

**SCOTTISH LANGUAGE DICTIONARIES**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2007 IN ROOM**  
**6.11, DAVID HUME TOWER, GEORGE SQUARE, EDINBURGH**

**Present: Professor G Caie (SLD Board), Ms P Cairns Speitel (Senior Editor, SLD), Professor J Corbett (SLD Board), Ms M Dareau (Principal Editor, SLD), Mr B Elliott (SLD Member), Mr R G Findlay (SLD Member), Ms E Finlayson (Editor, SLD), Mr M Fitt (SLD Board), Professor C Kay (Convener, SLD Board), Mr W Mack (Secretary and Treasurer, SLD Board), Dr C Robinson (Director, SLD), Dr M Scott (Senior Editor, SLD), Ms E Small (SLD Board), Mr J Stuart (SLD Member).**

1. Professor Kay welcomed those assembled to the AGM of Scottish Language Dictionaries. Richard Wilson, the President of SLD, sent his apologies and good wishes. He has also donated a signed *One Foot in the Grave* t-shirt to the forthcoming fundraising auction.

Professor Kay said that it had been a year of mixed fortunes, but the good things were best illustrated by the new publications which were in preparation, new fundraising initiatives, and the improved website. She thanked staff for their efforts in the past year and welcomed back Dr Robinson who had been off most of the summer through illness. She thanked Dr Scott for taking over in her absence.

2. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Mr W Aitken (SLD Board), Dr G Enstam (Project Developer, SLD), Professor W Gillies (SLD Board), Mr M Glen (SLD Member), Ms A Gordon (SLD Member), Professor R E Lewis (SLD Member and Advisory Committee), Mr J Lonie (Depute Convener, SLD Board), Dr C Macafee (SLD Member and Advisory Committee), Mr J D McClure (SLD Board), Professor A A MacDonald (SLD Member and Advisory Committee), Mr J Mackay (SLD Member), Dr M Mackay (SLD Board), Mr L D M Mackenzie (SLD Member), Dr P G B McNeill (SLD Member and Advisory Committee), Professor D Meek (SLD Advisory Committee), Professor W Nicolaisen (SLD Member), Dr R Purdie (SLD Board), Mr S Rae (SLD Board), Ms E Thomson (SLD Member), Mrs J Thomson (SLD Member), Dr J H Williams (SLD Member), Mr R Wilson (SLD President).

3. **Minutes of SLD Annual General Meeting of 15 September, 2006** (circulated)

There were no corrections to the minutes. Ms Small proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Professor Corbett seconded and Professor Kay duly signed the minutes.

### **Matters arising**

Item 9. Following the point raised by Dr McNeill at the last AGM, that directors should now be referred to as trustees according to the changes in nomenclature required by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), Professor Kay said that SLD has made the necessary changes, but had not spent the several hundred pounds required to have the changes made in the Memorandum and Articles of Association. As the changes in nomenclature were a matter for OSCR not SLD, Professor Kay did not think it was necessary for the AGM to vote on them.

4. a. **Report on the Year's Activities** (Dr Christine Robinson)

Dr Robinson read the following report:

The addition of Caroline Macafee and Jack Aitken's *History of Scots* to the *DSL*, funded by the Strathmartine Trust, was accomplished in June. This will be of immense benefit to scholars.

The Leith Project has been completed and we are very pleased that Luath have agreed to publish a small book based on the findings.

A series of four small books to be published by Black and White will be completed by December in time to reach next year's tourist season. The 'Say it in Scots' series starts off with *Weather, Wildlife, Wha's Like Us* and *Place-Names*.

Work is progressing to the satisfaction of Professor Nicolaisen and the Association for Scottish Literary Studies (ASLS) Language Committee on the Dictionary of Scottish Place-names. Dr Scott has now completed the pilot for Kincardine. The proposed title is '1000 Scottish Place-names' and this more manageable target will allow a useful publication within a practical timescale.

From this it is evident that we have a very ambitious publications programme.

Outreach work has also been keeping up a good momentum.

Fieldwork on the Niddrie and Craigmillar Project was begun at the start of this year but staff illness has meant that this project is behind schedule. The final stages of the project will be reactivated this month with a view to completion before Christmas.

All members of staff have been involved in Outreach and a separate list of Outreach Activities during the current financial year is appended. Among the highlights since the last AGM are Ms Cairns Speitel's 10 sessions at Cornton Community Centre and a comment about her work in Niddrie and Craigmillar highlights the importance of working with Scots Language. The social worker there remarked that some older participants, who were normally unresponsive, became animated and even took part in the sessions. Conference-wise, she had a Boorach and Barry Nicht at the Elphinstone Institute.

Dr Enstam was responsible for the excellent presentation of the first North American electronic newsletter and is now almost finished compiling the second issue. These will appear on the website in due course.

As a result of the success of *The Bottle Imp*, new contacts have been made for Scottish Language Dictionaries in the US. This and her other successful collaboration with the ASLS, the Scottish Writing Exhibition at the Modern Language Association (MLA) convention, continue to reflect well on SLD. Membership in the American Fund for Charities has been secured; with tax relief for US members. Dr Scott and Dr Robinson have been involved with various conferences and school and university projects.

Dr Scott's consultancy role on Tobar an Dualchais gave us a welcome opportunity to work with the Gaelic community. Dr Scott has produced a glossary for *The Mountain Bard*, a Stirling and South Carolina publication of the works of Hogg. This has generated considerable goodwill and we have benefited by being sent the electronic texts. She attended the Annual Conference of the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists in London. This may give some indication of the range of expertise that we have within this small team.

Dr Robinson took part in a sixth year schools' conference and after training postgraduate linguistic students to lead Research Communication in Action workshops had the satisfaction of sending a Welsh and a Hong Kong Chinese duo to talk about Scots to secondary schools pupils. She has also been involved in Continuing Professional Development for secondary teachers and in teaching Scots on a postgraduate elective education course.

Dr Scott and Dr Robinson have entertained and informed groups as diverse as the Mid Calder Brownies and the Scone and District Historical Society.

We are continuing to develop relationships with such groups, particularly the Scots Language Centre (SLC), the ASLS and Itchy-Coo, whose remits are all complementary to our own. And, we regard the many phonecalls and emails and visits to our offices (some from distinguished overseas academics) as part of the Outreach activities.

### **The Website**

After Dr Enstam cracked the whip and hounded us, we all contributed material for the splendid new website, which Peter Bell created for us. We hope to have a formal launch along with the launch of the

*Faclair na Gàidhlig* website.

### **The Word Collection**

It is with real excitement that we can now say that Peter Bell is actually transferring some 64,000 entries to the new Word Collection database. Again, this was very much a team effort but the outstanding efforts of Ms Finlayson and Peter Bell have given us a fantastic resource. There is still much to be done but we are now well on the way to having a valuable research resource.

### **Review meeting with the Scottish Arts Council (SAC):**

Professor Kay and Dr Scott attended the meeting with Gavin Wallace of SAC on the 30th of May to finalise the details of our Funding Agreement for 07-09. SAC are still unsure of the exact methods by which the current organisation will merge with Scottish Screen to form the new body, Creative Scotland, and so they can only plan as far ahead as 2008. They are asking Flexibly Funded organisations (i.e. organisations funded for 1 or 2 years) to re-apply in November 2007, when SAC should know more about future developments.

As with all other Flexibly Funded organisations, members of SAC are no longer required to attend all Board Meetings, although their presence can be requested if necessary.

### **b. Report on Concise Scots Dictionary 2 (Ms M Dareau, Dr M Scott)**

Ms Dareau read the following report:

We are coming to the end of the process of refining the CSD2 project: determining the structure of dictionary entries, the rules for the revision and the parameters of the tasks assigned to individual editors. The fact that Dr Scott has been carrying out the functions of the Director over the period since the last Board Meeting has meant that less of her time has been available for CSD2. However, that situation is coming to an end and all the time assigned to CSD2 will once more be available. Despite this situation over the last months we have been able to resolve the final remaining issues in terms of content and layout of CSD2 and we are happy that we now have a structure that is both modern in concept and visual appearance and accessible to all varieties of user. The next task on the agenda is to put the rules into practice and continue to develop the team ethic, working through the material systematically and with increasing experience of what is required. This process will allow us to confirm the timescales that we have been working on throughout this year. These of course will improve with experience, but I have to conclude on the same note as the June Report. Without a larger pool of staff, completion of the project within the projected 5-year time frame will be very difficult.

### **5. Treasurer's Report (Mr Mack)**

Regular attendees at the AGM will know that SLD's Accounts are produced by our Auditors, formerly Scott & Paterson and now called Baker Tilly following a recent merger. The Auditors produce the accounts from the Financial records which we keep and they are satisfied that the Accounts are a true reflection of the financial position of the Company.

This year, for the first time, thanks to the efforts of Dr Enstam and Peter Bell, the Accounts have been made available on the SLD website in advance of the AGM.

Throughout the Accounts, Directors are referred to as Trustees. This may appear strange in the case of SLD but it is in accordance with The Guidance issued by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) which defines the governing body of a charity as 'charity trustees' whatever their title whether it be Director, Committee Member etc.

OSCR was established in 2005 and is the 'comprehensive and coherent regulatory framework for charities in Scotland'. It is the statutory regulator of the charity sector in Scotland and SLD's Accounts have been produced taking account of OSCR guidelines.

The Auditors advised us in the course of this year that the OSCR's audit guidelines have been revised and that a full audit requires significantly more work to be carried out by auditors. They advised that if they were to continue on a full audit basis it would be more expensive and they suggested and encouraged that the formal audit be replaced by a less onerous, and hence less expensive, Independent Examination of the Accounts. The current Articles of Association allow for this and it was agreed at the

June Board that we would proceed on this basis with the Independent Examination being carried out by Baker Tilly.

In the Trustees' Report, the Financial review section on Page 7 provides a summary of the current position.

The main source of funding is the Scottish Arts Council and the Grant for 2006-07 was £95909. The grant has been increased to £115909 for the present 2007-08 financial year.

Details of additional Scottish Arts Council grants, other grants and principal funding sources are detailed in this section:

Scottish Arts Council	
Main grant	£ 95909
Outreach grant	£ 5424
Lloyds TSB Foundation	£ 2100
Strathmartine Trust	£ 950
Leith Project (private donor)	£ 1000
Royalties (EUP)	£ 1961
Royalties (OUP DOST)	£ 139
Local Authorities	£ 622
Outreach Earnings	£ 4558
Memberships	<u>£ 3505</u>
(Total	<u>£116168)</u>

As stated in the Income and Expenditure Account on Page 10, by the end of the 2006-07 financial year the total outgoing funds exceeded the incoming funds by £16931. However, as a result of a healthy balance of £23661 brought forward from the previous year, £6730 funds remained.

The forecast for the 2007-08 financial year shows a gradually worsening position, with outgoings continuing to exceed income potentially by approximately £5000. As things stand at the moment, the main uncertain income sources are Outreach and Royalties and the situation at the end of the current financial year will largely depend on the amount raised by these two areas. The SAC Grant will remain at £115909 for next year (2008-09) and further increases in other areas of income are being targeted. Professor Kay will cover the funding situation and fundraising activities.

Although the financial situation looks gloomy measures are being taken to source additional funding.

Mr Mack then invited questions.

In response to a query from Professor Caie, he said that the donation from TSB was a one-off donation. The accounts were approved by the AGM, proposed Professor Corbett, seconded Mr Fitt.

Mr Mack said that if anyone wished a copy of the accounts sent to them, they should leave their name with Ms Finlayson.

6. **Report on Fund-raising Activities** (Professor Kay, Convener)

In the absence of Mr Lonie, Professor Kay reported on SLD's fundraising activities.

She thanked Mr Lonie for all his work as convener of the Fundraising/Outreach Committee. This committee has now been split into two – The Publications/Projects Committee convened by Professor Corbett and the Finance Committee, which will deal with the more monetarist aspects of SLD, convened by Professor Kay and including Mr Lonie and Mr Mack as committee members.

Professor Kay reported that in the last year a lot of good work has been done on identifying sources of funding and thanked the staff for this. It was now felt that a more focussed look was needed at the things which can be realistically achieved and which will bring in money, such as the small books project.

The main successes were in outreach, and we received three small project grants. However we need a larger grant to employ a new lexicographer. We received more money from Gift Aid due to a drive

initiated by Ms Finlayson, to increase awareness of Gift Aid among the members.

The website has been redesigned and new leaflets will make clear to potential US members the best ways of becoming a member of SLD.

The first SLD international newsletter aimed at potential members in North America was produced, and another is in preparation.

The Sponsor a Word scheme has worked well in conjunction with Outreach.

We are now registered with two online shopping sites, Amazon and now Easy Fundraising [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) which produce a small but steady trickle of money.

We are now pursuing the idea of a celebrity auction on eBay. This follows the very successful writers auction two years ago. However contacting celebrities to donate items for the auction has so far proved difficult, and Professor Kay asked anyone who knows any celebrities who might be interested to contact SLD. She said that we would be redoubling our fundraising efforts in the coming year, as the financial position is currently less comfortable than at this time last year.

Mr Fitt said that with the change of government in Scotland, we should be speaking more directly to the government, and that there was a strong case for more funding for Scots language from the Scottish community. There should be a renewed push for an Institute for the Languages of Scotland, as SAC is keen for more cooperation between organisations, and a Board for Scots, along the lines of the Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

Mr Fitt said Professor Johnstone had chaired two ‘synergy’ meetings with the SLC. A third meeting had been intended but had never taken place. He wondered if this series of meetings could be revived.

Mr Stuart said that the Cross Party Group (CPG) had suggested that the Minister for Culture, Linda Fabiani, would be sympathetic to setting up an advisory committee to look into the situation of Scots.

Professor Caie said that dictionaries should be at the centre of any such discussions, and that SLD should write to the minister about this. SAC has always felt that they should not be the sole funders of Scots, but has failed to persuade the Department of Education to fund SLD. It was agreed that

Professor Kay should write to the minister in consultation with Dr Mackay. Mr Stuart said that Rob Gibson, the chairman of the CPG, had also written to the minister. A meeting of the CPG on Scots

Language was scheduled for Tuesday 11 September. An advisory group would be different from a CPG and might lead to something. A report on Scots should be written on the model of the Meek Report for Gaelic, although the situation for Scots is not so clear cut as Gaelic. In the June meeting of the CPG, Derrick McClure had been asked if he would be willing to write a report for Scots.

Professor Kay will draft a letter to Linda Fabiani and circulate it by email. She asked anyone wishing a copy to add their email address to list of attendees. Professor Kay will also talk to Derrick McClure, Richard Johnstone and Gavin Wallace of SAC.

Dr Robinson wondered if there was any mileage in further cooperation with other organisations and strengthening links with the SLC, especially as they have their finger on the fundraising pulse. However, we should also avoid duplication of effort with them. Professor Corbett said that SLD needed to bring forward concrete proposals for what can be done and that this will be something for the new Publications/Projects Committee to discuss. Dr Scott added that Michael Hance, the manager of SLC, has always be very helpful in passing information on to us. Mr Fitt pointed out that it was better to have two organisations doing the same thing than nobody.

Professor Kay said that talks are also in progress with the ASLS.

### **Action Professor Kay**

## 7. ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS

3 proxy votes have been received, all of whom voted for all the resolutions.

**Resolution 1** – That the documents comprised in the Accounts be received.

It was agreed that the accounts be received.

**Resolution 2** – That Graham Caie, who retires by rotation, be re-elected as trustee of the Company. There was no requirement for a vote and the resolution was passed.

**Resolution 3** – That J. D. McClure, who retires by rotation, be re-elected as trustee of the Company. There was no requirement for a vote and the resolution was passed.

**Resolution 4** – That William Gillies, who retires by rotation, be re-elected as trustee of the Company. There was no requirement for a vote and the resolution was passed.

**Resolution 5** – That the resignation of Christopher Whatley, representative of Dundee University under the DOST agreement, be accepted, and that the said University be invited to nominate a replacement.

Subsequent to the drawing up of the Agenda, Dundee University has nominated Dr David Robb as replacement to Christopher Whatley. The AGM agreed to this replacement. There was no requirement for a vote and the resolution was passed.

**Resolution 6** – That Christian Kay be re-elected Convener of SLD. There was no requirement for a vote and the resolution was passed.

**Resolution 7** – That James Lonie be re-elected Depute Convener of SLD. There was no requirement for a vote and the resolution was passed.

**Resolution 8** – That Scott and Paterson CA be appointed as auditors of the company and to authorise the trustees to fix their remuneration.

Mr Mack said that Scott and Paterson CA are now trading under the Baker Tilly name. He declared himself satisfied with Baker Tilly and nominated them to be appointed as auditors. The resolution was passed.

8. **AOCB**

There was no further business.

9. **Vote of Thanks** (Professor Kay)

Professor Kay gave the vote of thanks. She thanked everybody for their attendance, Herman Rodrigues of Suruchi Restaurant, Edinburgh, for providing the wine, and SLD staff for bringing the food for the refreshments. She added that Ms Cairns Speitel had translated menus into Scots for Suruchi Restaurant and next year would translate Herman Rodrigues' forthcoming cookery book into Scots. She then declared the AGM closed.

**Actions Points**

6. Professor Kay – write to Linda Fabiani in consultation with Dr Mackay about setting up an advisory committee for Scots.