

**Management Board (MB)**

- Committee members discussed how to strengthen the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund (JMMF) procedures and information for applicants and members. The Board agreed a sub-group should meet and produce proposals for improving the system and impact.
- The Board then considered the draft Business Plan which has been updated following the Branch consultation over the last few months and discussions and review of the Action plans under each strategic aim, by Education and Training, Membership and Youth Committees. These discussions resulted in some upgrading of the Action plans but the Board were largely in agreement with the proposals in the Business Plan. It was agreed that an updated document would be circulated to the Business Planning Group and then used for the Open Forum presentation. Also, the staff would use the updated document for their discussions at their away day on 25 October.
- The quarterly Management Accounts were presented to the Board by the Treasurer along with a more detailed report on Income and Expenditure from Summer School 2016. The quarterly account did not raise any areas of significant concern in the first quarter of the financial year. The Summer School report showed that a surplus of just over £47,000 had been made once overhead and direct costs were deducted from the income generated. This was largely on target with the Budget for SS and the Board thanked staff for providing this detailed financial report on Summer School.
- The Treasurer updated the Board on the progress with the tendering by four companies for the accountancy service at RSCDS. Following interviews, Henderson Loggie were appointed as the new accountancy firm that will be working for RSCDS on accountancy and VAT advice, as they had a strong bid and are good value for money. They will be taking over from Alexander Sloan from November 2016.
- The Executive Officer presented updates on the work of the staff team and on progress with major pieces of work including preparation for the AGM, developing a tender for strengthening the RSCDS website and progressing the work of the Business Planning Group.
- The AGM preparation is well advanced. Nominations for Board and Committee positions have been received and voting will be required for MS and the Chairman Elect position. Voting papers for the Nominations that need voting on have been drafted for circulation by email to all branches and branches are sending in their proxy forms. The voting on the motion will be by a show of hands so electronic voting will not be required this year. It was agreed that staff would work with the sound engineer to ensure we have live streaming of the AGM so that those who cannot attend in person can listen to the AGM.

- It was agreed that the Treasurer would work with staff to produce a summary set of Annual Accounts for presentation at the AGM, and also a short briefing on how the RSCDS spends the £20 membership fees.
- The Chairman confirmed that Jean Martin was delighted to take on the position of President and the Board asked that Branches would be notified of this in advance of the AGM.
- Reports from the Finance and Governance Advisory Panel and from the Constitutional Panel were noted. The Constitutional Panel is working on enquiries from TAC, Aberdeen Branch and on committee make up within Branches.
- Reports were received from Membership Services, Youth Services and Education & Training committees.
- The Education and Training Committee reported that the Unit 1 cohort this October had 38 candidates worldwide, which is a very good number. Invitations have been circulated for staff members for Summer School 2017 and Jimmie Hill gave a presentation to the International Festival of Adjudicators in Edinburgh
- Membership Services Committee noted that the new Book 50 videos are already proving popular
- The Youth Services Committee noted that the Global Youth Week 2017 materials have been finalised, uploaded to the website and circulated to all Branches.
- Two new Affiliated Group applications were received and approved by the Board.

### **Youth Services Committee (YS)**

The Youth Services Committee have a number of initiatives this autumn and winter whilst looking beyond.

#### Children in Need

Youth Services have produced a dance written by Louise Macdougall and her pupils called Pudsey Bear. Ian Muir has written a tune and produced it as a download. Katherine Butler has designed stickers.

Schools, clubs, branches are invited to use the materials as part of their fund raising for Children in Need in the UK. Dancers worldwide are free to use the materials for fundraising.

The initiative is on the website. Please promote it.

#### Global Youth Week

Global Youth Week is from 20 – 30 January 2017

The launch of Global Youth Week is in London on the 14<sup>th</sup> January when we have a youth workshop and ceilidh. Flyers will be issued to branches to give ideas on how they might engage young people through clubs, schools and universities.

Videos and pictures are invited from participants in the initiative for the Facebook competition of the most likes as per last year.

In addition there are three development grants available to Branches to develop an idea for sustainable youth activities. The closing date for receipt of applications will be end of December, 2016. The Youth Services Committee will decide on the awards and they will be announced on the 30 January at the end of Global Youth Week.

### Youth Workshops

There was a successful youth workshop in Newcastle on the 8<sup>th</sup> October. A further youth workshop is in London in January, 2017.

The committee decided that in the future youth workshops will link with the university workshops in Scotland and England.

### Spring Fling

Spring Fling 2017 is well advanced. As I write, the website is due to be launched and registration will begin. [www.springfling2017.de](http://www.springfling2017.de)

There is already discussion regarding venues for Spring Fling 2018 and 2019.

### Virtual Festival

Youth Services have decided to hold an E-Festival at a date still to be determined. Teams, worldwide will be invited to prepare a basic display lasting up to 6 minutes. A theme will be provided, there will be no limitations on music, the routine must have recognizable Scottish country dance steps and formations. A team will adjudicate the entries and a prize awarded.

### AGM

There will be a Youth Services Table at the AGM in Perth to promote and publicise Youth in the RSCDS. Please come and chat with us over the weekend.

### **Education & Training Committee (E&T)**

#### Teachers' Register

At Headquarters we hold a record of when dancers took their Teacher Certificates and the results. However we do not have recent information such as have they changed their name, are they still teaching or retired. Shortly there will be a survey coming out to Branch secretaries to pass on to teachers to complete. It will also be available via the website. This will enable us to have a clear picture of where our teachers are worldwide and their teaching experience.

### Medal Tests

#### New Assessors

Jayne Riddet, Dumfriesshire and Linda Lawson, Aberdeenshire have been appointed as Medal Test Assessors.

### Youth Leadership Award in Scottish Country Dancing

This new award is to create a link between the Medal Tests and the Dancing Achievement Award for young dancers aged 12years upwards. It will encourage their continuing interest in Scottish country dancing while teaching leadership skills such as communication, teamwork, and organisation and planning.

A fun practical award with no exam, but with a printed award from RSCDS HQ to recognise successful participation. For more information contact [julia.parr@rscds.org](mailto:julia.parr@rscds.org) Education & Training Administrator.

### DAA (Dancing Achievement Award)

This is proving popular worldwide. Following requests and much discussion, E&T have decided to open this up to non RSCDS members. There will be a differential in fee RSCDS members £20, non-members £25. We hope this will encourage non RSCDS members to wish to improve their dancing and may also join the Society.

### Summer School 2016

633 people attended a successful Summer School in St Andrews over the 4 week period headed up by Jim Stott as Schools Director and a team of over 50 teachers & musicians. This included a music course full to capacity and exam courses with, due to demand, two Unit 5 courses along with Unit 2 and Unit 3. The pilot Junior Summer School with 9 young dancers aged 8-11years was very successful. The dancers gained their Introductory Medal Test Certificate at the end of the week. Thanks to Anne McArthur and Marilyn Watson for making this such a fun & informative course. There are plans to repeat this course in 2017. More information from Moira Thomson [moira.thomson@rscds.org](mailto:moira.thomson@rscds.org)

### Summer School 2017

Exam course dates are Unit 5 weeks 1&2, while Units 2 and 3 will be weeks 3 & 4. Week 2 will be the only week offering the Introductory class. Week 3 will see the music course, family week and Junior Summer School again. This year a list of those invited to teach each week will appear when booking opens. It will not detail which classes they will teach as things can change dependant on student's attendance.

### Scholarships for Summer School

Dancers and musicians aged 16 years and over wishing to attend Summer School in 2017, can apply for scholarships which cover the course fees but not travelling costs. Applications close on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Forms at <https://www.rscds.org/article/scholarships-1>

### Winter School 2017

Next year's Winter School is fully booked with a waiting list. Mervyn Short will be the Winter School Co-ordinator for 2018.

### TAP (Technical Advisory Panel)

An error has been noted in the instructions for Hamilton House Book 7 in the complication publication.

In print it states:

*Bars 9-12 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> couples set to partners twice*

As all dancers are not facing own partners at this point in the dance.

Correct wording should be:

*Bars 9-12 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> couples set twice*

### Joint project with TAC (Teachers Association Canada)

A working party consisting of Pat Coyle & Ruth Jappy appointed by TAC along with Jean Martin & Mervyn Short appointed by E&T, have completed a project to revise the notes for the Miscellany Books. A spoken guide on the pronunciation of dance titles has also been produced, overseen by Jim Healy. Both of these will be on the RSCDS website shortly. Thank you to all involved and I hope this will be only the first of many joint projects involving the Teachers Associations worldwide.

### Dance Videos on RSCDS You Tube

The videos of Book 50 are available via the RSCDS You Tube and have been well received. A project is underway with MS to have all the dances in the Societies books available via video. E&T is working to also have videos of the basic steps and formations also available for viewing but this will take some time.

### Core Repertoire

The revised Core Repertoire will provide teachers and programme devisors with a structured list of RSCDS dances at Basic, Intermediate and Experienced levels. It brings together a variety of formations, tempos and complexity for all levels. It is not intended to be a list of the best or most popular dances and is not definitive.

### **Membership Services Committee (MS)**

- Book 50 and its accompanying CD (recorded by Scott Band and his band) have been published at Summer School 2016, where they have been enthusiastically received. The book and CD have since been selling very well indeed, and provide the Society with much-needed income. The RSCDS acknowledges the generous financial support provided by Helensburgh & District Branch for this book and CD in memory of the late Mrs Norah Dunn (1913–2015). We would also like to thank the dance devisors, all the RSCDS volunteers and HQ staff who assisted with the project, and in particular the Spring Fling attendees and RSCDS branches which helped review the dances prior to selection.
- Professionally-filmed videos of the Book 50 dances are now available on the Society's YouTube channel, "TheRSCDS". The Society's web site also offers "teaching tracks" for all the Book 50 dances as free downloads. These are for the benefit of teachers

who do not have access to live music, and include each dance broken down into 8, 16 and 24 bar phrases as appropriate.

- The Society also published a further CD containing music for dances from Miss Milligan's Miscellany, this one recorded by Luke Brady and his band. While we acknowledge that the dances now left to record aren't exactly the most popular ones in the book, we should like to point out that the CD provides a variety of cracking sets which are also very useful for "Any good ..." dances, and it would make a great stocking stuffer for Christmas.
- An updated version of the Society's "Index to Dances", including all RSCDS publications up to Book 50, may be downloaded for free from the RSCDS web site. This has also been beefed up in a few other ways; it now contains a set of PDF bookmarks for the various letters from A to Z, and on suitably configured devices, clicking on dance titles in the PDF links to the corresponding pages in the Strathspey SCD Database.
- Work on Book 51 (containing dances suitable for festivals and less experienced dancers) is proceeding apace. We have gathered "blind" feedback on 90-odd dances from more than 80 RSCDS branches and dance groups all over the world, and we hope to arrive at a final selection of 12 dances for the book by the end of October. The book and accompanying CD, to be recorded by Ian T Muir (Prestwick), will be published in July 2017.
- We have issued a call for dances to collect submissions for Book 52, which will contain dances devised by members of the Society, preferably ones that have proved popular already. Submissions of dances will be accepted on the RSCDS dance evaluation web site: <http://eval.rscds.net/p/book-52/>, from 1 November 2016 until 15 January 2017. RSCDS Branches and affiliated groups that would like to assist in evaluating dances during the spring and summer of 2017 will also be able to volunteer on that site during the same period. The book will be issued in July 2018.
- The new edition of the "Index to Formations and Movements" that has been promised for some time is nearing completion, and will hopefully be available in late 2016 or early 2017, probably both as a printed document and a PDF "e-book". (The "e-book" will contain a few nifty features that are unfortunately impossible to reproduce in a paper document.)
- The Committee has started preliminary work on a combined A5 edition of Books 31 to 38. This will feature the dances from these books recast into Standard Terminology, and incorporate corrections and clarifications that came to light after the original books had been printed, as well as a set of Pilling-style diagrams for all the dances in the books, and will be published at the Conference Weekend in November 2017.
- We are also busy ramping up for the big video project that will eventually provide good-quality instructional videos for all dances published by the Society. We're

counting on RSCDS branches everywhere to assist us by providing raw footage that will be professionally edited and made available on the Society's YouTube channel (among other places) for the benefit of the SCD community. Details of how you can help and exactly what we would like you to do will be issued in due course.

- Apart from these activities, the Committee continues to provide strategic input to the Society's Management Board and HQ staff in matters concerning services to members and the SCD community at large, e.g., in the context of drawing up the Business Plan for 2017-20, or for improvements to the Society's web site.