

Valley Scottish Country Dancers

Annual General Meeting

May 30, 2017

The 2017 annual general meeting of the Valley Scottish Country Dancers was held at Kings Riverside Court, Kentville on Tuesday May 30th 2017 at 7:30pm.

Present: Fred B. Huntley (Chair), Keith Austin, Peter Ryan, Inge Mair, Julia O'Malley, Janet Whitman, Edna McLean, June Jain, Susan Haynes, Marvin Ladouceur, Debbie Ladouceur, Gail Huntley, Duncan Keppie, Maggie Keppie, Wendy Stewart, Kathy Walker, Robert Raeside, Wendy Raeside, Sue Van Horne, Crawford Van Horne, Nelly Garvey, Debbie Harris, Rajeev Chowdhury, Bill Malesky, Diana Walsh, Adrian Walsh, Jeff Hosick, Vicky Austin (Recorder)

Regrets sent from Dorothy Walker Robbins.

1. Welcome & Call to Order

Chairperson (President) Fred B. Huntley welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

2. Minutes of 2016 Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting were posted on the website.

MOTION: To approve 2016 AGM Minutes with no additions or removals.

Moved by Keith Austin Seconded by Susan Van Horne. Motion carried.

3. Business arising from the minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

5. Reports

The following are summaries of the reports, unless noted otherwise.

The full reports are on file in the secretary's record book.

A. President's Report

Fred Huntley presented the VSCD President's report. He began by thanking the membership for the privilege of holding this position for two years. He noted that membership continues to grow. He expressed thanks to Garth Gordon and the Burns Committee and volunteers for a successful Burns Supper, to Duncan and Maggie Keppie and Rob Raeside for their dedication, to the Executive Committee and to Janet Whitman, Treasurer. He made special mention of the passing of long time member and friend, Andrew McRae.

MOTION: To approve the President's report.
Moved by Fred Huntley Seconded by Marvin Ladouceur. Motion carried.

B. Treasurer's Report

Janet Whitman presented the financial statement for the Valley Scottish Country Dancers covering the period from May 6, 2016 to May 17, 2017. There was a balance forward \$3,534.53. Regular class fees and expenses resulted in a profit of \$2,158.00. The advanced class has a loss of \$112.00 and the Burns supper a profit of \$184.75. Other expenses to the group being: socials total \$125.00, bank fees were \$38.25 and administration fees amounted to \$327.29, Instructor bonuses were \$800.00. Card, gift and miscellaneous items were \$127.71. Total Income was \$9,616.00, total expenses were \$8,903.50 leaving a profit of \$712.50 and a current balance of \$4,247.03. The Society books have been audited and approved by Ken McRae.

MOTION: To approve the financial statement of the VSCD.
Moved by Janet Whitman Seconded by Wendy Raeside. Motion carried.

C. Webmaster's Report (Full Report)

Rob Raeside maintained the website through the year, providing details about the regular classes, advanced classes, Burns night, special dances, and other events, as well as links to relevant suppliers and other Scottish Country Dancing websites. The webhost was taken over last year by Aabaco Small Business and the statistical interface has been "simplified". It is not possible to provide the exact number of site visits, but graphically it appears that web visits have declined slightly since last year (estimate of 200 hits). Activity peaks around December and January, and again in May, when special events are being arranged. The website is available as a resource to all members if people want to post relevant information. Duncan Keppie and the current president are provided with full information how to access the site. If anyone else wants to participate in running the site, please contact Rob.

MOTION: To approve the Webmaster report.
Moved by Rob Raeside Seconded by Inge Mair. Motion carried.

D. Burns Night

Garth Gordon prepared the report which was read by co-chair, Keith Austin. The 42nd Annual Burns Supper was held at the Port Williams Community Centre on January 21st, 2017. The planning committee comprised Keith Austin, David Cameron, Garth Gordon, June Jain, Edna Mclean, Inge Mair and Patrick Loughnane. Approximately 175 attended the event. Mike Butler was MC, Rob Raeside addressed the Haggis, June Jain was the Haggis Bearer and Sandy MacMillan the piper. Our toasters were Kent Williams, Sherman Williams, Robin Bustin, Jane Bustin, and Christy Ann Conlin (Immortal Memory). The Selkirk Grace

and After Grace (in English and Gaelic) were given by Rev Ivan Norton and Murdina McRae, respectively.

Sincere thanks were noted as follows to: Pat Loughnane and staff, the Macadians and guest fiddler Heather Cameron, the Ceilidh performers, the superb haggis makers, Wendy and Rob Raeside, and David Cameron. As well, we thank Brian Tupper and the Port Williams Community Hall staff. The Committee is grateful to all who contributed time and talent in making the event a success. Financially, we realized a modest surplus of \$184.75.

MOTION: To approve the Burns Supper report.
Moved by Keith Austin Seconded by Rajeev Chowdhury. Motion carried.

E. Teachers' Reports

Regular Classes

The report was read by Maggie Keppie. Teachers were Rob Raeside, Maggie and Duncan Keppie. Weekly classes were generally well attended, often with 5 to 6 sets on the floor. The general pattern included a simple warm-up dance, a few minutes of limbering up exercises and then two dances for all to enjoy. After that, the group split into two levels, with the more advanced dancers working in another room with Duncan. The two groups rejoined after the break.

The group enjoyed a social at the mid-point of each term, an end of term social in December and the annual Burns Supper in January. We look forward to the end of term social on June 10th.

A special dance, A Tribute to Wendy, was created as a thank you to Wendy Raeside for her many contributions over the years. Some of the dancers participated in a Ceilidh for the residents of Kings Riverside Court in January, a special Royal Tea Dance in May at Truro to celebrate the 35th year of the RSCDS in Nova Scotia, and also an evening of dancing at an environmental education conference at Acadia during the long weekend in May. Twelve dancers were invited to Tara and Dan's wedding to help demonstrate Scottish Country dancing and encourage guests to participate in the Grand March and several simple dances.

MOTION: To approve the Regular Classes report.
Moved by Maggie Keppie Seconded by Keith Austin. Motion carried.

Advanced Classes

The report of the advanced class was read by Duncan Keppie. Seven advanced classes were held with 1-2 sets each time. Various new formations were on the program each month, including: Mairi's Wedding Reels, Schiehallion Reels, Ancient Poussette, Snake, Crossover Reels, Tandem Reels and Intersecting Reels.

MOTION: To approve the Advanced Classes report.
Moved by Duncan Keppie Seconded by Marvin Ladouceur. Motion carried.

Wilmot Group (Summary for information only)

The Wilmot Group generally has two sets of three dancers each week. There are two terms lasting eight weeks. The cost is \$5/class to pay for the Hall rental in Wilmot. Classes are free once the Hall is paid for. There is no teacher salary. Sue Van Horne expressed appreciation to the Valley dancers who attended the end of term dance and social at Wilmot in May.

6. New Business

Revision of Bylaws (distributed in advance of AGM to members by email)

MOTION: to approve revisions to the bylaws
Moved by Rob Raeside Seconded by Keith Austin.
No discussion ensued. Motion carried.

Rob Raeside reviewed the main changes to the bylaws as amended:

- Incorporation of gender-neutral language
 - Fiscal year to run from May to May
 - Appointment of auditor not required, sufficient to have financial reviewer
 - Modify quorum for AGM from ½ of membership to ¼ of membership
 - Executive Committee to include Burns Night Committee Chair
 - Executive Committee to include Events Coordinator
 - Votes of the Executive Committee may be made electronically
 - Class instructors will include instruction for an Advanced Class
 - Duties of Burns Night Committee Chair and Events Coordinator outlined
 - New position of Webmaster
- MOTION: to amend the motion, to remove the position of Webmaster from the Executive Committee.
Moved by: Rob Raeside Seconded by Keith Austin.
No discussion ensued. Motion carried

Bonus for Teachers

- MOTION: To give bonus amounts of \$400 each for Duncan & Maggie Keppie and \$400 to Rob Raeside.
Moved by Keith Austin Seconded by Rajeev Chowdhury. Motion carried.

Dates for VSCD classes in 2017 and 2018

- MOTION: To set the dates for next year's dance term as follows:
Term 1: September 12 to November 28, 2017 and January 2, 9 and 16, 2018
Term 2: January 30, 2018 to May 11, 2018
Burns Supper date: January 20, 2018

Moved by Rob Raeside Seconded by Sue Van Horne. Motion carried.

7. Report of the Nominating Committee

As presented by Edna McLean, the proposed nominations for the 2017-2018 VSCD Dance Term are as follows:

President: Dorothy Walker Robbins

Past President: Fred Huntley

Treasurer: Janet Whitman

Secretary: Vicky Austin

Burns Night Committee: Keith Austin (Chair), Rob Raeside, Marvin Ladouceur

Event Coordinators: Debbie Ladouceur and Marvin Ladouceur

Members-at-large: Julia O'Malley and Diana Walsh

Phone Committee: Jane Hynes and Edna McLean

MOTION: To approve the nominations as put forward.

Moved by Edna McLean Seconded by Wendy Raeside.

President/Chair called three times for further nominations. None given. Motion carried.

8. Adjournment

Keith Austin moved for adjournment of the 2017 AGM at 8:25pm.

On behalf of the VSCD members, Maggie thanked Fred Huntley for his term as President. All present applauded in appreciation.

Respectfully submitted by Vicky Austin (Secretary)