



Merchants' View

Issue 7

October 2007

Master's Introduction



Fellow Members,

It has been a busy and eventful 6 months since taking over in March. The sudden resignation of our Treasurer in early May coupled with the intimation that Company Officer, Neil Bunyan was standing down after our Bussin' and our Secretary George Thomson would have to be replaced when he took over as President of Selkirk Rugby Club all meant a hectic start to my term in office. I was very fortunate

to have Stuart Kemp willing to act as Treasurer until a permanent replacement was found and Jake Wheelans filled the post of Company Officer, working in tandem with Neil to see us through the Common Riding and related events. Our new treasurer is Jim Cockburn but as yet we have not found a Secretary to replace George.

At the Bussin I thanked Neil for his 11 years service as Company officer and for his support as my left hand man in 1995 and although Jake has now taken over as acting Company Officer Neil is still a valued member of our committee. George is also still carrying out the secretarial duties meantime with some of the work being shared to help lighten his load and I must thank him for all his hard work and support. A letter of thanks has also been sent to Ewan Rintoul to acknowledge his many years of service to the Company as Treasurer and although we have a new Treasurer, Ewan remains a member of our committee

I was delighted with the turn out for our Bussin' and also the large support given by members to our Standard Bearer on Common Riding morning with 35 marching behind the flag.

I managed to join our Standard Bearer, Alistair, at all the various functions over the Common Riding period and I must congratulate him on being an excellent representative for the Merchant Company. He was also well supported by his right and left hand men and other members.

Members have been involved in several activities over the Summer and reports and photographs are contained in this newsletter.

Arrangements are in hand for our Winter Function on 2nd November. This year we are calling it a Masked Halloween Party which will basically be a buffet dance with some light entertainment included. The idea is to give members more time to socialise in a less formal setting than our Dinner and Bussin. The Jim Oliver Memorial Award will also be presented during the evening and we hope to have your support again for this event. Other activities are being considered for the Winter term and the committee are already organising the events, speakers and principals for the 2008 Common Riding.

I must express my sincere thanks to the committee members for their hard work and yourselves for your support to date.

Andrew Proudfoot, Master

Editorial Comment

Welcome to the 7th edition of the Merchants' View. We hope you enjoy the review of the year past. If you have any comments or suggestions please contact a member of the editorial team.

Editorial team: Alistair Pattullo & Stuart Kemp

Photographs: David Mitchell, Stuart Kemp, Grant Kinghorn

Printed by: Allied Surveyors

Annual General Meeting

Selkirk Rugby Club, 9th March 2007



The following members joined the Company at the 2007 AGM.

Jim Harold, Chris Highton, Mrs. Lina Purves, Mrs. Pamela Kemp, Adam Borwick, Mrs. Eileen Easton, Morris Manson (absent from photo).

Alistair Pattullo SMC SB 2007

Alistair Pattullo, Victoria Crescent, Selkirk was appointed Selkirk Merchant Company Standard Bearer at the Company' AGM. Alistair currently runs his own massage therapy business from his home as well as finding time to support many other community pursuits including the Opera, the Selkirk Film club as well as being a member of the Community Council.



Alistair was a very popular choice to represent the company at this year's Common Riding.



Jim Oliver Award

Fiona Scott was presented with the James Oliver Memorial Award, in recognition of her significant contribution to the Selkirk community at the winter function in November at the Philiphaugh Suite at the Rugby Club.



Fiona was recognised for her efforts in raising funds for the Macmillan Cancer Fund.

Fiona has raised more than £70,000 for the charity through a range of fund-raising schemes, including auctions, music nights, sponsored walks and raffles.

The James Oliver Memorial Shield was presented by Mrs Isabel Oliver and Fiona received her framed Award Certificate from Merchant Company Standard Bearer Stuart Kemp.

Annual Bussin'

The Company held its Annual Colour Bussin' in the Philiphaugh Suite at the Selkirk Rugby Club on Tuesday the 12th June.

Ms Judith Thompson gracefully bussed the Company Banner and Master Andrew Proudfoot entrusted the flag to Standard Bearer Alistair Pattullo.

Viv Ross proposed a very well informed and entertaining toast to the Standard Bearer to which a beaming and very proud Alistair ably replied.

The toast to Selkirk Merchant Company, Town and Trade was excellently performed by Johnny Gray and the very capable reply was made by Honorary Provost Jim Henderson.

The excellent photo by Grant Kinghorn shows Left to Right:

Pam Kemp, Johnny Gray, Stuart Kemp, Judith Thompson, Valerie Gray, Viv Ross, Shelley Seal, RSB Alistair Craig, SMC SB Alistair Pattullo, Hon Provost Jim Henderson, Irene Henderson, Master Andrew Proudfoot, Jean Proudfoot, Hon Sec George Thomson, Susan Thomson.





Selkirk Common Riding

After the incessant rain of the week beforehand it was almost inevitable that Friday 15th June 2007 would be wet and cloudy but in the hearts of Souters it was a "Hail Smilin' Morn".

But all the practicing paid off and the flag was cast with style and finished off with an almighty flourish which brought smiles to all those anxious faces and cheers from the huge crowd.



Led by Royal Burgh Standard Bearer Alasdair Craig the cavalcade was forced to forego the traditional crossing of the Ettrick and Alasdair became the latest member of that select company, 'The Bridge Club'.

Selkirk Merchant Company turned out in force to support our Standard Bearer Alistair Pattullo and it was especially satisfying to see all of this year's new members join the procession to follow the flag down the Green. The wind made carrying the flag hard work but Alistair was ably assisted by his right and left hand men Stuart and Bobby. The sun almost looked as if it would come out as the procession marched down to the Toll to welcome the riders safe in. But it was not to be and as the procession returned once again to the Market Place the clouds were gathering, the grey skies lending a dramatic backdrop to the commemoration of Fletcher's return from Flodden Field.

The Standard Bearers cast their flags in the traditional sequence. By the time Standard Bearer Pattullo mounted the scarlet dais the wind was gusting strongly and there was some anxiety on the faces around the platform as Alistair worked hard to cast the Company flag.

After visiting all the Foys Alistair joined the hardy souls at The Rig where the extreme weather forced everybody into the beer tent!

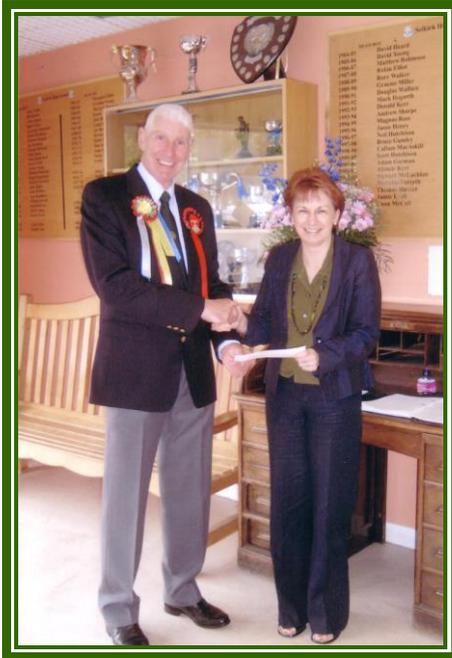
Following the Provost's reception in the Town Hall it was on to the Common Riding Ball and the end of a great day for the Company Master and Standard Bearer and their wives Jean and Judith.



SB Pattullo casts our flag against the dramatic skyline.



Selkirk High School Presentation



Merchant company continues with its financial support of Selkirk's educational establishments. Here, the Master presents Selkirk High School Rector Wilma Burgon with a cheque.

Presentation to the Bands



Master Proudfoot presents cheques to Selkirk's Silver, Flute and Pipe bands on Show Sunday.

Merchants' Oddments

New Ties are available now from Shoe World at £10.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 2nd Nov 2007 Winter Function
Dress casual, Halloween mask optional.
Selkirk Rugby Club, tickets on sale at Shoe World.

Sunday 11th Nov 2007 Armistice Parade
Assemble in The Valley at 10:00am

Sat/Sun 1st/2nd Dec 2007 Scott's Selkirk
Volunteers to marshal the False Alarm,
phone the Master on 01750 21570

Tue 6th Feb 2008 Special General
Meeting
George Downie Bar, Selkirk Rugby
Club, 7:30pm

Fri 7th March 2008 AGM & Annual
Dinner
Selkirk Rugby Club.
New members will be admitted and
members may bring a guest to the
dinner.
Main speaker: Derek Brownlee MSP

Tue 10th June 2008 Annual Bussin'
Selkirk Rugby Club.
Main speaker: Dr Donald MacLeod

Company Website

You can keep up to date throughout the year with news and photographs of events by visiting our own website at www.selkirkmerchantcompany.co.uk. The site is continually being updated and expanded so check in regularly!

There are pages reserved for each ex-Standard Bearer and Master so please send in any photographs you wish to be published on these pages.

If you want updates by eMail send your address to secretary@selkirkmerchantcompany.co.uk.



Jim Cockburn, Hon Treasurer



Jim Cockburn, the Company's new Treasurer, will need no introduction to many members. Jim joined Selkirk Merchant Company in 1983 at the behest of the late Elliot Anderson. Jim was about to leave the town to pursue his banking career and Elliot put it to him that as a member of the Merchant Company he would be able to maintain his contact with the Ancient Burgh.

Born in Selkirk and educated at the High School Jim started his banking career in 1977, he remembers it well as it was the Monday after the Common Riding, or Black Monday as he calls it! That was thirty years ago and he's still with the Royal Bank Of Scotland. Jim is now responsible for Business Debt Management covering the whole of Scotland.

He lives with wife Pamela and children, James, 14 and Jenna, 8, in Cardrona where he manages the occasional round of golf. Pamela and Jim married in 1985 when new brother-in-law Tommy Renwick was Royal Burgh Standard Bearer, it was also in this year that Jim rode the Marches for the first time. Jim still follows the Burgh Flag round the Marches every year and has ridden at most of the other ride-outs. A keen sportsman Jim played rugby for the Selkirk Youth Club and turned out as a back for Selkirk RFC in 1977. He does most of his golfing at West Linton where he's been a member for over twenty years.

In 1996 Jim had the honour to be appointed Merchant Company Standard Bearer, his right hand man that year being current Master Andrew Proudfoot. He still attends the annual dinner and the Bussin' and took part in this year's golf competition. Of his new job as Hon Treasurer he says he doesn't know how much of a challenge it'll be but hopes his debt management skills won't be called into use! On a more serious note he spoke of how important it is for him to be able to serve the Company whose membership he has enjoyed over the years.

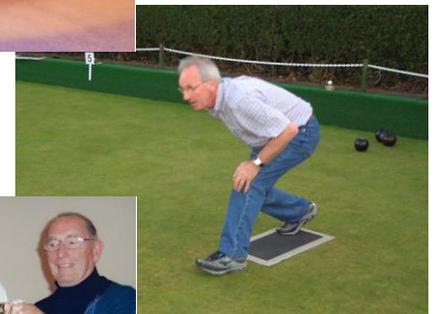
Sports

Pictured, from the top:

Neville Dundas prepares to deliver a stone during the Annual Curling Match at Kelso Ice Rink in March.



The winner this year was Walter Miller who edged out Bobby Murray in a deciding end.



George Thomson becomes the first winner of the Lindsay Henderson Golf Trophy.

Another 'Bunyan Bomb' gets delivered at the Social Bowling Night on the 7th of September.

Ex-Royal Burgh Standard Bearers Bowling



Congratulations to the MC team who pulled off a remarkable victory against the ex RBSB's. The result was in doubt to the last game.

Master Andrew Proudfoot receives the Shawburn Trophy from Ex-Royal Burgh Standard Bearer John Beveridge.

Full reports and more pictures can be found on the Company website.



Excursion

The proposed excursion to Carlisle did not take place due to insufficient numbers.

With only four members paying in advance, a further four expressing an interest later and another six being unable to attend due to holidays or work commitments it was decided that the trip was not viable.

Many members have said that they would like to see the excursion retained as a Company event. Historically the excursion was held during the week but it seems that this may not be so convenient in today's working environment.

With this in mind, suggestions are invited from members expressing a preferred day of the week on which the excursion should take place.

Members should eMail the secretary at secretary@selkirkmerchantcompany.co.uk or, alternatively, write to either The Master or the Secretary at:

Mr Andrew Proudfoot
7A Mavis Bank
SELKIRK TD7 4EA

Mr George Thomson
14 Park View
Wilton Dean
HAWICK TD9 7JE

Introducing New Members

A member wishing to nominate someone for membership should contact the Secretary or the Master and obtain the following forms.

Nomination for Membership

This form has to be completed giving details of the proposed member and also details of two sponsor members.

Declaration of Intent

This must be completed and signed by the person being nominated and is an undertaking, as a condition of being granted membership of the Company, to uphold the ancient traditions of the Company and to support and participate in the various functions of the Company.

If the declaration of intent is not signed the application will not be accepted.

The Special General Meeting is held at least one month before the Annual General Meeting to consider the proposed members. It is therefore important that the proposer should be able to answer any questions raised regarding the nomination.

All applications for membership must be in the hands of the Secretary or Master by 31st.December