

**THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
GLASGOW BRANCH
Charity Registered in Scotland
SC008002**

**Annual General Meeting held at 1900 hours on Thursday 21 May 2026
In Renfield Training and Conference Centre, Glasgow G2 4JP**

31 members attended. Ian Johnson, Chair, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 103rd AGM of the RSCDS Glasgow Branch.

1. Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Ruth Beattie, Laura Cameron, Joyce Carmichael, Tom Carmichael, Heather Cowan, Daphne Davidson, Vijay Iyer, Helen Kelly, Elizabeth Kitson, John Kitson, Peter Knapman, Sheila Knapman, Les Lambert, Gale McCallum, Maureen McCrudden, James Miller, Veronique Miller, Gordon Murray, Kathy Neil, Robert Neil, Viv O'Duffy, Gordon Porter, Sue Porter, Cameron Raeburn, Margaret Sanders, Tamara Wanless, Aileen Warwick, Mary Webster and Sheena Whiteford,

2. Chair's Remarks

Recent years have seen the Branch Committee striving to attract new dancers through a number of initiatives, while also having to devote time and effort to ensuring that Branch policies and procedures comply fully with new legal requirements - in areas like reporting to the Charity Regulator, Privacy and Safeguarding - and keeping a watchful eye on the financial viability of classes and dances. The updating process is (at least for the moment) complete, and the Branch's finances are looking happier, with a modest surplus for dances and a small loss for classes.

This has enabled the Committee to develop our Medium-Term Plan, which takes as its starting point the Branch Objects set out in Section 3 of the Branch Constitution:

The objects of the Local Association shall be to advance the education and engagement of the public in the Greater Glasgow area in traditional Scottish country dancing and in furtherance thereof: -

- (a) to preserve and further the practice of traditional Scottish country dancing;
- (b) to provide or assist in providing education or instruction to Society standards in the practice of Scottish country dancing;
- (c) to promote the enjoyment and appreciation of Scottish country dancing and music by any suitable means;
- (d) generally, to do such other things as are or may be considered by the Local Association to further the foregoing objects and those of the Society in the Greater Glasgow area, including building working links with other local traditional dance and music initiatives and considers these in the context of all Committee areas of responsibility, including classes, dances, outreach, communication, finance and administration.

One development we hope will be significant is creating a Youth sub-committee, to focus on work among the under-35s, and listening to what they have to say. We are also investigating the scope for launching a new Beginners Class in the West End/ Bearsden/ Milngavie area.

Knowing how much everyone loved their Business Plans at work, we are not circulating them to all members, but if anyone would like to know more about what the Plan contains, contact the Secretary, who will send a PDF copy.

It is good to be able to look forward with some positivity, but we also recognise that there are challenges facing us in the years ahead:

- despite all attempts to attract new dancers, our membership is decreasing – partly reflecting wider social changes, and partly because many of our younger dancers/teachers and student friends have to move away in pursuit of employment
- alongside this, the average age of our membership is rising
- it is becoming increasingly difficult to find people able to join the Committee, and in particular to take on the Office-bearer roles (Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer). It may be that in the future we will need to revisit the Constitution and consider whether more flexibility is required in term of service

Finally, may I express my thanks, and the Branch's thanks to all who enable Glasgow Branch to operate:

- the Committee
- the online team of Mary Webster, Margaret Tough and Cameron Raeburn
- Newsletter editor Peter Knapman
- Archivist Chris Sanders
- all teachers, musicians and class reps
- the Safeguarding Team of Anne Thorn and Carol-Ann Knox
- those who assist Revathy with online photos and videos, including Debbie, Lyndsey, Vijay, Amy and Eilidh
- those who join in Outreach demo teams
- those who help with half-time refreshments
- Susan Ewington and all her helpers at the Glasgow Music Festival
- Fiona Fairlie and her helpers at the Glasgow Primary Schools Day of Dance
- the leaders of the Linked Groups who keep Glasgow Branch in front of the wider Scottish country dance community in the area
- Aileen Warwick, Margaret Tough and Maureen McCrudden who arrange the Seniors' Lunches
- and to our members and friends who support our classes and dances throughout the year.

3. Minutes of AGM held on 15 May 2025

The Minutes of the 2025 AGM were sent out to members in advance. A few typos were pointed out by Christopher Sanders and Sandra McAllister. These were approved by members, and the minutes were amended accordingly.

Approval:

Proposed by Fiona McDonald

Seconded by Marilyn Mowbray

The Secretary asked if going forward Branch members could contact her to highlight any typos in the weeks leading up to the AGM so that in the future at the AGM the Chair could sign the minutes which had already been amended.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Branch Report

The Branch Report had been circulated to all members in advance of the meeting.

This is the 103rd Report for RSCDS Glasgow Branch.

Membership: Our current membership stands at 204 (27 Life members, 120 Adult members, 52 Joint members, 4 Young Adult members, 1 Youth member). In addition, we have 16 Associate members and 11 Linked Groups.

Classes: Classes began in September 2025 with six Branch Classes running until March catering for dancers of all abilities from beginners to experienced. As in previous years, Hillpark and Garnethill Beginners had several additional classes in April and May in preparation for the May “Nice and Easy” Dance. Additionally, four Spring Classes with a “Commonwealth Theme” were held with four different guest teachers. 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 Glasgow 850 Dance in October 2025, the Midwinter Ball in January 2026, 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 for 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 its AGM and Autumn Gathering in Glasgow. Five delegates attended the AGM and a full report was published in the 2025 Winter Newsletter. 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 14th of March in the Renfield Centre, Glasgow. With fewer entries than previously, all dancing took place in one extended session. Five enthusiastic primary school aged teams took part.

The Marion B Hamilton Certificate was awarded to Comely Park Primary School from the Falkirk area for achieving the highest score of the morning. The Honorary President of GMF, Robert MacDonald, presented the certificate to the winning team, which was very appropriate as he is also the nephew of Marion B Hamilton.

There were also fewer adult teams participating compared to previous years. The winners of the RSCDS Glasgow Branch Quaich, which is awarded to the team with the highest score, was Glasgow Scottish Country Dancers.

We are grateful to Angela Young for adjudicating. Excellent music to accompany the dancers was provided by Susan MacFadyen. Thanks also to Maureen Daniel for taking 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. The Branch would like to thank 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.

20 Glasgow schools took part, however due to transport issues on the day, a few schools had to call off. There were however over 20 sets dancing at one time. Deputy Lord Provost Baillie Christy Mearns welcomed everyone to the City Chambers. RSCDS Chair-Elect Sebastian Wanless was in attendance along with Finnie, the 2026 Commonwealth Games mascot.

The Branch would like to thank our MC Fiona McDonald and Ian Muir and his band for the excellent music. We would also like to extend our thanks to Fiona Fairlie who organised the event in partnership with Glasgow Education. Thanks also go to the schoolteachers, 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. In June RSCDS Chair Elect, Sebastian Wanless, gave an informative talk on "Africa - My Africa". Maureen Daniel was also presented with a bouquet of flowers to thank her for organising the Seniors' Group lunches as she was stepping down from this role. In October Peter Knapman gave an excellent presentation on the music and dance connected with the Glasgow 850 celebration. At Christmas, as well as lunch, there was a quiz and in March Billy Gray (Hillpark class and Outreach musician, and RSCDS Management Board Member) entertained attendees.

Musician's Workshop: In order to increase the pool of musicians who play for our Branch classes the Branch organised a Musicians' Workshop on Sunday 14th September in New Kilpatrick Church Hall. RSCDS Music Director, Ian Muir, led the workshop. The instruments played were twelve fiddles, one cello, one guitar, one flute, four accordions, one snare drum and one piano. Everyone who attended enjoyed the experience. Our grateful thanks go to Ian Muir for his expert tuition on the day.

Outreach: The Branch has responded to many requests to hold or to participate in a wide range of events. We have supplied various teachers, dancers and musicians throughout the year, for a range of activities - the majority of which involved dance demonstrations for community groups.

In June the Outreach dancers visited the Memory Lane Dementia Group in St Andrew's Church Barrhead for the first time. In July the dancers made a return visit to the Friendship Group in Giffnock and at the end of July Outreach ran a ceilidh session for sixty P1-P7 children attending the FARE Holiday Hunger Programme. In the autumn the Outreach dancers were kept busy visiting the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice in August, the Moments Café in Cathcart Trinity Church and Mearns House Care Home Autumn Fete in September. The Outreach dancers visited the QEUH Stroke Rehabilitation Wards 56/57 in October. A return visit was made to Hawthorn House Care Home in November and to Mearns House Care Home in December.

In November Amy Bryson, along with Màrtainn Skene, provided a taster session to students at Caledonian University and Lyndsey McCrudden led a ceilidh dancing session at the Connect Community Trust Community Ceilidh.

A return visit was made to the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice in January. In February Outreach dancers danced at Kelvinside Manor Care Home for the first time. A return visit was made to the QEUH Stroke Rehabilitation Wards 56/57 in April.

In January, Anne Murray, our Outreach Convenor, was invited to speak at the Symposium on “The Healing Power of Dance” organised by Professor Wendy Timmons of the University of Edinburgh.

Branch Administration: This year the Class Convenor vacancy was filled, and another ordinary committee member joined the committee. It still remains challenging to attract Members to serve on the Committee and the Committee is operating with one ordinary committee member vacancy. Committee meetings were split between face-to-face meetings at Sherbrooke Parish Church and over Zoom.

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. the Classes and Dance Programme sub-committees. The Safeguarding Team met on a number of occasions to revise Branch policies and procedures including incident reports and risk assessment documents.

Other Notable Events: Two members of Glasgow Branch were awarded Branch Awards this session for their invaluable services to Scottish country dancing. Maureen McCrudden received her Branch Award at the Midwinter Ball and Maureen Daniel was presented with her Branch Award at the Seniors Lunch in March.

Sadly, we lost some branch members and members of our dancing community in the past year. These include Iain Stuart, Elma Wilson and Agnes McDonald.

6 Financial Report including Trustees’ Report for year ended 31 March 2026

The Chair stated that the Branch Report in the Trustees’ Report has been anonymised as the Trustees’ Report will be available to view on the OSCR website. A list of Office Bearers and Committee Members names as well as the Independent Examiner’s name and address will also appear on the OSCR website.

The Treasurer stated that communication problems at the beginning of the financial year have been resolved. She added that bank charges cannot be avoided and the Committee decision to open several savings accounts should hopefully counteract bank charges. Income is still being received from Bandcamp and for the pdf copy of the Centenary book of dances. She pointed out that there had been an error in the membership form and therefore £6 had been collected from Branch Members instead of £7.

The Chair then asked for any questions/comments

Hamish Gibb queried where the Branch’s additional assets appear. The Treasurer stated that these were recorded on the balance sheet sent out to Branch Members along with the accounts. Hamish Gibb asked if there were any liabilities. The Treasurer stated that there were two: £54 of underpaid expenses and £198 which was still to be paid to the Lord Provost fund.

There were no other questions, and the Chair thanked the Treasurer for all her work this year and for coping with issues with the Bank of Scotland. He stated that the work she had done this year was much appreciated.

7. Appointment of External Examiner of the Accounts

The Chair stated that Jim Gibson is willing act as External Accounts Examiner for 2026/27

Proposed by Marjory Dooley
Seconded by Sebastian Wanless

8. Confirmation of President and Vice President

Honorary President: Ian Johnson asked for the confirmation of John Johnston in the role of Honorary President.

This was agreed by those present.

Honorary Vice President: Ian Johnson asked for the confirmation of Fiona McDonald in the role of Honorary Vice President.

This was agreed by those present.

9. Election of Office Bearers and Committee for 2026-2027

Ian Johnson having served two years as Chair stepped down. John Johnston as Hon President was invited to take the Chair. John Johnston took the Chair.

Hilary Wood was proposed as Chair of Glasgow Branch.

Proposed by Ian Johnson

Seconded by Lilian Murray

Hilary Wood was elected and then took the Chair.

Hilary thanked Ian Johnson on behalf of Glasgow Branch Committee and members. She stated that Ian had chaired Committee meetings with good humour and cheerfulness and thanked him for all he had done to take forward the Branch. Ian was then presented with a gift voucher.

Chair-elect: Debra McAlees was proposed.

Proposed by Susan Ewington

Seconded by Fiona McDonald

Debra McAlees was elected. The Chair explained that due to Debra being a member of the RSCDS Management Board she would not be able to become Chair of RSCDS Glasgow until November 2028.

Secretary: Anne Thorn was re-elected (for one more year)

Proposed by Muriel Bone

Seconded by Hamish Gibb

Treasurer: Alistair Cowan was proposed

Proposed by Lyndsey McCrudden

Seconded by Carol Ann Knox

Alistair Cowan was elected.

Social Events Convenor: Margaret Sanders was re-elected.

Proposed by Christopher Sanders

Seconded by Debra McAlees

Communications Convenor: Revathy Nayar was re-elected.

Proposed by Susan Ewington

Seconded by Lyndsey McCrudden

Outreach Convenor: Anne Murray was re-elected.

Proposed by Sebastian Wanless

Seconded by Revathy Nayar

Class Convenor: Muriel Bone was re-elected.

Proposed by Anne Murray

Seconded by Alistair Cowan

Membership Convenor: Les Lambert was re-elected (for one more year)

Proposed by Marjory Dooley

Seconded by Margaret Tough

Committee Members:

The Branch Committee has five ordinary member posts.

Lyndsey McCrudden (who has served for 3 years) was re-elected.

Cameron Raeburn (who has served for 2 years) was re-elected.

Anne Robertson (who has served for 1 year) was re-elected.

Proposed by Meg Barrowman

Seconded by Anne Murray

The Chair stated that two further Committee Members were required: one position to replace Gale McCallum who had served for three years and the Committee position which had been vacant for the last two years. She intimated that no nominations had been received in advance of the AGM. No one volunteered at the AGM therefore two Committee positions are now vacant. The Chair stated that the Committee had the power to co-opt someone onto the Committee in the course of the year if someone came forward.

The Chair thanked those members who were now elected onto the Committee for their willingness to work on behalf of the Branch.

10. Election of Delegates to RSCDS AGM in November 2026

The Chair stated that the RSCDS Autumn Gathering will take place on Friday 6th, Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th November in Dumfries. Glasgow Branch is entitled to five delegates at the Society AGM. It is usual for the four Office Bearers to be Branch Delegates i.e. Chair, Chair-elect, Secretary and Treasurer however in the current circumstances the Chair Elect would be ineligible to vote due to a conflict of interest and the Chair asked if two Branch members were willing to be delegates. Lyndsey McCrudden intimated that she would be prepared to be a delegate again. Muriel Bone stated that she would be willing to be a delegate. As no other members came forward there was no need for an election.

Approval:

Proposed by Aileen McKenzie

Seconded by Marilyn Mowbray

The delegates for Glasgow Branch at the Society AGM 2026 will be Hilary Wood, Anne Thorn, Alistair Cowan, Lyndsey McCrudden and Muriel Bone. In the event of anyone being unable to attend, the Committee has the right to appoint a replacement delegate.

11. Appointment of the Safeguarding Officers

The Chair highlighted that Safeguarding Officers had undertaken their duties for the last two years. Due to the nature of these roles, applicants needed to be interviewed and appointed. Ian Johnson was confirmed as Lead Signatory. Anne Thorn and Carol Ann Knox were confirmed as the other two Safeguarding Team members.

Proposed by Meg Barrowman

Seconded by Margaret Tough

The Secretary stated that the Safeguarding Team hoped that other Branch members would consider joining the Team. Marilyn Mowbray volunteered.

12. Appointment of Glasgow Primary Schools Day of Dance Co-ordinator

The Chair stated that this role had been undertaken by Fiona Fairlie last year and she was willing to be re-elected.

Proposed by Lyndsey McCrudden

Seconded by Carol Ann Knox

13. Appointment of Archivist

The Chair stated that Christopher Sanders, our current Archivist, is willing to remain in this post.

Proposed by Muriel Bone

Seconded by Revathy Nayar

14. AOCB

Christopher Sanders stated that there were currently three Branch Newsletters (Autumn, Winter and Spring) but felt that perhaps a newsletter could be issued in the summer months. It was pointed out that in addition to the main newsletters short newsletters were issued when the need arises.

Muriel Bone stated that it was a concern that there was a lack of volunteers for Committee positions. She felt that all Branch Members had a responsibility to support the Branch and that Members should be willing to put something back into something they get a lot out of. The Secretary remarked that it might be necessary in the future to adjust the Branch Constitution so that there is more flexibility with regard to making it possible for an Ordinary Committee Member to then become an Office Bearer or Convenor.

Carol Ann Knox felt that the Branch Committee should investigate the possibility of organising hybrid AGMs so that those with family commitments could attend through a Zoom link. The Chair stated that this was already an option for those unable to attend a Committee Meeting. Lyndsey McCrudden added that the start time of 7p.m. on a weeknight was also an issue. Susan Ewington remarked that another committee she was a member of meets on a Sunday afternoon.

Debra McAlees stated that the documents which had been given to her to assist with her Linked Group were very useful. She asked if it would be possible for a list of forthcoming dances to be put on the Branch Website. The Secretary pointed out that these are listed in the Scottish Country Dance Events in Scotland website and Scottish Country Dance Database website but that it should be possible for a link to be added to the Branch website and by clicking on that link a document with a list of dance dates would be able to be downloaded.

Sebastian Wanless stated that a survey would be sent to all RSCDS members by the beginning of July. He asked if RSCDS Glasgow Branch Members could please complete this survey.

Debra McAlees stated that the Branch Youth sub-Committee would be scoping out a Youth Strategy and asked if any Branch Member would be interested in being involved. She added that the RSCDS Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system would be launched on the 19th of June.

The Secretary asked Sebastian Wanless how the £6 for those wishing the RSCDS magazines would be collected - by the Branch or directly by the RSCDS? Sebastian stated that this would be explained in the forthcoming Scottish Country Dancer Magazine which would be sent out to Members soon. He added that the CRM would become live in July or August and rolled out to Branches after that.

15. Date of next AGM – Thursday 20 May 2027

The Chair thanked everyone for attending, for their support of the Branch Committee and for their help in keeping Scottish country dancing going in the Glasgow area. She closed the meeting at 8.17pm.