

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee

September 24, 2014

Present: Betty Allen, Dale Birdsall, John Crabtree, Kat Dutton, Susan Haines, Merrill Henderson, Bob Littlehale, Linda McJannet, Jeremy Thorpe

Guest: Roberta Lasnik

Not Present: Alex Hall

1. Minutes from the August 27, 2014 meeting – One correction was made under “ESS Pinewoods” to state that the Branch would be willing to share/partner with “anybody” to produce an alternative session. . The minutes were approved with this correction.
2. Treasurer’s Report (Bob) – The main checking account is at \$21, 531.60 and the Lloyds account is at \$360.29 for a total of \$21,891.89. It was moved and approved to pay a music subsidy of \$265 for two musicians to the Stow class. It was also reported that CDS (from Judy Erickson) has agreed to split the loss from this year’s ESS.
3. Reports from Liaisons –
 - a) Fall Concert (John) – Things are going well but advance ticket sales have been slow. There have been talks with Jerry Bell and Calum Pasqua to do a workshop between the shows with the hope to get fiddle groups involved.
 - b) Highland Ball (Bob) – The budget was moved and approved with a possible profit of \$296.00. We are held to 125 for dinner because there is no room for any other tables. For those people who did not get any food or received inadequate food last year, \$10.00 will be deducted from their ticket price. There will be a “dance only” option but only if the Ball is filled.
 - c) Pinewoods Benefit Ball (Betty) – Betty reports that she has reminded Hannah McArdle that a budget is needed but has not received one. Jeremy has spoken with MaryEllen Scannell. The rates for the hall rental are changing, but we already have a contract that will be honored. The Teaching and Music Committee has finished the program.
 - d) ESS Pinewoods (Susan) – Jeremy reports that CDS Boston has agreed to share in both the risks and rewards and we are willing to work with them. Jeremy met with Judy Erickson (CDS), and they will be sending out a survey concerning ESS and what people are looking for/what interests them about this session. Should it be a family session? They will be working on a bare-bones budget bringing in people from both sides as soon as the results of the survey are known. They will be checking with Pinewoods Camp, Inc. (PCI) to

find out all the options available. There have been discussions with Judy Savage concerning the possibility of eliminating the 115 person minimum for the no-name session. PCI has been discussing its own future and may go to a regular Saturday to Saturday session schedule at some point.

- e) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (Linda) – Linda reports that the Teaching and Music Committee have confirmations from Linda Henderson (country dancing) and Graham Donald (country and highland dancing) and are looking for someone to teach step. They are also looking at making some schedule changes. Some of the evening dance MCs have been invited, and, in general, things seem to be going well.
- f) New Hampshire Highlands (Susan) – The committee will be meeting soon to discuss the 2015 session.
- g) Branch Activities at New Hampshire Highland Games (John) – Linda has spoken with Loren Wright to see if there was any interest from the Nashua Class, but there isn't any at this time.
- h) Teaching and Music Committee (Betty) – Jeanetta McColl and Kent Smith will be presenting a two-part workshop on devising programs. There has been discussion on the Advanced Class and a survey sent. Should there be a change in name or in structure?
- i) *Tartan Times* (Kat) – The last edition of the *Tartan Times* was produced with nearly all digital material and with a try at a new cover. Evelyn and Barbara have set dates for working on the next edition, but it is all contingent on Evelyn's proposed surgery.
- j) Demonstration Team (Alex) – Rehearsals have started in preparation for the Fall Concert. Dancers have been assigned their dances, and they are working on learning both the dances and the transitions.
The team's next performance will be at the BCMFest (Boston's Celtic Music Fest) on Saturday January 10th from 3:10 PM to 3:55 PM in the Attic.
- k) Membership (Dale) – As of September 22nd, there were 137 Branch members plus 14 associate members. Of these, 127 members plus all the associate members requested to receive communications electronically. In addition, 21 members paid the \$10.00 fee to receive a hard copy of the *Tartan Times*. To date, 117 who were members last year have not renewed, and one associate member has not renewed. There are 11 first-time Branch members and one first-time associate member.
- l) Web Site and Publicity (Kat) – The webmasters report that they are waiting to post the Highland Ball preliminary flier.
- m) Bookstore (Merrill) – Mike and Dawn Little report that the bookstore will be at the Brunswick Party on October 18th.
- n) Class Liaisons –

- Brunswick, ME (Merrill) – The class has a few new members. Also, the Saltwater Celtic Music Festival moved to Portland and have included dance workshops in their program. Dancers will be offered a half-price ticket.
- Kennebunk, ME (Merrill) – The class has started but the numbers are small.
- Belfast, ME (Merrill) – No report at this time.
- Greenland, NH (Merrill) – No report at this time.
- Montpelier, VT (Dale) – The class is plugging along and will be going to Revels North on December 20th.
- Fairlee, VT (Dale) – The Fairlee Class has resumed regular weekly classes with a couple of new dancers that they hope will continue. The class is preparing for their autumn social on October 11th and hope the event will be well attended.
- Salem, MA (Dale) – The Salem class is going along and has a couple of new dancers.
- Nashua, NH (Linda) – No report at this time.
- Brookline, MA (Kat) – The class started on September 7th and remains distressingly small. They are preparing for their annual Twelfth Night party scheduled for January 4, 2015 with a snow date of January 11, 2015.
- Cambridge, MA (Kat) – The Cambridge Class had good attendance for the first three Mondays in September with several new dancers, due in part to “bring a friend for free.” Beth Birdsall taught the intermediate class and Susie Petrov the beginner class and led the social hours. Music was provided by Terry Traub and many friends. They will be participating in the Watertown “Faire on the Square” on Saturday September 27th as a way to reach out to the local community.
- Great Barrington, MA (Alex) – No report at this time. The class contact and main teacher have been ill.
- Northampton, MA (Alex) – No report at this time.
- Albany, NY (Alex) – The class is meeting every two weeks and averages about one set for attendance.
- Stow, MA (Betty) – No report at this time.
- Chelmsford, MA (Betty) – The class is putting a grant request together. Charles Liu and Susie Petrov had about 20 dancers in September.
- Newton, MA (Betty) – No report at this time.

4. Old Business –

- a) TMC member-at-large - Jeremy reported that he had contacted the proposed member-at-large representatives and they both showed an interest. He will call to get a definitive answer from the proposed individual.
5. New Business –
- a) Candidate Class Budget – Roberta Lasnik presented the proposed Candidate Class budget. With a change in the musician fee for the Unit 4 -5 musician (to equal that for the Unit 1 – 3 musician), the budget was moved and accepted.
 - b) Candidate Class Liaison – Susan Haines will be the liaison between the Executive Committee and the Candidate Class tutors.
 - c) November AGM – It seems that there are no local people attending this year’s AGM in Perth. Susan will contact Catherine Gray to ask if she would be interested in representing the Branch.
 - d) Boston Branch SAGM – The SAGM will be held on Monday November 3rd in Watertown. Kat will speak with Alex Bowers about this date.
6. Next Meetings –
- a) October 29 – at John’s
 - b) December 3 - ?Linda’s

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Haines