Minutes of Wellington Region AGM, 5th November 2024, Petone Community House, 6 Britannia Street, Petone

Attending: Rod Downey (President), Kristin Downey, Sarah Epps, Lesley Campbell, Diane Bradshaw, Elaine Lethbridge, James Scott, Lynne Scott, Robert Vale, Joy Tracey, Debbie Stephens (Treasurer), Brenda Vale (Secretary).

1. Apologies: Elaine Laidlaw, Zoe Attwood, Denise Pitts, Désirée Patterson, Lee Miller, Michele Miller, Janice Henson, Philippa Pointon, Aileen Logie, Jeanette Watson, Alastair McCarthy, Angelica Edgle.
2. In recognition of the contribution to Scottish Country Dancing in the Wellington Region and elsewhere the meeting held a minute’s silence to remember

Edith Campbell

Bronwyn Maysmor

Noeline McQueen

Jean Denne

Allan Mason

Ian Taylforth

1. The minutes of the previous AGM were approved as a true record (Rod Downey/Elaine Lethbridge).

Matters arising:

* The New Dancers celebration report was completed
* The President wrote to the Branch about JAMS, including the cost, and received a letter confirming the Branch were acting on this matter.
* The region website is discussed later
* Delegates to the Branch AGM voted as requested
* Hogmanay was successful

1. There were no notifications of general business.
2. Reports

The President’s Report had been posted on the web prior to the meeting, so only highlights were voiced. These comprised the significant anniversaries of Lower Hutt and Capital City clubs; a higher than normal attendance at region classes with very positive feedback; the successful historical dances day; and the 19-20 sets at the New Dancers’ Celebration, all suggesting the region is doing something right.

Thanks were given to Aileen Logie for setting up the systems for class co-ordination and to Janice Henson for taking over this task.

The report was accepted (Rod Downey/Diane Bradshaw)

The Treasurer’s Report was circulated and had been previously posted on the website. Things highlighted were the income/expenditure on the balance sheet; all money for 2024-5 membership fees had been received on time and paid to Branch; costs of classes covered despite the increase in musicians’ fees; loss on Harbour City Happenings stemmed partly from the high level of content.

The report was accepted (Debbie Stephens/Joy Tracey)

The meeting then noted that entry fees for region classes will be increased in 2025 to cover the cost of rises in hall rents, higher fees to musicians and higher catering costs

Following this a question was raised about the organisation musicians for region classes. The assignation of musicians to region classes is done by the committee, bearing in mind overall costs, budget, and likely attendance. This maybe be later modified after consultation by the committee with the relevant tutor for each class.

Lynne Scott thanked the region for having new combinations of musicians in the 2024 region classes.

The verbal JAMS report from Elaine Lethbridge noted that juniors at Lower Hutt were going well and Seatoun also had a couple. Elaine Lethbridge is compiling a register of JAMS in the region with the thought of creating a social for them. The meeting was informed that the Branch have a new Youth Co-ordinator.

The Newsletter editor’s report from Désirée Patterson had been posted on the web. The meeting agreed with the proposal that in 2025 Harbour City Happenings will be electronic for all except two members without email. Sarah Epps is to liaise with Desiree Patterson over a format that would be easier to use on a mobile phone. The meeting thanked Désirée for her hard work as editor as the newsletter is much appreciated by all. A card was sent.

Kristin Downey talked to the archives report. More material has arrived for the website and Joy Tracey will pass on photos. Philippa Pointon has been going through the archived minutes to compile a timeline of major region events. The archives have a collection of dance programmes for club/region by year which may be useful when it comes to anniversaries. The meeting thanked those organising the region archives.

The reports on the region website had been previously posted. The Branch have agreed to host the region domain name and this will probably happen in March 2025. James Scott spoke to his report noting the region may need to change the website host to have more storage for archive material. He agreed to look how close we are to storage limits and when we might need to change.

1. The 2025 Region Committee

President: Rod Downey (Brenda Vale/Sarah Epps)

Vice President: Joy Tracey (Rod Downey/Janice Henson)

Treasurer: Sarah Epps (Lynne Scott/Janice Henson)

Secretary: Brenda Vale (Sarah Epps/Lynne Scott)

Committee Members

Zoe Attwood (Brenda Vale/Rod Downey); Lesley Campbell (Rod Downey/Janice Henson); Janice Henson (Elaine Lethbridge/ Rod Downey); Elaine Laidlaw (Brenda Vale/ Rod Downey); Elaine Lethbridge (Rod Downey/ Brenda Vale); Denise Pitts (Brenda Vale/Rod Downey); Lynne Scott (Janice Henson/Elaine Lethbridge); Debbie Stephens (Rod Downey/Brenda Vale)

Thanks were sent to Aileen Logie and Bruce Chapman who are stepping down from the committee and to Debbie Stephens stepping down from being Treasurer.

1. Region appointments

Pat Waite as finances reviewer

Désirée Patterson as newsletter editor

Elaine Lethbridge as youth co-ordinator

Lee Miller to post material on website

1. Officers’ expenses

These are to be as last year noting they are always retrospective

$200 for President, Treasurer and Secretary; $100 for newsletter editor; $75 for reviewer.

Approved (Rod Downey/Diane Bradshaw)

1. Branch AGM

Debbie Stephens, Joy Tracey and Elaine Lethbridge agreed to be delegates, each holding two votes.

The meeting noted the three issues for delegate votes (changes to Branch Constitution to meet changes in Incorporated Societies Act; appointment of auditor; nominations for Branch Committee) and agreed all were OK.

The meeting noted the more contentious issues were for individual voting. Not all members at the AGM had received the proposed changes. Joy Dick will be informed of this.

1. There was nothing to report from the RSCDS 95th AGM.
2. AOB

The meeting noted the proposal to hold three advanced classes next year with the third one taking a different format for those who do not want a technique-based class. It would be helpful to discuss this with appropriate people at clubs.

The meeting closed at 8.34pm.