

Scottish Country Dances

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Dance Diary— [Dancing News](#)

Dance Cancellations

2020 is turning into a disaster as far as dancing is concerned owing to the Coronavirus restrictions imposed by the government. The indications now (May 2020) are there is little chance of the 2-metre distance separation being removed before the end of the year. That may well cause serious problems for the Police at Hogmanay so we will just have to wait and see if an exception is made by then.

Most dance organisers have cancelled all their events until the Autumn but one or two are still hanging on hoping for a miracle. There is no likelihood I'm afraid so just get on and cancel. Pitlochry Summer dancing and Alva are cancelled in their entirety and even the Queen's Games (Braemar Gathering) due in September has been cancelled. Helensburgh Highlanders have gone further and cancelled all events for 2020, including their December dance.

Numerous sporting groups have been hitting the news headlines as they call for their sport to be permitted to resume. There have been no equivalent calls for dancing to resume (?!). The RSCDS is still planning for the Autumn Gathering 2020 (*will it work on Zoom?*) and Winter School 2021 (*maybe*) to go ahead. Summer School 2020 was cancelled and the Society say they have a budget deficit of £140,000 as a consequence.

I haven't heard of any branch or club having cash flow problems as a result of cancellations but they and the Society can apply to the Scottish Government for a grant to cover these costs. This fund has changed from the initial first phase and grant levels are now £5,000 to £100,000. Interest free loans start at £50,000. Full details at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-culture-and-creative-sector-support/pages/social-enterprises-charities-and-third-sector/> The sooner you claim the better.

Payment of Fees which were made in advance

Consumers are being advised to claim refunds for services they can not use as a result of the restrictions, such as membership fees or class fees paid in advance. "Consumers (including dancers) who can no longer use paid for products or services due to the lockdown are fully entitled to cash refunds - no ifs, no buts." e.g. gym membership fees where you can no longer access the gym or golf course fees etc. The regulator for the 'Competition and Markets Authority', will take complaints if you are unsuccessful in reclaiming fees. <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/competition-and-markets-authority> Claim form link on home page.

Branch & Society Membership Fees

This brings us to RSCDS membership fees, due on 1st July. The following statement has been issued to branches by Lorna Ogilvie (Chair-Elect) and is reproduced here for the information of members who are staying safe at home.

(continued overleaf)

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- *Let me know details of your dances—if you don't tell me I can't include them in a future Newsletter or on the website.*
- *If you email them to me it means I don't have to type them out.*
- *If you don't have access to a computer then pop the programme into the post .*

You can download a copy of this and previous Newsletters in 'pdf' format from the Web Site.

Click on the "Country Dance" Page then the "Newsletters" page, where they are listed in descending order.

The web page has up-to-date information on these dances and programmes as they are notified.

"Whilst subscription payments are due annually on 1 July most renewals are collected between September and November in the northern hemisphere and variably between November and June in the southern hemisphere. Currently the Society has no idea when dancing worldwide will recommence so, for now, branches should be flexible and encourage payment only when classes and dancing resume. Should branch constitutions require a motion at their AGM to allow them to implement the Board's recommendation (from the 2019 AGM) to increase their branch fee by £2, they should not worry if this is delayed until 2021. The RSCDS subscription, from 1 July 2020, will be £18, as agreed in November 2019."

Branch AGM (Society guidance)

"The RSCDS Branch Model Constitution suggests that an AGM must be held within 6 months of the end of the branch financial year. 14 days' notice is then required to call such a meeting so it should be possible for branches to wait and see how the pandemic situation develops. Hopefully, it will be possible to hold AGM meetings before December 2020. Please be assured that any delays caused by the response to Coronavirus will not be a breach of the License Agreement between the Branch and the Society.

Another approach, for smaller branches, might be to hold virtual AGM meetings. OSCR, the Scottish Charity regulator indicates that this is acceptable in these unusual circumstances, and good governance would suggest that you record that such a meeting took place. Likewise, if branches decide to postpone their AGM this decision should also be recorded. Branch reports and accounts should be sent to Coates Crescent (info@rscds.org) at the time of their rescheduled Branch AGM."

Solo Dancing and Branch Distractions

Emails are coming in twice a week from the Society with suggestions to join on-line classes, complete puzzles and various items to entertain dancers who have nothing to do. Some branches are doing similar, as often as daily in some cases, and good minded dancers are forwarding them to all in their address book, thereby multiplying the mail by 'x'. If you have no interest in these suggestions then the answer is to create a separate mailbox in your email client into which these emails can be directed. You can thereafter right click the box and delete them in one go. Simple!

Hopefully we can all meet up again sometime in 2021. I really am missing my dancing friends!

Alasdair xx