

## NOMINATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT BOARD MEMBERS



**Tom Halpenny**  
*SW Washington  
State Branch*

**Proposer: Linda Mae Dennis** (*SW Washington State*)  
**Secunder: Patrick Hogan** (*SW Washington State*)

I would like to align RSCDS HQ and branches' goals, with improved communication, and gather practical ideas to help branches increase RSCDS membership. I will learn RSCDS processes and suggest improvements. I have explored a process to document my branch's goals and methods as a way to have conversations about the reasons for our projects, and to imagine new ideas and confirm the projects are the best we can do. Which are the practical RSCDS HQ projects that can add value to branches worldwide? I seek to stimulate discussions and raise the energy level for shared goals.

I actively participate in and gather ideas from related dance forms like Square dance, Contra dance, English country dance, and Irish Ceili dance. As a software engineer, I have enjoyed Scottish dancing and making friends for 17 years, and helping my dance teacher wife Liza. I have served as branch treasurer for one year and secretary for one year, and I was the manager for five years, before the group formed a branch. I am moderating the new RSCDS Branch Secretaries Facebook group. I look forward to collaborating with the Board and Committees and learning new ideas from RSCDS members worldwide!



**Bernie Hewitt**  
*International Branch*

**Proposer: Fiona Grant** (*Bristol*)  
**Secunder: Jean Elliott** (*South Wales*)

My reasons for coming forward are that I wish to help the RSCDS adapt to and continue to flourish in the 21st century, and perhaps widen its self-imposed remit and get involved in more forms of country dancing than it does at present. I also believe that a shift of emphasis is required in recruiting new members away from youth to more mature people.

My business experience includes thirty years as an army officer, leading diverse operational and training tasks, three years business consulting, two years in high-level training management positions in Saudi Arabia and more recently two years teaching business skills at Fife College.

My experience in dancing organisations includes a previous term on the Management Board, being on the staff at Summer School (as a musician), a founder member of the International Branch (and editor of its magazine for its first three years), vice chair of the Dunfermline Branch and tutoring in music and country dancing at the Living Tradition Summer School.

I will bring to this job all the drive and enthusiasm one expects from someone in their twenties, backed up with thirty years of practical experience of setting challenging but realistic goals, and them achieving them.



**Isobel McMillan**  
*Aberdeen Branch*

**Proposer: Jean Martin** (*Aberdeen*)

**Seconder: James Stott** (*Aberdeen*)

For the last 30 years, country dancing has been a great pleasure, and I would like to see the RSCDS and its branches, both here and abroad, go from strength to strength. My background:

- Educated at Inverurie Academy and Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen
- Taught Home Economics for 11 years, with a break to raise three children
- Chaired school PTA and local Scout Group in Strathaven, Lanarkshire
- Joined RSCDS in 1984, began teaching in 1996
- Passed Preliminary Certificate at St Andrews in 2000, and Full Certificate in Aberdeen in 2003, now teach 3 classes per week
- Have taught in Aberdeen and Banchory primary and secondary schools
- Have run 50+ successful public dances
- Take classes round local retirement homes and public events to entertain
- Past Management Board member, 2008-2010
- Vice Chair, Aberdeen Branch, 2011-12, and Chair, 2012-14

I come from a family committed to public service. I have plenty of common sense and good humour, and a wealth of experience of dealing with people of all ages and walks of life. I enjoy building positive working relationships and bring a lot of energy to all that I put my mind to. These attributes, with my passion for the work of RSCDS will, I hope, enable me to make a contribution to the work of the Society.