

Spanish Dance Society

Sociedad de Danza Española



Patrons: **Antonio Najarro. Tamara Rojo. José Antonio Ruiz**

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**AGM MINUTES
SUNDAY 20 MARCH 2022
FORMAT: ZOOM
4pm-6pm GMT**

In attendance:

Board Members

Director Organiser (Deputy chair)

Treasurer

Director Advisor

Secretary

Conchita del Campo (CDC)

Gary White (GW)

Cheryl Crossen White (CCW)

Jacqueline Christine (JC)

Members attended:

Sue Arkle

Cheryl Liss

Euan Matteos

Wilcarina Yeates

Youla Papas

Vassilis Skepetaris

Apologies:

President

Chair UK and Europe

Director Flamenco adviser

Event organiser

Dame Marina Keet

Isabel Baquero White (IBW)

Nuria Garcia (NG)

Helena Bengé

Sue Hilton

Eldridge Saliba Curmi

1. Deputy Chair welcome members

JC welcomed members in the absence of the Chair and the meeting was called to order at 4:00pm.

2. Apologies for absence

These were read out. Dame Marina Keet is very impressed with the progress we are making and send her love and best wishes to everyone.

3. Minutes of previous AGM

The minutes of the last AGM meeting was approved:
Proposed by CDC and approved by CCW.

4. Chair's Report

In Isabel Baquero's absence, Conchita del Campo read out the Chair's Report:

Since the last AGM we have been very busy consolidating the Vocational Programme of Study (VOC POS). We now have in place five exams: Intermediate, Advanced Foundation, Advanced 1, Advanced 2 and Professional Development.

a. Notating and transcribing

Most Of the original PAE, SAE and TAE material has been used, although some new dances and exercises were created to raise the standard and update the syllabus. Victoria Ramos directed the filming of the exercises, and the new work, most of which is danced beautifully by Cristina Otero and is now available in our Store. Sue Arkle and Conchita del Campo started the notating and transcribing of the new work in January 2021 and the Teacher's Manual expertly formatted by Aarti Chang from London and Robert Scicluna from Malta is almost complete bar the Jaleo from Marco Flores which will be taught at a future workshop. We are delighted that there has been very positive feedback about the new exam structures and the new exercises and dances.

b. OFQUAL accreditation

The General Graded exams continued to take place throughout the 2021 lockdowns online and face to face wherever possible. We are currently in the process of consolidating the Specifications, Professional Practice and marking system for the new VOC POS, and are hoping to have the OFQUAL accreditation and the examiners trained in time for the summer 2022 European exam sessions.

c. SDS promotional video

We will be holding a teacher's revision course in Jerez from the 16th-18th of July. Afterwards, during the famous Jerez 'Fama' Festival we are planning to video some of our teachers and students performing in a theatre and will use snippets of their dancing to help create an SDS promotional video so that the Society can grow and expand globally.

d. Training and exam sessions

All our committee members are doing an excellent job running the Society. Our local Organisers are supporting their teachers and helping exams sessions run smoothly.

I'd like to thank Camen Martinez Martinez for translating documents into Spanish, managing Spain in her meticulous and friendly manner, and training new teachers.

Victoria Ramos held a promotional weekend for external teachers in March, so we are keeping fingers crossed that more will be interested in joining us.

Youla Papas has done a remarkable job organising exam sessions and guiding the Greck teachers. Katerina Voulgari PdB and one of our trainee examiners is translating our Professional Practice (PP) Journal Guidelines into Greek.

Deborah McNamara as an Exam Board member has given us her invaluable advice on many occasions and Malta is starting to thrive again after the lockdowns.

Penelope Whiting and Marie Louisa Ihre are also busy translating the PP information for their teachers who are also gradually getting back on their feet. Italy had most of their exams in winter 2020.

Our Executive Committee is as ever at the service of the Society and working admirably to lead us towards an exciting future. We are very grateful for their ongoing support and professionalism.

Wishing you all the very best for the coming year, filled with lovely dancing, not too many challenges, and many creative solutions.

5. Treasurer's Report

GW was pleased to present the Treasurer's Report March 2022 unaudited Financial Statement for SDS. This is as of 28th February 2022. The pandemic continues to cause us problems with exams, but I believe there is an end in sight. Our main income stream for the Society comes from subscriptions and Exam fees paid by members of the Society. The Society remains in a sound financial position with reserves, which will sustain it for more than 5 years at the current income expenditure balance. The changes to the Grades are complete and are working as expected with little or no difficulties and are starting to generate cash flow for the Society. Our Executive Officer, Conchita del Campo, has made significant changes to the Senior Syllabus this year at a significant cost to the Society and we are still waiting for GOAL approval, so to this end the Society has seen no income from Vocational exams.

a. Membership

GW was pleased to report again in 2022 that membership of the Society has continued to increase. There has not been an increase in subscription rates for our members this year. We have increased the exams by a small amount this year.

b. Income

The Store is doing very well with sales of £3,924 this past financial year. Subscriptions are also doing well with £5,863 being paid so far this year, I would encourage all teachers to remind their students that their subscriptions are now due. Exams fees also have an encouraging feel to them with receipts of £16,307 over the past financial year.

c. Expenditure

As in 2021, office costs are being contained by the hard work of all involved, and they continue to make efficiency savings in the day-to-day running of the Society. Last year and this year saw the use of video conferencing and video examining which was a huge cost saving for us as this reduced the necessity for personal travel. Now we are getting ready to restart live examining this will increase our outgoings substantially, we do however see this being offset by increased activity in examining. The cost this financial year to date for producing the Vocational POS videos and music has been £9,000. There will be an additional cost of +/- £2,500. Exam costs to date are £6,000 we anticipate this to increase by a further +/- £2,000.

d. Finances

GW reported a pre-tax loss of £8,000. The accounts however show a profit of £42,897. This is because of a transfer of £51,000 from the SDA. As the SDA is now closed this shall be the last transfer of funds. This is not all doom and gloom as the re-launch of the Vocational POS Music and videos have been fully paid. Subscriptions are down by 35% but we are only 2 months into 2022. Exam fees are up over 100% and sales of music and videos are up 20% so these are encouraging signs. We did not foresee that this pandemic would go on and on and on but slowly we are working through it.

As a worldwide Society we deal in several currencies but have managed them well with no real negative impact. It is however imperative that we stay alert to market fluctuations. I confirm that the SDS Financial Statements will be professionally audited by Michael, Pasha & Co England in June 2022.

6. Confirmation of UK & European Executive Committee

The Chair informed the members that we are all happy to continue serving the members and feel we have a dedicated Committee that is working well.

7. Proposal: To accept the new revised Constitution dated 20 March 2022

Members have read the new revised Constitution.

Proposal: To accept the new revised Constitution dated 20 March 2022.

Proposed by GW and approved by JC.

8. Any other business

None.

9. General: Discussion open to the floor

JC stated that classes were taking place in the UK but there was still a high rate of infection so students were staying away when testing positive.
CDC wished everyone a successful year ahead.

10. Close of meeting at 5:15pm.