South East Region Teachers Association
Biennial General Meeting
Sunday 2 February 2025 at 7.30pm - Zoom meeting

Present: Jane Rose (Chairperson), Caroline Catterall, Ginny Colenbrander, Chris Collings, Jan Collings, Lizzy Conder, Gerry Elliott, Raquel Fernandez, Jim Henderson, Sheena Henderson, Chris Jeffery, Steve Kelly, Rose Kreloff, Murrough Landon, Peter Loveland, Hilary Maidstone, Ken Martlew, Liz Mitchell, Marie Montague, Annette Owen, Paul Plummer, Brian Rose, Mervyn Short, Kate Thomson
(24 participants)

Apologies: Betty Arrol, Tom Arrol, Armaiti Bedford, Andrew Brown, Alison Jackson, Liz Mason, Ian Stewart, Judy Valvona

1. Welcome
Jane Rose, Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last Biennial General Meeting 29 January 2023
The minutes were agreed to be a true record. The proposal to adopt the minutes was made by Ginny Colenbrander, seconded by Ken Martlew and unanimously approved by the meeting.

3. Report from Chairperson about serTA activities for 2023-25
The report from the Chairperson was circulated prior to the meeting. Jane reflected on another successful membership period in which membership continued to grow. She drew attention to continuing efforts to find new venues for workshops to make them accessible to as many members as possible. To support the training of new teachers, serTA also ran a RSCDS Teaching certificate course in 2023 and a basic teaching skills course in 2024.

Jane thanked the Committee for working so well together over the two year period.

4. Financial Statement October 2022-October 2024
The Financial Statement was circulated prior to the meeting. Ginny highlighted a small loss of £26 in the provision of workshops but reported that the aim would continue to keep the cost of workshops as low as possible.

Subscriptions brought in an income of £620 in 2022-2024, which covers running costs for the website and insurance. serTA subsidised the 2023 Teaching Certificate Course by £980 from its General Reserve.

Paul Plummer was thanked for his work in devising a system for managing the serTA accounts. He also acted as Independent Examiner for the accounts. It was noted that the Independent Examiner declaration in the Statement needs Paul's name to be type-written below his signature. The independent examiner for period 2023-2025 will be arranged by the Committee (Constitution 12 b.)

Jane thanked Ginny for her work on the serTA finances.

Lizzy Conder proposed adoption of the Financial Statement for October 2022-October 2024, which was seconded by Jim Henderson and unanimously approved by the meeting.

5. Election of Committee 2025-2027

Jane Rose reported that two members of the Committee were standing down:
Jane Rose – Chairperson
Marie Montague – Secretary
These positions will be filled from within the Committee.

Two new members propose to join the Committee:
Jan Collings
Christine Jeffery
No further volunteers to join the Committee came forward at the meeting.

The new Committee for 2025-2027 was proposed as follows

Hilary Maidstone	Chairperson	continuing
Kate Thomson	Secretary	continuing
Ginny Colenbrander	Treasurer	continuing
Sheena Henderson	Website Officer	continuing
Jan Collings	SerTA newsletter	
Christine Jeffery		
Jane Rose	Ex Officio for Teachers course and Anniversary weekend	

Caroline Catterall proposed that the candidates should be elected to the Committee en masse, seconded by Rose Kreloff and unanimously approved by the meeting.

6. New Committee takes over meeting

Hilary Maidstone took over the Chairperson. She thanked Jane Rose for her work as Chairperson of serTA since 2016 and her willingness to remain as ex officio member of the Committee to run the 2025 Teachers course and complete the work of organising the 20th Anniversary weekend event.

7. Subscription 2025-2027

Ginny Colenbrander, Treasurer, recommended that the serTA subscription should remain at £10 because, with current number of members, that covered costs for the Association. The workshops are self-funding, with any surplus being contributed to running costs of Teaching Certificate course.

Annette Owen proposed to accept the recommendation that the subscription should be £10, seconded by Chris Collings and approved by the meeting.

8. Future Plans

Hilary outlined plans for workshops and other events in the forthcoming year:

a. Spring Workshop (16 March 2025)

This will offer three main sessions: Dancing and Feet presented by Laura Brown, Digital music and RSCDS music production led by Chris Collings (Lucy Clark SCD Club) and Jeremy Hill (RSCDS) and Diack dances session taught by Jane Rose.

It was noted that Chris Collings had surveyed serTA members about how they played recorded music and there was an anticipatory discussion about software to find precise piece of a track to teach parts of a dance.

b. September Workshop (28 September 2025)

Andrew Nolan will be teaching the sessions supported by musician Adam Brady.

c. 20th Anniversary Weekend (20-22 March 2026)

This will be held in Bournemouth and planning is well under way.

Paul Plummer asked whether the risk of clashes with either dances held by local groups or repeated use of a venue had been considered. He cited the Weymouth dance that takes place on that weekend each year. The response was that

- Some research in South East Region had shown that there was a clash with a Harrow event and that steps were being taken to move it to a different date
- The hotel in Bournemouth has been used by Mervyn Short for general scd events. Mervyn was involved in the selection of the venue and it is believed that there will be low overlap between the audiences for the general dancing event and a teachers' weekend.

9. Any other business

a. Dancing standard and content of Teaching Certificate units 2/3

Paul Plummer raised the topic of the need for skilled dancers to attend Unit 2 (practical dancing) and Unit 3 (foundation teaching course to teach beginners class) because much of the training effort in those units is spent on improving candidates standard of dancing. If a candidate has a very good standard of dancing, the units don't benefit them. He sought the view of the meeting about approaching the RSCDS Education and Training Committee.

The main points of discussion were:

- It was agreed that time was spent on ensuring candidates met dancing standard for Unit 2
- Candidates on the courses do vary in skill and experience but help each other as well as learning from the tutor and this creates a supportive group environment for development as dancers and in teaching skills.

- Core Training for Instructors (CTI) is a training route that provides teaching skills without the assessment of personal dancing and might be an alternative to Teaching Certificate for those short on time.

- Education and Training Committee (E&T) is looking at Dancing Achievement Awards (DAA), CTI and Basic teaching skills in relation to units 2 and 3 for Teaching Certificate. For example, a candidate with DAA at a suitable level might be given a bye for Unit 2. E&T are interested in reducing the stress of the Teaching Certificate course participants at Summer School.

No decision was made to raise this topic with E&T Committee.

b. Warm up and Cool Down
Jane reported that a new book was in development but there was not yet a date for publication.

c. Forthcoming Day Schools
- BHS Borders Branch – 8 March: Dance and Music day schools
- Oxford Branch – 15 February: Dance day school
- Suffolk Dance day school – 7 June 2025

d. Teaching certificate course assistance
Jane asked for volunteers to form classes for exam candidates on Mock exam and actual exam days in Kings Langley. The date needed are:
7 June 2025 – Mock exams
21 June 2025 – Unit 3 and Unit 5 practical teaching exams

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Marie Montague
serTA Secretary