



FROM THE
Deacon Convener's
DESK

17th January 2017

***Happy New Year
from Deacon Convener Keith and Rita***

It has been good to have a three week break back at our home in Essex and enjoy Christmas with all the family and New Year with friends. A day's racing at Sandown Park was rewarded with a win from one of our racehorses, Maestro Royal. Rita, the proud owner was interviewed on ITV4.

Our batteries are recharged and we are ready for the next few months up to Easter. It will be a challenging time for the House and the Chain Gang.

Strategy



The contributions to the Strategy Paper have been coming in and need to be submitted by end of January. The final version will be presented to the House on 8th March 2017.

Business Dinner

'Reaching Out' is the theme of the Chain Gang, and the Business Dinner on Thursday 9th February is a great opportunity to promote the House and membership of the Crafts.

A number of local businesses have taken tables but individual tickets are available to all members of the Crafts and it would be good to see strong support from members. An ideal opportunity to recruit new members. Please click [here](#) to download a ticket application form.

Fashion Show

Put **Sunday 2nd April** in your diary for the Fashion Show & Sparkling Afternoon Tea. Join us for an afternoon of fashion, fizz and fun in aid of the Deacon Convener's charities which features the new season of international fashion by Moda Dea. Ticket information will be released soon.



Loch Lomond Golf Day - Tuesday 25th April 2017

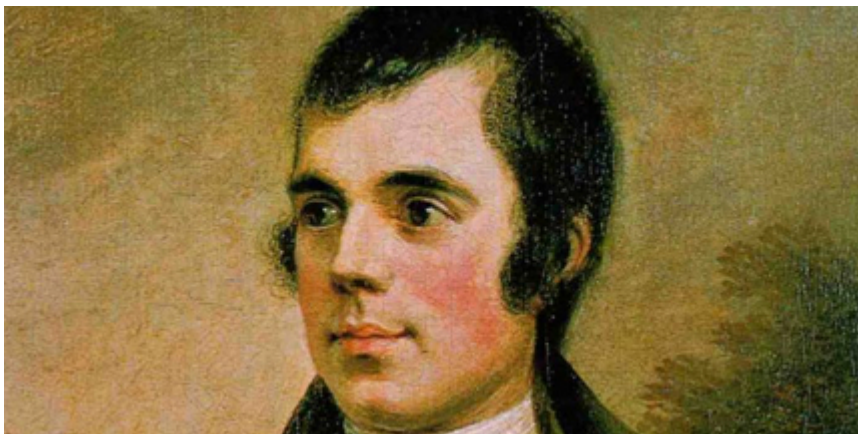


This is an extremely ambitious event but if we can fill with 18 teams it will generate over £20,000 for my Charitable Appeal. I am conscious that the price is high but Loch Lomond allow use of a reduced rate on the basis that it will generate a good charitable income. You may not be able to play yourself but you could know somebody who would.

Entries can be for a full team or individual entry and be part of a team. We already have several commitments but would like to fill the day. Let me have names and contact details and I will write. Please click [here](#) for details of the day.

Choosing Dinners

There are five Craft choosing dinners in February and March. The **Weavers** on 10th February will have 16 visitors from my Pastmaster's Association in London. On 3rd March the **Coopers** will have 50 from the London Company. Other dinners are **Cordiners** (3rd Feb) **Barbers** (24th Feb) **Fleshers** (11th March). I know guests are always welcome to attend annual events for each Craft.



Burns Night

Congratulations to Late Collector Alistair Dorward for laying on an excellent evening. We had everything that a Burns Night should be – music, poems, speeches, haggis, pipes and audience participation. Alistair was supported by Deacon Adrian Pierotti of the Cordiners and RWM of the Trades House Lodge, Alasdair Beaton.