



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Glasgow Branch  
Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements  
1 APR 2024 to 31 MARCH 2025  
Charity No SC008002

**The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society**  
**Glasgow Branch**

**Trustees' Annual Report and Financial  
Statements**

**1APR 2024 to 31 MAR 2025**



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**Scottish Charity Number:** SC008002

**Charity name:** The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society – Glasgow Branch  
(hereinafter called “the Local Association”).

**Charity contact information:**

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Website: <https://www.rscdsglasgow.org/>

Facebook: @RSCDSGlasgow

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**Charity Trustees**

- Chair: Ian Johnson (appointed 16/5/2024)
- Chair-elect: Hilary Wood (appointed 16/5/2024)
- Treasurer: Aileen McKenzie (appointed 16/5/2024)
- Secretary: Anne Thorn (appointed 16/5/2024)
- Margaret Sanders (appointed 16/5/2024)
- Les Lambert (appointed 16/5/2024)
- Anne Murray (appointed 18/5/2023)
- Revathy Nayar (appointed 16/5/2024)
- Gale McCallum (appointed 18/5/2023)
- Caitlin Abbott (appointed 20/5/2021)
- Lyndsey McCrudden (appointed 18/5/2023)
- Cameron Raeburn (appointed 16/5/2024)

Independent Examiner: James Gibson CA (appointed 16/5/2024)

Honorary President: John Johnston (appointed 16/5/2024)

Honorary Vice-President: Fiona McDonald (appointed 16/5/2024)



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## Objectives and activities

Glasgow was where the Scottish Country Dance Society was founded. Its inaugural meeting, in the Athenaeum, Glasgow, on 26 November 1923, included five Glasgow-based enthusiasts of Scottish music and/or dancing: Francis Bisset, Michael Diack, Jean Milligan, Lilian Ross and Percy Thomson. They would come to play significant roles in the Society and the Glasgow Branch – the first of many branches.

### RSCDS Glasgow Branch Mission, Vision and Core Values

<b>Mission</b>	(a) to preserve and further the practice of traditional Scottish country dancing in the Greater Glasgow Area; (b) to provide, or assist in providing, education or instruction to Society standards in the practice of Scottish country dancing; (c) to increase the number of Scottish country dancers in the Greater Glasgow area
<b>Vision</b>	A thriving Society/Branch with a growing and active membership where generations come together to enjoy regular Scottish country dancing
<b>Core Values</b>	Strong community spirit Passionate about Scottish country dancing Value and celebrate our Scottish dancing heritage and traditions Providing enjoyment through Scottish country dancing Respect for fellow dancers Uphold and pass-on these core values to the next generations A teaching organisation A learning and adapting organisation

## Structure, governance and management

### Type of governing document

The Branch is governed in accordance with relevant UK and Scottish laws and regulations and in order of priority:

- The Charity's Constitution and Rules
- Motions passed by the Membership in General Meeting
- Decisions of the Branch Committee



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## Trustee recruitment and appointment

Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Local Association which is held within three months after the end of its financial year at such place and at such time and in such manner as may be determined by the Committee.

## Achievements and performance

Unlike recent years, when we were living with Covid regulations, or opening up after them, then celebrating both the Society's and Branch's centenaries, 2024-5 was a very 'ordinary' year. It was a year for adapting to the 'new normal' for Scottish country dancing in Glasgow.

Much of the year has seen the Branch doing what it usually does, of which the Branch Report gives more detail. The Committee is always trying to operate a balancing act with Branch classes – on the one hand, in accordance with the Objects in our Constitution, we seek to promote Scottish country dancing by encouraging more people to take it up, while at the same time stewarding the Branch's resources, as class fees often do not cover the cost of hall hire, and the cost of teachers and musicians.

Over the past twelve months we have reviewed and updated our administration and practices – and this is still ongoing. The Committee Handbook has been updated and work is continuing on creating a digital store for current and archived material. Alongside the Branch Constitution and Rules we also have to operate within the requirements of UK and Scottish legislation – charity laws/ safeguarding/ diversity/ equality/ privacy etc – and the last year has seen some new requirements in a number of these areas.

Last year's AGM saw some significant changes to the Committee – all the Office-bearers and the majority of the Convenors were new to their posts.

## Branch Report

*Membership:* Our current membership stands at 211 (29 Life members, 127 Adult members, 52 Joint members, 2 Young Adult members, 1 Youth member). In addition, we have 22 Associate members and 11 Linked Groups.

*Classes:* Classes began in September 2024 with 7 Branch Classes running over the year catering for dancers of all abilities from beginners to experienced. As in previous years, Hillpark Beginners had two additional classes in April. Additionally, 3 Spring Classes were held with three different guest teachers: Abbie Brown, Amy Bryson and Fiona



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Fairlie. The Branch would like to thank all the musicians and teachers who make our classes possible; it is greatly appreciated.

*Dances:* Eleven dances were held during the last year including the Midwinter Ball in January 2025, three 'Nice & Easy' Dances, Branch Dances and a Challenging Dance.

*Glasgow Branch Newsletters:* Three newsletters have been published during the year. We thank Peter Knapman for continuing in the role of Editor and producing the newsletters with the Committee's and Membership's input. The Newsletters have benefited from interesting and informative contributions from Peter himself. Two Short Newsletters were also produced in June and January.

*RSCDS AGM and Conference Weekend:* This year the Society held their AGM and Autumn Gathering in Edinburgh. 5 delegates attended the AGM and a full report was published in the Winter Newsletter 2024. Many Branch members were present to take part in evening dances and some of the other enjoyable and informative weekend events.

*Glasgow Music Festival:* The Scottish Country Dancing classes of the Glasgow Music Festival took place on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> of March in the Renfield Centre, Glasgow.

The morning session saw five enthusiastic primary school teams participate in classes 505-508 with experience ranging from beginner to more advanced. All were smartly turned out and were commended on their teamwork and spirited performances of the dances they had chosen. The Marion B Hamilton was awarded to the Dalriada Dancers from the Falkirk area for achieving the highest score of the morning. We were delighted that the Honorary President of GMF, Robert MacDonald, was available to present the certificate to the winning team, which was very appropriate as he is also the nephew of Marion B Hamilton. The afternoon session of classes 501-503 for adults was supported by six teams, some of whom were participating for the first time for many years – including the 'more mature' team from Glasgow. The standard of dancing was excellent with some outstanding performances. The winners of the RSCDS Glasgow Branch Quaich, which is awarded to the team with the highest score of the afternoon, were Glasgow Dancers.

We are grateful to Les Lambert for adjudicating. This is his last year as adjudicator, however we are pleased to announce that Angela Young will take over this task for the 2026. Excellent music to accompany the dancers was provided all day by Martainn Skene. Thanks also to Maureen Daniel for agreeing to take on the challenging task of recording the comments, to the school staff, dance instructors and of course the pupils and dancers who all worked so hard and to all the Glasgow branch volunteers who acted as stewards on the day. Sincere thanks go to Susan Ewington for all her hard work in making this year's festival a success.

*Primary School Festival - Day of Dance:* This one-day event for Scottish country dancing was once again held in Glasgow City Chambers, hosted by Lord Provost Jacqueline McLaren. 17 Glasgow schools took part with over 20 sets dancing at one time. RSCDS



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Chair-Elect Sebastian Wanless and Lorna Valentine (Convenor of the RSCDS Scottish Schools Working Group) were in attendance. We were delighted that the deputy Lord Provost Christy Mearns joined in the Dashing White Sergeant. Grateful thanks to Walter Proven - our experienced MC - and to John Carmichael and his band for the excellent music. We would like to extend our thanks to Fiona McDonald who has organised this event for a number of years in partnership with Glasgow Education. Thanks also to the school teachers, parent chaperones, Council staff and to RSCDS Glasgow Branch members for helping to make this a special day.

*Seniors' Group:* Four meetings took place throughout the year, including the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lunch held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 when one of the founding members of the group, Ruth Beattie, was presented with a well-deserved Branch Award and Eric Finley entertained all present by singing Scottish songs and telling stories. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of June the group was entertained by Amy Spearing, senior chorister at Paisley Abbey, playing the clarsach. The Christmas lunch was held at the Crookston Hotel on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December. Maureen Daniel acted as quiz master after lunch and Branch Chair, Ian Johnson, read a Christmas poem. At the Seniors lunch on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March Branch musician Frank Reid entertained attendees.

*Centenary Book:* The Branch's Centenary book, which was launched at the Mid-Winter Ball of 2023 proved extremely popular and sold out at the beginning of this session. It is now only available in PDF form. The music for each dance is available on Bandcamp and music sales continue to provide revenue for the Branch.

*Outreach:* The Branch has responded to many requests to hold or participate in a wide range of events. We have supplied various teachers, dancers and musicians throughout the year, for a range of activities. Demonstrations took place once again at the Bearsden and Milngavie Highland Games in June and at Neilston Women's Group and Westerton Gala Day in August. Dancers visited Hawthorn Care Home for the first time in October and made a return visit in January. In August there was a demonstration at the Golden Girls Group in Neilston and at the Friendship Group in Giffnock in November. A return visit was made to St. Francis Care Home in Govan in October and again in January. In August a taster session was organised to support Healing Arts Scotland (HAS) Glasgow Day. Four members of Glasgow Branch gave support at a free half-hour workshop, delivered by Anne Robertson with live music provided by Billy Gray, at the Tramway in Albert Drive. This event was part of a week-long HAS festival being supported by RSCDS. Anne delivered a great lesson where she managed to cover a good number of dances in the short time available to approximately twenty very enthusiastic attendees, all of whom seemed to thoroughly enjoy the experience.

The Branch also supported an initiative to promote physical and mental health in Barlanark in partnership with the RSCDS, Glasgow Life and Alliance Scotland. The Branch provided a teacher and musician and helpers every Tuesday to try to encourage local residents to take up Scottish country dancing as a hobby.



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*Branch Administration:* The Committee significantly changed this year with the appointment of Branch Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Chair Elect, Social Convenor, Communications Convenor and Membership Secretary. It remains challenging to attract Members to serve on the Committee. The Committee is operating with one ordinary committee member vacancy and a Class Convenor Group has had to be formed as there were no nominations for the Class Convenor vacancy. Committee meetings were split between face-to-face meetings at Sherbrooke Mossspark Parish Church and over Zoom. Having moved south a few years ago, our Honorary President, Ruth Beattie, decided to step down and John Johnston, our Honorary Vice President, was appointed to this position. Fiona McDonald was appointed Honorary Vice President.

Mary Webster and Margaret Tough continued to provide valuable and timely support and updating of the Branch Website.

Several sub-committees continued work from previous years: e.g. Classes and Dance Programme subcommittees. The Class subcommittee was created to examine our class offering in detail and its work will continue under the newly elected Committee from May 2025. Its remit is to consider how to go forward with classes and dances, ensuring that the Branch meets its obligations to promote Scottish country dancing while being financially responsible and to hear the views of members and teachers on what we offer, anything additional they would like, and their reaction to the changes made to classes and dances in the future. The newly appointed Safeguarding Team met on a number of occasions to revise Branch policies and procedures. Several workshops were organised by the team in order to provide important information about safeguarding to Branch teachers, musicians, Committee members and members of Linked Groups. The Branch's Privacy Policy and GDPR Policy were revised and a Register of Systems document was produced.

*Other Notable Events:* Three members of Glasgow Branch were awarded Branch awards this session for their invaluable services to Scottish country dancing. Ruth Beattie received her award at the Seniors' 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lunch in October. Due to illness, Johan McLean was unable to attend the Senior's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lunch and was presented with her award at her home by Ian Johnson later in October. Peter Knapman received his Branch Award at the Midwinter Ball.

Branch Members gathered in the city centre in September and October to rehearse a ceilidh scene for *Lady MacLean*, a short bilingual English-Gaelic film. Written by Lana Pheutan and directed by Catriona MacLeod, the film is part of the inaugural NFTS Sean Connery Talent Lab, which supports emerging filmmakers with backing from the Sean Connery Foundation. Filming took place on 2nd and 3rd October at Partick Burgh Hall. *Lady MacLean* is now in post-production, and the "extras" been told they will be invited to the screening.





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Sadly, we lost some branch members and members of our dancing community in the past year. These include Helen and Graham Murray, Bob Blair, Sandra Fraser, Elma Wilson, Robina Marshall and Pat Duchart.

## Future plans

As well as looking at how we can do what we do more effectively and efficiently now, the Committee have also been considering the future, and we will be focussing more on this in the coming year:

- we are working on a medium-term plan, looking to include issues and ideas identified in the survey of members, including whether we need to make any adjustments to classes and dances, as we move into the second quarter of the 21st Century
- over the past year we have been working with the Society in promoting Scottish country dancing as a way of boosting mental and physical health through the Barlanark class. It may be that in the future there will be further opportunities to develop other such initiatives in the Glasgow area – using the time and experience of members and Committee members, but not directly funding them.

We have been considering how we might use our Reserves to promote Scottish country dancing in the future – particularly among young people.

## Financial review

Trustees' and Treasurer's Report for year ending 31st March 2025 prepared by the Treasurer, Aileen McKenzie.

This year's figures are much better news than last year's. The Branch made a surplus overall. The Branch was able to run a full programme of classes and dances. Dances covered their cost however classes continue to make a loss. The Branch worked with the Society and Glasgow Life in promoting Scottish country dancing in Barlanark Community Centre and in taster events at Whiteinch Community Centre, as a way of boosting mental and physical health.

Branch running costs this year were slightly less than last year, partly due to reduced newsletter costs, despite the fact that the majority of committee meetings have returned to pre-Covid face-to-face meetings and several Safeguarding training events were run.

Keeping track of bank payments has been a challenge. Although many of those paying into the Branch bank account are not Trustees of the Branch, it is important that a reference is made for each payment so that the Treasurer can make the correct entry into the accounts.





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The Branch still holds significant reserves however concerns about bank charges and accessing bank accounts/bonds, have resulted in the Committee deciding to cash in the Skipton Bond and open a 90-day account which will ensure that Trustees have access to Branch investments and bank accounts. Since the money in Nan Insch fund has now nearly run out, it has been agreed to set up a Designated Fund to allow money to be used for projects such as teacher development and encouraging more adults and children to participate in Scottish country dancing. The Committee feel that we must invest in the future of Glasgow Branch.

As can be seen from the 2024-2025 annual accounts we are able to meet our financial commitments in Glasgow Branch. The accounts were examined by James Gibson in the position of Independent Examiner. His report is available on request. All the activities of the Branch throughout the year were consistent with the aims of the Branch as specified in our Branch Constitution.



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## Accounts

For presentation to accountant			RSCDS Glasgow Branch	
			Receipts & Payments Account	
			Year to date	
	INCOME	Expenditure		
	£	£		
Class Fees	12,354.49			
Class Teaching		5,973.75		
Class Music		5,244.84		
Class halls		3,073.03		
<b>Classes Total</b>	<b>12,354.49</b>	<b>14,291.62</b>		
Dance tickets	8,227.00			
Dance Catering		281.35		
Dance Printing		300.96		
Dance Bands		3,765.63		
Dance Halls		1,784.76		
Midwinter Ball	2,989.00	2,493.75		
<b>Dances Total</b>	<b>11,216.00</b>	<b>8,626.45</b>		
Outreach		40.00		
Festivals	1,500.00	1,198.55		
Seniors Lunches	2,642.35	2,108.44		
Subscriptions	6,053.50	4,749.00		
Linked groups	70.00			
Donations	35.00			
Bank interest/charges	1,455.13	23.53		
Bandcamp (Music)	458.35			
Centenary books	240.00			
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,454.33</b>	<b>8,119.52</b>		
Branch running costs		542.39		
Newsletter		64.80		
Insurance		205.00		
Safeguarding		28.95		
Hall Lets		140.00		
Expenses		560.09		
<b>Branch costs total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,541.23</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,024.82</b>	<b>32,578.82</b>		
<b>Profit/(Loss) for year</b>	<b>3,446.00</b>			

	31st March 2024	31-Mar 2025
	£	£
Opening Balance	43,832	44,362
Profit/(Loss) to date	530	3,446
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>44,362</b>	<b>47,808</b>
Represented by		
Skipton BS	25,529	0
Charity Bank	11,069	11,417
BoS a/c	7,739	36,351
Float	25	40
	<b>44,362</b>	<b>47,808</b>
Note		
Debtors & prepayments		
payments future function	441	
school day band	750	
refund due from musician	31	
Barlanark		848
	<b>1,222</b>	<b>848</b>
Creditors & Accruals		
Overpaid sub	33	
teachers due		29

Interest  
Charges

Independently examined by



Date

19 June 2025



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### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charities trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The society trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Account Regulation does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1)© of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of Independent Examiner's statement**

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently I do not express an audit opinion of the accounts.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirement: to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the Accounts Regulations, and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

James N Gibson  
44 Aytoun Road  
Glasgow  
G41 5HN

Signed *James N Gibson*

Date 19/6/25



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## Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Print name

Colin Ian William Johnson

Designation

Chair RSCDS Glasgow Branch

Date

26.06.2025