

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

Minutes of the 95th Annual General Meeting of the Glasgow Branch of
The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society held on
Thursday 17th. May 2018 in Partick Burgh Hall, Glasgow

Chairman Muriel Bone

33 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 Susan Ewington, Helen Kelly, Fiona McDonald, Jim Ferguson, Aileen Warwick, Wendy Petrie, Vivien Imrie O'Duffy, Les Lambert, Caroline Lambert, Margaret Tough

2. Chairman's Remarks

It has been a busy and very enjoyable year. You know that in addition to our regular activities, we have introduced new ventures, are training young SCD teachers and have donated hundreds of pounds to children's SCD events. I hope you now have the date of the 95th Anniversary weekend events in your diary!

Branch membership increased last year, but it is a disappointment for me that this year it has fallen just below 300. This is despite the efforts of many active dancers, teachers & committee members, as well as our Membership Secretary. We have recruited new members and most members renew each year. However, we have an ageing membership and sadly our losses have exceeded our gains. Sometimes we lose track of members if they move away from Branch classes. The new Committee and Branch members will need to work hard to raise awareness of the benefits of membership. However, it's not just about "what do I get"? It's also about giving to a charity which promotes our hobby for its continuation. The annual subscription here is £25 – not very much for most people. Glasgow Branch has a differential on class fees, but unlike many other Branches, we have one price for all our social events. Despite increasing costs, our monthly dance tickets have remained at £9, with a youth concession, for several years. The Committee has decided that will remain so next session. Our Treasurer will describe the reserves which we have.

Jimmie Hill, editor of the excellent SCDr magazine, commented to me recently that the Branches which are successful at present are those which are "visible". Along with the Committee, I have aimed to make Glasgow Branch more "visible"! Nowadays part of that is being "visible" on social media. We have a regularly updated website and Facebook page. It is an open page and you can access it without putting on any personal information. As far as I can see all larger Branches have Facebook pages and by "liking" them, you can pick up ideas from what's going on elsewhere. For this, our 95th Anniversary year, we have Branch merchandise for you to buy. You can even get a Branch T-shirt or polo shirt to wear at classes or if you travel to other SCD events! We also have new banners on show – so we are advertising and branding to raise the profile.

The hosting of the RSCDS Youth Spring Fling and Spring Fringe was a real success for SCD'ing in Glasgow. Both Committees have received lots of complimentary emails. I know that local dancers who came along enjoyed themselves and are now more aware of the wider dancing community. It has also brought in a few new dancers to our classes. Look out for articles in the Autumn SCDr magazine

Any member can log onto the HQ website. There you will find information on all sorts of RSCDS activities. Look also for the Branch Mailings – interesting stuff in these too. HQ are considering ways of reducing costs and you may soon receive an email survey about the form of the SCDr magazine. Glasgow has a long history of members serving on HQ Committees and congratulations go to Peter Knapman on appointment as Convenor Elect of Membership Services. Other vacancies are posted on the HQ website – applications by September.

Many people commit time, energy and ideas into running Glasgow Branch. It is a challenge but, with so many nice people involved, it is also rewarding and fun. Finally, I would like to thank all those Committee members and others who have worked along with me and co-operated with each other to get things done. I don't want to pick out any names - you know who you are. I pass on my very best wishes to the new Committee.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 18th. May 2017

The Minutes of the 2017 AGM have been available on our website; this was mentioned in the last Newsletter. Paper copies available on chairs this evening.

Approval: proposed by Maureen Daniel and seconded by Marilyn Mowbray.

4. Matters arising

The Chairman noted again Maureen Daniel's suggestion that Glasgow might host the RSCDS AGM in 2023 in conjunction with the Glasgow 100th Anniversary. This proposal has been communicated to HQ in Edinburgh. Initial feedback indicated that the Society currently receives a special deal from the Perth venue and that could be jeopardized in the future if not taken up for 2023. Nonetheless the Glasgow Branch has been asked to obtain cost estimates and will communicate these to HQ.

5. Branch Report

This is the 95th Report for Glasgow Branch.

Membership: Our current membership stands at 294 of which 46 are life members. In addition, we have 17 associate members.

Classes: Our six Branch Classes over the autumn and winter catered for dancers of all abilities from beginners to experienced dancers. The Joint Venture Advanced Class (JVA) continued under the guidance of Alasdair Brown and Caroline Holmes. This is a collaboration of Glasgow University Scottish Country Dance Society, RSCDS Glasgow Branch and Alba SCD. Three of the classes continue into May. In addition, four Spring Themed Classes were held, each with a different guest teacher.

In September we held four introduction classes in the East End of Glasgow. Despite a lot of hard work, led by Pat McBride, this venture was not well attended.

Teacher training: In June 2017, over the course of two weekends, 16 candidates sat Unit 2 and 15 candidates sat Unit 3 of the Teaching Certificate Part 1. Almost everyone passed. The Branch is indebted to all the willing volunteers who made up the mock classes.

On Saturday 7th October, 9 candidates sat Unit 1 of Teaching certificate Part 1. Everyone passed. Thanks go to all concerned in organising this, especially Margaret Sanders and to the course Tutor, Alasdair Brown.

Dances: Twelve Dances were held during the last year including 'Nice & Easy' Dances, Branch Dances, our Midwinter Ball, a Burns Themed Dance and a Charity Dance in memory of Jimmy McMillan which raised £400 for Cancer Research. The original date for this in early March had to be postponed due to snow. This caused us to think of ways to contact ticket holders. Please watch the website, Facebook and emails. We were able, thanks to Joyce Carmichael's hard work, to have the dance later in the month.

Workshops: Fortnightly over the summer months, workshops were held in Westerton Hall for those who wished to improve their skills and learn various formations. These were well attended and will be repeated in summer 2018.

Glasgow Branch Newsletters: Once again we are indebted to Meg Barrowman for producing three Newsletters throughout the year.

Health and Safety: Each Branch class and dance now has a First Aid Kit. These will be replenished and checked on a regular basis. A trained first aider is also present at most dances. Checklists for classes and dances are being put in place.

RSCDS AGM and Conference Weekend: Seven delegates attended the AGM in Perth. A full report was in the Winter Newsletter 2017. Several Branch dancers joined them to take part in the Open Forum, evening dances and some of the other enjoyable weekend events.

Glasgow Music Festival: This is now in its 106th year and was held on Friday 9th March. 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. The Marion B. Hamilton Certificate was awarded to Alba under 15 group. Over 120 children took part. Music was provided by Màrtainn Skene. Thanks go to Fiona Fairlie and her team.

The 13th Primary Schools Festival: This joint venture between Glasgow Education and Glasgow Branch was held on Wednesday 28th March 2018 in Bellahouston Sports Hall and was highly successful. John Carmichael's Band (five piece) treated everyone to excellent music – a joy for everyone present. A big thank you to Fiona McDonald and her team, for all the hard work that goes into making this day such a success.

International Spring Fringe and RSCDS Youth Spring Fling: This year the International Spring Fling//Fringe was held in Glasgow from 20th to 22nd April. This was a great success, and thanks go to both the Spring Fling and Spring Fringe Committees for all their hard work. A Branch sub-committee, chaired by Muriel Bone, was responsible for the Fringe events. Around 197 dancers from over nine countries attended the Fringe. The Fling Committee of young dancers, worked with HQ and their classes and evening dances were very well organised. Over 300 dancers, from the Fling and Fringe enjoyed the Friday and Saturday evening dances in the decorated Kelvin Hall sports arena. The ceilidh on the Sunday evening in Oran Mor was also a great success. The local Fringe and Fling Committees have received many complimentary emails.

The Seniors' Group: This group meets four times a year under the leadership of Daphne Davidson and Katherine Morrison. They enjoy fellowship, light lunch and interesting guests.

Other events: Occasionally the Branch is contacted with requests for dancers. In December two sets of dancers enjoyed an afternoon in Whiteinch Community Centre for people from refugee background.

Branch Administration

The Committee was made up of twelve elected members. Two further people were co-opted on to the Committee. There were several sub-committees set up e.g. for the East-End project, the Spring Fringe and forthcoming 95th Anniversary Weekend in November 2018.

The Treasurer and Membership Secretary are working on changes to the Glasgow Branch membership form plus compliance with the new GDPR (data protection) legislation.

Three newsletters edited by Meg Barrowman have been sent out to Branch members throughout the year.

Sadly, we have lost several members in the past year. These include Branch Teachers Jimmy McMillan, Marion McIntosh and May Manderson, Sandra Tuffill who was Branch Treasurer from 2000-2008, Archie Mitchell and John Waterson, Branch Chairman from 1986-89, who had just celebrated his 100th Birthday.

This year the report was pre-printed for members to read.

On behalf of Glasgow Branch, the Chairman, Muriel Bone thanked the Committee for all the hard work they have put in over the last year and wish them well in the future.

6. Financial Report including the Trustees' Report

Mary Webster the Treasurer provided the following report.

The Branch has had a busy but successful year with some enjoyable events.

- Branch dances were well attended, showing an overall surplus.
- Our Spring 'themed' classes were well attended. The new summer Workshops were considered very successful and both these sets of classes made a profit. Our regular Branch classes had variable attendance and were affected by recent snow, resulting in cancellations, hence an overall loss. However, classes do result in an increase in membership from new attendees.
- There have been some interesting projects, for example the Units 1, 2, 3 of the RSCDS Teaching certificates, in which the candidates performed well.
- With the above and interest from our reserve accounts, plus subscriptions, we are able to meet our financial commitments in Glasgow Branch.
- Our legacy from Nan Inch of £5000.00 received on the 20th November 2014 has allowed us to donate to organizations who are promoting Scottish Country Dancing for children as was her request. The balance is now £2,866.60, this is included in the Current Account.
- We had three Bonds with Skipton Building Society, one of which matured recently. Another bond was opened but the interest placed in the current account. A 100-day account is being opened and the above interest, together with excess funds from the working current account, will be placed in this new account.
- The accounts were examined by Robert McColl in the position of External Examiner. His report is available on request.
- All the activities of the Branch throughout the year were consistent with the aims of the Branch as specified in our Branch Constitution.

Approval of the Accounts was proposed by Margaret Sanders and seconded by Catherine Raeburn.

7. Appointment of the External Examiner of the Accounts

Robert McColl is happy to continue in this role.

Proposed by Mary Webster and seconded by Hamish Gibb

8. Motions: no additional motions were received in advance of this meeting

9. Election of Office Bearers and Committee for 2018 / 2019

Muriel Bone asked for the confirmation of Ruth Beattie continuing in the role of Honorary President

Proposed by Chris Sanders

Seconded by Maureen Daniel

Honorary Vice President: The Chairman stated that this post has been vacant for several years. The Committee has invited John Johnston to fill this role and he has accepted. John is very knowledgeable about Scottish Country Dancing and has been a loyal Branch class teacher, MC, and supporter of Glasgow Branch over many years, offering advice when approached. He has devised several lovely dances which are in our various anniversary books.

Proposed by Marilyn Mowbray
Seconded by Patrick Murray

The Chairman, Muriel Bone, stated that she is retiring from this post having reached the end of her two-year tenure. Ruth Beattie as Hon President was invited to take the chair. Ruth Beattie took the chair, thanked Muriel for all her hard work and innovative ways of promoting the Branch not only in Glasgow but worldwide. Ruth then invited nominations for the role of Chairman.

Muriel Bone proposed Margaret Sanders
Secunder: Maureen Daniel

Ruth Beattie congratulated Margaret Sanders on her appointment as the new Chairman of the Committee and conferred the chain of office on her.

New Chairman's comments:

First of all, I would like to thank Muriel for all that she has done during the last two years as Chairman of Glasgow Branch. She has been very resilient when faced with all the challenges the role presents. I hope that I will do as good a job as Muriel. Thank you on behalf of Glasgow Branch & all of our fellow dancers.

Thank you for asking me to be Chairman of Glasgow Branch. It is both an honour & a privilege. I hope to live up to my grandmother's motto – if a job is worth doing, it is worth doing well.

A little bit about me. I fell in love with Scottish Country Dancing when at secondary school. PE each week meant netball outside all year round. I used to pray that it would rain because then we would have country dancing in the gym. As this is the west of Scotland, my prayer was often answered! Then followed a gap of eight years till Chris & I and our son John went to Dubai. I didn't join a class in Dubai but taught two classes each week, one in Dubai & one in Jebel Ali. The courage or stupidity of youth! Basically, the previous teacher had gone back to the UK & no one would take her place. I volunteered!! After we returned to the UK & came back to Scotland I have taken part in a class since 1980.

I hope to carry on where Muriel has left off by encouraging new dancers, recruiting new members to the Branch, building links with those under the age of 60 and basically making sure that Scottish Country Dancing remains alive & well in Glasgow.

Margaret Sanders then continued as Chairman to ask for nominations for other Committee members All of the below were duly elected as there were no other nominations:

Vice Chairman	Sebastian Wanless	Proposed by Margaret Sanders Seconded by Mary Webster
Secretary	Hamish Gibb	Proposed by Margaret Sanders Seconded by Tom Carmichael
(N.B. Hamish Gibb agreed to assume this role for a maximum of two years)		
Treasurer	Mary Webster	Proposed by Marilyn Mowbray Seconded by Robert McColl
Social Events Convenor	Joyce Carmichael	Proposed by Debbie McAlees Seconded by Meg Barrowman
Communications Convenor	Debbie McAlees	Proposed by Joyce Carmichael Seconded by Eilidh Hart
Outreach Convenor	Fiona Fairlie	Proposed by Alistair Raeburn Seconded by Muriel Bone

Class Convenor	Helen Wood	Proposed by Patrick Murray Seconded by Alan Munro
Membership Secretary	Wendy Petrie	Proposed by Debbie McAlees Seconded by Catherine Raeburn
Committee Members:	Susan Ewington	Proposed by Alistair Raeburn Seconded by Debbie McAlees
	Penelope McKimmie	Proposed by Fiona Fairlie Seconded by Marilyn Mowbray
	Aileen Warwick	Proposed by Alistair Raeburn Seconded by Caroline Holmes
	Scott Smith	Proposed by Alistair Raeburn Seconded by Caroline Holmes
	Eilidh Hart	Proposed by Alistair Raeburn Seconded by Caroline Holmes

10. Election of Delegates to RSCDS AGM in November 2018 (Only six possible based on the current membership numbers of 294). As per usual the following Committee Members were proposed as Delegates. Normally the Secretary would also be appointed as a Delegate. However, Hamish Gibb indicated that he would not be available at the time of the November AGM.

Margaret Sanders	as Chairman	
Sebastian Wanless	as Vice Chairman	All proposed by Meg Barrowman
Mary Webster	as Treasurer	Seconded by Joyce Carmichael

An additional 3 delegates were required to fulfil the 6 places as follows:

Debbie McAlees	
Fiona Fairlie	All proposed by Muriel Bone
Eilidh Hart	Seconded by Alistair Raeburn

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 Robert McColl, seconded by Fiona Fairlie and was duly elected.

11. A.O.C.B.

It was noted that Patrick Murray will take photographs of the newly appointed Committee Members present at the AGM to be posted on the website.

Daphne Davidson raised an issue related to the imminent implementation of GDPR, asking if she should discontinue use of names, addresses and telephone numbers (but not email addresses). Margaret Sanders stated that the Seniors' Group has a legitimate reason to retain a list of names, addresses and telephone numbers, which would be in keeping with the new GDPR. It was proposed that mention of this should be included in information provided to the group's members, requesting their acceptance and signature if they are in agreement.

Patrick Murray asked who should keep the memory stick which carries all the photographs he has taken. It was agreed that he should hand it over to Meg Barrowman for good keeping. Maureen Daniel will also hand her collected documentation to Meg Barrowman. Chris Sanders, Meg Barrowman and Maureen Daniel will meet to determine how to manage and include all such materials in the Branch archive.

Caroline Holmes expressed her gratitude for the extensive support provided by the Branch Committee to the JVA.

The meeting was closed at 8.35 pm after which tea, coffee and biscuits were served.

Signed:

Date: