

Princes Street Gardens Scottish Country Dancers

Minutes of Annual Meeting Held on
Tuesday 29th August 2017, 7pm at
Stockbridge House, Cheyne Street, Edinburgh

Present: Margaret Burns (Chairperson), Rae Ballantyne (Treasurer), Margaret Harris, Rosemary Wylie, Yvonne Munro (Minute Taker), Agnes Reed, Brian Harry: Moira Stephens; Chris Lyons (All Committee members)

1. The Chair welcomed everyone and **Apologies** were received from: Joan Forsyth; Helen Gall, Mary Black
2. **Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 31st August 2016.**

There were no comments and the minutes were approved by Shiona Clark and seconded by Helen Cook.

3. **Matters Arising**

Nothing was discussed as most items were covered on the Agenda.

4. **Chairperson's Report**

As Read out and a copy is available if required.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

Rae Ballantyne, Treasurer, delivered the Statement of Account as at 29th August 2017

- Sylvia Davie asked about the cost of musician's fees, and was advised there was no issue about the fixed amount offered, £310 for 3 musicians. BH informed the meeting that musician's fees increased last year, but prior to that had not been increased for 10 years. Sheena Duncan proposed the Treasurer's Report and was seconded by Elizabeth Harry.

6. **Secretary's Report**

Brian Harry (BH) read out the Secretary's Report and a copy can be made available if required. Bookings for Princes Street Gardens have provisionally been reserved 28th May – 30th July 2018, the reason for this is refurbishing of Princes Street Gardens Ross Bandstand. Our aim is to promote dance, however, it was agreed there is a need for simpler dances for everyone to dance. The Programmes will be discussed under Item 9. BH suggested booking the Ross Bandstand before it is demolished and to have a Farewell Event. This will be discussed by the Committee.

Action: Committee

BH informed the Group he is giving up the Post as Secretary and Yvonne Munro (YM) will be taking over this role.

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

Princes Street Gardens Scottish Country Dancers

No new Office Bearers are required at this stage but we always appreciate any help offered.

8. Bands

Ewan Galloway was introduced to PSG and to Indoor Dancing too which was a resounding success. It was mentioned that Local bands would be preferred in case of last minute cancellations.

9. Programmes

- There was mixed discussion about Dance Programmes over the last 15 years, i.e. some dances were not as challenging, therefore experienced dancers don't come along on the evening. Some comments made were that some dances are too challenging for beginners / visitors and to put on simpler dances on the programmes such as a Ceilidh or a simpler dance. It was identified that the emphasis is to encourage as many visitors / inexperienced dancers to dance as possible. It was commented that although we have a Demonstration Team to demonstrate the dances, they do not invite visitors up to dance, and they should be encouraged to do so in the future. It was suggested that on a Monday evening, perhaps a recap / quick walk through of the dance.
- It was ultimately suggested that simpler dances be danced in Princes Street Gardens and a perhaps a more challenging programme on Tuesday evenings for Indoor dancing.

10. Dates for 2018

As discussed in Item 6, dates for 2018 have provisionally been booked on Monday evenings between 28th May – 30th July 2018.

11. Any Other Competent Business

- a. The Toilets have been closed on more than 1 occasion before 9pm and it was commented that the Council is there to provide us with a Service. It would appear there is lack of communication between the Parks Department and Usher Hall who do the bookings for the Bandstand.
- b. Sylvia Davie commented that Luton Place will be undergoing a refurbishment and we will probably not be able to use the hall in the near future. Do people want 2 indoor nights dancing, probably 1 night with more difficult dances! If PSG is not going ahead next year, then we need to find a hall to accommodate approximately 70 people. Halls are expensive but possible suggested venues are: St Stephens Church Upstairs Hall; Rose Theatre; Trinity Academy, Leith Town Hall.
- c. Donald was reassured that wherever we moved to, there would be wheelchair access provided.

Princes Street Gardens Scottish Country Dancers

Margaret Burns thanked Bob Harwood for keeping the website updated every week and to everyone for coming and supporting PSG. The meeting closed at **8.15pm** and dancing commenced.

- 12. Date of Next Meeting**
TBA