



Argyllshire Gathering Halls steward Stuart Cannon with the rule book and receipts found during the hall's refurbishment.

Oban hall's history unearthed

THE ARGYLLSHIRE Gathering may have a brand new look but during the refurbishment a bit more of the hall's history came to light.

Joiner Davy Thomson discovered a whole history of the first committees when he lifted the floorboards. Among the papers were receipts for three shillings for sugar lemons; stock for the wine cellar; and a quotation by Oban builders J and A McDougall to erect the wooden building (now the Argyllshire Gathering Restaurant) for a cost of £525. Also discovered was what is believed to be the first rule book drawn up and published by the committee from 1881.

Rule one reads:

'The Argyllshire Gathering consists of an Association of Gentlemen connected with the County of Argyll, for the promotion of Annual Social Meetings, to be held on such dates and at such places as may from time to time be determined.'

Membership was restricted to gentry from the outset as rule two

explains,

'Membership shall be restricted, generally, to landowners of Argyllshire, their sons and brothers; discretionary power being reserved, however, in exceptional cases, to admit Gentlemen not having that qualification.'

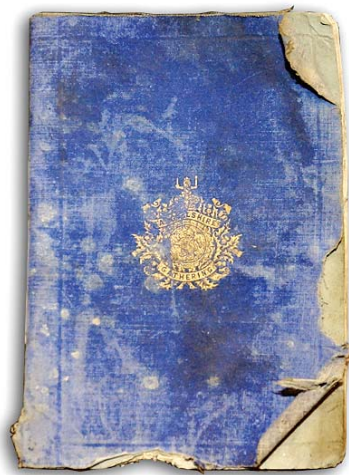
There were many more receipts found, most expenses incurred through running balls for which the Argyllshire Gathering Hall was famous.

Judging by one receipt from 1894, a piper could earn two pounds and two shillings to play at the Argyllshire Gathering Balls on September 12 and 13 of that year.

In another, from the same year, 15 shillings was paid to have the ballroom floor polished in time for the ball.

Argyllshire Gathering Halls steward Stuart Cannon has already placed some of the artefacts in the hall. Along with

archivist Alistair Campbell he plans to pick out the relative pieces to form a more comprehensive display.



One of the earliest rule books published by the Argyllshire Gathering committee.