

**Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society**  
**Minutes of the Executive Committee**  
November 29, 2017

**Present** - Janet Anderson, Marsha Byrnes, Sue Chari, Cathy Crabtree, Sharon Gilmour, Susan Haines, Jeremy Thorpe

**Absent:** Cathy Goode, Jeffrey Hopper, John Salyards

- 1. Minutes from the October 25, 2017 meeting** – The minutes were accepted as submitted.
- 2. Treasurer's Report** (Cathy C.) – Cathy reports that the current total liabilities and assets is \$52,888.84. This number will decrease when membership dues are paid to HQ (usually in December and February) and a Bookstore invoice is paid. This figure also accounts for one prepaid expense, the deposit for next year's Ceilidh. The November Concert income was \$15,774.00 with a breakeven of \$13,500.00. The contract with Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas stipulated a 50/50 share of any amount above breakeven, so \$1137.00 will be sent to them.
- 3. Reports from Liaisons** –
  - a) Fall Concert (November 11, 2017) (Cathy C.) – Cathy reports that nearly all the expenses, except the invoice for the programs and inserts, have been received, and the Branch should make between \$2000 and \$3000. The ticket information from Meerkat was quite informational, indicating a sellout for the matinee and 70-75% of the seats sold for the evening show. We may want to consider bringing Alasdair and Natalie back in 2 or 3 years. Alasdair enjoys it and seems dedicated to the Boston Branch.
  - b) Highland Ball (May 19, 2018) (Cathy C.) – The plans are moving forward. The committee is wondering about holding the Ball without a dinner, i.e. cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and then desserts at intermission. They will present two proposed budgets at the next Exec meeting. Perhaps the SDCEA could help by underwriting the cost. Hospitality should be discussed with the committee.  
Laura Risk will be joined by fellow musicians Hanneke Cassel, Nicholas Williams, and Paddy League. The TMC has already approved the program.
  - c) ESCape (July 2-6, 2018) (Sharon) – The only news at this time is that Meghan Murray, Dan Blim, and Kat Dutton will be training two new chairs, Daniel Potter and April Birnie.
  - d) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (July 6-14, 2018) (Cathy/Jeremy) – For 2018, the evening programs are being submitted to TMC by the evening MCs. For 2019, the TMC is considering a music director and talking about potential teachers. Exec will need to select chairs for Pinewoods 2019.

- e) New Hampshire Highlands (August 24-26, 2018) (Susan) – The committee is still looking for a music director and teachers.
- f) Loon Mountain Games (September 2018) (Jeffrey) – Nothing to report at this time.
- g) Teaching and Music Committee (Janet) - The November 4<sup>th</sup> workshop held in Topsham, ME was well-received, and everyone was happy, but the expenses exceeded the income.  
The committee has been looking at the Event Runners' Guide and has some suggestions that they will share with Exec.
- h) *Tartan Times* (Susan) – Evelyn and Barbara have been doing much of their work electronically, and it has been working well. Due to people not submitting their information in a timely fashion or in a camera-ready and properly sized fashion, Barbara does find herself creating notices for some class events. The next edition will be issued on or about January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- i) Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha) – The team is currently on hiatus but will be meeting at Marsha's view the video from their great performance at the November Concert.
- j) Membership (Cathy G.) – As of November 28<sup>th</sup>, the Branch membership stands at 205 including 19 associate members. There are 50 individuals and 6 associates who were members last year but have not yet re-newed.
- k) Nominating Committee (Marsha) – The committee needs to know which positions need to be filled and what is their timeline.
- l) Website (Jeffrey) - The names of the Executive Committee members need updating. A "save-the-date" for next year's Ceilidh needs to be added. Can pictures and videos from the November Concert be added to the web site?
- m) Publicity (Janet) – Nothing to report at this time.
- n) Bookstore (Cathy C.) – There are only 3 copies left of the book "Celebrate 50," and Mike and Dawn would like to get it re-printed. Exec approved spending up to \$150 to accomplish this. The Bookstore has also recently placed an order with Coates Crescent.
- o) Equipment (Jeffrey) – Peter Tandy wants to step down from storing and transporting the Branch sound equipment. The sound system is used for Branch parties and some other events, but it would be good to get a listing from Peter. Exec needs to find someone to store the equipment and to coordinate transporting it to events. An article describing what this job entails should be written for the *Tartan Times*.
- p) Class Liaisons –
  - Cambridge, MA (Sue) - During the month of October, Susie Petrov and Stephen Thomforde shared teaching the experienced class and Lance Ramshaw taught the class for newer dancers. Wonderful music was provided by Susie Petrov (piano), Stephen Thomforde (pipes), and a quartet of fiddles - Catherine Miller, Nora Smith, Sue Chari and Clara Stefanov-Wagner. The holiday party is on December 18th with Lance

Ramshaw as MC and music by Wisp of Thistle (Jerome Fung, Catherine Miller and Nora Smith).

- Brookline, MA (Sue) – The annual Twelfth Night Party will be held on January 7<sup>th</sup>. A music subsidy was requested and approved by Exec.
- Fairlee, VT (Jeffrey) – The class appreciates the support they receive from the Branch when holding their class parties.
- Salem, MA (Cathy G.) - Salem Class is gearing up to host the Pinewoods Benefit Ball. Multiple notices have gone out, more than had been planned. Meyer had issues with the branch email distribution (so that went out twice), and Ross sent it to the Pinewoods Attendees' lists. The class is working on a strategy to grow the group.
- Stow, MA (Sharon) – The class reports that their party went well with 3 to 4 sets all night. They will plan to meet twice in December, including entertaining live music on December 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Kennebunk, ME (John) – Merrill Henderson reports that they have 3 new regular dancers. They just had their last class for the year and will resume in January.
- Greenland, NH (John) – Merrill Henderson reports that the Greenland class has been decimated by members' health issues and travel. They are aiming to dance at least once more before the end of the year, but, if not, things should be looking up in the new year.
- Brunswick, ME (John) - Patti Tillotson reports that the Brunswick class had a very successful Annual Fall Dance Party and were delighted to see so many from out of the area attend. It adds so much to the event and is a great opportunity for their newer class members to meet other dancers. In looking at next year's calendar, it appears that they will again have a conflict one more time at their regular location and will use Freeport again.

The class was glad to be able to host the Technique Workshop sponsored by the Branch that was held in early November. People from all the Maine classes came, and it is hoped that the Branch will do another technique workshop again at the same time next year. Doing a workshop of this type was greatly appreciated by all. The Brunswick Times Record initiated doing an article on the class. Their news editor did an interview then came to class one evening and took lots of pictures. They even made him join them in a ceilidh dance. The result was a full-page article and continuation on another page with several pictures.
- The class will break for two weeks for the Holidays and begin again on the first Thursday in the new year.
- Nashua, NH (John) - Loren Wright reports that the New Year's Day Dance and Potluck (Monday, January 1, 2018, 3pm – 8pm, The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Main St, Nashua) is

posted on the website. Loren will be looking into getting permission to post directly.

The Nashua class will be doing a demonstration at St Joseph's Hospital in Nashua on Friday, December 1st, in support of its Diversity Committee's International Day.

- Chelmsford, MA (Rebecca Gore and John Salyards) - The Chelmsford class was asked by the TMC and BSCD to support an evening demo at the Harrington Elementary School in Chelmsford (who contacted TMC directly) for its International Day on January 31st, since BSCD was not able to do so.

Unfortunately, the team (BSCD) can't really manage a 20-minute performance that far from Boston and that early in the evening, especially without any compensation. The school had initially asked if the team could support either a compensated daytime performance for the school or a non-paid demo in the evening. By the time John was asked to contact the school, they'd already made other arrangements for the daytime performance, so he set up the 7:10 pm slot. The time was then changed to 6:10 pm to accommodate participants from Nashua. Rebecca is planning with MaryEllen.

#### 4. Old Business –

- a) Beginners' class – Jeremy contacted the Cambridge Adult Education about doing a class at their location. There is a very nice dance studio, and public transportation is available. The Spring term in either Cambridge or Lexington is in April, so the deadline for inclusion in their catalog would probably be February. What are local teachers being paid? The rate from the Cambridge Adult Education is \$20/hour. Suggestions for possible teachers were brought forward.

#### 5. New Business –

- a) Recruitment ideas from TMC
  - Burns Supper at Northeastern – Robert McOwen will check on this, and it could possibly lead to a demonstration.
  - MIT – IAT term in January

#### 6. Next Meetings –

- a) January 10 (December meeting) – at Sharon Gilmour's in Arlington
- b) January 31 – phone meeting