

Chester Caledonian Association



2013-14: Photo Archive

Mr Jim Lester

2013: Men's Supper, October 2013, Willington Hall

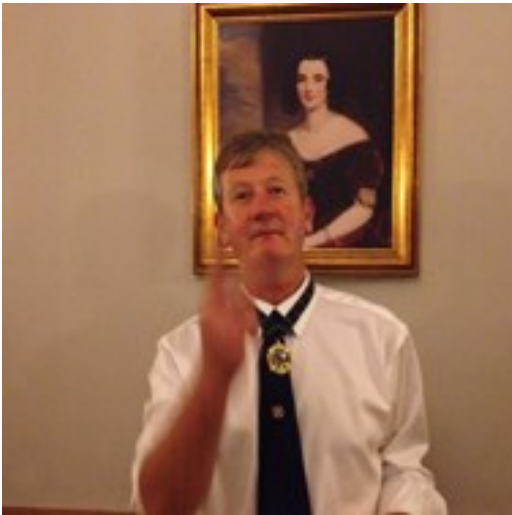
The Great Debate -- Should Scotland Be Independent?

Over 40 members and guests enjoyed an excellent dinner at Willington Hall followed by a lively debate on the issue of Scottish Independence. The dinner menu reflected the evening's entertainment - UK hotch potch broth (our current position), highland venison, Eton Mess with Edinburgh Fog (an obscure political comment here, I think), and loads to drink.

Mike Martin proposed that Scotland should be independent, while David Murdoch, standing in as a late substitute for Ian McAulay, opposed the motion. Both speakers had well-researched economic and political arguments to offer, with a fair amount of fun and an even greater amount of flannel, just like real politicians.

Comments were then invited from the floor, some serious and some downright ridiculous, and a vote was then taken. By about 2 or 3-ish to 1 (nobody actually counted), the unionists won the day and everyone retired to the bar for a proper debate. They say a picture paints a thousand words, so here are a few from the evening. Their slightly fuzzy nature is a true reflection of what the photographer actually saw through his wine-soaked eyes.

2013: Men's Supper, continued



Association President Jim Lester welcomes the guests and orders them to behave during the speeches or they'll be sent home with a letter to their Mums!



Willington host, Simon Begbie, explains the menu and its deep political meaning for those who don't know why they are here.



Mike Martin tries to hypnotise the audience into believing his arguments. "Look into my eyes", he is saying. I wonder if Alex Salmond has tried this?



Mike pretends to be St. Francis of Assisi in an attempt to win over the audience. Or is he just praying that Partick Thistle win tomorrow?



David Murdoch tries to catch the wine waiter's eye in mid speech

2013: Men's Supper, continued



Listening to David, it dawns on Mike that he was talking rubbish all along.



Secretary Ian Gill tries to stop himself bursting into a chorus of Flower of Scotland.



Senior officials of the Association note down voters' names in their little black books.



The vote. Does someone at the back have both hands up?



The "true spirit" of the evening!

2013: St. Andrew's Day Dinner & Ball

Over 100 members and guests gathered at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel and Spa, Chester, for the annual St. Andrew's Day Dinner & Ball. As usual, a highly entertaining evening was enjoyed by all. A champagne reception was followed by an excellent dinner of Scottish salmon, haggis neeps and tatties, pot roast chicken, and chocolate fondant with ice cream. T

he action-packed address to the haggis by treasurer Paul Gordon was the best for many a long year as he nearly stabbed the chef and head waiter with his sgian dubh! Vice-president of the Association, David Murdoch, gave a very professional and polished speech in praise of the ladies and this was acknowledged in equal measure by Edna Lester, wife of Association President Jim Lester, who, with grace and good humour, put the menfolk firmly in their place! As MC, Mike Martin held the whole evening together with his wit and wisdom.

After the obligatory rush for the bar and restrooms, dancing then commenced to the music of the internationally acclaimed Nicol McLaren and the Glenraig Scottish Dance Band from Blairgowrie. The usual tendon-wrenching Eightsome reels, Dashing White Sergeants and Strip the Willows were interspersed with gentler Gay Gordons, Boston Two-Steps, and other favourites and no major injuries were sustained. After the final rendition of Auld Lang Syne everyone went home 'unco happy', and maybe a wee bit fou as well!

2013: St. Andrew's Day Dinner & Ball, continued



The expectant crowd gathers for an evening of eating, drinking and jigging.



A Dashing White Eightsome Reel, or something like that!



A bevy of lovely ladies enjoy a wee bevvy before dinner



This isn't just orange juice you know!



Good food and conversation abound while the ghost of St. Andrew himself tries to make an appearance at the back.



Obviously, didn't like the haggis much!



Association President Jim Lester looks on smugly as wife Edna tells the assembled company what a wonderful husband he is!



President and Mrs Lester limber up gently before the serious whirling begins.

2013: St. Andrew's Day Dinner & Ball, continued



Another go!



These must be professionals. Look at the tilt of the kilt!



That's more like it. Great action shot as Wonderwoman girls in.



Everyone joins in for the traditional Auld Lang Syne at 1.00 a.m. before finally collapsing.

2014: Burns' Dinner



I thought a front row had 3 in iit.



This Irn Bru's great stuff!

2014: The Ceilidh



Prof Sandy reliving his Bohemian days at Glasgow University.



What's that eejit Past President Ed doing with my wife?



If we ignore Fraser perhaps he will stop piping



Rantin Dogs with guest star Scott Lindsay just returned from his world tour in Oban