

Caledonian Society of Oman
AGM
Minutes
Tuesday 30 March 2010

Chieftan's Report

(See Agenda for full report)

Summarised

- Overall numbers down over the year, but still positive financially.
- It is hard to get corporate sponsorships, but fortunate that we have some regular sponsors.
- Ticket prices – conscious effort made to try and contain prices. Keith has been able to negotiate better rates this year. Hopefully no increase in ticket prices in the coming year. Prices per head over the years compared.
- We are now more aware of the drinks prices and packages after holding a function outside the hotel. This should hold us in good stead for cheaper deals in future.
- Due to the fact that there are a lot of non members this adds more money overall from ticket sales.
- Events all successful and very well received. Burns supper lay out not so great for people at the back of the garden, but that can be looked in to for changing next year.
- Thanks given to the committee for all their time and efforts.

Questions / Comments Arising:

Why was there no treasure hunt or golf trip this year?

- Left to Tony, but he wasn't able to organise it. Planned date got cancelled due to opening of another golf course.
- Committee very busy with the 4 events this year and finding time to fit it in was difficult. General feeling on committee is to go back to 3 events.

Could the summer Ceilidh be simplified?

- Suggested that a more 'village hall type' ceilidh would make it more cost effective and attractive to people.

Sponsorship. Did Khula hospital need to get such a large amount? Could it not have been shared out more?

- It is actually difficult to give money away. We want to make sure that it goes to somewhere that use the money properly. It was to support a member of the committee and was felt that buying a piece of equipment, with our name on it would be beneficial and worthwhile. Also a lot of money has gone back to Scotland in the past so it is good to do something for the local area.

- Wheelchairs are also going to be bought and donated to needy people locally.
- 40th year celebrations for Oman – there are possibly going to be a lot of events. Will that have a knock on effect on the Scottish events?
- Possibly it could be celebrated through one of our events. A theme for St Andrews could be organised to tie in with 40th year.

Treasurer's report

(see Agenda for full report)

Summarised

- All events ran surplus.
- There was a big increase in balance due to a big increase in sponsorship, uptake in raffles and auctions which went down well.
- Significant funds raised for charity.
- Brief run down on charity donations (see agenda)
- Some of the surplus will be shared amongst members by subsidising one of the costs of the event tickets or by doing an event just for members
- Cheaper flight tickets for the bands also helping to keep expenses down.
- Finances approved by members

Election of members

- Mairi standing down as committee member but will still help with the tickets and posters. Thanks given for all her help.
- Willie standing down from treasurer. Thanks given for his help.

Committee members re elected: Mairi proposed all and Jamie seconded all

Chieftain – Kenneth Macfarlane

Deputy Chieftain – Marjorie Gardyne

Secretary – Sarah Hampson

Entertainment Officer / Hotel Liaison - Keith Hollis

Webpage Technician – Kellie Frew

Ticket Sales Co-ordinator – Hannah Loudoun, Marjorie Gardyne, Lorrie Morrison

Band Liaison – Alasdair MacKenzie

Membership Secretary – Lorrie Morrison, Marjorie Gardyne

Publicity Officer – Karen Macfarlane

General Member – Willie Dunbar

Election of new members

Treasurer - Gerard Strong nominated by Kenneth and seconded by Jamie

General Member – Brian Peacock nominated by Marjorie and seconded by Kenneth

AOB

Sultan's 40th Anniversary.

- Something special should be done. That will be taken on board and discussed in the year. Gift/donation to the Sultan in his honour.
Piping bands discussed for St Andrews event

Dwindling attendance and membership.

- It was suggested to make an increase in the difference between members' tickets and non members' tickets prices. We need to start thinking of ways to encourage people to come.
- Could a flyer be sent out to encourage people to become members by advertising that tickets will be more subsidised for members
- - Why a concern about low members? Continuity,
- People not rejoining due to the fact that members are not always guaranteed tickets. A suggestion was made that one of the tickets sales evenings could be for members only.
- Can the buying of the memberships become easier? This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting
- Can people feel that they get more benefits from being a member?
Changes can be made and these will be looked at in the next meeting

Why did the dancing classes stop?

Numbers fizzled out so eventually came to a halt.

Is the Al Bustan a potential venue for the 40th event?

Other locations are going to be looked at. More competitive prices are now available.