Scottish Society Abu Dhabi Committee Meeting Agenda

Date: 30th March
Location: Online Zoom/Team
Time: 7pm

Present: Jane, JP, Amy, Sean, David, Kelly, Kerry

1. Welcome

The meeting opened with a brief welcome introduction and a reflection by individual committee members on how everyone was feeling during the current UAE situation of alerts and missile attacks

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- The meeting minutes from 26 January were approved and seconded by Sean and Amy
- There were no matters arising from the minutes out with those on the agenda

3. Financial Update

- Not much to update in the financial situation since last meeting.
- Membership cards have been purchased
- Estimated balance: **75K–80K**.
- Confirm whether the statement of accounts had been shared

  Action: Sean to **confirm and circulate updated accounts** to the group within the week.

4. Membership Update

- Current paid membership stands at **90 members**.
- This is a decrease from approximately **120 members prior to New Year**.
- Committee agreed this remains a **positive position considering current events**.

5 Boat Party Feedback

5.1 Overall Feedback

- Event was very well received and widely enjoyed.
- Agreed it is worth repeating, potentially in late October.
- Atmosphere described as relaxed and low-pressure.

5.2 Catering & Sponsorship

- Special thanks recorded to Colin for providing excellent catering.
- Colin is willing to support future small events with catering.
- Thanks also noted to JP for sponsorship and supply of beverages.
- Remaining stock (2 boxes of Heinekan) retained for future events.

5.3 Suggestions for Improvement

- Consider DJ instead to change it up a bit
- Explore alternative locations, e.g., Yas Island, to give variety and accessibility

6. The Chieftain's Ceilidh (May Event)

6.1 Current Status

- Original large-scale event deemed **too high risk** due to:
    - Travel uncertainty and current restrictions.
    - Band flights availability, and insurance concerns.
- Committee agreed it is **not viable in its current format**.
- VOGO hotel to be informed of cancellation but this should not be an issue as there was no contractual agreement signed.

6.2. Revised Plan

- It was agreed to plan for hosting a smaller, lower-risk event at the club instead.
- Benefits:
    - Reduced cost and complexity.
    - Ease of arranging at fairly short notice
    - Strengthens relationship with the club.
    - Greater flexibility under current conditions

6.3 Event Format

- To be held in The Club, Main Hall
- Similar set up to previous Ceilidh
- No Whisky Majilis
- Consider placing a smaller stage at the opposite end to the Main Hall stage so that maximum capacity for tables and seating can be retained.
- Comfortable capacity: 90 guests
- Maximum capacity: 110 guests (capped)
- Buffet or finger food (menu to be requested from the Club
- Ticket price for food only (to be determined)
- Pay-as-you-go drinks (preferred over package)
- Possible small raffle (low-scale fundraising)

6.4 Follow Up Actions

- **Sean** to contact Dev at the Club regarding:
    - Availability (target date: **16th May**).
    - To have them send over a suggested finger food menu
    - Meeting to discuss early next week
- **Jane** to contact band (Sandstorm, Dubai-based) and confirm availability and costs
- **Committee** to view Instagram or you tube for their suitability for ceilidh-style event
- **David** to provide back up for dancing if the band is unavailable

7. Societies Quiz

- Planned for **1st May** at Victor's.
- Awaiting confirmation from organiser (Trevor).
- **Action**: ~Jane to follow up and once we confirm with Trevor regarding advertising we will go ahead with promotion and team recruitment.
- Suggestion of 6 per team with as many teams as desired but only 2 teams are the scoring teams from each nationality

8. Societies' Pool Competition

- No further information – should have been 27th March but it did not go ahead

9. St Andrew's Ball (November event~)

9.1 Venue

Due to current situation and the cancellation of the Chieftain's Ceilidh there was a strong preference to return to the Marriot Al Forsan for the St Andrew's event

- Overall it was a positive prior experience.
- Better financial value compared to alternative venues.
- Better communication from Jana

9.2 Date

- **21st November** unavailable due to scheduling conflicts with Off Limits Festival.
- Committee agreed preferred date: **14th November**.

9.3 Planning

- Kelly has already initiated discussions with the venue.
- Further engagement from committee required to:
    - Confirm availability of the date
    - Confirm Whisky Kiss availability

- Provide structured feedback regarding service from previous event
- Potentially improve on the quote since hospitality venues may need our business in the current uncertainty.

Action: Kelly to follow up with Jana at Al Forsan

10. Any Other Business (AOB)

AGM

- Date – Tuesday 9th June
- Time – 7pm
- Location – JP to request PJ's upstairs
- Constitution review – Kerry has not yet done the review – soft copy to be sent from Jane

Date of Next Meeting.

Monday 13th April 7pm