

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

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

February 25, 2015

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

1. Minutes from the January 28, 2015 meeting required a correction to the spelling of Catherine Miller's name and then were accepted.
2. Treasurer's Report (Bob) – The Main Checking account is at \$26,080.61 and the Lloyds account is at \$1,888.73 for a total of \$27,969.34. The Fall Concert currently shows a loss of \$1,136.92.
3. Reports from Liaisons –
  - a) Fall Concert 2015 (John) – John Crabtree and Robert McOwen both attended the recent Fellswater concert and met the band.  
John has spoken with the people at the museum, and they will reprint the contract for this year. He also spoke with them about possible dates for 2016 in order to try not to conflict with the Fiddle Hell event. They have penciled in the second week in November for 2016.
  - b) Highland Ball (Bob) – No report at this time except that Jeremy is designing the name badges.
  - c) ESC (Jeremy) – The application is available on-line. The group will be advertising in numerous places including sending postcards to dance classes and hoping to interest crossover contra dancers. There will be a small discount if the total camper fee is paid within two weeks of the application. It is uncertain whether or not they yet have a contract with pinewoods Camp.
  - d) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (Linda) – Postcards are being passed along to the dance classes. Perhaps there should be a mutual mailing for both ESC and Scottish Sessions.

The chairs will be meeting to work on jobs.

As for the camper teachers, those who were asked were happy to be asked. Because they will be teaching the intermediate class, they are questioning how each one will know what the others are teaching. They are going to try using an open communication forum.

Some money is already coming in. The webmasters will be posting the evening programs and other information as soon as it is ready and all corrections have been made. Jeremy will send out a notice to the membership to alert them that the application is posted.

Discussions concerning the best time to do the first night announcements are still occurring.

- e) New Hampshire Highlands (Susan) – The flier is done and will be taken to New Haven for distribution at the Ball.
- f) New Hampshire Highland games (Merrill) – No report at this time.
- g) Teaching and Music Committee (Betty) – On March 20<sup>th</sup>, Cecily Selling will be teaching the Challenge Class. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, there will be a Mock Exam for the Candidates.

Robert McOwen will be the official liaison for the Scottish Examiners when they come for the actual exam, and Nora Smith is the liaison with Susie Petrov.

Barbara McOwen's workshop, "A Conversation About Scottish music and Dance," will be held on Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> in Salem.

- h) *Tartan Times* (Kat) – Evelyn reports that the March/April edition is more than half done and things are going well.
- i) Demonstration Team (Alex) – The Demo Team is rehearsing for their performance at NEFFA.
- j) Membership (Dale) – No report at this time. MaryEllen has said that they have not been receiving information from Headquarters.
- k) Nominating Committee (Dale) – The committee has a candidate for treasurer and is trying to fill the other vacancies.
- l) Website and Publicity (Kat) – The webmasters would like to receive early and timely feedback on their work. They also would like not to publish anything until the event contact approves the document.
- m) Bookstore (Merrill) – Dawn and Mike report that they have a source for the Goldring books, so they will be restocking them. The Bookstore is planning to be both at Pinewoods and New Hampshire Highlands.
- n) Class liaisons –
  - Cambridge, MA (Kat) – Due to the weather, several classes needed to be cancelled, but they were finally able to meet on February 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. They will be extending their bring-a-friend-for-free due to the February cancellations. The class will be purchasing new sound equipment.
  - Brookline, MA (Kat) – Due to the weather, the class has finally been able to meet.
  - Chelmsford, MA (John) - On February 6<sup>th</sup>, the Chelmsford class kicked off the Chelmsford Winterfest weekend as an official Winterfest event. Beth Birdsall taught a group of about 28 people that included about 10 first time Scottish country dance participants. John

Chambers played and the North Chelmsford Village Association provided refreshments.

Also on Saturday February 6<sup>th</sup>, members of the Chelmsford class participated in the Chelmsford Celebration of Dance, another official Winterfest event. Nora Smith played while class members demonstrated how class dances would be done. There was large community attendance and good publicity for the class.

On Sunday February 7<sup>th</sup>, the class was awarded a grant for \$250 from the Chelmsford Cultural Council to assist the class in having live music. The award was made at a CCC reception that was also an official Winterfest event.

- Great Barrington, MA (Alex) – The class is working on technique and hopes to send 3 or 4 people to the Highland Ball.
- Northampton, MA (Alex) – The class is meeting in a new hall that is smaller and the rent is higher. They will be doing a demonstration at Old Sturbridge Village. Of note is the fact that the class's June party will be their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.
- Albany, NY (Alex) – The group danced at the Dance Flurry in Saratoga earlier in the month. Lois inquired about conflicts for the Fall Frolic and is wondering about the October 31<sup>st</sup> weekend.
- Belfast, ME (Merrill) – Their annual dance party is scheduled for May 23, 2015.
- Brunswick, ME (Merrill) – The Brunswick Fall Party is scheduled for October 17, 2015.
- Kennebunk, ME (Merrill) – The Downeast Fling is scheduled for June 13, 2015.
- Greenland, NH (Merrill) – No report at this time.
- Salem, MA (Dale) – No report at this time.
- Montpelier, VT (Dale) – The Montpelier Scottish Social will be held on February 28, 2015 with music by Peter Macfarlane, Joanne Garton, and Aaron Marcus.
- Fairlee, VT (Dale) – The class is enjoying the presence of several new and younger dancers, including some under 18 year olds. They hope this trend will continue.

The town of Fairlee is going to repair the town hall this spring, so the class will probably need to change venues for their spring fling. They are looking at using Damon Hall in Hartland, VT.

- Nashua, NH (Linda) – The class had a successful New Year's Day party with Spring of Ivy (Terry Traub, Barbara McOwen, Matt Petrie, Howard Lasnik, and Robert McOwen) playing together for the first

time in years. There were 6 sets of dancers. In spite of the winter weather, the class has met all but two weeks with 4 to 6 couple each night. Susie Brueckner is progressing through the Candidates' Class, so she has been doing some of the teaching.

The class will not be meeting in July, a decision they had made earlier.

- Stow, MA - Due to ice dam issues at the Stow Town Hall, the class will not be able to meet there for 30 days.

4. Old Business –

- a) Coordinating the insurance year and membership year – The proposed By-Laws change and ballot have been sent to the membership and must be returned to the secretary by March 24, 2015.
- b) Branch communications policy review: survey – the draft survey has been completed, and suggestions were made for tweaking of the questions. It was moved and approved to send the survey, but to whom? Suggestions were the membership list and the RSS feed for other interested parties.

5. New Business -

- a) Upcoming committee vacancies – Vacancies on the Teaching and Music Committee and the Nominating Committee need to be filled. Names were suggested and Jeremy will contact them.

6. Next Meetings –

- a) March 25 – Bob's
- b) April 29 – Kat's