

St Michael's Scottish Country Dancing Club

2023 AGM Minutes

Thursday 11th May 2023

Davis Hall, Howell Hill, West Camel BA22 7QX

1. Members Present: All committee : Caroline Fisher (CF) Chairman, Caroline Hill (CH) Treasurer, Elspeth Wright (EW) Secretary, Linda Jackson (LJ), Cressida Goslin (CG), Pam Winter-Goodwin (PW-G) and 23 members.

Apologies: Jane and Stuart Cattermull, Gill Forsyth, Ray Lee, Margaret Manfield, Jean Peacock, Pauline Richards, Clive and Marion Warren-Smith

2. Minutes of AGM held on 12th May 2022 approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising. From 10.AOB – Suggestion club should have a trained First Aider.

Angela Coldman asked for outcome of this point.

Chairman CF said that club now had a disclaimer on website and cribs which reads:

“The club cannot accept responsibility for any loss or injury sustained during the evening” and no trained First Aider will be available.

4. Chairman's Report.

'A Summary of St Michael's 40th year – the problem is where to begin – a busy year.

On 22nd June 2022 we had an in-club party to celebrate The Queen's Birthday and her Platinum Jubilee Year. All wore lots of red, white and blue, Elspeth and husband provided a stand of flags for the stage and we had a delicious tea, cakes and drinks supplied by the committee. This was followed by our summer Charity Dance, 3rd week of August, well-attended and we sent a handsome cheque to Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance, this was helped enormously by a huge raffle run by Pam and Cressida.

During the summer an advertising campaign was mounted for our club ending in us welcoming several new members and David Acland came over to help set them under way – reeling!

An enjoyable evening was spent in November with Anita Wilson teaching, then we set about learning and practising new dances and the programme for Thursday 15th December – our Christmas Party Dance, to Jean's music – a good evening had by all with many from other clubs.

Term started again on 5th January and plans and preparations for our 40th Anniversary Dance began in earnest.

En route we had a teaching evening with Liz Beckinsale in February, Andrew White calling at the start of April and Clive Warren-Smith on 4th May.

Our big day – 40 years of St Michael's Club was celebrated on 15th April 2023. 73 people attended and the Dewhursts played marvellously. The hall looked great and very colourful. Margaret Lawrence cut the beautiful celebration cake, and the catering team – Jill, Margaret, and Michaela – did a wonderful job with all the food and drinks. Tom Stokes and his wife Irene photographed everyone, and hopefully an album can be put together for posterity.

We made a profit too! For Air Ambulance.

Will everyone give a big clap to the committee and helpers for such a splendid effort. Thank you to Margaret Manfield for her lending photos from the past.

Now I would like on behalf of all in the Club to thank the following:

Jean Hill for all the music she sorts out each week – no mean task – and for calling too, plus running the website, and printing the programme for the 15th April - all the callers – Jean, Dot, Mike, Gwyneth, Margaret Manfield, Tom and Maggie; and Dot and Margaret also for setting the programme for special evenings, and Gwyneth for posting the dances on stage each club evening, then Gary Duffield and Tom Stokes again for photos in general and on the website.

Maggie – again, for sweeping floors and general help and lending her length of tartan for the stage. Dot with clipboard – calling and flowers when well enough to do them, also liaising with committee and callers' sub-committee. Margaret Manfield – celebration cake commissioning, table flowers at Dances, calling and Dance programmes. Cressida – for lovely flowers in the hall here and raffles. Jill and Margaret Lawrence – for running the kitchen etc, Pam Winter-Goodwin for all the social occasions, general help and 40th balloons blown up with Elspeth; Les Jackson – for auditing our accounts, and generally helping out when needed - generally a hammer in hand; and last, but not least: Nic Hill – window and door opener, making machines work / key locks etc – and especially acting in my place as deputy Chair, when, due to health problems, I couldn't be here.

I couldn't be more grateful.

I hope I haven't left anyone out and now I bow out.'

Caroline Fisher was given a vote of thanks by EW, and presented with a gift voucher for her much appreciated contribution to the running of the club as Chairman over the past four years.

5. Secretary's Report

'I don't wish to duplicate what has been said by our Chairman Caroline Fisher, or will be said by our Treasurer Caroline Hill, so I will try to keep to solely secretarial matters.

• Membership

We have had a very successful year in terms of new membership – 12 new members have joined us over the year 2022 -2023.

A very warm welcome to these new members - Anita Wilson, Anthea Pryce, Caroline Lewars, Gary and Julia Duffield, Gill Forsyth, Jane and Stuart Cattermull, Marion and Clive Warren-Smith, Ray Helliard, and Sue Adams. Looking back to the membership pre-Covid, there were 43 members- we now still have 43. Seven of those new members had not danced before, so it is truly heartening to see such enthusiasm in enjoying a new activity. We also have some regular and occasional dancers who are not members.

– I believe the club is going from strength to strength thanks to the members, but we must keep up the drive for new members, which brings us on to -

• Advertising promotion

In the bid to attract new members, there was an advertising campaign , with notifications appearing in the Sherborne Times, The Conduit, West Camel Chronicle, Camels Magazine, Evolver, Queen Camel Post Office,. Articles and photos were sent to the Yeovil Press and Western Gazette regarding our very successful Charity Dance held on 20th August, but unfortunately it coincided with the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, so this may have contributed to the reason why the article was not in either publication. The Carswellian published an article about our Queen's Jubilee Dance with photos and this unique publication continues to be hub of information for the South West of England. I will say one thank you at this point – to the amazing Felicity Hooper who single-handedly publishes, collates and distributes the Carswellian.

We are also affiliated members of the RSCDS, which means we have a platform for advertising our club's weekly dances and social dances, and anything else, worldwide.

- **Website**

Our website developed by Jean Hill is proving to be the Gold Standard that other clubs aspire to – I, and I'm sure others, have heard lots of very favourable comments about it – it always appears informative and up to date and, most importantly, very welcoming.

Our Queen's Jubilee Dance, Charity Dance, Christmas Dance and 40th Anniversary Dance have all been very well attended and successful. All members help in our club – I will leave individual thanks to the Chairman, but just want to mention last year's secretary, Margaret Manfield who has made the job of this new secretary so much easier by providing guidance, and for stepping in while I was away over the summer and winter.

Please everyone, continue to read our noticeboard for future events throughout the south west.

- We have the Davis Hall booked for 2024 and 2025 and look forward to welcoming the Dewhursts for both the 2024 and 25 Spring Dances. ' END

6. Treasurer's Report 2022 -2023

'22 -23 has been a very good year financially for the club. This has been largely due to increased membership numbers.

Income

Membership subs of £200 - up £45 from last year.

Weekly club fees of £1,447.50 – up £500 from last year.

Dance ticket sales of £1,881.80 (Spring Dance, Charity Dance and Christmas Party night)

Raffles/donations £319.50 - much the same as last year.

That comes to a total of just over £3,800 - £1,800.00 up on last year.

Outgoings

Of these, Hall Hire of £1,020 is by far the greatest expenditure (but we still pay considerably less for our hall than many other clubs.)

Donations totalling £875.00 to the DSAA

Band charges of £395.00

Insurance £115.00 – the same as last year.

Refreshments £122.92

Sundry other expenses totalling £694.17 – these cover dance expenses, general club expenses and another item which will be revealed later.

At the end of the financial year we had an extremely healthy bank balance of £2,474.85.

Thanks go as usual to Les Jackson for checking our accounts.

With regard to our recent 40th Anniversary Dance, we had a cash surplus after all expenses had been deducted and as a Committee agreed to donate this to the DSAA. I have sent them a cheque for £200.

Finally, this is my last day as Treasurer. I have to say to my surprise I have quite enjoyed it, particularly greeting members and visitors as they come in and depriving them of their hard-earned cash! '

Caroline Hill was given a vote of thanks by EW, and presented with a gift voucher for all her work as an excellent Treasurer over the last four years.

7. Election of Chairman, Treasurer, and Committee

Chairman – Maggie Westley was proposed by Mike Suggs, and seconded by Gwyneth Suggs. Nic Hill was proposed by Dot Stark. Nic Hill declined to stand, and there being no other nominations the club members agreed without a vote to welcome Maggie Westley to the post of Chairman.

Treasurer – Ray Helliard was proposed via text message, verified by the secretary, by Ray Lee, and seconded by Julia Roles. There being no other nominations, the club members agreed without a vote to welcome Ray Helliard to the post of Treasurer.

The remaining committee members were asked if they would like to continue on the committee. All agreed to do so.

8. Callers

The dance callers were asked if they were happy to continue calling the dances for the next year – all agreed.

9. Dates for Terms and Dances for Year 2023 -2024

2023

End of Term Thursday 29th June

100th Anniversary RSCDS Tea Dance Sunday 2nd July

Charity Dance Saturday 19th August

New Term Thursday 7th September

Christmas Party Dance Thursday 14th December

2024

New Term Thursday 4th January

Spring Dance Saturday 20th April

AGM Thursday 9th May

End of Term Thursday 27th June

Charity Dance Saturday 17th August

New Term Thursday 5th September

Christmas Party Dance Thursday 19th December

10. Any Other Business

As a memento of 40 years of the St Michael's Scottish Country Dancing Club, all club members were invited by the outgoing Treasurer to select a shoe bag, purchased from the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. The shoe bags were available in green, blue, purple and black, and all club members expressed their appreciation.

There being no further business, the St Michael's Scottish Country Dancing Club Annual General Meeting for 2023 was ended at 9.15pm.
