

Chester Caledonian Association



2014-15: Photo Archive Mr David Murdoch

2014: Men's Supper, October 17th 2014, Willington Hall

Around 40 members greatly enjoyed the Annual Men's Supper at Willington Hall, Tarporley on Friday October 17th. Following the recent 'Stay Together' vote in the Scottish referendum, our hosts, the Begbies, put on an excellent 'Union' menu with dishes from all the component parts of the U.K.

At the end of the meal, president David Murdoch gave a short speech praising the superhuman efforts of retiring Association Secretary Ian Gill over the many years he has served the Association in this capacity, single-handedly keeping it well-organised, vibrant and entertaining. To mark his outstanding contribution, Ian was presented with a signed limited edition print of Bennachie (a famous hill in his native North-East Scotland, by renowned Aberdeenshire artist Howard Butterworth), a commemorative plaque, and a bottle of fine Glen Garioch malt whisky. Ian then regaled the audience with some of his more amusing experiences as Secretary.

The main entertainment of the evening was a light-hearted reprise of last year's debate on the Scottish referendum, this time in the form of an open, post-referendum discussion with comments and counter-arguments from the floor, ably chaired once again by Mike Martin. Not surprisingly, no conclusions were reached about Scotland's future but a great time was had by all, and those who could still manage to walk retired to the bar for further serious political discussion over a dram!

2014: Men's Supper, continued



Pre-dinner drinks in the bar.



The Association's newest member, Mr W. Wallace, attends his first Men's Supper.



Good food, good wine, good conversation and a Budweiser? How did that get in there?



Ian Gill spots someone who hasn't paid this year's membership fee!



Jackets off in preparation for a heated debate.



President David presents Ian Gill with a painting of Bennachie. Nobody familiar with the place can remember blue sky!



Ian entertains the audience with a few wee stories. Surely that's not his son stifling a yawn?



The post-referendum discussion in full flow. Or maybe just a trickle?



How can treasurer Paul afford expensive Italian lager? Check the books, someone!

2015: Burns' Dinner, Chester Racecourse, 31st January 2015

Burns' Night



See you – if you weren't wearing specs



The treasurer worries about the expenses whilst the events secretary wonders if everyone will fit in.



Some guys are always ready for a good night



Come on Scott. You can give us a smile too. The new man running the Burns night compares notes with Ian Gill, who ran the event for years. Note the bottle of whisky – you need that after addressing the Haggis



Our MP photobombs two unsuspecting guests.



Three men in a bevvy - Mike Martin is the one in the middle.



Nick Jenkins, President of Chester City Club, is welcomed by Fraser Fowlie.



Richard Morrison, Paul Anderson and Robert Lovie. Three fine musicians although Robert Lovie was the main speaker who gave a superb Immortal Memory.



Scott discusses worldly matters with Association's Chaplain, the Rev. Angus Duncan.

2015: Burns' Dinner, continued



The tradition of attending the Burns Night is continued by the Gill family.



Iain McAulay and his guests.



Rory Lea has retired from singing the songs of Robert Burns.



Paul Anderson. The jacket comes off before working his magic fiddle.



Some guys are always ready for a good night.



Our Burns Night is really awesome.



Mr Ed Inglis looking authoritative?



Murray's fetching shade of blue surprises the President.



The Treasurer and the Sheriff of Chester, Councillor Herbert Manley. Wot, no gun?

2015: Burns' Dinner, continued



Scott with top table guests, Nick Jenkins, Rev Angus Duncan, and Major William Banks.



Crown Court Judge Roger Dutton, in the centre, sending down some Caledonian worthies.



Disbelief. "Can Fraser really get that thing to make a noise?"



I'll just take a wee sook on my Hubbly Bubbly before I lead the chain gang in.



Fraser leads the top table in to the room.



Not the liveliest Conga I've seen.



The main speaker, Robert Lovie follows the President to the top table.



That jug was full of whisky a moment ago.



Ed Inglis and his guests before they started on the whisky – the bottles are still full.

2015: Burns' Dinner, continued



Fraser is worried by an imminent attack from a flying haggis that the chef is having problems controlling. The figure on the right is Dugie Gemmill who recited Death and Dr Hornbook.



Great chieftain of the pudding race – the Haggis that is. Ian Gill shows the haggis who is the boss.



Sandy McLennan in full flow as a superb toastmaster.



Just humour him – he's harmless.

2015: The Ceilidh

2015

It is not easy to take care of the arrangements to ensure that a function run smoothly but Angus McSween is a past master at this task. So, on the 27th March, when the guests gathered at Chester Racecourse, everything went very smoothly. They were escorted from the front entrance to a spacious, elegant room in the Leverhume Suite for pre-dinner drinks. The meal was excellent and consisted of Cheshire Pork three ways followed a cheesecake with strawberries.

For many years, the incoming president of Chester Caledonian Association has had the dubious honour of arranging the acts for the evening. This year's victim was Harry Crook, and, for 2015, he certainly succeeded. The only musician from outside the Association was the Mod Gold Medal winner, Calum Macleod, who was quite outstanding with a virtuoso performance on the clarsach and with his songs. Scott Lindsay demonstrated his music mastery of both the highland and lowland pipes. A regular event at the Ceilidh is the traditional Scots poems performed by the Bonnars. This year, they took on us on a mythical journey to Valhalla. Sandy McClennan brought us up to date with some excellent guitar songs including a fine version of Tom Paxton's "Last Thing on My Mind".

Light relief was provided by Sheila Gill with an outstanding poem about the miraculous sexual powers of toenail clippings. Yes, you read that correctly. Finally, the President dragged up memories of Glasgow with Hamish Imlach's "Cod Liver Oil and the Orange juice."

There was something for everyone during the evening and Angus and Harry are to be congratulated in organising a splendid evening.



Rob Marrs is first at the gong



Eating is a serious business

2015: The Ceilidh, continued



Mrs Murdoch in dream-land - where's David?



Caley's Miles better



Help ma boab - what's Ian MacAulay up to?



Mrs Brown tells a tall story.



Just a wee drop more my love!



It's smiling Prof. McClennan again!



Craic around the table.



What's that ladybird doing on Prof Marrs' head?



You'll never believe what David did!



Murray has been asked to be vice-president!



Even more cool people



The Bonners in bonhomie.

2015: The Ceilidh, continued



Sandy Paxton makes a shock comeback



Calum McLeod Mod gold medallist takes us back home



Sheila Gill enjoying herself immensely - where's Ian?



Scott - an unlikely television hit.



Scott - Nearly there



Scott Lindsay climaxing