

Management Board

- The Chairman thanked Gillian Wilson, the Executive Officer, for all her hard work and wished her all the best for the future as this was her last Board meeting with RSCDS.
- The Chairman noted that an advert for a new Editor for the SCD magazine will be included in the April edition of the Magazine, with the aim of having a new Editor in place by the end of May
- The Treasurer presented his financial report and investment report, along with the third quarter management accounts, which had been produced in-house by the Finance and Office Manager. These reports showed a positive financial position to date for the year and the Treasurer reported that it is expected that the annual accounts will show a small surplus for the year.
- Discussion was held on how the Society could most usefully use the money available in the Development Fund and agreed that a budget for use of the Development Fund should be brought together soon to bring together the various ideas and commitments which have been suggested. These include options for upgrading the website, producing a wide range of dance videos and for use in running teacher training and support for Branch development initiatives, such as the £1,500 allocation for three Branch Youth Development Awards during Global Youth Week 2018.
- A budget for 2017-2018 and a draft budget for 2018-2019 were both presented and agreed.
- The Education and Training Committee provided their report of activities, which includes work being done to take forward the review of the existing teaching qualification and the development of a proposed new teaching qualification emphasising the social aspect of dancing.
- The Membership Services Committee provided their report of activities, which includes progress with producing Book 51 and its CD as well as progressing work on Book 52, liaison with Harper Collins to produce content for their 'Little book of Scottish Country Dance' and working with staff to find a website development company. Two companies tendered for the website work and once some further investigation has been done, the chosen company we hope will start work in late April. Katherine Butler, the former RSCDS in-house Graphic Designer, will be employed one day per week for three months to bring design expertise to the RSCDS website working group and to help project manage the website project, in the absence of an EO.
- Discussion was also held on MS publication policy and whether RSCDS should produce a book of new dances every year. It was agreed that Book 53 should be on the theme of 'The top 30 SCD dances', i.e. a compilation of favourite RSCDS dances rather than a book of new dances.
- The Board agreed to the appointment of Ian Muir as Music Director for a further 3 years.

- The Youth Services Committee provided their report of activities, which includes progress with Spring Fling 2017 and Spring Fling 2018, Global Youth week and a virtual festival in 2018 and the start of the development of a specific Schools project in Scotland.
- The Board discussed progress on implementation of the Business Plan. This included producing a Communications and Marketing plan for the next three years and exploring options for acquiring more marketing expertise, either on the Board, or otherwise. The Chairman Elect presented ideas for Board members to contact all their allocated Branches before the July Board meeting, to discuss how we can work with Branches to implement the Business Plan. This was agreed.
- Discussion was then held on including a 'Join the RSCDS' button on the RSCDS website, enabling people to join the Society online, but still through a branch. This was agreed. Discussion on whether this should include a Direct Debit payment method resulted in a decision to delay implementing a DD option until further research, but to still go ahead with the Join button.
- Richard Austin presented an analysis of the Society's Licence Agreement with Branches which, now the Society is a CLG, has become out of date. Following discussion it was agreed that a working group would be set up led by Richard, to carry out a review of the relative relationships between the Society, its Branches, Affiliated Groups and Teacher Associations and to produce proposals for any new licence or agreement with these.
- The Model constitution which the Constitutional Panel had circulated was agreed and will be put on the RSCDS website.
- The Executive Officer presented the staff report which includes progress on planning and bookings for all the major events, reports on membership renewals and sales through the shop. The report also includes updates on all the work done to ensure smooth running of the training and exams system, the finances, information and marketing. The EO highlighted the opportunities there may be for the RSCDS to engage in the Scottish Government's 'Year of Young People 2018', both to raise profile and focus on engagement of young people.
- An updated version of the Equal Opportunities policy was agreed and will be put up online.
- The HR panel reported that a full review of staff salaries had been carried out in comparison to the current market and recommendations made for salaries for each post for 2017-18. These proposals are within budget for 2017-18. These recommendations were agreed by the Board and these salaries will be implemented from April 2017.
- Proposals for including additional activity within the AGM 2017 programme, including a ceilidh and more workshops, were discussed and agreed.

Youth Services Committee (YS)

Spring Fling, Bonn is at the end of April. A hundred young dancers have signed up for the weekend and the Spring Fling Fringe is fully booked. Almost all of the Youth Services Committee will be there either dancing or helping in the background. Spring Fling, 2018 has been confirmed as Glasgow and Spring Fling 2019 is in Paris.

One of the key objectives in the Business Plan for Youth Services is the growth of Scottish country dancing in Scottish schools. Some of us are schoolteachers who love dancing and some of us are dance teachers who love teaching children. We all have a view on what goes well and what should be done. Following a number of meetings with a variety of people it was decided to survey RSCDS teachers on the work that they do in schools and also target primary schools, secondary schools and dance academies on their involvement in Scottish country dancing.

If you are a RSCDS teacher who works in schools would you help me my completing this version.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KJV8DK9>

If you know some schools that dance with their young folk would you be so kind enough to pass the link to them.

Primary schools: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/scottishdanceprimary>

Secondary schools: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/scottishdancessecondary>

Dance academies / youth projects: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/scottishdanceyouth>

The closing date for the surveys is Friday 31 March. Please help me to secure a good understanding of what is going on across Scotland with young people.

Education & Training Committee (E&T)

We have just made the decision to hold another Teacher's Conference this year on the Friday of the Conference Weekend, Friday 3 November. The content at this stage has not been decided, so if you have any burning topics that you would like us to tackle, please let us know (convenor@etc.rscds.net) – all suggestions welcomed.

We are gradually moving forward with our plans to revise the Teacher Training Process and see what we can do to take advantage of modern technology. As a start we are opening up the various application forms on the website which currently need to be printed off and then information added by hand. This is a first step in trying to develop a way of enabling the Unit 1 (the Theory paper) to be answered using a keyboard, to reduce the complaints from examiners that they cannot read the handwritten answers!

Winter School, directed by Luke Brady, was again very successful, despite the travel problems caused by Storm Doris. This was the largest Winter School so far, with dancers coming from throughout the UK, Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Europe.

There are already 100 names on the reservation list for next year's school, which will have Mervyn Short as the director, so please sign up as soon as bookings become available!

Membership Services Committee (MS)

New Publications

Following on from a point of strategy decided at the March meeting of the Management Board, there will be no call for dances for Book 53 this year. Instead, the Committee is investigating other interesting and (hopefully) financially lucrative publications, such as a book of socially popular dances from the RSCDS repertoire, geared towards new(ish) dancers. This is not to say that we will be giving up publishing numbered books for good; we just want to take a creative break of indeterminate length. In the meantime, if you have ideas for new and useful publications that do not add dances to the RSCDS canon, then let us know.

Some ancillary projects that are in the pipeline in varying stages of completion (or conception) are the revised Index to Formations and Movements, the reissued Core Repertoire of dances, a booklet giving guidance to MCs and devisers of dance programmes (basically a fleshed-out version of sections 8.2 and 8.3 of the Manual), and a booklet on using recorded music for dancing, with particular attention to computers, MP3, etc. The former two should appear soon while we haven't committed to anything as far as the latter two are concerned. Again, if you have opinions or ideas, let us know.

New Web Site

The Committee is looking into content for the new RSCDS web site which is slowly getting in gear, in particular content of interest to members and branches as well as the general public (under the auspices of the planned "dancescottish.org.uk" project).

"Little Book of Scottish Country Dancing"

A working group established by MS and under the direction of Peter Knapman is putting together a book to be published by HarperCollins, giving basic information on Scottish dancing and a selection of popular ceilidh dances and easy country dances. HarperCollins plans to market this to new dancers, attendees of Scottish weddings and similar functions, and tourists, as part of a series that will also contain titles such as "Little Book of Scottish Castles" or "Little Book of Scottish Whisky", to be published en block in September 2017. As such it will be pitched even lower (and cheaper) than the existing "Guide to SCD" (which was originally also published by Collins but then taken over by the Society). HarperCollins will take care of the actual publication and marketing and will also assume the financial risk; the Society will receive a fixed honorarium as well as royalties on sales.

Hornpipes vs. Reels

As another matter of policy, the Committee has decided to retire the designation "hornpipe" for reels danced to hornpipe tunes, in RSCDS publications. (In fact this was put in practice some time ago and has now been made official.) It was felt that this was an anomaly that created more confusion than it was worth. We don't call jigs danced to 6/8 march tunes "6/8 marches", either, etc., and there is no reason to treat "hornpipes" specially.

More Digital Content

The Music Director is putting the finishing touches on the digital-download versions of the CDs for the Graded Books and those CDs for Miss Milligan's Miscellany that are not yet available by download. Stay tuned!

Book 52

It is not too late to volunteer to help road-test dances for Book 52. If your branch can commit to trying out 6-8 dances between now and late August 2017, please send us e-mail at book52@rscds.net, stating clearly the name of your branch and the name and e-mail address of the person responsible for conducting the tests.

As always, if you have matters of interest or concern to you or your branch members, do get in touch at convenor@msc.rscds.net or info@rscds.org. We are committed to putting the "Membership Services" back into "Membership Services Committee", and we would love to hear from you.