

COBTREE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Grove Green Community Centre

on 4 May 2016 at 8 pm

1. **Apologies for absence:** Jan Webb; Michael Webb; Trevor Graves. Sue Mortley; Muriel Greenstead; David How; John Day; Andy Ellender; Alan Nightingale; Joy Hollamby; Monica Nash; Phyllis Bowman; Sarah Hanks. 35 voting members present.
2. **Minutes of AGM held on 6 May 2015** – proposed by Sandy Catterall and seconded by Mary Pole that they were an accurate record of the Meeting – carried unanimously.

Matters arising – Jane Whittington said the Chairman and Vice Chairman were supposed to be spending less time reading out the parish notices, but this did not seem to be happening. Dick said that these had, in fact, been curtailed but he would endeavour to curtail them even further.

A motion to formalise the 7.30 slot viz: ‘The 7.30 slot will normally be used to familiarise people with dances from the programme including associated footwork and patterns as necessary, proposed by David Davies and seconded by Trevor Graves was carried unanimously.

3. **Chairman’s Report** – full Report attached to Secretary’s Minutes
Dick welcomed everyone to the Meeting which was tinged with sadness by the Members who are no longer with us.

He mentioned that all sorts of statistics are kept to show what the Club has achieved over time. One of these is that Jane Masters achieved 100% attendance on all the 51 Club nights and was accordingly awarded a memento. Music for Club nights came from 114 of the 152 CDs available to the Club, the vast majority of weekly dances had been selected from Saturday night dances held throughout the County which Dick encouraged us all to attend if we possibly could.

2014 saw a new dance in September which was repeated in 2015 and, together with the “No Haggis Dance” in February this year proved to be a great success. Thanks to a generous donation we will be having Caledonian Reelers playing for us at the “No Haggis Dance” in February 2017. The 2015 Summer Dance band was kindly paid for by two of our Members, and Ian Muir will similarly be paid for by some of our Members at the next two Summer Dances.

The Club has once again been able to donate £4,800 to Maidstone Mencap. The £800 donation to the playschool was accompanied by a new Father Christmas who was extremely popular and has been invited back this year with his elf helper. The £4,000 was donated at the Mencap Summer Fayre where once again the Cobtree Demonstration Team put on a very worthy display. The Fayre this year will be held on 18 June and we need volunteers for the demonstration team, and Dick encouraged members to sign the form which was being circulated.

Once again the MCs have proved a very willing team, although Bob Hunt has decided to return to work and feels unable to carry on the role at present. However we will welcome him back when he retires for the second time. Dick thanked the rest of the MCs for their sterling work.

As a result of the questionnaire regarding colour coding, in view of the results it has been decided to revert to the old method of announcing when a dance is difficult.

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Dick said many thanks should go to the small group of volunteers who help week in week out at Grove Green to set up and take down everything for our weekly sessions. Likewise thanks should go to the Committee who never seem to be fazed by anything. If anyone would like to join the committee they are more than welcome.

Finally Dick thanked the Members who make the Group what it is. During his time as Chairman of KASS he has visited all but one of the KASS Clubs, all of which had a great camaraderie. However Cobtree Members are the chattiest by a long way and the fact that they care for each other in times of need is a wonderful factor. He thanked everyone for being such a fantastic group of people.

4. **Treasurer's Report** – full Report Accounts and Income and Expenditure Analysis attached to the Minutes.

Sue thanked Ian for checking the Accounts and also his advice. She also thanked Brian for his support and patience over the past year.

Looking at the detail of total income there appears to be an increase from last year. However, we need to take into account that the rent for the hall was not being invoiced at the right time and consequently being paid two months in arrears. Sue has now started to prepare the cheques in advance so by the time they are cashed they will be shown as paid at the end of the appropriate month. There was an increase in weekly subs but quarterly subs have decreased. We have lost some members, and it would be good if those not currently annual members could sign up. Donations from demonstrations are down by £180. Dick has regularly been MCing at another Club and donating the expenses payment to the Club. £19 was raised by the sale of favours but this did not go into the account until March this year. Looking at expenditure we have spent almost the same amount as last year and we have continued to be able to raise income from subs, donations and dances. Therefore we have been able to give Maidstone Mencap a donation of £4,000. Eileen was thanked for continuing to be thrifty with the sourcing of consumables. We have managed to keep the ticket price at £11 for our Summer Dance on 25 June at Ditton Community Centre when Ian Muir will be playing as this dance has been sponsored, as have the February Dance and Summer Dance next year. Sue did not propose any changes to the fees this year, but maintaining income is an ongoing challenge and if more members could pay their subs quarterly this would be a great help.

Sue thanked everyone for their input and asked if there were any questions.

Jane Whittington enquired about the donations made by members and whether they wished to remain anonymous and was told that they did. She consequently proposed a vote of thanks to all the people who had recently made donations.

Geoff Boocock asked if membership had decreased and was told that the numbers were down by 3.

Carolyn Walder proposed and Patsy Gosling seconded that the Accounts were agreed – carried unanimously.

Helen Knell then said she was very grateful to Sue for taking on the job of Treasurer which took an awful lot of weight off Brian's shoulders.

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5. Election of Officers and Committee Members

Chairman: Dick Barford. Proposed by Trevor Graves and seconded by Brian Knell – carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman: Trevor Graves. Proposed by Dick Barford and seconded by Esther Barford – carried unanimously.

Secretary: Eileen Stener. Proposed by Esther Barford and seconded by Dick Barford – carried unanimously.

Treasurer: Sue Ekrem. Proposed by Eileen Stener and seconded by Helen Knell – carried unanimously.

Ticket Secretary: Esther Barford. Proposed by Sue Ekrem and seconded by Brian Knell – carried unanimously.

Web Site Manager: Brian Knell. Proposed by David Davies and seconded by Sue Ekrem – carried unanimously.

Committee members: David Davies, Helen Knell, Jan Webb and Michael Webb were willing to stand again and were proposed en-masse by Dick Barford and seconded en-masse by Trevor Graves. John Todman was proposed by Sarah Lavender and seconded by David Davies. This brought the committee up to the 11 members as allowed by rule 5 of the constitution. These 5 committee members, not previously mentioned, were voted on and carried unanimously. KASS Representatives are currently Brian Knell voting and Trevor Graves non-voting.

6. Election of Accounts Checker

Ian McIntosh was proposed by Sue Ekrem and seconded by Brian Knell. Ian was happy to continue and the vote was carried unanimously.

7. Any Other Business

Ian McIntosh explained what the job of Accounts Checker entailed, i.e. checking that whatever the Treasurer had done had been done correctly. He said that the weekly subs are not always correct and he pleaded with us to pay the correct money and also tick the correct box on the weekly register.

Geoff Boocock asked if he could have a new advertisement card as his was out of date. Dick would organise this.

Cynthia McIntosh brought up the subject of the parish notices. She said that at another club she attends only forthcoming dances one month ahead are announced. Dick said that he did try to do that except perhaps where we know that dances will sell out quickly. We have to do the parish notices as not all people look at the folder.

Dick thanked everyone for attending the Meeting which closed at 8.50 pm.