

SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Society Members,

This being my first communication with you as your new President, I would like to say thank you to all those in attendance at the Annual General Membership Meeting on 10 August. We gathered at Llewellyn's in Webster Groves for a bite to eat and shared each others company. A good time was had by all. The new Board Members were elected and will begin their year of service to you. I would like to especially thank the Nominating Committee (Iona Baldwin, John Carothers, Norma Forrester, Bill Nicoll, and Allan Stewart) for their hard work and dedication as they assembled the slate of officers.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the 2006-2007 Board for their dedication and service. Special thanks to Chris Brennan, who served as your President. Mr. Brennan, the first elected American born Scot President of the Society, did a great job. His enthusiasm and deep-felt love for the Society was evident in his dedication. I am lucky to follow in his footsteps, thanks Chris, well done.

As your President, it is my honor to represent you within the St. Louis community and beyond. I promise to do so with the best of my ability and your support. When I joined the Society over 10 years ago, I had no idea that one day I would be the representative for one of the largest Scottish Societies in the US. Did you know that our membership is nearly 400 people? How amazing.

I'd like to quote Ms. Peggy Flynn, one of the original founders of the Society in the 1970's, who at 93, felt that we have grown into what she could only have dreamed: "We had no idea if it would work."

We have many events coming up throughout the 2007-2008 season – Scottish Games, St. Andrew Dinner Dance, Christmas Party, Burns Dinner, Ceilidh, Tartan Day, Picnic, and more. Won't you please join us? We'd love to see you again, or meet you for the first time. If there are any suggestions for things to do, please do not hesitate to let your Board Members know.

Our first big adventure this coming year is the 7th Annual Scottish Games and Cultural Festival on 05-06 October at Forest Park. Please be sure to stop by for a little bit of Scotland and see us at the St. Andrew Society Booth. The event proves to be an excellent one with entertainers, vendors, clans, extraordinaire.

I want you to feel free to contact me for any reason (314-962-1478) with your comments and concerns. After all, this is your Society.

Slàinte

Christopher Fulton – President

Sept/Oct 2007



Scots wha' hae wi' Fulton led...

Scottish St. Andrew Society of St. Louis 2007-2008 Board of Directors



Christopher Fulton – President
Iona Baldwin – Vice President
Chris Brennan – Immed. Past President/
Thistle Times Editor
David Brown - Treasurer
John Carothers – Chaplain
Richard Emory – Member-at-large
Anja Lodge – Burns Dinner Coordinator
Diane McCullough – SPAE Liaison
Doug Stirrat – Secretary
Alex Sutherland – Entertainment
Carrie Sutherland – Membership
Allan Stewart – Legal Counsel
Aprille Winston – Programs



SSAS 2007-2008 New Board*

**Sorry! No one had a camera at the AGM for a group photo so stand-ins were required...*

Membership Renewal Time!

The Society program year runs from September to August, so get your renewal in now and make sure you don't miss any of the wonderful events that are planned for 2007/2008, including the St. Andrew's Day Celebration, Christmas Party, Burns Dinner, Ceilidh, etc, and not forgetting the Society's involvement in the St. Louis Scottish Games and the Tartan Day Celebrations.

For those of you who've already paid for this year, thank you. For those who are still to pay, there is a membership renewal form included with this issue of the Thistle Times. And, remember, if you enjoy being a member of the St. Andrew Society then tell your Scottish and American friends and family (don't forget those who just wish they were Scottish!) about the Society and encourage them to join too. Any questions, call Carrie Sutherland, Membership Chair on 314-771-0119, or send an email to ssasmil@sbcglobal.net.

Welcome, New Members!!

Diane & Ken Beaty, Lake St. Louis, MO
Thomas & Martha Crawford, Jefferson City, MO
Garry Byrd, Florissant, MO
L. Wesley Byrd, Crestwood, MO
Robert & Donna Mills, Kirkwood, MO
Matthew Lodge, St. Louis, MO



“I'd heard of a man
named Burns -
supposed to be a poet;
But, if he was, how
come I didn't know it?
They told me his work
was very, very neat,
So I replied: 'But who
did he ever beat?'”

**Muhammad Ali,
on visiting Robert
Burns' house in
Alloway in 1965
(true!)**

SSAS News and Notes



- October 5-6- Scottish Games and Cultural Festival (Forest Park)
November 5- Mary Queen of Scots presentation (Schlafly Bottleworks, Maplewood)
November 17- St. Andrews Dinner Dance (Racquet Club, St. Louis)
December 10- Society Christmas Party (Location TBA)
February 2- Society Burns Supper (Hilton Frontenac, St. Louis)

2007 Scottish Games and Cultural Festival

Hard to believe, but it's that time of year again! The SSAS is a major (and founding) sponsor of the annual Scottish Games and Cultural Festival and as such, there's nary a board member who can't wait for next weekend. If the smell of meat pies coupled with a dram of whisky, the flash of tartan and the ever-present drone of the pipes fails to get you longing for Scotland, the dancing, athletic demonstrations and ceilidh will!

The SSAS is in desperate need of more volunteers to work the Society booth throughout the event, both Friday night and Saturday (need I mention that working a 2-1/2 hour "shift" gets you free admission to the Games that day?) Please come fraternize with current and prospective members, chat up the Society and enjoy the wares of the (hic!) whisky tasting tent next door. PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS FULTON AT 314.962.1478 ASAP!



2007 GAMES & CULTURAL FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Friday, October 5th, 2007

- 5:00 p.m. Gates open.
6:00 p.m. Ceremonies begin.
6:30 p.m. Torchlight Ceremony & Calling of the Scottish Clans.
7:45 - 10:00pm Concert and Ceilidh featuring The **Tannahill Weavers**, Ed Miller, John Taylor and Brian McNeill.

Saturday, October 6th, 2007

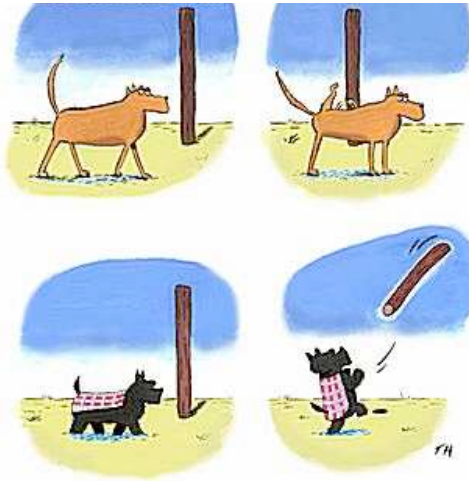
- 8:30 a.m. Gates open.
9:30 a.m. Official Opening Ceremony.
9:30 - 4:30 p.m. Music, athletics, dancing, pipe bands, sheepdog demonstrations, history, storytelling, vendors, etc.
4:30 p.m. Massed bands
4:30 - 5:00 p.m. Awards and Closing Ceremony
6:00 p.m. Event closed.

	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Two-day</u>
General Admission	\$10	\$15	\$20
Family Pass (2 adults, 2 children (5-17))	\$25	\$35	\$50
Children under 5	Free	Free	--

Speaking of the Scottish Games...

Whatever happened to the Caberometer?

In July 2005, A retired teacher from Moray, Scotland, invented a device (there we go again, inventing things!) to settle one of the most contentious issues on the Highland games circuit - judging the caber competition. Jim Murray's invention proved its worth straight away when it was used to decide the winner of the caber-tossing at Stonehaven Highland Games later that



summer. The device - which Murray called a **caberometer** - helped take the guesswork out of judging the caber. As you may or may not ascertain from observing the athletic events at the Scottish Games and Cultural Festival, "tossing the caber" is judged not on the distance, but the angle at which the caber is thrown and lands. The caberometer, similar to a sextant, allowed accurate measurements to be made and checked. Of his invention, Murray wrote "When tossing a caber, it is not the distance that counts but direction. For a perfect toss, the caber should flip over to land exactly 180 degrees from its starting point.

The instrument I have designed enables the angle at which the caber lands to be measured exactly. Until now that was judged by eye, a situation which could lead to disagreement." It was used to good effect by Stonehaven judges to decide a critical throw by David Dowson, at the time leading the Glenfiddich heavy events championship; the caberometer reading decided that he had been beaten by fellow thrower Craig Sinclair.

Glenfiddich's public relations manager enthused that "We have been supporting Highland games for over 20 years and we are delighted that Jim's new device is undergoing its field trials at the events we sponsor. Thousands of Highland games events take place across the globe every year and they all face the same issue when it comes to scoring the caber."

Has anyone seen one of these in use at a Highland Games or at our own St. Louis Games?

Guaranteed to cause post-traumatic stress disorder!

A Scotsman saved the life of a stranded hillwalker on a remote mountainside by taking off his kilt and wrapping it round the shivering man. Bare-bottomed Andy Young, 43, braved the elements as he stripped down and used his kilt and thick cotton shirt to keep the hypothermic man warm. Mr. Young cuddled close to Tom Mitchell, 41, and sang him traditional Scottish songs while they waited two hours on chilly Sron Ghorm, near the Aultguish Inn, Wester Ross, for a helicopter. Mr. Mitchell went for a lone hill walk on Monday but did not return to the inn. Friends were particularly concerned because he is an epileptic. Mr. Young said: "It was all I could think of because he was shivering so much. I cuddled in close beside him and I think our body heat kept us alive. I sang songs to him to keep his spirits up. I sang *MacPherson's Rant*, *the Skye Boat Song* and *Pittenweem Joe* over and over again. "When the helicopter arrived, I took my kilt and shirt back and looked on as he was winched into the helicopter. I did not want to have to walk into the inn naked."

Golfers, repair your divots!

It is regularly voted the world's best golf course for its sense of history and the challenge of its fast-running links. But the Old Course at St Andrews is under attack from an unexpected source - golfers themselves.

The number of divots - holes made in the fairway when players take a stroke - has soared into thousands each week, caused by advances in club technology and people using the 'wrong' kind of shot for a links course. Some links experts even claim the divot crisis is getting worse because of the widespread desire to imitate the swing of modern professionals such as Tiger Woods.



Course managers at St Andrews have now had to employ specialist teams to repair up to 5,000 divots every week. They are also running classes to teach amateur golfers how to play shots that will improve their chances of playing the course well while doing less damage to the hallowed turf.

Gordon Moir, the St Andrews Links superintendent, said: "Golfers today are perhaps too quick to attempt the kind of shots that produce deep divots, which can take up to a year to regenerate. The latest wide-soled clubs only exacerbate the issue. "Every Sunday, on the Old Course alone, there are seven people working from 5.30am to 8.30am - which equates to over 5,000 divots being repaired in the course of a morning. The divot fillers are often helped by other staff as the day wears on."



About 42,000 rounds of golf are played on the 18 holes of the Old Course, which is used for the Open Championship, every year. That equates to around three million individual shots. One emerging problem on a course which attracts thousands of American golfers is the type of clubs and shots used; while links experts recommend low, bump-and-run shots clipped off the turf to keep the ball under the wind, many overseas visitors continue to play American-style

'target' golf, where the ball is thrown higher in the air. This type of shot is made easier by a recently developed range of wide-sole clubs that cut deeper into the soil.

George Brown, the course director at Turnberry, in Ayrshire, where the Ailsa course will host the Open Championship in 2009, said more and deeper divots were becoming a bigger problem for Scotland's traditional links, where the grass on sandy soils is more vulnerable to damage. "An average golfer will take 30 divots a round. If you multiply that by 200 rounds a day on a busy course, that adds up to a frightening amount of divots which are hard to keep on top of," said Brown.

Portions of this story reprinted from The Scotsman online newspaper.

No greetin' allowed!

Jock McTavish was desperate to make a good impression at his new job in Edinburgh- he was always the first to the office in the morning, the last to leave in the evening and always took lunch at his desk. Alas, it seemed to go unnoticed! Leaving work one late Friday night, he was surprised to find his boss, Mr McDermott, standing at the paper shredder with a puzzled look on his face. "Working late as well, eh, Mr. McDermott?" McTavish asked, feeling that he might receive recognition for his long hours at last. "Aye," replied McDermott, "I've been working all day on a very hush-hush deal- as soon as I've taken care of this I'll be off to celebrate! Perhaps you'd care to join me for a bottle of whisky, Mr...er..." "McTavish, sir, Jock McTavish". "Ah, yes! Of course! But first-d'you ken how this thing works?" asked Mr. McDermott. "Aye!" said McTavish proudly, feeding the paper into the machine and pressing the start button. As the paper disappeared into the machine, Mr. McDermott sighed with relief and exclaimed "Ah, superb, McTavish! I just need two copies, please."



I prefer Cheetos myself...



This past July, a seagull in Aberdeen made the news for a rather unusual manifestation of sneaky scavenging behavior. The bird, named "Sam" by the locals, developed the habit of strolling through an open door into the RS McColl newsagents shop there, snatching a bag of cheese-flavored Doritos from a rack just inside the entryway, and dashing away.

According to store personnel, Sam always "birdlifted" the same flavor of Doritos (perhaps due to the color of the packaging), carrying the bags outside the store, where he ripped them open and, along with other birds, devoured the contents.

The BBC reported shop assistant Sriaram Nagarajan as saying of Sam:

"He's got it down to a fine art. He waits until there are no customers around and I'm standing behind the till, then he raids the place. At first I didn't believe a seagull was capable of stealing crisps. But I saw it with my own eyes and I was surprised. He's very good at it! He's becoming a bit of a celebrity. Seagulls are usually not that popular, but he's a star, and customers have begun paying for Sam's stolen bags of crisps because he's so funny."

A spokesman for Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) also noted of Sam: "I've never heard of anything like this before."

Jimmy was walking across the suspension bridge on the Clyde when he saw a man about to jump into the water. Jimmy tried to stop him by suggesting he should think of his family. "I dinna have a family," was the response. "Well, think about Rangers!"-but the man was not a Rangers supporter. "Well, think about Celtic then."-but he wasn't a Celtic supporter either. "Och in that case," said Jimmy, "Jump, ye atheist."

