

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

Oct. 30, 2013

Present: Betty Allen, Beth Birdsall, John Crabtree, Kat Dutton, BDan Fairchild, Alex Hall, Bob Littlehale

Regrets: Jean Farrington, Lance Ramshaw, Vickery Trinkaus-Randall

Meeting called to order by Betty Allen

1. Minutes from the previous meeting: MSP to approve the minutes as distributed.

2. Treasurer's Report (Bob): Bob reported the figures below.

There are two requests for music subsidies: Fairlee for 3 musicians, \$300, plus \$65 travel; and Brunswick, 2 musicians, \$200 (one musician from out of state, but that doesn't qualify for travel). MSP to approve these subsidy payments.

Final Pinewoods Scottish Sessions figures show income \$19,524.30, expenses \$16,345.37, for a profit of \$3,178.93. English Scottish figures show income \$4,613.25, expenses \$5,591.39, for a loss of \$978.14.

Century	\$35,599.56
Lloyds	\$918.41
Total	\$36,517.67

3. Reports from Liaisons.

a. **Fall concert** [Oct. 26-27, 2013] (John): The concert went well! We don't have exact attendance numbers, but it looked about 3/4 full for the evening show and reportedly more than that for matinee. Not sure exactly how expenditures totaled, but John thinks we're pretty well in accord with the budget.

Linda is drafting a letter to Blazin' Fiddles about the expenses we'd like to recoup. We think it should come from Exec, so Linda will send us her draft when it's written.

Bob doesn't have money from Saturday night yet, just from matinee, so can't give any financial estimates yet. But people report that they liked it, which we think is equally valuable. Jean would like to do some kind of more formal recognition of musicians and also of Linda and John and Robert for all the extra short-notice work that they did.

The other thing coming up short-term is that we want to talk soon to Patty at the museum to make sure they won't book anything that will take the parking from us and conflict with us. (But Memorial Hall is also still on the table as an option.)

Discussion of candidates for director and producer next year was postponed till a meeting with better representation.

b. **Highland Ball** [May 10, 2014] (Bob): Sarah and Ed are planning to come to our November meeting (on Dec. 4th) to present the budget. Their next project is putting out flyers, cribs, application, etc. Bob has sent them previous ones as samples. They are still working on brunch details and people, and still finding some people for small jobs. Things generally seem to be on schedule.

- c. **PW Benefit Ball** [Dec. 7, 2013] (Betty): Nothing new at the moment.
- d. **ESS Pinewoods** (Jean): No report.
- e. **PW Scottish Sessions** (BDan): BDan emailed Jeremy last night but hasn't got a response yet. They'd like to come and present the budget Dec. 4th instead of in January. Beth has confirmed with Jeremy and Kendra (after some email shenanigans) that she is interested in being the jobs coordinator/assistant co-chair, so she is now confirmed for that.

All of the teaching staff have accepted, including Antoine Rousseau of Paris, Linda Henderson of SF, Kathy Giacoletti, and Jen Schoonover, and so have all the MCs. Liz Donaldson has hired Elke Baker, Anne Hooper, Peter Barnes, and Dan Emery (on pipes). Peter O will be doing sound again. Multiple people are interested in the dining hall manager and lifeguard positions, and they'll be deciding among them shortly.
- f. **NH Highlands** [Aug 23-25, 2013] (Vickery): No report.
- g. **Branch Activities at NH Highland Games** (John): Nothing to report.
- h. **Teaching Music Committee** (Betty): The Arlington church hall has been booked for Advanced Classes through June, for every month except April, which is too near Easter, so that it's not clear yet if we'll have an April class or not.

The committee is working on the Ball program, and checking it for music, so it will probably be done by the next meeting.

TMC is working on coming up with a list of core dances. They have three lists of candidates (jigs, reels, strathspeys), and are whittling them down, aiming for a list of 21-24 total dances, which will be put on the website. Hopefully classes will use some of them and put them on dance programs. Kat mentioned that in a previous meeting we discussed the possibility of putting some dances on YouTube – would these be good dances for that? Betty says yes, if we go that route, they would be. Bob mentioned that on the West Coast there's at least one branch which puts an asterisk next to the core dances on dance programs, which is helpful for people to be aware that they are core dances and good ones to make sure they know. There was general agreement that some kind of indication is a good idea. Betty mentioned that we did this some time ago and asked classes to put the dances on programs, but that it didn't really happen. We are trying again, and hoping it gets more widespread participation and cooperation this time. These dances will play a role in everything that the TMC devises, but class parties are up to the classes.

TMC is planning to have a workshop on Book 47 dances at some point in the spring, possibly before the Highland Ball.

They are also planning to have people try out the Book 49 dance submissions, possibly before the Benefit Ball. Gregor has emailed people about it, looking for volunteers..
- i. **Tartan Times** (Beth): The November/December issue has already gone out. Beth talked to Swifty Printing, who immediately agreed to make a note in our file to email the PDF to Beth each issue. This time, the email didn't get through initially, possibly due to some other email problems Beth has been having or

possibly due to a file size issue, but when they resent it upon request and it came through fine. Their website also has a section where customers can directly download files, which Beth has now signed up for, so she should be able to download issues without the need for any emails from the printers. The PDF sent by Swifty continues to be much higher quality than the one from Evelyn's scanner.

We are still looking for someone who could take on the role of a layout editor for the TT, hoping that we can move relatively soon to a format this is more natively electronic.

Peter Tandy spoke to Beth about the question of sending the TT electronically to the other branches and newsletters to whom we send it to in reciprocity. Beth has begun speaking to Peter and Evelyn about this, and will continue working on figuring out what exactly needs to be done to arrange for as many of these contacts as possible to receive the TT by email instead of in hard copy.

- j. **Demonstration Team** (Alex): The Fall Concert went well from the team's perspective. It is definitely good to rehearse with the band...

The team will be performing at BCMFest (in a 12-12:45 slot) and at the Ancient Universities Burns' Night on Jan. 11, though the rehearsal for those is not yet set (usually only 1 or 2 rehearsals.) The team will be dancing at NEFFA, though the contract hasn't been signed yet. There is a potential gig out in Worcester in the spring which we've been asked to participate in, but the organizers are still looking for funding.

The team added two members for Fall Concert (Stephen and Kat) and one for last year's NEFFA (Emily).

- k. **Membership** (Bob): John and MaryEllen report 215 full members as of today, plus 13 associate members, for 238 total (which is ahead of last year at this time). Out of that, 141 are doing all electronic correspondence and 21 doing all hard copy. (66 want electronic notices but hardcopy TT.)

MaryEllen has been emailing the class teacher when she sees that a class count is under 8 members, to see who has signed up and how many more they need. No current Branch classes are in jeopardy, but some of the lapsed ones are trying to get back.

There is a question about the "primary class" entry on the form. Many people are putting multiple classes as their primary. This is a problem because membership money is tied to the primary class slot in terms of branch class numbers and affiliation, but that fact is not at all clear to members on the membership form or in policy. We should bring this up again at a meeting when we are all here, possibly in January.

- l. **Web Site and Publicity** (Kat): Things have been mostly quiet. Laura wants more guidance about putting the TT on the website in the members-only section – just putting up the PDFs? Where in the members site? Our consensus was that they should make a TT archive page within the members section, and definitely keep it as the PDFs.

Kat also received an email from the webmasters after the meeting, which has been forwarded to Lance. The webmasters wanted to state for the record that the

changes to the Fall Concert caused them a great deal of work, and also that the Highland Ball chairs have been great about getting them information so far.

- m. **Bookstore** (Vickery): No report.
- n. **SAGM** [Nov. 11, 2013]: Exec members bring refreshments. John will bring punch bowls and ladles.
- o. **Class Liaisons:**
 - 1) Albany: No report.
 - 2) Belfast: David Thompson has passed the baton as leader of the Penobscot Bay demo team to Mike and Dawn Little.
 - 3) Brookline: No report.
 - 4) Brunswick: Their Fall Dance Party went well; the band was great. Still hoping to get more young folks up for dance. One new dancer. In November, they will not meet on Thanksgiving.
 - 5) Cambridge: They will be having Veronica's Attic on 11/25 (in downstairs, no basic class for that double social hour, with extended tea break for shopping). The Canadian-American Club is having a fundraiser gala on 11/3 (this Sunday); we're putting a half-page ad in their program and hoping for a class presence in tartan & class t-shirts, though they already had a full slate so there won't be an official SCD component of the gala.
 - 6) Fairlee: Folks noted that there were 5-6 sets on the floor at all times at the fall social, which was lots of fun.
 - 7) Great Barrington: No report.
 - 8) Greenland: No report.
 - 9) Kennebunkport: A small group, but soldiering on; they have one new dancer.
 - 10) Montpelier: No report.
 - 11) Nashua: No report,
 - 12) Northampton: No report.
 - 13) Salem: No report.
 - 14) Stow: No report.

4. Old Business

5. New Business

- a. The Chelmsford class is going to be applying to be a Branch class. They meet once a month. Will save further discussion on this for when we have a full roster here for the meeting and/or when they actually apply.

6. Next Meeting

- a. Dec 4 ("Nov" meeting postponed) – at John's

b. Tentatively Jan. 8 (“Dec” meeting postponed) – at Bob’s

c. Jan. 29

MSP to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Lance Ramshaw,
(with many thanks to Beth Birdsall,
who took the minutes in my absence)