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bill Hood</td> <td>Kilbryde B C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Frances Taylor</td> <td>Kilbryde B C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Reardon</td> <td>Kilbryde B C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dick Duncan</td> <td>Cumbernauld & District B C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>George Stevenson</td> <td>Allanton Jolly Beggars</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The President asked the delegates to be upstanding and to observe one minute's silence in their memory.</p>	Alex Tyrrell	Robert Burns Club of Melbourne	George Murdoch	Tranent 25 Burns Club	Kay Blair	Member of RBWF Schools Committee, Lanarkshire Assoc and Larkhall Burns Club	Jim Hunter	Past President of Stirling, Clacks Association	Frank Shaw	Burns Club of Atlanta	Margaret Hunter	Stirling, Clacks Association	George Porter-Mutch	France	Ina Dawson	Niagara Falls B C	Bill Dawson	Past President of Niagara Falls B C	Mary Bell	Former Treasurer of RBANA	John Cairney		Bill Hood	Kilbryde B C	Frances Taylor	Kilbryde B C	John Reardon	Kilbryde B C	Dick Duncan	Cumbernauld & District B C	George Stevenson	Allanton Jolly Beggars
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2.	Apologies James Waite, Murray Halliday, Alex and May Crawley, Les Strachan, Ronnie O'Byrne, Walter Watson, Bobby Kane, Raymond Jack, Margaret Anderson																																
3.	Minutes of 2022 AGM The minute of the AGM held on Friday 9th September 2022 was proposed and seconded for adoption																																
	Matters Arising There were no matters arising from the Minute.																																
4.	Report and Discussion on Federation Accounts 2022/2023 – Ken Dalgleish As published with the following additions:																																

	<p>We have broken even over the year.</p> <p>As a membership organisation, we do not need to make money, but it is good to be able to use any surplus on new projects.</p> <p>We did use some of our restricted funds this year in respect of the Lifelong Learning Unit. As there were no funds added to this area during the year, taking funds out of that fund automatically causes a deficit.</p> <p>In general terms, we made a small surplus.</p> <p>Ken commended the volunteers on their work.</p> <p>In respect of unrestricted funds, income and expenditure increased proportionally. General costs continue to be challenging with rising energy costs etc.</p> <p>Thank you to all the board members for their commitment to containing the budget.</p> <p>The clubs and members are the true heart of the integrity of the organisation. I want all of you to keep up all the great work you do, share ideas and try new things.</p> <p>Bank balances are good and steady.</p> <p>Any questions: None</p> <p>AB thanked KD for all his work.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Annual Reports President – Alan Beck As published with the following additions:</p> <p>Alan added details of trip to Australia to attend the Tartan Day Festival. Met with MSP on return about different ways of engaging with the rest of the world. The Scottish Government are keen to support this event in future.</p> <p>Thank you to John Menzies for his hospitality.</p> <p>Any questions: None</p>
	<p>Admin – Margaretann Dougall As published.</p> <p>No questions.</p>
	<p>Literature Report</p> <p>Clark McGinn was elected last year to this post but due to other commitments, he had to pull back from this.</p> <p>Peter Pringle will take over this role going forward.</p>

	<p>Heritage Report – John Hannah As published.</p>
	<p>Schools Report As published with the following additions:</p> <p>The title for the International Essay Competition will be: ‘Should Auld Acquaintance be Forgot’</p> <p>The National Competitions in 2024 will be held in Clydeview Academy, Gourock, who have offered a free let.</p> <p>The dates are: Secondary – 25/03/2024 Primary – 01/06/2024</p> <p>Planning will begin shortly.</p> <p>Please contact Beth with any opportunities for the young burnsians.</p> <p>Any Questions: None</p>
	<p>Events – Ian McIntyre As published with the following additions:</p> <p>Welcome to Dumfries.</p> <p>The hotel has been superb. I hope you enjoy the programme of events.</p> <p>We are returning to Irvine next year, which has lots to offer.</p> <p>Potential news for 2025, which will be announced as soon as we have things in place.</p> <p>Any questions: Angus Middleton offered the help of Irvine Burns Club.</p> <p>Martin Cassidy as President of the Ayrshire Association stated he was looking forward to a successful conference next year.</p>
	<p>Marketing As published with the following additions:</p> <p>Summer Festival – thank you to all who took part and made it a wonderful success.</p> <p>Merchandise – there is a catalogue in your conference pack. Please visit the shop to see the new products available.</p> <p>We are looking for ideas for new products.</p> <p>Mural – update was provided on the timescale for the Mural.</p> <p>Newsletter – update on the changes to the format going forward.</p>

	<p>Lectures – a new series of lectures is planned.</p> <p>No questions.</p>
	<p>Editorial – Bill Dawson As published with the following additions:</p> <p>The second edition of the 2023 Chronicle will be published this coming week.</p>
	<p>Membership – Alan Beck As published with the following additions:</p> <p>New Member proposed by Alan Beck and seconded by Jane Brown – Phyl Smith, Sarasota</p> <p>No questions.</p>
	<p>Archivist – Bill Dawson As published:</p> <p>A question was asked regarding the books required for the Library in the Lifelong Learning Unit.</p> <p>Bill advised that we have some way to go with the Library and that an article will be submitted through The Vision when I know.</p> <p>No further questions.</p>
	<p>Sponsorship – Neil McNair</p> <p>As published with the following additions:</p> <p>As published with the following additions:</p> <p>Encouraged those attending the trip to Annandale to spend freely and consider whisky tastings for your Club.</p> <p>Any questions:</p> <p>None</p>
	<p>Lifelong Learning – Grace McKelvie As published with the following additions:</p> <p>I submitted an application on 01/09/23 for £18,750 to Age Scotland, Grassroots Dementia Fund. This funding is for the Memories are Made of This: Box O’ Burns and would cover training, resources, printing, design and production of the box for all the Scottish based Burns Clubs within RBWF. The project would start January 2024 and we should know the outcome by the end of November.</p> <p>I also submitted an application to Ayrshire Wellbeing for All Fund and the application has successfully proceeded to the next stage.</p> <p>This is a decision event held in Kilmarnock on Sunday 1st October from 10am – 1pm with all applicants attending to promote their project. I would be extremely grateful if I could have some volunteers to join me in planning the event and help on the day.</p>

	<p>Online line voting for the Budgeting Fund will be available from Monday 11th September.</p> <p>The funding would support running the Memories are Made of This project in the RBWF Headquarters and provide people living with dementia in Kilmarnock access to sessions using the evocative words of Robert Burns to stimulate conversation, memories and reminiscences.</p>
	<p>Director at Large – Peter Pringle</p> <p>As published with the following additions:</p> <p>As Burnsians we help each other.</p> <p>We need to engage the younger age group of 20-45 as they traditionally do not join Clubs.</p> <p>I have been speaking to West College Scotland regarding the Dementia Project – this is a great opportunity for us. We will use the skills of the students to record and curate stories from people like yourself.</p> <p>Any Questions:</p> <p>Some discussion regarding the age ranges within Clubs in general and encouragement to work on this.</p>
	<p>200 Club – Margaretann Dougall</p> <p>Please contact the admin team if you wish a share in the 200 Club.</p>
	<p>U.S.A. Report – Paul Kennedy</p> <p>As published with the following additions:</p> <p>It's great to be here!</p> <p>RBANA is doing well. The South Jersey Celtic Society have signed up to make an annual donation to the Dementia Project.</p> <p>Any questions:</p> <p>How can we strengthen the bond with RBANA?</p> <p>Paul mentioned that we have had two North American based Presidents and that we are doing everything we need to and are working more closely together with RBANA.</p>
	<p>Canadian Report – Ronnie O'Byrne</p> <p>As published with following additions.</p> <p>Alan thanked Ronnie for his many years of service as Canadian Director as he stepped down from the position.</p>
	<p>Pacific Rim Report – John Menzies</p> <p>As published.</p>
6.	<p>Election of Office Bearers</p> <p>The following Posts for Election have received a single nomination therefore the Candidates are elected by acclamation.</p> <p>President: - Neil McNair</p>

	<p>Senior Vice President: - Peter Pringle Junior Vice President: Jean Abdulrahim</p> <p>Jean was invited to join the top table and say a few words, as follows:</p> <p>“It is an honour to accept the position of JVP of RBWF. Twenty-three years ago, I joined the Federation and never thought I would be standing here today.</p> <p>I will give 100% of my time and energy to the role.”</p> <p>The office bearers individually gave their oath to the Federation membership.</p> <p>International Directors American Director: - Paul Kennedy Canadian Director: - Henry Cairney Pacific Rim: - John Menzies</p>															
7.	<p>Election of Conveners The following positions have only one nomination and I declare the applicants elected by acclamation.</p>															
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	<p>The President asked for these candidates along with international directors to be endorsed to no objections.</p>															
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8.	<p>AOCB Alan presented the Coat of Arms banner to the RBWF. This banner was carried with pride at the Tartan Day Parade in New York.</p> <p>Alan also announced the President’s Appeal for the National Statue of Robert Burns for the 21st Century.</p> <p>Final words from President Alan Beck:</p> <p>“It has been a huge privilege to serve as RBWF President. You an people like you are responsible for Scotland being loved all over the world. You and people like you keep the name of Scotland’s greatest cultural icon alive.</p> <p>Thank you for the privilege”</p>															
9.	<p>Vote of Thanks</p> <p>With no further business, the RBWF AGM 2023 was closed.</p>															
10.	<p>Date and place of next Conference: Irvine, 13th to 15th September 2024</p>															

REPORT AND DISCUSSION ON FEDERATION ACCOUNTS 2023-24 – Ken Dalgleish

I am sorry that I cannot be with you over the conference weekend. I will be recovering from major surgery but thinking about all of you and please know that I would much rather be relaxing in Irvine than confined to home!

I am delighted to present the annual finance report for the Federation and do so partly on behalf of Margaretann who plays such an important role in the organisation and whose knowledge and wise counsel I seek regularly. Our day to day financial control is in very safe hands and you may have noticed the fall in expenses of around 10%. This is down to tightening of our budgets and finding savings in all areas of our running costs.

Income also fell by around 10% from last year resulting once again in a small deficit for the year. We are still recovering from the fall off in income in the post covid years. The situation is improving and there is evidence of Burns clubs returning to the Federation and indications that individual membership applications are moving upwards. Membership subscriptions remain a key dimension in our income. We should all take any opportunity available to encourage new members. This would also help secure the future of clubs who find themselves in the difficult position of closing due to falling numbers and the subsequent drop in income.

Donations are the other key contribution to our annual income. Our thanks go to the members who gave so generously during the year. Funds received allowed us to continue with the development of resources in Kilmarnock HQ and we must also thank corporate sponsors and charitable trusts who continue to support all of our activities – not least the schools competition.

Our cash reserves in the bank have held up well and although there was a fall in income from our modest investments there are now signs that dividend income is beginning to rise as the markets improve.

Please do all you can to help us with the funding of our future success. If you know of any company or organisation who may be willing to sponsor one of our activities please let us know. We now have the capacity to work in partnership with sponsors so that both parties gain from the relationship.

As discussed at conference last year, personal donations remain the most advantageous way for the Federation to maintain its activities. Donations are increased through Gift Aid which is a strategic resource for most charities. If you can give anything at all please do consider donating – this can be anonymous if you wish.

Finally, I would like to once again thank Margaretann for her tremendous work and support throughout the year. She has turned over every aspect of our costs and where possible squeezed savings. Although our income has fallen there is an incredible group of volunteers working on a large number of initiatives for no personal reward and who therefore help fill any potential funding gap. This group of volunteers has plenty of room for new members – you will be made most welcome!

Thank you to all of the incredible supporters of the Federation. Your continued personal and financial support is our investment for the future.

Have a great conference and again, I am sorry not to be with you.

Ken Dalgleish
Finance Director

MESSAGE FROM THE RETIRING PRESIDENT – Neil McNair

My Fellow Burnsians,

When I joined the Federation on 21st November 1992 my membership certificate was signed by the then Honorary Secretary, Anne Gaw, who had also been President 1988-89. Regretfully I never got the opportunity to meet Anne or her husband Sam Gaw (President 1979-80) . At that time there were three future Presidents of the Federation who were, along with me members of the Burns Club of London (No1 on the Federation Roll), Moira Rennie Dunsmore (1997-98), Walter Watson, (President 2002-05) and Mike Duguid (President 2009-10). At that time, I never envisaged that one day I too would be President of this wonderful organisation.

In October 2023 I travelled to Canada and visited Clubs in Vancouver, Calgary and Medicine Hat. I was delighted to be made an honorary “Calgarian” by the Calgary Burns Club and both my wife and I received white Stetsons that travelled home with us. In Medicine Hat I was made “Chieftain O’ the Nicht” by Ken Montgomery at the Jolly Beggars Banquet, probably one of the greatest Burns Nights anyone can ever attend.

I have had a superb year travelling all over Scotland and to London, there were many highlights, amongst them were the joint Rami/Burns Supper held by Glasgow Afghan United, organised by a group of mainly Afghan refugees. At the request of Dunblane Burns Club the Federation rallied to support their first Burns supper in twenty years, after they had ceased to meet since 2003. Over 120 sat down to their supper in the Victoria Hall in Dunblane in February 2024.

In March I was in Montrose to open the Rosemout Memorial to Burns. I also attended the unveiling of the Burns murals in the Alloway Tunnels. At the First Edition Festival in Kilmarnock I attended the unveiling of the new mural on the gable end of the Federation Offices. The Festival continues to grow with support from many volunteers within the Federation, space precludes me from mentioning them all but Jean Abdulrahim, Lorrie Headley and Margaretann helped immensely with the organisation as well as with planning and executing of the Annual Conference, this year back in Irvine.

As well as the special one-off events that the President attends there are the regular “beacon” events such as the Tam O’ Shanter recitation contest, Covington Mains wreath laying, Renfrewshire wreath laying, Kilmarnock wreath laying, Brow Well commemoration. It was a pleasure to meet so many enthusiastic Burnsians.

This year I felt that the Schools Competition really had recovered from the Covid years. It was standing room only Clydewiew Academy in Gourrock. I would like to record my thanks to the sponsors, especially those who gave significant financial support anonymously, the stewards, volunteers and Burns Club, but especially Beth Kerr for making it all happen. The future is looking very good for the schools competition.

Being on the Board does come with a time commitment, but I would not discourage anyone for considering what they could contribute. Earlier this year James Waite helped the Federation by updating our Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy. The Board needs more help from all sorts of professionals and volunteers who are willing to bring their work or life experience to advance the Federation aims. In particular we need people with legal training, professional fund raising experience and marketing, especially in using Social Media to generate income and interest in Federation events. We also need more people with experience and knowledge of the Scottish Education curriculum and how Burns should fit within that.

The Federation cannot function without finance and Ken Dalgleish does a great job in overseeing our finances. Margaretann, our Administration Manager covers a wide range of duties, currently our only staff member and working now only two days per week. She holds the “corporate memory” of how things should be done, and that has been indispensable to the Board and myself.

On taking the role of President I was given much sage advice by several past Presidents; I think I have pretty much followed that advice. I have travelled widely to Canada, across Scotland and to London. I believe I have done as much as I could. Often there were calls to attend events on the same day in different parts of the country. Throughout my Presidency I have tried to ensure that Peter (SVP) and Jean (JVP) have been kept fully up to date on what I am doing, and on occasion have called on their support to attend in my place, for which I thank them. It will soon be their turn to take the chain of office and shoulder all the responsibility that goes with it. I wish them all the best for their year.

ADMIN REPORT – Margaretann Dougall

Membership Payments

Membership has remained consistent over the year. However, as of 1st July, we have 76 members still outstanding, both Clubs and individuals. In monetary terms, these outstanding payments amount to just over £5,500.

Correspondence

Electronic distribution and the use of Mailchimp, makes communication much faster and saves on postage. Where possible, all communication from the office is sent electronically with hard copies only going to those not yet online. If you have an email address and haven't yet notified the RBWF office, please do so as soon as possible.

Head Office

I am delighted that our premises continues to be used on a regular basis for local club meetings and events. It is also the main meeting place for many events throughout the First Edition Summer Festival, not least, hosting the very popular Café every day of the festival, which is now in its fourth year.

This year, we were delighted to have the Burns Mural completed by the fabulous Michael Corr, in time for the summer festival. If you have not visited yet, you must plan a visit.

IT Provision

John McGill from Netfocus is continuing to support us, ensuring our systems are updated and secure.

Website

By the time the Conference comes around, we should have the new improved website online. This website will showcase the Federation and our Mission. It will be easier to use and provide much more relevant/usable information. My thanks to Elliott McKelvie who has put a lot of work and effort into this project.

A few notes of thanks:

To East Ayrshire Council for their continued support with our office premises.

To the RBWF Clubs and Members both at home and internationally. With some special notes of thanks this year to our Clubs and Members who played a major part in the success of our 4th Summer Festival. We simply couldn't do it without you.

My personal thanks to our committed team of Board members and in particular to our JVP, Jean Abdulrahim, who has stepped up to be my Admin Assistant during the busy periods in the office.

And, finally, on a personal note, our former US Director Les Strachan and his lovely wife Nancy, who hosted me after my trip to the RBANA Conference in New Jersey. My sincere thanks for the amazing hospitality shown to me. Another truly memorable trip and again an abundance of Burnsian kindness and spirit at its best – thank you.

200 CLUB

This year's list of winners is as follows:

200 Club Draws - September 2023 - June 2024				
Date	Prize	Amount	Share No	Winner
Sep-23	Quarterly Prize	£ 93.75	31	Larkhall B C
	1st prize	£ 37.50	107	Irvine B C
	2nd prize	£ 18.75	56	Robert Stewart
Oct-23	1st prize	£ 37.50	61	Peter Stuart
	2nd prize	£ 18.75	110	Jim & Ann Wright
Nov-23	1st prize	£ 37.50	96	John Greene
	2nd prize	£ 18.75	123	Brian Keenan
Dec-23	Quarterly Prize	£ 93.75	49	Willie Gibson
	1st prize	£ 37.50	87	David Miller
	2nd prize	£ 18.75	22	Paul Kennedy
Jan-24	1st prize	£ 37.50	110	Jim & Ann Wright
	2nd prize	£ 18.75	47	Willie Gibson
Feb-24	1st prize	£ 37.50	33	Greenock B C
	2nd prize	£ 18.75	13	Neil McNair
Mar-24	Quarterly Prize	£ 93.75	114	Annie Small
	1st prize	£ 37.50	112	Jim & Ann Wright
	2nd prize	£ 18.75	107	Irvine B C
Apr-24	1st prize	£ 37.50	6	James Smith
	2nd prize	£ 18.75	84	Beth Kerr
May-24	1st prize	£ 37.50	76	Tony & Sheila Grace
	2nd prize	£ 18.75	10	Neil McNair
Jun-24	Quarterly Prize	£ 93.75	51	Sally Clark
	1st prize	£ 37.50	116	Robert Dinwiddie
	2nd prize	£ 18.75	71	DGBA
	Total paid out	£ 937.50		

We have started promoting the 200 Club for 2024/2025. Several subscriptions have already been renewed and we are aiming to reach the 200 target this year.

LITERATURE REPORT– Peter Pringle

Context

The Literature Convenorship at the last RBWF Board Meeting discussed and agreed that the Committee needed an overhaul and a completely rethink on how to attract the interest of younger people whilst retaining the interest of the current members who enjoyed learning of recently published journals; and books on Burns related themes.

Therefore the initial strategy of engaging a younger audience to Burns will be through the following agreed action plans with the following Educational Institutions (in the first instance) and reviewed /revised at later stages

West College Scotland (Greenock Paisley and Clydebank) University of the West of Scotland .

West College Scotland (Greenock Paisley and Clydebank)

1. It has been agreed that The Honours Year Theatre students will devise and produce a specially commissioned piece of theatre on an imagined meeting in the afterlife with Robert Burns and his wife Jean Armour who go for Counselling with The Arkangel Gabriel
2. With the Theatre in Education Module; another final year student group will go into Primary Schools working on promoting the Scots Language in songs and poetry and with a nod to Robert Burns.
3. In the advanced stages of planning it is proposed to work with the Post Graduate Students on the 2013 version of a previous student production on a fictitious interview carried out by and Edinburgh Journalist with the main women in Burns life; and it was nod to the borrowed plot from the film Citizen Kane . The original play was performed all over Scotland and in the major Burns Communities. It was premiered in the Burns Museum in Alloway to a standing ovation.
4. The Burns communities provided most of the Research materials for the students and it was a truly intergenerational project performed to a very high standard. The students that year were awarded a first classification for their original piece of work.
5. The most recent Post Graduate Students have been approached to devise and create a new piece of theatre on the Scots Language and its origins told through comedy and music with a nod to Burns. Individual sponsorship been made available for the right product .

University of the West of Scotland

- 1 The RBWF has been building very encouraging and fruitful relations with the University involving a number of projects; for instance with the Design of the Box o Burns with The University Art and Design faculties. This has been highly successful partnership model under the leadership of RBWF Director Grace McKelvie
- 2 Peter Pringle has been working with Head of Faculty David Scott; and they are jointly are working with students on a project that creates original songs mainly in the Scots Language. External sponsorship has been secured from a sponsor as a commissioning incentive. The Process involves a Master's Student tutoring and guiding. 2-3 undergraduate students in the craft of structing and creating original songs
The Process will be filmed as tutorials from start to the finish and product will be available to other students as a teaching aid.

All the above projects have been agreed and should be ready by the 25th Jan

Peter Pringle will be looking at the current terms of the Literature Committee; in terms of Articles of Association etc

Past President Alan Beck and Incoming JVP Paul Kennedy have agreed to work together to ensure that this Convenorship is ready to be reimagined and fit for purpose -in line with the rest of the RBWF strategic plans

To conclude; in my year as President I will not only be seeking ideas on how best Clubs and Associations can best engage with the create processes but I will seek to create a literature forum that any Burns member can contact me or others on how best we can promote the Scottish Language and the Literary Genius Robert Burns

HERITAGE REPORT – John Hannah

The Heritage Committee continues to provide the role of monitoring and advising on the monuments and buildings dedicated to the memory of Robert Burns. In addition to this work, the committee is also a point of contact for many enquiries on heritage items relating to Robert Burns. This year the committee has been involved in aiding on a variety of subjects including statues produced by James Thom and the potential location of the 'Meikle Stane' as depicted in the poem Tam O'Shanter.

However, at the heart of the Heritage Committee is the maintenance of site. Inevitably, many sites regularly require some work to be undertaken to ensure their future. The following concerns have been raised to existing sites throughout the year, as summarised below:

Highland Mary's Monument, Dunoon – Concern has been raised that the monument has again fallen into extreme disrepair. The RBWF is looking for assistance from any of the clubs who may have the relevant skills to assist in these repairs.

Leglen Wood, Auchencruive – Concern still remains in relation to the risk of land-slippage on the site. Works to weed and clear the site are required with the hand rail leading up to the monument needing painted.

Mount Oliphant, Ayr – This site still remains a concern.

Burns Statue, Dumfries – The Burns Howf are working hard and obtaining good progress at some restoration works for the statue in Dumfries.

St Michaels Churchyard, Dumfries – The Burns Howf continue to do excellent work at the Churchyard in maintain the signage etc.

Trysting Thorn, Coylton – The site is in need of some minor maintenance.

Sites in Alloway: Cairn Crescent Monument and Mungos Well are in need of weeding, branch clearing and painting.

Burns Mural, Ardeer – The structure is particularly poor and needing repairs which is deteriorating the Burns Mural.

Other new works

It is always encouraging to hear of developments that continue to promote Robert Burns. A couple of these are detailed below:

RBWF Mural, Kilmarnock – this year saw the completion of the new mural at the Head Office in Kilmarnock. This is a fantastic development to the area and shines a light toward the Head Office.

Alloway Railway Tunnel project – A new development in Alloway has been ongoing to decorate the railway tunnel in Alloway. At the heart of this is the story of Robert Burns and the tunnel leads directly to the Mungo's Well site.

Greenock Burns Statue – Fundraising is continuing for the proposed statue of Robert Burns in Greenock.

The repair, maintenance and monitoring of all sites associated with Robert Burns require the support of all Burns Clubs. Whilst many are very active in doing this it is often the result of just a few

individuals who take the time and effort to do so. We must continue to work at keeping these monuments safe and secure for future generations to come.

SCHOOLS REPORT – Beth Kerr

Another busy year has passed, and I have pleasure in submitting my Schools' Report for 2024. Both festivals were held at Clydeview Academy, Gourock, Secondary in March and the Primary in June and thanks must go to all who offered to adjudicate, steward, and cater for both the events.

Once again, the Robert Burns World Federation are indebted to all sponsors for the competitions, the Jean Armour Burns Trust, member Associations and clubs, and other individual sponsors who wish to remain anonymous, thank you.

Pupils from Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway, Edinburgh, Fife, Glasgow, Grampian, Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, and the Scottish Borders participated in this year's festivals, 71 secondary entries and 97 primary entries. Once again, Mr Simon Lamb kindly entertained everyone later in the afternoon at the secondary festival. The senior overall best winners performed to the delight of the audience at the primary festival.

The Young Burnsian is Charlie Boax, a wonderful instrumentalist from Ayrshire. Charlie had been awarded overall best for her singing and instrumental entries however it was her performance of A Red, Red Rose on the baritone horn that sealed the Young Burnsian award. Junior Burnsian is Andrew Fagan from Grampian, an extremely talented young bagpiper, who brought the house down with his Burns medley. All the other results appear at the end of this report.

The digital choral competition has grown from strength to strength, entries have increased by 250%. All choirs performed to an exceptional high standard and Kerry Burley expressed her delight at being given the opportunity to adjudicate the competition. Perhaps all Burns clubs could approach their local primary and encourage them to consider entering next year. Again, the results appear at the end of this report.

Art entries were received and kindly adjudicated by the Art department at Clydeview Academy, the results are at the end of the report.

Entries were submitted for the Primary Writing competition; results are listed at the end of this report.

The title for last year's International Essay Competition was, Should Auld Acquaintance Be Forgotten? and winning pupils have been awarded medals for their excellent work. To highlight that our competitions extend internationally, the top three entries for Ukraine were on display at the primary and secondary festivals and many positive comments have been received following this. This year's title has been set and will be announced shortly.

Collaboratively working alongside the Association of Scottish Literary Studies we promote and facilitate their Writing competition for secondary pupils, hopefully we will receive news of the winners shortly.

Once again, I would like to thank Margaretann Dougall and the diligent schools' committee members, I am extremely grateful for their help, support, and commitment to the Federation, throughout the year.

Beth Kerr

STATISTICS – 2024

Nationally Judged Competitions

Primary Art – Ayr Burns Club, Toshio Namba Trophy

1. Eloisa Williamson
2. Magnus Church
3. Archie Wood

Glassford Primary, Strathaven
St. Mary's Primary, Melrose
St. Mary's Primary, Melrose

Secondary Art – The Burns Federation Yorkshire District Trophy

1. Scott Heathcote-Marks
2. Sara Mitchell
2. Felix Jones

Balfron High School
Balfron High School
Balfron High School

Primary 7 Writing - George Fairlie Memorial Trophy

1. Megan Clark
2. Ethan Watson
3. Zoe Gormley

Blackwood Primary, Lanark
Blackwood Primary, Lanark
Blackwood Primary, Lanark

Choral Competition – Choral Shield

1. Fernhill School, Rutherglen
2. Woodhead Primary School, Hamilton
3. New Cumnock Primary School, New Cumnock

National Schools' Festivals – 2024

Secondary – Saturday 23rd March 2024

Verse Speaking

S1/2 - Friendship Quaich

1. Lily Owens
2. Seth Byers
3. Emma Young

Dumfries & Galloway
Dumfries & Galloway
Ayrshire

S3/4 - McCuaig Cup

1. Ella McTeir
2. Teigan Weir
3. Riley McClory

Dumfries & Galloway
Dumfries & Galloway
Ayrshire

S5/6 - Molly Rennie Trophy

1. Molly McTeir
2. Angie Leitch
3. Tess Harper

Dumfries & Galloway
Ayrshire
Dumfries & Galloway

Singing

S1/2 - Scottish Borders Crystal Bowl

1. Seth Byers
2. Lily Owens
3. Emelia Ewer

Dumfries & Galloway
Dumfries & Galloway
Ayrshire

S3/4 - Campbell Trophy

1. Aoife Smaith
2. Ella McTeir
3. Kai Fitzharris

Renfrewshire
Dumfries & Galloway
Renfrewshire

S5/6 - Alloway Publishing Trophy

1. Charlie Boax
2. Molly McTeir
3. Niamh Stainthorpe

Ayrshire
Dumfries & Galloway
Dumfries & Galloway

Instrumental

S1/2 - Friendship Quaich

1. Seth Byers
2. Jenna Johnstone
3. Robert Hutchison

Dumfries & Galloway
Lanarkshire
Fife

S3/4 - Lochee Cup

1. Jake Johnstone
2. Rebecca Marshall
3. Ricky Doyle

Lanarkshire
Renfrewshire
Renfrewshire

S5/6 - Esso Cup

1. Charlie Boax
2. Cody McDonald
3. Daisy Arnold

Ayrshire
Renfrewshire
Dumfries & Galloway

Bagpiping

S1/2 - Anne Gaw Cup

1. Harris Morford
2. Eilidh Dunbar

Dumfries & Galloway
Ayrshire

S3/4 - The Dalziel Cup

1. Magnus Porter
2. Ryan Wilson
3. Reilly Shearer

Fife
Dumfries & Galloway
Dumfries & Galloway

<i>Overall Best Verse Speaker - Helen C G Morrison Trophy</i>	Lily Owens
<i>Overall Best Singer - Duncan Beck Memorial Trophy</i>	Charlie Boax
<i>Overall Best Instrumentalist - Harry McGuffog Trophy</i>	Charlie Boax
<i>Overall Best Bagpiper - RBANA Pipers Pennant</i>	Harris Morford

Overall Winning Teams

<i>Verse Speaking - RBWF David Baird Shield</i>	Dumfries & Galloway
<i>Singing - Burns Federation Steel City Conference Cup</i>	Dumfries & Galloway
<i>Instrumental - RBWF Shield</i>	Dumfries & Galloway
<i>Bagpiping – John & Betty McMillan Shield</i>	Dumfries & Galloway
 <i>Overall Best Team - Ayrshire Association BC Shield</i>	 Dumfries & Galloway

Young Burnsian 2024 – West Sound Rose Bowl Charlie Boax, Ayrshire

Primary – Saturday 1st June 2024

Verse Speaking

P1/3 – The Kerr Trophy

1. Alastair Mitchell	Ayrshire
2. Gabrielle MacDonald	Lanarkshire
3. Daisy McDonald	Ayrshire

P4/5 - Moira Dunsmore Shield

1. Toby Byrne	Edinburgh
2. Cadi Hughes	Ayrshire
3. Orla Craig	Renfrewshire

P6/7 - Anne Gaw Shield

1. Keegan Shaw	Dumfries & Galloway
2. Amrita Sri Ganesh	Lanarkshire
3. Unaisi Saulilalai	Fife

Singing

P4/5 - Isa Hanley Shield

1. Alex Conn	Ayrshire
2. Kane Keegan	Renfrewshire
3. Brooke Brown	Lanarkshire

P6/7 - Trades Construction London Trophy

1. Ahnah Ross	Dumfries & Galloway
2. Evie Boax	Ayrshire
3. Lara Quigley	Renfrewshire

Instrumental

P4/5 - RBWF Cup

1. Bernardo Nunes	Lanarkshire
2. Grace yang	Glasgow

3. Oscar Hall-Romay Dumfries & Galloway

P6/7 - Dundee Quaich

1. Sum Leung Edinburgh
2. Jacob Van Putten Scottish Borders
3. Matthew Owens Dumfries & Galloway

Chanter

P4/7 - Tam O' Chanter Trophy

1. Oran Candlish Dumfries & Galloway
2. Ethan Donnachy Ayrshire
3. Ruby Warren Glasgow

Bagpiping

P4/7 - RBWF Cup

1. Andrew Fagan Grampian
2. Larry Presslie Grampian
3. Travis McKenna Dumfries & Galloway

Overall Best Verse Speaker - Anderson Wright Trophy Keegan Shaw

Overall Best Singer - Bruce Kennedy Memorial Quaich Ahnah Ross

Overall Best Instrumentalist - Anderson Shield Sum Leung

Overall Best Bagpiper - RBANA Pipers Pennant Andrew Fagan

Overall Winning Teams

Verse Speaking - Shirley Bell Trophy Ayrshire

Singing - Tom McIlwraith Trophy Ayrshire

Instrumental - McEwan Shield Dumfries & Galloway

Bagpiping - John & Betty McMillan Shield Grampian

Overall Best Team - Ayrshire Association BC Shield Dumfries & Galloway

Junior Burnsian 2024 - Tunnock's Trophy Andrew Fagan, Grampian

International Essay Writing Competition:

Ukraine

1. Karina Brodovska Predslavynska Gymnasia 56

2. Ivan Levenets Lysychansk Lyceum # 8

3. Petrashko Viktoriia Ivano-Frankivsk Professional College

EVENTS REPORT– Jean Abdulrahim

On taking over the Events in January 24 I have been very busy.

I visited RBANA in America in May.

The mural on the gable of the headquarters building was painted and finished at end of May 24 I was interviewed by STV on this fantastic project after completion.

We held the 1st Edition Festival on 20-28 July at John Dickie St. this was the 4th year of the Festival and was even bigger and better than the previous 3. The Provost of East Ayrshire was our Chieftain for the week.

Everything is going to plan for our Conference in September in Irvine which should be a great weekend.

Hotel for the 2025 Conference will be announced at Conference.

Jean Abdulrahim

MARKETING REPORT – Alan Beck

No report submitted.

Merchandising

Having taken over the running of the new goods that we sell, I identified that there was too much old stock which had been there for a long time and some of it overpriced.

Since the stocktake, I have put on a sale which sold very well during the 1st Edition Festival and hopefully will sell more during Conference in September.

After we sell through a lot of this old stock, we can then look at getting some new lines purchased.

At the two National Schools Competitions I had a jewellery stall which sold handmade and bought jewellery which did very well. All proceeds went to RBWF.

Jean Abdulrahim

EDITOR'S REPORT – Bill Dawson

Burns Chronicle is in very good health, issue 133:1 was filled with very informative articles with several admirable contributions from Members. Issue 133:2 which is due to be published this month is a special edition on Burns and Scottish History, Guest Edited by Professor Christopher Whately with articles written by a cadre of the most eminent scholars providing essays that are fresh and informative. We are indeed advantaged by having scholars of this standing providing judgements on such a wide spectrum of Burns study and knowledge.

But the health of Burns Chronicle is fragile and there are a number of factors that will affect the ongoing success of our esteemed journal. I have every confidence that the journal will continue to provide a platform for academia to expound their latest thinking on the subject, but I am less than overwhelmed by contributions from grass roots Burns enthusiasts elucidating on themes of their particular interest. I am working with a number of interesting contacts but the database needs constant refreshing, and I am sure there are several contributions out there that will be useful to us all in a future Burns Chronicle if they can be induced to contribute.

Edition 133: 2 will publish at the end of this month.

Bill Dawson
Editor

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT – Bill Dawson

Mainly due to my lack of proximity to the office the Archive remains fairly static although some work has been done to display some art and other items around the office.

I have put a little time in to the Library forming part of the Thomas Tunnoek Lifelong Learning project and I we are blessed by a few willing local volunteers, not least Archie Chalmers who has given a great deal of assistance sorting the materials on the bookshelves and cataloguing.

I have, to the best of my abilities, answered enquiries from our website as and when these come in.

Bill Dawson
Archivist.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Jean Abdulrahim

We have one new Club and four new individual members joined during the year. We have also welcomed back four re-affiliated Clubs to the Federation.

Please note in the admin report that there are a number of memberships outstanding to date.

MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

Number of Clubs on Roll as of 30 June 2024	152
Number of Federated Members on roll as of 30 June 2024	190
Number of Family Members on roll as of 30 June 2024	44
Number of School/Junior Members on roll as of 30 June 2024	152
Number of Corporate Members on roll as of 30 June 202	3

LIFELONG LEARNING– Grace McKelvie

Lifelong Learning continues to uphold the purpose of RBWF to advance the education about the life and works of Robert Burns through developing projects and establishing partnerships.

We are fortunate to have the Burns Chronicle and we also have many members who engage in their own independent research which I would encourage to be shared.

Partnerships and presentations

I have attended Burns celebrations and competitions throughout the country. I also attended both of our national finals and delivered workshops and coaching sessions for our young people. I was privileged to deliver the Reply from The Lassies at Greenock Burns Club and Alloway Burns Club.

Meetings were attended to build working partnerships with the Scots Language Centre, Provost East Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway Museums' Curator and the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum Learning Manager. I am now included in the South Scotland Destination Alliance and the Burns Tourism Partnership which will be a helpful source of information on Burns heritage and cultural development. After attending functions with Paisley Rotary we received a donation for the Box O' Burns project and a further donation from their guests - Furth Rotary, Germany. A huge amount of interest and support was shown at both worthwhile events.

One of the year's highlights was an invitation to present at The Music Education Partnership Group (MEPG) Annual Symposium which brings together stakeholders in music and education across Scotland. The theme of my talk was focused on the Federation and our projects with the aim of developing working partnerships. Over 40 MEPG members and 25 online worldwide were represented, including - Brazil, Portugal, Singapore, Canada, Japan. Our Box O' Burns project and the influence of Burns' music now has international recognition.

MEPG members vision is for music to transform lives and collaborative working will add strength to our projects and also contribute to the music and songs used in the dementia sessions as part of the developing repository. Their input will also add an intergenerational strand to the project and generate valuable interest from young people, students and school children.

Follow up meetings were arranged with Making Music, Caithness Music, Nordoff and Robbins Music Therapy and Traditional musicians. Information about the project was included in the Making Music newsletter and featured on the MEPG website. <https://wemakemusicscotland.org/>

In August I will be participating with Nordoff and Robbins - UK's largest music therapy charity - demonstrating sessions from the Box O' Burns.

I have been collaborating with Victoria Williamson, the author of Hag Storm (a historical adventure with 12 year old Rab, based on Tam O Shanter) to develop workshops and collaborative events for the Federation, schools and libraries. Victoria is promoting the Federation on her website "In order to support the great work the Robert Burns World Federation do promoting the poetry of Robert Burns in schools, encouraging new readers to discover the magic in his writing, and inspiring the next generation of Scottish writers, 20% of the author royalties for this novel are donated to the Robert Burns World Federation."

Project development – A Box O’ Burns

As a result of trialling the project ‘Memories are Made of This’ and ‘Box O’ Burns’ have merged together. The project uses the poems, stories and songs of Robert Burns to stimulate memories and prompt reminiscences. I have delivered over 12 highly successful and stimulating sessions both in Inverclyde and Kilmarnock at the dementia centres with each session having a different theme and focusing on a Burns poem or song. The purpose is to create a useable box of resources, user guides for the sessions with step-by-step instructions, conversation prompts, creative activities and games, links, multi-sensory activities and song sheets. Each session is evaluated and evidenced by Alzheimer’s Scotland.

- **Film:**

Earlier in the year our “How to run a Dementia Session” film was shot over 2 days at Greenock Burns Club and the Inverclyde Dementia Resource Centre. The film will be promoted on our new website and used as evidence to support funding applications.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4C8fBxzAu4Q>

- **Ambassadors:**

Judith Ralston and Sally Magnusson have been approached to become ambassadors for the Box O’ Burns as both have an interest in supporting those living with dementia. Passionate supporters from media and entertainment will increase the profile of the project and raise awareness

- **Recordings:**

A repository of songs and poems is necessary to be included as a resource for the Box O’ Burns, this will be held on the Federation website as well as part of the box contents. Links will be included and a USB stick. Recordings will be professionally produced in the studios at West College Scotland, Inverclyde. All members of RBWF are encouraged to become involved and representatives from associations invited to participate. Celebrities and project ambassadors will be invited to participate as well as the Primary and Secondary competition finalists. So far, 21 young people have offered their support.

- **Box design:**

A brief for the design of the Box O’ Burns was submitted to graphic design students at the University of West of Scotland. I have held follow-up meetings to discuss the suitability of the design and these are in the process of being edited. A donation from Paisley Rotary will be shared with successful students.

The physical ‘Box O’ Burns’ is currently being planned.

- **Developments:**

Virtual Box O’ Burns

Along with the actual box we will be developing a Virtual Box O’ Burns which will be a sustainable way of having the project delivered to a global audience, broadening the reach of Burns for more organisations and communities. There are many benefits to this.

I am in conversation with UWS to set up a programme to engage students in reimagining and reinterpreting the physical box into a virtual interactive box involving setting up the pages on the website, filming and audio recording resources, embedding songs and music, digital documents, resources, examples, videos and downloadable activities. This will be included as part of students’ course work and real experiences and will hopefully lead to freelance engagement.

Vox Pops – A Bit O’ Burns -

These short recordings with a wide range of people interested in Burns are being recorded. How were you introduced to Burns? What does Burns mean to you? The results will be included on the website as video or sound files. All RBWF members are invited to record and share their own Bit O’ Burns.

Lifelong Learning Committee

The committee (with 2 new volunteers) met on Monday 17 June and discussed future developments. We heard from Bill Dawson about cataloguing the reference books and historical resources. We discussed making the space at the TLC useable and useful as a centre for reference. This would require the digitisation of the library.

Our next meeting will be August 2024.

Grace McKelvie
Lifelong Learning
July 2024

SPONSORSHIP REPORT– Neil McNair

After two years of significant financial support from Annandale Distillery, we have been advised that Annandale will not be financially supporting us at this level going forward, as they seek to support Burns related activities in the greater Dumfries area, and the Burns Quarter in the town of Dumfries specifically. The Federation would like to thank them for their support over the last two years and assure Annandale Distillery and David Thomson of our support to all their Burns activities going forward.

At the time of writing, we are seeking other sponsors within the whisky industry, and these discussions are still at an early stage.

I would specifically like to mention the anonymous donor who earlier made a significant financial donation to support the schools competition.

I would also like to acknowledge the donations by South Jersey Celtic Society in support of the annual conference and to our Alzheimers/Dementia project the donation was made in the name of the South Jersey Celtic Society's co-founder, Tom MacIver.

Can I ask that members consider leaving a legacy in their Will to Federation.

DIRECTOR AT LARGE REPORT– Phyl Smith

It has been an exciting year with my new positions as Junior Vice President of RBANA and Director at Large for RBWF. I continue to promote the works of Robert Burns in the USA.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA REPORT – Paul Kennedy

The United States Burns Community continues to be an active partner with the Canadian Burns Community in Promoting the Life and Works of Robert Burns as part of the greater Association that is, RBANA.

RBANA 44th Annual General Meeting and Conference:

RBANA's Premier Event was its 44th Annual AGM and Conference held in Historic Mount Holly, NJ and featured plenty of activities for the guests including:

- a walking tour of Mount Holly;
- an Afternoon Tea held at the historic Peachfield Plantation and hosted by the Colonial Dames of New Jersey;
- a Brewery Tour where guests sampled the Barley Bree of Mount Holly's three award winning Breweries; *The Village Idiot*; *Stratosphere Brewing*, and *Spellbound Brewing* (SJCS's Official Sponsor)
- a Whisk(e)y Tasting featuring Burns related whiskies from Annandale, Arran, Inverness, and Atlanta GA. The tasting was held at the Train Wreck Distillery in Mount Holly.

Other events included the usual:

- Golf Tournament; won this year by Darlene Cameron of the Winnipeg Burns Club;
- the Burns Quiz, won by Les Strachan;
- and the Jack Hume Poetry Contest, won by Ronnie O'Byrne.

Elections:

- The conference held its biennial elections and saw the turning over of the gavel from Paul Kennedy, outgoing President to Mark Ferguson, incoming President.
 - *You can learn more about these two gentlemen by watching the New Cumnock Burns Club podcast where each was interviewed by Douglas McKenzie and Jim Thomson. Other Podcasts feature RBANA Members Henry Cairney and Ronnie O'Byrne.*
- Brian Cumming assumed the position of SVP, and Phyl Smith, the position of JVP (a new position added at the conference this year)
- The position of Secretary/Treasurer is now two separate positions: Secretary, Henry Cairney; and Treasurer, Jamie Osborne.
- RBANA gave a heartfelt "Thank you" as we said farewell to two long-time Board Members: Ken Montgomery, Canadian Director (Medicine Hat Burns Club), and Bill Fulton, US Director (SJCS Burns Club). Although stepping down from the Board, they will continue to serve actively in the Association

- We also welcomed Steve Newman, Associate Professor, Director of Graduate Studies, Department of English, at Temple University, Philadelphia. Steve assumed the position of US Director - East from Bill Fulton.

The AGM itself was held at the Historic *Burlington County Museum of Natural History and Lyceum*. The land was originally granted by King George III to the people of Burlington County.

In addition to the usual business of electing its new Officers and updating the Constitution and By-laws, attendees also received two outstanding presentations on Robert Burns. The first by Professor Newman who gave a talk on Robert Burns and Adam Smith; the second was a joint effort from Les Strachan and Ronnie O'Byrne on "Burns in Ireland". Both very well received.

Outreach:

During this past year, several of our members travelled outside the geographic areas of their own clubs to celebrate with, and to speak at other Burns organizations:

- Phyl Smith, (St Andrew Society of Sarasota, FL) was invited to address the Burns Club of London. She wrote and delivered "Robert Burns and His Beloved Scotland"; an hour-long presentation with accompanying slides via Zoom. Phyl's incredible talent for storytelling was extremely well received.
- Paul Kennedy travelled to Winnipeg to propose the Immortal Memory at the Winnipeg Burns Club (*who says Hell doesn't freeze over?*);
- George McClellan extended RBANA's reach by introducing Robert Burns to the folks at the Masonic Lodge in Sandy Springs, GA; even piping in the Haggis!
- Steve Newman, Associate Professor, Department of English, Temple University and new US Director, RBANA, submitted a paper on Shara McCallum's *No Ruined Stone*, imagining if Burns had traveled to Jamaica, at the 4th World Congress of Scottish Literatures at the University of Nottingham. Professor Newman is also the Chairperson for the 5th World Congress of Scottish Literatures to be held in Philadelphia in 2027

Burns Suppers:

The Burns Supper Season saw a number of celebrations from our Member and Associate Clubs including (but not limited to) the Burns Club of Atlanta, The St. Andrew Society of Sarasota Burns Club, the South Jersey Celtic Society, the Rosenbach Museum and Library (Philadelphia, PA)

Honorarium:

RBANA presented several Honorary Certificates this year.

- On February 21st, 2024, RBANA presented Ms. Elma Connor the award of Honorary President of RBANA for her faithful service to the Association and for her many years of dedication to the Association as Director, Vice President, and President. Mr. Ronnie O'Byrne, Diector, Canada East, was able to make the presentation in person.

- RBANA also recognized two academic institutions with Honorary Memberships: The Rosenbach Museum in Philadelphia, PA, which boasts the largest collection of original Burns manuscripts outside of Scotland and holds an annual Burns Night each January 25th; and the University of South Carolina for its ongoing support to RBANA.

Fundraising:

RBANA Continues to support its civic communities through donations in support of emergent situations

- RBANA donated \$1,000 (\$500 each to the US and Canadian Red Cross
 - In addition to several civic donations, the South Jersey Celtic Society (SJCS) held two major Fundraisers this year in support of RBWF:
 - Sponsorship of RBWF AGM 2025 - £3,000
 - Alzheimer/Dementia Project - £2,000

2025 RBANA AGM

The Burns Club of Atlanta are hosts to the 2025 RBANA AGM and Conference which will take place on May 9 & 10 in Atlanta. This will be the 45th annual meeting and work is currently underway to select a suitable hotel with the main events taking place at the historic Burns Cottage in the Ormewood Park district of Atlanta. The Golf tournament is planned to be played at the Stonemountain Golf Club and visits to The Georgia Aquarium, World of Coca-Cola, The Atlanta History Centre, The Civil Rights Museum and Atlanta Spirit Works are all being considered as part of the program.

Submitted by
Paul Kennedy
US Director, RBWF

CANADIAN REPORT – Henry Cairney

I continue to liaise between the RBWF and RBANA organizations to ensure there is a collaborative approach to Robert Burns in Canada and North America.

RBANA continues to thrive in North America.

Canada is still has a healthy and active Burns presence throughout Alberta, Ontario, Winnipeg and Halifax, although numbers are generally slowly reducing.

The RBANA Canadian Directors are actively promoting both organizations to attract more members. Post Covid in the past year has seen the Burns face to face functions recover from the pandemic restrictions and health concerns with many Burns Suppers, Jolly Beggars, Ceilidhs, St Andrew's and other social events such as the Great Kilt Skate in Winnipeg re-established.

RBANA saw a change in it's BoD with Canadian Director East, Ken Montgomery, stepping down after many years supporting and expanding the organizations presence. We thank and wish Ken all the very best in his future endeavours.

Canadian Director West, Brian Cumming, was voted in as the new Senior VP at the Conference in May and we look forward to working with Brian in the coming years.

Rob Pinkerton from the Calgary Burns Club was appointed into the Canadian Director West's position, and Ronnie O'Byrne was appointed and has re-joined the BoD in the Canadian Director East position. Again, we thank both for their commitment to RBANA.

RBANA was delighted to honour Elma Connor, Past President RBANA (wife of Dr Jim Connor Past President of both RBANA and RBWF) with an Honorary President of RBANA award. Thanks to Ronnie O'Byrne and May and Alex Crawley assisted in the presentation in Ontario.

Regards,
Henry Cairney

PACIFIC RIM REPORT – John Menzies

Robert Burns' legacy remains vibrant in Australasia judging by the number of Burns Suppers and kindred events sporting tartan and Haggis. Not so many are linked to Burns Clubs per se, and I am not able to report on countries outside Australia and New Zealand, which prompts me to suggest perhaps my role description alluding to the 'Pacific Rim' be reviewed. If I retire and win the lottery perhaps I can be more active outside my current patch!-this is a feeble excuse given the effort past presidents of the Federation have made to visit us Down Under', on which note I cannot over emphasise the helpful impact Alan Beck's successive visits of 2023 and 2024 have had in lifting both the legacy of Robert Burns and the role of the Federation. Engagement with the Victorian Scottish Cultural and Heritage Foundation, the Melbourne Tartan Festival, and the Scotland Australia Heritage Council in NSW I feel will bring more benefits to all parties in the future.

In my immediate area I can report that Camperdown's annual Robert Burns Festival was well received and confidence is growing looking forward.

I look forward to meeting folk at the September AGM and Conference in Irvine and obviously encourage questions and comments to which I can respond in more detail in person.

NOMINATIONS RECEIVED FOR OFFICE BEARERS AND CONVENER

Office Bearers

- President - Peter Pringle
- Senior Vice President - Jean Abdulrahim
- Junior Vice President - Paul Kennedy

Conveners

- Literature Convener - Peter Pringle
- Events Convener - Jean Abdulrahim
- Heritage Convener - John Hannah
- Schools Convener - Beth Kerr
- Marketing Convener - Alan Beck

International Board Members (appointed by the Board and approved at AGM)

- Canada - Henry Cairney
- Pacific Rim - John Menzies
- U.S.A. - Paul Kennedy

Paul Kennedy
Junior Vice President 2024

Paul J. Kennedy – *Immediate Past President, RBANA; US Director, RBWF; Co-Founder, Past President, and VP of Finance, South Jersey Celtic Society (SJCS)*

Paul Kennedy is a retired US Army Aviation Officer with more than 47 years of service to his country. Mr. Kennedy is also a retired Project Manager with the US Department of Defense, Office of Inspector General.

Paul is the Immediate Past President and past US Director of the Robert Burns Association of North America; US Director, RBWF; and co-founder, Past President, and current Vice President for Finance of the South Jersey Celtic Society (SJCS) whose mission is to promote and support Celtic Culture in and around Southern New Jersey.

Paul was instrumental in designing the SJCS's mission, program, and fundraising activities, and instituting the SJCS's premier event, the annual SJCS Robert Burns Supper. Paul was also the catalyst for the SJCS becoming a member of, and participating in the Robert Burns Association of North America (RBANA) and the Robert Burns World Federation (RBWF). Mr. Kennedy is also a member of the planning committee for the World Scottish Literature Congress to be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 2027.

In addition to hosting an annual Burns Supper, SJCS also provides scholarships, monetary awards, and other support to Celtic organizations such as local Pipe Bands and musicians, Scottish and Irish Dance Clubs and Academic and Literary Institutions such as The Rosenbach Library and Museum for the preservation of its collection of original Burns' Manuscripts and its Bloomsday celebration. Due in large part to Paul's early vision, the SJCS now holds an annual South Jersey Celt Fest and Highland Games.

In its civic role, SJCS supports its local community, first responders, and military veterans organizations, and, as part of its cultural education program, the SJCS conducts quarterly whisky tastings under its "SJCS Scotch and Whiskey Appreciation Club" banner. SJCS also continues to raise money for food and other products for three local food banks and other charitable organizations.

Paul is both a Classical and Celtic musician and performs regularly with friends and family at Irish and Scottish Festivals, Renaissance Fairs and other events. He is an avid reader, poetry lover and amateur classical guitarist. He has attended Burns Suppers throughout the US, Canada and Scotland as well as in both Iraq and Afghanistan and in one case, addressed the Haggis in Baghdad only to do it again in New Jersey two days later. Paul is married to his wife, Lynn, of 49 years, and together they have five children and 14 grandchildren.

Paul has been awarded the *Key to Mount Holly Township* by the Town Council; and is a recipient of the *Order of the Dolphin* and the *Ailsa Craig Award* from the Kennedy Society of North America (KSNA)



Charity number: SC029099
Company number: SC196895

The Robert Burns World Federation Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report and financial statements

for the year ended 30 April 2024

The Robert Burns World Federation Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)

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The Robert Burns World Federation Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)

Legal and administrative information

Charity number SC029099

Company registration number SC196895

Registered office 3 John Dickie Street
Kilmarnock
Ayrshire
KA1 1HW

Trustees	Neil McNair	President
	Peter Pringle	Senior Vice President
	Jean Abdulrahim	Junior Vice President
	Alan Beck	Immediate Past President
	Henry Cairney	
	John Hannah	
	Kenneth Dalglish	
	Beth Kerr	
	Paul Kennedy	
	Grace McKelvie	
Phyl Smith		

Accountants KFMCO Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
52 Main Street
Ayr
KA8 8EF

Bankers Bank of Scotland
30-34 King Street
Kilmarnock
KA1 1NP

The Robert Burns World Federation Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)

Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)
for the year ended 30 April 2024

The trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 30 April 2024 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

Structure, governance and management

Legal status

The company is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is governed by a memorandum and articles of association. The company is a registered Scottish charity (SC029099) and recognised by HM Revenue & Customs and OSCR.

The trustees meet regularly to administer the charity. Administrative matters are dealt with by the appointed secretary.

Directors movements during the year

The following trustees were appointed during the year:

Jean Abdulrahim
Phyl Smith

The following trustees resigned during the year and before the signing of this report:

Ian McIntyre
Ronald O'Byrne
Clark McGinn
Marc Sherland

The directors all retire annually except the President who becomes the Immediate Past President, the Senior Vice President who becomes the President and the Junior Vice President who becomes the Senior Vice President. Thus, a director elected to the board position of Junior Vice President will hold office for four years without re-election. Those directors who retire annually are available for re-election.

Objectives and activities

The charity's object and its principal activity is that of educating the public about the life, poetry and works of Robert Burns.

Financial review

Review of the business

The results for the year are shown on page 6. During the period covered by the financial statements, the nature and range of the company's activities continued to be consolidated and outlined in the Annual Report.

The Robert Burns World Federation Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)

Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)
for the year ended 30 April 2024

Reserves

It is the charity's policy to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the reserves of the charity, at a level which equates to at least one year's running costs, including all charitable expenditure together with fundraising, management and administration costs. Unrestricted funds were maintained at this level throughout the year.

Risk management and internal control

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

Investment policy and returns

Under the memorandum and articles of association, the charity has the power to make any investment which the trustees see fit. The trustees consider the income requirements, the risk profile and the investment manager's view of the market prospects in the medium term.

Plans for future periods

The trustees are of the opinion that the charity has sufficient reserves to allow existing activities to continue for a period in excess of 12 months and have prepared a budget showing that anticipated income will enable the Federation to operate successfully in this period. Negotiations are ongoing to secure further funding to assist the running of the Federation in the longer term.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the company for that period.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The trustees recommend that KFMCO Limited remain in office until further notice.

The Robert Burns World Federation Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)

Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)
for the year ended 30 April 2024

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the board

Neil McNair
Trustee

6 August 2024

The Robert Burns World Federation Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)

Independent examiner's report to the trustees on the unaudited financial statements of The Robert Burns World Federation Limited.

I report on the financial statements of The Robert Burns World Federation Limited for the year ended 30 April 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102), the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out therein.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations (2006). They consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(a) to (c) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations (2006). An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (i) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Regulations; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Regulationshave not been met; or

- (ii) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Scott McPherson FCCA
KFMCO Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
52 Main Street
Ayr
KA8 8EF

6 August 2024

The Robert Burns World Federation Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)

Statement of financial activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 30 April 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Income					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Voluntary income	2	67,545	-	67,545	79,887
Activities for generating funds	3	12,142	-	12,142	10,098
Investment income	4	1,940	-	1,940	1,458
Total incoming resources		<u>81,627</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81,627</u>	<u>91,443</u>
Expenditure					
Costs of generating funds:					
Cost of generating voluntary income	5	4,840	-	4,840	3,832
Charitable activities	6	75,655	1,441	77,096	86,830
Governance costs	7	1,916	-	1,916	1,965
Total resources expended		<u>82,411</u>	<u>1,441</u>	<u>83,852</u>	<u>92,627</u>
Net income/expenditure for the year		(784)	(1,441)	(2,225)	(1,184)
Other recognised gains and losses					
Gains/(Losses) on revaluation of investment assets	12	(1,847)	-	(1,847)	884
Net movement in funds		<u>(2,631)</u>	<u>(1,441)</u>	<u>(4,072)</u>	<u>(300)</u>
Total funds brought forward		121,284	18,565	139,849	140,149
Total funds carried forward		<u>118,653</u>	<u>17,124</u>	<u>135,777</u>	<u>139,849</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

The notes on pages 9 to 16 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Robert Burns World Federation Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)

Balance sheet
as at 30 April 2024

	Notes	£	2024	£	£	2023	£
Fixed assets							
Tangible assets	11			324			713
Investments	12			49,173			51,129
				<u>49,497</u>			<u>51,842</u>
Current assets							
Stocks		6,620			5,314		
Debtors	13	8,374			17,079		
Cash at bank and on hand		74,406			77,832		
		<u>89,400</u>			<u>100,225</u>		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(3,120)			(12,218)		
Net current assets				<u>86,280</u>			<u>88,007</u>
Net assets				<u>135,777</u>			<u>139,849</u>
Funds							
Restricted income funds				17,124			18,565
Unrestricted income funds:							
Unrestricted income funds		120,500			120,400		
Revaluation of investments in year		(1,847)			884		
		<u></u>			<u></u>		
Total unrestricted income funds				118,653			121,284
Total funds	15			<u>135,777</u>			<u>139,849</u>

The notes on pages 9 to 16 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Robert Burns World Federation Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)

In approving these financial statements as trustees of the company we hereby confirm:

- (a) that for the year stated above the company was entitled to the exemption conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006;
- (b) that no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the company pursuant to Section 476 requesting that an audit be conducted for the year ended 30 April 2024 and
- (c) that acknowledge responsibilities for:
 - (1) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386, and
 - (2) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 6 August 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Neil McNair
Trustee

Peter Pringle
Trustee

The notes on pages 9 to 16 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Robert Burns World Federation Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 30 April 2024

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout this and the preceding year.

1.1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

1.2. Fund accounting policy

Unrestricted funds are those available to be expended in achieving the general objects of The Robert Burns World Federation Limited, at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds are those monies which were granted by Thomas Tunnock towards a Life Long Learning Unit about Robert Burns.

1.3. Incoming resources policy

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Income represents goods sold and income received during the year. Subscriptions include those only items received in the year and no account is taken of arrears of amount in advance.

Revenue grants are recognised in the Income and Expenditure account in the year in which they are received.

Income from the charity shop is included in the year in which it is receivable.

1.4. Resources expended policy

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Expenditure which is directly attributable to specific activities has been included in these cost categories. Where costs are attributable to more than one activity, they have been apportioned across the cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of these resources.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and strategic requirements of the charity.

The Robert Burns World Federation Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 30 April 2024

1.5. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Office equipment	-	20% straight line
Computer equipment	-	25% straight line

1.6. Investments

Investments held as fixed assets are revalued at mid-market value at the balance sheet date and recognised gains or losses taken to the statement of financial activities. Unrealised gains or losses are reflected in the movements in the investment revaluation reserve.

1.7. Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

2. Voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Club subscriptions	11,652	11,652	13,183
Members's subscriptions	8,516	8,516	8,855
Family membership	1,798	1,798	2,333
Corporate membership	500	500	475
Gift aid	2,007	2,007	1,503
Donations - schools Jean Armour	2,000	2,000	1,000
Donations - other donations	19,478	19,478	5,869
Donations - Annandale Distillery	-	-	12,500
Doantions - AGM Broadcasting	-	-	5,056
Chronicle sponsorship	469	469	486
Conference income	21,125	21,125	28,627
	<u>67,545</u>	<u>67,545</u>	<u>79,887</u>

3. Activities for generating funds

	Unrestricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
School income	676	676	937
Sale of goods	9,591	9,591	6,131
200 club income	1,875	1,875	3,030
	<u>12,142</u>	<u>12,142</u>	<u>10,098</u>

The Robert Burns World Federation Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 30 April 2024

4. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Income from listed investments	1,110	1,110	1,161
Income from income bonds	507	507	226
Bank interest receivable	323	323	71
	<u>1,940</u>	<u>1,940</u>	<u>1,458</u>

5. Cost of generating voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Fundraising - cost of goods sold	4,480	4,480	2,383
Raffle prizes and costs	360	360	1,449
	<u>4,840</u>	<u>4,840</u>	<u>3,832</u>

The Robert Burns World Federation Limited
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Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 30 April 2024

6. Costs of charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
<u>General</u>				
Wages & salaries	19,433	-	19,433	21,137
Business licences and permits	-	-	-	1,100
Bank charges	541	-	541	804
Repairs & maintenance	721	-	721	319
Post & stationery	893	-	893	1,245
Telephone	771	-	771	962
Office costs	3,416	-	3,416	3,979
Website & IT expenses	7,541	-	7,541	3,024
Life long learning centre costs	-	1,441	1,441	1,388
Sundry expenses	495	-	498	894
Rent & insurance	3,548	-	3,548	3,476
Equipment hire	2,259	-	2,259	2,184
Events	970	-	970	1,510
AGM broadcast costs	1,500	-	1,500	5,544
Depreciation	389	-	389	741
Chronicle costs	11,859	-	11,859	12,362
Newsletter costs	672	-	672	522
	55,008	1,441	56,449	61,189
<u>Conference</u>				
Conference expenditure	18,462	-	18,462	24,167
	18,462	-	18,462	24,167
<u>Schools</u>				
School expenses	2,185	-	2,185	1,474
	2,185	-	2,185	1,474
	75,655	1,441	77,096	86,830

7. Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Accountancy fees	1,916	1,916	1,965
	1,916	1,916	1,965

The Robert Burns World Federation Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 30 April 2024

8. Net outgoing resources for the year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net outgoing resources is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets	389	741
	<u>389</u>	<u>741</u>

9. Employees

Employment costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	19,433	21,137
	<u>19,433</u>	<u>21,137</u>

Number of employees

The average monthly numbers of employees (including the trustees) during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Administration	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

No trustees received any remuneration during the course of the year.

10. Taxation

The charity's activities fall within the exemptions afforded by the provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. Accordingly, there is no taxation charge in these accounts.

The Robert Burns World Federation Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 30 April 2024

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment	Computer equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 May 2023 and At 30 April 2024	3,701	14,360	18,061
Depreciation			
At 1 May 2023	3,269	14,079	17,348
Charge for the year	108	281	389
At 30 April 2024	3,377	14,360	17,737
Net book values			
At 30 April 2024	324	-	324
At 30 April 2023	432	281	713

Heritage assets

The Federation were gifted approximately half an acre of land at Leglen Wood in 1933, on which a cairn had previously been built. This land is open to the general public.

The Federation President's chain of office has been owned by the Federation for many years and is of some intrinsic value. It is insured for £70,000.

Other heritage assets which have been donated to the Federation over the years have been valued by Lyon & Turnbull, valuers, for insurance purposes on the 4th December 2009 at £44,690.

No value has been incorporated in the accounts for these Heritage assets.

12. Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments	National Savings certificates	National Savings income bonds	Total
	£	£	£	£
Valuation				
At 1 May 2023	32,198	3,823	15,000	51,021
Revaluations	(1,973)	125	-	(1,848)
At 30 April 2024	30,225	3,948	15,000	49,173
Historical cost as at 30 April 2024	10,197	1,500	15,000	26,697

All fixed asset investments are held primarily to provide an investment return for the charity.

The Robert Burns World Federation Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 30 April 2024

13. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	8,009	12,752
Prepayments and accrued income	365	4,327
	<u>8,374</u>	<u>17,079</u>

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	286	214
Other taxes and social security	(197)	65
Accruals and deferred income	3,031	11,939
	<u>3,120</u>	<u>12,218</u>

15. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 30 April 2024 as represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	324	-	324
Investment assets	49,173	-	49,173
Current assets	72,276	17,124	89,400
Current liabilities	(3,120)	-	(3,120)
	<u>118,653</u>	<u>17,124</u>	<u>135,777</u>

16. Unrestricted funds

	At				At
	1 May	Incoming	Outgoing	Gains and	30 April
	2023	resources	resources	losses	2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	121,284	81,627	(82,411)	(1,847)	118,653
	<u>121,284</u>	<u>81,627</u>	<u>(82,411)</u>	<u>(1,847)</u>	<u>118,653</u>

The Robert Burns World Federation Limited
(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to financial statements
for the year ended 30 April 2024

17. Restricted funds	At 1 May 2023 £	Outgoing resources £	At 30 April 2024 £
Thomas Tunnock's Life Long Learning Unit	<u>18,565</u>	<u>(1,441)</u>	<u>17,124</u>

18. Company limited by guarantee

The Robert Burns World Federation Limited is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital. Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company on the winding up of the company. Any further donations and related expenditure will be allocated or charged to the Memorials Fund.



The Robert Burns World Federation Ltd
3A John Dickie Street
Kilmarnock
KA1 1HW
Tel/Fax: 01563 572469
E-mail: admin@rbwf.org.uk
Web: www.rbwf.org.uk

Registered Office: 3A John Dickie Street, Kilmarnock, KA1 1HW
Company Registration No. SC196895
Scottish Charity No. SC029099