

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee

July 30, 2014

Present: Betty Allen, Beth Birdsall, Dale Birdsall, Kat Dutton, BDan Fairchild, Jean Farrington, Susan Haines, Alex Hall, Merrill Henderson, Bob Littlehale, Lance Ramshaw, Jeremy Thorpe, Vickery Trinkaus-Randall

Not Present: John Crabtree, Linda McJannet

Initial Organizational Session:

1. Summary briefing on salient issues from the past season (Jean) –
 - The Highland Ball saw a change of venue and made a profit. Sara and Ed Pokrass will co-chair again for 2015. The date of the Ball is April 18, 2015.
 - The website is being used more efficiently for meeting minutes, programs, reaching out to the Branch membership, and as an archive. The Branch policies and procedures should also be made available on the site.
 - The Executive Committee held some telephone meetings, a process that makes it easier (and quicker) to meet in bad weather and will hopefully make it more convenient for members coming from greater distances.

2. Appointments

a) Executive Committee Liaisons to Branch activities:

Fall Concert	John Crabtree
Highland Ball	Bob Littlehale
Pinewoods Benefit Ball	Betty Allen
Pinewoods ESS	Susan Haines
Pinewoods Scottish Sessions	Linda McJannet
New Hampshire Highlands	Susan Haines
Activities at NH Highland Games	John Crabtree
Teaching and Music Committee	Betty Allen
Tartan Times	Kat Dutton
Demonstration Team	Alex Hall
Membership	Dale Birdsall
Web Site and Publicity	Kat Dutton
Bookstore	Merrill Henderson
SDCEA	Bob Littlehale
Equipment	Alex Hall
Nominating Committee	Dale Birdsall
Archives	Susan Haines
Scottish Exchange	In abeyance

b) Class Liaisons:

Merrill Henderson	Brunswick, ME Kennebunk, ME Belfast, ME Greenland, NH
Dale Birdsall	Montpelier, VT Fairlee, VT Salem, MA
Linda McJannet	Nashua, NH
Kat Dutton	Brookline, MA Cambridge (Watertown), MA
Alex Hall	Great Barrington, MA Northampton, MA Albany, NY
Betty Allen	Stow, MA Chelmsford, MA Newton, MA

c) Teaching and Music Committee appointments – The appointments are all set except for a member-at-large. TMC had suggested that the at-large member be separate from the Executive Committee liaison. Exec will think about this and bring suggestions to next month’s meeting. Betty Allen will continue as the liaison.

d) Other Appointments:

Membership Chair	MaryEllen Scannell
Membership Data/Directory	John Scannell
Tartan Times Content Editor	Evelyn Murray
Tartan Times Layout Editor	Barbara McOwen
Tartan Times Mailing Coordinator	Marcie Rowland & Cal Perham
Bookstore	Dawn & Mike Little
Archives	Susan Haines
Equipment	Peter Tandy
Web Site	Laura and Meyer Billmers
Backup Webmaster	Matt Billmers
Keeper of the Class List	Barbara McOwen
Database Mailing List	Peter Tandy
Liaison to HQ for the Candidate Class	Delegated back to TMC to fill

3. Suggestions regarding Exec meeting procedures, distribution of minutes, etc. – In-person meetings are particularly valuable for items such as budget

review/approvals, but urgent matters and some votes can be handled quite well with e-mail. A mailing list, perhaps Exec@rscdsboston.org should be established. There is the need for a calendar on the website for scheduling parties and other Branch events, a Google calendar or something similar. The class contacts list might also be beneficial.

4. Arrange for thank-you notes for departing Exe and Nominating Committee members and those appointed to specific positions in the past year. Jean will write these notes.
 5. Since the last meeting – Exec members consulted by e-mail regarding a travel funding request note from Antoine Rousseau. The consensus was to remind him of his contract but to offer a small good-will additional payment.
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Normal Monthly Agenda

1. **Minutes from the June 25, 2014 meeting** – Approved as distributed.
2. **Treasurer’s Report** (Bob) - With just a quick look, ESS had a loss of \$7,999.31 and SS had a profit of \$1070.46. ESS had 43 empty beds. Have we talked with Judy Erickson? Will Boston Centre be paying half of this? This is not a sustainable picture from PCI perspective either. Should it be made a family session? (It’s not clear what impact there would be on the program.) There may be other ideas out there, such as a focus on performance and high-impact. Judy Savage might be willing to give us a price break for a year or two if we want to re-brand it. The PCI plan is in flux, so there are options about shifting the schedule. ESS hasn’t managed to attract a significant following. They got 92 people only by pestering their friends, and there was very little publicity this year.

Main checking	\$20,379.55
Lloyds	\$403.35
Total	\$20,782.90

3. Reports from Liaisons –

- a) Fall Concert (John) – November 8, 2014 – No Report.
- b) Highland Ball (Bob) – April 18, 2015 – Sara would like to attend the August meeting. It would be better if she could send her ideas in advance and then limit her time to 15 minutes.
- c) Pinewoods Benefit Ball (Betty) – December 6, 2014 – Betty has not heard from Hannah. The Hall is now being run by the city of Salem, but we have been assured that we are still on schedule, and the city has the deposit.
- d) ESS Pinewoods (Jean) – See above information in the Treasurer’s Report. RSCDS needs to appoint two people on to the committee. Meghan Murray would like to stay on, but Jerome Fong has concluded his stint.

- e) Pinewoods Scottish Sessions (BDan) – There were two notable injuries this year; one requiring surgery. Due to last minute cancellations, there were 144 campers for Session I and 143 for Session II. Judy Savage charged for a full camp, so we may get a small amount refunded to us. There was e-mail discussion concerning Antoine Rousseau’s travel stipend (mentioned above). Both Antoine and Linda Henderson have sent gracious thank-you notes. The chairs are just tidying up some loose ends.
- f) New Hampshire Highlands (Vickery) – August 22 – 24, 2014 – The teaching and music staff is in place, and everyone is gearing up for a great weekend. There is still room for a few more dancers, so spread the word.
- g) Branch Activities at NH Highland Games (John) – No report.
- h) Teaching and Music Committee (Betty) – The Committee did not meet in July.
- i) Tartan Times (Beth) – The main issue is the changeover to someone else being liaison. The most recent edition was nearly a digital copy.
- j) Demonstration Team (Alex) - No report.
- k) Membership (Bob) – The Great Barrington class has 9 people, and where they are now dancing requires insurance. Bob is waiting for an answer from the insurance broker and hopes to have an answer by tomorrow. They count a dance class as “an event.” Bob has spoken with Ted and will send the information concerning the additional fees to him. It was moved to re-accept them as a Branch Class, with the provision that they will need to pay the extra cost of adding them to the insurance until the insurance year changes over.
Exec needs to add to the Policies and Procedures concerning what designates a Branch Class and to include dates.
- l) Web Site and Publicity (Kat) – The webmasters will archive the PW Gazette and also the list of dances taught in classes.
- m) Bookstore (Vickery) – The Bookstore did very well at Pinewoods and cleared out some older stock. Dawn and Mike will be ordering more of the New Manuals and Prescribed Dances for the Candidates. In addition, they will be ordering Book 48 and its CD, the Third Graded Book and its CD, the Imperial Book, and some copies of Sellings’ Handbook for Teachers. They are working to get the Pinewoods Collection republished and hope to have it available soon. A number of suggestions for books and CDs to purchase were received from the people attending Pinewoods. Bob noted that he needs the consignment sales income and data.
- n) SAGM - Scheduled for November 3, 2014.
- 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 – The class is doing fairly well and will be dancing over the summer. They’ve been getting new dancers every couple weeks and are utilizing guest MCs.
- 6) Chelmsford -August 9th party at 2 pm. They are experiencing problems getting the hall in September.
- 7) Fairlee - On break until Labor Day.
- 8) Great Barrington - No report except above Branch Class discussion.
- 9) Greenland - 30th Anniversary of 18th Century Dance will be November 22, 2014.
- 10) Kennebunk - On break for the summer.
- 11) Montpelier - No report.
- 12) Nashua – The class is continuing to meet this summer but have had to cancel a couple times.
- 13) Newton MA - No report
- 14) Northampton - On break for the summer.
- 15) Salem - No report.
- 16) Stow – The class had its last meeting in June and will reconvene in September. The received a grant that is supporting one musician every other month in the fall.

4. Old Business

5. New Business

- a) In the Candidate Class guidelines, it is stated that no candidate can serve on Exec or TMC. Could we change this statement to say, “Candidates must recuse themselves from any issue affecting the Candidate Class”? Should this ruling apply to just TMC and not include Exec? It was moved to strike “Exec” from the Policies and Procedures and to have Exec MSP to make that change.
- b) People should put thought into ESS issues for discussion in the next month. We need a task force. The Pinewoods schedule is in flux, and CDSS might be shrinking sessions or weeks.
- c) Exec also needs to be thinking of someone for TMC for the AT-Large position. The At-Large person typically brings dancer perspective, not Teacher or Musician. Send suggestions to Jeremy before the next meeting.

6. Next Meeting - August 27, 2014 at Bob’s at 7:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Haines