



**Minute of the Annual General Meeting
held on
30 September 2017 at the Caird Hall, Dundee**

1. The President, the Earl of Lindsay, took the Chair, supported by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Sir Moir Lockhead, the Trust Secretary and senior staff, and in the presence of 116 members of the Trust in attendance. For the first time, the meeting was being live streamed to the general public through the Trust's website.

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME AND PRELIMINARIES

2. The President extended a warm welcome to members to the 2017 Annual General Meeting (the 'meeting') of the National Trust for Scotland. Following her appointment in July, the President introduced Mrs Louise Page, Director of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer, to the members. Mrs Page has exceptional financial and corporate experience, which will be of great value to the Trust. The President also welcomed Mr Steve Langmead, explaining that he had been co-opted to the Board of Trustees with effect from the end of the meeting. Mr Langmead brings with him impressive business skills gained in both the public and private sectors.
3. The President wished to thank Mr Stuart Maxwell, General Manager, and the staff and volunteers present from the Arran and Ayrshire operational region for the showcase of displays demonstrating the breadth and diversity of what the Trust has to offer in the area.
4. The President asked the Trust Secretary, Mr Stephen Small, to note the apologies given for the meeting. Mr Small recorded an apology on behalf of Mr Steve Langmead, Trustee. On behalf of the members, Mr Small noted apologies from Mr Mike Makower and Mr John Knight.

MINUTE OF 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

'To approve the minute of the Annual General Meeting held at the Albert Halls, Stirling, on 24 September 2016.'

5. The President called for any amendments to the minute of the meeting held at the Albert Halls, Stirling, on 24 September 2016. The President noted that the Trust Secretary, Mr Small, had access to an audio recording of the meeting to check any queries.

6. There being no amendments to the minute, Mr Peter Ord proposed and Sir Peter Erskine seconded the adoption of the minute of the 2016 Annual General Meeting. The minute was formally approved by a show of hands from the members.

ANNUAL REVIEW AND ACCOUNTS 2016/17

To consider the adoption of the 86th Annual Review and Accounts.'

7. The President welcomed the Chairman to the podium.
8. As the Trust's Annual General Meeting is held so long after the conclusion of its last full financial year (1 March 2016 to 28 February 2017), the President reported that a broader perspective would be presented to take into account the fact that the Trust was already more than halfway through the current financial year for 2017/18.
9. Following the Chairman's perspective, the President reported that Mr Simon Skinner would deliver his Chief Executive's report before hearing from the Chief Financial Officer, Mrs Louise Page.

CHAIRMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

10. The Chairman, Sir Moir Lockhead, addressed the members.
11. The Chairman was pleased to report that since the last Annual General Meeting the Trust had successfully delivered a full range of projects and initiatives to protect, conserve and promote the best of Scotland's heritage. This had been achieved amid the Trust's transition to devolve activities and expertise to local regional structures.
12. Looking back over the past year, the Chairman reflected on the Trust's 85th anniversary since its formation. Recognising that the Trust continues to play a vital role in protecting many of Scotland's greatest assets, he hoped that the Trust's impact and reach could touch and be understood by more people. This would mean engaging with more young people and making the Trust's properties places where you can have fun and actively want to visit. This would have to be achieved by commercialisation of the Trust's assets to ultimately allow the organisation's conservation plans to be delivered.
13. Over the course of the year, the Chairman was privileged to visit a great number of the Trust's properties including St Kilda, Inverewe and Culzean Castle & Country Park to name but a few.

14. With great sadness, the Chairman noted the passing of Mr Tam Dalyell and Miss Caroline Vevers since the last Annual General Meeting. Mr Dalyell, whose family had given the House of the Binns to the Trust, passed away in January. His memorial service was a true celebration of his life, which had been lived to the full and for a great purpose. Tam would be missed. Miss Vevers, a former employee and volunteer, had passed away earlier that month. She was remembered for carrying out exemplary work repairing one of the guardbooks from Robert Smail's Printing Works.
15. Finally, the Chairman thanked the members for their continued support. He also thanked the Board of Trustees, the Chief Executive and senior staff for their hard work and commitment over the last year.
16. The President thanked the Chairman.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

17. The Chief Executive, Mr Simon Skinner, addressed the members.
18. Mr Skinner reported that shortly after the 2016 Annual General Meeting, the Board of Trustees approved a proposal to organise the Trust around its properties. With a busy year behind him, Mr Skinner was pleased to confirm that this had been achieved. The Trust now has six built heritage regions (each led by a General Manager) and a single nationwide natural heritage department. Operations have also been further decentralised by moving specialist support services out of head office and into the regions. Mr Skinner demonstrated how the changes work in practice across the Ayrshire and Arran region, as well as introducing two Priority Projects at Culzean Castle & Country Park and Brodick Castle, Garden & Country Park.
19. Culzean Castle had undergone an initial £2.5m investment programme to improve access and visitor facilities. The property would see further investment in the years to come. Although Brodick Castle was currently closed to members to allow new fire protection systems to be fitted, Mr Skinner reported that the opening of the new play park 'Isle be Wild' was proving popular. The property would see a total of £2m being invested.
20. The support of local communities, volunteers and Members' Centres would continue to be important to the Trust within the new regional structures. Although the Regional Groups would not continue in their current state, a new bespoke arrangement to meet local needs would be created. Mr Skinner thanked the members of the Regional Groups and their Chairs, Mr John Loveday, Mr Tony Brightman, Mr Bob Wilson and Mr John Duncan, for their time and support, particularly for the Local Assemblies that had been held over the years.

21. Mr Skinner took the opportunity to thank the Friends of Robert Burns Birthplace Museum for the £30,000 donation that they raised towards the restoration of the Burns Monument in Alloway.
22. Across the rest of the portfolio and Priority Projects, Mr Skinner highlighted that £2.4m would be invested at Newhailes to restore the curtilage of the house including the ha ha, lawns and gardens, as well as a bespoke play facility. A further £2.8m had been invested at Brodie Castle to create the Playful Garden within the walled garden. The new garden would draw upon the late Ninian Brodie's mischievous character as well as the history of the castle.
23. Looking ahead, Mr Skinner reported that the Trustees were already considering the next tranche of Priority Project investments. The Trust plans on spending around £5m to save the Hill House. The property was so cutting edge in its design that the Portland cement render used on the exterior of the building was untested. Since its completion in 1904, moisture has penetrated the render and saturated the walls. The Charles Rennie Mackintosh masterpiece will be encased by a big 'box' to allow the building to dry out and a long-term solution to be identified. Mr Skinner hoped that the Trust would receive the support of its members and contributions from other third-party funders to help save the Hill House. There would be further priority investment at Glenfinnan Monument, the Georgian House, the House of Dun and Glencoe in due course. Mr Skinner reported that the Trust planned on spending c£17m of capital on Priority Projects until 2019/20. This significant level of investment was only possible because of the restructure and the freeing up of resources it had and would continue to achieve.
24. Looking back over the past year, Mr Skinner highlighted other conservation achievements to the members including: the opening of Inverewe House; the restoration of the front door of Burns Cottage; the steadfast donations from the USA and Canada Foundations amounting to £170,000 which made conservation on the Glenfinnan Monument possible; and, with a generous gift from Holt Massey, a US donor, the completion and reinstatement of an Alexander 'Greek' Thomson-designed frieze in the dining room of Holmwood House. Project Reveal, a new initiative to gather information on the objects and collections at 47 of the Trust's properties, would for the first time give the Trust a comprehensive register of its collections. The data would take around 18 months to collect and would provide new ways to present the artefacts digitally and make them more accessible and available to more people. Mr Skinner reported that the project would cost £1.3m.
25. Mr Skinner concluded his presentation by noting the significant and intense year of change for the Trust – change that is necessary to provide a future for the Trust for members to enjoy and enrich generations to come.

26. The President thanked Mr Skinner and welcomed Mrs Louise Page, Director of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer to the podium.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER – THE TRUST’S FINANCIAL POSITION

27. The Chief Financial Officer, Mrs Louise Page, addressed the members and introduced the financial statements of the Trust for the financial year 2016/17.

28. Mrs Page highlighted the following matters: for the 19th consecutive year the Trust had successfully grown its membership, now over 366,000 members; the General Income Fund had increased to £37.5m, an increase of £11.3m over the year and significantly higher than the £21m target reserves level; overall expenditure (£54.6m) had been higher than revenue (£50m), meaning that there was an operating deficit (before investment gains and losses) for the year of £4m; an 11% increase in visitors over the year; a reduction in legacy income by £3.7m in the year; £2.6m one-off restructuring costs; and £25.7m of investment gains in the year (due to stock market valuation increases).

29. Mrs Page provided an income comparison over the 2016/17 year and the previous year, 2015/16. She reported that: membership income was up by £1.2m to £14.6m; legacy income was down, and although unpredictable in nature the Trust was lucky to have received a number of generous bequests over the year; commercial income was up by £100,000 (from retail, catering, events and cruise income); and property income had increased by £1.4m, largely as a result of paying visitors and the impact of price increases at some of the properties. In terms of expenditure, Mrs Page reported that the biggest element of the £54.6m related to property operating costs (£25.5m), a similar figure to the previous year.

30. Mrs Page explained that the net expenditure (adjusted for non-operating costs and excluding conservation, repairs and maintenance) showed an operational deficit of £2.3m.

31. Mrs Page reported on operations in the current financial year (2017/18). She explained that results were in line with the budget and although the revenue position was better than the previous year at this point, total expenses were higher. This was largely a result of increased cost of sales related to increases in retail and catering income. Mrs Page also reported that the General Income Fund had increased since the end of February to a balance of £41m, but explained that this would reduce as it would be used to help fund investment in systems and conservation, repairs and maintenance.

32. Mrs Page summarised that the Trust's finances had stabilised but were not yet in a position where all the properties are operationally self-sustainable.

33. The President thanked Mrs Page.

AUDITOR'S STATEMENT

34. The President welcomed Ms Janet Hamblin of RSM UK Audit LLP to the podium to present the auditor's statement.

35. Ms Hamblin reported that RSM UK Audit LLP had satisfactorily completed the audit of the financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2017. She explained that the audit was completed in accordance with international standards on auditing and practice note 11, which sets out the points that auditors must consider when auditing charity accounts in the UK. As highlighted by Mrs Page, Ms Hamblin recognised that the Trust had undergone a significant period of change and was pleased to see that the core controls had been maintained and a clear direction set for the future. Ms Hamblin was pleased to confirm that the Trust had received an unqualified audit report for the financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2017.

FINANCIAL QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

36. The President opened the meeting up to the first of three question and answer sessions. The President welcomed any questions on the Trust's finances from the members.

37. There were no questions from the members present.

ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REVIEW AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

38. The President called for the adoption of the Annual Review and Annual Accounts for 2016/17. Mr Ian Doig proposed the resolution and Mr Keith Griffiths seconded it. The resolution was approved on a show of hands by the members present.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

'The Trustees will propose RSM UK Audit LLP, Chartered Accountants, First Floor, Quay 2, 139 Fountainbridge, Edinburgh EH3 9QG be appointed as the Trust's Auditors.'

39. Mr Ian Doig, Chair of the Audit and Risk Management Committee, proposed that RSM UK Audit LLP, Chartered Accountants, First Floor, Quay 2, 139 Fountainbridge, Edinburgh EH3 9QG be reappointed as external auditors of the Trust. The resolution was seconded by Mrs Caroline Borwick and approved on a show of hands by the members present.
40. The President confirmed that RSM UK Audit LLP had been formally reappointed as the Trust's external auditors.

GENERAL QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

41. The President opened the meeting up to the second question and answer session. The President welcomed questions from the members.
42. Mr Scott Wilson, a former member of Council and former member of the Trust's Gardens and Designed Landscapes Advisory Panel, questioned the Trust's installation of play parks. Although there are some properties where this is entirely suitable, he questioned whether this is the right way forward for more traditional landscapes of rural reflection. It was Mr Wilson's view that play parks are not the only way to get families to visit the Trust's properties and that the Trust should consider different models in its thinking. Mr Wilson sought assurance from the management that there is an assessment of appropriateness of play park facilities at Trust properties before they are commissioned. Mr Simon Skinner explained that of the six Priority Projects that had received investment, a range of options had been considered to determine how best to increase visitor numbers. Family amenity is a way of bringing new audiences that the Trust can then engage with, tell the stories of its buildings and landscapes and achieve the Trust's heritage objectives. Mr Skinner stated the Trust is careful in its approach so as not to over-commercialise or 'Disneyfy' its operation or the experience. Although this phase of investment was to give better access to the properties and more immediate visitor amenities and attractions, such as the play parks, Mr Skinner reassured Mr Wilson that there would also be Priority Project expenditure on conservation and restoration in the next phase of investment. In addition, there had also been a review of the Trust's gardens, which would see and recognise the importance of Trust gardens and designed landscapes.
43. Mr Kenneth Cox, also a former member of the Trust's Gardens and Designed Landscapes Advisory Panel, explained that he found it difficult to find details or information of a strategic nature on the Trust's website. Although he could see some minutes from 2014, there was nothing newer to review. He stated that the transparency of the Trust is very important. Mr Stephen Small confirmed that the meetings of the Board and its minutes were not public and had never been published. What had been published in 2014 was a

summary of key decisions, and although this had not been continued the Trust may review the merit in publishing and communicating Board decisions in the future.

44. Mr William Cairns wished to applaud the management on the successful implementation of the restructure. Following the 2016 AGM, he was concerned that the preponderous number of organograms used to explain the restructure would not come together in practice and on the ground. He was content that, following Mr Skinner's earlier presentation, that the new structure had been clarified. Mr Skinner agreed that organograms were boring and not real, and that the success of the structure was down to the people who occupy the positions. Behind the organograms was the desire to bring in new competencies and skills, and to take the Trust forward and achieve the strategy that was being put in place.
45. Mr Philip Lawson, a volunteer at Kellie Castle, questioned whether any properties are on a danger list for possible closure given that not all properties are self-sufficient and sustainable. Mr Skinner addressed the question. He clarified that the Trust would never be in a position where all of its properties are able to generate sufficient income to cover themselves. Only seven of the Trust's visited properties have endowments large enough to generate income, of which only one breaks even. Where possible, the Trust needs to recognise where a reduction in the operating deficit can be made. Mr Skinner reported that the changes are ultimately being made in order to keep properties open, and hopefully in the future to take on new heritage assets.
46. Ms Patricia Coelho, a volunteer at Hill of Tarvit, was concerned over a proposal that she had heard to close Gladstone's Land in Edinburgh. Mr Skinner confirmed that the Trust is exploring options and looking at different ways that the property and its stories could be presented to the public. There are no plans to close the property and Gladstone's Land will be open to the public in the spring of 2018 in the same guise that is currently presented to members. Mr Skinner explained that only two floors of the building are open to the public. The heritage significance of the property is the building and its painted ceilings. Options are being explored to best determine its use and how to attract a greater footfall of visitors from the Royal Mile, and whether there are other management arrangements that could be implemented. A solution has not yet been identified.
47. The President asked Mr Stephen Small to read out the questions from the members who submitted questions in writing either in advance of the meeting (by close of business on Wednesday 27 September 2017) or at the meeting.

48. Mr Small read out a question from Mrs Sheila McNeill in relation to Geilston House and Garden. Mrs McNeill asked that a tearoom be provided at the garden in order to increase visitor numbers and generate income to avoid the future threat of the property being closed. She suggested that funds could be raised through a special appeal, crowdfunding or other source of funding application. Mr Skinner stated that a tearoom is an excellent idea and that it will be fed into the review to be undertaken with the Friends of Geilston from November 2017 to see what can be done to keep the garden open to the public.
49. Mr Small read out a question from Dr Ronald MacLean, a member present at the meeting, who wished to know what the position is in relation to Canna. Mr Skinner reported that in 2013/14 a management plan was developed in conjunction with the Community Development Trust. The plan focuses on: the conservation of the house and its collections; access to the island, including the harbour and the tracks in terms of tourism; and ensuring that the partnership set up to consider the community's needs is best supported. The management of the island as a Hebridean community and the conservation of the property is a balancing act that the Trust has to manage together with the community.
50. Mr Small read out a question from Mr Alistair Massey, a member present at the meeting. Mr Massey wished to know why outdated technology for payment cards is being used at Culloden. Mr Skinner explained that there are antiquated systems, both for member data and till support systems. An Electronic Point of Sale (EPOS) system is being rolled out across the Trust and this will be further supported by a programme of Wi-Fi installation to bring the Trust into the 21st century.
51. Mr Small read out the last question from the floor from Professor Peter J M Bartos. He asked that with such a large area of land, including many iconic Munros, in the Trust's ownership, what is the extent of collaboration between the Trust and the hillwalking community, namely Ramblers Scotland? Mr Skinner explained that the main link with that particular organisation is through Scottish Environment LINK network, where the Trust is participating in a joint campaign for the better management of tracks within the landscape.
52. The President thanked the members for the questions raised.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS

53. The President introduced the next item of business: the election of the Trust's next President. Lord Lindsay explained to the members that he had

the privilege and honour of filling the role for five years and it was now time to elect a new President to the position.

54. The President welcomed the Chairman to the podium.
55. The Chairman, on behalf of the Trustees, volunteers and staff of the National Trust for Scotland, expressed gratitude for all that Lord Lindsay had done for the organisation. Lord Lindsay's kindness and generosity would be missed.
56. The Chairman explained the process that had been undertaken by the Nominations Committee. Dame Sue Bruce, the Committee's independent Chair, led the search to find a candidate with enormous enthusiasm for Scotland. A recommendation was put forward from the Nominations Committee to the Board. The Trustees unanimously approved the recommendation of Mr Neil Oliver as the next President of the National Trust for Scotland.
57. The Chairman noted some of Mr Oliver's achievements. He reported that the Trust was very excited about the energy, enthusiasm and opportunities that Mr Oliver would bring to the Trust. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Chairman proposed Mr Oliver as the next President of the National Trust for Scotland to the members.
58. The President, Lord Lindsay, thanked the Chairman. The proposal was seconded by Dame Sue Bruce and was approved by a show of hands from the members. Mr Oliver was duly elected as the next President of the National Trust for Scotland. The President welcomed the President Elect to the podium.
59. Mr Oliver addressed the members. He was delighted and honoured to be considered for the role. Mr Oliver explained that he grew up visiting Trust properties, and his TV career had taken him all over the country, with privileged access to what Scotland has to offer. Mr Oliver said that he had a real sense of ownership and connection to the stories around the country and was very excited to play his part in the mission and ethos of the National Trust for Scotland. He thanked the members for appointing him. Mr Oliver's role as President would begin at the end of the meeting.
60. The President, Lord Lindsay, thanked Mr Oliver and congratulated him on his appointment.
61. Turning to the election of the Vice-Presidents, the President confirmed that the Board of Trustees recommended that the Duchess of Fife, Professor Hugh Cheape, Mr Angus MacDonald, Mr Simon Fraser and Professor Michael Scott-Morton be reappointed as Vice-Presidents. Mrs Jill Carrick proposed

the re-election of the President and Vice-Presidents. The proposal was seconded by Mrs Amanda Herries and approved by the members present.

62. The President was delighted to declare the Vice-Presidents duly elected.

ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

That with effect from 1 March 2018 the minimum amount of the annual subscription required for qualification as an Ordinary Member of the National Trust for Scotland, currently fifty-six pounds, shall be the sum of fifty-seven pounds.'

63. The President invited the Chief Executive to present the ordinary membership subscription resolution.

64. Mr Skinner set out the wider economic context within which the proposal should be considered, suggesting that with effect from 1 March 2018 the minimum amount of the annual subscription required for qualification as an Ordinary Member of the National Trust for Scotland, currently £56, should be the sum of £57.

65. The resolution was duly seconded by Mr Graeme Sword and approved on a show of hands by the members present at the meeting.

66. The President thanked Mr Skinner and confirmed that with effect from 1 March 2018 the Ordinary Member annual subscription rate would be raised to the sum of £57.

A YEAR FOR THE YOUNG

67. The President explained that 2018 has been designated as 'The Year of Young People' by the Scottish Government. Encouraging young people to take an interest in their heritage is something that the Trust sees as vitally important. The President explained that the Trust opted for a direct approach by asking young people to assess the Trust and its properties and to report back on what they think we should be doing differently. This was achieved through the organisation Young Scot to create a 'Heritage Blueprint' report for the Trust.

68. The members were shown a short film which presented the findings of the 11 Young Scot members who had participated in the film. Over the two-year period, the group visited 14 properties, engaged with Trust staff and surveyed over 1,000 young people. In total 1,800 hours were spent on the project.

69. The vision of the group was for all young people in Scotland to be engaged in and inspired by the country's national heritage. For this to happen there needs to be an improvement in the accessibility and appeal of heritage for young people. There also needs to be a change in attitudes towards heritage from the perspective of young people, but also towards young people in the eyes of the heritage sector.
70. The 'Heritage Blueprint' report provided recommendations on how to engage with young people under five key themes: attitudes and communication; properties; access; events; and partnerships. The Heritage Blueprint group reported that they enjoyed every moment, as well as feeling privileged for being a part of the project. They believe that it is of vital importance that young people are engaged in Scotland's national heritage. If young people develop an appreciation for heritage and become active participants in its preservation, Scotland's past will be valued, protected and supported for years to come.
71. Miss Toni Andrews, a representative from Young Scot, said a few words after the film on behalf of the Heritage Blueprint group. The President thanked Miss Andrews, and the young people who participated in the Heritage Blueprint project.

OUR CAUSE

72. The President welcomed Mr Mark Bishop, Director of Customer & Cause, to the podium.
73. Mr Bishop thanked the President and greeted those in attendance. He stated that the Trust needs to do more to address issues of accessibility and appeal. He noted that it's not just young people who are struggling to understand heritage and why the National Trust for Scotland matters.
74. In the last few months, the Trust has been asking people what they value about it, what they think the Trust is here to do, and what the world would look like if the Trust didn't exist.
75. Despite being one of the biggest charities in Scotland, very few people know the Trust is a charity. Mr Bishop reported that: it is mistaken for a government agency or the Scottish arm of the National Trust; few people have any insight into the Trust being a conservation force; people do value the Trust for its expertise, but find that it doesn't come across as warm and friendly; many people think the Trust is only about castles and old houses; and they don't realise it has a major role in nature, apprenticeships, inclusion and outreach programmes, and education.

76. The Trust is often seen as stuffy and elitist. In short, the Trust has a perception problem. Mr Bishop explained that the research found when the Trust spent a few minutes sharing what it does, people were astounded and stated they would think very differently about the Trust in the future.
77. Mr Bishop declared that this is a golden opportunity. The Trust needs to find a better way to tell people what the National Trust for Scotland is here for. It needs simpler ways to start the conversation. The Trustees have been working with staff to find new ways, based on the research, to bring alive how the Trust describes what it does.
78. The core theme which came through all the research is that people recognise the Trust has an important role in protecting the treasures of Scotland. Respondents implored the Trust to be more explicit about the need to protect so many places of beauty, history and cultural significance. The Trust will respond by talking more openly about its role in protecting what makes Scotland special. This theme of protecting spaces and places for future generations guides every thought and deed of what the Trust does.
79. Based on the research, the Trust has refreshed its vision statement: 'Scotland's heritage is valued by everyone and protected for future generations'. The words signal that the Trust is serious about reaching a younger and broader audience.
80. Mr Bishop concluded by encouraging the audience to help spread the word that things are changing at the Trust and to show support by wearing the Trust badge and encouraging people to join. He reiterated that the Trust is keen to be more overt about why it exists. We will begin to speak openly about what we do for the love of Scotland and why we are proud to be protecting the nation's stories and special places.

OUR CAUSE – QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

81. The President thanked Mr Bishop, and asked if there were any questions or comments arising from Mr Bishop's presentation or any other matters.
82. Miss Alice Simpson, East Fife Members' Centre, recognised that the membership voted to increase the fee by £1 to £57 for ordinary membership. However, she stated that most members in the audience pay a reduced rate. Miss Simpson has long advocated that senior membership should reflect it is grandparents who introduce young people to the Trust. Miss Simpson contrasted the terms of her Trust membership with Historic Environment Scotland, which allows her to take two children up to the age of 16 to their properties.

83. Miss Simpson reiterated that it is grandparents, not families, who bring their grandchildren for the child's first experience with the Trust. She concluded by asking the Trust to seriously consider amending the membership terms.
84. In response, Mr Bishop thanked Miss Simpson for her long involvement with the East Fife Members' Centre and for raising the question. He stated that the Trust is discussing this topic in Board meetings and when looking at membership categories in future, the Trust will give the question proper consideration.

GEORGE WATERSTON MEMORIAL AWARD

85. The President invited Professor Hugh Cheape, Vice-President, to present the George Waterston Memorial Award.
86. Professor Cheape explained that the award is presented each year to individuals who have, over a period of years, made a special contribution to the work of the Trust. The award is now in its 36th year. The award is presented in memory of Dr George Waterston, one of Scotland's leading ornithologists, who bought and subsequently donated the island of Fair Isle, together with its bird observatory, to the Trust in 1954. The award is made on the basis of nominations sent in by colleagues such as line managers, and Professor Cheape recorded his warm thanks to those who had taken the time and thought to fill out the nomination forms.
87. Professor Cheape reported that, following consideration of the nominations, it had been decided this year that two awards should be presented: one to a volunteer and one to an employee. The winners would be presented with a wooden bowl crafted by Mr Colin McKenzie.
88. Professor Cheape had great pleasure in announcing that the recipients of the 2017 George Waterston Memorial Award were Mr Dave Hector and Ms Alex Barr-Simm.
89. Professor Cheape reported that Mr Hector has been a Thistle Camp leader for many years, and has been involved in the upland path initiative from the beginning, an area of work that is notoriously difficult and demanding. He quoted from the citation on the nomination form: *'Without Dave's enthusiasm, skill and good leadership, the Thistle Camps would have dwindled and stopped. His work of course extends far beyond the Thistle Camp itself, involving all preparatory work outwith the Camp week – emailing, visiting sites, creating documentation to make everything run smoothly and going out of his way to make sure that everybody has a great time and ensuring they get back to where they need to be at the end of the Camp.'*

90. Although unable to attend the meeting to collect his award in person, Professor Cheape read out a note from Mr Hector: *'I will be leading my flagship working holiday in Torricon. My co-leader and I, with a group of 10 volunteers, will be repairing and improving one of the footpaths up Ben Alligin under the expert eyes of Bob Brown and Seamus MacNally. I would like to thank the Trust for my award and I would like to point out that I have an excellent support team within the Trust and I work alongside volunteers who work very hard to make a difference. I am very pleased to accept the award on behalf of us all.'*
91. Professor Cheape reported that Ms Barr-Simm works part time for the Trust, but makes a full-time impact. Ms Barr-Simm is a property assistant running the Bunkhouse at Ben Lomond. Professor Cheape quoted from the citation on the nomination form, which stated that she had made her mark from *'the promotion of the Bunkhouse, networking with other local accommodation providers and scooping up lost and desperate West Highland Way walkers. She is fantastic at achieving management standards and degrees of hospitality which know no bounds'*. Although unable to collect the award in person, Ms Barr-Simm was delighted to have received the award.
92. Professor Cheape congratulated Mr Hector and Ms Barr-Simm on their awards.
93. The President thanked Professor Cheape and called upon Mr Keith Griffiths, Trustee, to present the next award.

COLIN DONALD AWARD

94. Mr Griffiths thanked the President and went on to present the Colin Donald Environmental Law Award. This award commemorates the late Mr Colin Donald who, at the time of his death in 2006, was a Vice-President of the Trust. He reported that the late Mr Donald had a very long career in the Glasgow law firm McGrigor Donald but also gave service to many causes, including the University of Glasgow, Sir William Burrell Trust and, not least, the National Trust for Scotland.
95. The award, co-hosted by the University of Glasgow, is judged on the submission of essays by Scots law students on the subject of environmental law. The winner is then offered a placement in the legal department of the Trust as well as a cash prize.
96. Mr Griffiths was pleased to confirm that the 2017 Colin Donald Award winner was Mr Leo Lehr, a legal Masters student at the University of Edinburgh. Mr Lehr wrote an essay entitled *'The Struggle to Enact Legal "Carbon Capture and Storage" Regimes'*. Although Mr Lehr could not attend the meeting, Mr

Griffiths recorded that arrangements would be made for him to receive his prize following the meeting. A runner-up prize was also awarded to Miss Sarah Milne of the University of Aberdeen, who wrote a very credible essay on the efficaciousness of the legal requirements necessary to enforce the 'polluter pays' principle.

97. The President thanked Mr Griffiths and congratulated all the award winners on their achievements.

ELECTION OF THREE TRUSTEES: ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THE BALLOT

98. The President noted that the meeting marked the culmination of an election process to select three Trustees to serve on the Board of Trustees. The ballot is open to all the Trust's members and, as was announced at the 2016 AGM, a new approach to candidates has been adopted.

99. The President explained that earlier this year members were invited to put themselves forward for election. Candidates would then be assessed for the necessary skills and experience by the Board's Nominations Committee. The assessment was based on three categories of skill-sets that were determined as being especially important: 1) experience in finance, governance and risk management; 2) experience and commitment as a member or volunteer of the Trust; and 3) experience in gardens, horticulture and designed landscapes. Candidates were assessed for all categories, however, only one candidate came forward in the third category. This category would be considered by a separate resolution.

100. The President invited Mr Stephen Small, Trust Secretary, to address the members and give the results of the ballot.

101. Mr Small explained that the results of the 2017 election had taken into account the votes cast in advance of the meeting and those cast by members present at the meeting or by proxy. Mr Small read out the candidates' names in the order they appeared on the ballot together with the total number of votes they had received: Mr Ian Doig, 914; Mrs Emily Fisher, 457; Mr David Leslie, 1082; Professor Peter J M Bartos, 276; Mrs Veronica Morriss, 1196; Mr Keith Otto, 277; and Mrs Anne Ritchie, 702.

102. Mr Small confirmed that the two candidates who had received the most votes in each category and are therefore duly elected to the Board of Trustees of the National Trust for Scotland as Mr David Leslie (finance, governance and risk management) and Mrs Veronica Morriss (member or volunteer of the Trust). Mr Small congratulated the two successful new Trustees and thanked the remaining candidates who took part, which made it a well-contested election, and to the members who cast their votes.

103. The President thanked Mr Small and went on to consider the vacant position on the Board under the third category of experience, in gardens, horticulture and designed landscapes. The President reported that only one candidate came forward: Mr David Mitchell. Mr Mitchell has over 40 years of experience in horticulture, conservation and collections management, including time spent working for the Trust at Threave and Inverewe Gardens. The President reported that the Nominations Committee recommended to the members that Mr Mitchell be elected unopposed to the Board of Trustees. Dame Sue Bruce, independent Chair of the Nominations Committee, proposed the resolution to appoint Mr Mitchell to the Board of Trustees and Mrs Amanda Herries seconded the proposal. The resolution was formally approved by a show of hands from the members.

104. The President congratulated the three successful Trustees.

OUTGOING TRUSTEES: AN APPRECIATION

105. The President invited the Chairman to say a few words about the Trustees who would be stepping down at the end of the meeting.

106. The Chairman reported that, as a result of the election, three of the current Trustees would be retiring from the Board at the end of the meeting: Sir Peter Erskine, Mr Peter Ord and Mr Ian Doig. Sir Peter had successfully served two terms as an elected Trustee and Mr Ord had served an extended term as a co-opted Trustee. Both had shown the utmost dedication to the Trust and brought very valuable experience to the Board table. Although the election result would have been disappointing to Mr Doig, the Chairman recorded that he had devoted a lot of valuable time and work to the Trust during his term of office and his sage advice and experience would be missed.

107. As a small token of appreciation to the departing Trustees, Sir Peter, Mr Ord and Mr Doig were presented with a small gift on behalf of the Trust's volunteers, staff and Trustees.

108. The Chairman took the opportunity to present the President, Lord Lindsay, with a gift to thank him for his time and commitment to the organisation. The President thanked the Chairman for the gift. He confirmed that he had enjoyed his role as President too much to forget the close involvement it had allowed him to have with the Trust. As a long-time member, he would continue to enjoy the benefits of his membership for time to come.

2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

109. The President confirmed that the date of the 2018 Annual General Meeting would be Saturday 1 September at the Macrobart Arts Centre, University of Stirling.

CLOSE OF MEETING

110. The President brought the 2017 Annual General Meeting to a close.