

Annual Report: MFS Irish Set Dancing Group (ISD) 2022

Covid-19 continued to disrupt planned events in the year ending 30 June 2022. As a result, income and expenses were considerably lower than in a 'usual' year. The net outcome was a small surplus of \$58.

Classes and general activities

Of a planned 40 classes, only 21 were held:

5 in July/August 2021

7 in November/December 2021

9 in May/June 2022

As anticipated, the ongoing uncertainties surrounding Covid and planned events had an impact on attendance numbers. Class numbers ranged from 8 to 14; averaging 11.

Predicting if/when classes might resume after each Covid 'wave' made it difficult to commit to bookings with the North Canberra Baptist Church, and avoid cancellation fees if numbers were likely to be insufficient to cover hire costs. So ISD chose to resume classes in 2022, only when confident we could achieve sufficient numbers to cover costs and avoid incurring any unused hall hire. (We keep in contact with our regular dancers via an ISD email list.)

Several free beginner/refresher classes were offered to encourage new dancers to become regular attendees. Five new dancers came along to classes in July/August 2021 before Covid restrictions ended classes until November 2021.

Six new dancers came along to the last few weeks of classes in May/June 2022, before ISD broke for ACT School holidays. To maintain their interest, ISD is trialling two-hour free beginner classes during ACT School holidays, before the next term begins on 20 July 2022.

Entry prices remained unchanged (\$8 for MFS members and \$9 for non-MFS members). The first two classes for new dancers are free. There continued to be a very good response to the option to purchase a 10-class pass (paying in advance for 10 classes) which reduces the price per class to \$7 for MFS and \$8 for non-MFS members. 80% of MFS members took up this option.

Deck dances (a social occasion held once or twice a year at some-one's home) have not been held for the past two years due to Covid.

Annual dance weekend

The annual dance weekend, usually held in October at the Hall Pavilion, Hall Showgrounds, has not been held for the past two years due to Covid.

Administration and acknowledgements

ISD organisers were Paul Wayper, Christine Briton, Bec Tarrant and Peter Stringfellow.

The organisers wish to thank all of those who contributed in so many different ways during a very difficult year, including teachers, callers, those who did the set-up/pack-down/clean up, those who contributed to suppers, and everyone who came along to share the joy of Irish Set Dancing.

Christine Briton, ISD Group
14 July 2022