

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF 87TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD IN BELL'S SPORTS CENTRE, PERTH
on Saturday 5 November 2016, at 2.00pm

1 PRESENT

Office Bearers: Mr J Healy (*Chairman*).

Past Chairmen: Mrs. R Beattie, Miss I Bennett, Mrs L Gaul, Mr A Gray, Mrs J Martin, Mr J Wilkinson

In Attendance: Mrs H Russell (*Chairman Elect*), Mr W Cant (*Treasurer*), Mrs S Porter (*Convenor, Education & Training*), Mr A Lingnau (*Convenor, Membership Services*), Ms A McArthur (*Convenor, Youth Services*), Ms G Wilson (*Secretary/Executive Officer*).

182 Delegates were present, representing 136 Branches and holding 317 votes

2 APOLOGIES

Mr S Adam, Mr A Aitkenhead, Mr A Mair (*Past Chairmen*); and two branches: New Zealand, Pretoria.

3 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Mr Healy welcomed members, delegates and observers, including those who, for the first time, were viewing the meeting online on the Society's private YouTube channel. Rather than incur the expense of hiring electronic vote counting equipment, as last year, voting would be by show of hands, or paper count if absolutely necessary. He confirmed for the record that he was holding 66 proxy votes. Mr Healy also noted one change since the Agenda had been issued; following a resignation, there were now 4 vacancies on Membership Services Committee. As there were 4 candidates, the election process would be used to determine the term of office for each. Mr Healy then asked Gillian Wilson, Executive Officer, to read the message received from Her Majesty The Queen.

4 MESSAGE FROM THE SOCIETY'S PATRON, QUEEN ELIZABETH II

"Please convey my thanks to the Management Board and the members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society for their loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of their 87th Annual General Meeting, which is being held as part of their Annual Conference Weekend from 4-6 November in Perth.

As your Patron, I was interested to learn that members of the Society from across the United Kingdom and further afield will be attending this year's event. Your thoughtfulness in writing was much appreciated and, in return, I send my warm good wishes to you all for a most successful and enjoyable programme."

Signed: Elizabeth R

5 PRESENTATION OF THE SOCIETY SCROLLS OF HONOUR

Mr Healy presented Scrolls to the following (*nominating branch/committee in brackets*):

- John Johnstone (Glasgow)
- Duncan MacKenzie (Vancouver)
- Avril & David Quarrie (International, supported by Chicago and San Francisco)
- John Sturrock (St Andrews)
- John Wilkinson (Edinburgh)

6 MINUTES OF MEETING OF 7th NOVEMBER 2015

Elaine Hutchison (Croydon & District) queried Minute 33, Appointment of Auditor; she believed a formal vote had not been held. Mr Healy proposed that the wording would be amended to reflect what happened, noting that there had been no dissent to the motion at the time. The motion "To confirm the adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of 7th November 2015", amended as described, was proposed by Sue Porter (Lorn (Argyll)), seconded by Anne McArthur (Banffshire), and **was approved**.

7 SOCIETY CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The year had been dominated by the extensive and detailed consultation on the business planning process. That part would soon be completed, and then the work of preparing a work plan, timetable and costs would begin. It would not be easy, and would take some time, but he was confident that the outline plan would be available for the Board to approve before the start of the next financial year on 1st April 2017.

8 Mr Healy asserted that rumours of the demise of RSCDS were overstated – the Society was healthy. Members were not as numerous as they had been, but there were still nearly 12,000 people paying an annual subscription and dancing. The picture was also slightly distorted because a lot more was now being done. Major events were now self-financing, with the exception of Spring Fling, where it was agreed that a degree of subsidy was appropriate for young people. These successes relied upon the continuing efforts of branches and teachers to convey the message that supporting the Society was worthwhile.

9 One of the things that had cheered him most in the last two years as Chairman had been attending various anniversary events and meeting people who had just started dancing. At one dance in England, he was delighted to be introduced to a group of two couples attending their first ever dance, who had a wonderful time. If branches could continue to bring in such people, to *dancing*, rather than just dance classes, the Society would flourish and continue to flourish.

10 Mr Healy thanked members of all the Society's committees, who worked more tirelessly than many members realised to achieve so much. He also sincerely thanked office staff for their support, particularly Gillian, and Moira for this particular event, and each member of the staff for their own individual contributions.

11 TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Bill Cant, Treasurer, presented his report.

12 It had been an interesting year both for the Society and for himself as Treasurer. He wished to record his thanks to those who had helped him through his first year in this role: Jim Healy, with his knowledge of the workings of the Society and in particular its finances; the Executive Officer Gillian Wilson for her understanding of charity finance and the importance of good governance and controls; similarly the recently-appointed Finance Manager, Sandra Parish, was getting to grips with the role and was continually looking for ways to improve efficiency and reporting. He had also received help and guidance from members of the Finance & Governance Panel. New members were being sought for that Panel, and Mr Cant encouraged anyone with the appropriate skills and the modest time required to come forward.

13 The Annual Report and Accounts presented were the first as a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG). The full 35-page document had been available on the RSCDS website, but he did not intend to go through it in its entirety. An 8-page summary version had been made available, and in the time available today he would be referring to one page of the summary version, which had been given to delegates.

14 This document had a comparison to the financial results for 2015 which did not appear in the published accounts, as the previous year's results were for the old Unincorporated Association. In this schedule he had also attempted to isolate the impact of the transfer of funds from the old Unincorporated Association and the value increase from the revaluation of the Society's property.

15 At the bottom of the schedule were two figures described as the real outcome for the year, which for 2016 was a deficit of £14,772, compared with a deficit in the previous year of £57,547. As Treasurer, he had had very little impact on the figure, but the efforts of Gillian and Sandra in controlling support costs had undoubtedly had a beneficial effect.

16 At the top of the schedule, Donations & Legacies of £48,000 was up £14,000 from the previous year. Legacies were not budgeted for, but they were very much appreciated. Those over £1,000 were put towards long-term development, i.e. addressing and funding work related to the aims in the business plan. However, the ongoing financial health of the Society must not be dependent upon such donations and legacies.

17 Membership subscription income was slightly down on the previous year, which was perhaps part of the ongoing decline in membership; the £2 increase agreed at the previous AGM had not had any effect in the year 2016, the impact would be seen in the year 2017.

18 Income from Summer School and Winter School were both up on the previous year. Mr Cant emphasised the importance of successful Schools to the financial wellbeing of the Society, they accounted for more than

half of its income. Income from other activities was broadly in line with previous years and gave a total income from regular activities of £836,000.

19 Other Income shown in the statutory accounts was essentially the transfer of last year's balance of assets from the Unincorporated Association into the new CLG, £1,067,778. The Headquarters building was professionally revalued to £625,000, giving an increase in value of £563,000. This was somewhat confusing, but very necessary for reporting purposes.

20 Moving down expenditure, the direct costs of Summer School and Winter School were both up on the previous year. Mr Cant believed that at Summer School 2015, reported in 2016, there were more staff than the previous year and this had been addressed for the 2016 School. Figures for cost of sales and educational events were broadly similar to the previous year. Further down, significant savings were made in magazine costs and marketing, although that may change going forward.

21 Mr Cant now moved to the area of biggest savings, which had a significant impact on the overall result. Support Costs and Governance Costs showed an overall reduction of about £80,000 from previous years. There was a £39,000 reduction in Staff Costs, not because staff were being paid less, but there had been some residual pension costs in the previous year. Similarly, less was spent on Systems Support and a range of Miscellaneous Expenses. Governance Costs also showed an overall reduction; the high legal costs in 2015 relating to conversion to CLG had disappeared, although there was a small compensating increase in the cost of the audit. He was happy to say that there had been nothing significant in the six months since the year end to make any difference to the figures.

22 The deficit for the year of £14,772, compared to a deficit the previous year of £57,547, was a huge step in the right direction. Work would continue to ensure that a surplus on regular income and expenditure was achieved, without reliance on legacies and donations. Mr Cant had concentrated on the Revenue account. The Balance Sheet continued to be healthy, and the Society could be described as being asset rich and income poor; there were £800,000 of investments, a building which was now valued at £625,000, and at 31st March 2016 there were significant cash balances, some of which related to Summer School income, but much of the cash was set aside to support the development of the Society. He was comfortable with the results presented.

23 The Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016, proposed by William Cant (Treasurer) and seconded by Elizabeth Harry (Edinburgh Branch and Management Board), were unanimously approved on a show of hands.

24 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

Bill Cant, Treasurer, proposed the motion. Alexander Sloan CA had been the Society's accountants and auditors for many years, and were of great assistance in producing the Annual Accounts in the new CLG format. They had fulfilled two functions: the Edinburgh office provided accounting, quarterly accounts and VAT support, while the Glasgow office conducted the audit. The Management Board, strongly supported by the Finance & Governance Panel, had decided to separate these two functions. They had recently appointed the Edinburgh office of Henderson Loggie CA to provide accountancy and VAT support while, with delegates' approval, Alexander Sloan CA (Glasgow) would continue to be the auditors. This should provide enhanced governance to the Society, to the benefit of both trustees and members.

25 The motion "To appoint Alexander Sloan, Chartered Accountants, as Auditor", proposed by William Cant (Treasurer) and seconded by Helen Russell (York & N Humberside and Chairman Elect), was unanimously approved.

26 ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Mr Healy invited Committee Convenors and the Executive Officer to provide brief updates on activities since production of the Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts and the Annual Review.

27 Sue Porter, Convenor of Education & Training Committee:

Jim Stott would once more direct Summer School in 2017. Booking was now open and, for the first time, a list of teachers for each week was on the website, although not which classes they will be teaching. The Introductory Class would be offered during Week 2 only. Week 3 would hold the Musicians' Course, the Family Week for 12-15 year olds, and the Junior Summer School for 8-11 year olds. Classes for the latter would be timed to allow guardians to attend their own dance classes. Examination classes for Unit 5 would be during Weeks 1 and 2, and Unit 3 courses during Weeks 3 and 4. Depute Directors for 2017 would be

Rachel Shankland and Mervyn Short. Mrs Porter reminded delegates that the closing date for all Summer School scholarships was Friday 15th November 2016. Winter School 2017 would have Luke Brady as Co-ordinator, and it was already full; Winter School Co-ordinator for 2018 would be Mervyn Short.

28 The committee had agreed to open up the Dancing Achievement Award (DAA) to non-members; RSCDS members would pay a discounted fee. It had been a fairly quiet year for examinations; however, at Summer School, two Unit 5 courses had to be run to accommodate the 18 candidates. This was very encouraging for the future of new teachers. Several more exam centres worldwide had indicated their wish to hold examinations next year. Mrs Porter was pleased to announce new examiners: Ellie Briscoe from Virginia, Doug Mills from New Zealand and Mervyn Short from England had all completed examiner induction training and were now embarking on their probationary period. It was encouraging to see the number of young dancers embarking on Medal Tests. That week had seen the launch of the Youth Leadership Award scheme; this was an optional link between the Grade 5 Medal Test and progressing to the DAA Intermediate level. Further information was available on the website under 'Courses'.

29 Headquarters retained documentation when teachers passed their Teacher's Certificate, but it was not known whether they were still actively teaching or if they were still known by the same name. A form was being constructed, and would probably be sent to Branches and put on the website, in order to compile an up to date Register of Teachers. It was hoped that the process would be implemented towards the start of 2017.

30 As part of the Business Plan, there would be a review of teacher training. Some areas for consideration were: courses to help those who were teaching but who, for whatever reason, did not wish to undertake the current Teaching Certificate; a review of the current Teaching Certificate training; courses for continuing development of anyone who was teaching. This would require considerable consultation with many people, from potential teachers and trainers through to examiners, and dancers. It would not be a quick process.

31 The fourth biennial Teachers' Conference was held the previous day, attended by 74 teachers from 10 different areas of the world. A report would be placed on the website in due course.

32 Mrs Porter thanked members of the E&T Committee over the past 3 years for all their work and support, both during and outwith meetings. She also thanked Gillian and the staff at Headquarters, who had provided invaluable support, especially Julia. She thanked Society office-bearers, Convenors, and others too many to mention. She wished Malcolm Brown enjoyment as he followed her in the role of Convenor, and was sure that he and the new Committee would continue the good work of E&T. Finally, she thanked her husband Gordon for his patience and support.

33 Anselm Lingnau, Convenor of Membership Services Committee:

This year saw the publication of Book 50, celebrating the creativity of the Society's youth with 12 new dances originating from a competition at Spring Fling 2015. Together with its companion CD, recorded by Scott Band & his Scottish Band, it was very well-received, as were the professionally-produced videos, filmed during Summer School, which were on the Society's YouTube channel. Also produced this year was 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 experienced dancers, was well in hand, and the book, together with a CD to be recorded by Ian Muir of Prestwick, would be available at Summer School 2017. A combined and revised A5 edition of Books 31-38 was scheduled to appear this time next year, and the submission process had begun for Book 52, to be published in summer 2018.

34 The Committee's work was not limited to books of dances and CDs; the RSCDS *Index to Dances* had seen its fifth, updated edition in 2016, and an all-new version of the RSCDS *Index to Formations and Movements* was nearing completion. Both resources fulfilled long-standing requests from many dancers and teachers.

35 The Committee's major strategic project for the next several years would be producing videos of all RSCDS dances. It was hoped that this would help teachers and dancers throughout the world to enjoy the dances more and create new interest in some parts of the repertoire that may recently have been neglected. This project would rely on the contributions of dancers in many places and continue the spirit of international cooperation that lay at the heart of the Society. Membership Services was also poised to take on a more active role providing strategic input to the Society's website and related services.

36 The Committee looked forward to serving the Society, its members, and the Scottish country dance community at large in a wide variety of ways. They would be happy to hear by email from members with any thoughts or ideas, at any time.

37 Finally, Mr Lingnau wished to thank all committee members, especially those demitting office that day, as well as helpers from outside the committee and the Society's Headquarters staff, for their contributions and time. It had been a great pleasure and honour to work together in the past year. He welcomed new committee members and looked forward to the year ahead with great excitement.

38 Anne McArthur, Convenor of Youth Services Committee:

Ms McArthur thanked all the members of the Youth Services Committee of this year for their hard work. Each member of the team had driven a specific area of work. Rachel Shankland was lead member of the Spring Fling team, the largest Spring Fling to date in Edinburgh, with 95 young people including many from overseas. Next year it would be held in Bonn, May weekend. Registration had opened, and she encouraged young people at the AGM to attend. Scholarships were available, details were on the website. A Fringe Fling would be held alongside, so all ages could attend; it was also hoped that there would be a children's class.

39 Lindsey Ibbotson had led the organisation of workshops in Oxford and Newcastle. Emma Allsop led a workshop in Aberdeen, and was also the Committee's representative on the Business Planning Group. Raphaëlle Orgeret masterminded the Global Youth Week in 2016; it had been a little too late for some groups to participate, but was being viewed as a pilot. However, it would be held again 20-30 January 2017, and would be launched in London with a special Youth Workshop and Burns Night ceilidh on 14th January.

40 Ms McArthur and Marilyn Watson had run the Junior Summer School for 8-11 year olds. The 9 children danced, did crafts and played games, and all achieved the Introductory Award in the Medal Test programme.

41 Louise McDougall, a former member of the committee, had written a dance with her class called *Pudsey Bear*, with music by Ian Muir. Dance instructions were on the website, along with a video of her children's group doing the dance. Ms McArthur encouraged anyone wishing to do something for Children in Need to use the dance.

42 Ms McArthur's primary role concerned schools, especially promotion of *Jigs & Reels*, *Dance Trad* and the Schools' Accreditation project. There had been some good press and radio coverage, and all schools in Scotland had been leafleted, but it was still very difficult to make inroads into primary schools and well nigh impossible with secondary schools. There was excellent work going on, but it was patchy. She encouraged anyone who was interested in making contact with schools to get in touch: CPD training could be offered, and there were a number of teachers who could speak about their own experience.

43 Ms McArthur thanked Rachel and Lindsey, whose terms of office were complete, and welcomed new members Marilyn Watson, Elizabeth Conder, Joana Stausberg and Florence Burgy.

44 Gillian Wilson, Executive Officer:

Ms Wilson was pleased to be attending her second AGM, and she had learned a great deal over the year from working with the staff team, Board and Committees. She thanked colleagues at Headquarters, both staff and volunteers. On top of all the activities that were carried out on a regular basis, she wished to highlight some things that staff had contributed to over the year, and the first was the Business Planning process. Although it was she who sat on the Business Planning group, the staff team had fed many good ideas into the action planning and Business Plan, and she thanked them for that. It had been a real team effort, and staff looked forward to working with members in trying to deliver the ambitious goals of the Plan.

45 Moira Thomson had, as usual, delivered a number of very successful events including the AGM and Conference Weekend itself. Once again, everything had run very smoothly. The in-house designer Katherine Butler had done great work in freshening up publicity materials. She had produced new membership leaflets and a leaflet about branches and affiliation, which could be supplied as pdfs or hard copies for use in local promotions. Mike Greenwood and Katherine had also worked hard to improve the look of the Ezine and the Branch mailings, which it was hoped were now more accessible and readable. Staff had worked closely with Youth Services Committee to develop materials for Global Youth Week, which again could be supplied for local events. Ms Wilson reminded members about the Global Youth Week Branch Development Awards; there were three lots of £500 grants that branches could apply for, to support activity to develop youth work.

46 Sandra Parish, the Financial Officer, had been a real asset and improved the financial information now being given to committees and the Board. Cécile Hascoët dealt with customer services; she had been involved in developing new accessories for the shop, and had carried out research on creating a more digital shop. The latter would save time and effort with manual processes, and was likely to be an improved part of the website. Julia Parr, Exams & Training Education Officer, had kept the very busy teacher training, medal test, Dancing Achievement Awards and Schools Accreditation systems well organised.

47 The membership renewal system had been launched online this year, after a lot of effort from many staff but particularly Mike. All of the staff team had been considering how to create a better website, which was something a number of people had asked for. Progress had been made, and together with Anselm Lingnau, Convenor of MS, it was hoped the staff would be inputting to the provision of a better website over the coming year.

48 On a last note, Ms Wilson hoped that a more approachable and friendly tone was felt in the communications and welcome that members received from Coates Crescent. There was much to do, as outlined in the Business Plan ideas in the morning's Open Forum, and there was always room for improvement, but the staff team looked forward to working with everyone in the coming year.

49 MOTIONS

50 MOTION ON MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

On behalf of the Management Board, William Cant, Treasurer, proposed the motion that “for the year from 1st July 2017, the basic full annual subscription shall be maintained at £20, and that other memberships will be based pro rata on this amount”.

51 The RSCDS was, first and foremost, a charity, with a mission of growing a vibrant, worldwide community of Scottish dance and music. To enable it to achieve that mission, and the objectives arising from it, the Society required a secure income stream. As noted in Mr Cant's earlier presentation, membership subscriptions in 2016, £191,000, provided about 22-23% of the Society's income. The subscription increase to £20 approved at the previous AGM would take effect in 2017.

52 How subscription income was spent was a question that arose frequently during the many branch consultations conducted as part of the business review, and an analysis had therefore been produced to explain this. Of a £20 subscription, £4 was spent on enquiries, branch support and liaison. Education & Training, i.e. the cost of training teachers, took £3.80. The membership magazine, two copies a year, cost £3.30. Further down the list, the cost of running the AGM was £0.50p. Mr Cant, and many members to whom he had spoken, believed that the annual subscription represented a very modest contribution towards supporting and encouraging Scottish country dancing.

53 Having been seconded by Richard Austin (Management Board), voting was by a show of hands; there was a majority in favour, one vote against and there were no abstentions.

54 The motion was therefore carried.

55 NOMINATION OF PRESIDENT

Mr Healy had great pleasure in advising delegates that the Management Board had nominated Jean Martin as Honorary President. The Society had worked without a President since Alastair MacFadyen retired. That period had coincided with the lack of a Treasurer for some time, the retirement of two senior staff members, as well as several other staff changes, all of which meant that he had been more involved in the day-to-day operation of the Society than he would have liked. However, despite the lack of a President, he had been helped enormously by a number of Past Chairmen, not least of whom was Jean. He now believed that it was essential to have a President with a formal role in the organisation, in accordance with the Articles, and he was delighted that the Management Board had nominated Jean.

56 Jean Martin needed no introduction to most of those present. She was a teacher, examiner, and adjudicator of renown. She had served the Society well in many roles, not least as Chairman, the first Chairman in the changed structure which saw the introduction of the Management Board. Following that, she joined Membership Services and was an integral part of the team that produced the first Combined Volume of books and the following two or three books. Recently, she had been involved in a joint project with TAC to

look at the Miscellanies. Most importantly, over the last few years, she had been a key person in the change to a CLG, being the driving force behind preparation of the Rules & Procedures and other documentation required to make the CLG work.

57 The motion was seconded by Lynn Wood (Aberdeen), and voting was unanimously in favour.

58 Mrs Martin was presented with the President's chain of office. She had been quite overwhelmed when Mr Healy had informed her that the Management Board wished to nominate her as Honorary President. In the interview in the recent *Scottish Country Dancer*, Robbie Shepherd called himself "a hame draughtit loon". Staying in Doric mode, she wondered who could ever have imagined that a 'wee quinie frae the Broch' – that is, a little girl from Fraserburgh – should be asked to be Honorary President of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. She thanked the Management Board for nominating her, and delegates for endorsing that nomination. She promised to fulfil the role of Honorary President to the best of her ability, and to undertake, with due care, any tasks assigned to her.

59 As the Society moved towards its 100th anniversary, no-one would have thought in 1923 that there would be so many branches worldwide. It was perhaps natural that countries with strong links to the UK, like Australia, North America and New Zealand, would have branches, but even bearing in mind the Auld Alliance between Scotland and France, Thomas Glover of Mitsubishi fame, and the various Scots adventurers who fought in the armies of the Tsars, she did not think anyone would have envisaged branches of Scottish country dancing in France, Japan and Russia.

60 It was excellent that so many international members were now able to be involved in the management of the Society, thanks to the wonder of the internet, teleconferencing etc. However, Mrs Martin encouraged more UK members to also become involved in the work of the Society; she felt it was important that Scottish country dancing should maintain its Scottish characteristics.

61 She also hoped that more people who wanted to be involved in the Society actually became members. In addition to encouraging Scottish country dancing in schools, every opportunity should be taken to publicise what was the favourite hobby of all present. She remained hopeful about the future of the Society. So many young people in this country and elsewhere had taken, or were about to take, their teacher's examinations, and she hoped that they, and those they taught, would become the leaders of the future.

62 CONFIRMATION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr Healy had known Helen Russell for some time, and worked alongside her when he was Convenor of Membership Services and she was Convenor of Education & Training. They did not always agree, but both argued on logic and principle, and Helen was particularly good at listening to other peoples' arguments and views. For the last two years, he had tried to ensure that she was involved, but he knew from experience, as well as from advice by other Past Chairmen, that it was impossible to really know what was in store as Chairman until one was in post. He sincerely hoped that she would continue to have as much support from branches, members and committees as he had experienced.

63 Mrs Russell was presented with the chain of office, and she in turn presented Mr Healy with his Past Chairman's badge. Mrs Russell took over chairing the meeting.

64 ELECTIONS TO MANAGEMENT POSTS

Gillian Wilson announced the results of the elections to management posts:

65 Chairman Elect

2 years, plus 2 as Chairman – Andrew Kellett

Following the announcement, Mrs Russell congratulated Mr Kellett and invited him to join the platform.

66 Convenor, Education & Training Committee

3 years – Malcolm Brown

67 Members of Management Board

3 years – Richard Austin, Trevor Clarke, Clive Warren-Smith

68 Members of Education & Training Committee

3 years – Ellie Briscoe, Jane McIntosh, Trish Reid

69 Members of Membership Services Committee

3 years – Lara Friedman-Shedlov, William Williamson

2 years – Peter Knapman

1 year – Cynthia Soohoo

70 Members of Youth Services Committee

3 years – Elizabeth Conder, Marilyn Watson

2 years – Florence Burgy, Joana Stausberg

71 VOTE OF THANKS

Keith Bark (Toronto) thanked both the new and the immediate Past Chairmen for executing such a smooth and short meeting, certainly the shortest in recent years. In addition, thanks were due to a number of Headquarters staff and other volunteer helpers.

72 Firstly, he thanked Gillian Wilson for all the work she was doing on the Strategic Plan. She and the others on the committee had endeavoured to involve as many groups and individuals as possible in the process, and no-one could say that they had not had an opportunity to provide input over the year. He looked forward to further updates.

73 Secondly, he thanked Mike Greenwood for managing the delegate and proxy registration for the meeting so efficiently and responsively. Cécile Hascoët had done an excellent job of organising the shop, as had Julia Parr in distributing paperwork and running the registration process. Lastly, he wished to acknowledge Moira Thomson for her work in organising and administering all of the weekend's activities. Thanks were also due to the group of volunteers who had helped so much, especially the two local members, Lorna Ogilvie and Allana Creighton.

74 The weekend had been highly successful thus far, and would no doubt continue to be so until its conclusion. Mr Bark encouraged all the delegates present to spread the word about the enjoyment that had been experienced over the weekend, and to encourage others to come to the AGM & Conference Weekend in future.

75 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 4th November 2017

Saturday 4th November 2017, in Perth.