

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

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

March 29, 2017

**Phone meeting:** Andrea Aeschlimann, Janet Anderson, Cathy Crabtree, Cathy Goode, Susan Haines, Merrill Henderson, Jeffrey Hopper, Linda McJannet, Jeremy Thorpe

**Absent:** Sue Chari

1. **Minutes from the March 1, 2017 meeting** – The minutes were approved as submitted.
2. **Treasurer's Report** (Cathy C.) – Cathy reports that Pinewoods deposits have been coming in, and the first payment to Pinewoods was paid this month. Three camper deposits have been refunded because they received scholarships, but the refund process with Square has been quite simple. Jeremy will request that JotForm have Square send to Cathy a report that lists the category for which the payment was made. This would help to simplify the recordkeeping of the payments.  
A deposit of \$1600 for the Concert has been paid.  
Deposits (checks) for ESC are just starting to be received, and payments for the Highland Ball are slow but should improve in April.  
Total Branch assets are \$44,794.40. Cathy will be working with Bob Littlehale to close out the Lloyds account.
3. **Reports from Liaisons** –
  - a) Fall Concert (November 11, 2017) (Linda) – Plans are getting back on track. The contract with Alasdair Fraser has been negotiated, and \$300 will be planned for a pianist (if needed) and the piper. Advertising postcards may be ready in time for the Highland Ball but, at the very least, for Pinewoods.
  - b) Highland Ball (May 12 – 14, 2017) (Cathy C.) – To date, twenty people have applied. The initial proposal from the caterers, Tuscan Market in Salem, NH, seems acceptable, so Cathy will pay the \$300 deposit. The details concerning china, water pitchers, etc. are still being discussed. The evening MCs have their information and will decide amongst themselves on which portion of the program they wish to brief. Tom Pixton is working on the musical arrangements. The flyers have arrived and will be sent to the class contacts. Excitement for the Ball needs to be encouraged, so there probably should be a couple of e-mail blasts.  
As for the Highland Ball 2018, the average pay for the band in most recent years has been \$1500. This rate will be offered to Laura Risk, and there may be some consideration for travel.

- c) ESCape (July 3 – 7, 2017) (Cathy C.) – Registrations are just starting to come in with \$880 received to date. The committee recently held a planning meeting. We would like to know what help they need and what kind of promotion is being done.
- d) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (July 7 – 15, 2017) (Linda) – Things are progressing along. The on-line application process has worked well, and there are wait lists for both sessions. If people are hesitant to apply, encourage them to because there may be a lot of movement of the wait lists and they may get in.
- e) New Hampshire Highlands (August 25 – 27, 2017) (Susan) – The information has been posted on the Branch website. Jeremy will add it to the Branch calendar.
- f) New Hampshire Highland Games (September 15 – 17, 2017) (Merrill) – Nothing to report at this time.
- g) Teaching and Music Committee (Janet) – For Pinewoods 2017, Susie Petrov is doing the musician contracts. For Pinewoods 2018, Susie Petrov will once again be the music director, and T/MC is working on choosing and hiring teachers.

Janet reported to the Committee the plans for the 2017 Concert plus the plan to not hold a Concert in 2018. T/MC would like to know if and when something will take the place of the Concert.

The dances being considered for inclusion in Book 52 will be sent to the Branch to be tested. Exec will be working to find replacements for those people whose terms on T/MC are ending. The decision will need to be made in June, and the change-over meeting will be held in August.

- h) *Tartan Times* (Susan) – Evelyn reports that the paper copies for the last edition were stuck at the printers, but the issue should be resolved in a day or two.
- i) Demonstration Team (Linda) – Rehearsals are going well and morale is high. The team is wondering what their purpose will be if there is no 2018 Concert. Would they focus on performing at smaller community gigs? The 2018 Concert may transition to a smaller venue/event with less overhead. It is wonderful to think that we have such dedicated members, but burnout is something to consider. The Scots Charitable Society will be having their anniversary somewhere around November 30<sup>th</sup>, so that might be something to think about.  
Maybe, after NEFFA, someone from the Demonstration Team should speak with Exec concerning what should happen going forward.
- j) Membership (Andrea) – The 2016 – 2017 Directory was sent out on January 16, 2017. Applications are continuing to trickle in.

- k) Nominating Committee (Andrea) – The Committee is still searching for candidates for the upcoming election. Suggestions are welcome. Exec will need to find a candidate for the Nominating Committee.
- l) Website (Jeffrey) – Meeting minutes need to be updated on the website. If there is a need for a contact person on the website, the Branch Secretary can be that person and will direct inquiries to the appropriate person. There needs to be a single person for each Branch event to be the contact person and to provide information.
- m) Publicity (Linda) – There is no further information except that various people have lists which could be combined.
- n) Bookstore (Merrill) – Nothing to report at this time.
- o) Class Liaisons – All class liaisons should ask if the information for the class is correct on the Branch website.
  - Salem, MA (Andrea) – There is a party scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup> with great music and a great program planned. Other than that, the class has been practicing the dances for various upcoming events.
  - Northampton, MA (Cathy G.) – The class has been averaging 3-5 couples. Kent Smith's last night will be this week. Karen Lavallee-Tente has been sharing the teaching with Ilene Goldstein and Virginia Van Scoy. A music subsidy for their June 3<sup>rd</sup> dance was requested and approved by Exec.
  - Brunswick, ME (Merrill) – The Fall Party will be held on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Music will be by Ed Pearlman and Beth Murray, and the dance will be held at the Grange in Freeport.  
The Demonstration Team danced at the Down East Folk Arts Festival.
  - Chelmsford, MA (Cathy C.) – A music subsidy for their August party was requested and approved by Exec.
  - Cambridge, MA (Sue) - Karen Sollins and MaryEllen Scannell were the teachers during March. Tom Pixton was band leader joined by Nick Mitchell, Catherine Miller, Nora Smith, Debbie Jarvis and McKinley James (cello), who made her debut at Cambridge Class. There have been several new younger dancers this month who all seemed to have a good time. The Highland Ball is approaching, so they've started practicing a lot of the Ball dances. Veronica's Attic will be at Cambridge Class on Monday April 24<sup>th</sup> and the End-of-Season Party and Ice Cream Social will be on Monday June 26<sup>th</sup> with Beth Birdsall as MC and Highland Whisky with Anne Hooper as guest fiddler.
  - Brookline, MA (Sue) – The class has been having guest teachers besides the regulars (Evelyn & Flo). Susie Long, Laura DeCesare,

Naomi Lev and Priscilla Borden have or will be filling out the teaching roster.

The main concern of the class is publicity and increasing the number of dancers. This class could use some help with publicity.

➤ Newton, MA (Sue) - The class has continued weekly except for one snow day. They welcomed one new dancer who seems interested and had the pleasure of another dancer visiting from RI.

p) SDCEA (Janet) – The Scholarship Dance was held on March 18. There were five and one-half sets of dancers and \$1320 in profits.

**4. Old Business –**

a) Event runner's guide draft – The draft has been sent to TMC and the webmasters for review.

**5. New Business – Nothing.**

**6. Next Meeting –**

a) April 26<sup>th</sup> at Jeremy's at 7:15 PM