

Report of Meeting to discuss restoration of Relief Model of Scotland at Black Barony, Eddleston

Date 11 August 2009 at The Steading, Hillend, Edinburgh

Present: Roger Kelly, David Cameron, Barbara Conboy, Dave Peck, Jim Barton, Nick Macdonald, Keith Burns.

Apologies: Krzysztof Jan Chuchra, George Futers, Krystyna Szumelukowa, Anne Hardie.

The main objective was to meet each other and establish where we are, where we're going, at what pace, etc. etc. For those who couldn't attend, notes will be circulated to all.

1. Introductions.

Roger Kelly: Creator of website and has produced much publicity, organised exhibitions and did the early research on origins of model.

David Cameron: Early involvement with Roger.

Barbara Conboy: Old and continuing friend of Maczek family, member of Scottish Polish Cultural Association.

Dave Peck: Member of Carnethy Hill Running Club from Peebles, with an active interest in restoring the model.

Nick Macdonald: Member of Carnethy Hill Running Club from Peebles, with an active interest in restoring the model.

Jim Barton: Member of Carnethy Hill Running Club from Peebles, with an active interest in restoring the model.

Keith Burns: Member of Carnethy Hill Running Club from Peebles, with an active interest in restoring the model. Met Janusz Sczewczuk (member of 1975 design and construction team with Kazimierz Trafas) in Cracow (2008) to discuss construction method.

2. Work done or in progress.

Roger reported that Alistair Nimmo had examined the model to assess the scale of work needed to restore it. A report on Alistair's findings would be very useful.

Action: Alistair Nimmo

Simon Sweeney (of de Vere's, the hotel and land owners) has expressed strong informal interest in restoration and has provided valuable help with access, site clean up etc. It would be useful if Simon could check if de Vere's would support a restoration project with the proviso that separate external funding by grant aid etc. would be a priority.

Action: Simon Sweeney

Roger Kelly has produced and maintains the website with valuable historical content, and has staged exhibitions in Penicuik and at Black Barony to publicise the model.

Keith Burns maintains a link with Janusz Sczewczuk and the Jagellonski University of Cracow for information on the model's construction technique.

Krzysztof Jan Chuchra has offered to translate Janusz's article on the model's construction and history.

Action: Krzysztof Jan Chuchra

3. Funding

The following ideas were suggested for potential sources of funding:

Historic Scotland, Scottish Polish Cultural Association, Local Authorities, Scottish Govt. Lottery Fund, Land Fill Tax Grant Aid, Maczek's connections with Breda, Netherlands.

4. Formation of a core team, other supporters etc.

We agreed that we should meet regularly to keep things moving. All would be circulated with information through the email list we have compiled. The next meeting should be within a month to review the actions listed in these notes. All are invited. If the meetings get too big we could form a smaller steering group for routine meetings.

Action: Keith Burns

5. Other useful links.

Barbara offered to establish a link with the Scottish Polish Cultural Association and with the Maczek family. Also with Tony Lewsczuk (?) in Edinburgh.

Action: Barbara Conboy

Roger offered to contact Diana Webster who used to work in the National Map Library and could have some valuable background.

Action: Roger Kelly

Nick suggested that Curly Mills (Carnethy HRC) might have useful links with manufacturers of weather proof surface treatment compounds and other potentially useful industry links.

Action: Nick Macdonald

6. Notional project programme with target delivery date.

Since the model was built in 7 weeks in 1975, Keith suggested that completion of restoration by summer 2010 didn't seem unreasonable, but a bit more research into resources and funding was needed before a commitment, especially on the matter of support from the landowner. It was agreed that it would be useful to find some relevant historical anniversary linked with the model so that it could be used as a focus for completion deadline. Ideas are invited. A notional project programme could be drafted first to invite comments on realistic timescale etc.

Action: Keith Burns

7. Next meeting

Roger suggested Black Barony as venue to combine with a model visit. Sat afternoon 12th September is suggested but others should indicate if this is ok.

Please let me know if I have missed anything in these notes!

Keith Burns