

COBTREE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP

Minutes of the AGM held at Grove Green on 26th April 2017 at 8.00 p.m.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Trevor Graves, Oliver Leisten; Sue Mortley; Jane Whittington; Ann Stott; Alan Nightingale; Sandra Nightingale; Barbara Pearce; Daphne Bower; Geoff Boocock; John Day; Jess Hunt; John Todman. There were 31 members attending the AGM and as we have 66 members in total the meeting was quorate.
2. **Minutes of AGM held on 4 May 2016** – proposed by Carolyn Walder and seconded by Helen Knell that they were an accurate record of the Meeting – carried unanimously.
Matters arising – there were no matters arising.
3. **Chairman's Report** – full Report attached to Secretary's Minutes

Dick welcomed us to the Meeting and said what a year it has been for Cobtree. We have overcome the weather, slippery floors and heating problems and still managed to enjoy ourselves.

We have met for 51 weeks of the year and during that time we have had an average attendance of almost 37, with the best attender being Jane Masters, who is working hard for another 100% attendance next year. Our highest attendance was on 15 June with 54 dancers, and the lowest was on 28 December when only 18 people attended. We have danced 232 different dances and used 163 of our 174 discs to supply the music.

The demonstration team has performed three times during the year, unfortunately none of these were full days in school this year. Various members have attended five youth groups ranging from Rainbows, through Tigers to Wolf Cubs. The largest demonstration was at the annual Mencap Summer Fayre when two sets of dancers once again coped with the sloping ground at Mote Park. We are certainly keeping alive the enjoyment of Scottish Country dancing.

Financially we have managed to continue with our donation of £4,800 to Maidstone Mencap which will hopefully be repeated next year. Dick hopes we will be able to put forward two or three sets at the forthcoming Fayre on Saturday 10 June. He said he would leave the Treasurer to give a detailed report, which includes some very generous donations which have helped. Dick said if anyone was celebrating an event and wanted a Scottish celebration then they should let the Committee know, especially if they would like to provide some sponsorship.

Dick thanked the Committee for their sterling work and commended them for dealing with floor problems whilst he was away.

Our gallant band of MCs call in a most professional manner and encourage us to perform a wide variety of dance formations and deserve our support.

Dick said our friendship and welcoming nature has been the greatest strength of the Club over the last year, marked by the fact that 21 dancers joined us for short periods when their own Clubs were closed for the summer or at other times.

Finally Dick thanked us for making his job as Chairman of the Club such a pleasure.

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

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Sue thanked Ian for auditing the accounts and for his advice. She also thanked Brian for his continuing support and for his guidance in putting together her Report. Brian and Sue have shared the financial tasks over the year which has been a big help to Sue.

We have been given notice of a 5% rent increase this year. However the increase shown on the balance sheet is due to unpaid rent at the end of last year.

Dances did very well during the year, by attendance, income and enjoyment. We were again able to give £4,800 to Maidstone Mencap, but this would not have been possible without donations, amounting to £1,785, from members. However we cannot rely on this level of donations in the future, so the Committee will now and in the future need to consider how dances are managed, and the level of fees for subs.

On the total figures for the Accounts we have had a successful year with income exceeding expenditure by £877, only £49 down on last year, but that was only because of the donations previously mentioned.

The increase in assets minus liabilities (£1,281) was only that high because of the liability of £554 last year which did not exist this year.

Sue said that after consultation with Brian they recommended that there would be no change in the annual subs at £2 or the weekly sub fees of £3 for this year. Fees for quarterly subs amount to a discount of three weeks per quarter, so are a "good buy".

Bob Hunt said he felt we should not struggle to keep the weekly subs down as if, after a period of time, they were increased by a large amount it would come as a shock. Brian Knell replied and said it is our aim to cover the rent, the KASS insurance and the website by the annual subs.

Carolyn Walder suggested we should increase the annual subs from £2 to £3 and asked if this could be dealt with at the AGM. Dick confirmed this could be done. Therefore Carolyn proposed the increase to £3 in June and this was seconded by Kath O'Donovan. 30 Votes for, 1 against and no abstentions - Motion carried.

Bob Hunt proposed and Jan Day seconded that the Accounts were agreed – carried unanimously.

5. Election of Officers and Committee Members

Chairman: Dick Barford. Proposed by John Todman and seconded by Trevor Graves carried unanimously

Vice-Chairman: Helen Knell was proposed by David How and seconded by Eileen Stener carried unanimously

Secretary: Eileen Stener proposed by Esther Barford and seconded by Dick Barford carried unanimously

Treasurer: Sue Ekrem proposed by Brian Knell and seconded by Michael Webb – carried unanimously

Ticket Secretary: Esther Barford. Proposed by Trevor Graves and seconded by John Todman carried unanimously.

Website Manager: Brian Knell. Proposed by Eileen Stener and seconded by Trevor Graves carried unanimously.

Dick said that according to the Constitution we can have between 4 and 7 other Committee Members 2 of these committee members had already been elected in Esther and Brian. John Todman, Michael Webb, Jan

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Webb and Trevor Graves, (who has stepped down as Vice Chairman), were willing to stand again. As there were no new members who wished to serve on the committee, these four members were elected unanimously.

6. Election of Accounts Checker

Ian McIntosh was proposed by Bob Hunt and seconded by Michael Webb. Ian was happy to continue. 30 voted in favour, 1 abstention. Motion carried.

7. Any Other Business

Eileen Stener précised an article which a Cobtree member had given her from the Kent Messenger regarding the plight of the roof at Cobtree Hall and the cost of remedying the faults. She said it would be nice to think that some of our donation had gone towards helping the restoration project. Sue interjected and said that it had, as apparently a "thank you" letter had been received from Maidstone Mencap. Eileen concluded by saying that pipistrelle bats had been found in the roof and they had also been given a cosy home.

David How asked who were the KASS reps and Dick said that Trevor Graves is the non-voting representative and Brian Knell is the voting representative.

Dick said that he would be coming round shortly asking for volunteers for this year's Mencap Fayre.

Sue Ekrem said she would be willing to be an MC. Dick was very grateful and said she could receive some training.

Ian McIntosh proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Dick thanked everyone for attending the Meeting which closed at 8.45 pm.