

Scottish Society of Abu Dhabi

Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 4th ~May 2026

Location: The Club

Present: Jane Taylor : Chieftain, JP , David, Kerry, Sean, Amy :

Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that it had been some time since the committee had met in person due to the current geopolitical situation and round table chat about how everyone was doing.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved by the committee.

- Proposed by: Amy
- Seconded by: Sean

Financial Update

The Treasurer advised that there had been no significant financial changes since the previous meeting and no recent outgoing expenditure.

Income from Ceilidh ticket sales has not yet been received but is expected shortly. Current forecasts for the Ceilidh are based on approximately:

- 40 member tickets
- 70 non-member tickets
- Projected profits from ticket sales and raffle income could generate approximately AED 16,000 overall.
- Raffle pricing: agreed that the higher raffle ticket price introduced at previous events had worked successfully.
- Strong raffle prizes continue to encourage participation regardless of ticket price.
- Future sponsorship opportunities, particularly in preparation for the St Andrew's Ball where sponsorship support will be increasingly important due to rising event costs.
- Redesign sponsorship packages Is required for future use.

Membership Update

Membership activity has remained relatively quiet since the last meeting, with only one new member joining.

Due to the current geopolitical situation, the committee acknowledged that there had been limited recent events and publicity which meant slower membership growth. Current membership remains at approximately 90 members.

The Chieftain's Ceilidh

The committee reviewed final preparations for the Chieftain's Ceilidh.

Raffle Prizes Confirmed

The following raffle prizes were confirmed:

- £150 voucher from Gary McDuff
- AED 250 gift box
- Artwork print donated by Kerry
- Overnight stay with breakfast from Southern Sun
- Two Trackman golf sessions
- The event poster is currently being finalised before wider release and promotion beyond the members' group in the coming week.

Catering

The updated menu was confirmed, including:

- Mac and cheese balls
- Mini bacon rolls
- Sausage rolls
- Onion bhajis
- Vegetable pakora

Desserts include:

- Cranachan tablet
- Brownies

Ticket Sales & Attendance

- Increasing promotion needed to ensure strong attendance.
- It was agreed that publicity would be expanded when the flyer is ready through social media, WhatsApp groups and the club.
- Digital ticketing with receipts on request

- A minimum attendance figure of approximately 30–50 guests was considered necessary to create a suitable atmosphere and make the event financially viable.
- Manage expectations around the event style, ensuring guests understood the Ceilidh would be a relaxed and informal evening rather than a formal ball.

Event Timing

The provisional running order was confirmed:

- Doors open: 6:30pm
- Ceilidh dancing begins: approximately 7:00pm
- Raffle draw: 10:00pm
- Last drinks orders: 12:15am
- Event close: 1:00am

If the evening isn't required to run as late as 1 am it can be a judgement call as previously the raffle was called and people began to leave. The running order still needs to be finalised with timings for breaks between sets.

Kelly and Amy to co-ordinate with laptops/music and David to call dances.

The AGM

The committee discussed arrangements for the upcoming AGM. Potential venues were considered.

The AGM date was confirmed as Monday 8th June and venue is still to be confirmed.

The Constitution was reviewed and several edits were made in the draft constitution for confirmation at the AGM

St Andrew's Ball

Initial discussions took place regarding planning for the St Andrew's Ball.

The committee noted that sponsorship will be particularly important for this event due to increasing costs associated with entertainment, accommodation and event logistics.

Further planning and sponsorship outreach will continue and date confirmation with the Marriott Al Forsan.

World Cup Updates

World Cup collaboration with Victors was confirmed and the scheduling for the first match on June 14th was confirmed. Flyer to be circulates as soon as received.

Website

The website updates were almost completed.

Improved marketing and online promotion would be beneficial ahead of upcoming events.

AOB

- No additional business

Next Meeting: Monday 11th (online)