

**NOMINATIONS FOR
MEMBERSHIP SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS**



Lara Friedman-Shedlov
Twin Cities

Proposer: Bill Brown (*Twin Cities*)
Seconder: Fer Horn (*Twin Cities*)

Reasons for coming forward as a candidate

Now that the organization can support “virtual” participation, I am excited about the opportunity to get involved. As a member of this committee, I would be in a position to better understand the challenges facing the RSCDS as it serves its international membership and to communicate the needs of overseas members and help shape the membership services going forward.

Relevant experience and qualifications outside of dancing

I have served on numerous committees and task forces for professional organizations to which I belong as part of my “regular” work as an archivist at the University of Minnesota. These roles gave me the opportunity to hone organizational skills as well as my communication skills, both in-person and virtual.

Relevant experience and qualifications in dance-related organizations

I’m familiar with RSCDS governance through my service on our branch board for most of the past 20 years, including as chair (2009 – 2011). I also served on the executive board of the TAC as editor of its quarterly newsletter, *TACTalk* (2006 – 2010) and have served as the TAC Area Representative for Minnesota since approximately 2000.

What I would like to bring to the job

I would bring the perspective of an overseas branch, strong communication, organization, and technological skills, and a keen interest in the future of the RSCDS and of SCD.

I confirm that I am willing to commit the time to fulfil the duties this position requires, and that I am able to participate via electronic means (I cannot commit to traveling to meetings in person, unfortunately).



Peter Knapman
Glasgow

Proposer: Muriel Bone (*Glasgow*)
Seconder: Ruth Beattie (*Glasgow*)

Reasons for coming forward as a candidate

After being involved in SCD for 50 years feel it is appropriate to offer my services to one of the HQ committee positions.

Relevant experience and qualifications outside of dancing for this position

Computer literate
Organisational skills

Relevant experience for position in dancing organisations

Qualified RSCDS teacher
Taught my own SCD class for 34 years: membership in excess of 70
London branch committee during 1970s
Glasgow branch committee during 1980s and 1990s
Glasgow branch Chairman 1998 - 2000
Member of Glasgow and London branch demonstration teams

Extensive experience in preparing demonstration teams: my class has been providing entertainment at local events for over 20 years

Main contact point and coordinator for SCD at the Glasgow Garden Festival: SCD was part of the Festival on 4 days every week

Devised dances including 'Good Hearted Glasgow'

Experienced Ceilidh dance caller

Extensive knowledge of Scottish Traditional music

- Attended RSCDS musicians course (piano)
- Play in a band that provides entertainment for local charitable events

Knowledge and interest in the history of dancing and music in Scotland

- Assisted the MSC last year in the reissue of books 25 to 30, undertaking both the dance music sourcing for this exercise.

What you would like to bring to the job

Extensive knowledge of Scottish music and dance in its wider historical context

Organisational skills

Confirmation of time commitment necessary to fulfil the duties

I am now retired and have sufficient time available

Confirmation of ability to travel to all required meetings

Travelling through from the Glasgow area is not a problem



Cynthia Soohoo **Proposer: Tom Halpenny** (*SW Washington State*)

SW Washington State **Secunder: Linda MacDennis** (*SW Washington State*)

As a classically-trained pianist, violist and arranger, I have performed in and directed instrumental groups in a variety of genres. For the past 20 years, I have been playing for SCD as a pianist and a fiddler, also acting as musical director and arranger for SCD bands of varying configurations, both large and small.

I have been an enthusiastic dancer for the last 10 years and am currently serving on the board of my local branch.

As technology develops, so do the opportunities for creating a wider variety of resources and greater access for RSCDS members around the world. Coming from the perspective of a dance musician and dancer, I would like to contribute to the continued exploration of these possibilities.

I confirm that, if elected, I will commit the time to fulfil my duties and will be able to travel to meetings as required, anticipating that I would attend all other meetings via electronic means.



William Williamson **Proposer: Linda Gaul** (*Perth & Perthshire*)

Dumfries **Secunder: Anne Smyth** (*Lochaber*)

I learned Scottish Country Dancing in Dumfriesshire in the 1960's and it was at a very early age that I came to appreciate Scottish Culture and Traditions. I recall that everyone in Scotland, at that time, joined in the dancing at social events. It's this that drives me on to "Keep Scotland Dancing."

I joined the RSCDS Dumfries Branch as a teenager, served on the Dumfries Branch Committee and while studying music in Edinburgh danced with demonstration teams at home and abroad.

On my return to Dumfriesshire, I completed my Scottish Country Dancing teaching certificate and at the turn of the Millennium, I was asked to teach a class in my home village of Amisfield. In 2016 I was elected Chairman of the Dumfries Branch and have enjoyed teaching at day, weekend, summer /winter schools and at the RSCDS AGM.

My career in music along with many years of experience as a Scottish Country Dancer has allowed me the opportunity to contribute in various ways to the development of the cultural life of Scotland.

I have served on various committees including the local Arts Festival Committee and currently hold the position of Trustee with the Joseph Thomson Massai Trust and Amisfield Village Hall.

I would hope that the knowledge and experience gained from the above would be of value to the Membership Services Committee.

I certainly now have the time to devote to this position and confirm that I would be able to travel to all required meetings.