

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY LONDON BRANCH

Registered Charity Number: 1067690

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at St Columba's Church, Pont Street
on 11th June 2010

Present: Jeff Robertson (Chairman), Mary Barker, Catriona Bennett, Elizabeth Bennett, Gillian Bloomfield, Helen Brown, Margaret Catchick, Jim Cook, Agnes Dell, Elaine Davies, Pamela Ellam, James Fairbairn, Barrie Gabbott, David Hall, Bob and Meg Harman, Christine Hastie, David Horwill, John Laurie, Owen Meyer, Colin McEwen, Davinia Miln, Stewart Murray, Jean and Wilson Nicol, Andrew Nolan, Michael Nolan, George Potts, Judy Rambridge, Marjory Reid, Lena Robinson, Rosemary Tilden, Sandra Tucker, Griselda Vrolyk, Simon Wales, Stephen Webb, Rachel Wilton

Apologies for absence: Mary Stoker (President), Cos Ahmet, Alastair Aitkenhead, Ian and Iris Anderson, Stella Booth, Gaynor Curtis, Tony Ellam, Robert Elliott, Jenny Greene, Marie Jamieson, Andrew Kellett, Peter Knight, Lillian Linden, Peter Luke, Andrew Nicol, Danielle and Jerry Reinstein, Lindsey and Philippe Rousseau, Mary Robertson, Margaret Shaw, Moira Strutt, Elaine Wilde, Angela Young

1. **Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman welcomed members and friends of the Branch. He then read a message from the President, who had not been able to be present. She sent her best wishes to the members of the Branch and congratulated all those involved in organising the many wonderful events to mark the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Branch.

The Chairman noted the passing away of Dr Ellen Garvie who had been a vice president since 1973.

2. **Minutes**

Owen Meyer noted that the Mary Telfer had been incorrectly referred to as Ruth Telfer in the Minutes. With this corrected, a proposal by Owen Meyer, seconded by Gillian Bloomfield, to adopt the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12th June, 2009 was unanimously approved.

3. **Branch Activities Report**

The report on Branch Activities during the past year had been circulated with the Reel.

The Chairman reviewed some of the highlights of the year and thanked the many people whose contributions and efforts made it possible for the Branch to undertake such a wide range of successful events. These included teachers, musicians, members of the Management Committee and the Vice Presidents and those who worked for the Branch in other ways: Ian and Iris Anderson, Gaynor Curtis, Caroline Hamilton, Marie Jamieson, Lindsay Jenkins, Andrew Kellett, Rita Marlow, John Reeve, Thelma Robb, Lena Robinson, Meryl Thomson, Stephen Webb and Rachel Wilton.

On a proposal from Judy Rambridge, seconded by Stephen Webb, the Report was approved.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

Copies of the full version of the accounts were tabled. The Treasurer noted that those members who had requested advance copies had already been sent these before the meeting. He then highlighted the main items of income and expenditure during the past year.

The Treasurer expressed his thanks to the Independent Examiner, Robert Elliott, for his preparation and auditing of the accounts. He also thanked Lena Robinson for acting as the classes cashier.

In response to a question from David Hall, the Treasurer noted that he would investigate the negative expenditure figure for the 80th Anniversary.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer and Robert Elliott for their work in producing the accounts.

5. Accounts for the Year ending 31st March, 2010

On a proposal from James Fairbairn, seconded by Mary Barker, the accounts were unanimously approved.

6. Appointment of Honorary President and Honorary Vice Presidents

Michael Nolan proposed Mary Stoker as President for the coming year. This was seconded by John Laurie and unanimously approved.

Wilson Nicol proposed that the following should be elected as Vice-Presidents for the coming year: Mary Barker, Stella Booth, Jenny Greene, Marie Jamieson, John Laurie, Owen Meyer and Rosemary Tilden.

The proposal was seconded by Rachel Wilton and was unanimously approved.

7. Appointment of Office Bearers and Committee of Management for 2009-10

The Chairman announced the nominations which had been received for officers and Committee members as follows.:

Officers: Jeff Robertson (Chairman), Angela Young (Vice-Chairman), Simon Wales (Treasurer), Stewart Murray (Secretary).

Committee: Gillian Bloomfield, Margaret Catchick, Elaine Davies, Wilson Nicol, George Potts, Marjory Reid, Jerry Reinstein, Lena Robinson, Margaret Shaw and Elaine Wilde

As the number of nominations was less than the number of available places on the Committee, there had been no need for a ballot of members and the Chairman therefore proposed that those nominated should be elected. The proposal was approved by acclamation.

The Chairman thanked James Fairbairn and Michael Nolan, who were stepping down from the Committee, for the invaluable contributions that they had made to the work of the Committee and to the success of the Branch.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

On a proposal from Colin McEwen, seconded by Christine Hastie, the meeting unanimously approved the appointment of Robert Elliott as independent examiner.

9. Representation of the Branch at the Society AGM

The Chairman asked the meeting for volunteers to attend the Society AGM on 7th November as Branch Delegates. The Branch was entitled to send 13 delegates. The following members indicated that they were willing to attend:

Margaret Catchick, Dave Hall, Andrew Kellett, Colin McEwen, Jeff and Mary Robertson, Stephen Webb, Rachel Wilton, Angela Young

The Chairman noted that with the ability of each delegate to cast up to three votes, five delegates could fully represent the Branch in terms of voting and he suggested that it would not be necessary to appoint additional delegates.

On a proposal from Bob Harman, seconded by Simon Wales, it was agreed that the above would represent the Branch at the Society AGM.

10. Publicity

Michael Nolan, the outgoing Publicity Convenor summarised the PR and publicity activities which had been undertaken in the past year. These included reaching out to other organisations and making use of the traditional and new media to raise the Branch's profile. A special effort had been made to keep members informed about the Branch via the Chairman's emails.

At the suggestion of Barrie Gabbott, it was agreed that the Secretary would investigate the apparent lack of a link from the Society website to that of the Branch.

11. The Reel

Rachel Wilton proposed a special thanks to Wilson Nicol for his continuing work on the Reel.

12. 80th Anniversary Year

Rachel Wilton described the main events that had been organised to celebrate the Branch's 80th anniversary year which was now half-way through. These included the anniversary events, such as the Tea Party, the Weekend School and the Ball, and also special versions of the normal Branch events. She thanked all those who were contributing to their success.

13. Society Publications

John Laurie provided an update on the Society's recent publications and plans in relation to CDs and Books. These included new CDs for Books 7 (David Cunningham) and 17 (Neil Copland) which also included music for the 5 Dances for 2009 leaflet. Forthcoming CDs included those for Book 46 (Kenny Thomson) and the Graded Book 2, the latter including 24 dances performed by the bands of Ian Muir (Prestwick), Andrew Lyon and Luke Brady. He also mentioned the forthcoming CD of music for step dances by Keith Smith and Muriel Johnstone.

14. Dem Team

Andrew Nolan, referring to a recent decline in the number of members of the Dem Team, asked whether the Branch had plans to reverse this. The Chairman commented that membership of the team had fluctuated but currently it included only 2 men and he wondered if former members might be invited to re-join. James Fairbairn commented that there had been a change in the Dem Team's engagements in the recent past. These tended to be less a pure demonstration and more "Dem and Drag" at weddings, etc (ie, showing how to dance and then encouraging participants to dance in a ceilidh type setting. However, he felt the Dem Team also had an important role in acting as a forum to maintain high standards.

The meeting discussed the extent to which the Dem Team's activities attracted new members. Although every effort was made to encourage this (eg, by giving out the Branch business cards) it was agreed that this was difficult to quantify. However, Michael Nolan stressed that the Dem Team played an extremely useful role in publicising the Branch and the Society.

David Hall commented on the huge amount of work which JF had done as convenor for the Dem Team in the past five years.

The Chairman noted that the topic would no doubt be discussed by the new Management Committee.

15. Thanks

The Chairman thanked the Vice-Presidents, aided by George Potts and Rachel Wilton, for providing a delicious tea.

16. Date of next AGM

It was subsequently agreed that the next AGM would be held on Friday, 17th June 2011, the week following the Branch dance on 11th June.

20th June, 2010