

Berkhamsted Strathspey & Reel Club



Minutes of the AGM held 18th April 2023 at Potten End Village Hall, Berkhamsted

1. President's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The President, Anne Newton, welcomed 51 members to the AGM.

Apologies for absence were received from: Ruth Barratt, Alison Bateson, Robert Bateson, Chris Collings, Lizzy Conder, Fiona Cumming, Alastair Cuthbertson, Carol Cuthbertson, Sally Dussek, Pat Elliott, Jan Halse, Rachel Heath, Rose Kreloff, Sarah McNamara, Janet Ridgway, Gillian Stratford, David Wide

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2022 AGM

Approval of the minutes: proposed by Gerry Elliot, seconded by Di Stevens.

Agreed by all as a correct record and signed as such by the President.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Annual Report (circulated before the meeting)

Petula apologised to Robert Baker-Glenn and Jane Rose for a mistake on page three of her report. Robert was the MC for Burn's Night not Jane. Petula amended her report.

There were no questions.

Anne thanked Petula for her report, and the report accepted by all present.

5. Treasurer's Report (circulated before and at the meeting along with draft accounts)

The Treasurer, Simon Cumming, summarised the main points of his report and explained that the accounts were presented as a draft and still subject to final audit.

There was one question from Robert Baker-Glenn regarding the expenditure and surplus for the club tartan. Simon explained that the main expenditure on the tartan had been last year but some purchases for the tartan had fallen into this year.

Anne thanked Simon for his report.

Approval of the report and accounts subject to the auditor's scrutiny was proposed by Ann Bradbury, seconded by Jane Rose and were accepted by all present.

6. Annual Subscription

Anne put forward the recommendation from the committee that our club membership should remain at £40 per annum: proposed by Simon Cumming, seconded by Andrew Brown and accepted by an overwhelming show of hands.

7. Charity for the year 2023 – 2024

Before discussions on the club's Charity for 2023-24, Anne explained that she had received a donation of two bottles of expensive whisky and one bottle of very expensive red wine for the club to use to raise money. Anne proceeded to auction all bottles to raise money for Lindengate. The auction was a huge success and added some

light-hearted fun to the meeting. The winning bids were: 1st bottle of whisky, £45 - Brian Rose; 2nd bottle of whisky, £40 – Petula Martlew; bottle of red wine, £45 – Gerry Elliott.

No proposals for a new charity for our club to support this coming year had been received. Thus, Anne proposed that we support Lindengate for another year. This proposal was overwhelmingly supported by members at the meeting.

8. Awards

Anne thanked all members of the committee (including Sue Waller who left the committee during the year), all helpers not on the committee, teachers and musicians for their support and work during her time as president. Anne thanked MCs Carol Stoker and Brian Rose who stepped down from their role as MC earlier in the year.

Two bottles of wine were presented as a thank you from the club to each of:

- the MCs for their hard work (on a voluntary basis) throughout the year, making our Tuesday club nights, and other events, so enjoyable: Robert Baker-Glenn, Andrew Brown, Gerry Elliott, Ken Martlew, Jeremy Newton, Jane Rose and Stephen Webb;
- Nick Brown for his work auditing our accounts.
- Gerry Elliott for editing the Newsletter, sending out Bulletins etc.

Anne reported that the two missing, original Bateson Medals had been found. As a consequence of this, she presented Stephen Webb with an original Bateson Medal to accompany the “new style” one he had been presented with at the 2022 AGM. Stephen thanked Anne for the very kind thought which he appreciated greatly.

Anne presented Gerry Elliott (past president, teacher, MC, newsletter/bulletin editor, archiver) with the Bateson Medal in recognition and honour of his outstanding contribution to our club. Gerry spoke of his gratitude and the honour he felt at receiving the award and how much it meant to him.

As out-going president, Anne, expressed her grateful thanks to all club members for supporting her during her presidency. Andrew Brown and Petula Martlew both received a special thank you from Anne for their unstinting help and support. Anne presented them both with beautiful orchid plant.

9. Temporary Additional Ordinary Committee Member

Anne reported how the temporary committee member role (replacing the Events Secretary) had worked during the year. She sought permission from members once again, to continue with this temporary increase to assist in the continued management of the unfilled Events Secretary office until the constitution is changed. This was agreed by all present.

At this point Anne Newton handed over the presidency of the club to Andrew Brown and commented that she had enjoyed her time as president very much even though the role had its challenges at times.

On behalf of the committee and club members Andrew thanked Anne for her successful presidency and overseeing the events of our Platinum Anniversary. Andrew presented Anne with a Celtic necklace and plant for her garden.

10. Election of Officers and Committee Members

There were three vacancies: one for Vice President and two ordinary committee members.

Petula had received two nominations for ordinary committee members

	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Committee member	Sheila Ashman	Clare Brown	Stephen Davis
Committee member	Karen Thomas	Petula Martlew	Mike Aylward

There was just one nomination for each of the vacancies, so these were elected without the need for a vote. The vacancy for Vice President remains open and Andrew hopes it will be filled during the year.

11. Appointment of Honorary Auditor

Nick Brown was proposed by Brian Rose and Seconded by Clare Brown. Nick was promptly elected.

12. Timing of Club Nights

Andrew gave an overview of the response of members following the recent Newsletter request for views on the timing of our club nights. Of 18 replies 16 expressed preference for an earlier start of 8pm; one suggested a start of 8.30pm and two were indifferent.

The impact on starting earlier was explored fully, most notably the set-up time for MCs and Teachers. Andrew invited a show of hands those in favour and those against of starting Club Nights at 8pm. An overwhelming majority voted for with only four members voting against.

Andrew said that the committee would liaise with the Gary, Site Manager with a view to starting Club Nights at 8pm with effect from September and subject to review. Jan and Steve Davis offered to help teachers set up the Courtauld Room.

13. Highland Ball 2024

Andrew began by thanking those members who responded to the newsletter request for views on the Highland Ball 2023 and asked for comments on the following: Why did so few Club Members support the Highland Ball last year? Discussion took place around the choice of venue, the ticket price and if it was value for money, whether to have a hot, cold or light meal and effective advertising. Andrew thanked members for their comments and said the committee would consider these at their next committee meeting.

14. Garden Dances

Garden Dances are greatly enjoyed by club members. Andrew reported we planned to start on 10th June and run through to the end of July and that we have seven volunteers so far. Andrew made a request for another couple of volunteers to host Garden Dances in June and July this year.

15. Club Lunches

A request for a volunteer to reinstate and organise Club Lunches for members was made.

16. A.O.B.

The response to the Newsletter request for comments about Monday Night Classes was solely from members who currently attend the classes. Andrew asked those members who do not attend Monday classes to consider sending comments on what would entice them to attend to Gerry and Joan.

Di Stevens thanked the committee, on behalf of the club, for their excellent work over the last year.

There being no other business Andrew closed the meeting at 9.47pm.