

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

“December” meeting on Jan. 8, 2014

**Present:** Betty Allen, Beth Birdsall, John Crabtree, Kat Dutton, BDan Fairchild, Jean Farrington, Alex Hall, Bob Littlehale, Lance Ramshaw,

**Regrets:** John Crabtree, Vickery Trinkaus-Randall

Meeting called to order by Jean Farrington at 7:22

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

**2. Treasurer’s Report (Bob):** Bob presented the figures below.

The Pinewoods Benefit Ball had income of \$1,470 and expenses of \$920, for a profit of \$550. (The profit last year was \$660.)

Membership fees have been paid to HQ, GBP 3253 (\$5,335.99). (Note that the price per member has gone up since last year.)

There are two music subsidy requests. Nashua had 3 musicians \$300 + \$65 travel, for \$365. Brookline had 5 musicians \$300 + \$65 travel, total \$365. MSP to approve these subsidies.

Century	\$33,179.27
Lloyds	\$778.06
Total	\$33,957.33

**3. Reports from Liaisons.**

a. **Fall concert** [Nov. 7-8, 2014] (John): Jen Schoonover has agreed to direct next year’s show. (As noted last month, John will be the Producer.) We should move ahead on reserving the date; John should consult with Jen regarding guest musicians’ schedules.

b. **Highland Ball** [May 10, 2014] (Bob): The Ball program and dance notes have been posted on the website. Ball flyers went to the Philadelphia Hogmanay and to the local New Years’ dances. The applications should be ready this week; Sara is just waiting to hear from the caterer what the cutoff date will be. The Welcome dance program flyers should be done by the end of the month. All volunteer positions have been filled.

Jean suggested perhaps exploring broader publicity options, like BCMFest, attendees at the Ancient Universities Burns’ Night event, or clan societies. Folks suggested this it might be more productive to take flyers to the English or other dance groups, where there may be folks who have done Scottish in the past.

Thinking ahead to next year, BDan reports that our requested band Frost and Fire will be available. BDan will send Bob an email with the names, so that Bob can send them a contract.

c. **PW Benefit Ball** [Dec. 6, 2014] (Betty): We decided to send the proceeds from the 2013 event to Pinewoods for the general fund. The hall is booked for 2014. Hannah will be one co-chair, and she is reaching out for another.

We discussed and nominated Bands for next year.

- d. **ESS Pinewoods** (Jean): Dave Wiesler will be Music Director. Mel Briscoe and Robert McOwen will teach Scottish, with Robert also teaching Highland. Barbara Finney and Beverly Francis (from NY) will teach English.  
Catherine Miller has had to withdraw from the committee. They suggest Meghan Murray as a replacement. MSP to approve this choice. They plan to present a budget at our next meeting.
- e. **PW Scottish Sessions** (BDan): Application forms went up on the website before Christmas. They have received a number of European applicants already. They printed up publicity postcards and distributed them across the country, with more packets to be mailed out this week.
- f. **NH Highlands** [Aug 22-24, 2014] (Vickery): Roberta reports that the teachers will be Janet Walker (Pittsburgh, PA) and Jennifer Schoonover (Rockland, MA). Terry Traub will be the Music Director.
- g. **Branch Activities at NH Highland Games** (John): No report.
- h. **Teaching Music Committee** (Betty): They cancelled their December meeting, since they were up to date on all tasks.
- i. **Tartan Times** (Beth): Barbara McOwen spent a couple hours at Evelyn's helping out with preparation of this issue, and was able to demonstrate how to do some steps more efficiently. . Barbara now has a version of the Pages layout program, and is working on setting up a template that could be used for future editions, moving toward a more fully electronic process.  
This month's issue went out late electronically, since neither Evelyn nor the printer happened to remember to let Beth know that it was ready.
- j. **Demonstration Team** (Alex): The BCMFest demo will be this Saturday afternoon, with the Ancient Universities demo on Saturday evening. The team had a run through on Sunday afternoon with most folks there. A couple additional gigs are coming up later in Spring.
- k. **Membership** (Bob): We have paid Headquarters our membership fees. The current count is 223 members and 12 associates, for a total of 235. Our membership chairs promise that a full report and the directories will be ready before our January meeting.
- l. **Web Site and Publicity** (Kat): Meyer raised a concern related to the list of classes, suggesting that notification of changes should come to them only from the listed official contact for the class involved, copying the Membership Chairs so that they can validate a suitable number of Branch members. However, Exec a while back officially asked Barbara McOwen to maintain the PDF version of the class list, so notification of changes that comes to the Webmasters through Barbara should be viewed as official, part of keeping the HTML web page listing in synch with the printable PDF version.  
Betty noted that the Webmasters, who were out of the country on vacation at the time, declined via email to respond to a last-minute request by the Pinewoods Benefit Ball organizers to post the directions to the venue on the website. Laura's note suggested that it would be good to arrange for a back-up who could cover for

then when they are away. Exec agrees, and plans to invite them to an upcoming meeting to work out a plan.

- m. **Bookstore** (Vickery): Mike and Dawn told Vickery that they have finished cataloging the stock and will be sending the Webmasters a PDF list to post, so that members can see what is available. They welcome suggestions for non-RSCDS books or CDs that might be worth stocking. They plan to submit a brief article to the Tartan Times covering their plans for the shop.
- n. **Equipment** (BDan): Peter reports that the new powered mixer has arrived and was used at the Nashua and Brookline parties.
- o. **Class Liaisons:**
  - 1) Albany: No report.
  - 2) Belfast: They held an English/Scottish dance party at David and Barbara's house on Jan 1, with 20+ people attending.
  - 3) Brookline: They were planning an advance session to try their new space on Dec. 15, but that meeting was cancelled due to weather. They plan to switch to the new space as of January.
  - 4) Brunswick: Their Fall dance party date has been set for Oct 18.
  - 5) Cambridge: December classes went well. The holiday party was a great success and use of the downstairs area for that worked well. They have renewed their contract with the Canadian-American Club through the end of June, and are working on attracting new dancers.
  - 6) Fairlee: They plan to coordinate their Fall Party schedule with Patti.
  - 7) Great Barrington: No report.
  - 8) Greenland: Laurie reports that Seacoast has been cancelled for the last few weeks due to the cold, but plans to dance this Friday.
  - 9) Kennebunkport: No report.
  - 10) Montpelier: No report.
  - 11) Nashua: Exec members noted that their New Year's party was fun.
  - 12) Northampton: Their New Year's Day party had about 10 couples dancing, some from the New Haven Branch, with great music. Their end of season party will be June 7.
  - 13) Salem: No report.
  - 14) Stow: They had 2 4-couple sets

#### **4. Old Business**

#### **5. New Business**

- a. **Nominating Committee.** Gary reports that Lea Sewell does not seem reachable, so they are looking for an alternative third member, and are open to suggestions.
- b. **Exec Meetings by Conference Call:** Jean suggested that we explore having some Exec meetings by conference call. She is serving on one of the Pinewoods strategic planning task force groups, and they have been meeting using a free conference call service, with each member calling in from their home phone. Members with experience in such meetings agreed that that typically works much better than trying to have a single remote member join a physical meeting using a consumer-grade speaker phone. The hope is that Branch members who don't live in the immediate Boston area would be more willing to serve on Exec if at least a portion of the meetings did not require a long drive.

There was active discussion. Folks noted that it would probably work better to arrange it so that guests get invited primarily to the physical meetings. It would also be helpful for the conference call meetings to have access to a web site or shared cloud drive space where members could post documents for all to review.

We decided to try to have our February meeting by conference call as an initial trial run. BDan offered to look into conference call services. (Some are free. Some apparently charge a small amount but may in turn provide better service.)

## 6. Next Meeting

- a. Jan. 29 at John's

MSP to adjourn.at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lance Ramshaw