

COBTREE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP

Minutes of the AGM held at Grove Green on 2 May 2018 at 8 pm

1. **Apologies for absence:** Trevor Graves, Barbara Pearce, Sue Ekrem, Sarah Lavender, Suzie Birchall, John Buckle, Jan Day, John Day, Margaret Harwood, Sarah Hanks, Jan Webb. There were 31 members attending the Meeting so the Meeting was quorate.

2. **Minutes of AGM held on 26 April 2017** – proposed by Sandy Catterall and seconded by Michael Webb that they were an accurate record of the Meeting. There were no matters arising.

3. **Chairman's Report** – full Report attached to the Secretary's Minutes.

Dick welcomed us to the Meeting and said another successful year had passed for Cobtree. The average weekly attendance since the 2017 AGM was 35.7 people. The highest figure being 47 on 23 March and the lowest was 23 on 20 December. We held three very successful dances over the year, two at Grove Green and one at Ditton Community Centre dancing to Ian Muir, and also a Christmas Dance. Dick mentioned about the way in which personal data is held is being altered from 25 May onwards and wanted to assure people that any personal data the Club holds will be securely protected, both by location and password, and its use is strictly limited. This item will be covered separately later on in the Agenda.

Financially we have managed to once again cover all our commitments and have given £4,800 to Maidstone MENCAP. This has been achieved largely due to careful management by Sue and Brian and also to sponsorship and donations, one donation being the full cost of Ian Muir for the Summer Dance. Dick asked if anyone had an upcoming anniversary or birthday and would be interested in sponsoring if they could please let the Committee know in good time as bands and halls often get booked up two years in advance. Donations have been supplemented by the huge efforts of the demonstration teams who have performed over the year at various events ranging from Gavin Astor Nursing Home through retirement groups to Burns' event.

Dick said the future of the Club we hope is looking good. The MC rota now shows 12 people who have offered their services. We are delighted to welcome the return of Bob and the arrival of Andrew, Elaine and Sue to our regular team. Our Constitution needs amending and will be dealt with later in the Agenda. Our cheques for Maidstone MENCAP will be presented at the Fayre on 9 June at which we have been asked to provide a demonstration team. One of our Members has offered financial support for the Summer Dance so the venue has been changed from Grove Green to Ditton. Dances have been booked right up to February 2019, so there are great events to look forward to along with 50 Wednesday evenings.

Dick thanked us for being supportive and a wonderful group of folk – who still keep on chattering!

4. **Treasurer's Report** – Full Report Accounts and Income and Expenditure Analysis attached to the Minutes. Brian explained he was presenting the Report because Sue had booked a long holiday in Ireland and Cyprus before the date of the AGM was fixed and is not returning to the UK until the end of the week. Brian thanked Ian for checking the Accounts and for his advice on the layout and consistency of the reporting.

This year our income has exceeded our expenditure by £1,244.41, which is £367.13 more than last year, but just £177.41 more than the donations from demonstrations and sponsorship. Our income this year was £9,554.70 compared to £9,834.45 last year, the main change being a lower income from the Summer Dance. Also the donations from demonstrations were up by 47% so many thanks to the participants.

Our main source of income – the subs and membership fees – was almost unchanged last year.

Expenditure was down by almost £650 because we owed rent at the beginning of the 2016-17 year and we had Caledonian Reelers play for us at the February dance in 2017. Everything else was little changed.

The Summer Dance was a great evening and very nearly achieved our aim of breaking even before the very generous donation.

The September Dance was a sell out and raised £366.91. The Christmas Dance is meant to be a party for us and as such only made £87.26. The February Dance was also a sell out and raised £342.81. The September and February Dances make a lot of money but are a problem for Esther as she has to limit ticket sales and consequently has to turn people away.

The hourly rent of the hall has increased slightly as has the cost of refreshments, despite Eileen's magnificent efforts. Both Summer Dances for this year (2018) and 2019 will be at Ditton with Caledonian Reelers and Ian Muir playing respectively, and both dances will have sponsorship.

Brian said that he did not propose any change to either the weekly subscription or the annual membership.

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Brian said that Sue will not be continuing as Treasurer due to personal and other commitments, so a new Treasurer will have to be elected later in the proceedings.

Jane Whittington proposed and Carolyn Wilder seconded that the Accounts were agreed – carried unanimously.

5. KASS Report – Helen said that we had never had a KASS Report before but as many Clubs do, we thought we ought to explain why Cobtree belongs to KASS. The current subscription to KASS is £12 to support the admin and web site and we also pay for insurance which is organised by KASS. We give a donation of £20 a year towards raffle prizes at dances. Apart from insurance the main benefit of KASS membership is the use of the web site. The Committee believes that membership of KASS is valuable and should be continued.

6. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Cobtree – Helen said that the new regulations mean we need to make only a few changes to our systems. Names and contact details needed to contact Members are on a database which has been stored on her computer, but in future it will be stored on a memory stick and will be password protected. This will be kept by one member of the Committee. Ian was concerned that the information would only be held on one stick, but Helen confirmed it would be securely backed up elsewhere. Alan said that you had to seek active consent and Helen confirmed this. Brian said forms were available for inspection covering the consent position.

7. Proposed alteration or amendment to the Constitution – Dick explained why we wanted to alter Rule 10 and he read out the proposed alteration, to which Alan proposed a small amendment. Proposed by Alan Nightingale. Seconded by Bob Hunt. Two abstentions. Carried by majority.

Dick read out the proposed alteration to Rule 11. Andrew Runnells queried the word “displaying” and was satisfied with the explanation given by Dick. Proposed by Michael Webb. Seconded by John Todman. Three abstentions. Carried by majority.

Dick then read out the proposed addition to Rule 19 (19.5). Proposed by Esther Barford. Seconded by Michael Webb. Carried unanimously.

8. Election of Officers and Committee Members – Trevor Graves, Sue Ekrem and Jan Webb have all resigned from the Club. They have all worked very hard and Dick thanked them for their help and kindness.

Chairman: Dick Barford. Proposed by Esther Barford and seconded by Michael Webb carried unanimously. Michael Webb proposed a vote of thanks to Dick.

Vice-Chairman: Helen Knell. Proposed by Esther Barford and seconded by Sarah Lavender carried unanimously

Secretary: Eileen Stener. Proposed by Sandy Catterall and seconded by Michael Webb carried unanimously

Treasurer: Brian Knell. Proposed by Jane Masters and seconded by David How carried unanimously.

Ticket Secretary: Esther Barford. Proposed by Ernestine Lawrence and seconded by John Todman carried unanimously.

Members of the Committee. Sandy Catterall - proposed by Esther Barford and seconded by Michael Webb. Michael Webb – proposed by Jan Webb and seconded by Dick Barford. John Todman – proposed by Esther Barford and seconded by Helen Knell. Dealt with en masse and all carried unanimously.

Brian said the reason why he ceased being Treasurer was because he could not do the website as well. Now that he is going to be Treasurer again he had been approached by Linda Williams offering help with the day to day maintenance of the website which will help Brian, and he asked if anyone else would like to add to that he would be grateful. Andrew Runnells said that in principle he would give some assistance.

9. Election of KASS Representatives – Currently Brian is our voting rep and Trevor Graves is non-voting. Brian explained about Meetings. Brian said he was willing to continue and was proposed by Dick and seconded by Sandy. Helen was then approached and agreed to be the non-voting rep, so was proposed by Andrew Runnells and seconded by Jane Whittington. Carried unanimously.

10. Election of Accounts Checker – Brian said he hoped Ian would continue being Accounts Checker. He has been a terrific help in the past. Ian is happy to continue. Brian proposed and Sandy seconded. Carried unanimously.

11. Any Other Business – Alan Nightingale said we do not appear to thank people who have been sponsors. Dick said that we do indeed thank people if they want it known.

The Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.