

GARDENS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS (GSCD)

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

**HELD AT 7.00 PM ON 3rd SEPTEMBER 2012
AT STOCKBRIDGE HOUSE, CHEYNE STREET, EDINBURGH**

In attendance

Margaret Burns (Chairperson), James Summers (Secretary), Rae Ballantyne, Margaret Harris, Bob Harwood, Linda Watson, Rosemary Wylie,
(All Committee Members)

50 dancers also attended

1. Apologies

John Nuttall (Treasurer), Agnes Reed (Committee), Marjorie & Brian MacRae, Jim & Joy Scott, Jessie Shannon, Sylvia Davie, Joan Flannagan.

2. Opening Remarks from the Chair

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

“It is good to see so many of you turning out for our Annual Meeting. It must be the dancing afterwards.

This year I felt that our outdoor season never really got started as we only had 9 nights, 3 of which were cancelled. The decision to cancel on these occasions was based on poor attendance at the Ross and the weather. Luton Place and Stockbridge House again proved very popular with good attendances at both, despite the traffic diversions and chaos in the town many faced to get there.

This year we are looking for 2 new committee members as John Nuttall and Bob Harwood have both decided to come off the committee.

John has been our Treasurer for the past 4 years but, due to work commitments, he cannot give the same commitment to the Gardens Dancers. Bob joined our committee 5 years ago and has helped out in various posts but it was Bob who took on the task of setting up a web site for the Gardens. This proved to be a massive step forward and is often the first contact we have with visitors prior to them arriving in Edinburgh. I personally think it is a simple website to use but full of useful information and one of the best, therefore we are anxious to get someone to continue the good work. Bob leaves us due to family commitments. We thank John and Bob and wish them well on there next challenges.

Lastly I would like to thank the Committee for all their hard work and support during this very difficult year and to all those who offered to steward, do the box office or helped in any other way - it is all very much appreciated.

I hope we will have a good meeting and you all enjoy the dancing afterwards“.

3. Minutes of Annual Meeting (AM) held on 5th September 2011

Copies of the Minutes were made available to all those attending.

As there were no comments forthcoming from the floor the Minutes were adopted as correct and proposed by Agnes MacMichael and seconded by Irene MacRae.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising except a general disappointment that the Council had not managed to improve the poor seating.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer was not able to attend the meeting but he submitted a full written report together with a sheet showing the record of numbers attending the events over the four year period of his tenure and a printed copy of the Annual Balance Sheet. Copies of these reports were made available for everyone attending the meeting and a copy of each report is attached to this Minute. Bob Harwood explained the contents of the Treasurer's Report to the meeting.

The Treasurer's report was proposed by Rachel Frith and seconded by Harry Andrews.

6. Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that he had emailed the Usher Hall (the booking body for the Council) requesting bookings for the Ross Theatre for 27th May, 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th June and 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th July 2013. Emma at the Usher Hall had replied saying that the dates had been pencilled in the diary but she warned that a number of the dates had already been provisionally reserved but we were down as second reserve and she would keep us posted.

The Secretary noted that the accounts showed that there had been donations to the value of £234.78 made during the year and he was concerned that all donors may not have been thanked formally as he (The Secretary) had not been informed of every donation. However Margaret Burns said the Treasurer had thanked the donors.

7. Election of Office Bearers and Committee

The following existing members of the Committee confirmed their intentions to continue and were duly confirmed as :- Margaret Burns (Chair), James Summers (Secretary), and Rae Ballantyne, Margaret Harris, 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, however Rae Ballantyne offered to take on the Treasurer's post and her offer was warmly welcomed.

The new Treasurer was proposed by Rosemary Wylie and seconded by Sandra Wallace.

8. Bands

Margaret Burns asked if everyone was happy with the bands used in 2012 and got general approval from the floor.

Agnes MacMichael wondered if the amounts paid to the bands and musicians was enough but Margaret Burns said that the amounts paid had not been queried and no band or musician had indicated that an increase was required.

9. Programmes

Margaret Burns asked if everyone was happy with the programmes used in 2012 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. Website

Margaret Burns asked if there was anyone willing to help with running the web site but no offers were received from the floor. However it was generally felt that the Committee members between them could run the site after an initial grounding and some continued help from Bob Harwood.

11. Dates for 2013

Margaret Burns asked if everyone was happy with the venues used in 2012 and got general approval from the floor. It was agreed that these venues should be booked for 2013 as soon as possible

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

11. Any Other Business

Harry Andrews asked if something could be done about the poor condition of the floor in Princes Street Gardens. The Secretary informed the meeting that the Technician (Jimmy) at the Gardens had informed him that a small budget had been raised for floor repairs but so far nothing had been done.

Tom Nisbet suggested that everyone should write to their local Councillor and complain about the floor and this may get results.

Agnes MacMichael suggested that we find out about a "Cultural Section" of the council and put the problem to them. The Secretary said he would find out about this avenue.

Margo Lyall suggested that a signed petition should be submitted to the Council and this idea was adopted and Margo offered to get signatures from those attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at approx. 8.15 PM and Rachel Frith proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair.