



Cheshire Chat

August 2020



Dear Members

Firstly, I do hope that all of you and your families remain well. I am sure that, like me, you are hoping that the slight easing of lockdown can be maintained and that some of you can get away for a short break – I am afraid I do not like the term staycation!!

Return to Dancing

The Committee met on the 8th July and again on the 10th August to discuss issues relevant to our return to dancing.

During this time we have been in regular contact with both the RSCDS and Tarporley Community Centre (TCC).

The RSCDS issued some Covid-19 Safety Considerations in July. Given the global reach of the RSCDS these are general in nature and it is stated that 'Each Branch is responsible for its own activities and must comply with national and local regulations and health authority guidance'. The general advice, compiled with input from the former Chief Medical Officer for Scotland and Professor of Public Health at Strathclyde University, states that we should wear gloves and masks, in addition to physical distancing.

The advice received from TCC is based on information from Action for Communities in Rural England (ACRE). We have studied the numerous and detailed documents and, since they advise a maximum of 15 people in the hall for an exercise class (to allow the minimum space of 3m x 3m) we have concluded that, for the safety of our members, we cannot consider a return to dancing in September.

We realise that you will all be disappointed and were hoping to get out your dancing shoes again in the autumn, but the bottom line is that it would just not be safe to do so. However, as soon as we are able to return, even if this means reduced numbers and a shorter length of class, we will be in touch and issue you with guidance.

In the meantime, would members like to attend a virtual **Coffee Morning** on Wednesday, 16th September at 10.30am? Nearer the time Andrew will send you a link to this event. The committee thought that some of you may like to at least see each other, even if we cannot dance!

The good news is that the work on TCC completed on schedule and we ladies, at least, can look forward to using the newly upgraded toilets!

Membership Renewal & Subscriptions

The RSCDS have requested that we submit our membership fees in the normal time frame of October/November and you will shortly receive your renewal letter.

As we are not sure when we will be returning to dancing the option of paying in advance has been removed. If we are back by the beginning of 2021 we will encourage members to pay in advance for the second half of the year.

In the April edition I advised that those members who had paid in advance last year would be given a reduction of £10.00. After further calculation by the Treasurer (based on the number of classes from January – May), it has been agreed that those members will receive a £20.00 reduction and will therefore pay £25.00, as opposed to the £45.00 for members paying in advance for the first time.

NB The option of paying by bank transfer has been included on the form. The title of our bank account is 'Royal Scottish Dance Cheshire' and it is a 'Business' account. You should also forward a receipt with your application form.

Cancellation of Scheduled Events

It is with regret that we have taken the decision to cancel both the **Nice and Easy Dance** (24th October) and our **Dancing Skills Day School** on the 21st November. Linda Gaul, who was to have taught at the Day School is really sorry not to be visiting us this year, but considers it unsafe to go ahead with planning this event. We hope that she will be able to join us again next year.

Please note that all changes to our planned programme are on the new Website, which is now fully functional and for this we thank Christine.

AGM

We plan to go ahead with the AGM on Wednesday, 30th September. We hope to have the meeting in the hall (max. seating capacity 56, based on the required distancing between seats), although obviously without any dancing beforehand. For those who do not wish to attend in person it will be possible to link to the meeting via Zoom or telephone. You will soon receive an email to ask whether you wish to attend the AGM and, if so, whether in person or not. It is important that you respond to this email in order for the Committee to make the necessary preparations. The agenda will be issued in September.

News of Members

I think you will all have heard the sad news of the death of our dear member, Dr Peter Aston, earlier in the summer. I wrote, on your behalf to Rita, and received a short note of thanks from her. Peter had been a member for many years and we shall miss him very much.

RSCDS News

We have been advised that the Autumn Gathering in November will not be taking place this year. Details of the AGM have not yet been circulated.

To finish on a more positive note, I hope that many of you will have taken advantage of the weekly online classes, regular Newsletters and excellent You Tube demonstrations. The RSCDS have certainly been busy and done their best to stay connected with members during these difficult times.

And, finally, for those who haven't seen the RSCDS Facebook Post relating to the Autumn Gathering, I have included a picture of our Secretary at the 2019 Autumn Gathering – he just managed to be on the front page!



Best wishes to you all.

C. Anne MacDonald – Chairperson, 2019-2020

Anne MacDonald

Chairperson 2019/20