



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Selkirk Merchant Company held in the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Hall, on Friday, 7 March 2025.

Present: Master Falconer Grieve, Hon Secretary Margaret Moyes, Hon Treasurer Judith Thompson and 32 other members. Prior to the start of the official meeting a warm welcome was extended to all by the Master, who then reported the death of 3 Company members: Will Anderson, George Macdonald and Ewan Rintoul. The members stood in silence for one minute in remembrance.

Apologies: There were apologies from Bill Ainslie, David Anderson, Sam Anderson, Ian Clapperton, Pat Clapperton, Caroline Cochrane, David Deacon, Graham Easton, Lesley Henderson, Douglas Hogarth, Ian Inglis, Yvonne Mitchell, Calvin Moyes, Rona Munro, Lindsay Neil, John Smail, Rory Steel and Alan Wheelans.

- 1. Minutes of previous AGM held on 8 March 2024:** The Hon Secretary read the minutes of the 2024 AGM and they were approved on the motion of Neville Dundas, seconded by Andrew Anderson.
- 2. Matters arising:** The update of the lists at the end of The History of SMC is near completion.
- 3. Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer presented the Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2024. Company Funds stand at £10,203, slightly up from last year: the printing figure is higher than previously because of a late invoice and postage claims from 2023; insurance now covers the stock of medals, etc, (not previously insured and the miscellaneous figure is due to the replating of the Lindsay Henderson Golf cup. With the closure of St Joseph's Primary School at the summer of 2024 the school asked us not to give them a donation and the committee decided to give £50 each to Yarrow and Kirkhope Primary Schools. No questions were asked. The Master thanked the Treasurer for the excellent manner in which she had maintained the Company accounts and also thanked Diane Martin of EQ Chartered Accountants, Hawick, for examining them. The accounts were approved on the motion of Jake Wheelans, seconded by Lina Purves.
- 4. Election of Office Bearers:** The Master stated that all the existing office bearers had indicated that they were prepared to stand for re-election. The members were asked if they were content with the existing officers continuing in post and they unanimously agreed.

The Master then stated that according to the Laws, the Company was required to elect a member to serve on the Common Riding Trust. The Committee proposed that Jake Wheelans continue in this position and this was also unanimously agreed.

- 5. Appointment of Standard Bearer for 2025:** On the recommendation of the Committee Robert Gray was unanimously appointed as Company Standard Bearer for 2025. Rob thanked the Company for the great honour it had bestowed on him and promised to carry out his duties to the best of his abilities and in the same manner as his predecessors and to uphold the traditions of the Company.



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Selkirk Merchant Company held in the Cruickshank Room, Victoria Hall, on Friday, 7 March 2025.

The Master then thanked outgoing Standard Bearer Peter Dallas for the excellent manner in which he carried out his duties in 2024, stating that he was a credit to himself, his family and the Company.

- 6. Election of two members to the Committee:** The Master explained that there had been no written nominations in the hands of the Hon Secretary 14 days prior to the AGM as per the Company Laws. The 2 current Committee members, Eileen Easton and Alistair Pattullo, were prepared to serve on the Committee for another term and were unanimously elected by those present.
- 7. Admission of New Members:** The Master announced that at the Special General Meeting on 5 February 2025, the 6 prospective members all received the required number of votes by ballot and asked those present to endorse this decision. This was agreed, therefore Naill Armstrong, Marta Dutkowska, Lee-Anne Gillie, Lynne Hume, Lee Lindsay and Edward Strang Steel were duly admitted to the Company.
- 8. Standardisation of Subscriptions:** At the 2025 SGM those present agreed that the proposal to standardise subscriptions at £25 (other than for Honorary Life Members) should be brought to this AGM for Approval. The Master asked those attending this AGM accept the proposal from the SGM, and this was approved.
- 9. Common Riding Arrangements:** The Hon Secretary reminded members that the annual Bussin' will be held on Tuesday 10 June 2025 at 7.30pm, invited members to line up behind our Company flag outside the County Hotel at 7am on Common Riding morning and asked for a good support for SB Gray at these events.
- 10. Donations:** The Committee proposed the following donations: schools £1,150, bands: £300, Common Riding Trust: £100, Brighter Selkirk: £100. These proposals were accepted by the members. The Master stated that the Committee is currently reviewing the amounts donated.
- 11. Any Other Business:**

The Master congratulated Jock Nairn and Graham Pittman who have achieved 40 years as members and are now granted Honorary Life Membership.

The Master explained the allocation of, and pricing structure for, Ball Tickets this year, stating that each Casting Association will be allocated 10 tickets. Members should buy their own tickets as soon as they are on sale.

There being no other matters raised, the Master thanked the members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.00pm.