

AGM Motion on Membership Fees 2017

This briefing outlines how RSCDS uses the income it secures from Membership Fees, in relation to the Motion proposing that RSCDS retains a membership fee of £20 for the membership year 2017-18.

RSCDS's mission:

To grow a vibrant worldwide community of Scottish Dance and Music

To achieve this mission statement the following 5 Strategic Aims have been agreed through branch consultation:

Aim 1. To promote Scottish Country Dance and related dance forms as inclusive and exciting activities

Aim 2. To build the capacity and networking of branches and other dance groups who share our aims, to help them grow and deliver SCD activity and to set up new branches where there are gaps

Aim 3. To maintain and develop high quality teaching of Scottish country dance and music, including the development of dance and music for all ages and abilities

Aim 4. To enable enjoyable and high quality Scottish country dance opportunities for all ages and abilities worldwide

Aim 5. To strengthen and improve the RSCDS, including its governance and long term financial viability, to enable it to deliver on the above aims

How does your £20 membership fee contribute to delivering on this mission and how do you benefit directly as a member for your £20 per year?

What do you personally get as an individual member?

- 2 copies each year of the member Magazine, **Scottish Country Dancer** giving you lots of information on what is going on in the SCD world globally
- Access to RSCDS trained teachers in your local branch or group
- Access to a thriving and developing dance repertoire, with some fresh new dances each year plus plenty of old favourites – with books, CDs and dance videos
- The ability to dance anywhere in the world and fit right in because the dances are standardised
- Access to training and awards from the RSCDS that help you develop your own personal technique if you want to do this
- Information on what is going on in the SCD world through our E-zine
- Discounted prices on RSCDS organised events – including some very high quality opportunities to learn dance and music from top teachers

What do your Branch and your teachers get which enables you to also benefit?

- Your teachers can access helpful teaching materials, videos of dances and CDs and also network with other teachers
- Your Branches get support and advice from HQ about developing the branch, licencing, health and safety
- Your branch can share experience with other branches and learn from each other, particularly on areas like member recruitment, marketing, planning events, etc.

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Registered Office 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AF Scotland

Tel: +44 (0)131 225 3854 Fax: +44 (0)131 225 7783 Email: info@rscds.org Web: www.rscds.org

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What does your £20 Membership fee pay for in the RSCDS?

RSCDS membership fees form an important element of RSCDS' income (nearly 25% of total income) but gradually we have diversified our sources of income to ensure that we develop a more sustainable spread of income types.

- Providing an enquiry service to members and branches, supporting branches in their local work around the world
- Helping to pay for the Education and Training programme we run all year so that there is always a new supply of well trained teachers, tutors, assessors and examiners in different parts of the world
- Producing two members' magazines and posting them out to members
- Investing in work with young people and running youth events
- Covering the costs of governing the Society – including the management board and committee meetings, reporting to regulators
- Paying for the Annual general meeting
- Managing the finances of the Society and members' database

The figures below give details of how much is spent on each of these items per member (i.e. it gives a breakdown of how we use your £20 membership fee)

Item	£ per member	% of the £20
Enquiries, Branch support and liaison	4.00	20.00
Education & Training Programme	3.80	19.00
Member Magazine	3.30	16.50
Governance of RSCDS	3.30	16.50
Website and other Information	2.10	10.50
Financial management of RSCDS	1.95	9.75
Youth development and events	1.05	5.25
Annual Conference / AGM	0.50	2.50
totals	£20.00	100%

What is your £20 Membership fee NOT used for?

- **Not** used for subsidising Summer School and Winter School costs, including all the overhead costs (staff etc.) for planning and delivering these events. In fact Summer School and Winter School contribute to funding RSCDS' teaching and educational activities as we generate a small surplus on both these events, after overheads have been taken into account.
- **Not** used for paying for running the RSCDS shop. Again the shop pays for itself and generates income which can then be invested in producing new dance books, CDs and videos.