

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY LONDON BRANCH

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at St Columba's Church, Pont Street
on Saturday, June 8 2019

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION

Present: Margaret Catchick (Chairman), Simon Wales (Treasurer), Joanne Lawrence (Secretary), Rachel Wilton (President), Alison Raisin, Willie Lawrence, Griselda Vrolyk, Barbara Manning, Jenny Kendrick, Bethan Kendrick, Tony Ellam, Pamela Ellam, Melanie Rowland, Judith Jones, Chris Hood, Marjorie Reid, Mary Barker, Helen Brown, Catriona Bennet, George Potts, Lena Robinson, Elizabeth Bennett, Jerome Reinstein, Lindsey-Jane Rousseau, Deborah Ainger, Caroline Allcock, Rona Black, Peter Hellman, Sandra Smith, Catriona Stewart, Stephen Webb, Roger Wilson

Apologies: Danielle Reinstein, Philippe Rousseau, Andrew Kellett, Wendy Kellett, Maureen Campbell, Alan Ipp, Hamish Todd, Thelma-Jane Robb, Elaine Davies, Jeff Robertson, Mary Robertson, Iris Anderson, Jim Cook, Margaret Shaw, Peter Knight, Jenny Greene.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Margaret Catchick, in the Chair, welcomed the members present and thanked them for attending the meeting.

2. Minutes of 2018 AGM

On a motion proposed by Mary Barker and seconded by Marjory Reid and Pam Ellam, the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9 June 2018 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

4. Report on the Branch's activities 2018–2019

The Chairman summarised the Branch Report 2018-2019 which had been circulated in advance of the meeting (see appendix A). She confirmed that it had been a satisfactory year for the branch and thanked Daniel Capron for his work on the branch bookstall, all musicians and teachers for their ongoing contribution and all those, both on and off the Committee, who had supported the Branch with its activities throughout the year.

Priorities for 2019-2020 were given as

- a) Continue to encourage more people to take part in and enjoy the benefits of Scottish country dancing
- b) Build on the success of the family class in Clapham
- c) Launch direct debits as a means of paying subscriptions
- d) Celebrate the start of our 90th Anniversary Year in style with the first of our Anniversary events.

Pam Ellam proposed, and Willie Lawrence seconded the adoption of the Branch Report for 2018-2019 which was duly carried.

5. Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts

Simon Wales, Treasurer, presented the accounts for the year to 31 March 2019 (appendix B). He noted that, although the branch objective was to break even, a small surplus had been achieved through a drop in costs and growth in income.

Classes were well within budget and the Day School had made a healthy profit. The Family Class was growing in popularity and the Treasurer congratulated Marjorie Reid, Chris Hood, Jenny Kendrick and all who had worked hard to deliver the sessions.

Branch dances had worked less well. Although the Burns Ceilidh produced its customary good attendance and profit others had been less popular. Although popular the half term dances had not covered their costs as hall prices had increased.

The Reel and the Bookstall both made a small profit and the Crockett fund contributed to the Open Air Dancing costs. The Demonstration team performances, which appear in accounts as 'fundraising activities,' had all been for one client. Administrative costs had declined year on year. Thanks to the hospitality of Peter Knight and Margaret Shaw, there were no costs for Branch committee meetings this year. The growth in class numbers had contributed to surplus funds at year end. It was proposed that these funds be used to support the reinstatement of live music at Park Walk classes.

Mary Barker proposed that the accounts be accepted, Jerry Reinstein seconded and the motion was passed.

6. Confirmation of the Appointment of Honorary President and Honorary Vice President

Stephen Webb proposed Rachel Wilton as President. Willie Lawrence seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

Stephen Webb proposed Jenny Green, Rosemary Tilden, Mary Barker, Jerry and Danielle Reinstein as Vice Presidents. Griselda, Vrolyk seconded the motion which was passed unanimously.

7. Appointment of Office Bearers and Committee of Management for 2018-2019

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

Officers: Jim Cook (Chairman), Simon Wales (Treasurer), Joanne Lawrence (Secretary)

Committee: Elaine Davies, Jenny Kendrick, George Potts, Thelma-Jane Robb, Margaret Shaw and Melanie Rowland.

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 those named above would serve on the new Committee.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

On a proposal from Rachel Wilton, seconded by Daniel Capron, the meeting unanimously approved the appointment of Robert Elliott as Independent Examiner.

9. Motions

Simon Wales noted that at the 2016 Branch AGM it was agreed to reduce the size of the Committee from eleven ordinary members to six, to dispense with the role of Vice Chairman and to reduce the number of Officers to three. Whilst this has for the most part worked well the Management Committee felt that, in order to attract newer members to the Committee and in order for the Branch to achieve its aims, the size of the Committee should be increased. It therefore proposed that the constitution be amended to reinstate the post of Vice Chairman and increase the number of ordinary Committee members from six to eight. Stephen Webb proposed that the motion be approved and the Branch Constitution amended accordingly, Willie Lawrence seconded and the motion was approved.

Simon Wales noted the Branch's gratitude to those members who contributed in roles once thought to be Committee responsibilities such as Membership Secretary and hoped that this would continue. In addition, the Committee would welcome help from other members who may not wish to be on the Committee but would be willing to help with running core activities such as classes and dances.

10. Appointment of Branch Proxy Delegates to Society AGM

Society Headquarters prefer that Branch Delegates to the Society AGM be members of the Committee. As it was unlikely that all members of the Committee would be attending, the Chairman asked for names of those who would consent to being on the Proxy List for the AGM in November 2019. Being on the list did not guarantee that they would be required as a Proxy. The following agreed to their names being put forward: Margaret Catchick, Rachel Wilton, Jerry and Danielle Reinstein, Judith Jones.

The Chairman thanked those volunteers accordingly.

11. A.O.B.

a. **Direct debit:** Stephen Webb commended the introduction of direct debit facility for payment of annual subscriptions and encouraged others to complete the online form.

Elizabeth Bennett asked if members paying by direct debit would be advised of any increase in subscriptions rates and this was confirmed. Roger Wilson asked if any discount was available for direct debit payments. Simon Wales explained that, as direct debit incurred additional costs to the branch, no discount would be available.

b. **Bookstall:** Daniel Capron advised that there was a last chance to buy from the bookstall.

c. **Margaret Catchick:** Simon Wales thanked Margaret Catchick who had served on the branch committee for many years, the last 3 as chair, noting that the AGM represented her last formal engagement. Rachel Wilton, President, presented flowers as a token of the branch and committee's gratitude. Margaret Catchick replied that this had been an honour to serve as Branch Chairman and that she was happy to continue to provide support as required.

The date of the next AGM was set as Saturday 13 June 2020.

The meeting closed at 19.19.