



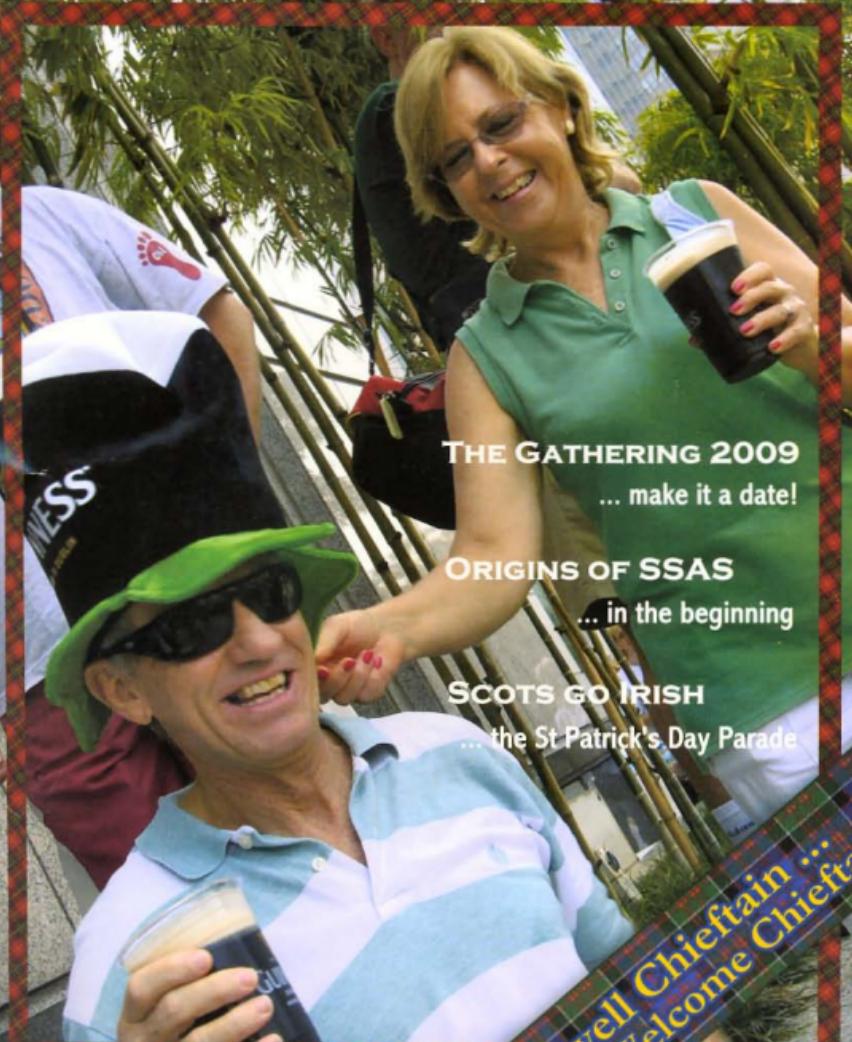
Singapore

St Andrew's Society

April/May 2008

Newsletter

MICA No. (P) 268/05/2007



THE GATHERING 2009

... make it a date!

ORIGINS OF SSAS

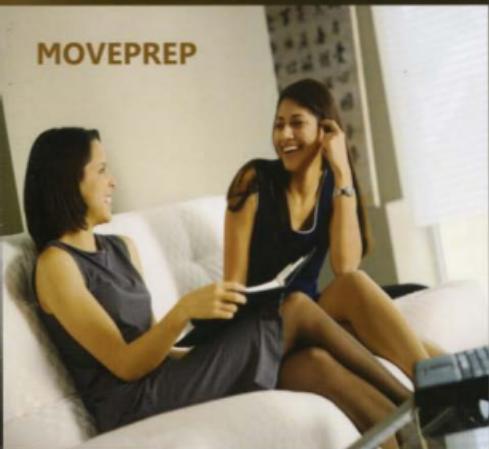
... in the beginning

SCOTS GO IRISH

... the St Patrick's Day Parade

Farewell Chieftain ...
Welcome Chieftain!

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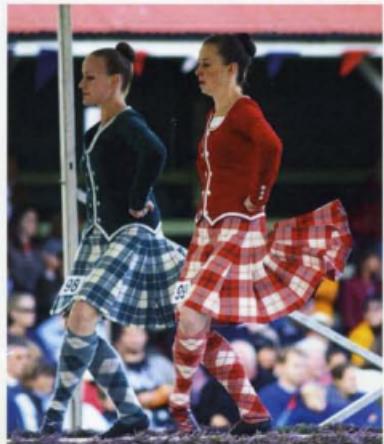
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Incoming Committee Members for 2008/9

Alison Robb, Hon. Treasurer
Heather Brown, committee member
Ian Porteous, committee member
Joan Boudailler, committee member

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FROM THE EDITOR

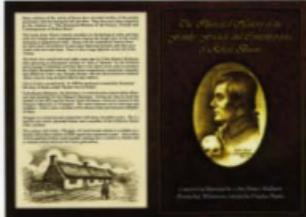
Welcome! Inside this issue we have some great photos of the St Patrick's Day Parade, a truly international experience and a great day out. It was lovely to join ranks with our Celtic cousins and celebrate their special day.

Talking of large scale celebrations, there are a few notable ones. Java St Andrew's Society will stage its annual Jakarta Highland Gathering in October, an event that has been thriving for 31 years. If you've never been, it's definitely worth making the trip, with several days of events to enjoy including a golf tournament and a special concert, with the festivities culminating in a Highland Games, complete with Highland and Country Dance competitions, a football tournament and, of course, the usual 'strong men'. There are also performances from pipers and drummers

from around the globe.

Looking further ahead, another very special celebration will take place in Edinburgh in 2009, the largest clan gathering to be held in Scotland for over 200 years. Susan McKenzie gives you more detail on pages 13-15.

Also of particular interest, on pages 20-21 of this issue, is the story of our Society's beginnings, researched and written by committee member, Adam Hyslop. This information has been posted on the Electric Scotland website, www.electricscotland.com/asia/singapore.htm, courtesy of its webmaster, Alastair McIntyre. Special thanks to Alastair and to Adam for beginning the task of unlocking our past. I'm sure the story will continue to unfold. Do watch this space!



A BEAUTIFUL AND UNIQUE GIFT IDEA FOR Christmas, *The Illustrated History of the Family, Friends and Contemporaries of Robert Burns* by Colin and Douglas Hunter McQueen is truly a work of art as well as an interesting read. The book traces Burns' family members in chronological order and date, with his friends and contemporaries featuring in alphabetical order. The book has been eight years in the making, the authors being inspired to write it after seeing an illustrated volume of *Tam O'Shanter* by Scottish author George Cruickshank.



FROM THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN

TIPSY LAIRD TRIFLE



A truly wonderful Scottish dessert!
Serves 6

Ingredients

- 1 large Victoria sponge cake, sliced, or 6 individual sponge fingers
- 3 - 4 tbsp of raspberry jam
- 6 digestive or ratafia biscuits
- 1 wine glass of sweet sherry
- 2 tbsp of whisky or Drambuie
- 300 g raspberries
- 1 banana, sliced
- 250 ml (1/2 pint) double cream
- 1 tbsp caster sugar
- Additional whisky or Drambuie (optional)
- toasted flaked almonds to decorate

For the custard

- 2 medium egg yolks
- 50 g (2 oz) caster sugar
- 3 or 4 drops vanilla essence
- 250 ml (1/2 pint) milk
- 150 ml (1/3 pint) double cream

Method

Spread the sponge with the jam and roughly break up into the bottom of a large glass bowl or trifle dish. Roughly crush the biscuits and scatter over the jammed sponge. Mix the sherry and whisky (or Drambuie). Pour over the sponge and leave to soak. To make the custard, whisk the egg yolks and sugar together until pale and creamy. Mix the cream, milk and vanilla in a pan and heat to just before it begins to boil (but be sure you don't let it boil!). Pour into the beaten egg and blend well. Return to the pan over a low heat and stir continuously until the mixture is thick enough to coat the back of a spoon. Pour into a bowl and allow to cool. Whip the cream and caster sugar to thick peaks and fold in the additional whisky if using.

Pour the cooled custard over the sponge and cover with a layer of raspberries and banana slices. Spoon over the thickened cream. Finally, decorate with a scattering of flaked almonds.

It is also a good idea to make individual portions for dinner parties, a fantastic dessert.

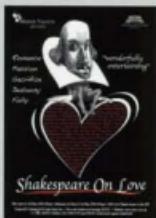
Colin, the illustrator, is a retired conservation officer and ship modeller for Glasgow Museums. He has built many models, including the Royal Yacht Britannia and the QE2, which are housed in the Glasgow Museum of Transport.

To celebrate the 250th anniversary of Burns birth, Colin is currently building a detailed scale model of Burns' Mausoleum, which will tour various venues in Scotland starting at Dumfries Museum in January 2009 and ending its journey at Aberdeen Art Gallery in September. For more details about Colin, the Mausoleum and the book, visit www.drumbow.co.uk

GIFT IDEA FOR EXTREME KILTERS



SHAKESPEARE ON LOVE



WESSEX THEATRE, A NEW PROFESSIONAL theatre company based in Singapore, presents:

Shakespeare on Love

DBS Arts Theatre

29th April to 3rd May 2008, 8pm

Matinees 1st and 3rd May 2008, 3pm

Tickets available from SISTIC

THE FIRST SELL OUT PERFORMANCE of *Shakespeare on Love* at Raffles Hotel's Jubilee Hall in 2000, was reviewed by

the Flying Inkpot as "an ingenious and exciting hybrid of plays from one of the greatest love poets, Shakespeare. The play deftly explores love and its effects in all their infinite possibilities."

The 2008 production includes excerpts from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Tempest*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Measure for Measure*, *Othello* and *Antony and Cleopatra*.

The emphasis throughout is on making the pieces fresh, accessible and relevant. Music combines with poetry to add to the emotional impact of the dramatic action.

An experienced and talented cast will make this an unforgettable and thoroughly entertaining evening of Shakespeare.

BOOK CLUB

EVERY THIRD TUESDAY of the month. An informal opportunity to meet and swap your used books. Toddlers and babies welcome. Contact Elaine on H/p: 6729 7537 or edignan@gmail.com



CHIEFTAIN'S CHASE

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET PRACTISING FOR The Chieftain's Chase on Sunday 8th June! Defending Champion, Christopher Town, will be a tough match for anyone, so get your running shoes out and don't delay!



REMINDER

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!



The 1950s. When life was simple!

BRIDGE

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR BRIDGE CLUB, contact Marion on 6462 5634 or email whitedw@singnet.com.sg The group gets together most months, the next session being Friday 9th May.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Bridge Evening
Friday 9th May

Chieftain's Trophy
Saturday 17th May

Book Club
Tuesday 20th May

Pub Night
Friday 23rd May

Murder Mystery Dinner
Saturday 24th May

Chieftain's Chase
Sunday 8th June

Ladies Lunch
Tuesday 10th June

Fathers' Day Brunch
Sunday 15th June

The Gathering 2009,
Edinburgh
25th & 26th July

Details correct at time of going to press. Please check our website for any updated information and application forms

MURDER MYSTERY

IF YOU TAKE UP THE INVITATION TO DINE at Johnson's Grange, be forewarned; Not since the Macbeths had a few close friends round for supper has a dinner invitation promised more shocks and horrors! Take up the invitation to dine at the Tanglin Club on Saturday 24th May and be entertained by Masquerade for a great evening of good food, great fun and laughter. If you would like to join a group from the St. Andrew's Society, please contact Marion whitedw@singnet.com.sg or hp: 9651 9242.

Letter From Our Chieftain



I am delighted to be writing to you as your newly elected Chieftain and look forward to an exciting year at the helm. It is indeed an honour to be entrusted with leading the society for 2008/9 and I will certainly do my best to ensure that I pass it on in a year's time in an equally vibrant condition.

Old we may be, but there is nothing dingy and dusty about us! With the continued support of the committee, I hope we can offer you, the members, some exciting activities and interesting events over the next year with, of course, our traditional celebrations of the St Andrew's Ball and the Burns Supper.

Adam Hyslop has been busy piecing together the history of the society and his article makes fascinating reading. I encourage you all to take time to read it and feel as proud as I do to be a member of such an auspicious association. We are to celebrate a centenary this year as the society was officially registered in November 1908, although we can trace our activities and celebrations way back before that! It appears little has changed in that respect: the Scots were feasting and merrymaking in 1835 until daybreak and many of us do likewise in 2008!

We had some exciting events in the weeks leading up to the AGM and plenty more in the pipeline to see us through to the summer break. Don't forget to pencil in the Chieftain's Trophy (golf) on 17th May, the Murder Mystery at the Tanglin Club on 24th May and the Chieftain's Chase (fun run) on 8th June. I am sure some fun and hilarity will be found at all three events. This is in addition to our regular dancing, golf, badminton, bridge, football club and book club. Remember we are open to suggestions so please do not hesitate to contact us with some fresh ideas!

I would also ask you to ensure that you have renewed your membership. I know how easy it is to let things slip. This was due in April (unless you joined the Society earlier in 2008 in which case your membership is good until April 2009) and renewal forms are available on our website. If you are leaving Singapore for good this summer and do not wish to remain a member, do please drop us an email and we can take you off our list.

I am very much looking forward to the year ahead and, with the support of Vice-Chieftain Scott Mitchell and the other committee members, I am sure it will be a rewarding and successful year.

Yours Aye, Elspeth

Welcome

New Members

Heather Ann Brown

&

Roman Matla

■

Christopher

&

Tracy Johnson

■

Jack Hather

&

Christine Watt

■

Eric Milne

■

Philip Osborne

■

Many people talk about success.

*We prefer to be successful
and let other people
talk about us*



'I have worked overseas in Asia for the past 30 years. It same 12 years since I first met william Gray, from which began my assocation with what was then to emerge as the RIO Club, and wich has become a felicitous match up for me. No more having to deal with indifferently competent brokers! William's straightforward attitude to the business of the Club and his concern that its members are properly rewarded has reaped excellent returns for all. Keep at it, William'

Dr. Scott Younger OBE

I haveseen a remarkable change in the RIO Club over the post ten years. But the one thing I can say that the founder of the club has stuck by his word given to me years ago. In fact not only has he not increased changes but lowered them when the investment industry has done exactly the opposite.

I have two holdings outside the club both have bubbled the changes over the same period.

This is one reason I feel the club will evenly become many times the size it is today, people love value for money and with RIO over the years you certainly get that.

Dr. John Armon

In times of adversity when Markets are rife with volatility it's reassuring to be in the RIO Club who's market predictions have lead to a reasonable profit in our investment portfolio since joining the club many years ago. Indeed we have been RIO club members since 1996 over this period we've witnessed the club grow to become the largest private investment club in south East Asia.

We would recommend membership to any expatriate who is looking for a true ROI (Return on Investment). As a married couple we are retired now and benefit from the clubs Fixed income product offering a 100% capital guarantee, it also has an attractive return of 9% pa on ones investment for a fixed period of 5 years. The income comes in useful and is paid directly in to our bank account every quarter.

Sandy Macfarlane OBE



THE SCOTS HAVE NEVER SHIED AWAY FROM A BATTLE. IT WAS ONLY NATURAL THEY PICKED ONE WITH CANCER.

Scotland has been the site of some epic battles. None more important than the fight against cancer. The discovery of the p53 cancer suppressor gene is just one example of Scottish ingenuity. The CAT scan. MRIs. Stem cell research. They all got their start here. In fact, the latest advances in life sciences, such as the world's leading

developments in Translational Medicine, are happening across our lands. Which is why more and more companies are doing business in Scotland. Where they can get the innovative resources they need to advance science. And their businesses. Contact Scottish Development International to find out how your company can join them.



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Meet the Committee



Mary Kozma, Past Chieftain and Editor

Family: Husband Rob and children, Stefan (17) and Calum (13)

How long in Singapore: 6½ years

Other Places Lived: Edinburgh and, apart from a brief spell in Singapore in 1992-3, I've lived the rest of my time in north London, where both our children were born... innit!

Your Connection to Scotland: I was born in the small mining town of Loanhead, to the south of Edinburgh. My father's family were natives of Edinburgh and my mother left her hometown of Liverpool when she was sweet 16 to seek fame and fortune north of the border. She found neither but instead met my father, a handsome young miner (actually, it says he was a stripper on my Birth Certificate!), and they married after a whirlwind romance of 3 months. Four children quickly followed and I lived in and around Edinburgh until I accepted a research position in London after graduating from the University of Edinburgh in 1983.

Favourite Place in Scotland: I'm torn between the stunning 360° view from the rooftop of the *Camera Obscura* in Edinburgh's Royal Mile to the rolling hills of Torridon (although the midges are less than pleasant). It's the people I remember best; whilst walking in a remote location on a sea cliff near Applecross, we stumbled upon a traditional black house. It transpired that it had recently been the location for a film about St Kilda. When we pushed open the door we were amazed to find an

View across the Forth from the rooftop of Edinburgh's Camera Obscura



Purveyor of fine meats selling bats in the marketplace, Sulawesi

old man still living in it, surrounded by smoke and coughing profusely. It was reminiscent of a scene from a George Mackay Brown novel! After crossing his palm with silver, he came out for a chat and said he'd only ever been once as far as Glasgow, for his sister's wedding, but he never liked the place as there were too many people, so he never went anywhere else after that.

Favourite Place in the Rest of the World: I loved the tranquility and remoteness of landing in a helicopter on a glacier in the mountains of New Zealand's south island. It was like being at the top of the world! I also enjoyed exploring the northern tip of Sulawesi. Due to the isolation of the highland communities, they have each evolved their own language and traditions. There are stunning vistas from the top of volcanoes and the best coral reefs I've seen anywhere, including the great Barrier Reef. We stayed in a small fishing community and slept in traditional huts with no electricity – far, far from it all!

Hobbies and Special Interests: I like anything creative. I am handy with a needle! I supplied backing vocals in a number of bands around London and I was a keen photographer before my children demanded I carried spare clothing and snacks instead of camera equipment. I like being outdoors and we have spent many happy summers camping and exploring the south coast of England, particularly around Dorset and the Isle of Wight. My husband is a keen entomologist so, over the years, I've

learned to tell the difference between a Common Blue and an Adonis Blue!

Favourite Scottish Tradition: There are those who will think this is a cheat but I think it's a Scottish tradition to ignore the weather and adopt the unrealistic optimism of the Scots by insisting that the black clouds will clear and the sun will shine at any moment. I can remember many a day in my childhood when we sat on the beach, waves lapping round our ankles, wind-breaker billowing and in danger of falling down, in our determination to enjoy a summer outing. And how can I forget the family barbecue when we all huddled under an electric blanket to keep warm!

Favourite Scottish Food or Drink: I think it has to be good old mince 'n' tatties.

Favourite St. Andrew's Event: I always enjoy trying anything new and, of course, the Ball.

Favourite Scottish Country Dance: Posties Jig

Favourite Spectator Sport: Football. I was delighted when we came to Singapore and subscribed to ESPN and Star Sports. Match of the Day in England had just switched from BBC to ITV and we only got half an hour of highlights and as much advertising as football! Saturday nights were never the same. I like to watch English Premier League and the European matches. My favourite team is Manchester United, whose skill is second to none when they're on top of their game, my player of the moment being Carlos Tevez. Oh, and I especially love all the banter from the pundits.

Favourite Participation Sport: I used to swim quite a bit but we don't have a pool anymore. I cycle and do aqua-aerobics and I also do a fair bit of dancing, just for fun. I'm looking forward to the Extreme Kilting.

Mary passes the pen to George Piacentini for our next Meet the Committee feature

Scots reunited

March with your clan in Scotland's Historic Gathering

On July Twenty-fifth, 2009 you could join an unprecedented international gathering of 8,500 clanspeople and march from Holyrood Palace, along Edinburgh's historic Royal Mile, and take your exclusively reserved seats high on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle, where a spectacular Clan Pageant will unfold. This thrilling experience will be the culmination of a weekend during which the capital's rugged Royal Park will become host to Scotland's largest ever Highland Games.

The Games will showcase competitors from traditional disciplines such as piping, Highland dancing and the official 2009 World Heavy Athletics championships, along with a host of contemporary musicians, top-quality vendors of local produce, and Scottish genealogists.

ACT NOW TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE IN HISTORY

With just 8,500 places to be filled by millions of Scots from all over the world, tickets to this magnificent event are sure to be in great demand. So to ensure that you don't miss out on a guaranteed place in the Clan March, a place at the Clan Pageant... and, indeed, a place in history... visit www.thegathering2009.com.

www.thegathering2009.com

THE GATHERING 2009

TEL: +44 (0) 131 561 1323




**THE
GATHERING
EDINBURGH**
2009

What's New in Scotland?

THE CLANS ARE GATHERING!

YOU TAKE THE HIGH ROAD
AND I'LL TAKE THE LOW
ROAD AND WE'LL MEET IN
EDINBURGH IN JULY 2009,
SAYS SUSAN MCKENZIE

The Palace of Holyroodhouse, from where the gathered clans will leave in procession up to Edinburgh Castle

NO JUST A BRILLIANT novelist, Sir Walter Scott is renowned as the architect of the greatest clan gathering Edinburgh has witnessed. An amateur antiquarian and authority on his nation's history, Scott stage-managed both Lowland lairds and Highland chieftains and assisted in the design of the clan tartans, a highlight of the Royal Pageant of 1822.

The historic extravaganza drew enthusiastic throngs to the metropolis. Scott looked magnificent in Campbell trews and King George IV sported a kilt of the Royal Stuart tartan. Activities included levees at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, a state procession to Edinburgh Castle, a command performance at the theatre, and the conferring of knighthoods on Adam Ferguson and the painter Henry Raeburn.

Cynics may say Scott took fictional romanticism and transformed it into reality. Nevertheless, the pageant's

impact is still felt today – he is credited with spreading Highland culture to the four corners of Scotland and taking pride in the nation to a higher level.

Although Scott did not have the benefit of modern communications, a 50 per cent turn out of the nation displayed overwhelming support. Inspired by the 19th century assemblage, The Gathering 2009 intends to take Edinburgh by storm over

"NOT SINCE 1822 HAVE SO MANY CLANS COME TOGETHER"

two jam-packed days on July 25 to 26. Utilising high-tech, all clansmen and clanswomen around the globe are receiving invitations to attend.

"Not since 1822 have so many clans come together," says lead organiser Lord Sempill, chief of the Name and Arms of

Sempill and vice convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. "Clan tradition and cultural identity are closely linked, and this is a wonderful opportunity for Scots to be better informed about their own heritage."

Just as a king gave his seal of approval 190 years ago, the current heir to the throne graces this fantastic spectacle along the Royal Mile and at Edinburgh Castle. A frequent attendee of Highland Games, Prince Charles has welcomed the opportunity to be patron. Lord Sempill appreciates the monarchy's influence: "It is important to remember that the renaissance of Highland Games and clan gatherings can largely be attributed to Queen Victoria's patronage and her love of the Highlands with all its traditions." There is another reason, explains Lord Sempill: "As the Duke of Rothesay and the Lord of the Isles, the Prince of Wales represents a far older connection between the monarchy and the clans of Scotland. Therefore, it is only right and fitting that the greatest gathering of clans and chiefs

ever to be held should be honoured by the presence of His Royal Highness."

"The Gathering 2009 is being designed as a unique occasion in the form of a classic two-day Highland Games," says Lord Sempill. Scotland's biggest ever Highland Games is staged as part of Homecoming Scotland, a year-long campaign to attract visitors. Held to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, celebrations take place throughout Scotland.

At Holyrood Park, the programme features the 2009 World Highland Games Heavy Events Championship and an International Gathering of Scottish Clans and Families. As well as piping, dancing, athletics and heavy events, the games arena plays host to a food and drink fair and features leading contemporary and traditional bands. Visitors are able to trace their ancestry as well.

"We are aiming for at least 80 clan tents for around 7,500 clan members, including members of Caledonian and St Andrew's societies from home and abroad," Lord Sempill reveals. "We're expecting at least a further 30,000 people to attend the events in the park over the weekend." On the first day, clan members take part in a mass parade up the Royal Mile from Holyrood Park which culminates in a huge pageant on Edinburgh Castle Esplanade. As chiefs converge on the capital for The Gathering 2009, the first ever Clan Convention discusses the role of clans in the 21st century.

Lord Sempill, one of the directors of The Gathering 2009



Are Highland Games and gatherings largely a 19th century invention? While it's true they were revived, expanded and popularised during this era, their history can be traced back nearly 1,000 years to the 11th century. From the quiet glens and groves of ancient Scotland comes one of the most physically demanding and technically challenging sports. Historians suggest that their origins even date back as far as 2,000 years when Scottish warriors displayed their bravery and strength during Roman invasions by exhibiting feats of skill and power in front of opposing armies.

Historically, the Bonnie Land is well known for its superior warriors who battled from horseback, on the ground and from behind castle ramparts. Soldiers prepared and developed their strength using the implements of the Highland Games. Another essential attribute of the successful warrior is dexterity and the Highland Fling and the Sword Dance honed this skill. At one time strictly a male preserve, it was only in the early 19th century that female dancers became commonplace.

"CLAN TRADITION AND CULTURAL IDENTITY ARE CLOSELY LINKED, AND THIS IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR SCOTS TO BE BETTER INFORMED ABOUT THEIR OWN HERITAGE"

Clan chieftains needed to test and find the best warriors. King Malcolm III (1058-1093) defended the area around Braemar against incursions from Moray and he probably instituted the Highland Games as a contest to select the strongest and fittest clansmen. The tests (the current athletic events) simulated lobbing stones from battlements, throwing ladders up castle walls, and swinging the long and heavy claymore sword.

One of the first Highland Games was held when King Malcolm became concerned about the way in which important news and documents were delivered to his Highland retreat. He



Traditional Highland events are highlights at The Gathering 2009

summoned contestants to take part in a foot race to the summit of Craig Choinnich (overlooking Braemar). The winner received a beautiful baldric sword, a purse of gold and the title of the King's Messenger.

Other kings and clan chieftains followed suit. These gatherings developed into social and celebratory events, along with staff recruitment activities. Various contests were held and from these the best dancers and pipers were hired as entertainers. Winners of the strength events were used as bodyguards and the fastest runners were selected as couriers. Subsequently, clans would come together and hold a combined gathering, with various champions representing their clans in the different contests. This meant that rival clans could compete against each other without battles and bloodshed.

Forged from tumultuous history, modern-day Highland Gatherings, or Highland Games, have grown into colourful celebrations of Scottish culture both at home and abroad.

Singapore St Andrew's Society plan to take a clan tent at The Gathering 2009 where we hope to bring together many of our members, past and present, and past chieftains, to join in this wonderful celebration.



GATHERINGS AND GAMES

Through the Ages

11th century The first Gathering. King Malcolm III arranged a foot race up Craig Choinnich near the village of Braemar. He used this as a means of selecting a new courier. Gatherings of one sort or another at Braemar have been held since these times

1314 The village of Ceres in Fife claims to have held the oldest Gathering. This was after the battle of Bannockburn when the villagers were granted a day of celebration to mark the safe return of the village's bowmen

1574 At the St Michael's Day celebrations (September 29) "tossing of ye bar" (caber tossing) first appears on the record

1703 A document dating from this time summoned the clan of the Laird of Grant. The summons informed them to arrive wearing Highland coats with gun, sword, pistol and dirk. From this letter it is believed that the competition would have included feats of arms

1707 The Act of Union. The Act proclaimed that there would be one United Kingdom by the name of Great Britain with one Protestant ruler and one legislature

1745 Bonnie Prince Charlie's arrival in Scotland signals the start of the last Jacobite uprising

1746 Battle of Culloden: After the defeat of the Jacobites at Culloden, the London-based government, in fear of further uprisings, did their best to destroy the clan system. Large gatherings of people, the carrying of arms, playing bagpipes and kilt wearing were all banned by the Act of Proscription

1747 The Heritable Jurisdictions Act removes the feudal authority of the clan chieftans

1781 The first openly held Gathering at Falkirk. The spirit of the Gatherings was kept alive by the Highland Regiments. This encouraged other Gatherings to be held

1782 Repeal of the Act of Proscription. When the Act was repealed, Highlanders, as Cunningham in his *History of Scotland* wrote, "returned with joy to their beloved kilt, no longer bound to the unmanly trews of the Lowlanders"; shortly afterwards Highland societies are set up to promote the use of Highland dress; the revival of Gatherings begin

1800 After the general 18th century ban, the Braemar Gathering is back up and running

1819 St Fillans Society organises a full-scale Highland Games with piping, dancing and athletics

1820 The founding of the Celtic Society of Edinburgh to promote the general use of Highland dress in the Highlands and in Edinburgh. Both Highland chieftains and Lowlanders are members with Lowlander Sir Walter Scott as president

1822 Sir Walter Scott's Royal Pageant in Edinburgh is graced by King George IV in Highland garb and is the first royal visit by a reigning monarch since 1650; the kilt becomes part of Scotland's national identity; the first City of Inverness Highland Games is held

1832 The foot races at the Braemar Gathering in the Cairngorms are the world's oldest, having been organised on a regular basis by the Braemar Royal Highland Society since this time

1848 Queen Victoria attends the Gathering at Braemar. This starts the royal tradition of attendance at Braemar which continues to this day

1867 The first Aboyne Games takes place. The village of Aboyne is situated in the heart of Royal Deeside approximately 30 miles from Aberdeen

1868 The first in a series of *Highland Memoirs* excerpted from Queen Victoria's journals is published. Together with the 1822 Royal Pageant, Queen Victoria's patronage constitutes one of the most significant factors in the popularisation of the Games and what has been called the Highlandification of Scotland

1894 The first Cowal Highland Gathering in Argyll takes place

1975 The first Jakarta Highland Games – the largest Scottish themed event in Indonesia and probably the southern hemisphere

2005 The Glengarry Highland Games in Ontario, Canada, is thought to have staged the world's biggest such event in 2005, when 25,000 people turned up

2008 The 31st Jakarta Highland Games

2009 The Gathering 2009 in Edinburgh, July 25 to 26. www.clangathering.org

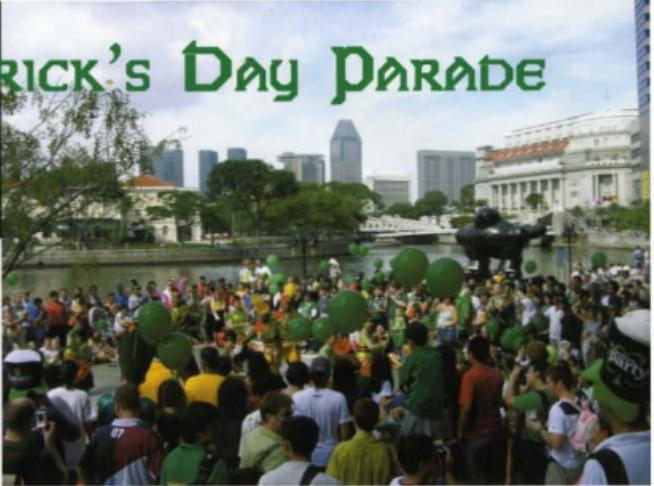
Special thanks to Lord Sempill and Lucy-Rose Walker

St. Patrick's Day Parade

WHAT'S GREEN AND WRIGGLES AND gets longer every year? The St Patrick's Day Parade. In this, its third year it had grown to around 700 and with no end of drums, pipes and whatever else came to hand it was also the noisiest parade yet! The silly hats and shamrocks were out in huge numbers and big smiles, as well as the Guinness, were on tap.

The proximity to the Easter holiday meant that many of our members had departed Singapore, but there were still some familiar faces who joined in or participated from the sidelines. Unfortunately our children's dance teams were unable to dance this year as too few of them were available. However, Alicia represented us along with Yvonne Tan and one of her drummers who accompanied Alicia on stage as she performed both a Highland Dance and an Irish Jig.

The parade ended outside UOB where a multicultural display of dancing and music took place, followed by a street party outside Molly Malone's where we sat in the street eating chips, singing along to the music and watching the Celtic dancers.





Flavours of Scotland, SCO Goes Celtic!

By Elspeth Town



THE SINGAPORE CHINESE ORCHESTRA, together with musicians Alistair Anderson and Chris Stout, presented a fantastic evening of musical entertainment at the end of March. As guests of the SCO, Nigel and I enjoyed this unusual concert, which was a fusion of Chinese orchestral music and traditional Celtic music featuring Alistair Anderson on the English concertina and Chris Stout on the fiddle.

The evening opened with a solo piper playing *Amazing Grace* and was soon

joined by other members of the Singapore Police Force Women's Pipes and Drums. The entire Chinese Orchestra then joined in the haunting melody and brought out the majestic qualities of the piece.

Eric Watson, who has been closely associated with the Nanyang

Academy of Fine Arts for several years, arranged many of the well-known Scottish pieces for the evening, as well as composing *Fiddlers Free*. He conceived this piece as a dance fantasy for fiddle and Chinese orchestra and its world premiere was well received by the enthusiastic audience.

I was interested to learn that the English concertina was

conceived from the sheng instrument, although visually the two bear no resemblance! A French missionary brought the sheng back to England from his travels in China during the early 1800s. The two instruments share a similar system of metal reeds to produce the sounds and have a two-handed scale.

It was altogether an excellent evening and I would recommend you visit the SCO in their concert hall in Shenton Way.



All About Brochs



Dun Carloway Broch

DURING THE CENTURIES BEFORE and after the birth of Christ, the world of northern Europe was going through uncertain and often dangerous times. The civilisations of the Mediterranean world were making their presence felt. Greek traders gradually

opened up the region, selling wine and manufactured goods to the natives. The Romans soon followed, adding tribe after tribe and country after country to their empire until they eventually arrived on the shores of Britain. Needless to say, these events brought utter chaos to the Celtic world and this turmoil is reflected in the construction of fortifications. In the north of Scotland and the islands off its coast these took the form of stone-built towers known as *brochs*.

Brochs are generally tall, conical structures, up to 15 metres or so high and about the same across at the base. The outer wall is typically made of two concentric 'skins' bonded together by

stone lintels. The space between them is generally occupied by a winding staircase and a number of small cells. They have a single entrance which was heavily defended. The door was recessed, about halfway down the long entrance passage, and there were often guard rooms on either side. About 500 examples have been recorded across Scotland, mainly in the Northern and Western Isles and on the mainland of Caithness and Sutherland, with over 120 brochs in Orkney alone. Although there are earlier prototypes, the majority seem to date to the period between 100 BC and the arrival of the Romans in the second century AD. They are remarkably uniform in design and some believe that they are the work of a few itinerant 'broch architects'.

When life is...

ALL CHAMPAGNE & ROAST BEEF



"THE FEELING OF FRIENDSHIP IS LIKE THAT OF BEING COMFORTABLY FILLED WITH ROAST BEEF; LOVE, LIKE BEING ENLIVENED WITH CHAMPAGNE."

SAMUEL JOHNSON

IT'S OFTEN THOUGHT AN EXPAT'S LIFE IS filled with afternoons such as these. For most, tiffin time has, perhaps, been rather rudely replaced with Tiger Time but for these lucky St Andrew's members, not only was the champagne flowing freely but there was a hearty roast on the Sunday brunch menu at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront. Friendship and love in a single afternoon!

For those who could still stand up at 3pm, the St Patrick's Day Parade beckoned and after a quick greening up, a few replete and satisfied souls joined the festivities a little further along the river.

Thank you Jane Herron for organising a lovely afternoon.





The Old Parliament House, formerly known as the Court House, scene of the first St Andrew's Dinner

ONE OF THE FIRST QUESTIONS THAT MANY NEW MEMBERS ASK ABOUT OUR SOCIETY IS HOW IT ORIGINATED AND WHO WERE THE PEOPLE WHO BEGAN IT ALL. SADLY, NOT MUCH IS KNOWN ABOUT OUR EARLY DAYS AND MANY POTENTIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION, SUCH AS PUBLIC AND PARISH RECORDS, WERE DESTROYED DURING THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION. DESPITE THIS, ONE KEEN COMMITTEE MEMBER DECIDED TO DEVOTE SOME TIME RESEARCHING INTO OUR BEGINNINGS. ADAM HYSLOP MADE SEVERAL TRIPS TO THE NATIONAL REFERENCE LIBRARY IN VICTORIA STREET, WHERE HE GLEANED SOME INFORMATION BY SEARCHING THEIR MICROFILM ARCHIVES. HERE IS THE STORY SO FAR.

THE FIRST FORMAL PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF ST ANDREW'S DAY IN SINGAPORE WAS 1835, THE SECOND WAS IN 1836.

A meeting of patriotic Caledonians took place at the Reading Room on Tuesday 24th of November 1835, where it was determined to give a public dinner in honour of St Andrew. The dinner was to take place on the following Monday 30th November 1835 at half past six. The venue was the upper apartments of the Court House and the numbers expected would be no less than seventy.⁽¹⁾

At the St Andrew's Dinner Dr Montgomerie and Mr William Napier presided and Messrs. Spottiswoode, Lorrain, Carnie and Stephen were

ORIGINS OF THE SINGAPORE ST ANDREW'S SOCIETY

Stewards.⁽²⁾ The dinner was a great success and it was reported that the party did not break up till daylight.⁽³⁾

By the following year, 1836, Mr Napier had been elected Chairman and Mr Duncan, Croupier (Assistant Chairman), while Messrs. Lewis Fraser, Charles Spottiswoode, Drysdale and Davidson were the Stewards.⁽⁴⁾ There was a public invite in the 26th November 1836 edition of the *Singapore Chronicle*. The following week's edition mentioned that, contrary to expectation, there were fewer people than in the previous year. This was, however, not due to a lack of people who wanted to attend, but rather to the fact that there were no public buildings large enough to accommodate so many people.⁽⁵⁾ Although the reporter from the *Singapore Chronicle* did not attend, it was reported "The company finally broke up at sunrise after having partaken of a third supper, when they parted with the utmost harmony and good fellowship."⁽⁶⁾

There were fourteen toasts including The Queen; the Pious Memory of St Andrew; the Navy; the Governor of Singapore; guests; President of the United States; the Army; memory of Burns and Scott; King of the French; memory of Raffles; memory of Wallace and Bruce; Mr G Nicol, the Kirk of Scotland; Mr Charles Dyce, Mrs Butterworth and the ladies.⁽⁷⁾ There is no record for the following year, 1843, but there is a record for 1844. The Ball and Supper took place at the New Public Rooms.⁽⁸⁾ The next mention was in 1848 when the "patriotic sons of Scotia in Singapore... met at dinner in the Public Rooms in the evening, where they gave a free vent to their feelings of nationality, and the song and pledge went round to a late hour."⁽⁹⁾

"... THEY GAVE A FREE VENT TO
THEIR FEELINGS OF NATIONALITY,
AND THE SONG AND PLEDGE WENT
ROUND TO A LATE HOUR"



The Reading Room, venue for the first St Andrew's meeting

I could not find any mention of the St Andrew's celebration dinner in the following years of the *Singapore Chronicle* but the dinner did take place the following year, 1837. Dr Montgomerie was the Chairman again, the Stewards being Messrs. Carnie, Fraser, Charles Spottiswood (partner in John Purvis & Co) and Davidson.⁽¹⁰⁾ It would seem that the St Andrew's Dinner continued in 1838 and 1839 because it caused some remarks in the newspaper when it did not happen in 1840.⁽¹¹⁾

There is no record for the following two years (1841 and 1842) but the dinner did take place in 1843, on Thursday 30th November. The venue was Dutronquoy's and there were seventy-five in attendance. Dr Montgomerie was in the chair again and Mr William Napier and Croupier.

Official Formation of the St Andrew's Society

In 1879 the St Andrew's Ball was held in the Singapore Club and it had been a fairly regular annual event, although, now and again, a banquet had been substituted. On the 27th November 1908 the St Andrew's Society was formed that "there might be in Singapore a regularly constituted body of Scotsmen under whose auspices and control the anniversary of St Andrew may be observed, and who may take cognizance of, discuss, and take steps in regard to any matters which possess a national and local interest by donations from the Society's funds or otherwise."⁽¹²⁾

In 1908 both the Governor and the Colonial Secretary of Singapore were Scotsmen; the former (Sir John Anderson G.C.M.G) became Patron and the latter (Sir Arthur Henderson Young K.C.M.G) President. The other members of this, the first committee of the Society, were the Hon. Dr D. J. Galloway (Vice President) Mr James Henry (Secretary) and Mr J.J. Macbean (Treasurer). The membership was one hundred and thirty-three.⁽¹³⁾



References

- (1) *Singapore Chronicle*, Saturday 28th November 1835, page 2
- (2) Charles Burton Buckley, *An Anecdotal History of Old Times Singapore 1819-1867*. (Oxford University Press), page 275
- (3) Charles Burton Buckley, *An Anecdotal History of Old Times Singapore 1819-1867*. (Oxford University Press), page 275
- (4) *Singapore Chronicle*, Saturday 26th November 1836, page 2
- (5) *Singapore Chronicle*, Saturday 3rd December 1836, page 3
- (6) *Singapore Chronicle*, Saturday 3rd December 1836, page 3
- (7) Charles Burton Buckley, *An Anecdotal History of Old Times Singapore 1819-1867*. (Oxford University Press), page 320
- (8) Charles Burton Buckley, *An Anecdotal History of Old Times Singapore 1819-1867*. (Oxford University Press), page 347
- (9) Charles Burton Buckley, *An Anecdotal History of Old Times Singapore 1819-1867*. (Oxford University Press), pages 398-399



National Library Board

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The library occupies 7 storeys (Levels 7-13) at the National Library Board Building with a floor area of 14,265 square metres. As of July 2005, the collection size exceeded 530,000 print and non-print materials.

(10) Charles Burton Buckley, *An Anecdotal History of Old Times Singapore 1819-1867*. (Oxford University Press), page 439

(11) Charles Burton Buckley, *An Anecdotal History of Old Times Singapore 1819-1867*. (Oxford University Press), page 494

(12) Editors Walter Makepeace, Gilbert E Brooke, Ronald J Braddell, *One Hundred Years of Singapore Volume Two* (Oxford University Press 1921), page 303

(13) Editors Walter Makepeace, Gilbert E Brooke, Ronald J Braddell, *One Hundred Years of Singapore Volume Two* (Oxford University Press 1921), page 303

No copy of the *Singapore Chronicle* 5th December 1835 was available, which may have reported on the St Andrew's dinner although the British Library may have a copy.

Adam Hyslop March, 2008

Images: National Library Board
Singapore

NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD

A full range of services, such as access to electronic databases, document delivery service, microfilm, reprography and audio-visual are available. Other facilities at the library include wireless access to the Internet, as well as the use of reading/meeting rooms.

The library has a comprehensive collection of microfilm comprising newspapers, books, periodicals and rare materials. Comprehensive issues of local newspapers from 1845 onwards and selected old publications are available. Due to the fragile nature of these documents they have been microfilmed and readers can view these using the microfilm viewers on Level 11.

Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday, 10.00am to 9.00pm
For more information log onto
www.nlb.gov.sg



Pictured at the 1963 SSAS St Andrew's Ball from right: John (Mac) McCormack, Verna McCormack, Ian Maclean (Chieftain 1978/79) and Linda McLean



Mac (centre) and Verna (left) dancing at the 1963 Ball



Mike Gorrie, Chieftain 1967/8 and 1973/74 pictured at the 1967 Ball

Helping Hand

If you have any interesting old photographs or memories of SSAS activities, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact the editor. Likewise, if you're interested in contributing to our knowledge by carrying out further research, please let us know. There is a large British archive which, undoubtedly, holds a few more secrets.



St Andrew's Football Club



THE SINGAPORE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY FC is now entering its third year. From humble beginnings, where we saw a team of about four Society members, a few friends and a bunch of local kids, we now see regular squads of 15 or more players with at least 80% Scottish blood running through the veins, week in, week out. The team mainly plays in the Edmund Optics Equatorial Football League, which comprises a mixture of European expat teams, liberally interspersed with teams that are predominantly made up of Indians, Chinese, Japanese and Malays. We started the season quite poorly and languished for the early months near the bottom of this league. However, recent good form has propelled us to 4th place (out of 13 teams), with a chance to move even higher if we can maintain it. Much of this improvement in form coincides with the time when I haven't been able to play due to an acute ACL tear, but I'm sure that coincidence is all that it is. Recent signings from Aberdeen and the team youth policy have also contributed significantly to this run of wins.

However, Singapore being the transient post that it is for many expatriate Scots, we are always on the lookout for new (or even old) talent. Should you feel the urge to pull on those boots (again), please feel free to contact me on mpegi@nus.edu.sg. There will always be a welcome for a two-footed tackling tartan tearaway that happens to head in our direction (or, more preferably, that can head towards the opposition's goal).

To further strengthen the youth policy, I've been talking to some members who are looking to start an under-15 boys' team. This would be a casual affair, at least at the start, where we will arrange friendly matches against some of the local teams and schools. If you think your son would like to get involved in this, then please contact Tom Rae on thrae@qualcon.com or Stephen Herron on stephen@atlasmarine.sg. Once there is sufficient interest, they will start to arrange matches.

I'd just like to end this short report with a special announcement. One of the original players at that first game just over two years ago was a man called Gordon Cameron. I'm sure many of you know Gordy and that he has now left Singapore for even sunnier climes in Doha. We played a testimonial game a couple of weeks ago against the BC Corinthians team. The score doesn't matter (especially

since we lost big time), but the fun that we had playing that game is a lasting memory. I was hoping to show some photos of the event and the farewell party that followed, but Gordon's camera is in a box somewhere around India as I write this with not much likelihood of it resurfacing soon. Gordon will always be remembered as a pioneer of Scottish football in Singapore and I hope we will see him return to these shores from time to time. Good luck Gordy.

Ian Gibson
Convenor, SSASFC

Gordon Cameron (on the ball) in the Club's first overseas appearance in Phuket, June 2007



Golf News

Palm Springs

By Phil Osborne

THE SOCIETY'S FEBRUARY GOLF trip was to Palm Springs, probably the best course on Batam. This was only my second trip with the Society & so I found myself at TMFT at 7am, a lone soul looking for a crowd of golfers whom I had only met once before and wondering if I would be made welcome. I needn't have worried, just like my first trip, everyone was extremely friendly from the word go. I would encourage anyone thinking of joining the golfers to sign up for the next trip immediately, even if you're English like me!

Two hours later we were on the first tee. With a handicap of 10 I found myself in the first group with 'the low handicappers'. My concerns of playing like a plumb weren't lessened when the other 3 'pros' in my group, Nigel Town, Jon Bradbury and Colin Simpson all crushed the ball away down the fairway. Luckily for me, playing my first shot with my eyes shut seemed to work and mine too was away down the fairway.

The first few holes Colin showed his class on the greens and Jon kept smashing it away 300 yards down the fairway. For the rest of us, it seemed it was going to be a tough day's competition. Jon spent the whole day crunching the ball down the fairway actually and making good scores. All

eyes were on him as, with only a few holes to play he had 5 or 6 birdies on his card and there seemed little doubt who would be the winner that day. However, like so often when one has a chance to win a Major, the pressure told. Jon unfortunately made a few late bogies, with a triple on the 17th. Back at the club house it soon became clear that my low key but steady round had been enough to win by 1 stableford point. Being only my second trip, although no one said anything, I could hear everyone thinking 'bandit'. Needless to say my handicap, along with a few others, is a bit less now.

Jon Bradbury again claimed longest drive and, for those who played with him that day, this came as no surprise to anyone. At the hole for nearest the pin, David Trimble considered his options and decided to start the ball out over the left hand bunker and play 15 yards of fade against the breeze. Many thought he was going to go for his favoured draw, but David obviously made the right decision and played a beautiful shot to claim the prize. Congratulations to them both.

Back at the club house, a couple of jugs of Bintang were eagerly consumed. We obviously didn't drink enough though as everyone was still thirsty and needed several more on the ferry home. What a great day out, thank you to David for organising such a fun day.



MAN'S LOVE AFFAIR WITH GOLF

A MARRIED MAN WAS HAVING AN affair with his secretary. One day, their passions overcame them and they took off for her house, where they made passionate love all afternoon. Exhausted from the wild sex, they fell asleep and awoke at around 8pm. As the man threw on his clothes, he told the woman to take his shoes outside and rub them through the grass and dirt. Mystified, she nonetheless complied and he slipped into his shoes and drove home.

"Where have you been?" demanded his wife when he entered the house. "Darling," replied the man, "I can't lie to you. I've been having an affair with my secretary and we've been having sex all afternoon. I fell asleep and didn't wake up until eight o'clock."

The wife glanced down at his shoes and said, "Don't lie to me, you've been playing golf!"

Golf Outings

May 17th, Ria Bintan

(Chieftain's Trophy)

June 21st, Sebana Cove

August 30th

September 27th

November 1st

December 6th

If you'd like to be included in the golfers' email list, please contact our golf convener:

David White

on

whitedw@singnet.com.sg

or

Tel. 6462 5634; H/p 9651 9242

UK BUDGET FOR BEGINNERS



ALISTAIR DARLING delivered very little during his first full Budget, focusing instead on Britain's stability and its preparedness to weather any future economic slowdown.

Close reading of the detail announced so far has highlighted the following key points:

Personal Tax

As announced at the last Budget, the basic rate of tax will be reduced to 20%. This will come into effect from 6th April 2008. We have a "tax rate card" on demand which summarises the 2008/9 figures.

Capital Gains Tax (CGT)

The proposed changes to the Capital Gains Tax system will come into force on 6th April 2008. CGT will be charged at a flat rate of 18%, and taper and indexation relief will be withdrawn entirely for individuals and trusts. As a concession a new relief, known as 'Entrepreneurs Relief', will be introduced. This will be available for gains on the sale or transfer of a business, disposal of certain assets following cessation of a business and gains made by certain individuals involved in the business.



Effectively the first £1 million of qualifying gains will be taxed at 10% rather than 18%. The £1 million limit is a lifetime allowance. The limit will be reviewed annually by the Chancellor.

24 April/May 2008

Taxation of Dividends from Foreign Companies

There are minor changes in the way that dividends from foreign companies will be taxed for recipients who are resident in the UK. Dividends from UK companies are taxed at a basic rate of 10% and a higher rate of 32.5% and attract a 10% tax credit. From 6th April 2008, foreign dividends will be brought into line with this system. The one restriction is for foreign dividends remitted by non-domiciled taxpayers. Higher rate taxpayers will be charged at 40% rather than 32.5%.

Non-UK Resident Trusts

There has been a slight relaxation in how historic gains in offshore trusts are taxed. This relates to how UK resident beneficiaries are taxed when the trustees make a payment out of the trust. For beneficiaries not domiciled in the UK, tax on historic gains can be eliminated.

Savings/Investments

From April 2008 the annual ISA limit will rise to £7,200, with an increase in the cash limit to £3,600.

General Matters

- For those resident in the UK, and with investments in offshore funds, there may be the option to charge gains to capital gains tax rather than income tax (effectively enabling a 18% CGT charge as opposed to a basic or higher rate income tax charge of 20% or 40% respectively). Again, the detail was absent as was a timescale for introducing the proposal.
- HMRC will accept payment for tax liabilities by credit card, probably from Autumn 2008 onwards
- There are plans to limit the extent to which tax relief can be claimed by those who are resident in the UK and making contributions to non-UK occupational pension funds. There will also be clarification in the way that stock options are taxed for those who are resident but not ordinarily resident in the UK. This could

be of interest for those returning to the UK for a limited period.

- The current limits on tax relieved subscriptions to certain capital investment schemes (EIS and VCT) have been increased slightly
- In a general overhaul of its compliance procedures, HMRC plans to reduce the time a taxpayer has to correct mistakes made in self assessment tax returns
- Interest or surcharges on unpaid tax may now be waived if you are affected by a national disaster and cannot make your tax payments on time as a result
- Excise duties, fuel duty and car tax have been increased, along with winter fuel payments to the elderly.

More detail is available on our website.

Aidan Bailey BA(Hons) CertPFS
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If everyone is thinking alike then somebody isn't thinking.

- Gen. George S Patton



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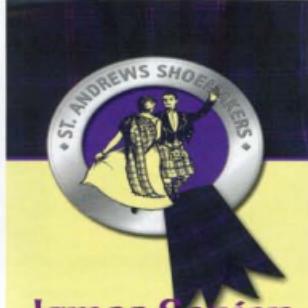
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ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY OF SINGAPORE

Contact Helen O'Neill

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H/p: 9827 1243

helen_m_murphy@yahoo.co.uk

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