

**The Scottish Country Dance Society of Boston, MA, Inc.**  
**Minutes of the Semi-Annual General Meeting, 5 November 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 7:52 PM by President Jeremy Thorpe.

**Minutes of the AGM:** The minutes of the AGM 11 June 2018 were approved with two corrections. ESCape was missing from the SDCEA Report and Ross Parker's name was misspelled in the Teaching and Music Committee Report

**Treasurer's Report, 2017 - 2018:** Cathy Crabtree's report highlights the Branch's financial position as of September 30, 2018, the end of the fiscal year. The total liabilities and net assets stand at \$55,650, approximately \$14,500 over last year at this time. Financially, it was a good year. Ticket sales for the Fall Concert (Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas) were twice those of the 2016 Concert. The Highland Ball brought just a tiny loss of \$13, but there were more attendees, the ticket prices were lower, the food costs were lower, and the music cost was higher. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods was quite successful, including the fact that one teacher donated their travel expense and one party expense was returned by the party organizers. The Boston Scottish Country Dancers (formally known as the Demonstration Team) had several paying gigs and honoraria were paid to the administrator and artistic directors.

**Pinewoods Camp, Inc.:** Bruce Mabbott, the RSCDS representative to the Pinewoods Executive Board, forwarded his report which was read by Jeremy. Since the AGM, there has been a lot happening at camp! The Executive Director, Carl, had a busy summer, and the Board of Directors just had their Fall retreat weekend last month.

The new infrastructure from the last off-season is already becoming part of camp and looks like it has always been there. The new camp store, the gender neutral/family changing room, and the ramps to Newbiggin, Pinecones, and Hunsdon House were very well used and roundly praised.

More tree clearing is still planned for this fall, with about 55 trees that we are proactively removing as they are in danger from any winter storms. With the severity of the storms from last year, PCI has decided to be more proactive and remove damaged or diseased trees. A new forestry plan will also be written this off-season to see what else camp can do to preserve our environment and adapt to climate changes.

Other projects that are in the works for this off-season include raising the rafters in Newbiggin. This has always been a problem for tall Highland dancers. Now PCI is looking into raising the roof of Newbiggin by about 2 or 3 feet to allow more activities to use the pavilion. Since the ramp was added, this pavilion has gotten more attention, so PCI feels that it should have the same clearances as other pavilions. A structural engineer is looking into the issue and contractor pricing will follow.

Also, a covered deck will be installed between the two sets of stairs at C#, and the water fountain will be relocated to this deck. This will enable dancers to exit the dance pavilion to

get a drink without getting their shoes dirty or getting them wet if it is raining. We are hoping that it will also become a social gathering spot. Unfortunately, some of the large trees near C# will have to be removed as they have been weakened by the storms and pose a threat.

This summer at camp was a very hot one, and our infrastructure, especially the dining hall as well as some cabins, became truly stifling as they were lacking in terms of ventilation. One of the projects for the off-season will be installing a roof vent along the length of the dining hall. Also, several cabins will get a vent installed to try and assist in air movement.

New Generation Initiative (NGI) scholarships continue to provide opportunities for young adults to enjoy sessions at camp that they otherwise might not be able to afford. Hard as it is to believe, some of these scholarships go unused, so please make sure you apply for them!

Pinewoods is also actively recruiting for crew positions for next summer. This year, most likely due to the strong economy, Carl had trouble attracting enough qualified and responsible applicants. Pinewoods loves to hire from within the User Group communities, so if you would love to spend the summer at camp and get paid for it, then please reach out to Carl at [manager@pinewoods.org](mailto:manager@pinewoods.org) or to Bruce at [b\\_mabbott@yahoo.com](mailto:b_mabbott@yahoo.com).

Pinewoods is also incredibly grateful to the generosity of the Scots. The auction amount from this summer was over \$19,000, which is remarkable. Thank you again!

Changes happen to any organization and Pinewoods is no different. Tony Baker, the maintenance guru and all round camp caretaker, has decided to retire after working at Pinewoods since 1979! His last day was October 31st. This is well deserved for Tony but obviously lead to a whirlwind autumn for Carl as he tried to learn as much institutional knowledge from Tony as possible before he leaves. Carl has hired a replacement for Tony and he is getting up to speed and spent some time with Tony before he retired. We wish Tony all the best for his retirement!

That is all the news from Pinewoods Camp, Inc. and enjoy any sessions you go to this summer!

**Pinewoods Scottish Sessions, 2018:** Laura DeCesare presented the report on behalf of herself and Ross Parker as Pinewoods Scottish Sessions co-chairs for 2018.

Campers were "Spellbound" at Pinewoods 2018. Camp was a rousing success, welcoming 145 campers for both sessions. This produced a net income of \$6,114.56, an increase of \$509 over Pinewoods 2017.

Country dance teachers Helen Russell, Linda Henderson, and Andrew Smith worked us all to become better dancers, and Laura Scott's Highland and Cape Breton dancers filled Newbiggin every day. Susie Petrov brought together a stellar music staff that created incredible music, and the evening MCs provided wonderful programs for each evening's dance.

The Advanced Technique Focus and Advanced Repertoire Focus classes gave our more experienced dancers plenty of ways to challenge themselves, and our Intermediate and basic classes did the same for all who attended them.

The Potpourri series brought variety to our days with a great line-up of warm-ups and cool-downs from Jamie Berg, partner dances from Andy Taylor-Blenis, the Redowa waltz with Keira and Marc Hartstein, and our first potpourri singing class with Sara Nealley. Our talented and generous camper musicians provided them with beautiful accompaniment. The 2018 party planners rose to the challenge and made magic. Ilene Goldstein gave us Tea in Baba Yaga's Cottage, Hannah McArdle created "Some Enchanted Evening" in C#, and Chrissy Gore made the pavilion glitter and shine so we could be "dancing in the Faerie Ring." We were sad when we learned that Laurie Somario and her sangria wouldn't be joining us for 2018, but the Scannell family made us forget our troubles with a wonderful "Potions Class."

We also celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Pinewoods Reel this year at Pinewoods. Thanks to a team of good-natured volunteers, the co-chairs were able to present some lesser know and even less accurate historical "facts" about the dance.

The new co-chairs for 2019 are Laurie Somario, Ellen Scannell-Woods, and Kat Dutton, and they look forward to providing everyone with a great Pinewoods experience.

**ESCAPE 2018:** Kat Dutton reported that ESCAPE 2018 was the 4<sup>th</sup> year for ESCAPE and the attendance rose to 139 dancers plus one baby. It was also the 4<sup>th</sup> year that ESCAPE has made a profit. The Basic Scottish class averaged one to two sets each day, a sign that there are newer dancers in need of classes. Terry Harvey, the Scottish Country Dance teacher and evening dance MC for Scottish, tried gender-neutral calling, which was well-received. The dates for ESCAPE 2019 will be July 1 – 5, 2019.

**New Hampshire Highlands Dance Weekend, 2018:** Roberta Lasnik reported that the 11<sup>th</sup> annual New Hampshire Highlands Scottish Country Dance Weekend was held August 24-26, 2018 at the St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center in Contoocook, NH. We had nearly 90 campers, plus teaching and musical staff and their family members. The teaching staff consisted of Martha Kent, Lance Ramshaw and Jen Schoonover. Martha devised the Saturday evening program, and Jen's schedule included a Cape Breton step dancing class. The musical staff, led by Terry Traub, included class musicians Elke Baker and Elizabeth Anderson, both fiddlers. The band for the evening parties also included duty piper Dan Emery, cellist Ben Anderson, and percussionist Howard Lasnik. Elke taught a music class that was very well received.

This year we had a few firsts, all of which worked out well.

- We had a deaf dancer, for whom we hired two student ASL interpreters. Despite some reservations, there was only minimal disruption to evening parties.
- We hired Ben Anderson to lifeguard for a couple hours.
- Three couples took advantage of our "couples cabin." It was a regular cabin with single bunk beds and shared bath. The price was the same as staying in a single-sex cabin.

We were pleased that we got such a large number of campers, despite having to raise our prices for the retreat-house rooms. It is likely that the Center will raise our rates yet again for 2019. However, an informal survey of 2018 retreat-house campers showed that nearly all would still attend, even with higher prices.

### **Other Business:**

- **Proposed By-Laws Change:** The Executive Committee proposed several By-Laws changes that would reflect current practices within the Branch. The Changes are as follows:

#### **Article II – Membership and Dues**

*II.E. Dues for each membership category will be fixed by the Executive Committee annually before the start of the Society's membership year. The Executive Committee may adjust dues for ~~two or more Society members living at a single address to reflect the lower cost of providing member services to them~~ **sub-categories of Regular members to meet Society objectives**. The Treasurer shall transfer that portion of the dues designated as subscription payments for RSCDS membership to RSCDS Headquarters.*

#### **Article V – Committees**

*~~V.B.2.b.iv. One musician of the Teaching and Music Committee to be elected in odd numbered years.~~*

*V.B.2.c. There shall be at least two nominations for each office, if possible. A member of the Nominating Committee may be nominated for office but may not nominate or vote (in the votes of the Nominating Committee) for himself or herself. No member of the Executive Committee may be a member of the Nominating Committee. With these exceptions, all **Regular** members of the Society, ~~except junior members~~, shall be eligible for the above ~~officers~~ **offices**.*

*V.B.3.a. The Teaching and Music Committee shall consist of nine members, seven appointed by the Executive Committee and two ex officio. The appointed members shall be selected from members of the Society according to the following formula: four teachers, two musicians, and a member-at-large. For purposes of this by-law, a teacher is a member of the Society who holds a full or preliminary RSCDS teaching certificate, has passed Parts 1 ~~through 3~~ **or 2** of the RSCDS teacher training system, or has taught regularly in Branch classes for a period of five or more years.*

*V.B.3.d. The duties of the Teaching and Music Committee include, but are not limited to, planning for and organizing the teaching and music aspects of Branch events that require the service of RSCDS-certificated teachers and experienced musicians of demonstrably high quality, and other events at which it is desirable to uphold the standards of Scottish country dancing and dance musicianship. The Committee ~~serving for the year prior to the annual Pinewoods sessions~~ shall be responsible for the teaching and music staff and related tasks for ~~these~~ **the annual Pinewoods Scottish Sessions**.*

**Article VIII. – Fiscal Year**

**VIII.A.** *The fiscal year of the Society shall begin on the first day of ~~September~~  
~~October~~ of each year and end on the last day of ~~August~~ ~~September~~ of the year  
following.*

Peter Olszowka moved that the proposed By-Laws changes be accepted, a second was made by Bill Card, and the motion was approved by the members in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Haines, Secretary