



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 27th March 2024
Ardgowan Bowling Club

Present: A Dowling, C Sherry, D Bryson, M Chasterman, F Gault, F Kerber, G Anderson, H Donnelly, H Heffernan, L Donaldson, M Grant, M Gilchrist, R McKenzie R Paterson, S Campbell, T Lahiri

Apologies: A Pettigrew, C Devitt, C Whitelaw, G Bowman, P Kelly, T Martin

1. Minutes of previous AGM on 29th March 2023

The minute was proposed by M Gilchrist and seconded by L Donaldson.

2. Matters Arising

- a) G Anderson to invoice GWC for £400
- b) L Donaldson to carry forward publicity in 2024/2025
- c) G Anderson to carry forward Waterstones contact as Community Writer with Scottish History

3. Committee Remarks

- **President:** A copy of the President's Report had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. Margaret intimated that being Club President during Session 2023/24 was a great privilege and after dealing with enormous change over the past four years, it has been a delight to welcome so many new faces. She noted with regret that several longstanding and dedicated members left, namely David McKelvie, Isobel Watt and Tony Watt and gave thanks to them for all their hard work and dedication to the club. The Club Committee changes, adjustment to the sessions and member led sessions along with some fabulous guest speakers were praised and encouragement for further member input to help the syllabus meet members expectation requested.

Margaret agreed to stand for our Club President for a second year.

- **Treasurer:** A copy of the Treasurer's Report had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. Mhairi provided a financial report for the period 2023/24, which indicates an increase in costs that is not being met by our income. Although subscription fees have been raised this year, along with an increase in members this has not been sufficient to cover costs. Monies acquired previously have covered this deficit, however another increase in fees is advised. Monies are held in a Building Society account and will require an update to signatories. Helen Heffernan as previous signatory has been asked to assist with this.

Mhairi also provided audited Club Accounts for the year ending 29 February '24 for the bank and Building Society.

- **Secretary:** A copy of the Secretary's Report had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. Mhairi referred to the bumpy start to the Session with a change of President and thanked Margaret for leading a varied and successful year. Sessions had been well attended with over 20 active members for the majority of the year and several new members joining later in the year. At present there are 42 members on the subscription list. Mhairi praised the work of Competition Secretary Tosca, who has brought our Competition Process into

the 21st Century. Record numbers of entrants to the competitions bear testimony to this. Talent and member participation was highlighted alongside the interesting and inspiring Guest Speakers.

Mhairi advised that she would be standing as Secretary for a second term.

- **SAW Representative:** SAW's President Grahame Anderson has offered to be the clubs rep this year, and will advise club of SAW competitions and activities.

4. Office-Bearers 2024/25

It was confirmed that all members of the Club are eligible and invited to stand for positions on the Committee.

Position	Member	Proposed	Seconded
President	M Grant	M Gilchrist	L Donaldson
Vice President	L Donaldson	M Gilchrist	H Heffernan
Treasurer	M Gilchrist	G Anderson	L Donaldson
Secretary	M Gilchrist	M Grant	L Donaldson
Competition Secretary	T Lahiri	H Heffernan	G Anderson
SAW Representative	G Anderson	L Donaldson	M Grant
Trophy Convener	H Heffernan	Helen offered to continue	
Digital Co-ordinator (Blog)	S Campbell	L Donaldson	M Grant
Publicity Co-ordinator (Facebook)	M Gilchrist/T Lahiri	L Donaldson	M Grant
Tea Manager	H Donnelly Biscuit Convener M Gilchrist Milk provider		

5. Suggestions for syllabus/speakers/adjudicators 2024/25

The following were put forward:

- Flash Fiction
- Monologue Plays
- Morna Baron – Helen to confirm subject
- Writing Script – D McCahon
- Comedy Writing
- R McKenzie – Film Noir
- F Kerber – Legends/ Myths (European)
- L Donaldson – Poetry
- M Chasterman – Lyrics
- Experimental Writing – Prose
- H Donnelly – Folk/Selkie Stories (UK)
- Young Adult – C Sherry
- G Anderson – Grow your Audience, AI
- G Bowman – Biography, Self-Publishing
- Paul Bristo – Graphic Novels
- Travel article

- Ghost/Horror Stories

6. Suggestions for Competitions

The following was suggested

- Open Competition, members choose their form.
- Notice given to prepare for SAW competitions

7. Arrangements for 2024/25 Season

- Volunteers required for Club anthology, feedback required for form of Club anthology.
- Mhairi to write to the Ardgowan Club re use of the hall for the new season and ask if fees be kept to previous years cost if possible.

8. Fees

A discussion took place against the backdrop of a diminishing bank balance if Club expenditure continues to exceed income. Finding to be investigated to help with Club finances. As in previous years, members were reminded that the fee can be paid in instalments where necessary.

9. AOCB

- There was no further business.

10. Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.