

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

LONDON BRANCH

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held via Zoom

On Saturday 19th September 2020

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION

Present: Jim Cook (Chair), Joanne Lawrence (Vice Chair), Simon Wales (Treasurer), Melanie Rowland (Secretary), Rachel Wilton (President), Deborah Ainger, Jon Allen, Catriona Bennett, Elizabeth Bennett, Gail Bignell, Colin Butler, Jan Collings, Robert Dawson, Pamela Ellam, Tony Ellam, Jim Henderson, Nigel Hewitt, Chris Hood, Judith Jones, Andrew Kellett, Katy Kendall, Jenny Kendrick, Lorraine Kent, Peter Knight, Willie Lawrence, Barbara Manning, John Marshall, Andrew Nolan, Marjory Reid, Danielle Reinstein, Robin Roads, Thelma-Jane Robb, Ian Robertson, Brian Rose, Jane Rose, Philippe Rousseau, Margaret Shaw, Valerie Strachan, Angela Young, Doris Young.

Non-Members: Karen Barter, Helen Carter, Chris Collings, Clare Grycuk, Stan Grycuk, Sheena Henderson, Alan Ip, Lindsay Jenkins, Bethan Kendrick, Lilian Linden, Julian Mason, Joan Nesbitt, Anne Riley, Jude Seymour, Meryl Thomson, Hamish Todd, Kathryn Uhde

Apologies: Iris Anderson, Mary Barker, Maureen Campbell, Margaret Catchick, Elaine Davies, Christine Hastie, Jerry Reinstein, Lena Robinson, Stephen Webb

1. Vice Chair's Opening Remarks

Joanne Lawrence, Vice Chair welcomed the attendees present and thanked them for attending the Branch's first virtual AGM. She explained that as the internet connection of Chair, Jim Cook, was not functioning, he was not able to appear on Zoom but had joined the AGM by telephone.

2. Minutes of 2019 AGM

On a motion proposed by Phillippe Rousseau and seconded by Judith Jones, the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held Saturday June 8 2019 were approved.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Report on the Branch's Activities 2019-2020

This was read by Joanne Lawrence on behalf of the Chair. She summarised the Branch Report 2019-2020 which had been circulated in advance of the meeting (see appendix A). She expressed regret that Lockdown had necessitated a cessation of all Branch activities since March including those planned to celebrate our 90th anniversary. Joanne thanked Margaret Catchick and the 90th anniversary committee for organising the successful 90th Anniversary Tea Dance on 1 March. She also thanked all musicians and teachers for their ongoing contribution and all those, both on and off the Committee, who have supported the Branch with its activities throughout this difficult year.

The outgoing Reel Editorial Team members were thanked for all their hard work in producing high quality issues over the years of their tenure. Stephen Webb is stepping down as editor, along with Meryl and Ian Thomson who have used their editorial and technical skills for the last 13 issues. Joanne Lawrence and Melanie Rowland were also thanked for their work on producing the regular eUpdates.

Due to the ongoing situation with the Covid 19 it was difficult to plan ahead but priorities for 2020-2021 were given as:

- a) rescheduling the special Garden dance and Ball to 2021
- b) sending out a survey to gauge members' opinions on the Branch
- c) relaunching the start of dancing with a special event (when Covid restrictions allow)

Marjory Reid proposed, and Deborah Ainger seconded the adoption of the Branch Report for 2019-2020 which was duly carried.

5. Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts

Simon Wales, Treasurer, presented the accounts for the year to 31 March 2020 (appendix B). The results for the year showed a small surplus of £173, close to the branch objective to break even. The reserves have been reduced this year by an unrealised loss on investments of £11,869.

Classes were in deficit by £2,546 which is well within budget and the Day School had made a healthy profit of £238. The Family Class had better attendance than previous years. The Anniversary Fund for youth outreach remains largely unspent. It is being earmarked for the relaunch of family dances and to run more family classes.

Branch dances had worked less well. Although the Burns Ceilidh produced its customary good attendance and profit others had been less popular. The Christmas Dance was not so well attended which reduced its surplus. Although popular the half term dances had not covered their costs.

The Reel made a loss of £138. The Bookstall had been closed but had made a surplus of £140 in its final year. The remaining stock will still be available for purchase at Branch events.

The 90th Anniversary Tea Dance, although well attended, cost the Branch £526 which was underwritten by the Wilson Nicol Fund, leaving £464 for future events. The Demonstration team performances, which appear in accounts as 'fundraising activities,' had all been for one client. Administrative costs had increased due to the purchase of a new keyboard case. Thanks to the hospitality of Peter Knight and Margaret Shaw, there were no costs for Branch committee meetings.

The treasurer thanked Robert Elliott, independent examiner, for his time spent in the examination of the Branch accounts.

The following questions were put to the Treasurer:

Angela Young asked whether the reduction in the HQ subscription had had an impact on London fees?

The Treasurer explained that the reduction in HQ subscription was to be discussed under item 9 on the agenda. He confirmed that he is keeping a record of each £2 reduction in the HQ subscription, which started from July 2020. The plan is to spend this additional money on attracting younger dancers to the Branch.

Julian Mason asked how much the investments had recovered from year end.

The treasurer replied that a statement of the total value of investments is available at the end of the financial year, but so far investments had improved by £3 – 4,000, about a quarter of the £11, 869 loss.

Andrew Nolan asked whether the Committee was going to continue with a series of measures (put in place due to Covid) in order to reduce / maintain costs post Covid.?

The treasurer explained the Branch was saving money by not having classes or holding events, so he expected that the current financial year (2020-2021) would show the Branch in surplus.

Catriona Bennett proposed that the accounts be accepted, Deborah Ainger seconded and the motion was passed.

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

There were no new appointments. Rachel Wilton will continue to stand as President and Jenny Green, Rosemary Tilden, Mary Barker, Jerry and Danielle Reinstein as Vice Presidents.

7. Appointment of Office Bearers and Committee of Management for 2019-2020

The secretary, on behalf of the Chair, announced the nominations which had been received for Officers and Committee members as follows: Officers: Jim Cook (Chair), Joanne Lawrence (Vice Chair), Simon Wales (Treasurer), Mel Rowland (Secretary) Committee: Elaine Davies, Jenny Kendrick, George Potts, Thelma-Jane Robb, Margaret Shaw and Margaret Moore. As the number of nominations was less than the number of available places on the Committee, there was no need for a ballot of members and those named above would serve on the new Committee.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Robert Elliott to be appointed as Independent Examiner for a further term.

Philippe Rousseau proposed and Marjory Reid seconded the appointments of Honorary President, Vice Presidents, Officers and Committee members and of the Independent Examiner.

9. Motions

Simon Wales presented the background to the motion which was a result of the motion carried at the Society's AGM in November 2019. This motion agreed that HQ would reduce

its membership element by £2 to £18, recommending that Branches kept the total subscription constant, retaining the additional £2 for local publicity and promotion. As a result of which annual membership would remain at £26 of which £18 would go to HQ and £8 to London branch.

Simon Wales on behalf the Management Committee proposed that *this AGM agrees to maintain the annual London branch membership subscriptions, comprising HQ and London branch elements, at the 2019 level with variation to the branch/HQ split. The HQ contribution to decrease by £2 and the London branch element to increase by the same amount.*

Nigel Hewitt and Joanne Lawrence seconded and the motion was approved.

10. Appoint of Branch Proxy Delegates to Society AGM

As this year's Society AGM is to be held virtually, attendance by London Branch Committee members may not be such an issue, However, the Vice Chair asked for names of those who would consent to being on the Proxy List for the AGM in November 2020. Being on the list did not guarantee that they would be required as a Proxy. The following agreed to their names being put forward: Angela Young, Judith Jones and Valerie Strachan. The Vice Chair thanked those volunteers accordingly.

11. A.O.B.

There was no A.O.B.

The date of the next AGM was set as Saturday 12 June 2021.
The meeting closed ended at 15:39