

ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

GLASGOW BRANCH

Charity No.SC008002

Secretary: Amy Bryson
www.rscdsglasgow.org



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Branch Report for AGM 2022

This is the 99th Report for Glasgow Branch.

Membership: Our current membership stands at 234 of which 32 are life members. In addition, we have 14 associate members. We have 13 linked groups.

Advertising: The Social Marketing sub-committee worked hard over the summer to put together an advertising campaign for several taster sessions and new classes we wanted to launch. We ran 3 taster events and launched an additional two beginners' classes.

Classes: Classes began in the autumn after over a year of no dancing due to COVID. Our seven Branch Classes ran over the autumn and winter catering for dancers of all abilities from beginners to experienced. There was a two-week delay to the start of the second term due to COVID restrictions. The Milngavie general class and Westerton beginners' class combined for a final term and ran into May as did the beginners class in Giffnock. In addition, four Spring Themed Classes were held, each with a different guest teacher. The branch would like to thank all the musicians and teachers who make our classes possible; it is greatly appreciated. Several classes moved location in the first term as school halls were not available for lettings. These classes have mostly moved back to their locations pre COVID except the Milngavie class as Milngavie town hall is being used as a vaccination centre.

Dances: Seven Dances were held during the last year including 'Nice & Easy' Dances, Branch Dances and our Midwinter Ball which was held in April and rebranded as an End of Season ball due to COVID restrictions. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Burns Dance in January due to the restrictions. Both Milngavie town hall and Carmichael Hall are vaccinations centres so alternative locations were required to be found.

Glasgow Branch Newsletters: Two newsletters have been published this year. We greatly thank Meg Barrowman for the work she has put in producing the Newsletters throughout the past 10 years. She is now retiring from this role.

Health and Safety: Several members of the committee have taken up an invitation to attend defibrillator training in Bearsden.

RSCDS AGM and Conference Weekend: Five delegates attended the AGM in Perth and a full report was in the Winter Newsletter 2021. Several Branch dancers joined them to take part in the Open Forum, evening dances and some of the other enjoyable weekend events.

Glasgow Music Festival: The festival was held on 12th March. Due to COVID some teams had to withdraw. Two school teams entered the non-competitive class as they had only been dancing since August 2021. In the adult section there were two teams, Glasgow Dancers and St Andrews Celtic Society. Music was provided by Màrtainn Skene. Thank you to Susan Ewington and the team.

The Seniors' Group: After 8 years in post, Daphne Davidson and Katherine Morrison have retired from running the group. Maureen McCrudden has taken over as Convenor with Maureen Daniel assisting. They had a meeting in late 2021 and one in March. The next meeting is the 23rd June 2022.

Centenary Book: The Branch sent out requests for dance submissions for our Centenary Dance Book that we plan to publish in early 2023. We received 39 submissions. After three testing sessions we have selected 13 dances that will be part of the book. We thank everyone who submitted a dance and to the volunteers who came to the testing sessions.

Teacher training: COVID has disrupted some of our trainee teachers from completing the RSCDS unit examinations. However, two trainees who began sitting their unit examinations in Glasgow have received scholarships to summer school to undertake the course and exam there. We wish them the best of luck.

Callers: In 2020, John Johnson began calling training sessions with four of our newly qualified RSCDS teachers. They completed the second and final training session in January 2022, delayed due to COVID, and have all since been calling at several of our dances. Thank you to John Johnson for running the sessions and to Margaret Sanders for organising and coming to the sessions in support.

Outreach: The branch occasionally is contacted with requests for dancers or teachers. We supplied a teacher and musician, Fiona McDonald and Màrtainn Skene, to run ceilidh and Scottish Country Dancing sessions in a high school by request from PEPASS. We also visited the Independence Dance Company and look to make further links with the group. We are organising events in the next year to host a bowling team from Ottawa and the Ribble Valley group.

Branch Administration:

The Committee was made up of thirteen elected members.

All except one committee meeting was held over zoom.

Mary Webster continues to be responsible for the Branch Website.

There were several sub-committees set up and continued from previous years e.g. Centenary, Newsletter, Social Marketing Campaign and dance programme subcommittees, the Heath Strategy Subcommittee was continued but is now on hold.

The Centenary subcommittee continues to provide support for Headquarters for the Autumn Gatherings in 2022 and 2023 and organising of our own events in celebration of our Centenary Year.

The Chair, Sebastian Wanless, has kept up the tradition from our previous Chair of email communications fortnightly with our membership.

Sadly, we lost some branch members and members of our community in the past year. These include Margaret Kane, Margaret McKenzie, Mary Lamb, Catherine McNeil who was a life member and had received a branch scroll and Derek Hamilton who recorded our 90th Anniversary CD.

This is my second and final report as Secretary as I demit office. On behalf of Glasgow Branch I would like to thank the committee for the hard work they have put in to encourage us to return to dancing, their resourcefulness and adapting in finding solutions to issues caused by COVID.

Amy Bryson
May 2022