

Management Board

- The recent appeal to life members has raised approximately £5,000 to further the work of the Society.
- The Alastair Aitkenhead Fund now has over £2,000 in donations.
- Canada Day (1st July) was celebrated with a successful ceilidh in Princes Street Gardens.
- Investigation continues to establish the requirements for letting out part of the basement at 12 Coates Crescent.
- The Society has applied for money to fund a project for the Year of Young People in Scotland.
- An Early Day Motion was sponsored in the Westminster Parliament to note the 90th anniversary of the first Summer School on St Andrews.
<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/96>
- The Board received the Annual trustee report and accounts for 2016-2017. A representative of the auditor's explained the new reporting requirements for charities. The accounts show a surplus of over £28,000 for the year ended 31 March 2017, compared to a deficit of almost £15,000 in 2016. This surplus is in line with the most recent advice, given in a charity seminar, which charities should aim to make a modest surplus/profit to fund the furthering of their charitable aims.
- Investment income was higher; £32,800 (2016: £23,326)
- Development fund update on expenditure showed that the total in the fund is still above the minimum reserve level.
- Membership numbers in 2016 – 17: Total members = 11,621, Branches = 158, Affiliated Groups = 314 and Teachers' Associations = 3.
- The report and accounts were adopted and signed.
- Matters relating to the new website were discussed and agreed.
- AGM 2017: The meeting discussed changes to the format of the AGM and Conference weekend. A Teaching Conference, open to all who teach SCD, is planned for Friday 3rd November. A ceilidh will run on the Friday night, as well as the normal social dance. There will be presentations and an open forum on Saturday morning. The Scrolls will be presented on Saturday night during the wine reception. Other sessions on areas such as music are also planned.
- The Management Board will put a motion to the AGM that the subscription fee remains at its current rate from 1st July 2018.
- Board and committee vacancies area as follows:
- Education & Training Committee reported on progress towards the review of the existing teaching qualification, proposals for the Basic Teaching Qualification (BTQ), examinations, DAA and medal tests, also the need for further Unit 4 mentor training.

- Summer School figures are up on 2016
- Membership Services reported that *Book 51* and its CD would be ready for Summer School, the launch of the "*Little Book of Scottish Dances*", also available for Summer School, would be on 9th August 2017. *Book 52* is progressing satisfactorily, as is the *A5 31 - 38 Combined edition*.
- Youth Services Committee reported on Spring Fling in Bonn where 150 young people attended.
- Spring Fling 2018 will be in Glasgow and Spring Fling 2019 in Paris.
- Schools' Project. A survey has been completed for RSCDS dance teachers and for schools.
- Junior Summer School. There are 22 (24) young people enrolled for Junior Summer School during week 3.
- A Flash Mob was held at the Portsoy Traditional Boat Festival on 25 June.
- A paper on Communications strategy was discussed and accepted. The recommendations, including promoting successes, such as Anne McArthur's '*Inspiring Aberdeenshire*' nomination <http://www.originalfm.com/inspiringaberdeenshire/>, producing a ceilidh package, engaging with non-affiliated groups and reviewing the Health Strategy will be taken forward.
- Members of the Board reported back on their recent contacts with their list of Branches. Each trustee to collate their responses and send to the Chairman and Chairman elect
- The working group for reviewing structural relationships has already identified areas for discussion and possible areas where clarification is required.
- Branch administration documents on the website will be reviewed and updated; amongst other issues, clarification is needed on how to add joint members to the database.
- There has not yet been an Executive Officer appointment. Staff at 12 Coates Crescent were formally thanked for their work since Gillian Wilson's departure.
- The Society will need a policy and training on General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), which come into force in May 2018. The Committee Training Day in January will focus on training for interpreting financial documents, such as quarterly reports and end of year accounts as well as GDPR for volunteers.
- Reports from various working groups and panels were received, viz. FGAP, Constitutional Panel, Ceilidh WG, AGM WG, JMMF Panel.
- The meetings schedule for 2017 – 2018 was confirmed with the alteration of the March Management Board meeting to Sat 17th March 2018.
- The Board confirmed that Jimmie Hill will be the editor of the magazine for the next six issues, also accepted the resignation of Ruth Beattie from the Editorial Board and ratified the appointment of Caroline Brockbank.
- Matched funding for recruitment initiatives in Branches was discussed and adopted. Each Branch can apply for up to £250 from the Development Fund. Details on the website and to be publicised at Summer School.

- The Board agreed to offer free affiliation for this year only (1st July 2017 to 30th June 2018) to any group previously unaffiliated to the RSCDS. The application form for all first affiliation and re-affiliation will now also include a statement on dis-affiliation.
- The SMART targets for the Business Plan have been completed and are being collated in a consistent format.
- The Chairman sent a message of sympathy to RSCDS Manchester in the aftermath of the arena bombing on 22nd May.
- Other individual matters of correspondence were discussed and specific Board members assigned to respond.
- Date of next Board meeting is 14th October 2017.

Youth Services Committee (YS)

Spring Fling

Spring Fling Bonn was the last weekend of April. 150 young dancers descended on Bonn. Many stayed at Base Camp, a collection of caravans, railway carriages and the like under what I would describe as an aircraft hangar. It was a marvellous place for meeting old friends and making new friends. The atmosphere was electric. The classes and dances were within easy distance of the accommodation, which is always a bonus with tired legs. My highlight was when all the participants came together on the last day to give an end of Fling performance.

Plans are well ahead for Spring Fling 2018 in Glasgow and Spring Fling 2019 in Paris.

Project for Schools

I talked about the survey about teaching young people in the last newsletter and asked you to take the opportunity to give your views. We had 13 responses from members of the RSCDS, 7 from people who teach young people and none from schools. Information tells me that survey monkeys cannot be sent directly to schools but you may have a different story. The report has now been written up and has been shared with those who involved. There was little new information gleaned as most respondents are active in the RSCDS but I will use the feedback for our strategy.

Junior Summer School

As I write my report, my focus is on Junior Summer School, which is imminent. Marilyn Watson and Jayne Riddet are the key people assisting me with 25 young people aged between 8 and 11. It is a dance school but we have crafts and games to keep the young folk focused and busy. Joana Strausberg from the Youth Services Committee is going to join us too. Look out for the pictures.

Children in Need

You may recall that we had a project for Children in Need in 2016. This will be available again in 2017. From September, I will ensure that the dance instructions for Pudsey Bear and the music download will be on the website. You can use the dance and music for your

Children in Need fundraising activities. There will be Pudsey stickers available from headquarters for participants.

Global Youth Week

As in 2017 there will three development grants available for young people in Branches. It is time for you young people to think through a really good project ready for submission by 31 December.

Education & Training Committee (E&T)

This has been a busy year for our examiners, with exams across North America (Calgary, Washington, Seattle, Vancouver and San Francisco), Russia (Kazan), and Glasgow, and with forthcoming exams at Summer School and in Kent during November.

We hope to have made a few minor changes to the current syllabus for introduction in the early autumn.

The new Basic Teaching Qualification has been developed sufficiently for it to form a significant part of the Teachers' Conference on the Friday of the Conference Weekend. It is hoped that those attending will contribute ideas and suggestions to assist in refining this concept, which has less emphasis on dancing and more on teaching. The conference this year will be held in the coaching hall of the Bell Centre, which we hope will give us space to both talk and dance. This conference is not limited to qualified teachers – anyone who takes a class, is thinking of taking a class, or is just interested in teaching, is welcome.

Summer School will have started by the time you read this, and the dances from the new book are planned to be videoed at the end of week 3.

We need to make some changes to the Manual (we have changed to a "Company Limited by Guarantee" since the Manual was published), and we would like to take this opportunity to make any other changes that might be of benefit. If you are aware of any items which you think should be amended will you please let us know (an email to info@rscds.com will be sufficient).

Breaking News: A new document, "Core Repertoire 2016", has been added to the website and is available for downloading, listing suggested dances at Basic, Intermediate and Experienced Levels. You can find it under "Courses / Core Repertoire", where both the 2008 and the 2016 versions are available. A few printed copies of the 2016 version will be available for sale at Summer School to determine whether a larger print run is needed.

Membership Services Committee (MS)

Hurray! Book 51 is out on paper and as a PDF e-book, together with the CD recorded by Ian T Muir and his band (MP3 downloads will be along ASAP, and "teaching tracks" probably in September). We will be recording official videos during week 3 of Summer School, and these will be available on YouTube in due course. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this book, by submitting and evaluating dances, editing and proofreading dance descriptions and getting the book done in plenty of time. Thanks go also to the composers who have graciously allowed us the use of their tunes, and to the musical Ian Muirs (R and T) for their sterling work.

Dances for Book 52, to be published in mid-2018, are currently being evaluated by nearly 100 branches and affiliated groups throughout the world. A final selection of 12 dances (out of almost 150) will be made in Edinburgh in late September.

Since some very vocal members have taken issue with what they consider a profusion of “new dances” published by the RSCDS, we have decided to postpone Book 53 indefinitely. Instead, we are planning a book of popular existing dances from the RSCDS repertoire and possibly other sources, to appear in mid-2019. This will probably be less essential for teachers and those with an extensive library of dance books, but should prove very useful to (near-) beginners and people who would like to be able to read up on some of the most important dances without having to amass a lot of books. We would love to hear from you regarding the publication of future “numbered” books of new dances – is this a good thing or a nuisance? Let us know!

The Society, in cooperation with publishing house HarperCollins, has published a “Little Book of Scottish Dances”. This is aimed at the casual dancing crowd (tourists, attendees at Scottish weddings, and so on) and includes descriptions of ceilidh dances and simple and/or popular country dances, together with some background information on dancing and the Society. It may not contain much that is new to seasoned members of the Society, but apart from its very informative content it is both quite handsome-looking and reasonably cheap and would make a great gift for anyone (friends, relatives, colleagues, ...) who you might want to get interested in Scottish country dancing – remember that Christmas will be upon us soon. Kudos go to Peter Knapman, Linda Gaul, and William Williamson, who shepherded this project from start to completion in not quite two months!

The combined A5 edition of Books 31 to 38 is proceeding well and the finished book should be ready in time for the Conference Weekend in November this year. This will contain all dances from these eight books together with various errata, updates, and clarifications that have accrued over the years. It will also feature Pilling-style diagrams for all these dances. A corrected reprint of the combined A5 edition of Books 19 to 24 is also in the works and will be published as soon as it is ready.

Volume 1 of “Originally Ours”, the compilation of all RSCDS original tunes, has been reprinted with corrections and is available from the RSCDS shop. This covers the earlier RSCDS books.

There is a new edition of the “RSCDS Index to Dances” including all RSCDS dances up to Book 51 which should be available for download from the RSCDS web site by the time you read this. Unfortunately, work on the “RSCDS Index to Formations and Movements” has stalled but we are still committed to finishing this important document as soon as we possibly can.

Finally, some of the members of the Membership Services Committee will be demitting office later this year, and we would love it if many of you would stand for election to fill these posts. We are a very dynamic international group of enthusiasts and have room for people with all sorts of talents. In particular, we will be looking for a “convenor-elect” to

take over management of the Committee for a three-year period in November 2018 – but since you will be elected in 2017 and work closely with the sitting convenor from then on there will be ample time for you to learn the ropes! For any of the committee posts, it is not necessary to be a resident of Edinburgh, of Scotland, or the UK, and in fact we would welcome more international participation. If you have any questions regarding the Committee or standing for office, do contact Anselm Lingnau at convenor@msc.rscds.net for more information.