

Valley Scottish Country Dancers
Annual General Meeting
28 May, 2013

The 2013 Annual Meeting of the Valley Scottish Country Dancers was held at the home of Pat Loughnane on Tuesday, 28 May, 2013.

Present: Fred Huntley, Gail Huntley, Ingeborg Mair, Peter Ryan, Duncan Keppie, Maggie Keppie, Gail Gordon, Nellie Garvey, Edna McLean, Rob Raeside, Jane Hynes, Andrew MacRae, Jean MacRae, Sue VanHorne, Pat Loughnane, Crawford Van Horne, Dorothy Robbins, Adrian Walsh, Diane Walsh, Vicky Austin, Keith Austin, Janet Whitman, Marvin Ladouceur, Debbie Ladouceur, Donna MacPhee, Jenny Magee.

Regrets: Heather Watts (secretary), June Jain.

1. **Call to order:** co-president Sue VanHorne welcomed the members and called the meeting to order at 7.35 p.m.
2. **Minutes** from the 15th May, 2012: The minutes were available on the web site. Following a brief review of the document, the minutes were approved on a motion by F Huntley, seconded by Peter Ryan. Motion carried, one objection.
3. **Business arising from the minutes.**
 - a) Instructional CDs: D Keppie reported that 119 of the 200 CDs have been sold, and the surplus of funds distributed to the band members. He also reported that all dances composed by Duncan and Maggie have been provided to TAC and to the SCD Dictionary project.
 - b) Second CD player: a second CD player has been acquired.

4) **Correspondence:** there was no known correspondence.

5) **Reports**

Treasurer: Janet Whitman reported a loss in equity of \$402.41. The accounts were reviewed by K McRae. A surplus of \$325.27 was realized on the Burns supper. Expenses were higher owing to reservation of rehearsal space for the Upper Clements demonstration last summer, CDs for the Middleton group, and because of the higher bonus provided to instructors last year. The full report is available in the [accompanying file](#). J Whitman moved the approval of the minutes, seconded by F Huntley. Carried.

Teachers: see attached report. M Keppie reported the year, with a new venue at Riverside Court, Kentville. Maggie moved the adoption of her report, seconded by Keith Austin. Motion carried.

Burns Night: A meeting was held after the event. The financial statement was provided with the financial report. All speakers are now in place for the next Burns supper.

Advance class report: nine classes with 1-3 sets were held through the year. Each class started with a new formation, with variations introduced, including set & Petronella in tandem, teapots, 2 and 3 couple knots, set and link in 2, 3 and 4 couple groupings, rosette, poucette, Highland Schottische poucette, ancient poucette, and Schiehallion reels. D Keppie moved adoption of the report, seconded by Vicky Austin. Carried.

Website Manager: Rob Raeside reported on average *circa* 20 hits a month with a substantial increase noted in December and January. He continues to maintain listings of events, useful links, and posts images from past events. R Raeside moved the adoption of the report, seconded by P Ryan. Carried.

President's report:

The Valley Scottish Country Dancers had another enjoyable year in 2012/13. The venue at Riverside Court, although overly warm at times, is very spacious and it is nice to have an extra space when the group splits into different experience levels. We have welcomed several new dancers and it is good to have new faces as well as those familiar ones. Monthly advanced classes have continued throughout the year thanks to Duncan and Maggie Keppie and often attract dancers from other groups (although the attendance of your co-Presidents has been a bit spotty!). Many thanks to Duncan and Maggie and to Rob Raeside for their splendid teaching throughout the year.

VSCD gave 2 demonstrations in January at the Wolfville Nursing Home and Riverside Court. In April we were invited to the Wolfville Nursing Home for their Volunteer Appreciation tea where we were awarded a plaque in commemoration of all our past demonstrations. Last August we gave 2 demonstrations in one day at Upper Clements Park to an almost non-existent audience on a very hot day but those participating enjoyed ourselves and got free passes which we used between demos on the rides. In addition, the Upper Clements demo team put on a short program for the Wolfville Farmer's Market.

Burns Night was, as usual, a great success and I would like to thank the organisers, Gail Archibald, Inge Mair and Keith Austin. Much of the success is due to the dancers giving of their time to decorate and to June Jain for getting the speakers. Thanks also to the Macadians without whom the dance portion would not be nearly as much fun.

I would like to thank our treasurer, Janet Whitman, our secretary Heather Watts (who is unable to attend tonight) and Rob Raeside for taking the minutes. Others deserving of recognition are members-at-large June Jain, Jean McRae, and Fred Huntley; the telephone committee, Jane Hynes and Edna MacLean; and thanks to Rob Raeside for maintaining the website. Finally, thank you to Eden MacLean for hosting our year-end barbeque and to Pat Loughnane for hosting the AGM.

It was moved by Sue VanHorne and seconded by Jane Hynes that the president's report be received; motion carried.

Wilmot Scottish Country Dance class: S VanHorne reported:

The Wilmot Scottish Country Dance classes started with a 6 week term in the fall of 2012 for complete beginners, averaging 11 dancers each night, and some of those dancers bought Burns Night tickets and attended the free classes in Kentville. We then had an 8 week term in February and March, 2013. Unfortunately, most storms seemed to hit on our Monday dance nights and a combination of people being reluctant to drive in winter and various individual situations, meant very poor attendance most nights, some night as few as 3 or 4 dancers. We need a minimum of 7 to cover the cost of the hall so I phoned around and explained this and attendance improved slightly for the last half of the session. At the end of each term we had a social evening and I would like to thank the dancers from the Valley SCD for their attendance at these classes. Many thanks to Duncan and Maggie for their help and support in planning and providing instruction books and direction. Thank you to the VSCD for their gift of CDs for the Wilmot classes. In the future, we will conduct an 8 week fall term and encourage those interested to attend Burns Night and continue dancing at the VSCD classes.

S VanHorne moved the acceptance of the report, seconded by M Keppie. Carried.

6. New Business

- a) *Minidisks*: D Keppie reported that the Lunenburg group stopped using minidisks and the group has offered them to the VSCD. We would need to acquire a minidisk player as the current CD-minidisk player is showing signs of terminal failure. Duncan moved that he be permitted to investigate further with option to buy, to a maximum of \$50, seconded by P Ryan. Motion carried.
- b) *Upper Clements Park demonstration*. An invitation has been received to repeat the demonstration this year. D Keppie contacted Upper Clements to review possible dates. Plans are still preliminary, and M Keppie asked for an expression of interest, which would involve a commitment to regular practices. It was agreed that a demo be considered with no expense to the VSCD.
- c) *Fall and Winter Classes – Date and Fee Structure*
1st Term – 17 September – 26 November (snow date on week following) with 3 Tuesday nights in January 2014 (7, 14, 21). Burns supper is on 25 January.
2nd Term – 4 February – 6 May, 2014 with snow dates in following weeks.
- d) *Fee Structure* – F Huntley moved that we retain the fee structure with \$60 for the term or \$6 a night for drop-ins and people paying by the night. First time visitors are free. Seconded by K Austin, motion carried.
- e) *Bonuses for instructors*: Bonuses of \$600 (to Keppies) and \$200 (to R Raeside) were approved.

7. Report of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee reported that the following names are presented for approval by acclamation:

Co-Presidents – Susan and Crawford VanHorne
Past President – Ingeborg Mair
Secretary – Heather Watts
Treasurer – Janet Whitman
Members at Large – Julia O'Malley, Fred Huntley
Phone Committee – Jane Hynes, Edna McLean

The slate was acclaimed.

In addition, Keith Austin and Ingeborg Mair agreed to return as Bums Night coordinators.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8.40 p.m.. A social time followed. Thanks were expressed to Pat and Lori for their hospitality.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Raeside,
Secretary *pro tem*

**2012 – 2013 Teachers' Report, prepared by Maggie Keppie
for the Valley Scottish Country Dancers AGM held May 28, 2013**

The biggest news for our regular Tuesday night Scottish Country Dance classes this year was the new venue: upstairs at Kings Riverside Court in Kentville. Recreation Director Paulin Doucette had been so pleased with our demonstration ceilidh in January 2012 for the residents, she was enthusiastic to try regular classes as a means of bringing fun, sociable events into their weekly routine. From our point of view, the venue has been convenient, spacious, inviting, and easy on the feet and legs, thanks to the wooden floor. It does tend to be very hot, since it is kept warm for the seniors who live there. And we have to make allowance for the doors being locked after 7 p.m., so access can be a problem if anyone arrives late. We owe a big thank-you to Peter Ryan and a few others who have made sure the door is open from 7 to 7:30 if the desk supervisor is away. Also thanks to Edna MacLean for keeping her cell phone available in case someone arrives late and calls to be let in. We also appreciate Edna's diligence in keeping us well supplied with mints to refresh flagging dancers during the 2-hour class each night!

A wonderful benefit of the new venue has been the availability of a second room to facilitate a second level of teaching for part of each evening. Typically we start altogether, in the big exercise room, with a warm-up dance and limbering-up exercises for everyone, followed by an easy dance which we work on together. Then follows a half-hour split, with Rob and either Maggie or Duncan generally each coaching a dance for the more experienced dancers in the main room, while the other Keppie takes the others to a smaller room for more in-depth work on one dance, with more focus on steps, handing, and specific figures. We re-unite for a short interval, during which any necessary announcements are made, and then conclude the evening with three or four more dances for everyone, making a special point to repeat the dance worked on by the newer dancers just before the break. This pattern of teaching has allowed us to move ahead more quickly with intermediate and even advanced figures for everyone, including Rights and Lefts, Petronella, Rondel, Poussette (quick and slow), Reels of Six, half wheels, Allemande, corners, "meanwhile" Set & Cross or Cross & Set, Teapots, and also some speciality steps, such as Tulloch step, Set and Spring Step, and Set and Spring Points. The more experienced dancers have also worked on the Knot, Double Triangles, Promenade Reels, Set and Link, Mirror Reels, and Diagonal Reels in 2-couple dances. We end each class with cool-down stretches.

The fall term began September 18, with 2 classes that month, 5 in October, 4 in November, and 3 in January, making a total of 14. The mid-term Social was held October 30, and the holiday Social Saturday, December 29, at the Anglican Church hall on Church Street, kindly arranged by Edna MacLean. Demonstration ceilidhs were held in January at the Wolfville Nursing Home and Kings Riverside Court. We were unable to go to Evergreen this year because of a very busy week leading up to Burns Night, including attendance by many of the dancers at the special Burns Tribute choral concert presented by the Kings Chorale. Duncan has given notice that we will not do January demonstration ceilidhs at the Wolfville Nursing Home and Evergreen anymore since winter weather can be problematic. Instead, we will offer St. Andrew's Demos in late November for various homes and residences, assuming enough dancers are able to participate. Last summer a select group of dancers practiced regularly through the summer and then performed at Upper Clements Park in August. The show was well-received, and we have been asked to return.

The second term began February 5, with 4 classes in February, 3 in March, 5 in April, and 2 in May, for a total of 14. The mid-term Social, originally scheduled for March 19 was cancelled due to an alarming forecast and held March 26. Once again we gained new dancers through Burns' Night, with a number of ticket-holders joining the January classes, and some deciding to continue afterwards. There are now typically 4, and sometimes 5 sets of dancers each night, with an increasing sense of sociability and lots of amazing energy. It is important to acknowledge the wonderful work Janet does each week in keeping track of attendance (for insurance purposes) and money. Thank you, Janet! And a big thank-you to Rob Raeside and Duncan Keppie for sharing the teaching load each evening.