

NOMINATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT BOARD MEMBERS



Roger Brooks

North West Craven

Proposer: A.C. Waddington (*Ribble Valley*)

Seconder: Graham Taylor (*N.W. Craven*)

Decline in numbers at classes and social dances poses an unprecedented challenge. It's not just Society "members" but its "feet on the floor" that matters. Membership declined 19,000 between its 1989 high of 30,000 to 11,000 last year. Fewer "members" equals less income to fund services. The Society does not know which of those who dance with the 320 Affiliated Groups and clubs off its radar are its members or not. If it doesn't know, it can't relate to them.

A structure linking Branches, affiliated and non-affiliated groups with a single remit to recruit will represent all who love Scottish country dancing.

I was hooked by the music at a regimental ceilidh leading me to join a local SCD club. I began dancing regularly and set up a new group where I live. It affiliated and I still dance there. I am chairman of the Lancaster Affiliated Group which has the distinction of organising the biggest Ball in England.

My experience is military, law and councillor in local government. I was a partner in general practice, a TA officer commanding an infantry battalion and a current trustee of military museum all of which will guide me as a Trustee of the Charity.



Theresa MacVarish Clark

Edinburgh

Proposer: Atsuko Clement (*Edinburgh*)

Seconder: Margaret McLeish (*Edinburgh*)

I come forward as a candidate as having recently retired from my full time profession, I now have the opportunity to give my time and experience to the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society which has served me well over many years.

I enjoyed my career in education, latterly as a senior manager in two local authorities with responsibility for disability and special needs services. This included making difficult strategic decisions in relation to budget and services, keeping the wellbeing of children and families at the heart of planning.

I began dancing lessons in Fort William at the age of five. As a teenager I performed in local shows in Oban but it wasn't until I moved to Edinburgh in 1979 to begin my teaching career that I joined the Edinburgh Branch demonstration team. I subsequently acquired my RSCDS teaching certificate in 1986. I also served two terms on the committee of the Edinburgh Branch which gave me an understanding of the structure of the society.

I would use my experience to support the society in its aims to promote Scottish country dancing, maintaining high teaching standards but with enjoyment so that everyone irrespective of age and ability has fun.

I have the necessary time to commit to the required duties of the post and have the ability to travel to all required meetings.



Lucy Fallon
NE Derbyshire

Proposer: David Queen (*Ribble Valley*)

Seconder: Trevor Clarke (*NW Craven*)

I have a background in service development and marketing within the care sector. I work in collaboration with people across many professions. The work involves high levels of responsibility, regulatory compliance and sensitivity. My previous role involved developing over 15 complex brain injury services nationally, and I was the highest generator of income in the sector (i.e. I can promote services that I am passionate about). I am now a joint owner/ Director of a thriving neuro-rehabilitation business.

I started dancing in 2016, I am on the committee for Chesterfield Caledonian's and dance regularly within four groups. I have also initiated a monthly dance group in Nottingham to encourage ceilidh dancers and families to try SCD. We are only on our 3rd session and average 12 younger adults and four children, (this is significantly higher than numbers of other young dancers in the area).

As a new comer, I am uniquely placed to understand the challenges faced when new to dancing, and how to engage the younger generations. I am passionate about SCD I wish to be able to support to growth and longevity of the RSCDS. I can find creative solutions in challenging circumstances, and am able to offer practical support in new developments.

I am aware to the requirement to attend meetings, and am happy to offer this time to contribute to the organisation.



Linda Gaul
Perth & Perthshire

Proposer: Rodney Purcell (*Perth & Perthshire*)

Seconder: Muriel Johnstone (*Perth & Perthshire*)

I wish to continue to use my time and experience to further the aims of the RSCDS, as required in the modern, technologically driven world. During my working life, I have been an administrator in further education and in the accountancy profession. I have also worked in the marketing, retail and hospitality industries.

Within the RSCDS, I am currently teaching local classes and have visited many Branches and groups as a teacher. I have served on Branch committees, as Director of Summer School, Co-ordinator of Winter School and as Chairman. I have also assisted with office duties in Coates Crescent.

I hope to bring my extensive knowledge of the RSCDS to assist its development as an important and relevant organisation within Scotland's cultural environment and to promote support of the organisation by members and dancers, of all ages, throughout the world.

I confirm that I am able and willing to travel to Edinburgh for meetings.



David MacDonald

Aberdeen

Proposer: Isobel McMillen (*Aberdeen*)

Secunder: Lynn Wood (*Aberdeen*)

I learnt country dancing at school in Stirling and, decades later, discovered that I liked it. I love the camaraderie at rallies, at Summer School and at dancing weekends, and I want to support that. I was an expedition leader and assessor with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (2003-2016), which I enjoyed, but I want a new challenge.

My geological career spanned industry, government services, and academia (I am currently Professor of Geology at Aberdeen). I have a wide experience of management and committee work (I chaired a national scientific body and a board of international journals, and am a Research Council Panel Member).

I am an ordinary dancer, but attend as many ceilidhs and dances as possible, from Helmsdale to Girvan, from Aberdeen to Portree. In 1999 I joined Banchory SCDC (I am currently Club President), and then Aberdeen RSCDS, to improve my skills.

I would like to represent our backbone: the ordinary RSCDS members. I have worked in 21 countries and have met many overseas dancers, so I'm keen to help represent their views; and I have worked with young people all my life. They are our future, and I want to help them.

I am semi-retired, and only work two days per week. I am therefore well able to devote the necessary time to fulfil the required duties and to travel to all required meetings.



Sue Ronald

New Jersey

Proposer: Ellie Briscoe (*Northern Virginia*)

Secunder: Theresa Forbes (*New Jersey*)

I am concerned that RSCDS membership has halved in the last thirty years and continues to fall at a rate of roughly 2-3% every year. I am at the same time optimistic that recently the RSCDS has listened to members around the world and developed a business plan that aims to address the needs and concerns of dancers, Branches and Affiliated Groups and to "grow a vibrant worldwide community of Scottish Country Dancers and musicians".

For the last three years I have served on the Education and Training Committee and am pleased that a revision of our teacher training process is now underway that will be more inclusive and more teaching-focused rather than dancing-focused. This new approach will, I believe, lead to the qualification of many new and inspired teachers. If elected to the Management Board I would like explore ways to offer practical support to all teachers in their efforts to grow their groups and form new groups. In due course I believe the downward trend in membership numbers can be reversed if the RSCDS is seen to be relevant to the day-to-day activities of all groups to further spread the joy of Scottish Country Dancing worldwide.

I am a certified RSCDS teacher and teach and dance in several different locations in both the USA and the UK. If elected to the RSCDS Management Board I will attend some meetings in person and some via video link from New York.



Paul Youtlen

Tumbridge Wells

Proposer: Sue Porter (*Lorn Argyll*)

Secunder: Rachel Shankland (*Youth*)

I have spent thirty years working in sales and marketing. I was Marketing Director at King's Group, a leading group of British international schools in Spain. King's Group turns over about £60m a year and employs over 600 teachers and support staff. I managed 17 people in the marketing, PR and admissions team. I am currently working as Founding CEO of Teachers' Multi-academy Trust the first network of schools in England run as Public Service Mutuals.

My experience is in the marketing of professional services. I take a pragmatic, structured, low budget approach to marketing, one that focuses on testing ideas directly through pilot projects, collecting feedback to improve the idea, followed by more testing, championing its wider adoption once it has been proved successful and sustainable.

Any promotion of the RSCDS must reflect the values and mission of the organisation while supporting the objectives and targets outlined in the 2017 – 2020 business plan. My particular aim would be to nurture a culture that encourages branches and clubs to test new ideas and share their experiences with other branches. Local groups should be encouraged and shown how to take advantage of social media and partnerships to increase participation.

I am aware of the commitment in time and travel to board meetings that is required to make this role a success.