

The Scottish Country Dance Society of Boston, MA, Inc.
Minutes of the Semiannual General Meeting, 14 November 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:49 p.m. by President Jean Farrington.

Minutes of the SAGM: MSP to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2012, AGM as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Littlehale reported that funds in the Branch accounts total \$33,633.18, with \$37.40 in Lloyds, \$18,544.75 in the main checking account, \$4,455.29 in ING Direct, \$4,002.67 in the ESS CDs, and \$6,593.07 in SCDS CDs. The total is roughly \$6,000 less than at this same time last year.

ESS showed a profit this year of \$827.11, up from last year, while the Scottish Pinewoods Sessions sustained a loss of \$975.52. (Note that the Scottish Sessions showed a profit of \$4900 last year.) It looks like the November Concert this year will come in on the positive side.

Electronic distribution of the Tartan Times has reduced the mailing costs by 47% and the printing costs by 36%, and those are likely to go down further.

MSP to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Pinewoods Scottish Sessions 2012: Co-chairs Arianna Vogt and Catherine Scannell reported on a successful camp. Session I was full, though Session II, impacted by the economy, had only 116 attendees. Their new option for electronic submission of the second registration form worked well. The teachers and musicians were well-received. The co-chairs thanked music director Terry Traub and the Teaching and Music Committee for all their help, as well as the many other volunteers who contributed.

English-Scottish Session 2012: Jerome Fung reported on a successful ESS session, with 117 campers, exceeding the PCI minimum, and the session able to show a profit. They awarded 16 scholarships, enabling new campers to attend. Campers were pleased with the classes, particularly including the extended music program, with music classes offered all day long in both traditions. The committee hopes to increase the range of opportunities for advanced dancers next year.

Thanks to Gillian Charters, Judy Erickson, and Laura Scott for their service on the committee this past year, and to Laura and Meyer Billmers, the Scannells, Veronica McClure, and others for their help. Catherine Miller will be joining Jerome as Scottish representatives on the committee. Veronica noted that the Attic gave Pinewoods Camp \$500 for being at the session.

Meyer Billmers noted that while ESS had about the same attendance as Scottish Session II, the budgetary impact was different. Bob explained that the Scottish Sessions traditionally budget for a full camp.

ESS 2013 will be July 8-12, with Terry Harvey and Jen Schoonover teaching Scottish, Jenny Beer and Miriam Newman teaching English, and with music by Peter Barnes and Dave Wiesler.

Pinewoods Camp, Inc.: Bill Card brought us up to date on news from Pinewoods Camp, where hurricane Sandy caused only minor damage. The Dining Hall expansion has been a great success. The final cost of \$990K was more than the \$750K planned, but the overrun was covered from the Named Gifts campaign, investment gains, and the auction at the opening Gala. While no capital projects are planned for this year, future improvements are under consideration for Cottey House, the Pinecones area, and the Pine Needles area.

Three "Next Generation Initiative" scholarships were awarded to Scottish and ESS participants this year, and planning is proceeding for next year's sessions.

Hannah McArdle noted that framed version of The Pinewoods Reel that hangs in the Camphouse recently fell. She is remounting it, this time on acid-free paper, and asked whether

she should make a copy of it at the same time. Various ideas were discussed. Hannah will contact Gregor Trinkhaus-Randall, who works as an Archivist, and get his suggestions.

New Hampshire Highlands: No report.

Membership: MaryEllen Scannell gave a Membership report, noting that people could sign up at the meeting and still be listed in the new Directory. We currently have 190 Branch members and 12 associate members for the coming year, 15 of whom are joining for the first time. Unfortunately, 90 people who were members last year have not signed up, and also 14 who were associate members. If you know people who have not signed up or who might be interested in joining, this would be a great time to urge them to do so. (BDan Fairchild asked whether many continuing members tend to wait until after the SAGM to rejoin, but MaryEllen said that only 3 people signed up after the SAGM last year.) 2 couples and 8 singles joined as Benefactors, and 3 couples and 7 individuals joined as Sustaining members. Most, but not all, of our Branch classes have met the required minimum number of Branch members.

The membership form this year included a new item on communication preferences. 144 members chose all electronic communication, 21 preferred all hard-copy, and 37 requested electronic notices but the Tartan Times in hardcopy. (All but 4 of those changed their preference to that from all-electronic after seeing the initial electronic edition.)

Other Business: Jean reported briefly on the AGM in Scotland, where our own Barbara McOwen received a Scroll of Honour from the Society. Dues for the coming year were raised from £15 to £16.

In response to a question from the floor, Alex Bowers, Cambridge Class president, updated us on the situation regarding Springstep's intended sale of the building. The Cambridge Class committee met last week and discussed the issue. Their current contract with Springstep runs through June. While they would prefer to stay at Springstep, they have started thinking about and exploring alternative venues. However, there is no definite word from Springstep yet as to their plans, and it could take them a long time to sell the building. While they have said that they are planning to continue classes through the end of the calendar year, nothing has been said yet about their plans for the spring. The committee has formulated a list of their essential and desirable criteria for a new venue, and plans to send that out to the class mailing list. Parking and public transportation are important for accessibility, as well as two halls. If anyone has ideas for possible venues, please let the committee know

On motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lance Ramshaw, Secretary