***Lower Hutt Scottish Country Dance Club***

**MINUTES OF THE 69th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD AT EPUNI COMMUNITY HALL, LOWER HUTT ON MONDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2023, COMMENCING AT 8.44PM**

**PRESENT:** The meeting began at 8.44pm with a welcome from the Club President Janice Henson, who presided over the meeting. It was attended by 19 financial members, 2 life members and 3 nonmembers.

**APOLOGIES:** were received from Chris Connolly, Denis McCord, Angelica Edgley, Malcolm Ferguson, Liz Debney and Penny Hunt.

 Motion: That the apologies be accepted.

 M/S Janice Henson / Elizabeth Ferguson Carried

**MINUTES** of the 68th Annual General Meeting, having previously been circulated, were taken as a true and correct record of the meeting.

 Motion: That the minutes of the previous AGM be accepted.

 M/S Janice Henson / Anna Verhaegh Carried

**MATTERS ARISING:** None

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** had been previously circulated and was presented by Janice Henson.

**PRESIDENT’S ANNUAL REPORT TO LOWER HUTT SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB – NOVEMBER 2023**

I am delighted to present this 69th Annual Report for the Club for the 2023 season.

We commenced the year with our biennial six week new dancers’ classes in St David’s Hall, Naenae. Of the 11 interested dancers first registered, at least five have continued to attend the club on a regular basis. My thanks to the club members for their ongoing encouragement of the newbies. The separate classes in the back room, give extra confidence, as did the 6 week Region course at St David’s in Petone, run by Elizabeth and fully supported by our Club members. Thank you to Catherine McCutcheon, Susannah van der Gulik and Elizabeth Ferguson who took turns at taking the new dancers in the back room during the season.

Congratulations to Chris Totten and Andrea Wells who took on the challenge of sharing teaching the Club this year. They are the youngest teachers in the Wellington Region and it has been wonderful to see their confidence develop over the year. They have sought and acted on suggestions from our more experienced tutors, to the benefit of us all.

Susannah van der Gulik has continued to take the children’s class, but has struggled for numbers, sometimes with just her own children to teach. She has indicated she is not available to take the class in 2024 and the Club will be looking for a new junior tutor. Young people are our future and we welcome suggestions for how we continue to nurture this group.

I simply could not have done the job of President without the support of our Secretary, Elizabeth Ferguson. The weekly newsletters have been extremely well received and almost negates the need for my weekly ‘notices’. Thank you Elizabeth.

Family nights, held throughout the year, coinciding with School Holidays have proven to be popular (particularly the last one in September) and has introduced families to the recreation we all love. While so far there has been no budding dancers wanting to come on a regular basis, we have sown the seed for the future.

The mid-winter evening, with superb music from Lynne Scott, Sharlene Penman and Mary McDonald, was once again a fun night. The mulled wine and Christmas cake proved a winner.

Our Annual Dance on 2September, confidently MC’d by Chris and Andrea, with music by Aileen Logie, Hilary Ferral and Jason Morris, was enjoyed by everyone who attended. 2024 is our 70th year and we will be pulling out all stops to make sure this milestone is celebrated in style.

16 dancers from Lower Hutt attended the New Dancers’ Celebration in Masterton held on 7 October, including three of our first-year dancers.

As we wind down to the end of another dancing season, I thank you all for being part of our dancing family and look forward to catching up again in 2024.

Janice Henson

President

Janice thanked the club members who came and supported the new dancers at the Beginner Classes earlier in the year. Next year Lower Hutt Club with Upper Hutt are organizing the New Dancers Celebration on 12th October 2024

 Motion: That the President’s Report be accepted

 M/S Janice Henson/ Catherine McCutcheon Carried

**FINANCIAL Treasurers Report for 2022/23 (1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023)**

**Summary**

The numbers of members dancing has recovered to approximately 80% of pre-COVID numbers and a small number of beginner (2023 intake) dancers are dancing regularly.

The attached table summarises transactions by expenditure type and activity type for the financial year to 30 September 2023. The net cash position for the year is a profit of **-$47**, or essentially a break-even result. The Available Funds are **$6,429,** also a small increase**.**

The overall result is pleasing, given the $392 loss on the Annual Dance.

The points below are worth noting:

1. **Cash position.** The bank balance on 30th September 2023 was **$13,137,** i.e., **$47** more than at the beginning of the financial year.
2. **Financial members.** The number of financial members has increased significantly to **47,** including three life members. There are also four Junior Members.
3. **Insurance Reserve.** This remains at **$6,708,** i.e. a little less than the target amount of $7,000.
4. **Childrens Account.** The Childrens account stands at **$1,414.**. The $1,000 transferred into the Childrens account from the main account four years ago is still there, as there have been no JAM camps over the COVID period.
5. **Annual Dance.** The numbers attending the Annual Dance on 2nd September was lower than we hoped for, resulting in a loss of **$392**.
6. **Term Deposit.** In May **$1,000** was transferred from the Term Deposit to the Operational Account to improve the availability of ready cash. The Term Deposit now stands at **$9,000**.
7. **General Account.** TheGeneral Account shows an increase of **$2,008** half of which is a result of the transfer from the Term Deposit described above. However, it shows that our income from subs and door charges is comfortably covering our routine expenses.
8. **RSCDS Members.** The club has 27 RSCDS members, the same as last year.
9. **Tutors fees.** Tutors fees were set at $13 two years ago. Since then there has been considerable inflation and average incomes have risen by 10% to 15%. Our tutors carry a heavy workload and are fundamental to the enjoyment of members and hence the success of the club. I suggest that the hourly rate should be increased from 2024 to $15 per hour. The total cost to the club of this change would be approximately $160 per annum.
10. **Recommendations:**

Based on the above report the following recommendations are made:

1. The annual club membership subscription should remain **$20**.
2. The door charges for club nights should remain at **$4** for members and **$5** for non-members.
3. The hourly rate for tutors should be increased to **$15**.
4. Officer’s expenses should remain unchanged at:
	* President **$50**
	* Secretary **$150**
	* Treasurer **$100**
	* Web Master **$100**

Alastair McCarthy, Treasurer, LHSCDC

Alastair made note of the $1,000 in the Junior account. This had not been spent as there had not been any JAM camps and none are scheduled in 2024. Susanna van der Gulick asked if the money could be used to support our Junior members to attend Summer School especially as it is being held in Wellington next year. This was fully supported.

There are 47 Financial members which is more than last year but still about 10 short from pre covid years.

Recommendation that the Tutor hourly rate be increased to $15.

Alastair moved the report expenses be unchanged with the exception of the tutors hourly rate

Motion that the Financial Report be accepted

M/S Alastair McCarthy / Diane Bradshaw Carried

**ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE**

 **Nominee Nominated By Seconded By**

**President** Janice Henson Bruce Chapman Alastair McCarthy

**Vice President** Bruce Chapman Alastair McCarthy Lesley Campbell

**Secretary** Elizabeth FergusonAndrea Wells Alison Trotter

**Treasurer** Alastair McCarthy Diane Bradshaw Lesley Campbell

**Tutors** Andrea Wells Elizabeth Ferguson Marianne Jenner

 Chris Totton Bruce Chapman Elizabeth Ferguson

**Committee** Judith Perrin Gaye Collin Maggie Adam

 Anna Verhaegh Janice Henson Alison Trotter

 Chris Connolly Elizabeth Ferguson Sharon Williams

 Sharon Williams Janice Henson Anna Verhaegh

Janice asked if anyone else would like to come onto the committee and there were no more nominations.

The above nominees were duly elected.

Maggie was thanked for her contribution each week to her help in setting up the hall and the lovely lemons she brings for members to take home.

**General Business:** Damon asked if we had thought about having an overseas band since we are celebrating our 70th year in 2024. The committee had discussed this matter at a recent meeting and a national band has been approached and booked however as this has not been discussed with the full committee yet, the name of the band was not able to be disclosed at this stage.

The 12th October is the date for the New Dancers Celebration and Knox Hall has been booked. As it is in the school holidays the set-up time will not have to be restricted to 1 hour.

We would appreciate suggestions of a theme for this event. The last time we ran this we had a black and yellow theme with a beehive etc. which was very colourful and a great success.

Junior Tutor: Susanna asked that this be scheduled with the election of officers. Alastair pointed out this was not in our constitution. We all agreed the role of the Junior Tutor was very important and we value the work Susanna has done.

The committee are aware we need to further discuss a Junior Class for 2024. Helen mentioned how it may be possible to put a notice into school notices to Parents early in the year, There was discussion on how schools usually like a connection between the club being advertised e,g staff members etc. Schools generally support the activity if held on the school property or during school time.

Our Junior class at present is made up of 3 of Susanna’s children, one child from a Parent who attended the beginners course and 1 student from Marantha School after workshops held last year.

There are only 30 JAMs in all of NZ and we have 5 plus those who attend the Adult class so have a good ratio in our club.

Helen happy to approach a couple of schools next year and Susanna will give her notices to advertise the Junior Class.

Suggestion Box will be available next year and we look forward to your ideas.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.13pm

# The 2024 AGM will be held on the 4th November.