

Management Board

- New Board Members including the new Chairman Elect were welcomed to the Board and a brief introduction was given. New Board Members had previously been given Induction Packs.
- Updates were given on progress made with Celtic Connections 2017 who have agreed to co-host a Ceilidh again during their festival in January 2017.
- The MB agreed five areas for improvement of Jean Milligan Memorial Fund (JMMF) management: improved administration, annual review of funds available, building long-term viability, increased publicity of scholarships awarded and improved evaluation of scholarships. Also discussion on how RSCDS might collaborate with others including our Branches.
- The second quarter's Financial Report to the MB was scrutinised and discussed. For the first six months of the year the report shows a positive level of income against budget and generally well managed expenditure within budget. This means that at the six month point the finances are largely in order and within the budget planned. The Treasurer reported also on the Investments return and again these were satisfactory and meeting budget.
- Discussion was held on the draft Budget for the period April 2017 – March 2018. The Management Board agreed that they would like further work done on the budget to develop a break-even budget for the next year and that we should aim to review income and expenditure to reach a break-even budget.
- The website redevelopment working group reported on progress made in finalising a brief for use in tendering for a website developer. The aim is to tender for a developer in January 2017 and to then start on the actual development work in during February 2017, with a likely estimate for completion of between 10-12 months.
- Education and Training Committee reported on a successful level of candidates (30) for the October Unit 1 this year. Also, an update was given on progress being made with preparations for the Unit I exams planned for February 2017 and on plans for the North American Tour in 2017.
- Membership Services Committee reported on good progress being made in the final selection of 12 dances for Book 51 and its CD, as well as on inviting dances for book 52. Also they reported on plans for publishing the Combined A5 edition of Books 31 – 38 next autumn.
- Youth Services reported on progress with promoting Global Youth Week through adverts in the Scottish Country Dancer as well as through a mass mailing to all Branches and Affiliated Groups. There has also been wide promotion (to all schools in Scotland and to all Branches and Affiliated Groups around the world) of the dance and music materials that were produced to enable schools to do SCD as an option for

fundraising for Children in Need,. YS also briefed the committee of plans to have a Virtual Festival as part of Global Youth Week in 2018.

- The MB discussed the AGM and Conference Weekend and agreed that it ran successfully including the presentation of the new Business Plan at the Open Forum. It was agreed however that we need to set up a working group to discuss how to strengthen the AGM and to ensure it is also cost effective.
- Discussion was held on plans for the Away Day for the MB, Committees and staff on 14 January, with the focus being on the implementation of the Business Plan.
- There was a discussion on how the RSCDS might engage with the 150th anniversary of Canada's confederation – Canada Day 150th will be on 1 July 2017. It was agreed RSCDS would support branches in taking part and aim to raise RSCDS profile through this both in Canada and in Scotland.
- The EO reported on progress made by staff in planning for upcoming events, production of publications and shop management, input to the Business Planning and to the Education and Training programme, as well as the financial management of the organisation.
- It was agreed that an RSCDS Centenary Working Group could usefully be set up to plan for 2023 but that this was not an immediate priority but was built into the Business Plan.
- The Chairman reported that the magazine Editor had resigned on 7 November and that for the April issue, Jimmie Hill and Jean Martin would co-edit. A new Editor will be recruited in the New Year.
- Each Board member was allocated a list of branches to keep in touch with. Guidance was provided on this role and a template introduction email.
- The MB thanked Marilyn Healy for her hard work and contribution as Editor of the SCD magazine.

Youth Services Committee (YS)

One year in, what have we achieved this year.

- Thanks to the Youth Services Committee – Rachel, Lindsey, Emma, Raphaelle, and Marilyn who was co-opted for this year.

Each member of the team has driven an area of the work:

- Rachel
 - Lead member of Spring Fling Team
 - The largest Spring Fling to date
 - Large representation from overseas
 - Great classes, a grand dance in the Royal Academy Junior School and a wonderful ball in the Corn Exchange
 - Next year – Bonn – May Weekend. Registration has opened so come on every young person here get booked up. There are scholarships available if you look on the website. There is a fringe fling too so all ages can come. I believe there is a children's class too.
- Lindsey
 - Led the organization of workshops at Oxford and Newcastle.
 - Emma organized one in Aberdeen.

- Emma
 - Our representative on the Business Planning Group so some Branches will have been in communication with her regarding the Business Plan.
- Raphaelle
 - Masterminded the Global Youth Week 2016. We know it was a bit late for some groups to participate but look at the back page of the Scottish Country Dancer and plan for 2017 – 20th -30th January
 - It will be launched at a special youth workshop and Burns night ceilidh on 14th January in London.
- Marilyn
 - Marilyn and I had a brilliant time teaching Junior Summer School. We danced, did crafts, ate and played games. The youngsters achieved their introductory award in the medal test programme and performed at the summer school ceilidh.
 - Junior summer school is for 8 -11 year olds. We take the children from 0900 and we wait until the parents get back from class. You come and enjoy your dance classes and we will work with the young folk.
- Louise
 - A former member of the Youth Services Committee write a dance with her class called Pudsey Bear. Ian Muir wrote and produced a tune. The dance, the music score, the download and a video of Louise's pupils is on the website. If you are doing something for Children in Need, go on dance Pudsey Bear whether you are five or ninety five. It's fun.
- Anne
 - Schools. My job is to promote Jigs and Reels, Dance Trad and Accreditation in Schools. We had promotion in the Scotsman earlier in the year, and it was taken up by other papers. Helen did an excellent interview on Radio Scotland. However it is still difficult to make inroads into the primary schools and well-nigh impossible into secondary schools. There is some wonderful going on but it is patchy. If you are interested in making contact with schools, we have the resources, we offer CPD training if you lack confidence, and a number of us are prepared to talk about our experience.
- Thanks to Rachel and Lindsey who step down after their term of office. No doubt I'll be on the email annoying you from time to time. Welcome to our new members – Marilyn, Lizzie, Joana, Elizabeth and Florence.

Education & Training Committee (E&T)

Mr Chairman, fellow delegates.

I wish to highlight various issues from the Education and Training committee since my report in the magazine.

Following on from a successful Summer School in 2016 Jim Stott will once more direct.

SUMMER SCHOOL 2017

Booking is open - with for the first time a list of those teaching each week appearing on the website.

- **Week 2: Introductory class** only offered this week
- **Week 3: Musicians course , Family week** welcoming 12-15 yr olds accompanied by a guardian **and Junior Summer school for 8 - 11yrs** with class times to allow guardians to attend their own classes
- **Examination courses** will be Unit 5 during Weeks 1 and 2, while Unit 2 and Unit 3 courses will be Weeks 3 & 4.
- **Depute Directors** for next year will be Rachel Shankland and Mervyn Short
- **Scholarships** ~ can I remind you that closing date for all scholarships to attend Summer School is Friday 15th November 2016.

WINTER SCHOOL 2017 ~ Luke Brady as this year's Co-ordinator has a full complement of attendees. Mervyn Short will be following in his footsteps and running Winter School 2018.

DANCING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (DAA)

Following requests that non RSCDS members be able to sit the DAA, the committee decided to open the DAA to non-members. RSCDS membership will obtain a discounted rate on fees.

EXAMINATIONS

- This year was a fairly quiet year generally for examinations, however at Summer School we had to run two Unit 5 courses to accommodate 18 candidates. This was very encouraging.
- Next year is more encouraging with several more exam centres worldwide wishing to hold exams.

NEW EXAMINERS

Ellie Briscoe, Virginia, USA, Doug Mills, New Zealand and Mervyn Short, England have all completed their examiner induction training and now embark on their probationary period.

MEDAL TESTS

It is encouraging to see the number of young dancers embarking on their Medal Tests. We have just launched the Youth Leadership Award scheme. This is an optional link between the Grade 5 Medal Test and DAA Intermediate level. See flyers on the table outside or on the website under 'Courses'.

REGISTER OF RSCDS TEACHERS

We have documentation of when dancers passed their Teaching Certificates, but we have no idea about whether they are still actively teaching or if they are still known by that name. A registration form is being constructed, which will go out probably electronically to Branches and on the website, in order to compile up to date information. We are looking forward to the implementation of this towards the start of next year.

TEACHER TRAINING

As part of the Business Plan there will be a review of teacher training. Some of the areas that will be considered are courses to aid those teaching, who do not wish to undertake the Teaching Certificate; a review of the current Teaching Certificate training; courses for continuing development of anyone who is teaching.

In order for this to progress, consultation will need to take place with the many folk involved from potential teachers, trainers through to examiners. Not a quick fix.

TEACHERS CONFERENCE 2016

Yesterday saw the 4th Teachers Conference, which was attended by 63 teachers from 10 different areas of the world. A report will appear on the website in due course.

THANKS

Yet again it has been a very varied and interesting year.

To

- Members of E&T committees over the past 3 years for all their work and support both during and outwith meetings on our wide ranging projects.
- Gillian & your staff at Coates Crescent, who have provided invaluable support to myself and the committee but especially to Julia as my secretarial support. It has been great working with you all.
- the other Society Officer bearers, Convenors and those too many to mention~
Thank you all.

I now hand the 'hat' over to Malcolm Brown, and wish him enjoyment in his new role.

Membership Services Committee (MS)

Dear Mr Chairman, dear delegates, members, and guests:

As convenor of the Membership Services Committee I would like to take this opportunity to look back on the highlights of our work during the year since our last AGM and also cast an eye ahead on what will likely keep us quite busy in the near and not-quite-so-near future.

This year saw the publication of our newest book, Book 50, celebrating the creativity of the Society's youth with twelve new dances originating from a competition at the 2015 Spring Fling. Together with its companion CD, recorded by Scott Band and his Scottish Band, it was very well-received, as were the professionally-produced videos filmed during Summer School which you can find on the Society's YouTube channel.

We also produced another CD of dances from Miss Milligan's Miscellany played by Luke Brady and his band.

Work on Book 51, containing dances for festivals and less experience dancers is well in hand, and the book, together with a CD to be recorded by Ian Muir of Prestwick, will be available at Summer School 2017. A combined and revised A5 edition of Books 31 to 38 is

scheduled for this time next year, and we have started the submission process for Book 52, to be published in summer 2018.

But of course our work is not just about books of dances and CDs. For example, the "RSCDS Index to Dances" has seen its fifth, updated edition this year, and an all-new version of the "RSCDS Index to Formations and Movements" is nearing completion. Both of these resources fulfil long-standing requests from many dancers and teachers.

Our big strategic project for the next several years will be producing videos of all RSCDS dances. We hope that this will help teachers and dancers throughout the world enjoy our dances more and create new interest in some parts of the repertoire that may recently have been neglected. This project will rely on the contributions of dancers in many places and continue the spirit of international cooperation that lies at the heart of what the Society is about.

Membership Services is also poised to take on a more active role providing strategic input to the Society's web site and related services.

The committee is looking forward to serving the Society, its members, and the Scottish country dance community at large in a wide variety of ways. We would be happy to hear from YOU if you have any thoughts or ideas, at the MSC table outside or anytime by email.

Finally, I would like to thank all committee members, especially those who are demitting office today, as well as our helpers from outside the committee and the Society's Headquarters staff for their contributions and time. It has been a great pleasure and honour to work with all of you this past year. Let me also welcome our new committee members and say that I am looking forward to the year before us with great excitement.

Thank you very much!