

# Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society

## Minutes of the Executive Committee

July 1, 2015

**Present:** Betty Allen, Janet Anderson, Dale Birdsall, Cathy Crabtree, John Crabtree, Kat Dutton, Susan Haines, Alex Hall, Merrill Henderson, Bob Littlehale, Linda McJannet, Jeremy Thorpe

**Not Present:** Andrea Aeschlimann, Cathy Goode

### Organizational Session:

1. Welcome to new members!
2. Summary briefing on salient issues from the past season (Jeremy) –
  - With dwindling monetary returns, we need to watch the budget and look for ways to save money.
  - ESS 2014 saw a loss of \$8000 which was split with CDS. A new session, ESCape will occur this year and includes Contra dancing.
  - There have been discussions on overhauling branch communications with possible members' pages and calendar access.
  - The membership year has been changed to October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup> to allow the fiscal and insurance years to coincide.
  - A sexual harassment policy has been approved. If any infringements occur, the person should bring the incident to the attention of a member of Exec.
  - The Branch is 65 years old and we need to check our By-laws and Policies and Procedures to be sure we are doing what we say.
3. Review of meeting procedures, scheduling, etc. – Meetings will be held on the last Wednesday of the month and start at 7:15 PM. This year, we may plan for more conference calls, utilize Zoom video conferencing, or even hold a Saturday meeting.
4. Appointments

a) Executive Committee Liaisons to Branch activities:

Fall Concert	Linda McJannet
Highland Ball	Cathy Goode
Pinewoods ESCape	Jeremy Thorpe
Pinewoods Scottish Sessions	Linda McJannet
New Hampshire Highlands	Susan Haines
Activities at NH Highland Games	Merrill Henderson
Teaching and Music Committee	Andrea Aeschlimann
Tartan Times	Kat Dutton
Demonstration Team	Kat Dutton

Membership	Dale Birdsall
Web Site and Publicity	Kat Dutton
Bookstore	Merrill Henderson
SDCEA	Janet Anderson
Equipment	Merrill Henderson
Nominating Committee	Dale Birdsall
Archives	Susan Haines
Scottish Exchange	In abeyance
Pinewoods Benefit Ball	Andrea Aeschlimann (informational)

b) Class Liaisons:

Merrill Henderson	Brunswick, ME Kennebunk, ME Greenland, NH
Dale Birdsall	Montpelier, VT Fairlee, VT Albany, NY
Linda McJannet	Belfast, ME Nashua, NH
Kat Dutton	Brookline, MA Cambridge (Watertown), MA Stow, MA
Cathy Goode	Great Barrington, MA Northampton, MA
Cathy Crabtree	Chelmsford, MA Newton, MA
Salem, MA	Andrea Aeschlimann (plus Pinewoods Benefit ball)

c) Teaching and Music Committee appointments – Charles Liu will fill the vacant teacher position, and Andrea Aeschlimann will serve as the Executive Committee Liaison.

d) Other Appointments:

Membership Chair	MaryEllen Scannell
Membership Data/Directory	John Scannell
Tartan Times Content Editor	Evelyn Murray

Tartan Times Production	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

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### Normal Monthly Agenda

1. **Minutes from the May 27, 2015 meeting** – Corrections were made including “Dirk Tiede and the High Road” providing music for the Cambridge Class June 29<sup>th</sup> party, and a correction concerning the statement on Branch event policy to read, “The Branch does not have a specific policy on sexual harassment.” The minutes were approved with these corrections.
2. **Treasurer’s Report** (Bob) – Without the influence of Pinewoods, the Main Checking account is at \$13,853.90 and the Lloyds account is at \$1,571.95 for a total of \$15,425.85. The request from Salem for a music subsidy of \$365 was approved. Alex inquired as to whether or not the Northampton request for a music subsidy had been approved. Bob had not yet received the request. (Since this meeting, Bob has received the request and it was approved by this committee via e-mail.)
3. **Reports from Liaisons** –
  - a) Fall Concert (John) – November 7, 2015 – The flyer is out and will be published in the Pinewoods Gazette, and the *Tartan Times* will include a save-the-date page.
  - b) Highland Ball (Bob) – May 2016 – A survey concerning this year’s Ball will be sent to attendees and will include questions concerning the catering.
  - c) ESCape (Jeremy) – July 6–10, 2015 – Everything seems to be going well, and the number of registrants is above the needed minimum of 115.
  - d) Pinewoods Scottish Sessions (Linda) – July 10-18, 2015 - The housing is basically done and the jobs are done. Both sessions are full, and there are several people on the wait list for Session I and only 1 or 2 on the wait list for Session II.
  - e) New Hampshire Highlands (Susan) – August 28-30, 2015 – Nothing to report at this time.
  - f) New Hampshire Highland Games (Merrill) – September 18-20, 2015 - Nothing to report at this time.

- g) Teaching and Music Committee (Betty) – Most of the last meeting was covering the last minute details for Pinewoods, including the teacher liaisons. There was some discussion concerning possible Pinewoods teachers for 2016. There was also discussion concerning changes for the Challenge Class. The thought is to hold 3 to 4 workshops instead of the regular class. Possible workshops include Jen Schoonover covering Laban Technique and a session for new teachers on how to run a class and do a program. Kat also suggested a stretching/warm up class, and Jeanetta McColl and Gregor Trinkaus-Randall may do one on programs.
- h) Tartan Times (Kat) – The latest issue was out on time. The new system of sending the pdf directly to the printer and to Kat at the same time is working well. There was no updated membership form or report from Exec. in the last edition.
- i) Demonstration Team (Alex) – Linda attended the Users’ meeting for the hall. The fee is increasing \$5 per hour, so the sessions may decrease to 2 hours. There is also a question of possibly checking with Calvary Church in Arlington where the fee is \$56 for 2 hours.
- j) Membership (Dale) – The new membership forms will be available at Pinewoods and should be sent to the class contacts. The membership chairs also cannot access the Membership sight at HQ.
- k) Nominating Committee (Dale) – Chris Gallagher is now the chair of this committee. There is still a vacant position.
- l) Web Site and Publicity (Kat) – Nothing to report at this time.
- m) Bookstore (Merrill) – The Bookstore was at the DownEast Fling and will be at Pinewoods.
- n) Class Liaisons - Many classes are on summer break.
- Kennebunk held a successful party on June 13<sup>th</sup>, and dancers from Kennebunk and Brunswick did a demonstration at Portsmouth’s Market Square Day.
  - Fairlee (Dale) – Gary reports that they had a lovely Spring Fling with the support of many Branch dancers. The class has had a few newer enthusiastic dancers, but one couple moved to Washington, DC, and a third moved to Poultney, VT (where she hopes to find or round up some dancers). The Fairlee class held its last regular class on June 24<sup>th</sup> and will resume after Labor Day. The annual Barn Dance will be held on Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup>, and the Fairlee Autumn Social is scheduled for Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup>. Terry Traub will be the band leader.
  - Cambridge (Kat) – The Cambridge Class held its end-of-the-year party. There were six sets of dancers, and the auction was quite successful. Classes will resume in July after Pinewoods.

- Stow (John) – The class held its end-of-the-year party and celebrated Jeanetta’s retirement from teaching the class.
- Albany (Alex) – The class has been averaging a set per week. Their annual workshop is scheduled for Halloween weekend.
- Northampton (Alex) – The class is averaging 4 to 5 couples and doing well in the new hall (except for 3 dancers moving out of the area). There were 3 sets for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party.
- Newton (Cathy C.) – The class is meeting in its summer location from 10:30 AM to 12 PM on Wednesdays.
- Chelmsford (John) – There were 14 dancers at the June class with Mary Ellen Scannell as MC and Dan Wheatly and Dave Arnold as musicians. The annual ice cream social will be held on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

- a) Harassment Policy – The harassment policy is geared toward anyone who may become “over-friendly” and is meant just to have a general policy in place. If a person is not conducting themselves properly, the event organizer will speak with the person. There is a conduct policy already in place. Jean Farrington has OK’d the new wording but prefers the already established policy. Can we collate both policies to include sexual harassment? Having something in place that is more specific may be beneficial. Below is the original draft.

*The Boston Branch is dedicated to hosting harassment-free events. Physical contact and flirting are integral parts of Scottish Country Dancing, but it is important to be sure that everyone involved is a willing participant, both on and off the dance floor. If someone is making you uncomfortable by touching you, flirting with you, making suggestive comments, following you, etc., you are encouraged to inform the event organizers or any member of the Executive Committee, who will address the issue. Repeated offenses, or individual blatant and deliberate offenses, may result in expulsion from an event and/or a ban from future events.*

Linda proposed and Kat seconded deleting the first line and changing the last sentence to say that Exec will ban if necessary. This change was approved.

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

- a) SAGM Meeting will be held on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Should the name be changed to AGM as it is actually the start of the new year?

#### 6. **Next Meeting** - August 26, 2015 at the Crabtree’s at 7:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Haines