

The 2015 Robert Burns World Federation Conference report

This year the annual World Federation Conference was held once more in the Peebles Hydro Hotel in Scotland from September 4 – 6th. The Registration was on the Friday afternoon at the same time as the Federation Shop opening with a selection of items for sale. This year these included a number of donated items that were available through a silent auction, which concluded on the Saturday. Burnsians

from abroad travelled from Australia and Canada.



The Friday evening provided a reception followed by a meal and then a ceilidh. The entertainment provided was most enjoyable and well received – particularly the singing provided by the **five members of the Calgary Burns Club Singers** who were present and constituted the

Canadian Contingent this year..

Joe McGinty acted as MC again and kept the evening moving along in his own inimitable style with performances from Angus Middleton (The Sodger's Return), Martin Cassidy, Peter Hughes, Bobby Kane, Ian McIntyre (the new Junior Vice-President), Margaret Anderson and **Jane Brown {on the right}**



Saturday saw the AGM properly and efficiently conducted under President Jim Thomson. With the attention of the

Directors firmly focused on the Financial Management Plan discussed at last year's AGM the operating loss has been reduced from £34,000 by over £30,000 with every likelihood that the Federation should break even in this coming financial year. All the other reports were well received and the new Office Bearers

were announced along with the election of the new Junior Vice-President Ian McIntyre. Finally it was confirmed that the 2016 AGM and Conference would be held again at the Peebles Hydro Hotel from September 9th – 11th, 2016.

Saturday afternoon saw a presentation from Professor Gerard Carruthers discussing how Robert Burns' influence was used by both sides in the referendum in 2015. The evening saw the Inaugural Dinner when **the new Office Bearers were invested** in front of all members and guests present; President Peter Hughes, Senior Vice-President Bobby Kane, Junior Vice-President Ian McIntyre and of course Past President Jim Thomson. After the speeches and toasts the evening concluded with Burns' own Auld Lang Syne.



The Conference concluded on Sunday with a non-denominational Church Service.