

**Minute of the 87<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Aberdeen  
Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.  
Held at Curl Aberdeen, Eday Road, Aberdeen  
on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

**Present** were the following 44 members of the Branch:

Emma Allsop, Brian Anderson, Aileen Appleyard, Sheila Bain, Gladys Ball, Kathleen Bruce, Sheila Cameron, Pam Dignan, Rachel Discombe, Edna Ewen, Anne Findlay, Gail Fraser, Sheila Fyfe, David Geddes, Stan Grycuk, Martha Harris, Jackie Keith, Jane Leys, Mary Lillie, Jean Martin, Lesley Martin, Linda McDonald, Heather McKenna, Isobel McMillan, George Rae, Annie Robertson, Irene Shand, Alan Smail, James Stott, William Stuart, Walter Sutherland, Evelyn Swanson, Fiona Taylor, Frank Thomson, Vera Tocher, Eileen Watson, James Watson, Elizabeth White, Eric White, Fiona Wilson, James Wilson, Anne Wood, Lynn Wood, Doris Yo ung.

### **1.1 Chairman's Opening Remarks.**

Isobel McMillan, Chairman, welcomed members to the Aberdeen Branch's 86th AGM and made the following remarks:

"Welcome everyone to this our 86<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Aberdeen Branch of the RSCDS. Thank you all for giving up a beautiful sunny evening to come here tonight.

Our Secretary Lynn has written a comprehensive report on the Branch activities of this last year which you will all have read. Classes have had highs and lows: the youth group sessions had to be abandoned for lack of numbers, but the Ceilidh classes, also held in South St Nicholas Church Hall at Kincorth, were well attended (including a number of young folk). The final session was held last Tuesday with live music from Frank Thomson. This successful monthly class will definitely start again in September. It is interesting to note that from the ceilidh class, at least three dancers are attending the Summer Socials, and intend to join one of our Scottish Country Dance classes in September.

The Demonstration class are giving at least a couple of demos in the Summer, and this is hoped to generate more interest from the public.

To keep our Branch healthy, we must try to at least maintain our membership, as we have done, but we must also be proactive. To help us achieve that aim, new flyers promoting membership were printed, and are available at the socials. I particularly like Brian's flyer on the financial benefits of joining the Society.

We are having a taster evening at the Danestone Community Centre on 10<sup>th</sup> September, and then we plan to run an Introductory class at the same venue from 24<sup>th</sup> September. We have targeted the Bridge of Don for the first time, and hope that, as it is a big residential area, we will get a lot of interest. To that end Fiona Taylor and myself recently spent an evening at Scotstoun

Primary School Health Fair handing out taster leaflets for this new initiative. We will also be at the Danestone Gala on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July. I am hoping that there will be enough of us there to do an impromptu dance and to include the visitors as well.

Three of our new young teachers have accepted our invitation to take a class. Emma Allsop and Kirsten Ferguson will share the Introductory class at Danestone, and Fiona McIver will take the Improvers' class at Garthdee.

To give them some help, teachers on the committee are preparing a guidance pack and hopefully they won't mind if at least once, either Jim or I pop in to see how they are doing! We are, I believe, the official mentors!

The new website is up and running, largely due to the hard work of Stan Grycuk and my thanks go to him for this. My only input was that I had to be able to use it, and if I could, then anyone could!

The Facebook page of the website is well used, and more and more folk are making comments. Do use it and write your comments, and/or send photos, not just about the Aberdeen dancing scene but about the whole of the North East. I am told that if over a hundred folk comment on one of the story lines then we can talk about it going viral...

If you have been following the Branch on Facebook then you will know that Emma Allsop has been chosen, along with Gary Coull from the Banff Branch, to dance for the Queen at Holyrood House. That's pretty brilliant, since in the past, dancers have always been chosen from Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Some of our other initiatives include inviting musicians to play with Frank Thomson at two or three of our Summer socials. Maybe from that we will entice at least one musician to play at our classes.

Another Youth workshop has been organised by Heather McKenna in November. The children's party last Thursday at Robert Gordon's College, was very successful so we want to repeat that at the same time next year. It was truly a wonderful and uplifting sight: 74 children dancing with huge great big grins lighting up their faces.

We will be celebrating our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015. Ideas so far include a midsummer ball, a new Aberdeen book with accompanying CD, a children's competition of some sort (for example making up a dance to be included in the book, or a poster to advertise events, or the cover art work for the new book). If you have any other ideas please let us have them now – new events don't just happen, we do need to plan ahead.

Nothing would have happened, or will happen, without the help and input of the Committee. Every single one of them has contributed hugely in one way or another to the success of the year. I would like to thank in particular:

- Fiona Wilson and Jim Stott who both retire this year. Fiona headed the events sub-committee, and Jim was my vice-chair and youth coordinator: both were superb, leaving me with no worries in those

areas.

- Fiona Taylor and Brian Anderson who handle our financial affairs and seem to enjoy producing beautiful charts to back up their financial statements. They were also amazingly patient with my poor understanding of figures.
- Jane Leys who for years has been our membership secretary and has faithfully attended the Summer socials collecting in your membership fees, and keeps excellent records of addresses and emails.
- Our long suffering Secretary Lynn Wood, who has put up with my strange and very informal ways of doing things and has done her best to keep me straight.

Sadly three prominent members of the Branch have died in the last year:-

David Robertson – Vice President  
Kenny Young – Musician  
Frank Sherrifs – former Chairman

These three members are particularly missed, and we offer our condolences to their families.

I have enjoyed my first year as your chairman and working with the committee, and am looking forward to welcoming the new committee members to the team, and on consolidating some of the new ideas.

May I take this opportunity to remind you that this is your Branch, and there are many members with much to give: Please do come forward and offer your services, even if it is only for one year. Let me assure you that once on the committee, you will find, like me, that you do actually enjoy it - for the most part!."

- 1.2 Apologies for absence** were received from the Honorary Vice-President Doris Kinghorn, and 24 other members as follows:  
Morag Barclay, Margaret Brown, Alastair Forsyth, Moira Forsyth, Willie Fyfe, Margaret Gowans, Claire Grycuk, Ray Inkster, Max Keith, Magdalen Leiper, Violet Lorimer, Iain Martin, Fiona McIver, Gordon McRuvie, Jim Morrison, Moira Morrison, Alister Reid, Judith Riddoch, Moira Robertson, Mary Robinson, Alan Smail, Fiona Spence, Margaret Webster, Angela Young.

- 1.3 Approval of the Minute of Previous Annual General Meeting**  
The minute of the Meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012 had been circulated beforehand to members.

**The minute was approved and adopted on a proposal by Jim Stott and seconded by Sheila Bain.**

- 1.4 Matters arising from the Previous Minutes:**  
There were no matters arising.

- 2. Honorary Secretary's Report**  
The Honorary Secretary's Reports had been circulated beforehand to members. The Chairman thanked Jane Leys for her continued hard work as

Membership Secretary and for providing the membership figures. A chart had been circulated showing membership figures from 2001 to 2012 and it was noted that with the ending of the Long Term memberships had affected membership numbers. It was noted that there have been no Long Term members in the Branch since 2010.

**On a proposal by Stan Grycuk seconded Jean Martin, the Honorary Secretary's Report was unanimously adopted.**

### **3. Honorary Treasurer's Report**

Fiona Taylor presented the accounts and spoke of the surplus and loss breakdown for the year for adult and children's classes

Fiona noted that the Away Weekend had been included in the Social Events this year, hence the increase from £7,233 in 2012 to £15,861 in 2013.

Jean Martin asked if the Away Weekend accounts could be kept separate, in case the weekend made a loss? This was noted, and agreed that the committee would support any losses if relevant.

After discussion the **Annual Accounts were unanimously adopted on a proposal by Stan Grycuk and seconded by Jackie Keith.**

The membership was asked if there were any questions on the breakdown of the figures for the individual classes and events during the year which were available at the meeting. There were no comments.

#### **3.1 Children and Young Person's Fund**

The amount for this fund had been recommended by the Finance sub-committee, notified to committee and to be agreed at the AGM. It was noted that £209 had been spent during the year (Inverness Festival entries, Youth Workshop and Aberdeen Festival Entry Fees).

£500 for the year April 2013 to March 2014 had been recommended.

After discussion this was unanimously agreed by the membership.

### **4. Report from Headquarters**

As members had regular copies of the Scottish Country Dancer they were familiar with Headquarters' news.

Outstanding items included PRS licences (Performing Rights Society) with whom HQ (David Cunningham) is still in correspondence.

Three members of the Aberdeen Branch were on committees at present:

Jean Martin – Management Board

Jim Stott – Education & Training

Frank Thomson – Membership Services

Jean Martin spoke briefly on the proposal of moving the RSCDS to be a company limited by guarantee whilst retaining its charity status. In the financial climate it has been recommended. This is expected to be presented

as a motion at the next HQ AGM and will be voted on by the Management Board in July. She noted that the Society has reserves of funds, but they are being eaten into by falling membership, and subscriptions are not enough to cover expenditure. There had been many discussions on how to increase membership and to encourage younger people to become members and she also noted that Aberdeen was well known as a well-run branch and supportive of children and young teachers.

Jim Stott from the Education and Training committee noted that there was a new revised Manual which will be available at Summer School and online, and the Teacher Certificate syllabus units 3 and 5 had been redesigned. There was an Examiner's conference at Summer School this year.

The Dancing Proficiency Assessment had been redesigned to match with the Medal test and Certificate teaching examinations. There would be a course for this at Summer School and an Adjudicator's course in September. Book 47 would be available at Summer School.

Jim also noted that the Jigs and Reels packs were being circulated and used around Scotland. These are designed for non-RSCDS teachers to research and then teach Scottish Country Dancing. As part of the pack, any schools who dance at an event would get a certificate and all children would get a medal.

Jim finally commented that the Aberdeen Branch has a good record of participating on different committees at Headquarters and hopes that members will consider doing so in the future.

### **5.1 Appointment of Honorary President**

The appointment of Lesley Martin, as Honorary President was confirmed.

### **5.2 Appointment of Honorary Vice-Presidents**

The appointment as Honorary Vice-President of Miss Doris Kinghorn was confirmed.

### **6.1 Election of Chairman Nominee – Isobel McMillan**

The appointment of Isobel McMillan as Chairman was confirmed.

### **6.2 Election of Vice-Chairman Nominee – Kathleen Bruce**

The appointment of Kathleen Bruce as Vice-Chairman was confirmed. Kathleen was invited to join Isobel at the top table.

### **6.3 Election of Honorary Secretary Nominee – Lynn Wood**

Proposed by Isobel McMillan and seconded by Fiona Taylor. There being no other nomination, **Lynn Wood was duly elected as Honorary Secretary.**

**6.4 Election of Honorary Treasurer. Nominee – Fiona Taylor**

Proposed by Emma Allsop and seconded by Edna Ewen. There being no other nomination, **Fiona Taylor was duly elected as Honorary Treasurer.**

**6.5 Election of Committee Members to replace those retiring**

Nominations received:

**Sheila Cameron** – proposed by Lynn Wood and seconded by William Stuart.

**Doris Young** – proposed by Fiona Wilson and seconded by Emma Allsop.

**Violet Lorimer** – proposed by Maggie Alexander and seconded by Isobel McMillan.

As there were three vacancies for 3 years, and 1 vacancy for 1 year, nominations were requested from the floor.

There were no nominations from the floor and it was agreed that a member of the Branch may be co-opted on to committee for 1 year.

With no further nominations, and as the required number of nominations to fill vacant posts had now been received, Sheila Cameron, Doris Young and Violet Lorimer were duly elected to serve on the Committee for three years.

**6.6 Election of Delegates to the 2013 Society AGM**

Members were reminded that its size entitles the Branch to have up to five AGM delegates, three of which were the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. Nominations were requested from the floor for two other delegates for the AGM in Perth in 2013.

**With no nominations from the floor, it was agreed that individual members would be asked.**

**7. Appointment of Honorary Auditor**

**Frank Thomson**, who had expressed his willingness to serve as Honorary Auditor, was proposed by Anne Wood and seconded by Sheila Bain. This appointment was confirmed.

**8. Motions**

No motions had been put forward to the committee.

**9. Any other Competent Business**

**Jean Martin** noted that John Drewry would celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in July and asked that the Branch send a card. This was agreed.

**Frank Thomson** said that he understood that Aberdeen planned to put in a nomination for City of Culture for 2017. He asked if the Branch could input to the council's presentation. **Martha Harris** responded that it was now too late.

**Lynn Wood** noted that she had suggested to the Lord Provost and to HQ that the AGM could be held in Aberdeen in 2017 if it was given the City of Culture status.

**James Watson** asked if the committee thought that it was time to think about new Vice Presidents. Isobel McMillan agreed to discuss with committee.

**10. Close of Meeting.**

There being no other business, Isobel McMillan thanked the Committee again for all their hard work, in particular Lynn Wood and Fiona Taylor. She reminded members that an Open Forum would follow. She thanked all those who had attended and wished all members a happy dancing year. The meeting thereafter closed with thanks to the Chair.

**11. Date of next Branch AGM**

This was set to 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014.