**Gerrards Cross & Chalfonts Scottish Country DanceClub**

**Chairman’s Report for AGM December 2021**

**(for the period Sepember 2020 – August 2021 )**

**Overview**

1. Clearly our formal accounting and reporting year has been dominated by the Covid crisis and after a break of almost 18 months there is little actual dancing to report on. However we are delighted to have returned to dancing in the late summer (August for GX, and September for Little Chalfont). Behind the scenes the main achievements of the year have been preparing for the restart and the publishing of our new website.
2. As dancing picks up again we believe the club is in good heart and look forward to a more active year ahead!

**Looking Back**

**Zoom Meetings**

1. Although there was no dancing, we kept in contact with both GX and Little Chalfont members at our regular ‘chat’ zoom meetings.

**Weekly Dancing**

1. After widespread consultation we returned to dancing at GX in August 2020, dancing for just 4 weeks compared with 35 weeks in a normal year, averaging 10 members and 12 dancers per week compared to a pre-lockdown average of 22 and 25 respectively.
2. We are very grateful that Rose Kreloff devised such brilliant programmes to coax us back to mental and physical dance fitness.
3. There was no weekly dancing at Little Chalfont for the period under review.
4. We are fortunate to have maintained good relations with both venues during the great pause as some clubs have found their halls have been re-let on the evening they wanted.

**Grant**

1. The grant from GX council was paid in April, well-timed to carry us over the period with limited dancing.

**Personnel/Membership/Recruitment**

1. After many of service Judy Snook, the main dance leader at Little Chalfont moved to Devon in May to be nearer her family. Her commitment to SCD, both there and in the wider local area has benefitted so many of us and we send her our heart-felt thanks and good wishes.
2. 2 new dancers joined us at GX in August.

**Tea Dances**

1. The January and Summer 2020 tea dances were cancelled due to the pandemic.

**Advertising/ Publicity**

1. We undertook no major advertising initiatives this year, but issued some local posters and had our restart dates feature in one local magazine.

**Website**

1. The new website was published in July, bringing it up-to-date by fully integrating Little Chalfont and making it easier to view on tablets and smartphones. Our thanks to all involved.
2. With the restart of dancing we are now updating it regularly. Please forward any suggestions for improvements to Roger or Suzanne.
3. Usage statistics are generated automatically and it has been both surprising and gratifying to know how widely it is being accessed, both geographically (many hits from outside the local area) and numerically. Less surprisingly the most popular pages are What we danced, dates and times, and Learn to Dance.

**Committee**

1. Without regular dancing we have continued to operate with a cut-down committee (see separate agenda item).

**The Year Ahead**

**Membership/Numbers**

1. The year ahead remains uncertain for the country as a whole.
2. It is still too early to assess the long term impact on membership numbers, although weekly numbers which were down at GX in the early weeks of the Autumn term are recovering. It is clear some ‘regulars’ are not currently dancing due to Covid and other health concerns, but less clear whether this is temporary or permanent. Others may have found replacement activities. Using pre-lockdown figures the membership of GX stood at 36 at the end of July 2021. Following 2 resignations it was down to 9 at Little Chalfont.
3. However a further 4 beginners have joined us at GX (making 6 since last time we danced) and 4 at Little Chalfont (where Suzanne is currently leading the weekly group with support from Rose). 2 erstwhile dancers have also returned there, which leaves us in a much better position than feared.
4. Our strong financial position makes it a viable option to operate at a loss for a period if we need to, but the injection of new dancers is very encouraging and suggests we should be able to return to pre-Covid numbers of dancers in both venues over the next 2 years and probably much sooner.

**Planned Events**

1. We have cancelled the tea dance scheduled for January 2022 but are hoping and planning to host a Summer dance in June 2022.

**New Initiative**

1. In the year ahead we plan to focus effort on recruitment and advertising, starting with an ad campaign scheduled for January.

**Planned initiatives brought forward from previous years**

1. The following have been carried over from last year :
   1. Aim to Work More Closely with Local Clubs
   2. Support New Dancers and Trainee Teachers
   3. Loop Video for Recruitment Events
   4. Prepare a draft constitution for the club for discussion and agreement.