

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

June 25, 2014

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

**Not Present:** Alex Hall, Bob Littlehale, Vickery Trinkaus-Randall

The conference call meeting was called to order by Jean Farrington at 7:21 pm.

1. **Minutes from the previous meeting:** MSP to approve the minutes as distributed.
2. **Treasurer's Report (Bob):** Bob sent a report with the figures below. He also reported receiving two music subsidy requests: Chelmsford for \$300, and Cambridge for \$300. MSP to approve them.

Main checking	\$26,999.12
Lloyds	\$403.35
Total	\$27,402.47

**3. Reports from Liaisons.**

- a. **Fall concert** [Nov. 8, 2015] (John): Jen reports that many of the Highland Dance Boston folks unfortunately will not be available for the date of the concert. She is interested in possibly booking Norman Kennedy, a singer / story-teller / weaver and keeper of Scottish traditions. He does solo vocals and story-telling, focusing on work songs, like for waulking wool. He lives in Vermont, but is not a young man, and there may be health issues.
- b. **Highland Ball** [April 18, 2015] (Bob): Lance read Sara's report. There were 152 people total at the Ball, including band and sound staff, with 18 walk-ins, 2 non-dancers, 1 scholarship, and 9 complimentary admissions, with 60 people at the Welcome Dance. Overall, the Ball showed a profit of \$1,300.21.  
Sara and Ed have agreed to co-chair the Ball again next year. A deposit has been made on Memorial Hall for April 18, and the band Frost and Fire has been contracted for that date. The Weston Church is available April 17 for the Welcome Dance, but with no deposit yet paid, and Ron has agreed to host the Brunch. Sara plans to attend our August meeting to give further feedback.  
Jean noted that the Welcome Dance date is the same evening of the month on which the TMC has been scheduling Advanced Class sessions. Betty's guess was that TMC would be willing to adjust their schedule. (TMC has already been informed about the April 18 date for the Ball, but they probably haven't yet realized the conflict with their usual Advanced Class schedule.) Exec voted to approve holding the Welcome Party at Weston, once TMC agrees that they can adjust the Advanced Class schedule.
- c. **PW Benefit Ball** [Dec. 6, 2014] (Betty): Betty hasn't yet received a response from Hannah.
- d. **ESS Pinewoods** (Jean): No recent updates. It does look like the ESS application is now directly available on our Branch website.

- e. **PW Scottish Sessions** (BDan): Jeremy reports that things are going fine, despite Kendra's laptop being impounded for a week by the TSA at Logan Airport. Both sessions are full, but with no waiting list at the moment. Liz Donaldson has assembled the tune book for the evening parties. The housing assignments are done, pending revisions, and the Gazette will be going to press soon. The next task there will be jobs.
  - Beth is talking with someone about being cochair for next year, and Exec approved the choice, if the candidate decides to go ahead.
- f. **NH Highlands** [Aug 22-24, 2014] (Vickery): No report.
- g. **Branch Activities at NH Highland Games** (John): John still needs to contact the Games committee folks. He plans to get to that this week.
- h. **Teaching Music Committee** (Betty): Regarding the Candidate Classes, Gregor had a two-hour meeting with six people in Kennebunk before the Downeast Fling. All six came out of the meeting still interested, and Gregor has asked for commitments by Pinewoods. TMC notes that Exec has to contact HQ by August 1 to inform them that we will be holding a Candidate Class, in order for our candidates to take the written test on Oct 11. Betty will clarify whether that application needs to include a list of the candidates. Betty is working on a draft budget for the Candidate Class.
  - The list of core dances is ready to be posted on the website. Some introductory explanatory text is being drafted.
  - TMC discussed what sorts of materials they should put on the website. A list of teachers and musicians by name only is one option. (Lists with contact info are posted in the Members Only area.) Other suggestions included guidelines for Candidate Classes and for program MCs, and pointers to resources on other Branch websites.
- i. **Tartan Times** (Beth): Barbara McOwen, who is working with Evelyn on producing the TT, sent Beth an email. She has had three working sessions with Evelyn. They have figured out how to place a photo or graphic directly, without printing and then scanning it. This issue is more digital than before, though there are still a few printed and scanned items, including one document that Evelyn receives only on paper. There may be a better way to format the calendar information. Barbara is planning on more sessions with Evelyn for the August issue.
  - Barbara noted that someone should notify the TT editor each year regarding new and retiring Exec members. Lance apologized, noting that this info has usually been included in the post-AGM Exec Notes column, but that the list of retiring members got omitted this time due to space constraints.
  - Beth reports that the new issue does look much better. Many thanks to Barbara for her efforts.
- j. **Demonstration Team** (Alex): No report.
- k. **Membership** (Bob): No updates.
  - Regarding the list of Branch classes, as noted in our January minutes, Barbara McOwen is serving as "Keeper of the Class List" (a better phrasing than "Class

List Coordinator”), and class contacts should send notification of any changes to her. As also noted in those minutes, the Secretary will send notification of any changes in Branch Class status to the Keeper of the Class List, the class contact person, the Webmasters, the Tartan Times, and the Membership chairs. Our understanding is that the Webmasters will update the HTML version of the list as they receive updated versions of the official PDF version from the Keeper of the List.

Exec checked the by-laws regarding participation by associate members, since it turns out that Dale Birdsall has his primary membership in the Montreal Branch, and is an Associate Member of our Branch. While the by-laws do prohibit associate members from voting at the AGM or holding office (President, VP, Secretary, or Treasurer), nothing prevents them from serving on Branch committees.

l. **Web Site and Publicity** (Kat): Nothing to report.

m. **Bookstore** (Vickery): No report.

n. **Calendar:** Jean reports that Nancy Rawson feels that she no longer gets out enough to do an effective job of collecting calendar information. She has been collecting the info and passing it along to Jean, who formatting it for the Tartan Times.

We talked about possible ways in which this function could be organized. The main goal is to make info about dates available well in advance to catch possible conflicts. It might be easier to have the collecting and formatting tasks be done by the same person.

We discussed whether an interactive app on the web site would be feasible. Perhaps preloaded with traditional stuff when first posted? A Google calendar might work, visible to everyone although only a few people would have write-permission. We could create a special-purpose “rscds-boston-calendar” Google account, and give the password to the folks who will update the list. The Branch website could link to it. A further thought was that perhaps the Tartan Times calendar section could be pulled automatically from the planning calendar, though the functions of the two are a bit different.

Having the conflict calendar as something that everyone could have access to sounded great to folks. We should discuss this further at the Changeover meeting.

o. **Class Liaisons:** (Many classes are on summer break.)

1) Albany: No report

2) Belfast: No report

3) Brookline: No report

4) Brunswick: No report

5) Cambridge: No report

6) Chelmsford: Loren Wright taught their most recent class, and they had 18 dancers. They have an ice-cream social coming up.

- 7) Fairlee: Another successful social in May. They are now off till Labor Day. They did a demo over Memorial Day weekend, and will do another one in August.
- 8) Great Barrington: No report.
- 9) Greenland: No report
- 10) Kennebunkport: Merrill reports on a successful Downeast Fling, with thanks to their much-appreciated band and to all who came to support the event.
- 11) Montpelier: No report.
- 12) Nashua: No report.
- 13) Northampton: No report.
- 14) Salem: No report.
- 15) Stow: No report.

**4. Old Business**

**5. New Business**

**6. Next Meeting**

- a. July 30 – Changeover meeting at Bob’s, starting with a potluck at 6:30. (John will be gone that week.)

We adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lance Ramshaw