

**Valley Scottish Country Dancers
Annual General Meeting
June 2, 2015**

Minutes

The 2015 annual general meeting of the Valley Scottish Country Dancers was held at the home of June Jain in Coldbrook on Tuesday, June 2, 2015.

Present: Sue Van Horne (chair), David Cogswell, Robert P. Raeside, Janet Whitman, Inge Mair, Garth Gordon, Fred Huntley, Jane Hynes, Peter Ryan, Gail Gordon, Helen Lawson, Murray Lawson, Keith Austin, Vicky Austin, Gail Huntley, Adrian Walsh, Diana Walsh, Duncan Keppie, Dorothy Robbins, Maggie Keppie, Bill Malesky, Rajeev Chowdhury, Nellie Garvey, Julia O'Malley, Edna McLean, June Jain, Jenny Magee, Heather Watts (recorder).

1. Chairperson Sue Van Horne welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 7.40 pm
2. **Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting**
The minutes of the 2014 annual general meeting are posted on the website, and as all those present had seen them, the minutes were not read at the meeting. Moved by Fred Huntley seconded by Garth Gordon that the minutes be adopted. Carried.
3. **Business Arising from the Minutes**
There was no business arising from the minutes.
4. **Correspondence**
Maggie reported receiving an invitation from the Wolfville Nursing Home to attend their "thank you" tea. Other than that there was no known correspondence.
5. **Reports**
(Following are summaries of the reports. The full reports are on file in the Secretary's record book.)

a. Treasurer:

Janet Whitman presented her financial summary covering the period May 30, 2014 to May 21, 2015. There was a balance forward of \$3,736.66. Regular class fees and expenses resulted in a profit of \$1,234.00. The advanced classes showed a loss of \$110.00, and the Burns supper a profit of \$131.01. We now have to pay bank fees. The socials cost a total of \$65.00. Administration fees amounted to \$300.01, and miscellaneous expenses including instructors' bonuses, two new grinders for the haggis makers, honoraria for the Scotch on the Rocks dance workshop and a donation to the fire department came to \$1,496.65. Total income was \$8,613.04, total expenses \$9,249.55 for a loss of \$636.51. The loss in equity of \$636.51 was not considered a problem. The current balance is \$3,100.15. The Society books have been audited and approved by

Ken McRae. Moved by Keith Austin and seconded by Jane Hynes, that the financial summary be accepted.

b. *Teachers:*

The teachers' report was presented by Maggie Keppie who noted another very successful year with an average of 25 to 35 dancers each night. The Riverview Court location allows there to be two levels of instruction for part of each class, with a quicker paced segment for experienced dancers led by Maggie and Rob, and a skill-sharpening segment for newer dancers led by Duncan. The format for the evening remains the same with a warm-up, practice of difficult moves and a variety of familiar and new dances, with both square and long sets, ending with a cool-down.

The severe winter storms this year pushed the end of the term forward but the final barbeque and dance will be held at Edna MacLean's home on Church Street, and St. John's Church Hall, on June 20th.

c. *Advanced Class:*

Duncan presented the Advanced Class program for the 2014-2015 season which covered eight classes with one or two sets dancing each time. On occasion a trio from Truro, one or two dancers from the Metro area and a couple from PEI joined the local dancers. It was noted that Ed Porter from the South Shore and his wife Lanie, who often used to come, had been experiencing illness and it was decided to send a card from the group because of the affection felt for them both.

d. *Burns Night:*

Keith Austin presented the report of the 40th anniversary Burns Night activities. The evening was almost a sell-out despite the weather, and produced a profit of \$131.01. The quality of the food and service was as usual excellent with Pat Loughnane in charge of catering, with our own famous haggis makers contributing the star attraction of the dinner. The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Scott Brison, MP, and other speakers included Noreen and Rob MacGregor, Eric Mapplebeck, Kimberly Turpin with Father James Mallon who gave the Toast to the Immortal Memory. Despite continuing power failures during the dance, the Port Williams Fire Department, emergency lighting and cell phones enabled most of the dancers and participants in the Ceilidh to carry on and finish the evening with Auld Lang Syne.

Co-chair Inga Mair reported that the 41st annual Burns Supper will be held on Saturday, January 23, 2016, and that the Port Williams Community Hall is tentatively booked.

Special thanks was given to June Jain for her wonderful work over many years in attracting the excellent speakers for the toasts. She will continue to serve on the Burns Committee but will pass on to others the task of finding the speakers. It was also mentioned how smoothly the kitchen and food service runs since Pat Loughnane took over catering.

e. Webmaster:

Webmaster Rob Raeside reported 250 hits on the site this year with the peak month being January, the peak day Tuesday, and the peak hours between 4 and 5 pm. The website continues to list current news, officers, upcoming events with maps and directions, as well as photographs from past events.

f. Co-Presidents:

Sue Van Horne reported on behalf of Crawford and herself. She paid tribute to the excellent teaching of Maggie, Duncan and Rob throughout the year, and the hard work of the Burns Night Committee which produces such an enjoyable result each January. The executive was thanked for all their work during the year, Edna MacLean for the use of her home for haggis making, the barbeque and arranging the use of St. Johns Hall, and June Jain for hosting the large annual general meeting in her home.

The group was saddened this year by the loss of one of its dancers, Heida Cogswell, and glad that David continues to attend classes. Several other dancers had various health issues to cope with this year.

Duncan and Maggie held a very successful summer workshop titled “Scotch on the Rocks” at the Old Orchard Inn in August. Another is scheduled for August of 2015. Dance teams performed two demonstrations this year: one to celebrate the official release of the Annapolis Valley tartan for which Duncan and Maggie choreographed a special dance, and one with the Gaelic choir for the residents of Riverside Court close to Burns Night.

g. Wilmot Scottish Country Dance Class:

Sue Van Horne reported on the dance class she has started in Wilmot. There was an eight week term starting in October, with nine to fifteen dancers per evening. Seven of the Wilmot dancers attended Burns Night this year. The keen but lighthearted group is not run as a club and money is collected only to cover the cost of the hall and supplies with the nightly fee being waived if the money is not needed.

6. New Business

- Duncan reported that the Barn accommodation at the Old Orchard Inn was really too small for the Scotch on the Rocks workshop. He suggested in future using a venue like Bishop Hall in Greenwich, the only drawback being it did not have a second usable room. He mentioned it could be used for the Christmas dance with the possibility of dinner at the Stems Cafe nearby.
- Keith reported that Garth Gordon had agreed to co-chair the Burns Supper committee with Inga Mair. Moved by Keith Austin seconded by Diana Walsh that Garth become the new co-chair. Carried.
- David Cameron has volunteered to join the Burns Night Committee. The Nominating Committee is to contact Dave and confirm this arrangement.
- Bonuses for the teachers were set at \$600 for Duncan and Maggie, and \$200 for Rob, as last year. Moved by Jane Hynes, seconded by Adrian Walsh. Carried.

- The Burns Night Committee were asked to come up with recommendations for the cost of the supper next year, to assist with setting ticket prices.
- Dorothy expressed to Edna MacLean the great appreciation of the group for the use of her house for the haggis making, and for the upcoming summer barbeque. June Jain was warmly thanked for again hosting the annual general meeting. Both tributes were confirmed with enthusiastic applause.

7. Report of the Nominating Committee

The report of the Nominating Committee was prepared by Edna and Dorothy and read by Dorothy. The proposed slate for the 2015-2016 dance year is:

President:	Fred Huntley
Past Presidents:	Sue and Crawford Van Horne
Treasurer:	Janet Whitman
Secretary:	Jennie Magee
Members at Large:	Julia O'Malley, Diana Walsh
Phone Committee:	Jane Hynes and Edna McLean

Moved by Edna MacLean, seconded by Dorothy Robbins that the report be accepted. Carried.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business Sue moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Before dispersing for the social part of the evening, dates were set for the 2015-2016 dance year as follows: First term: 15th September – 24th November, Christmas dance 29th December. 5th January - 19 January. Second term: 2nd February – 3rd May.

Duncan proposed that the Christmas dance be held at Bishops Hall. Passed by consensus.

Respectfully submitted
Heather Watts, Secretary