

Chester Caledonian Association



2011-12: Photo Archive President, Mr Iain McAulay

2011: St Andrew's day Dinner & Ball

The St Andrew's Day dinner on the 19th November returned to the Grosvenor Hotel this year. It was a fantastic evening all-round, with 130 Members and their guests enjoying an evening of superb 5 star food, wines and service from the Grosvenor and their excellent staff.

The evening commenced with a "fizz" reception kindly hosted by Mr Jonathan Slater, Managing Director of the Grosvenor Hotel. The Rev. Angus Duncan kindly gave the Selkirk Grace and after a wonderful dinner, complimented with superb haggis specially acquired from Scotland by the Association, we were entertained by both Fraser Fowlie Vice President and Mrs Sandra McAulay wife of the President who beguiled the audience with her fascinating details of her first meeting with the President. Past President Dugie Gemmill kept the evening moving along in his role as Toastmaster, providing many entertaining asides to the various toasts and ensuring the evening moved along on schedule while making us all laugh in the process! Dr Ian Gill, Hon. Secretary of the Association provided a most impressive "Address the Haggis".

Kenny Thomson and the Wardlaw Scottish Dance Band, who travel down from Dumfries every year, provided the audience with a selection of Scottish Dance music providing a wonderful selection of music for both the entertainment of the audience and music for the dancers. The Eightsome Reel, The Duke of Perth, Rakes of Glasgow and Mrs McLeod of Raasay were some of the dances in which the guests participated. What a terrific scene, a blur of colour as the tartans kilts and ladies dresses whirled round the floor to the wonderful music, you could have been in Edinburgh!

The raffle was provided by the generosity of the members and the many winners went home with some very fine prizes. The evening ended with all the participants forming a large circle, joining hands and singing "AuldLang Syne".

The President thanked everyone for their attendance, the Hotel for the wonderful food and service and the many members who had contributed to the success of the evening. It was just great to be back at the Grosvenor!

Iain McAulay, President

2011: St Andrew's day Dinner & Ball continued



Prof & Mrs Rob Marrs with guests Paul & Judith Whiteway



A group of guests enjoying the Grosvenor's hospitality



The Lady Mayor with a group of Caledonian Association members



President Iain with Mrs Gemmill and Sandra MacAulay, a welcome to the Ball.

2011: St Andrew's day Dinner & Ball continued



The Top Table, piped in to the tune
"Lochanside"



Jim Lester and friends



Mrs Helen Martin, Past president Mike
Martin and the Lady Mayor



Dr Ian Gill and friends



Fraser Fowlie with Sandra MacAulay, the
Lady Mayor and consort, and Mrs Fowlie



Olga and Angus MacSween sharing a joke
with a guest

2011: St Andrew's day Dinner & Ball continued



Gordon & Kate Clements with the Treasurer and his wife, Mr and Mrs Paul Gordon



The Top Table Ensemble pose for the camera



Isla, Mrs Lindsay along with Ed and Irene Inglis



Mr and Mrs Martin (Immediate Past President) along with Iain (President) and Sandra MacAulay



Harry Crook with Partner and guests



President Iain with his wife Sandra, welcoming guests



A smiling group of guests enjoying a "wee" refreshment!



A happy group pose for the camera.

2012: Burns' Dinner

We celebrated our 127th anniversary with 230 guests attending a highly successful Burns Supper at the Racecourse. It was a night to remember, we were pleased to welcome a photographer from Cheshire Life to take some pictures of the event for their March edition of the magazine.

The audience were captivated by the varied selection of entertainers, pipe music, and songs, piano and fiddle music. The recitations were quite exceptional and despite 230 men enjoying a wee 'deoch an dorus' or two you could hear a 'pin drop' while Tam O'Shanter was recited.

The evening commenced with our Past President Scott Lindsay entertaining arriving visitors with a grand selection of Scottish tunes while the President and Vice President welcomed guests to the Racecourse. The Rev. Angus Duncan delivered the Selkirk Grace while our most able Toastmaster Prof. Rob Marrs introduced the evening. Stuart Middleton delivered a most excellent "address to the haggis" getting the evening off to a great start. The President gave the Loyal toast, "The Queen" and the assembled gathering enjoyed an excellent dinner. Captain Nick Zorab from the Royal Welch acknowledged the Toast to Her Majesty's Forces.

Our singer Bruce Davies from Glenrothes was in fine voice and entertained us with "There was a lad!", "Scots wha hae", while Paul Anderson from Tarland our fiddler played "Tom Lea's Rant" and a fiddle melody in sparkling fashion. We are all delighted to see these two very fine musicians back with us once more to provide such fabulous entertainment, ably assisted by their accompanist Ian Hastie.

Our Association was absolutely delighted to welcome Mr Chris Rollie from Ayrshire who has written books on Burns and given the Immortal Memory at many prestigious events such as the London Caledonian Club, City of New York and now the Chester Caledonian Association. Chris presented to us the most passionate Immortal Memory of Robert Burns quoting many samples from Burn's work and highlighting points of particular interest his sincere admiration of the work of Burns shared by many in the audience. We were fortunate to hear such a wonderful Immortal Memory presented with such fervent passion.

President Depute and Past President Don Duncan followed with what can only be described as one of the finest renderings of "Tam O'Shanter" that this Burn's Dinner has ever had the good fortune to hear, it was outstanding! It was an honour to be in the company of Don Duncan on Saturday, what a wonderful presentation of Robert Burns tale of witches and warlocks, quite brilliant.

2012: Burns' Dinner continued

Past President Sandy McLennan proposed a most entertaining “The Land we live in and “The Visitors” with a fine response from Councillor Mike Jones, Leader Cheshire West and Chester Council. Before Mr Kenny Fleming entertained us with the toast to “The Land O’Cakes and the CCA” we heard some more stirring music from Bruce and Paul, the audience clearly enjoyed these most talented musicians.

With Ian Hastie on the piano we were on our feet, some just managed to get a foot onto the dining table to the tune of ‘Scotland Yet’, a grand traditional gesture!

Our top table guests included Rev. Canon Howell-Jones, Mr Ian O’Doherty, President, Europe Card Services, Bank of America, Mr John Newton-Jones, Chairman Chester and North Wales Chamber of Commerce, Captain Nick Zorab, Royal Welsh, Prof. Timothy Wheeler, Vice Chancellor and Principal of the University of Chester and Councillor Jones. We were also delighted that our local Chester MP Mr Stephen Mosley was also in attendance.

As President I attempted to sum up what had been an outstanding evening. The evening closed with all 230 joining hands in Auld Lang Syne, a ‘cracking’ evening was had by one and all!

Iain McAulay - President