

tarpball clap association

51 High Street Hawick Scotland

- NEWS-LETTER -

Dear Member,

It is some time since you heard from HQ on the state of The Clan now that we are a year older. The past twelve months have seen some most heartening developments in the furtherance of our Association and it gives me great pleasure to report as follows:

1. MEMBERSHIP

Our membership to date stands at 188 members throughout the world, a considerable achievement, I think, you will agree. The Committee in Hawick ran a membership drive in the winter months which concentrated solely on the area around Newcastle-upon-Tyne. This was done by circular and although we received many replies, we have found that letters to Scottish type magazines do just as well and at considerably less cost!

At the same time during the Winter, our American cousins, namely Dottie Berk of Chicago and Byron G. Turnbull of Lafayette, California, were doing a similar exercise which has resulted in an American membership of seventy-six—an achievement of which they can be justly proud.

Our next experiment will be to circularise a city in Australia through their telephone directory addresses and I am assured that a heavy response is practically guaranteed. This project will be under the command of Mr W. Spratt of Geelong, Victoria, who has kindly offered his services in the search for members.

Whilst on the subject of membership I am sure you will be interested to know that the Turnbulls are strong in religious matters, having six ministers of religion so far.

One of the nicest aspects of the Clan is the pleasure we are accorded when one of the Association is visiting Hawick, an aspect from which I am sure we will all benefit once full lists have been circularised to all members. As this is a fairly large task the Committee have been pondering upon the best way of producing the List of Members, once we have grown a little larger.

2. FINANCE

I am glad to say that the revenue from subscriptions, brooches, etc., has been sufficient to sustain all projects, i.e. mailings and Tartan development, leaving a cushion in the bank of approximately £100.00. We are sure that the launching of the Tartan will bring in further funds which will allow the subscription to remain at £2.00 and \$5.00 respectively.

3. MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE

Many of you have written asking for this and it is with pleasure that we enclose your Certificate with this letter.

4. TARTAN

We are sorry that this project has taken so long to bring to finalisation, but we are assured by the manufacturers that stocks will be ample to satisfy initial demand. The Committee hope also that you are pleased with their choice and that the historical explanations of the marrying of the Douglas and Bruce Tartans is to your liking, and that you will show your approval by your orders.

As members in the U.K. will be aware, we have had our own personalised Whisky available for consumption in the U.K. This, of course has been made possible by our Chairman, who is a Whisky Blender to trade. We only wish we could extend this offer to our members abroad, but this is not possible, unless any of our members are in the Liquor Importing line!

5. KNITWEAR PROJECT

The Town of Hawick being in the fore of World Hosiery Design and quality we have been pursuing a project to have ladies' and gents' pullovers available with our own motif (i.e. the Bulls' Heads Crest) embroidered on the front of the garment. This has been done and looks very smart indeed. However, as yet, we have no costs, but we shall be in touch when they come through. Meanwhile, should anyone be interested please write separately.

6. THE GATHERING

Your Committee have had discussions upon this subject and are committed to a full Gathering in 1979. The venue has been giving a little trouble, as we feel that the Manse at Bedrule is now no longer available, because Mrs Jeffrey (past owner) has retired to the North of Scotland. Notwithstanding that, we feel that with the success of the last Gathering, the next will be a much larger affair altogether and we shall report our findings in due course. Having heard from Dottie Berk in Chicago recently I do know that she was hoping a small Gathering may be arranged this summer somewhere in the States. We, in Hawick, held a small soirée-type of evening in a local hotel and were most pleased with the result.

7. GENEALOGY

In many of your letters there are some most interesting pieces of information which are most welcome. These are being recorded and kept, and it is hoped through time to build up a fascinating picture of the Turnbulls. Dr Robson at the Hawick Museum is always most interested in your queries and does his best to answer them.

In closing this News-Letter, the Committee and I thank you for all your support and hope that the Tartan is a great success and that we shall all do our bit to ensure that our fellow Turnbulls throughout the world get to know about our Association.

Yours very sincerely,

JOHN F. TURNBULL.

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