

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

LONDON BRANCH

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held via Zoom

On Saturday 12th June 2021

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION

Present: Jim Cook (Chair), Joanne Lawrence (Vice Chair), Simon Wales (Treasurer), Melanie Rowland (Secretary), Rachel Wilton (President), Ann Archibold, Deborah Ainger, Jon Allen-Friend, Catriona Bennett, Elizabeth Bennett, Gail Bignell, Joan Blake, Margaret Catchick, Pamela Ellam, Tony Ellam, Sheena Henderson, Jim Henderson, Chris Hood, David Horwill, Alan Ip, Andrew Kellett, Katy Kendall, Jenny Kendrick, Peter Knight, Willie Lawrence, , Davinia Miln, Danielle Reinstein, Jerry Reinstein, Thelma-Jane Robb, Judie Seymour, Margaret Shaw, Hamish Todd, Krystyna Vargas, Stephen Webb, Doris Young.

Non-Members: Karen Barter, Pam Beach, Helen Carter, Phil Gilby, Clare Grycuk, Stan Grycuk, Sheena Henderson, Bethan Kendrick, Valerie Meade, Nicole Michon, Joan Nesbitt, Jude Seymour, Susan Taylor Gustafson, Ian Thomson, Meryl Thomson

Apologies: Iris Anderson, Mary Barker, Jan Collings, Elaine Davies, Jenny Greene, Judith Jones, George Potts, June Rose, Bryan Rose, Rosemary Tiden, Angela Young

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

Jim Cook, Chair, welcomed the attendees to the Branch's second virtual AGM.

2. Minutes of 2020 AGM

On a motion proposed by Katy Kendall and seconded by Stephen Webb, the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held Saturday 19th September 2020 were approved.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Report on the Branch's Activities 2020-2021

a. Chair's Report (linked here [Branch-Report-2020-2021](#))

Jim Cook, Chair, summarised the Branch Report 2019-2020 which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. He expressed regret that the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted on Branch activities, with no dances, classes or family events taking place during the year. He stressed how important the Branch communications had been in keeping in touch with members. The *Reel* had continued to be published and the Branch had hosted Zoom entertainments with music, dance and quizzes. Online events at Christmas, Burns' Night as well as the *Spring from Home* event, which took place on the evening when the Combined Societies' Dance would have occurred, were 'virtually' well attended and enjoyed.

Due to the ongoing situation with the Covid 19 it was difficult to plan ahead but priorities for 2021-2022 were given as:

- a) Rebuilding and reinvigorating our membership base including developing classes for younger dancers
- b) Modernising payment methods for Branch classes and events
- c) Digitisation of the Branch Archives
- d) Revive our deferred 90th (cum 91st) Anniversary celebrations

The Chair thanked the Branch convenors and committee for all their work over the past year. He also thanked those who carry out non-executive roles. Margaret Catchick for organising the Day School and 90th Anniversary events; Meryl Thomson, the Branch's webmaster and Gaynor Curtis for looking after membership and subscribers. The new Reel Editorial Team members were thanked – Simon Wales, Willie Lawrence and Edward Bunting. As well as Jeff Robertson our Reel Business Editor.

b. Branch Awards

Jim announced branch awards to Meryl and Ian Thomson, Stephen Webb and Joanne Lawrence in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the work of the Branch.

Gail Bignall proposed, and Willie Lawrence seconded the adoption of the Branch Report for 2020-2021 which was duly carried.

c. Members' Survey Report

Vice Chair, Joanne Lawrence gave a brief overview of the results of the Branch survey which had been published in *Reel 314* and via the Branch website. She thanked the eighty-nine members who had responded to the survey and provided a valuable source of information which would form the basis for our plans for next season.

5. Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts (linked here [Final-Accounts 2021](#))

Simon Wales, Treasurer, presented the accounts for the year to 31 March 2021. The total net worth is £74,461. The results for the year showed a small surplus of £3,957 as activities that usually incur costs, such as events and publicity had not taken place this year. The surplus will be put into a separate fund to promote and develop activities for the forthcoming season. This year the Branch's investments have made an unrealised gain of £9,568 and we are back on track to recover last year's losses of £11,869. The value of our investments stands at £50,872.

Branch membership benefitted by £441 from the reduction of £2 in the HQ levy and second branch membership has increased, resulting in membership income remaining similar to last year's at £2,163. The Reel has made a loss of £1,558 due to a decrease in advertising revenue.

The Helen Brown Fund will be spent on the project to digitise the Branch archives.

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

No questions asked.

Jim Henderson proposed that the accounts be accepted, Pamela Ellam 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 s 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 2020-2021

The secretary, on behalf of the Chair, announced the nominations which had been received for Officers and Committee members as follows: Officers: Joanne Lawrence (Chair), Jim Cook (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.

Chris Wood proposed and Ann Archibold seconded the appointments of Honorary President, Vice Presidents, Officers and Committee members and of the Independent Examiner.

9. Appoint of Branch Proxy Delegates to Society AGM

The Vice Chair asked for the names of those who would consent to being on the Proxy List for the AGM in November 2020. Stephen Webb and Peter Knight agreed to their names being put forward.

10. A.O.B.

Joanne Lawrence thanked Jim Cook for his services to the Branch as Chair and welcomed his decision to stay on the Committee as Vice-Chair.

The date of the next AGM was set as Saturday 11 June 2022.
The meeting closed ended at 5.50pm