

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
GLASGOW BRANCH
Registered Charity No SC008002

Minutes of the 94th Annual General Meeting of the Glasgow Branch of
The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society held on
Thursday 18 May 2017 in Partick Burgh Hall, Glasgow

Chairman Muriel Bone

30 members attended.

Muriel Bone welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked them for coming out on such a beautiful evening.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Fiona McDonald, Alan Munro, Iain Stuart, Fiona Fairlie, Katherine Morrison, Carol-Ann Knox, Helen Kelly, Marion McIntosh, Peter Knapman, Sheila Knapman, Elizabeth Mitchell, Archie Mitchell, Johan MacLean

2. Chairman's Remarks

With Committee support, I have introduced some new ideas and ventures as well as building on our strengths. I would like to highlight some of the "highs & lows" from my first year as Chairman.

I am delighted that Branch membership has held up at a time when other Branches are contracting. In general our dances are well supported with positive feedback and I aim to ensure dance programmes have a mix of well-known as well as less familiar dances. The additional Nice & Easy Dance in November was enlivened by a coachload of young dancers; we ran two themed dances – a Royal theme in September and January Burns Dance with entertainment slots. We organised another Branch Spring Fling in March which produced a very good response. As a result of starting the Joint Venture Advanced Class, we are seeing more young dancers at some Branch events. It is great to see children dancing at the Glasgow Primary Schools Festival, the Bearsden Festival and our Spring Fling. For the first time we are running seven "Summer Workshops" aimed at "intermediate dancers" – but all are welcome.

We need to be pro-active in spreading word of our activities and I am pleased that social media is being used more. We danced in Waitrose Milngavie, in Glasgow College and we suggested a "Bring a Friend Week". Word of mouth is still the main recruiter.

Glasgow Branch has good links with HQ's staff and I am also pleased that Peter Knapman was elected onto the Membership Services Committee. The Branch has agreed to host the 2018 RSCDS Spring Fling & Spring Fringe - an international event which I hope Glasgow dancers will support.

We have excellent teachers and musicians, but we need to train future teachers. My application for HQ funding to run Units 2 & 3 produced £500. I must thank Fiona McDonald, Marilyn Mowbray, Alasdair Brown & Carol-Ann Knox for their work with this venture.

However, there are of course some "lows" as well. There are concerns about numbers attending Branch classes – especially those labelled "General". Dancers have been reluctant to "move up" from Beginners' classes. The Committee has decided to discontinue the Tuesday Clevedon class. Our thanks to the teacher, John Johnston. Personally, I feel the Branch should be running a class in Glasgow's West End – the original heartland. Also looking around at dances, I often think we are missing a generation of dancers – very few 40's or 50's!

Sadly, we lost some dancing friends this year including Dorothy Paterson, a former Glasgow Branch Chairman and Secretary. At this time too we are thinking of Jimmy McMillan who is now in palliative care in Ayrshire. Jimmy has devoted much time and energy as a teacher of the Hillpark Class and the Glenburn Linked Group. We have of course thanked him for his work.

To finish, I would like to thank the Committee, sub-committee and others like Meg Barrowman, Fiona McDonald, Katherine Morrison and Daphne Davidson who take on valuable roles. We can't please everybody all of the time, but I hope, with a spirit of co-operation and goodwill, we can continue to work together to make things happen.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 19 May 2016

Proposed by Maureen Daniel and seconded by Daphne Davidson

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Branch Report

This is the 94th Report for Glasgow Branch.

Membership: Our current membership stands at 313 of which 61 are life members. In addition we have 19 associate members.

Classes: In August/September 2016 two additional classes were held to teach the dances from Book 50. Our seven Branch Classes over the autumn and winter cater for dancers of all abilities from beginners to experienced dancers. This year a Joint Venture Advanced Class (JVA) was trialled. This is a collaboration between the Branch, GUSCDC (Glasgow University Scottish Country Dance Club) & Alba Scottish Country Dancers (Alba SCD). This has turned out to be very successful especially with the younger element. After Easter, three of the classes continued to the middle of May. There were five Teacher Training Classes in preparation for Units 2 & 3 which will take place over two weekends in June. The tutor is Alasdair Brown. In addition to our regular classes, four Spring Classes were held; each night highlighting dances written by a particular deviser.

Glasgow Branch would like to thank all the teachers and musicians who make our classes possible; it is very much appreciated.

Dances: The fourteen dances held during the last year included 'Nice & Easy' Dances, Branch Dances, our Midwinter Ball and lastly a 'Challenging Dance'. One highlight of the year was in November when a coachload of young dancers from GUSCDC and Alba SCD came to the 'Nice & Easy' Dance in Carmichael Hall. A most enjoyable evening was had by all and we hope that it will be repeated in the future.

Tutor Training Course: Over two weekends in September seven teachers, from various Branches, took part in the Tutor Training Course. This was organised by Fiona McDonald; the course was led by Johan MacLean. Glasgow Branch supplied support in the form of dancers and catering staff.

First Aid: A very successful afternoon course led by Sandra McAllister, a member of St Andrew's Ambulance and a fellow dancer, was run on Sunday 2 October 2016 in which twelve people took part. At dances, the MC is given the relevant details of the first aider, along with the address and post code of the hall, in case the emergency services have to be called. Glasgow Branch is now better prepared.

RSCDS AGM: Seven delegates attended the AGM in Perth. A full report was in the Winter Newsletter 2016.

Glasgow Music Festival: This is now in its 105th year. Teams from schools and youth groups in and around Glasgow took part. Some competed and received adjudication on their performance, others entered non-competitive classes. There were some excellent performances most notably from St Leonard's Primary School and from Alba SCD. The Marion B. Hamilton Certificate was awarded to St Leonard's Primary School. St Helen's Primary School and Pollokshields Primary School also performed well.

The 12th Primary Schools Festival: This joint venture between Glasgow Education and Glasgow Branch was held on Wednesday 22 March 2017 in Bellahouston Sports Hall and was highly successful. Twenty schools took part with the standard of dancing higher than in previous years. All the help received on the day was very much appreciated. John Carmichael's Band (five piece) treated everyone to excellent music – a joy for everyone present.

Spring Fling: This was held in Milngavie Town Hall on Saturday 18 March 2017. The intention was to hold the Branch Spring Fling in alternate years; the last one being in 2016. However, as Glasgow Branch is going to host the Youth Spring Fling and Spring Fringe in April 2018, it was decided to hold the local Spring Fling this year rather than next year. Thirteen different groups took part demonstrating a dance/dances of their choice; the afternoon was interspersed with dances for everyone. The Kelvingrove Step Dancers gave an interesting demonstration of their form of dance. Nicky McMichean provided excellent accompanying music. A sociable afternoon was enjoyed by all who took part.

Teacher Training: Twelve candidates sat Unit 1 on Saturday 8 October 2016 and all passed. The candidates were tutored by Alasdair Brown and Carol-Ann Knox. As detailed above, Units 2 & 3 will take place in June 2017. Glasgow Branch has been successful in securing a grant of £500 from the RSCDS Headquarters Youth Development Fund which will go towards the costs. The Branch will provide support in the form of volunteer dancers, catering staff and some financial assistance.

To conclude, this last year has been very busy. New initiatives have been tried. It is hoped that all our dancers have enjoyed the events organised by RSCDS Glasgow Branch.

Branch Administration

The Committee originally had thirteen members and one vacancy. Helen Wood was then co-opted bringing the Committee up to full strength. In January the Vice chairman, Walter Proven, resigned due to other commitments. Since then, this post has remained vacant.

The sub-group, headed by Pat McBride, is looking at various strategies for increasing dancer numbers and promoting our form of dance.

Three newsletters produced by Meg Barrowman have been sent out.

The Seniors' Group meets four times a year under the leadership of Daphne Davidson & Katherine Morrison.

Sadly, Dorothy Paterson died in February 2017. She was a past Secretary and then Chairman of Glasgow Branch and one of the co-founders of the Seniors' Group. In addition, Dorothy served on several committees at RSCDS Headquarters.

This is my second report as Secretary. On behalf of Glasgow Branch I would like to thank the Committee for all the hard work they have put in over the last year.

6. Financial Report including the Trustees' Report

The accounts had been distributed. Chris Sanders asked why there was an expenditure item under subscriptions. The Treasurer explained that this related to the Member's HQ subscription.

The Treasurer explained that the reason for the differential between Income and Expenditure for festivals was because the subsidy (£650) from Glasgow Education Department, with regard to the Primary Schools Festival, came in after the books were closed for 31 March 2016.

£300 was donated to the Bearsden Primary Schools Festival.

The balance of Nan Inch's legacy is included in the Treasurer's account. A detailed note is kept with regard to the legacy.

Catherine Raeburn thanked all the teachers for depositing the class fees so promptly.

The Accounts were proposed by Vivienne Imrie O'Duffy and seconded by Hamish Gibb.

7. Appointment of the External Examiner of the Accounts

Robert McColl is happy to continue in this role.

Proposed by Chris Sanders and seconded by Maureen Daniel

8. Election of Office Bearers and Committee for 2017 / 2018

Muriel Bone asked for the confirmation of Ruth Beattie as President

Hon President

Ruth Beattie

Proposed by Meg Barrowman

Seconded by Joyce Carmichael

Ruth Beattie took over the Chair.

All of the below were duly elected as there were no other nominations:

Chairman

Muriel Bone

Proposed by Maureen McCrudden

Seconded by Hamish Gibb

Muriel Bone then resumed the Chair

Vice Chairman

Margaret Sanders

Proposed by Muriel Bone

Seconded by Effie McLellan

Secretary

Helen Kelly

Proposed by Daphne Davidson

Seconded by Ruth Beattie

Treasurer

Mary Webster

Proposed by Pat McBride

Seconded by Susan Ewington

Social Events Convenor

Joyce Carmichael

Proposed by Patrick Murray

Seconded by Walter Proven

Communications Convenor

Pat McBride

Proposed by Mary Webster

Seconded by Vivienne Imrie O'Duffy

Outreach Convenor

Fiona Fairlie

Proposed by Marilyn Mowbray

Seconded by Maureen McCrudden

Class Convenor

Helen Wood

Proposed by Patrick Murray

Seconded by Walter Proven

Membership Secretary

Wendy Petrie

Proposed by Helen Wood

Seconded by Jim Ferguson

Committee Members:

Susan Ewington

Proposed by Mary Webster

Seconded by Pat McBride

Penelope McKimmie

Proposed by Hamish Gibb

Seconded by Chris Sanders

Morag Thomson

Proposed by Muriel Bone

Seconded by Effie McLellan

9. Election of Delegates to RSCDS AGM in November 2017

Muriel Bone	as Chairman]	
Margaret Sanders	as Vice Chairman]	All proposed Meg Barrowman
Mary Webster	as Treasurer]	Seconded by Ruth Beattie
Helen Kelly	as Secretary]	
Wendy Petrie	Proposed by Pat McBride		Seconded by Marilyn Mowbray
Fiona Fairlie	Proposed by Muriel Bone		Seconded by Susan Ewington
Maureen McCrudden	Proposed by Patrick Murray		Seconded by Joyce Carmichael

All of the Branch Delegates to the Society's AGM were duly elected. It was stated that on becoming a Delegate they would have a limited liability of £1 in the event of the Society becoming insolvent.

10. Appointment of the Archivist

Chris Sanders was proposed by Alistair Raeburn, seconded by Penelope McKimmie and was duly elected.

11. A.O.C.B.

An email from Alasdair Brown with regard to volunteer dancers for Units 2 & 3 was read out by Muriel Bone.

Daphne Davidson pointed out that the Seniors' Group meets four times a year and not three times as had been stated in the Branch Report. The Report has been amended.

Maureen Daniel thought that the impression had been given that the Society's AGM was always in Perth. HQ would support Glasgow Branch holding the AGM. An application needs to be made to HQ two years in advance of holding the AGM. Some Members of the Committee have looked at the new Kelvin Hall Sports Centre. Effie McLellan suggested the Emirates Stadium as a possible venue. Ruth Beattie was very involved the last time the AGM was held in Glasgow; the feedback from dancers from home and abroad was very positive. Daphne Davidson asked if the City Chambers would grant us a Civic Reception; it was felt that this was likely. The Committee will look into holding the AGM in Glasgow.

Chris Sanders asked what the membership was last year. In 2016 we had 304 Members compared with 313 Members this year.

An email had been received from John Bertram outlining his ideas on how to promote classes and dances.

Patrick Murray was thanked for his visual presentation; the background music was by Norrie Williams.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm. Tea/coffee and biscuits were then served.

Signed:

Date: