

GARDENS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS (GSCD)

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

**HELD AT 7.30 PM ON 5TH SEPTEMBER 2011
AT St PETERS CHURCH HALL LUTTON PLACE EDINBURGH**

In attendance

Margaret Burns (Chairperson), John Nuttall (Treasurer), James Summers (Secretary), Margaret Harris, Bob Harwood, Agnes Reed, Sandra Wallace, Linda Watson, Rosemary Wylie, (All Committee Members)

27 dancers also attended

1. Apologies

Ian & Dorothy Auld, Helen Bisset, Cathie Forman, Peter Hyssett, Pat Morrison, Jessie Shannon, June Steedman.

2. Opening Remarks from the Chair

Margaret Burns thanked everyone for coming and read the following report :-

“Although we never really had a summer this year, we only cancelled one night in Princes Street Gardens but attendances on Monday nights were disappointing. Some days it was difficult to make the decision to cancel or go ahead and with low numbers some nights, maybe we didn't get it right every time.

Thankfully the dancing at Lutton Place and Stockbridge House was well attended with a good mix of experienced and inexperienced dancers coming along each week and this helped to make up the loss on the outdoor nights. I would just like to say a big thank you to everyone who supports us week in week out and for those who helped with the box office and stewarding, the MC's and the Bands. This is much appreciated by the Committee and helps us to continue.

Thank you also to our members of the Committee who work hard throughout the year to ensure the summer programme runs smoothly.

Unfortunately Sandra Wallace has decided to step down this year so we will be looking for someone to replace her. Don't be shy, if you feel you would like to be part of the Committee please volunteer your services.”

3. Minutes of Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 13th September 2010

The Secretary read out the draft minutes from the previous AGM

It was pointed out that Linda Watson had joined the Committee after the AGM.

Agnes MacMichael and others thought that there should have been copies of the minutes available for those attending. The Secretary said that copies had not been issued due to the uncertainty of the numbers attending. However he noted the desire for minutes to read and confirmed that 20 or 30 copies be supplied to the next AGM for use by those attending.

Minutes proposed by Margo Lyall and seconded by Agnes Reed.

4.Matters Arising

Rachel Frith was disappointed that there was to be no dancing after the meeting as she had brought her shoes in anticipation of this.

Margaret Burns told the meeting that the Committee had decided at a meeting not to have dancing after the AGM.

Several attendees expressed their disappointment that there was to be no dancing and a show of hands indicated that 17 out of the 27 attendees would prefer to have a dance.

Fiona Jones suggested that dancing before the meeting may be preferable.

The Treasurer informed the meeting that there was no financial reason for not having a dance as this could have been funded from the surplus (See Item 5)

Agnes MacMichael suggested that more response from dancers was required.

Margaret Burns said that she would try to get feedback during 2012

5.Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer said that the minutes from last year's AGM indicated a degree of uncertainty of the financial situation due to late invoicing from the Usher Hall, however he was pleased to report that the financial position in 2010 had turned out better than expected with a surplus of £1,431.00 and a balance in reserves of £8,147.00

The Treasurer distributed copies of the Income and Expenditure Account for 2011 and a breakdown of the numbers attending.

The details of the accounts were available to all at the meeting and the Treasurer summarised these concluding that an operating surplus of £522.72 was achieved resulting in the reserves increasing to £8,669.88

The Treasurer also circulated a report showing the Attendances at each of the three venues. The significant information from this was that numbers at Princes Street Gardens had fallen by 23% from 2010 but increased by 6% at Luton Place. The August dancing in Stockbridge showed a small reduction of 1% from the 2010 venue in Leith.

the Rachel Frith suggested that it may be time to reconsider outdoor dancing in Gardens and concentrate on the indoor dancing. A majority of those attending the meeting were not in favour of this idea.

Rachel Frith asked why the Council charged so much for the use of the Gardens when it seemed like our use was of benefit to the Council. The Treasurer replied that the Council did not look at it that way and they (the Council) already offered the use of the Gardens to GSCD at a reduced rate.

The Treasurer's report was proposed by Rosemary Wylie and seconded by Chris Sydserff.

6.Secretary's Report

Further to the discussion in Item 5, the Secretary reported that the Usher Hall (the booking body for the Council) had informed him that bookings were already filling up for 2012 and had asked about our requirements for 2012. The Secretary confirmed that, after consultation with Margaret Burns, he had already secured a provisional booking for Monday nights from 28th May until 30th July (10 nights) in 2012.

Bob Harwood raised the issue of the park closure difficulties on the 6th June and the Secretary confirmed that this was unlikely to happen in future as he

would liaise closely with Fiona Devlin of the Parks Department in advance of the 2012 season.

7.Election of Office Bearers and Committee

Sandra Wallace confirmed her intention to stand down from the Committee and Margaret Burns accepted this and thanked Sandra for her efforts on behalf of GSCD.

The remaining members of the Committee confirmed their intentions to stand for re election and were duly confirmed as Margaret Burns (Chair), John Nuttall(Treasurer), James Summers(Secretary), and Margaret Harris, Bob Harwood, Agnes Reed, Linda Watson, Rosemary Wylie (Members of Committee)

Margaret Burns asked for nominations from the floor for new Committee Members but none were forthcoming.

Margaret Burns explained how useful a committee member could be and instanced Linda Watson with her help in hanging up posters at the gates.

8.Bands

Margaret Burns asked if everyone was happy with the bands used in 2011 and got general approval from the floor.

The Treasurer confirmed that the musician's fee for the indoor nights had been increased to £60.00 and again this gained general approval.

9. Programmes

Margaret Burns asked if everyone was happy with the programmes used in 2011 and got general approval from the floor.

Margaret Burns reminded everyone to let their Clubs know that programmes were welcome particularly for the indoor nights.

10. Dates for 2012

Margaret Burns asked if everyone was happy with the venues used in 2011 and got general approval from the floor. It was agreed that these venues should be booked for 2012 as soon as possible

Margaret Burns thanked Bob Harwood for keeping the website up to date

11. Any Other Business

Irene MacCrae asked if something could be done about the poor seats in Princes Street Gardens. Everyone agreed that the seats were deplorable for such a prime venue but all were not hopeful that the Council would spend money on improvements. None the less the Secretary offered to ask the Usher Hall if anything could be done about this.

The meeting closed at approx. 8.30 PM with a vote of thanks to the Chair.