

Debriefing Session for the 37th Annual Calgary Burns Supper

**Saturday February 23, 2013
Kensington Legion Board Room**

There were 25 members present. Those present wished to express satisfaction at the success of the event and extend congratulations to Paul Kane. It was noted that the club members showed great talent again this year and those that contributed were congratulated by all present. As is the nature of a debriefing, there were a number of criticisms and suggestions for next year's dinner. These fell into to a number of general categories and are very similar to those of last year.

The Meal

It was felt that the meal was better than last year but there were some inconsistencies. Some members found that their dinner did not arrive hot. While some felt that the meat was good others found that theirs was tough and that there was a lot of fat. There was also a difference in portion size.

There was also some concern expressed about the early arrival of the Haggis, as there was quite a gap until the meat course was served. There may have been some confusion with the serving staff, who thought this to be a separate course to be consumed before the main course. This is will be discussed with the TCC management.

It was fairly, generally agreed that that trifle was excellent this year albeit still a large portion.

The Venue

The site for the dinner was discussed and those present felt that there was no reason to change the venue.

The Liquor

There was some discussion about the scotch and the table wine but it was felt that these were satisfactory. There was concern about the wine that was offered for sale at the tables. Despite efforts to try and find more reasonable cost wines than last year, many felt that the wines were still over-priced.

The bar prices were thought to be high but Paul Kane advised that this is not negotiable with the TCC. The fact that the bar ticket purchase was cash-only was raised and this

issue will be looked into further for next year. There was also an issue with the lack of availability or malfunction of the credit card machine for wine purchases at the table.

The issue of wine that was opened and recapped was discussed as well as the whole topic of corkage.

The Commemorative Glasses

This is a recurring theme. There were quite a few glasses left behind again this year. This topic will be discussed at the next Executive meeting as a number of members questioned the value of continuing providing the glasses.

The Programme

Generally speaking, most people were happy with the programme. As previously mentioned, there were strong performances by club members again this year. The set by the Pipe Band was perceived as short.

Audio-Visual

The sound quality was good and the suspended screens were an improvement over last year and well worth the extra cost.

The suggestion was made that wireless microphones could be used during the Haggis procession to heighten awareness that it was starting. This will be discussed with Jason.

The Speaker

Most in attendance were very happy with Len Murray's talk.

The search for speakers for the upcoming years is ongoing.

The Event

There was some disruptive behavior again this year with some rowdy tables and an incident at the coat check. An event of this size and nature is unlikely to take place without this but attempts will continue to keep in under control. This will be discussed further at the next executive meeting.

The whole issue of attendance vs. profit was discussed. Paul estimated a profit of \$12 – 13K. The membership will be encouraged to promote attendance. We were just short of a sell-out however. It was pointed out that the costs of this event are huge and the club must pay up front and could be at considerable financial risk if there was a drop in

attendance for any reason. The ticket cost was also discussed. It was thought that it should not rise and measures will need to be found to hold down costs.

William Lawson thanked all those present for their thoughtful and valuable input and this information will be very helpful in the planning for next year's event.