

CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY
NEWS LETTER No. 24

ANNUAL DINNER AND GENERAL MEETING

27th October, 1973

This was held at the Quality Inn opposite Victoria Station, London. Sadly, the Chief of the Clan, for the first time for a number of years was unable to be present but nineteen members of the Society and their Guests including Major Sir Torquhil and Lady Matheson and Isobel Dougherty, our Canadian Representative, who had flown over specially with her daughter.

The Convener read a message of greeting from the Chief expressing his great regret at his unavoidable absence. The Convenor said that as some of those present had a long journey home, he would, with the Meeting's consent, cut short the more formal business of the evening, which would, this year, be dealt with as a report of the proceedings in the next Newsletter. This would allow more time for informal discussion. He felt that the future of the Society lay in more emphasis on positive contribution by the general body of members. He and his wife had returned that week from a brief holiday in Scotland and he was inclined to sympathise with those members residing in Scotland who felt rather cut off from a Society with its Headquarters in London.

Dealing with the Accounts of the Society for the year ended 30th June, 1973 he said that it had always been the practice to transfer life membership subscriptions to a reserve fund as fully invested as possible and only to treat the income arising from such investment as available towards the cost of the Society's Newsletters, postage and other running expenses. In recent years a number of annual members had transferred to life membership which had had the effect of reducing annual subscription income. Costs had increased as they had everywhere and the result, for the first time, had been that current income had fallen short of expenses. An increase in the rate of annual and life subscriptions might well be necessary in the future but would be postponed for as long as possible in the hope that additional membership income would make up for increased costs. Family membership could not, however, be continued and, in future, all members of a family who wished to retain membership would be asked to pay the full rate of 50p for annual membership.

The Convener drew attention to a report on the Society in the August issue of Scotland's Magazine and to his letter to the

Editor which had been printed in the September issue. He hoped that this kind of publicity would bring the Society's existence to the notice of more people than had been aware of it hitherto. Details had also been sent to the Scottish Corporation at their request. Apparently the Scottish Corporation from time to time received enquiries about Clan Societies and were pleased to have information about the Clan Matheson Society.

Sir Torquhil Matheson spoke of the importance of a branch or branches of the Society in Scotland and overseas and hoped that volunteers, like Isobel in Canada, would come forward to act as correspondents in their part of the world for the Newsletter. The Secretary said that the Reverend James Matheson had written to say that he has moved recently to Portree and would be interested in a branch of the Society in Kyle of Lochalsh. His address is now The Manse, Portree, Isle of Skye. The Committee hoped that Mathesons in the area would get in touch with the Reverend Matheson. This is the kind of lead which we hope will be followed up.

It was resolved that £10 be sent to the organisers of the Drumbuie Fighting Fund for the preservation of the district's amenities.

There was a lengthy discussion on possible venues for future annual gatherings of the Society. The Meeting felt that these should be at or as close as possible to Kyle of Lochalsh with Inverness as second choice and Aviemore, Edinburgh or Perth as possibilities. The Secretary was asked to write to the Scottish Tourist Board about publicity, the Clerk to the County Council of Ross-shire, Captain Matheson of Brahan Castle, Ian Matheson (a former Convener of the Society) and the proprietor of Balmacara Hotel to ask for their support and co-operation. A gathering at Kyle can only succeed if it is sponsored and supported by Mathesons in the area. The cost and time involved in travelling from almost anywhere to Kyle are considerable. Local talent and especially pipers would have to be organised locally. It cannot be done from London. If anything on this scale is practicable it will also be necessary to have some idea of what support is likely to be forthcoming and you are asked to complete the attached questionnaire and send it to the Secretary as soon as possible.

At this point, perhaps a little thankfully, the Meeting felt that it had done enough work for one evening and we were all happy to relax before making our separate ways home.

Information wanted

Last year in Perth I found a pair of medals which had been awarded to a Police Constable P. M. Matheson. One was a 1911 Scottish Police Coronation King George V medal, and the other a silver 1914 war medal marked B59069 A Sgt. P. M. Matheson M.R. I would be grateful for any information about him.

To: Torquhil A. Matheson, Standerwick Court, Frome, Somerset
... or via the Secretary.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members :—

Mr. and Mrs. Norman J. Matheson, 45 Burriss St., Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8M25 LM

Dr. and Mrs. James A. L. Matheson, C.M.G., M.B.E., Monash University, Clayton, 3168, Victoria, Australia. LM

Mr. and Mrs. Graeme T. Matheson, 6 Wallace Place, Rangiora, New Zealand. LM

Eleanor M. F. Matheson, Standerwick Court, Frome, Somerset.

Isobel S. Matheson, Standerwick Court, Frome, Somerset.

Alex M. Matheson, 32 Aldenham Avenue, Radlett, Herts.

Alex Matheson, 46 Kenya St., Ngaio, Wellington, New Zealand.

Miss Moira Matheson, Scarasta, Dornie, Kyle.

Duncan, Matheson, Danbeg, Nostie, Bridge Kyle.

Membership Changes

Mrs. Iona Copley now 18 Birch Drive, Hatfield, Herts, AL10 8NX.

Rev. J. G. Matheson now The Manse, Portree, Isle of Skye.

D. McLeod Matheson, now Life Member.

A. C. Matheson now Life Member.

Mrs. Isobel Docherty now Life Member.

J. D. Mathieson now 59 Belmont Close. (same district).

We regret to have heard of the decease of Miss Katie Matheson of Plockton.

CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th JUNE, 1973

	£	p	£	p
ASSETS—				
Balance at Bank		39	12	
Block at cost (Clan Crest)		40	00	
On deposit with Abbey National Building Society ...	151	75		
Stock of Christmas Cards	14	10		
			244	97
			£244	97

Represented by :—

Reserve Fund — Life Membership

As at 1st July, 1972	250	00
Received during the year	10	00
	260	00

Excess of expenditure over current income to date ...	15	03
	244	97
	£244	97

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1973

	£	p	£	p
Balance in hand 1st July, 1972		3	34	
Annual Membership Subscriptions		15	50	
Building Society Interest received		6	29	
			25	13
Less—				
Postage and Stationery		16	10	
Printing Newsletter		22	71	
Bank Charges		1	35	
			40	16
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME PER BALANCE SHEET			£15	03

MARGARET SHAW, Hon. Treasurer.
RONALD MATHESON, Convener.