

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

LONDON BRANCH

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held

on Saturday 11th June 2022

SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION

Present: Joanne Lawrence (Chair), Jim Cook (Vice Chair), Simon Wales (Treasurer), Melanie Rowland (Secretary), Rachel Wilton (President), Adam Brady, Catriona Bennett, Elizabeth Bennett, Paddy Black, Rona Black, Maureen Campbell, Deb Casey, Margaret Catchick, Cathy Daldy, Nicholas Demetriou, Pamela Ellam, Tony Ellam, Ivor Frank, Chris Hood, Alan Ip, Judith Jones, Andrew Kellett, Peter Knight, Willie Lawrence, Marjory Reid, Danielle Reinstein, Margaret Shaw, Roy Southall, Hamish Todd,

Non-Members:

Apologies: Betty Arrol, Tom Arrol, Richard Clark, Christine Davies, Elaine Davies, David Hall, Jenny Kendrick, Lindsey-Jane Rousseau, Philip Rousseau, Griselda Vrolyk, Stephen Webb.

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

Joanne Lawrence, Chair, welcomed all Branch members and observers, including those watching over the internet, to the Branch's AGM.

2. Minutes of 2021 AGM

On a motion proposed by Hamish Todd and seconded by Alan Ip, the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held Saturday 12th June 2021 were approved.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Report on the Branch's Activities 2021-2022 ([linked here – Branch Report 2022](#)) a. Chair's Report

Joanne Lawrence, Chair, summarised the Branch Report 2021-2022 which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The objectives for the year were reviewed:

- a) The deferred 90th Anniversary celebrations had taken place with the Anniversary Ball being held on 16 October 2021 at Allum Hall. The Chair thanked those who had organised the event and particularly thanked Margaret Catchick, Simon Wales, Rachel Wilton, George Ferrier and Jim Cook. Stephen Webb was thanked for organising the 90th anniversary dance devising competition which was won by Lizzie Conder for her dance London Nine-0.
- b) The Chair confirmed that work was progressing on the digitisation of the Branch archives.

- c) The modernisation of payment methods with the introduction of card payment for classes and dances was working well.
- d) The Chair noted that it was encouraging to see an increasing number of people returning to dancing after the pandemic. All classes had been well attended with the number of beginners increasing at Park Walk and Richmond. Jeni Rutherford retired as teacher of the Mixed Ability class and the class is now being taught by Simon Wales.
- e) The final objective for the year had been to rebuild and reinvigorate our membership bases including developing classes for younger dancers. The Chair was pleased to announce that monthly classes will begin in September 2022 aimed at dancers in their 20s and 30s.

The Chair outlined the Objectives for 2022-2023 which are:

- i) Continuing recovery of membership numbers and boosting attendance at Branch events
- ii) Developing events attractive to younger dancers
- iii) Increasing the number of musicians playing for classes and dances
- iv) Planning for the RSCDS's centenary

The Chair then thanked the Branch convenors and committee for all their hard work over the past year. Particular thanks were given to Jenny Kendrick who steps down this year as Classes Convenor and to longstanding committee member George Potts who died earlier this year. The chair welcomed new members, Adam Brady, Richard Clarke and Dave Hall, onto the Committee. She thanked the Branch's Honorary President, Rachel Wilson and Vice Presidents for their continuing support during the year. The Chair also thanked those involved with the communications of the Branch with particular thanks given to Simon Wales and the Reel Editorial Team and to Meryl Thomson, the Branch's webmaster.

Peter Knight proposed, and Willie Lawrence seconded the adoption of the Branch Report for 2021-2022 which was duly carried.

5. Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts ([linked here – Final Accounts 2022](#))

Simon Wales, Treasurer, referred to the Trustees' Report and Financial Statement for the Branch for the year to 31st March 2022 which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The initial pages of the Report provide details of the Branch's achievements and performance during the year. This is followed by the audit report and detailed financial information.

- a) The balance sheet showed the Branch's total net worth of £81,564 (up from £76,461 for the previous year). During the year to 31st March, the Branch made a small surplus of £1,397 plus an unrealised gain on investments of £3,707. The Branch's investments stand at £54,579 (compared to £50,872 for 2021).
- b) Classes made a loss of £1,926 but this is within the agreed budget. Dances also made a loss of £961, the Treasurer noted that this was due to attendance being down, and the cancellation of the Burns Ceilidh which is generally profitable.
- c) The Reel made a loss of £1,855 due to a decrease in advertising revenue.

d) The 90th Anniversary Ball cost £1,581 before receiving a subsidy of £464 from the Wilson Nicol bequest. The loss was due to two factors. A limit being put on the number of tickets, to be Covid-19 safe, and an increase in the catering costs from the original quotation, which could not be passed on to those who had already bought tickets.

e) Donations and legacies raised £5,127. The Treasurer expressed gratitude for the various bequests as these enable the Branch to invest in projects.

f) Membership has held up well over the year, as a number of beginners joined the Branch to avail themselves of the member's discount for the St Andrew's Summer School. The RSCDS subscription will be increasing substantially in July 2022 which may affect membership numbers.

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

No questions were asked.

Rona Black proposed that the accounts be accepted, Pam 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 as President and Jenny Green, Rosemary Tilden, Mary Barker and Danielle Reinstein as Vice Presidents.

7. Appointment of Office Bearers and Committee of Management for 2022-2023

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, Thelma-Jane Robb, Margaret Shaw and Margaret Moore. Three new members have been elected on to the Committee; Adam Brady, Richard Clarke and David Hall. 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.

Marjory Reid proposed and Andrew Kellett 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 2022. Peter Knight, Rachel Wilton and Nicholas Demetriou agreed to their names being put forward.

10. A.O.B.

There was no A.O.B

The date of the next AGM was set as Saturday 10 June 2023.

The meeting closed ended at 5.50pm