

Burns Night Shanghai Celebrates Tradition

[December 11, 2013] –**Burns Night Shanghai** ushers in the second year of reinstatement of the Shanghai Scottish Club since it was disbanded in 1942 and in conjunction with the British Chamber of Commerce, in a celebration of the life and poetry of Robert Burns, the most famous Scottish author and lyricist, whose works are appreciated around the world.

On January 25th each year “Rabbie Burns” is celebrated at suppers attended by people of many nationalities all over the globe. In Shanghai, guests will make merry in the ballroom at the Marriott City Centre with cultural performances, lively songs and a proper ceilidh, while enjoying a traditional Burns supper of cock-a-leekie soup, haggis, cranachan, beer and Scotch whisky.



Understanding the “Ploughman Poet’s” works in their original format is difficult. Burns often wrote in a Scots vernacular considered “coarse” in some quarters even in his own day. This celebration makes is meant to be accessible, theatrical and comprehensive, while teaching what Burns represented as a charismatic internationalist, a pioneer of the Romantic movement, a literary sentimentalist and a great source of inspiration. “Robden of Solway Firth” enjoyed a good night out, and that’s exactly what this evening is intended to be; in traditional Scottish fashion with a bit of food, a dash of dancing, speeches, singing and a lot of drinking.

The program includes a contemporary take on the traditional poem and speech format: the *Address to a Haggis*, *The Immortal Memory*, an overview of Burns Life, the *Toast to the Lassies* and the *Reply on Behalf of the Lassies* as well as a children's rendition of *To A Mouse* and globally recognised folk songs including of course *Auld Lang Syne*. Translation of songs and poems in Mandarin will be provided.

Burns Night Shanghai

上海 Burns Night 的详细信息

Date: Saturday, January 25, 2014, 7pm

时间: 1月25号星期六下午7:00

Location: Marriott City Centre, 555 Xizang Zhong Lu

地点: 西藏中路 555 号万豪城市中心宴会厅

Price: RMB900 for Shanghai Scots and British Chamber of Commerce members, RMB1,100 for non-members includes food, drink, raffle and rabble rousing. Tickets may be purchased at www.burnsnightshanghai.com.

For media or sponsorship inquiries regarding Shanghai Scots Burns Night please contact Johanna Hoopes at Johanna@dragoneventschina.com.



History of the Shanghai Scottish Club

The Shanghai Scottish Club was originally founded in 1868 for the purposes of fielding a cricket team against the Shanghai English, and developed rapidly through the 19th Century. The club was at its height in the 1920s, when it became a major aspect of sporting life in Shanghai during the years of the International Settlement, with teams in rugby, cricket, football and lawn bowls, dominating the Prentice-Skottowe Cup, a football competition held between various international teams in Shanghai. Burns suppers were held at the Shanghai Club (now the Waldorf Astoria) and the Masonic Club.



In the late 19th Century and early 20th Century many Scots played important roles in the Shanghai International Settlement. Two of the most notable are Frederick Anderson and John Prentice. The former was the Chairman of the International Settlement in 1905 as well as one of the first Presidents of the Shanghai Rugby Football Club and the Shanghai St. Andrew's Society. In his youth he was an accomplished sportsman and holds the distinction of scoring the first international football goal scored in Scotland when in 1874 he scored the opener in the 2-1 victory over the English.

Prentice, a shipbuilder from Greenock, held many prominent community and business positions including Secretary of the International Settlement and President of the Shanghai St Andrew's Society. His great passion was football and he was instrumental in developing competitive football in Shanghai. He was also very active in the French community and was one of only two non-French people to have a street named after them in the former French Concession, the other person being Prince Edward. Prentice also founded the Prentice Golf Cup, an annual event for the international community.

Disbanded in 1942 after the Japanese invasion, the club was reformed in 2012 and is once again becoming a significant feature of the expatriate sporting scene in Shanghai. In April of 2012 the Shanghai Scots took to the field again for the first time in over 70 years wearing replica 1920's football stripes of their predecessors.

The Shanghai Scots Tartan

The Stewart Hunting tartan was originally worn by the Scottish Regiment of the Shanghai Volunteer Corp, the military unit of the Shanghai International Settlement from 1853 to 1942, and provides the base for the new design. The colours reflect Scotland and Shanghai, with the Saltire blue taking centre stage. The softer shade of blue relates to sporting team colours worn by the Shanghai Scottish members. A single white overcheck runs through the blue shades representing the Scottish Saltire flag. The Chinese flag is also represented within the design, by a single gold overcheck running through a bold red shade.

