

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
GLASGOW BRANCH
Charity Registered in Scotland
SC008002

BRANCH REPORT FOR 2017 AGM

This is the 94th Report for the 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 McMichan 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 three 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.

Margaret Sanders

May 2017