

Minutes of Committee Meeting on 16th July 2026

(Held at the home of Irene Robinson)

Apologies

Poppy Struben and Sue West.

In Attendance

Liz Mason-Honorary Treasurer, Graeme Dickson-Honorary Secretary, Val Sewry, Linda Rowles, Sue Locke, Iren Robinson, Rosie Dickson.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Accepted and signed.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented figures for our income and expenditure from the 1st April up to the 12th July. The Secretary will send this report to committee members. Our income including a reduction by transfer to charity was £514.50. Our expenditure including insurance of £89 was £934.69. This gives a loss of £420.19. The deposit account had a closing balance of £10,689.98 and the community account had a closing balance of £2,253.71. Ian Muir and Angela Young are booked for Dawlish next year. Angela's fees are to be discussed. Graham Berry will play ceilidh items only.

Hall Floor

The secretary was pleased to report that the Southill hall floor is due to be refurbished on the week commencing 24th August. This will involve sanding the floor, a deep clean and then an application of three coats of a satin seal. It is hoped that the work will be completed in a week. The cost is £3,180.

Ceilidh

Our original plan was to hold a ceilidh on the afternoon of Friday 4th September with an advertising campaign similar to last year. However, as a result of the scheduled floor work, the committee felt that should there be an overrun there was a risk of the hall not being

available which would make cancelling an advertised event difficult. It was agreed to postpone the ceilidh to a later date, perhaps after Christmas. We will hold a 'Back to Dancing Ceilidh' on Thursday evening the 10th September where members will be encouraged to bring friends and family. There will be no advertising. Irene will organise booking the musician for this ceilidh and will ascertain his costs. The evening will start at 6.30pm. A programme will need to be produced in advance for the musician.

Plan for Beginners

We will run a course to be called improvers for beginners/improvers for 6 weeks at 6pm commencing from the 17th September. This will take us up to the Dawlish weekend. The teachers will be Sue Locke and Irene. Sue Heath and Linda will assist.

Liz Mason questioned the availability of teachers, as she is continuing to teach elsewhere for the first half of Thursday classes. She is concerned as to what the plan of action is should no teachers be forthcoming. Irene felt that members could be encouraged to call and she will discuss this with Val Braithwaite

Dawlish Update

Val Sewry reported that 2 people have had to pull out but we had 2 immediate replacements from the waiting list. Monies need to be paid by the 11th September. She will contact dancers giving at least 3 weeks' notice. Val will need the dance programme at least 1 month before the event as she has to send this to the musicians. The teachers have agreed to complete this before the 21st August. On Friday evening Sue will call the first half and Irene the second half. On Saturday evening Liz will call the first half, Graeme Salisbury will be asked to MC. William Williamson will be asked to sing for the ceilidh, Ewan Galloway and Josephine will be asked to play. Irene suggested a ceilidh item from the committee.

Day School Update

Irene reported that Sarah Horne has agreed to take the Day School on 9th January 2027. Irene noted that Sarah is not a RSCDS qualified teacher, but the committee, including the teachers, did not consider this to be a problem. The secretary will book the hall. There will be no musician for the day school and we will clarify that it is not suitable for complete beginners. We are pleased that Ewan Galloway will play for our class again on 14 January and at Bournemouth on 13th January.

Ball Update

The secretary confirmed that all the bookings were in place for 20th March 2027. There was a general discussion as to how we could reduce our costs. We may not advertise in The Reel. We will probably have to increase the cost to £30. It was unanimously agreed that the food should be provided by a caterer rather than club members due to Health and Safety considerations. We would like to have the piper and grand march again. A save the date flyer will be emailed out when classes recommence in September.

AOB

The committee will need to decide our charity for the year before the end of term. Various charities were discussed and a shortlist will be presented to members. We will continue with Friday challenge dances once a month and dates were agreed. We will finish on 17th December with a party night. We agreed we would not have a Christmas meal this year. Liz proposed that the club donate £30, paid from our debit card to the Scottish Country Dancing Dictionary. The secretary suggested that we donate some funds to the Carswellian and he will write to Felicity regarding this.

Date of next meeting

Date for our next meeting is Friday 25th September at 2pm at the home Irene Robinson.

GRD 03/08/2026