

**Minute of the 84th Annual General Meeting of the Aberdeen
Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.
Held at Beechgrove Church Lounge, Midstocket Road,
Aberdeen on 22nd March 2010**

Present were the following 46 members of the Branch:

Brian Anderson, Aileen Appleyard, Sheila Bain, Morag Barclay, Kathleen Bruce, Rosemary Crabb-Wyke, Pam Dignan, Rachel Discombe, John Felton, Anne Findlay, Alastair Forsyth, Sheila Fyfe, Willie Fyfe, Martha Harris, Ray Inkster, Jackie Keith, Jane Leys, Mary Lillie, Jean Martin, Lesley Martin, Heather McDonald, Linda McDonald, Fiona McIver, Heather McKenna, Paul McKnight, Isobel McMillan, June Rae, Judith Riddoch, Mary Robinson, Irene Shand, Fiona Spence, James Stott, Audrey Stratton, William Stuart, Walter Sutherland, Evelyn Swanson, Fiona Taylor, John Tether, June Tether, Frank Thomson, Eileen Watson, James Watson, Elizabeth White, Fiona Wilson, Lynn Wood, Anne Wood.

1.1 Chairman's Opening Remarks.

Paul McKnight, Chairman, welcomed members to the Aberdeen Branch's 84th AGM and made the following remarks:

It's my honour as chairman to welcome you all as members of the branch to our 84th Annual General Meeting.

First of all it is my sad duty to record that during the year our Honorary President, Lady Aberdeen passed away. Several other long-time members of the branch who have sadly passed away during this year; Mary Miller, A.M.D. Alexander, Neil Weir, Gordon Keirs, Florence Profeit & Innes Hendry. Our sincere condolences go to the friends and families.

This year, the number of members attending our branch classes has reduced slightly from previous years, which is an ongoing concern for your committee, as we try new ways of attracting and maintaining people's interest in Scottish Country Dancing. I am pleased to report that we have gained some very enthusiastic beginners and we hope that they will remain with us in future years. Thanks must be given to all those attending our classes on a regular basis and I extend these thanks to all our class teachers and musicians who put in a lot of work to make these classes enjoyable to all.

During the year we held our usual Spring and Christmas dances, together with a Devisor's evening of Roy Goldring dances and a dance to promote the Headquarters' Initiative of Dance Scottish. These were all well attended and a great social atmosphere was generated by all who took part.

Last year we reported of the Teachers' Certificate Class with 13 participates, most of whom have now passed the first 3 parts of the Teachers Certificate course which bodes well for the future of the branch.

Turning to Finance, which is always a concern for your Committee, we are finding that, with the cost of hire of halls and bands increasing, it can difficult to price tickets in order that events break even. We use the basis of 100 people paying to attend our events, but I am delighted to report that at the last Christmas Dance we managed to sell over 120 tickets which resulted in a surplus as seen on your Statistics sheet.

Looking to the future, Aberdeen Branch has been invited to host the Launch Event for the RSCDS Dance Scottish Week in September, which we have accepted. Details of this event are in with your AGM papers. We do hope you can come along and support us at this event. Aberdeen branch are also in the early stages of securing the return of the society's AGM in 2012.

Aberdeen Branch is very fortunate to have such an efficient Secretary, Lynn Wood, and Treasurer, Fiona Taylor. Both must also be congratulated for all their hard work over the past year. Your committee has had some tough times in the past year with various classes having to relocate at short notice. My personal thanks go to all those on committee who have worked hard to strive to keep disruptions to a minimum. Retiring from Committee this year are Betty White, Billy Stewart and Rosemary Crabbe-Wyke.

1.2 Apologies for absence were received from the Honorary Vice-Presidents Doris Kinghorn and David Robertson, and 23 other members as follows: - Maggie Alexander, Jean Allan, Margaret Brown, Bob Clark, Moira Forsyth, David Geddes, Margaret Gowans, Elizabeth Graham, Linda Greig, Magdaleine Leiper, Iain Martin, Nicola McPherson, Gordon McRuvie, Jim Morrison, Moira Morrison, Annie Robertson, Moira Robertson, Alan Smail, Anna Smail, Louise Sutherland, Eric White, Angela Young, Doris Young.

1.3 Approval of the Minute of Previous Annual General Meeting
The minute of the Meeting of 30th March 2009 had been circulated beforehand to members. **The minute was unanimously approved and adopted on a proposal by Jim Stott and seconded by Audrey Stratton.**

1.4 Matters arising from the Previous Minutes:
There were no matters arising.

2. Honorary Secretary's Report
The Honorary Secretary's Report had been circulated beforehand to members. The Chairman thanked Jane Leys for her continued hard work as Membership Secretary and for providing the membership figures.

On a proposal by Jean Martin seconded Rosemary Crabb-Wyke, the Honorary Secretary's Report was unanimously adopted.

3. Honorary Treasurer's Report
Fiona Taylor presented the accounts and spoke of the surplus and loss breakdown for the year for adult and children's classes.

A breakdown of the figures for the individual classes and events had been circulated at the meeting.

The increase in meeting & other expenses was due to paying for the Certificate Class (£1000), the skirts for the demonstration team (£300) and payment to enable a young person to go to Summer School to sit the teacher's examination (£300).

After discussion the **Annual Accounts were unanimously adopted on a proposal by Fiona Spence and seconded by John Felton.**

4. Report from Headquarters

As members had regular copies of the Scottish Country Dancer they were familiar with Headquarters news.

Paul McKnight, Chairman, added the following words:

As we all now get a copy of the Scottish Country Dancer magazine from HQ we are all able to catch up on HQ news. The latest edition of the magazine is due to be sent out next month. In the meantime, there have been considerable changes with the RSCDS Website, which is now a great resource for members to keep up-to-date with all the latest goings on in Coates Crescent.

Liz Foster, the Executive Officer, has been working hard on producing a 3 year Strategic Plan for the society, details of this should be available to all members in the near future.

As I have previously mentioned, the society AGM is possibly to be held in Aberdeen in 2012, but final decisions, I believe are still to be made.

As far as finances go, due to some VAT rule changes, the society has managed to reclaim some VAT, which has taken the society out of the red and into the black once again, so here's hoping we can maintain this going forward.

I'd now like to ask Isobel McMillan to say a few words about things they have been involved in as members of the Management Board of the society.

Isobel McMillan gave an interesting rendition of the various sub-committees she had become involved in and shared her enthusiasm for her role on the Management Board. She noted that the management board members had been reduced from 18 to 15 members, and all had a link to between 12 and 17 branches. Meetings had been streamlined with clearer targets and she believes that with the new Secretary, Liz Foster, the society was moving to be more efficient with good guidelines. She also noted that some branches do not have a secretary or treasurer or email addresses for contacting, but all the information a member could need is on the new website, due to be completed shortly. Headquarters are now actively looking for Trust Funds, Grants and Charitable Foundations. She also noted that Headquarters were

running a workshop for CPD (Continuous Professional Development) trainers –using members who are teachers as well as Scottish Country Dance teachers. Jean Martin from the Aberdeen Branch was one of the leaders of the workshop.

She concluded by saying that she had enjoyed her time (her 2 years finish in November 2010) including learning new computer skills.

5.1 Appointment of Honorary President.

Fiona Spence, Vice-Chairman introduced Lesley Martin with the following words:

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Branch, when the Branch Committee was considering the appointment of an Honorary President, we were clear that we were looking for someone who was not only interested in, but wholeheartedly committed to, Scottish Country Dancing, to the aims of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society in general and to our local Branch in particular. We needed to look no further than one of our Honorary Vice-Presidents, Lesley Martin, whose lifetime of distinguished service and 60 years of Branch membership more than qualify her for the position. There can be few people in the Branch who have not experienced her superb teaching, or been influenced by her uncompromising promotion of the highest standards of dancing, and when we recognised the esteem in which she is held, throughout the UK and world-wide, the unanimous view of the Committee was that we could think of no better representative for our Branch, and for its values and goals.

It is with much pleasure then, that I invite this Annual General Meeting of the RSCDS Aberdeen Branch to confirm the appointment of Miss Lesley Martin as our Honorary President.

The appointment of Lesley Martin, as Honorary President was confirmed.

Lesley Martin, Honorary President responded with her thanks and noted that she was deeply touched and honoured to be invited. She also noted that she had yet to receive a job description. She briefly recalled her education in Aberdeen and her training at Dunfermline College where the minister welcomed the “hygiene girls” as they were known at that time. Her training included physiology and massage. She concluded by saying that the expression for physical exercise had changed from Drill to Gym to Physical Education to Human Movement Studies – but all meant the same.

5.2 Appointment of Honorary Vice-Presidents

The appointments as Honorary Vice-Presidents of Miss Doris Kinghorn and Mr David Robertson were confirmed.

6.1 Election of Chairman Nominee – **Paul McKnight**

Proposed by Dorothy McKnight and seconded Margaret Stephen. There being no other nomination, **Paul McKnight was duly elected as Chairman.**

6.2 Election of Vice-Chairman Nominee – **Fiona Spence**

Proposed by Martha Harris and Seconded by Frank Thomson. There being no other nomination, **Fiona Spence was duly elected as Vice-Chairman.**

6.3 Election of Honorary Secretary Nominee – **Lynn Wood**

Proposed by Kathleen Bruce and seconded by Margaret Ruddiman. There being no other nomination, **Lynn Wood was duly elected as Honorary Secretary.**

6.4 Election of Honorary Treasurer. Nominee – **Fiona Taylor**

Proposed by Robert Clark and seconded by Aileen Appleyard. There being no other nomination, **Fiona Taylor was duly elected as Honorary Treasurer.**

6.5 Election of Committee Members to replace those retiring.

Nominations received:

Fiona Mclver – proposed by Paul McKnight and seconded by Liz Jones.

James Stott – proposed by Jean Martin and seconded by Judith Riddoch.

Fiona Wilson – proposed by Fiona Spence and seconded by Frank Thomson.

As the required number of nominations to fill vacant posts had now been received, Fiona Mclver, James Stott and Fiona Wilson were duly elected to serve on the Committee for three years.

6.6 Election of Delegates to the 2010 Society AGM

Members were reminded that its size entitles the Branch to have up to six AGM delegates, three of which were the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. Nominations were requested from the floor for three other delegates.

Frank Thomson – proposed by Jean Martin and seconded by Anne Wood.

Lesley Martin – proposed by Jim Stott and seconded by Rosemary Crabb-Wyke.

Rosemary Crabb-Wyke – proposed by Fiona Mclver and seconded by Frank Thomson.

With no further nominations from the floor, these were elected.

7. Appointment of Honorary Auditor.

Frank Thomson expressed his willingness to serve as Honorary Auditor, proposed by Lesley Martin and seconded by Pam Dignan. This appointment was confirmed.

8. Motions.

No motions had been received.

9. Any other Competent Business.

Jean Martin noted how important it was to have a representation from the Branch on the Board. She also noted that CPD (continuous professional development) training was one of a number of suggestions from Betty White to get into schools across the city. As we do not have enough teachers to teach in every school, the branch was asked to provide teaching of Scottish Country Dancing to teachers in schools.

Alistair Forsyth noted that in 2008 we had made a surplus of £2,600 yet in 2009 we had made a loss of £4,000. Fiona Taylor confirmed that the children's classes made a surplus and the adult classes made a loss. The children's classes generally had no hall or musicians costs. She also noted that the banks were currently giving very low interest.

Jim Stott noted that a large number of new dancers came to our classes and then moved to non-Society classes.

Walter Sutherland asked if it the branch could request that all musicians played RSCDS tempos at dances. There was a short debate on this. Frank Thomson noted that tempos are a very contentious issue with bands. Certain bands were known for their fast speeds. It was agreed that bands should be guided by the MC regarding tempo. If dancers were concerned about tempo, they should speak to the MC.

10. Close of Meeting.

There being no other business, Paul McKnight thanked the committee again for all their hard work in particular Lynn Wood and Fiona Taylor. He reminded members that an Open Forum would follow. He thanked all those who had attended and wished all members a happy dancing year. The meeting thereafter closed with thanks to the Chair.