Session: Meet the Management Board
Saturday 7th November 2026

Time: 9.00am- 10.20am

Venue: Loreburn Hall

The morning session will be comprised of two topics each of which are detailed below. Members and Delegates are encouraged to participate where their views can assist in shaping the future direction of the Society. There will also be the opportunity to meet Management and Committee/Panel members during the session. The session will be introduced by Sebastian Wanless, Chair Elect and Jeremy Hill, Convenor, Membership Services and Christopher Smith, Board Lead, Constitution and Governance Panel.

Topic 1 Membership Discussion

Over the last 12 months, the Membership Working Group has been working to develop options for membership that reflect views, interests and requirements for members today and into the future. No changes are being made at this stage. Any changes will be presented to the AGM in November 2027 for implementation in 2028.

As the latest phase of work, a survey was carried out during September and October of individuals interested in Scottish dance and music – both members and non-members. The survey presented a new approach to membership, including new membership categories.

At this session the results of the survey will be presented, and the opportunity will be given for open discussion of topics including:

- What aspects of membership are most valued
- What may be missing from membership
- Views of the proposed new membership options
- How this may affect decisions on future membership.

The results will be presented, and discussion led, by Jeremy Hill, Convenor of the Membership Services Committee and of the Membership Working Group, and Sebastian Wanless, Chair-Elect, together with other members of the Working Group.

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society ©2026
Registered as a Scottish Charity No. SC016085
Company No. SC480530

Topic 2 -Strengthening The Management Board

Providing oversight to an internationally based charity like the RSCDS is becoming increasingly complex. A broad range of skills is required at the most senior level of the organisation. Knowledge of marketing, branding, finance, human resources and information technology are as essential as an in-depth understanding of Scottish country dancing.

The Management Board is looking at ways of broadening and strengthening the skills and experience available to the Board to meet these strategic challenges. One proposal is to appoint one or two non-executive Directors who may not initially be members of the RSCDS.

This approach seeks to provide a greater opportunity for external scrutiny on the effectiveness of the organisation. It would also bring in individuals with experience and skills in certain areas where there are identified gaps. Non executives would be appointed for a limited period of time and would become members of the RSCDS.

This would be a different approach to how the Society is run and led. The views of Delegates/members are sought on a number of questions.

- Is this an appropriate initiative for the RSCDS to take?
- What would be the advantages and disadvantages?
- What would the link between non-executives and Branches be?
- What should be an appointment process?

This morning session will be led by Christopher Smith, Board Trustee along with John Gibson and Kirsty Thorburn, Constitution and Governance members.

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society ©2026
Registered as a Scottish Charity No. SC016085
Company No. SC480530