



**Minutes of the AGM 2024**

**Tuesday 30 April**

**1. President's Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

Andrew Brown welcomed 50 members to the AGM.

Apologies for absence were received from: Mike Aylward, Patricia Bandle, Ruth Barrett, Alison Bateson, Helen Bodsworth, Anne Bradbury, David Catterall, Alistair Cuthbertson, Carol Cuthbertson, Jan Davies, Steve Davies, Ann Dodd, Dawn Dorman, Pat Elliott, Malcolm Ferris Lay, Jan Halse, Colin Johnston, Jan Jones, Susan Koffler-Sluijter, Rose Kreloff, Stuart Kreloff, Sarah McNamara, Jon Mole, Michael Plumley, Patricia Steed, Anne Stickland, Gill Stratford, Karen Thomas and Leonie Tyas.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2023 AGM**

Approval of the Minutes: proposed by Brian Rose, seconded by Bill Barr.

**3. Matters Arising**

None.

**4. Annual Report** (circulated before the meeting)

Jane apologised for the incorrect spelling of Deborah McLachlan's name and the omission of Cindy Clarke from the list of teachers. An updated version of the report will be posted on the club website.

There were no questions and the report was accepted by all present.

**5. Treasurer's Report** (circulated before the meeting)

Simon Cumming, treasurer, summarised the main points of the report.

Gerry Elliott commented that the Ball Practice used to make a profit (in this financial year it made a loss of £11). It was suggested that the price of £5 for the whole day be increased - this is something which has already been proposed in committee.

There was a request for more information on the numbers attending classes and their profitability. Gerry made the point that the classes are a major benefit of BSRC and profitability should not be their raison d'être. A summary of Joan's analysis of class attendance will be shared with members in a newsletter.

Stephen asked if the insurance policy covered the shields - this will be checked.

Approval of the Treasurer's report was proposed by Gerry Elliott, seconded by Marjorie Brown and approved by all present.

**6. Annual Subscription**

Simon put forward the recommendation from the committee that the club membership should be increased from £40 to £42. It was agreed that "little and often" was the right approach to increasing the subscription. The increase was accepted by all present.

**7. Change to Financial Guidelines** (document circulated before the meeting)

Andrew summarised the two small changes proposed:

- a) a change in wording to reflect the fact that the Highland Ball is not expected to cover its costs.
- b) as there is no longer a requirement to have our accounts audited, the wording will reflect this and refer to the accounts being independently examined.

Stephen commented that there should also be a rewording to show that the tea dance is not covered by members' subscriptions but is now charged for. A further edit was agreed to clause 1 ii d replacing 'All the costs' with 'Most of the costs'.

The changes were accepted by the meeting.

## **8. Charity for the year 2024-25**

No new proposals for a charity to support had been received prior to the meeting, but Jane Rose commented that we have supported Lindengate for a few years now and perhaps it was time to consider a different charity, such as Great Ormond Street Hospital or a charity sending aid to Ukraine.

The comment was made that only a local charity will attract match-funding that Gerry Elliot is able to obtain, allowing us to double the contribution to our chosen charity. It was also noted that the amount we raise makes a significant contribution to a small charity, as opposed to a larger national one.

After a vote, it was overwhelmingly agreed by the meeting to continue supporting Lindengate in 2024/25.

## **9. Awards**

Andrew thanked all those who had worked in some way for the benefit of the club during the year.

He thanked Keith Anderson, who has taken on the task of updating the website with the weekly programme of dances and posting on the club Facebook page.

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

MCs: Robert Baker-Glenn, Andrew Brown, Joan Desborough, Gerry Elliott, Ken Martlew, Jeremy Newton, Jane Rose and Stephen Webb.

Nick Brown for his work auditing the club accounts.

Gerry Elliott for writing and sending out club communications.

Chris Collings was also awarded two bottles of wine for his work purchasing new club tablets and associated accessories on behalf of the club at an advantageous price and for loading the club music on to the new tablets. In addition, Chris was presented with a voucher for a free ticket to the 2025 Ball.

## **10. Constitution Changes** (document circulated before the meeting)

The principal changes suggested are the removal of the post of Events Secretary - the tasks are now spread between members of the committee - and the change from "audit" to "review" of the accounts. It was confirmed that the reviewer would still be an accountant but can be a member of the club who is independent of the committee.

In addition, the sentence stating that fees are due within 7 days of the AGM has been taken out with a related change to the article about membership. There is now no official deadline, but the membership secretary will send out an email asking for subs to be paid, after which a membership card is issued.

The changes were voted through unanimously.

### **11. Election of Officers and Committee Members**

During the year, Petula, Ken and Sally resigned from the committee and Trevor and Jane were co-opted. Trevor has agreed to stand as Vice-President, but as a new member of the club, suggested that Andrew continue for 2-years as President (instead of one year), giving Trevor a full 2 years as Vice President to learn the way the club is run. This proposal was accepted by the meeting unanimously.

Nominations had been received as follows:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Nominated by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
Vice-President	Trevor Clarke	Andrew Brown	Anne Newton
Secretary	Jane Wilde	Jan Davies	Jon Mole
Committee member	Anne Newton	Marjorie Brown	Jon Mole

All the nominations were passed unanimously.

There is one more vacancy for an ordinary committee member, which we hope will be filled during the year. Andrew thanked the whole committee for the work they had done on behalf of the club.

### **12. Appointment of Honorary Auditor/Financial Reviewer**

Simon Cumming proposed Nick Brown as Financial Reviewer, which was seconded by Anne Newton. All voted in favour.

### **13. AOB**

- a) Club lunches: Andrew asked if anyone was willing to take on the task of organising club pub lunches, to give extra opportunities for members to get to know one another and socialise.
- b) Safer Spaces. Clare Brown summarised the new Safer Spaces policy, which broadly follows the RSCDS guidelines on social etiquette around dancing. The document will be posted on the website. If anyone has concerns they should speak to Andrew Brown and Clare Brown - or, in their absence, anyone on the committee.
- c) Tea Dance. In the past, the emphasis was on inviting those who are not able to attend club nights; there are now very few members who are in this category. This will be changed so that the tea dance is an ordinary social dancing event in the club calendar. There will still be a long tea interval - though with just cake, rather than sandwiches and cake! Honorary members and their partners will still be invited and will not be asked to pay.
- d) Classes/club nights in June (from 2025). Members were asked if they would prefer to keep Monday classes in June or to instigate Tuesday club nights. There was an inconclusive vote, but members were asked to have a think about it and present their views.
- e) Di Stevens has stepped down as club representative on the PEVH committee and her job will be taken over by Stephen Webb.
- f) Bill Barr was thanked for coordinating the garden dances. There is a vacancy on 1 June for a garden dance, so please advise if you think you have a suitable garden and can host. The other garden dances are now published on the website and a link will be in a forthcoming newsletter.

Andrew was thanked for chairing the meeting, which closed at 9.30 pm.