Scottish Society Abu Dhabi Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday 15 June
Time: 7:00 pm

Venue: Meeting Room, The Club, Abu Dhabi

Present

Jane, Kerry L. Smith (Secretary), Alan Smith, Amy, Heather, Kerry Smith, Sean, Kelly

*For clarity: Kerry L. Smith is recorded as **KerryL** and Kerry Smith as **KerryS**.*

1. Welcome

The Chieftain welcomed everyone and a round table introduction as the new committee introduced themselves.

2. Previous Minutes

- Previous meeting minutes require two amendments JP and David weren't there, and it was online Amended minutes will be recirculated.

3. Membership Report

- Current membership stands at **90 members**.
- Amy and Sean will reconcile any outstanding membership payments.
- Membership growth has slowed due to the lack of recent events.
- Sponsorship information should be refreshed and shared to add value to membership.
- For the moment coming back in September – welcome back message to be distributed via social media and try to encourage attendance
- Amy to make up a flyer with details to distribute
- Risk that people may not renew if there are not any more things the rest of the year – we need to plan events that are sustainable in the current situation
- Irish Society will send Amy the package they will use for electronic membership cards– something around 1500 per year – balances against the cost of physical cards at 900 follow up at next meeting
- Amy will set up a meeting once she has the details
- Anticipated benefits: Discounts are easier, as members can easily show their card at venues; renewals will be easier; possibility to add membership cards to phone wallet perhaps?

Actions

- **Amy & Sean:** Confirm membership list and that payments are the same for both of your lists.
- **KerryS:** Promote upcoming World Cup fixtures on social media.

- **Amy:** Design a September "Welcome Back" membership flyer.
- **Jane:** Seek information from the Irish Society regarding banking arrangements.
- **Amy:** Arrange a meeting regarding electronic membership cards after receiving information from the Irish Society.

Discussion covered electronic membership cards, which may improve renewals, venue discounts and digital accessibility despite the higher annual cost.

4. Financial Report

- Financial position remains unchanged from the AGM report last week.
- All Ceilidh refunds have now been completed.
- Jane to submit one outstanding expense receipts to Sean.
- Discussion took place regarding the St Andrew's Ball deposit and balancing financial commitment against current uncertainties. (see below)

Actions

- **Jane:** Submit expense receipts.
- **Sean:** Arrange payment of approved commitments.

5. World Cup Events

The Haiti match was well attended (approximately 180 attendees) and received positive feedback from Victors.

Discussion focused on future sporting events to increase Society membership.

Agreed actions included:

- Continue using social media to promote fixtures.
- Produce updated promotional flyers.
- Encourage membership by sharing information flyers during matches.
- Potentially offer a reduced **AED 50** membership for the remainder of the year.
- Retain **Victors** as the Society's regular 'Home' venue for football and future sporting events.
- Send Flyers out again - new flyer needed as the Q & A was cancelled
- Next event is a weekday morning – cannot have alcohol on the tables between 3 and 4 in the morning
- Prices for next game – request to revise the prices of the roll and sausage Roll with all three was 99 with a pint – roll and 3 house drinks 149 package.

Actions

- **Jane:** updated promotional flyer if required.
- **Amy:** Provide Kelly with some membership cards for match-day recruitment.
- Promote upcoming fixtures via social media.

6. September Family Ceilidh

Date: Saturday 19 September

The committee discussed ticket pricing, catering arrangements and event format.

Agreements:

- Event to remain family-friendly (approximately 5:00–9:00 pm, subject to confirmation).
- Members: **AED 50**
- Non-members: **AED 75**
- Food and drinks to be purchased separately using tokens.
- Menu to be confirmed with the Club
- Event licence approx. 1000 AED required before the event tickets are sold. Sean to arrange with Club
- Discount only applies to SSAD members not Club members

Several operational details, including catering arrangements and final pricing, will be confirmed at the next meeting.

Actions

- **Sean:** Confirm catering/token arrangements and arrange licence payment.
- Confirm David's availability as caller and offer free tickets.

7. Welcome Back Quiz

A joint event with the Irish Society and St George's Society remains under consideration. (date to be confirmed

8. St Andrew's Ball

Date: Friday 20 November

Key discussion points:

- Deposit payment required while monitoring current risk.
- Booked but deposit 4635 AED needs to be paid by 25th May but not yet paid – pay the deposit but hold on the flights
- 7000 on 15th August.
- Sean to clarify cancellation terms with the hotel.
- Booking – Emirates and Etihad are giving their own travel insurance.
- Flight ticket – ensure we include transport through to Abu Dhabi to the hotel and ensure that Emirates flight to transfer them all on same flight and back
- Do we need to see if the hotel has a conflict clause in case we need to change dates for the hotel

- Flights and accommodation for the band remain on hold prior to booking and confirmation that the event is to go ahead.
- We need to book flights as we aren't partnering with Dubai this time
- Sponsorship and raffle prizes will be revisited in August. We have no sponsorship right now
- Event licence must be approved before tickets go on sale.
- Proposed ticket price: **AED 435**.
- Feedback from previous event to be shared with the hotel regarding service on the night so improvements are made for this event.
- Menu and menu suggestion needs to be done – one starter that covers everyone – make it easier

Actions

- **Sean:** Contact Jana regarding cancellation terms.
- **Jane:** Liaise with the band regarding travel arrangements.
- Committee to organise menu tasting and hotel liaison.

9. Website

Website update deferred to the next meeting.

- JP continues website development.

10. Any Other Business

Social Media

- Launch of the new website (pending updates at the next committee meeting) will be supported through social media.
- KerryS to be added as an administrator for members' social media pages.

Events

- Surplus refreshments from the Boat Party were donated to The Club staff for their summer event.
- Thanks were recorded to Victors for hosting the AGM.
- Six Nations 7th February.

- Amy is exploring opportunities for a Celtic Games event Amy speaking with Alisa – Celtic Games in February at the West Bay and organising races, swim race, and highland games style events

Sponsorship

- Air Arabia has expressed interest in sponsorship opportunities, and a minimum we would suggest to them of 2 x flight tickets for Sharjah – Gatwick return

- Sponsorship for the St Andrew's Ball will be revisited in August.

Committee Contacts

New committee email addresses were noted. [redacted] [redacted]

Meeting Closed 8:47 pm

Further sporting events

- 6 Nations Feb 5th
- Ramadan Feb 7th

New committee members email addresses

Meeting closed 8.47 m