

Gay Gordons Edinburgh

Committee report to the “Interim” AGM to be held on Monday 29th January 2026

We are holding an interim AGM now because the usual timing in May would be after the classes finish – now that we finish around Easter. This earlier timing is also helpful for ceilidh planning.

Membership and attendance

This year we have 17 paid members, compared with 19 last year. Attendance has varied from between 5 and 13 dancers per class, with an average of 8.7 (10.8 Jan-Mar 2025). Whilst it is great that there have been a number of new members this year, some previous attendees have been lost – sometimes because of moving away.

Finances

Interim accounts for the 9 months to 31 December 2025 are in Appendix 1. These show:

Cash reserves of £1,754 (was £1,746 at 31 March 2025)

Overall income and expenditure surplus/(deficit) for the 9 months was £8 (was £899 deficit for the year to 31 March 2025)

The membership fees roughly equate to our fixed costs of insurance and internet fees. Classes continue to run at a loss (typically about £30 per class) which is funded from our reserves and any surplus from ceilidhs.

No changes to class fees or membership costs are proposed.

Ongoing viability – for discussion

One of the most important characteristics of our club is that we are a safe space for all LGBTQI people. A second characteristic is that we welcome beginners at all classes. Taken together, this significantly differentiates us from the other Scottish Country Dance clubs in Edinburgh.

Absolute attendance numbers are secondary to these characteristics, but given the modest class attendance numbers and the regular weekly financial loss, it is appropriate to review our ongoing viability.

Average attendance is down 2 per night from last year. From a dancing perspective, we can have a good class experience with 8 dancers and can still have an OK experience with 6 dancers. If necessary, the teacher dances to make up to 6 or 8. Rising to 9 to 11 dancers allows sitting out before swapping in, whilst 12 to 16 dancers would allow for 2 sets.

Most weeks it can be touch-and-go that we'll have enough attendees

We would break-even financially with 13 paid attendees (or 9 when the teaching fee is waived) and our current cash reserves will allow us to operate (at the current level of losses) for another two to three years.

Ceilidhs

We held our annual ceilidh on 1 November in the Barclay Viewforth Hall with music by the Iain MacPhail Band. It yielded a surplus of £174 (last year a loss of £192). The hall was inexpensive but was found to have poor acoustics and limited capacity. A full report has been circulated as a separate attachment.

We have reviewed our approach to holding ceilidhs. Traditionally, we have sought to blend Scottish Country dances (as that's the type of club we are) with popular ceilidh dances (for the wider *LGBTQI* community and its supporters). Our concern is that this is difficult to achieve satisfactorily.

We identified and considered these various options:

1. Full-on ceilidh as a service to our *LGBTQI* community. Ie No dances like Maries Wedding, Posties Jig or strathspeys. More dances like Virginia Reel, Flying Scotsman, Canadian Barn dance, Eightsome Reel, Strip the Willow, Gay Gordons, Dashing White Seargent, Riverside Jig etc., but still using a traditional SCD band music.
2. As above, with us doing a couple of SCD demos as advertisements for the club. Perhaps something like Flying Bobbins and the Dreamcatcher.
3. Continue with the current hybrid programme
4. Stop calling it a ceilidh and offer a full SCD programme.

Our recommendation is option 2.

We have also considered the best timing and for 2026/27 we are proposing moving to holding it towards the end of the Spring term. This gives longer to establish a display team and also has better band and hall availability

Ceilidh Date and Venue: We have a provisional booking for the large hall at Charteris for 20 March 2027

Committee membership

The Committee comprises

Ewan – Chair
Freddie – Secretary
Donald – Treasurer
Stephen – Membership cashier
Anne – Website management
Stewart

Website

Thank you to Anne and Freddie who have successfully delivered a new refreshed website for us. Have a look at it here. <https://gaygordonsedinburgh.com/>

Next Year's Dates

Winter Term: Monday 5 October to Monday 30 November 2026 (9 weeks)

Spring Term: Monday 11 January 2027 to 22 March (week before Easter) (11 weeks)

Ceilidh: Saturday 21 March 2027 (TBC)

These are shorter terms, adjusted to match this year's attendances.

Appendix 1

Interim Income & Expenditure Statement

Period from 1st April 2025 to 31st December 2025

Cash Flow Statement	Ceilidh	Classes	Total	2024/25
	£	£	£	Total
				£
Income				
Member Subscriptions		204.00	204.00	212.00
Class Fees		1,015.00	1,015.00	1,797.00
Ceilidh Ticket Sales	1,080.00		1,080.00	920.00
Donations/In Lieu of Payment		175.00	175.00	350.00
Other sums			0.00	93.00
Total Income	1,080.00	1,394.00	2,474.00	3,372.00
Expenses				
Tutor fees		(440.00)	(440.00)	(675.00)
Hall fees in year		(755.60)	(755.60)	(2,188.82)
Hall fees paid relating to post 31st December, 2025		(110.92)	(110.92)	(136.80)
Ceilidh Hall	(215.00)		(215.00)	(374.00)
Ceilidh Band	(600.00)		(600.00)	(600.00)
Ceilidh catering	(60.00)		(60.00)	(80.00)
Other Ceilidh costs			0.00	(58.00)
Website costs		(100.80)	(100.80)	(18.00)
Insurance (Risk and Equipment)		(107.88)	(107.88)	(87.09)
Miscellaneous	(31.00)	(45.00)	(76.00)	(53.00)
Total Expenses	(906.00)	(1,560.20)	(2,466.20)	(4,270.71)
Cash Flow from Classes and Ceilidh	174.00	(166.20)	7.80	(898.71)
Bank / Cash / Asset Balances		31/03/2025	31/03/2026	31/03/2025
		£	£	£
Bank Account		933.78	1,703.58	933.78
Cash		812.00	50.00	812.00
		1,745.78	1,753.58	1,745.78