**Gerrards Cross & Chalfonts Scottish Country Dance Club**

**Chairman’s Report for AGM October 2022**

**(for the period Sepember 2021 – July 2022 )**

**Overview**

1. At the end of our first full year post-Covid , and post-merger the club is in a sound position. We continue to dance regularly at both locations. Numbers have recovered sufficiently to cover costs and a successful Summer tea dance re-established the club on the wider dancing scene.
2. Our Covid precautions have been successful in that (so far) no-one has caught the virus as a result of dancing with us.

**Looking Back**

**Weekly Dancing**

1. We danced for 39 weeks at GX and 40 at Chalfont, compared with 35 weeks in 2018/2019, our last full year. We started earlier in September and the opportunity to dance through July was appreciated, despite it being the hottest summer on record. We modified the programme on the hottest days and just one evening at GX was cancelled as being ‘too hot’. Two afternoons at Chalfont were cancelled through lack of numbers. The ratio of less experienced dancers has continued to rise in both locations, and is reflected in the ratio of simple to more challenging dances.
2. At GX we averaged 13.4 dancers per week across the year compared to a pre-lockdown average of 25. Taking the Summer term on its own the average was up to 16. We danced a total of 172 different dances across the year, averaging just over 6 per evening. Some of the very easy and the very difficult ones, 99, we danced once only, the remainder were danced twice each on average over the course of the year. 56% dances were classified as green, 32% as amber and 11% as red
3. At Chalfont we averaged 8.3 dancers, (no comparable figures unavailable). We danced a total of 72 different dances across the year, averaging between 4 and 5 a week. 22 dances were done once only, the remainder were danced 3 times on average over the course of the year. 74% were classified as green, 25% as amber.
4. The difference between the two groups is consistent with the different mix and numbers, and with the slightly longer session time at GX and the slightly gentler pace at Chalfont.

**Membership.**

1. At GX the number of members has moved from 36 at the beginning of the year to 43. We welcomed 8 new members, but 7 have been unable to continue dancing .
2. At Chalfont the number of members has risen from 10 at the beginning of last year to 15 at the beginning of September 2022. In the course of the year we welcomed 8 new members, but 2 have been unable to continue dancing . We were very sad to lose Chris Newton.

**Recruitment Initiatives**

1. We undertook 2 recruitment campaigns during the year, one in the Spring and a further one in the Summer, targeting local magazines in Gerrards Cross, the Farnhams, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, Chalfont, Amersham, Chorleywood, and Rickmansworth.
2. The entries were a mix of ads and editorial, and Roger achieved good discounted rates.
3. As well as our own new recruits they also attracted a new dancer for the Harrow club ! A couple of those who expressed interest then failed to show up at all which was disappointing.

**Tea Dances**

1. As planned we held no January tea dance in 2022, but focussed our efforts on the one at the end of June. It was a great success, despite the unseasonable wind that presented a couple of unexpected challenges! Excellent music, a varied programme and the afternoon tea won particular praise from Stephen Webb! A great team effort.

**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.
2. It is being updated regularly and usage figures are monitored. While they are difficult to interpret we do know that in September 2022, for example, 13 returning visitors, (presumably members) looked at 139 website pages, spending on average 7 minutes looking at the site. During the same period we also had 20 new visitors looking at 43 pages and spending on average just over a minute at the site. .

**Music Technology**

1. We have continued to develop our musical technology, introducing a much improved speaker system at GX and a new laptop to replace Suzanne’s cast off at Chalfont, complete with the Amazing Slower Downer software, which proves its worth each week.

**Merger of GX and Chalfont SCD Clubs**

1. The merger of the 2 clubs took place just before lockdown in 2020 so this year has been our first chance to see the results in practice.
2. There has been a net financial saving. The GX figures benefit because Chalfont now shares the cost of the insurance and website; the Chalfont figures benefit in a much reduced insurance burden.
3. Chalfont has benefitted from access to the website and joint publicity; GX has benefitted from Chalfont members sharing the cake-making etc for the tea dance..
4. So far we have seen little cross-over of members between the two sites and there are some administrative challenges in a single committee servicing 2 locations. Elections are also slightly difficult in that members do not necessarily know those from the other group, although this is more of a problem in theory than practice at the moment.
5. We held a very happy and successful joint event at Chalfont on a Tuesday at the end of the summer term and plan more such joint ventures to integrate the membership more.

**Constitution**

1. A constitution has been developed, and approved for adoption. This is the first time we have had a constitution and it may not be perfect but it provides a start point for the future. It contains provision for subsequent modification as experience dictates.

**Demos**

1. The only demo we have done this year was a jolly event to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee at Chalfont WI, much enjoyed by participants and audience, many of whom joined us for some simple dancing. Sadly none of them have joined us since!

**Looking Ahead**

O**bjectives for year ahead.**

1. In the light of our failure to find a new Treasurer and Chairman a key objective must be to address this issue.
2. Alongside that we need to focus on on-going recruitment and on-going integration between GX and Chalfont

.**Planned Events**

25.We plan to host our January tea dance in 2023, albeit a week later than usual to avoid a clash with another local event.

26.We have a request for a demo at the local residential home, Swarthmore, but no date booked.