

**Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society  
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting**

July 31, 2013

**Present:** Betty Allen (by phone), Beth Birdsall, John Crabtree, Kat Dutton, BDan Fairchild, Jean Farrington, Alex Hall, Bob Littlehale, Lance Ramshaw, Vickery Trinkaus-Randall

Meeting called to order at 7:22 pm by Jean Farrington.

**1. Minutes from the previous meeting:** MSP to accept the revised version distributed by email. Beginning now, Exec minutes once accepted will be posted on the Members Only area of the website.

**2. Treasurer's Report (Bob):** Bob reported the following current figures.  
There are further income and expense items still outstanding from ESS and the Scottish Pinewoods sessions, though they will need to be completed soon, since the end of the fiscal year is fast approaching.

MSP to approve the report.

Century	\$17,306.40
Lloyds	\$80.65
ESS CD	\$4,002.67
SCDS CDs	\$6,593.07
Total	\$27,982.79

**3. Reports from Liaisons.**

a. **Fall concert** [Oct. 26-27, 2013] (John): Not much to report on preparations for this year's concert. Jean asked if we've received any publicity materials from the headliners yet. Linda has put together a flyer from the limited materials that we do have.

Regarding publicity, Lance will check with the "Inter-city Scot" site to see if concert events like this can be listed there. Jean believes that the RSCDS website links to the Inter-city Scot for information on events in North America. Also, our website should use the term "Fall Concert", rather than "November Concert", in page titles and headers.

Bob noted that he still hasn't seen our contract for the hall for this year, though he has sent them a deposit. (Delays there are typical.) Folks wondered whether there will be a change in the Museum's fee for this year since the date is split over two days. (The dress rehearsal will be earlier on Saturday this year.)

Linda had a meeting with the Museum people concerning 2014, and our proposed dates are already in conflict, even though that is more than a year off. The conference group that caused issues with parking this year will be meeting either on the last weekend in October or on the first weekend in November in 2014. The second weekend in November appears to be open. Jean noted that in 2014, Halloween will be on the first November weekend, which would argue that the Nov 7-8 weekend would be better.

Looking further ahead, we are signed up for the first weekend in November

(Nov 6-7) for 2015.

- b. **Highland Ball** [May 10-12, 2013] (BDan): Bob noted that over the last 10 years combined, we have lost a total of \$14K running the Highland Ball. He suggests that it's time for a new model. Jean agreed that we have to operate from the assumption that we'll get 100-120 people. While it would be sad to give the event up entirely, we need to lay out a plan that can break even.

We spent quite a while discussing possible alternative venues. The Corinthian Hall in Melrose was suggested at our last meeting, but Bob and Betty haven't yet visited to check it out.

We talked about the Armory in Somerville, which has a nice main hall of ample size for our purposes, with a wood floor and a stage and balcony. It is very well-located for public transit. While immediate parking is limited, they do have ample overflow parking 5 blocks away, which is a substantial walk, but feasible. Betty noted that that might be a problem if it's raining, but folks felt that we could run shuttles ourselves for that distance.

There are lots of restaurants in the area, which might provide an option to having a full, catered dinner, though we could still offer desserts. The drinks arrangements would be similar to Moseley's, since they have their own cash bar.

For public events, they apparently offer the option of splitting the ticket price between the event sponsors and the hall, but we don't know how they define "public events".

We could also check with Moseley's as to whether they would be willing to reduce their minimum below the 150 that they've been offering us.

We also talked about maybe needing to reduce the amount that we pay the band, which was set years ago when we were getting 200 people.

- c. **PW Benefit Ball** [Dec. 7, 2013] (Betty): Nothing to report.
- d. **ESS Pinewoods** (Jean): Final numbers are not yet in. Regarding the bookstore, in addition to the FAC and CDS materials that Marcie Van Cleave had, Jean had some stuff there from our Branch bookstore, but no sales were made.

Jerome and Catherine have asked to continue on the ESS committee again next year. From the English side, Marisa will be staying on, but Julia Wise will probably rotate off.

- e. **PW Scottish Sessions** (Bob): Jeremy and Kendra would like to be co-charis again in 2014, and Exec enthusiastically agreed. They are moving, and as of Monday, will be at 18 Warwick Rd, Watertown, MA 02472.

There were no empty beds at camp for either session. The chairs haven't seen the evaluations yet, but initial reactions were positive, particularly from newcomers. There were some complaints regarding confusions in the camper job descriptions. Those come from PCI, but we could pass the feedback along to them. On the finances side, the chairs are still collecting receipts

We thought some about who might be able to be assistant chairs with them in 2014 in preparation for chairing the event in 2015. They current chairs have organized many of the procedures in a way that should be easy to carry forward.

- f. **NH Highlands** [Aug 23-25, 2013] (Vickery): The spaces in the retreat lodge are full, but they still have some spaces open in the dorms. They have a full class worth of basic dancers enrolled. Steven Thomforde will be the piper.
- g. **Branch Activities at NH Highland Games** (John): Not much to report. John called the Games folks today about the tent space rental and trophy sponsorship, but it still seems early from their end. The brochure is now out, which does mention SCD in general, but the full schedule of events isn't out yet.
- h. **Teaching Music Committee** (Betty): The TMC is combining their July-Aug meetings on Aug 6, so there was no July meeting to report on.
- i. **Tartan Times** (Beth): Beth emailed Evelyn, but hasn't heard back.
- j. **Demonstration Team** (Alex): Karen is working on signing up at least 6 couples for the Fall Concert, and is working on scheduling rehearsals, trying to get 7 sessions in, even though the show itself will be earlier this year.
- k. **Membership** (Bob): No report received.
- l. **Web Site and Publicity** (Kat): The webmasters report that Kendra and Jeremy did a great job of communicating with them regarding website issues. Kat will ask the webmasters to change "November Concert" to "Fall Concert".
- m. **Bookstore** (Vickery): Betty reported on the final post-Pinewoods bookstore wrap-up, since she was talking with Patti anyway to get her class report. Total sales (including tax) were \$3652.82. Of that, consignment sales were \$1656.00, a higher percentage than in previous years.
  - Thanks to Donna Little, Franzi Chesley, Donna Griffith, and Bill Griffith for working at the bookstore. Things went smoothly. Note that bookstore staff in the future should not be assigned other camper jobs.
  - There was apparently some confusion in implementing the policy that consignment sales should be limited to teachers and musicians who are full-time staff for the current Pinewoods session. In future, it might be helpful if the Chairs provided the bookstore staff with a printed list of consignment-qualified staff.
  - Patti will take the sale items down to Scottish Weekend in the Fall, and will also pack a few items to go to New Hampshire Highlands.
  - Betty will pick up the boxes of stock from Patti during August, and bring them down to Jean, who believes she has storage space.
  - Jean has been talking with various people about taking over management of the bookstore. To ease the physical load, perhaps just a subset of more popular items could be brought to events. A partial list of available items could also be posted on the website, so that people wouldn't need to look through the stock in person. Mail order would also be an option. When the bookstore manager does drive the bookstore to an event, they should be compensation for their travel expenses, even if that requires adding a small surcharge.
- n. **Class Liaisons:**
  - 1) Albany: No report.
  - 2) Belfast: No report.

- 3) Brookline: No report.
- 4) Brunswick: They are not meeting during the summer, but they did dance at the Saltwater Festival and as part of a Scottish day at the Maine Mall in advance of the Maine Highland Games.
- 5) Cambridge: The class is now meeting at the Fayerweather Street School, with good attendance at the Monday after the Pinewoods break and on July 29 (5 sets). Positives include courteous building staff, good hall size, and available parking. Negatives include no A/C, complex sound system setup, and that fact that the floor can be sticky in humid weather. Also, the only room available there for the Basic class is carpet over cement, which isn't really workable.  
 On Aug 6, they will be meeting at the Canadian American Club, a possible alternative location. They are planning to distribute another class survey after that, and then to decide whether to extend the Fayerweather contract from Aug through December.  
 They are still looking for other options. We talked some about the Armory or the Museum of the Modern Renaissance, both in Somerville. Would Tufts have anything available?
- 6) Fairlee: They were pleased to have four class members at Pinewoods. Class resumes after Labor day
- 7) Great Barrington: No report.
- 8) Greenland: No report.
- 9) Kennebunkport: No report.
- 10) Montpelier: No report.
- 11) Nashua: No report.
- 12) Northampton: Class resumes after Labor Day
- 13) Salem: No report
- 14) Stow: They will have their pool party in August.

#### 4. Old Business

- a. **Policies and Procedures:** Jean had distributed a draft of the Policies and Procedures document. We made a few edits, including clarifying the wording regarding who counts as Pinewoods staff and regarding the delivery options for the Tartan Times, changing "November Concert" to "Fall Concert", and adding a "revised as of" version date to the front page.  
 MSP to adopt this version, incorporating those changes.
- b. **TMC Candidate Class Guidelines:** We reviewed the draft guidelines, which look fine. We suggested one clarification in the wording of I-B-6: "develop a form for teachers to use when recommending candidates". Lance will send Gregor a note regarding this change. If TMC approves, they can send it to Lance to send to the Webmasters for posting.

#### 5. New Business

- a. **August Mailing.** After discussion, we decided to switch from a hardcopy mailing to a combination of email to the class contacts and posting of the materials in the Members Only area of the website, perhaps headed “Information for Classes 2013-2014”.

A one-page reminder from the Membership Chairs to the class contacts in hardcopy about the importance of getting class members to join the Branch might still be a good idea.

Materials for the mailing are due Aug 22, so that it can go out well before Labor Day.

## **6. Next Meeting**

- a. Aug. 28 – Bob’s
- b. Sept. 25

MSP to adjourn at 9:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lance Ramshaw