

## **NOTE FROM THE MANAGEMENT BOARD ON MOTION TO UPDATE THE MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION (AGENDA ITEM 8.1)**

### **8.1 Membership subscription**

**“The Management Board proposes that for the year from 1st July 2022, the basic full annual subscription shall be increased to £25 per annum, with other membership subscriptions based pro-rata on this amount”**

#### **Background information from the Treasurer:**

On 7 November 2015, I first appeared before the AGM as Treasurer and I proposed that the “full annual subscription shall be £20”. Four years later, I seconded a motion that £2 of the annual subscription be retained by the Branches and I accepted at that time accusations of inconsistency. That motion was successful, so for the 2020/21 financial year and the current year, the basic annual subscription has been £18.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2021, I will be proposing the following motion. “The Management Board proposes that, for the year from 1st July 2022, the basic full membership shall be increased to £25 per annum with other membership subscriptions based pro-rata on this amount”

Yet again, as Treasurer, I have to accept accusations of inconsistency. In my defence, I did not anticipate a global pandemic which stopped Scottish Country Dancing for a year and a half.

I supported Andrew Kellett’s motion because he recognised that it is only the Branches that can recruit new members and the reduction was to support these efforts. It is the Branches who can use their most charismatic teachers, in attractive surroundings and with the benefit of live music, to run Beginners classes to attract new people to Scottish Country Dancing.

I fully recognise that you did not get many opportunities to run Beginners classes over the last year. However, the reduction in the subscriptions received by the Society to 31 March 2021 reflect that the Branches collectively were able to retain at least £14,300 to enable them to support recruitment. You will be able to retain a similar amount this year, money that Andrew expected would be spent helping recruitment of new members.

In the meantime, the Society has been hit by the pandemic, two Summer Schools, one Winter School and one Autumn Gathering have been cancelled. These are events which would normally contribute significantly to our enjoyment of SCD and to the charity’s finances. The Financial Statements to 31 March show a deficit of £92,000 even after the benefit of the Appeal.

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The Budget of the current year shows a deficit of £121,000. Quite simply these deficits in the General Fund are unsustainable. Yes, we received money from various sources last year including a very generous legacy, but we are restricted in how we can spend that money and it cannot be spent on the day-to-day running of the Society. We have investments, which currently provide an income to the Society, and we are planning to sell in some of these investments to help support the charity's cashflow. We also have a valuable building which houses our offices, shop products and archives. It could be sold but I would be very reluctant to start selling the "family silver". However, we will be looking at letting out some of the space as we have done in the past.

I am also hoping to start a Supporters Scheme, building on the generosity of some existing members who appreciate the benefits and enjoyment that SCD can bring. This scheme will initially be available to UK members, for whom the charity will derive an additional tax benefit for contributions if the member is a UK taxpayer. However, I hope to introduce a variation of this to our worldwide membership.

In conclusion, I am asking for your support for the motion detailed in the recent Branch Mailing that "The Management Board proposes that, for the year from 1st July 2022, the basic full membership shall be increased to £25 per annum with other membership subscriptions based pro-rata on this amount".

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on [Treasurer@rscds.org](mailto:Treasurer@rscds.org)

Bill Cant

RSCDS Treasurer