

Minutes of 64th Wellington Region AGM, 4th November 2025,

Petone Community House, 6 Britannia Street, Petone

In Attendance: Joy Tracey (Vice-president and AGM chair), Janet Gootjes, Damon Collin, Peter Milne, Maureen Sullivan, Lesley Campbell, Elaine Lethbridge, Alison Trotter, Robert Vale, Désirée Patterson, Bruce Chapman, Anna Verhaegh, James Scott, Lynne Scott, Melva Waite, Peter Beaumont, Jeanette Watson, Andrew Oliver, Ann Oliver, Michael Laidlaw, Elaine Laidlaw, Jo Lockhart, Sarah Epps (Treasurer), Brenda Vale (Secretary), Debbie Stephens.

1. **Apologies:** Rod Downey, Kristin Downey, Denise Pitts, Zoe Attwood, Diane Bradshaw, Alastair McCarthy, Angelica Edgley, Gaye Collin Accepted (Joy Tracey/Jeanette Watson)

2. **Bereavements:**

The meeting held a moment to remember the passing of

- Gary Morris
- Janice Henson
- Helen Simmers

3. **Matters arising** from the previously posted minutes of the Wellington Region AGM 2024.

- Lesley Campbell has taken on the role of region class co-ordinator
- Later in the meeting James Scott confirmed that the Branch were now the registrant for the Region website.

4. **Reports**

a) **President's Report**

This had been posted on the web but was summarised for the meeting by Joy Tracey.
The report was accepted (Joy Tracey/Damon Collin)

b) **Treasurer's Report**

This had been posted on the web. The financial records have been reviewed and signed off by Pat Waite.

Speaking to her report Sarah Epps noted that the Wellington Region is financially sound and that they have made a small surplus from events in the past year. The Fugues class ran at a slight loss. However, as the financial year ends on 31st August this will affect the 2026 financial reporting.

It was noted that the Treasurer's report did not show the RSCDS membership money entering and leaving the account.

The report was accepted (Sarah Epps/Elaine Lethbridge)

c) **JAMS**

Elaine Lethbridge reported the Region currently has 9 JAMs, 8 in Lower Hutt and 1 in Seatoun. The numbers are low because it is hard to get young people interested.

d) **Newsletter**

Désirée Patterson presented her report which has now been circulated. The newsletter is widely circulated among the SCD community but Désirée Patterson needs an updated list of

Wellington region RSCDS members with their emails. The fact the newsletter is almost exclusively distributed by email means it can be longer than 8 pages and include full dance programmes.

The report was accepted (Désirée Patterson/Damon Collin).

5. **Election of Officers** -2026 Wellington Region Committee

President: Joy Tracey (Debbie Stephens/Elaine Lethbridge)

Treasurer: currently vacant

Secretary: Brenda Vale (Lesley Campbell/Andrew Oliver)

Committee: Elaine Lethbridge (Joy Tracey/Debbie Stephens);
Debbie Stephens (Brenda Vale/Rod Downey);
Lesley Campbell (Andrew Oliver/Denise Pitts);
Denise Pitts (Lynne Scott/Elaine Lethbridge);
Lynne Scott (Brenda Vale/Lesley Campbell).

The meeting declared the committee to be duly elected.

While the Region is seeking a Treasurer Sarah Epps will continue to assist and Moira Broughton has kindly agreed to look at the spreadsheets.

6. **Region appointments**

Pat Waite has agreed to review next year's accounts.

Elaine Lethbridge has agreed to continue as Youth Co-ordinator

Désirée Patterson agreed to continue as newsletter editor.

Lee Miller has agreed to continue posting material on the web.

7. **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 (Joy Tracey/Melva Waite)

8. **Delegates for Branch AGM**

These will be drawn from the people listed below who are attending Summer School, noting that each delegate can hold two votes.

Brenda Vale, Debbie Stephens, Joy Tracey, Elaine Lethbridge, Jeanette Watson, Ann Oliver

No advice could be given to potential delegates until we receive the papers from the Branch. Elaine Laidlaw suggested a meeting could be held in Carterton prior to the Carterton Annual Dance.

9. **Region delegates at the RSCDS 95th AGM**

The meeting noted that Joy Tracey and Lee Miller will be the delegates.

10. *Region classes and events discussion*

Those attending the meeting raised the following points.

- Costs are currently being covered but the Region could be more proactive in ringing round to raise attendance, noting that people always prefer to turn up on the day rather than pre-register.
- Before a class is cancelled the Region should give notice to clubs that this will happen because registrations are too low.
- The intermediate class could be more specific as to which formations would be taught as this might make the class more attractive.
- It was suggested the intermediate class could be split into intermediate, followed the next year by upper intermediate, the latter being preparation for moving to the advanced classes. However, there was concern this might split the cohort. A further suggestion was that upper intermediate classes could be run on two Saturday afternoons.
- There was concern that generally step work was deteriorating but it was noted that step work is currently part of all classes. Perhaps this needs to be emphasised in the class guidelines.
- The maximum length of a class or event should be three hours.
- There was some concern that musicians are currently paid more per hour than tutors. Even though the low tutor fees reflect the fact that the history of the organisation is voluntary this issue needs to be examined. However, just raising tutor fees may make classes too expensive so this also needs to be considered. It was observed that classes can always use recorded music.

11. *Other Business*

- Elaine Laidlaw suggested being proactive in inviting new dancers outside the Region to the NDC, noting that they will often be accompanied by more experienced dancers from outside the Region. Maybe the NDC guidelines should be revised accordingly.
- Elaine Lethbridge noted the dance.scottish gmail address does not seem to be working and suggested communication should be via club email addresses. However, club secretaries also need to tell Region when the addresses change. It was suggested the Region send out recommendations for improved email communication.
- Elaine Laidlaw reminded the meeting the Carterton 25th anniversary dance was on 29th November and due to other events in the town that weekend it would be wise to book accommodation soon.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm