

## **Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society**

### **Minutes of the Executive Committee**

August 26, 2015

**Present:** Andrea Aeschlimann, Cathy Crabtree, Kat Dutton, Cathy Goode, Susan Haines, Merrill Henderson, Linda McJannet, Jeremy Thorpe

**Not Present:** Janet Anderson and Dale Birdsall

- 1. Minutes from the July 1, 2015 meeting** – The minutes were approved after correcting the word “organized” to read “organizer” in the “Old Business” section referring to the Harassment Policy.
- 2. Treasurer’s Report** (Cathy C.) – The Main Checking account is at \$48,896.08 and the Lloyds account is at \$440.49 so the Total Current Assets stand at \$49,336.57. The preliminary numbers for Scottish Sessions Pinewoods show a profit of approximately \$6000 with a few outstanding expenses. For ESC, money is still owed to CDS, but there should also be a profit. With the change of the fiscal year, taxes are still filed on August 31<sup>st</sup>, then in one month, and then for the new fiscal year.
- 3. Reports from Liaisons –**
  - a) Fall Concert (Linda) – November 7, 2015 – The on-line ticket site is ready to accept orders with the same prices as last year. The information is ready for the web site. Andy Taylor-Blenis is working on picking dances and the choreography and the rehearsals are scheduled. Publicity is needed for Facebook and anywhere else possible.
  - b) Highland Ball (Cathy G.) – May 14, 2016 – A quick survey of the amount that other groups are paying their Ball musicians basically revealed that Boston has been paying more for fewer demands on the musicians. It was decided that the offer would be \$1500 for the Ball, \$500 for the Welcome dance, and \$150 for the piper. The date for the Ball has been penciled for Memorial Hall in Melrose.
  - c) ESC (Jeremy) – ESC 2015 had 120 attendees (over the necessary minimum of 115), and this committee approved proceeding with plans for offering ESC again in 2016. Continuing this week may lead to more support for Pinewoods Scottish Sessions. How many people stayed over from ESC to Scottish Sessions?  
Things to consider include the fact that Pinewoods is requesting that deposits be submitted earlier, so our deadlines/timelines may need to be altered. Also, with Stephen having moved to California, a replacement on the ESC team will be needed.

- d) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (Linda) – Linda reported that camp seemed to go well. There were a few issues with the *Gazette*, but it worked. The evaluations seemed fairly positive with the exception of comments concerning children on the dance floor.  
The thought for next year is for four full-time teachers next year, although this year's attendees seemed to like the utilization of campers teachers for the Intermediate class (a good experiment). There are also a few ideas being discussed concerning when to do announcements, in C# on Monday at an early time versus the Camp House except for no place to sit.  
The newly instituted Harassment Policy was needed for an incident this year. Jeremy and Linda will handle this issue.
- e) New Hampshire Highlands (Susan) – August 28 – 30, 2015 – With NHH just a couple of days away, the Retreat House is full, but there is still room in the dormitories. Everyone is looking forward to a great weekend of fine teachers and musicians.
- f) New Hampshire Highland Games (Merrill) – September 18 – 20, 2015 – The Branch will be represented at the Games with a booth near the vendors. Volunteers for the booth would be greatly appreciated. Patti Tillotson placed an ad in the Games Program and will be asking for reimbursement of \$40.
- g) Teaching and Music Committee (Andrea) – Betty Allen sent notes from the August meeting. Much of the meeting was devoted to reviewing Pinewoods 2015 and discussing the camper evaluations. The evaluations were generally positive with some good suggestions being considered. Barbara McOwen attended to participate in the music aspect of the evaluations.  
Roberta Lasnik and Charles Liu were appointed to work on the 2016 Highland Ball program. TMC asked that Exec. select the band for the Ball as soon as possible.  
The TMC officers for the 2015 – 2016 season are: Chair Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, Vice Chair Roberta Lasnik, and Secretary Kent Smith.
- h) *Tartan Times* (Kat) – Evelyn will be working on the next edition.
- i) Demonstration Team (Kat) – Robert McOwen is working on choreography for the Fall Concert. The Park Avenue church has raised its fee, so the team could use an increase in its budget allowance (from \$500 to \$650). The team should submit a budget to Exec.
- j) Membership (Dale) – No report at this time, but Exec. questioned if the chairs have been or are planning to visit the classes.
- k) Nominating Committee (Dale) - Ed Pokrass has agreed to serve as the third member of the Nominating Committee.
- l) Web Site (Kat) – The web masters are working on the page for the November Concert.
- m) Bookstore (Merrill) – Nothing to report at this time.

n) Class Liaisons –

- Nashua, NH (Linda) – The class took off for the month of July but resumed in August.
- Belfast, ME (Linda) – The class averages 9 plus couples, and they are talking about musicians for their May 2016 party.
- Brunswick, ME (Merrill) – The class provided a demonstration and a couple of workshops at the Maine Highland Games.  
The class party will be held on October 17 at the Topsham Grange Hall with musicians Catherine Miller and Terry Traub. Patti would like to encourage all to attend so that her class will be able to meet and dance with dancers from out of the area.  
The class will start meeting on Thursday September 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Kennebunkport, ME (Merrill) – The class will start up again on September 20<sup>th</sup>. A few people have made inquiries.
- Chelmsford, MA (Cathy C.) – The class held its party on August 15<sup>th</sup> with music by Dan and the Guns. The class will be requesting a music subsidy.
- Newton, MA (Cathy C.) – The class danced in July but had problems with construction in August. They will start again after Labor Day in their regular location.
- Salem, MA (Andrea) – The class has been contacted by the church concerning the church's non-profit status and has asked the class to be a partner in the care of the building. There will be a dance on November 14<sup>th</sup> as a promotion following the building's renovations. Arrangements for the Pinewoods Benefit Ball are underway and the flyer is expected by next week.
- Fairlee, VT (Dale) – Five members of the class will be attending the New Hampshire Highlands weekend. The Fairlee class commences on Wednesday September 2<sup>nd</sup>, and they are planning for their October 24<sup>th</sup> Autumn Social.
- Albany, NY (Dale) – The class is planning for their Fall Frolic weekend including collaboration with the Friday night Contra and Sunday night English dances.
- Montpelier, VT (Dale) – The class starts up on September 16<sup>th</sup> and hope to have enough people to make a go of it. Several people had dropped out because of health reasons or because they moved.
- Brookline, MA (Kat) – The class starts on September 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Cambridge, MA (Kat) – The class has been celebrating several events including at the beginning of August having been at the Canadian-American Club for two years. Overall, they have had a great summer of dance and music.

- o) Equipment (Merrill) – Peter Tandy reports that a branch member has donated six microphone cables and two 25-foot speaker cables to the Branch. Some of the new cables were used at the Maine Highland games and most will be used at the New Hampshire Highlands weekend. Peter is grateful because he doesn't have to borrow from the Cambridge Class. He would like to thank the Cambridge class for allowing him to use their sound system at the Chelmsford Class Party which was on the same day as the Maine Highland Games.
- 4. Old Business –
  - a) SAGM – The date for the SAGM will be November 9<sup>th</sup>. The Cambridge Class will need to know.
- 5. New Business –
  - a) Jean Milligan Memorial Fund – Betty Allen had a conversation at Pinewoods with a representative from HQ. She learned that HQ maintains a Jean Milligan Memorial Fund from which we could receive £1000 for hiring teachers for Pinewoods, if we choose to apply. Scholarships for individuals are also available.
- 6. Next meeting –
  - a) September 30 – phone meeting
  - b) ?October 24<sup>th</sup> at Fairlee dance or October 28 at location TBD