

## **GARDENS SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS (GSCD)**

### **MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING**

**HELD AT 7.00 PM ON 1st SEPTEMBER 2014**

**At STOCKBRIDGE HOUSE, CHEYNE STREET, EDINBURGH.**

#### **In attendance**

Margaret Burns (Chairperson), James Summers (Secretary), Rae Ballantyne, (Treasurer), Margaret Harris, Rosemary Wylie, Helen Corsie , Agnes Reed (All Committee Members)

Approximately 40 dancers also attended

#### **1. Apologies**

Helen Cook, Kim Eliot, Pat Morrison,, Chrisie Sydserff.

#### **2. Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 2nd September 2013**

There were no comments on the minutes and they were approved by Margot Lyall and seconded by Jaqui Milligan.

#### **3. Matters Arising**

Fiona Jones asked if Visit Scotland had been contacted to find whether they could assist with promotion of our events. Margaret Burns said that she had contacted Visit Scotland on numerous occasions but had no positive feed back.

#### **4. Chair Person's Report**

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

“I can't believe our summer session has finished. It has flown by so quickly. Despite having some nights when the weather was good, attendances at the Ross were disappointing. The state of the floor remains a problem and, despite discussions with the Council, nothing was done to improve it. This makes it difficult to attract as many dancers as we would.

We still attract dancers from other branches at home and overseas with the Ross Bandstand being one of the “must do” things if coming to Scotland. The move to Inverleith for our Tuesdays nights did not prove popular and it is clear that we will need to find a more suitable venue for next year. Despite Stockbridge not being a popular venue, numbers remained steady over the 4 weeks.

have All the Committee are prepared to remain in place for another year but we struggled a bit and we could do with one or two others to help lighten the load. I would like to thank them all for the work they have done over the year. I would also like to thank everyone who offered to steward, do the box office, or helped in any other way, it is all much appreciated.

Thank you all for taking the time to attend our Annual Meeting .

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer gave everyone attending a copy of The Provisional Statement of Accounts and a copy of this is attached to this Minute.

The Treasurer reported that the Monday nights continued to make losses which were largely covered by profits from the Tuesday nights resulting overall in a small loss of £175.50 overall.

The Treasurer's report was proposed by John Nuttall and seconded by

Lynda Watson.

#### **6. Secretary's Report.**

The Secretary thanked our Chairman, Margaret Burns for all the hard work she put into the Gardens dancing.

The Secretary wished to record a special thanks to Bob Harwood for continuing to run the web site and posting updates. The Secretary told the meeting of the frantic emails and telephone calls he had with Bob Harwood on Monday afternoons, comparing weather reports and finally taking the decision whether to go with the dancing or cancel.

The Secretary was particularly pleased to report that the Edinburgh Council had at long last decided that the Gardens Dancers would be regarded as a Charity and would therefore not be subject to a Public Entertainment Licence. A refund for 2014 had been received and passed on to the Treasurer. The secretary reported that he had sought a refund for the fee paid in 2013 but the Council had turned this down due to a "change in circumstances for previous years". The Committee decided to accept this without further action.

#### **7. Election of Office Bearers and Committee**

The following existing members of the Committee confirmed their intentions to continue :- Margaret Burns (Chair), James Summers (Secretary), Rae Ballantyne (Treasurer) and Margaret Harris, Agnes Reed, Rosemary Wylie and Helen Corsie (Members of Committee)

Margaret Burns asked for nominations from the floor for new Committee members but this request was greeted by a deathly silence from the floor.

#### **8. Bands**

Margaret Burns asked if everyone was happy with the bands used in 2014 and got general approval from the floor.

#### **9. Programmes**

Margaret Burns asked if everyone was happy with the programmes used in 2014 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 anyone knew of someone who may be interested in running the web site but, in the absence of any suggestions, it was agreed to carry on with the Web Site as before but this would depend on the continued help and goodwill of Bob Harwood. The Secretary to contact Bob to find out if he remains willing to do this.

#### **11. Dates for 2015**

Margaret Burns read out the following proposed dates :-

Monday nights Gardens :- 25<sup>th</sup> May to 27<sup>th</sup> July (10 nights)

Tuesday nights :- 26<sup>th</sup> May to 28<sup>th</sup> July (10 nights)

Monday nights :- 3<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> August (4 nights)

Annual Meeting (Venue to be confirmed) - Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015

#### **12. Any Other Business**

It was suggested from the floor that Lutton Place was a preferable venue for Tuesday nights than Inverleith Church Hall. Margaret Burns stated that this was not feasible as Lutton Place was now booked on a Tuesday evening.

Margaret Burns suggested that it might be possible to get Lutton Place Hall on

a Monday evening thereby changing the Gardens to a Tuesday evening. This met with general approval from the floor and the Committee will look into this.

Carola Bronte-Stewart said that Stockbridge House was very good now that it had Air Conditioning. Margaret Harris had heard that the upper floor hall at Stockbridge House may have Air Conditioning installed by next year.

John Nuttall asked what the Committee intended to do with the reserves of £9,094.90. Margaret Burns responded that reserves were needed just in case the council increased the hire charge for the Gardens (this could be a possibility if major work was done on the venue). John Nuttall suggested that some benefit could be passed onto the dancers by having a free night.

Carola Bronte Stewart suggested either a free night or the first night at a reduced cost in order to attract more dancers.

Margot Lyall stated that numbers would not increase until the floor was repaired as most of the dancers were now older and less able to cope.

Lynda Watson offered to try and encourage New Scotland dancers to come to the Gardens.

Tom Nisbet asked why the Ceilidh run by the RSCDS (Get Scotland Dancing) attracted over 300 people and less than a third of this number attended our Gardens night. Margaret Burns advised that this was due to the Ceilidh being a free night funded by the Lottery.

Jacqui Milligan asked why we did not advertise on Radio Forth and Kingdom FM. The Committee to look into this

Keirin Johnstone asked why the dancers who demonstrate do not turn up on other nights to dance as paying public. Margaret Burns said that this was always the case and she did not have an answer to it.

Fiona Jones asked why young dancers from the children's classes did not come to the Gardens. The general opinion was that this was very much up to the parents having to come to supervise their children and we did not see much change in the mix.

Lynda Watson suggested that the Committee might try to organise a Family Night as a means of encouraging young dancers. Many people stated that Family Nights used to be the norm with many Clubs but had largely died out due to lack of interest.

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The meeting closed at approx. 7.50 PM .