

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

GLASGOW BRANCH

Registered Charity No. SC008002

Minutes of the 96th Annual General Meeting of the Glasgow Branch of
The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society held on
Thursday 16 May 2019 in Patrick Burgh Hall, Glasgow

Chairman Margaret Sanders presiding.

1. Sederunt & Apologies:

38 members attended.

Apologies for absence were received from: Fiona McDonald, Alan Munro, Effie MacLennan, Robert McColl, Helen Kelly, Fiona Fairlie, Catherine and Alistair Raeburn.

2. Chairman's Remarks

This is the end of my first year as Chairman; it has been a very interesting year. It has had ups and downs as you would expect. I have had lots of support from my fellow Committee Members as well as Members of the Branch. Thank you one and all.

We now have two members of Glasgow Branch serving on two of the RSCDS Committees – Peter Knapman is Convenor of the Membership Services Committee, Muriel Bone is a member of the Education and Training Committee. Congratulations and best wishes to them.

The highlight of the last year was the events celebrating the 95th Anniversary of Glasgow Branch. A full account plus photographs was in the Spring Newsletter, which I hope you have all had a chance to read. Muriel Bone was the instigator of the celebrations; the Branch owes her and all those who helped to make it a great occasion, our grateful thanks.

Sadly, we had to close the Shawlands Class due to lack of numbers. Ideally, there should be a natural progression from beginners to general and then perhaps to the JVA. What happened with the Shawlands Class was that almost the entire class moved up to the Hillpark Class meaning that the Shawlands Class was unsustainable. Jim Ferguson has taught the Shawlands Class for many years and it was with great regret that we had to close the class. Many, many thanks to Jim for all his teaching.

During the course of next year, we'll explore the possibility of setting up a new beginner's class in a different area of the southside of Glasgow. If anyone knows of a hall with a good floor, please let us know.

We also said 'goodbye' to the Erskine Bridge Hotel as a venue for the Midwinter Ball. After 11 years, we are off to pastures new, to the Normandy Hotel. The Erskine Bridge Hotel is going to be demolished – Persimmom Homes has bought the site. Joyce will be happy to take names for the Midwinter Ball for 2020!

There was a new initiative in January when we ran a ceilidh class for 8 weeks. This is going to be repeated in October, again for 8 weeks.

A date for your diary – Saturday 25 April 2020. We are going to hold a Branch Spring Fling that afternoon in Milngavie Town Hall. Further details in future newsletters.

You will remember that Jean Martin mentioned in her speech in November that in 1953 we had 1384 members. Today we have 279 members. Last year it was just below 300. Wouldn't it be great if we could improve on that? Could we all try to encourage fellow dancers to join the Branch and perhaps next year we will be able to report a substantial increase.

We currently have a branding group looking at how our posters and tickets are presented. The idea being that all our literature will be recognisable as coming from Glasgow Branch. Watch out for our new image in the near future.

Good luck to those who will be sitting Units 2 and 3 in June and those sitting Unit 5 in October. Sebastian will be in contact re volunteer dancers.

Lastly, we are trying to cut down on providing cups for tea/coffee and encouraging everyone to bring a mug to all Branch events. You will see we have some mugs available for purchase tonight, in case you have forgotten yours. I am happy to take orders!!

Hamish will bring you up to date with the other happenings in the Branch Report.

I conclude with my thanks to all the Committee and to those Branch Members who so willingly give of their time and expertise to assist with the smooth running of the Branch.

3. Minutes of AGM held on 17th May 2018

Approved. Proposed: Daphne Davidson Seconded: Vivienne O' Duffy

4. Matters Arising

Item 4. Society 100th AGM. The Chair advised that The Branch was in discussion with the Society about the proposal to have the 100th AGM in Glasgow and has carried out advance planning including costing of a possible venue, but no decision has been made yet at Coates Crescent.

5. Branch Report Annual Report to Branch Members

Membership: Our current membership stands at 271 of which 44 are life members. In addition, we have 15 associate members.

Classes: Our six Branch Classes over the autumn and winter catered for dancers of all abilities from beginners to experienced dancers. The Shawlands Class will not be continued because of falling membership. The Joint Venture Advanced Class (JVA), a collaboration with Glasgow University Scottish Country Dance Society and Alba SCD, continued. Three of our classes continued into May. Four Spring Themed Classes were held, each with a different guest teacher.

In January we introduced as a trial, an 8 week Ceilidh class, which was moderately successful, and will be repeated in the Autumn.

Teacher training: Candidates from the previous diets of exams continued their training under course tutor Alasdair Brown aiming for the Units 2,3 and 5 exams to be held later in 2019.

Dances: Twelve Dances were held during the last year including 'Nice & Easy' Dances, Branch Dances, our Midwinter Ball, and a relaxed Dance with oral and musical contributions from Branch members. The two dances as part of the 95th Anniversary celebrations were particularly successful.

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 2019.

Glasgow Branch Newsletters: Once again we are indebted to Meg Barrowman for producing three Newsletters throughout the year, including a bumper edition with the reports and photos from the 95th celebrations.

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 have been drawn up.

RSCDS AGM and Conference Weekend: Six delegates attended the AGM in Perth. A full report was in the Winter Newsletter 2018. Several Branch dancers joined them to take part in the Open Forum, evening dances and some of the other enjoyable weekend events.

95th Anniversary Celebrations: Three events marked the event. On the Friday evening 23rd November, a formal dance was held in Carmichael Hall. Invited guests from the Society included Andrew Kellett, the newly elected Chairman and the Honorary President Mrs. Jean Martin. On the Saturday, afternoon tea was taken at House for an Art Lover, providing an opportunity for many members who are not so active, to enjoy a very successful social occasion. In the evening the dance at Milngavie was attended by a large number of students from several university groups. Detailed reports on these events were given in the Newsletter.

Our archivist, Christopher Sanders, prepared a display of old photographs and memorabilia taken from our records.

Glasgow Music Festival: This is now in its 107th year and was held on Friday 8th March. Over 100 dancers competed with a total of 16 teams taking part in both Schools and Adult groups. Some schools 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 Primary 7, St Leonard's Primary, class 501. Music was provided by Màrtainn Skene. Thanks go to Fiona Fairlie and her team for co-ordinating S.C.D. input to the Festival.

The 14th Primary Schools Festival: This joint venture between Glasgow Education and Glasgow Branch was held on Wednesday 27th March 2018 in Bellahouston Sports Hall and again was highly successful. 283 children attended the morning session and 224 the afternoon Session. John Carmichael's Band (five piece) provided excellent music. A big thank you to Fiona McDonald and her team, for all the hard work that goes into making this day such a success.

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 receives requests for a demonstration of S.C.D at social occasions, sometimes associated with ethnic or minority groups. A team of dancers of varied experience has been established under the direction of the vice-chairman, to respond to these requests.

Branch Administration

The Committee was made up of sixteen elected members including the two honorary members, the President and Vice-President, four Office Bearers, five additional Office Bearers and five committee members.

A review of length of terms of committee membership has produced a Proposal for Changes to the Constitution which is to be put forward as a Motion at the May 2019 AGM.

The sub-group under Communications Convenor, Debra McAlees, dealing with Branding and Publicity has been particularly busy, working in conjunction with the external designer, to produce a unified approach to posters, tickets etc.

Penelope McKimmie has co-ordinated a rota of volunteers to assist with teas at dances.

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

Finally

Sadly, we have lost several members in the past year. Jock Lindsay, Branch Honorary Treasurer (1977 – 1983, 1987 – 1991) who with his wife, Pat, started the Branch Shop & ran it for a good number of years. Mhairi McPhail who was the last Convenor of Club Nights, Sheila Stevenson/Macmillan, a Life Member, ran the Crookfur Country Dance Club for many years. We also said 'goodbye' to Mattie Meechan, a member of the Branch for many years.

6. Financial Report and Trustees Report

The Treasurer introduced her Report for the Year ending 31st March 2019 and The Report to The Trustees.

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

- Branch dances and the 95th events were well attended, showing an overall surplus.
- Our Spring 'themed' classes and summer Workshops were successful and made a profit. Our regular September to March Branch classes had variable attendance some very successful but others adjusted to avoid any large loss. However classes do result in an increase in membership from new attendees.
- The international Spring Fringe in April 2018, which the Branch operated at the International Fling, spanned the two financial years and was enjoyed by participants.
- 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 £1,956 and this is included in the Current Account. (The Projects entry includes grants of £910 made to young dancers.)
- We have two Bonds with Skipton Building Society, and one with Hampshire Trust. A 100 day account has been opened to reduce the previous excess funds in the working current 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.

The Statement of Accounts was provided to members and the accounts were approved.

Proposed: Wendy Petrie Seconded: Eilidh Hart

7. Appointment of External Examiner of the Accounts

Robert McColl had indicated that he was willing to continue in this role and the Chair expressed the Branch's appreciation for his work.

Approved. Proposer: Mary Webster Seconded: Ruth Beattie

8. Motion. Proposed Changes to The Constitution.

Details of the Motion, which was in 3 parts, had been published to members in advance and copies were available at the meeting. Explanations of the reasons for the changes were given for each section and opportunity was given for discussion.

- **Section 5 Office Bearers.** The proposal primarily offers the opportunity to the Chairman and Vice Chairman to serve for a maximum of 3 years, i.e. an additional year over the normal period of tenure, if it was thought useful to the Branch to complete some project and approved at AGM.

The proposal was approved after a vote. For 31 Against 1 Abstain 2

- **Section 6 Committee of Management.** Additional Office Bearers serve for 4 years as do Ordinary Committee Members. The proposal provided for an elected Ordinary Committee Member to be eligible for re-election as an Additional Office Bearer for a maximum total of six consecutive years in both posts. In discussion Peter Knapman suggested that Committee Members should be able to serve a full four years and still be eligible to serve as an Additional Office Bearer. This would provide flexibility of appointments when an Additional Office Bearer reaches the end of their term.

The Chair commented that the motion couldn't be amended at the Meeting, but agreed that this suggestion should be considered further in Committee and brought forward at the next AGM.

The proposal was approved after a vote. For 32 Against 0 Abstain 1

- **Section 7. Duties of Office Bearers.** The proposal made some minor changes to the responsibilities of the Secretary and Treasurer, particularly banking practice including use of internet banking.

The proposal was approved after a vote. For 32 Against 0 Abstain 1

9. Election of Office Bearers and Committee for 2019 -20

Reconfirmation of Honorary Appointments

Honorary President Ruth Beattie Proposer: Debra McAlees Seconded: Margaret Barrowman

Hon Vice President John Johnston Proposer: Vivienne Imrie O'Duffy Seconded: Muriel Bone

The Hon President then briefly took the chair during the election of the Chairman.

All candidates proposed were unopposed and duly elected.

Office Bearers:

Chairman Margaret Sanders was re-elected. Proposer: John Johnston Seconded: Peter Knapman

Vice Chairman Sebastian Wanless was re-elected. Proposer: Mary Webster Seconded: Susan Ewington

Secretary Hamish Gibb was re-elected. Proposer: Helen Murray Seconded: Maureen McCrudden

Treasurer Mary Webster was re-elected. Proposer: Patrick Murray Seconded: Jim Ferguson

Additional Office Bearers:

Social Events Convenor Joyce Carmichael was re-elected.

Proposer: Margaret Barrowman Seconded: John Johnston

Communications Convenor Debra McAlees was re-elected. Proposer: Eilidh Hart Seconded: Scott Smith

Class Convenor Helen Wood was re-elected. Proposer: Patrick Murray Seconded: Mary Webster

Membership Secretary Wendy Petrie was re-elected. Proposer: Joyce Carmichael Seconded: Eilidh Hart

Outreach Convenor Fiona Fairlie had completed her term of office. Susan Ewington was elected.

Proposer: Margaret Barrowman Seconded: Peter Knapman

Committee Members:

Penelope McKimmie had completed her term of office.

Eilidh Hart was re-elected. Proposer: Scott Smith Seconded: Maureen McCrudden

Scott Smith was re-elected. Proposer: Eilidh Hart Seconded: Susan Ewington

Aileen Warwick was re-elected. Proposer: Maureen Daniel Seconded: Helen Murray

Two new members were proposed and elected.

Sandra McAllister Proposer: Hamish Gibb Seconded: Christopher Sanders

Graham Wylie Proposer: Muriel Bone Seconded: Maureen Daniel

10. Election of Delegates to RSCDS AGM in November 2019

The Branch is entitled to 6 Delegates. Attendees are generally Office Bearers and Committee Members. Office Bearers Margaret Sanders, Sebastian Wanless and Mary Webster were elected. Proposed as a block vote by Ruth Beattie Seconded Les Lambert.

Eilidh Hart, Debra McAlees and Aileen Warwick were elected.
Proposed as block vote by Scott Smith Seconded Patrick Murray

11. Appointment of Archivist

Christopher Sanders was re- appointed.

Proposer: Maureen Daniel Seconded: Margaret Barrowman.

12. A.O.C.B.

Muriel Bone suggested a sub-committee to consider how to attract new Members.

It was noted that there are 3 principal First Aiders in the Branch.

Volunteers to help with the teas at dances are required.

The mobile phone number will be displayed on the webpage.

Close of Meeting. Tea and biscuits provided by **Susan Ewington** and helpers gave an opportunity for informal post-meeting discussion.