

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee

December 3, 2014

Present: John Crabtree, Kat Dutton, Susan Haines, Alex Hall, Bob Littlehale, Linda McJannet, Jeremy Thorpe

Absent: Betty Allen, Dale Birdsall, Merrill Henderson

Guests: Beth Birdsall, Bill Card

1. Minutes from the October 29, 2014 meeting were approved as written.
2. Treasurer's Report (Bob) – The Main Checking account is at \$28,057.25 and the Lloyds account is at \$1,888.92 for a total of \$29,946.17. The initial results from the Fall Concert show a loss of \$608.66 but that number could change. Bob reports that he has paid the initial membership fees to Headquarters - \$5,689.20.
3. Reports from Liaisons –
 - a) November Concert (John) – John reports that occupancy was at 53%, but 60% is needed in order to break even so a loss was encountered. Artistically the program was well-received and the comments were good.
The date for next year will probably be the same as for this year, the first weekend in November, although “Fiddle Hell” in Westford is scheduled for the same time (November 6 – 8, 2015).
Short listing was done for the Artistic Director, and John will be calling those people.
 - b) Highland Ball (Bob) – The application is ready and will be posted soon.
 - c) Pinewoods Benefit Ball (Betty) – No report at this time.
 - d) ESC (Jeremy) – CDS has approved and agreed to this new session. The committee members are Dan Blim, Meaghan Murray, and Stephen Thomforde. They will be looking for three teachers who are able to teach more than one genre. Jamie Berg will be in the area and will be one of the teachers. The camp will be open for dancers ages 13 and up (with appropriate parent or chaperone).
 - e) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (Linda) – Linda and Beth presented their proposed budget. The Pinewoods fees have increased by 1½ %. Pinewoods Camp Inc. believes in small increases versus a large increase. The musician budget contains some approximations but remains flat. For line items, the printing was increased by \$100, and \$60 was added to purchase fans to be placed in the camper packets. A motion was made, seconded, and approved that the camper rates be increased by \$10/\$15/\$25 instead of the proposed \$20/\$20/\$30, making the rates \$310/\$415/\$675.

Linda Henderson will be teaching strictly country. Graham Donald will be teaching half country and half highland. Kathy Giacoletti will teach the basic class and step. The third country teacher (for intermediate, experienced social, and teacher's choice) will be a camper attendee who is a high caliber dancer and teacher. They will be guaranteed a spot at camp and paid \$50 per class.

Jeremy suggested purchasing software/database technology to create a database that could be shared from one chair to the next. It could be utilized for other purposes besides Pinewoods information. It was moved and approved to purchase, as a miscellaneous expense, a universal copy of Filemaker Pro. Beth will look into this purchase.

- f) New Hampshire Highlands (Susan) – The music director for 2015 will be Terry Traub. The committee is still awaiting replies from the suggested teachers.
- g) Teaching and Music Committee (Betty) –
 - Candidate Classes – Applications have been sent to Headquarters to host the exams in this area for Units 2, 3, and 5 whenever the dates are set for spring 2015.
The Crabtrees have graciously agreed to handle hospitality and Robert McOwen will be the Musician Coordinator.
 - Challenge Class – The first “Challenge Class” had 17 attendees. The January and/or February class lesson will include videotaping of the dancers.
 - Workshop for teachers – There were eight participants at the first workshop and seven at the second. These included two Unit 5 candidates as well as musicians and seasoned teachers. The numbers worked very well for discussions.
- h) *Tartan Times* (Kat) – The November/December edition was turned in on October 27th. Evelyn and Barbara have scheduled their next working date for Wednesday December 10th, so the January/February issue should only need a few minor changes toward the end of December. Barbara had noticed some reproduction problems with the Class Schedule so she is working to correct them. Likewise, the Class listing has stabilized and there have been no further problems.
- i) Demonstration Team (Alex) – The Demo team was pleased with their performance at the Concert. The team will be performing at the BCMFest (Boston's Celtic Music Fest) on Saturday January 10th from 3:10 PM to 3:55 PM in the Attic.
- j) Membership (Dale) - As of November 23th, there were 223 Branch members plus 15 associate members. Of these, 195 members plus all the associate

members requested to receive communications electronically. In addition, 33 members paid the \$10.00 fee to receive a hard copy of the Tartan Times. To date, 54 who were members last year have not renewed. There are 19 first-time Branch members and one first-time associate member.

- k) Nominating Committee (Dale) – The chairs for the next three years are Joan Hill for 2015, Chris Gallagher for 2016, and Peter Olszowka for 2017. Bob sent a job description for the Branch Treasurer to Joan.
- l) Website and Publicity (Kat) – No report at this time.
- m) Bookstore (Merrill) – No report at this time.
- n) Class Liaisons –
 - Brookline, MA (Kat) – The class is pleased to be back at the Church of Our Savior. They will be dancing on December 7th, December 21st (Holiday Party), and December 28th. There is no class on December 14th. The Twelfth Night Party will be on January 4, 2015 with the 11th as a backup date. The program and flyer will be posted soon.
 - Cambridge, MA (Kat) – The teachers for November were Gregor Trinkaus-Randall and Karen Sollins. John Chambers was the band leader. Veronica's Attic was at the double social hour at the end of the month. The holiday party will be on December 22nd with Howard Lasnik as MC and music by Saucy Bess.
The class is making plans to purchase some new sound equipment as the current equipment is getting flaky, especially the mixer.
 - Fairlee, VT (Dale) – The weekly class size continues to vary between twelve and twenty, depending on whether or not the 4 twelve-year-olds show up with one or more adult chaperones.
At last count, their class contained 11 Branch members.
Three class members attended the 18th Century Dance, and they are now preparing for the New Year's Day Dance in Nashua.
 - Greenland, NH (Merrill) – The Greenland Class had a successful beginners' class of 6 weeks duration and hopes to retain 4 to 6 people from it.
The 18th Century Dance hosted 5 sets of dancers.
 - Brunswick, ME (Merrill) – The class will have its annual Holiday Ceilidh on December 18th then will break for two weeks, resuming class on January 8th.
 - Kennebunk, ME (Merrill) – The class finished out the year with 5 couples present. They will take off the month of December and resume in January. They are already planning for the Downeast Fling in June.

- Nashua, NH (Linda) – The group has no interest in participating in the New Hampshire Highland Games.
- Northampton, MA (Alex) – The class is moving to the Florence Civic Center starting on December 4th. The New Year's Day Dance and the season's end party will be held at the old location. Bob asked if they need insurance.
- Albany, NY (Alex) – The Fall Frolic was held in early November with 4 sets. Lois was able to get insurance through her homeowner's.

4. Old Business –

a) Results of RSCDS AGM –

- Helen Russell was elected as Chairman Elect.
- Motion 10.1 to keep the membership fee unchanged at £18.00 was passed.
- Motion 10.2 was carried and the Society will change to a Company Limited by Guarantee.
- The Toronto Amendment 10.2.1 failed (wanted the change to occur only after a complete set of Articles of Association and Rules and Procedures had been agreed to at a future AGM).
- Motion 10.3.1 was carried (the appointment of a President shall be optional).
- Motion 10.3.2 was carried (total number of Trustees shall be limited to a maximum of fifteen).
- Motion 10.3.4 failed (Membership Services Committee to be renamed the Publications Committee).
- Motion 10.3.5 failed (Management Board may make amendments to the Rules and Procedures and the changes reported to the Society in General Meeting).
- Motion 10.4 failed (full RSCDS Teachers shall receive numbered dance books free of charge).

5. New Business –

- a) Coordinating Branch year, membership year, and insurance year (Bob) – The fiscal year is from 9/1 through 8/31. The membership year ends on 8/31 when many classes are in recess for the summer. The insurance year ends on 4/25. It would be good to synchronize these dates, to have the insurance match the membership year. We will need a policy change to designate the date for a class to qualify as a Branch class.
- b) Pinewoods Board (Bill Card) – As a member of the PCI Board, Bill reported that the Board meets three times a year plus telecom meetings and subcommittee work. He discussed a few items with Exec.

- The Pinewoods Board places the interest of Pinewoods ahead of any other interest or affiliations. How often would Exec like an update from the Board? Exec responded by saying they would appreciate an e-mail after each meeting plus a heads-up when meetings are scheduled and to offer and receive feedback on significant agenda items.
- The Pinewoods calendar for 2015 is set. Some summers have 10 weeks and others 11, and the schedule algorithm used may sometimes benefit ESC and Scottish Sessions. July 4th sometimes occurs during ESC. CDS would like 6 contiguous weeks, but RSCDS is not interested in time before July 4th. Moving weeks is quite difficult, and it is hard to work with a session built on the holiday.
- Bill will be stepping down from his post in 3½ years and wonders how a replacement is chosen. The replacement is selected by Exec.
- Bill asked about the number of scholarships that are available and how the recipients are chosen. The “Next Generation Initiative” is available to the user groups and encourages young people to attend camp. It is open to first-timers and the recipients are selected by the chairs. Should Pinewoods offer more NGI scholarships? There are currently 2 for ESC, 2 for Scottish Sessions I, and 2 for Scottish Sessions II. Ideally, the recipients should be recommended by a mentor/sponsor but a mentor at Pinewoods would also be beneficial.

6. Next Meeting –

- a) January 7th – Bob’s
- b) January 28th -