

The Scottish Country Dance Society of Boston, MA, Inc.
Minutes of the Semi-Annual General Meeting, 6 November 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:48M by President Jeremy Thorpe.

Minutes of the AGM: Jeremy moved (John Crabtree second) to accept the minutes of the AGM held on 5 June 2017. The minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report, 2016 - 2017: Cathy Crabtree's report is the Branch's financial position as of September 30, 2017, the end of the fiscal year. The total liabilities and net assets total \$44, 604. The loss from the 2016 Concert was offset by the profits from Scottish Sessions Pinewoods 2017 and ESCape 2017. The Demonstration Team has been doing well due in fact to lower hall rental fees and more paying gigs. The Branch Administrative expenses are up from last year as a result of collecting fees online. The price of this convenience is approximately 3% for each transaction except for Pinewoods where the expense is paid for by the attendees using the online system for payment. The Teaching and Music Committee also had great success with their workshops during the past year. To date, it seems that we are on track for a successful Concert this year and hopefully better attendance at next year's Highland Ball

Pinewoods Camp, Inc.: Bill Card is just completing his sixth year of serving on the Board of Directors of Pinewoods Camp, Inc.

- Summer 2017 – The sessions went well with most sessions being full and camper nights increasing from 10,500 to 11,000 and thus bringing a proportionate increase in income. The camper fee was fixed at \$52.00, the same as 2017 and 2016. This summer, Early Music Week shared the camp with the Sierra Club which was doing trail work in Wildlands Trust properties. The camp was full for the week, and the combination will be repeated in 2018. The Green Wood Crafter's weekend was very popular and will also return in 2018.
- Executive Director – New Executive Director, Carl Mastandrea, has done well, and, when nine of the kitchen appliances failed over the summer, he was able to replace them, largely from Craigslist, with minimal impact to camp operations. Carl is from outside the world of music and dance, so he felt he ought to be “invisible,” but, over the summer, he found he needed to spend time with the campers. He participated in many of the sessions, including dance, but not yet with the Scots. He was impressed by their ability to party!
- Facilities – Thank you to the Horde who dug the trench enabling hard-wire internet access to be extended to the bookstore. This made it much easier to pay with credit cards. There are plans to upgrade the internet access to the kitchen where it improves camp operations and then to extend it to other areas. In general, Program Provider Session Chairs will have the option to enable, disable, publicize, or conceal the internet access during their sessions, whatever they think works best for their campers.

This summer, input on camp accessibility was received from Julie Vaillemont and others. For 2018, some changes will be made to help campers with mobility issues – railings on some steps, fill in some of the paths, relocation of some water fountains, and ramps to Pinecones and Newbiggin.

There are also plans to reroof many of the cabins, especially those over 30 years old.

- Dining Hall Manager – This year the Dining Hall Manager was a crew position rather than a volunteer from the session. This seemed to work well and will be done again in 2018.
- Nudity and Swimming – Nudity and swimming led to two complaints this summer. One was handled within camp, and the other, which included trespassing, was reported to the police. The parties involved were spoken to by the police.

Pinewoods Scottish Sessions, 2017: Laura DeCesare presented this report on behalf of herself and co-chair Ross Parker. Scottish Pinewoods, “Out of this World,” was a big hit! The camp was full for both sessions and a profit of \$3490 was achieved. Teachers Fred DeMarse, Jean Martin, Sue Ronald, and Kate Nealley challenged the dancers and brought their dancing to the next level in every class, and the many MCs led wonderful evening programs. Susie Petrov brought together a stellar music staff who created the sound that the dancers enjoyed each night. The outer space theme provided wonderful opportunities for decorations and parties. Ilene Goldstein gave us Tea at the Restaurant at the End of the Universe, Hannah McArdle made the Rebel Alliance and the Starship Enterprise come to life at the Star Trek/Star Wars Ball, and the Scannell family pushed the boundaries of space and time at the Time Travelers’ Ball.

Pinewoods 2017 also saw several changes, most significantly in the morning class offerings.

- The Advanced class was split into two classes, Advanced: Technique Focus and Advanced: Repertoire Focus. The change aimed to address overcrowding in the advanced class and to give the advanced dancers more options to learn in ways that seemed viable to them and yet challenged them to discover something new at camp. The dancers enjoyed having the two options, and the smaller classes allowed for more individual exploration.
- The Basic class combined with the Easy Dances class and was taught in the Basic class slot by the evening MC. The Easy Dances class has been declining significantly in numbers over the past few years, to the degree that the class had been having trouble forming a complete set. Folding the Easy Dances class into the Basic class ensured that the basic dancers would be learning material that they could immediately apply in the evening dances.
- The name of the Intermediate class was also changed to include the language “Technique and Repertoire” in order to draw the attention of dancers. Those who attended had many positive things to say.

The Potpourri class was also brought back. Dancers enjoyed Ceilidh Dances, Highland Steps for SCD, Cross-Step Waltz, Polka, and Plaid Bits Elsewhere, an exploration of English and Contra dances with a Scottish feel.

On a final note, the co-chairs apologize for the weather during the last half of Session 2. They are looking into securing better weather for 2018.

ESCAPE 2017: Kat Dutton reported that this was the 3rd year for ESCape. It was a successful session with 115 campers and making a profit of \$800 which is split with CDS. Everyone attending seemed to be willing to try something new.

For 2018, Meaghan Murray and Dan Blim will be stepping back to encourage the new chairs, April Birnie and Daniel Potter.

New Hampshire Highlands Dance Weekend, 2017: Roberta Lasnik reported that the eleventh annual New Hampshire Highlands Weekend was held on August 25 – 27, 2017 and was once again hosted by the St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center in Contoocook, NH. The teachers were Katherine Giacoletti from Wyncote, PA, Charles Liu from Watertown, MA, and Robert McOwen from Arlington, MA, all bringing fun and challenging dances. Charles devised the Saturday evening dance party, Robert delivered the ‘word’ from St. Andrews Summer School with dances from the new RSCDS Book 51, and Katherine treated the dancers to Scotch Measure (Twasome danced in 4 steps). Many thanks to Robert for graciously agreeing to teach even though he would just be returning from teaching SCD and Highland at St. Andrews. The musicians, led by Terry Traub along with Anne Hooper and Debbie Jarvis on fiddles and Mike MacNintch on pipes, provided great music throughout the weekend taught the music class. Thank you to Bob Littlehale and Betty Allen who produced the buttons with a design from Loren Wright. MaryEllen Scannell arranged, baked, and provided an outstanding Saturday Afternoon Tea, and some of the ‘Ladies’ wore ‘tea attire.’ Thank you to all who did kitchen duty because the camp’s china tea cups and plates were used. The New Hampshire Highlands Committee, Roberta Lasnik, Loren Wright, Gary Apfel, Gillian Charters, and Susan Haines invite everyone to the twelfth annual weekend to be held August 24 – 26, 2018. Remember, NHH is the 4th full weekend in August!

Other Business:

- There are a few available weeks at Pinewoods. If someone has an event idea, please come to Exec with your proposal and your budget for the event.
- Just as a reminder, this year’s Fall Concert, featuring Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas, is the final concert of its kind. The plan for 2018 is to hold a joint Ceilidh featuring Highland Dance Boston and the Boston Branch Demonstration Team.
- Priorities for the coming year -
 - Documenting the planning and timeline for events so there is a consistent record for the new chairs of events
 - Expanding the use of online payments

- Attracting new dancers – Exec is looking into a new dance class to be held in conjunction with an adult education class. This would be anticipated to begin in the spring. There will be more information to come.
- Jeff Hopper has bracelets that advertise dancing and RSCDS Boston. These were available at the New Hampshire Highland Games and will be available at the Fall Concert.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Haines, Secretary