

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

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

January 9, 2019 (December meeting)

**Present:** Marsha Byrnes, Sue Chari, Cathy Crabtree, Karen Gansz (by phone), Susan Haines (by phone), Jeffrey Hopper, Winifred McGowan, John Salyards, Jeremy Thorpe

**Absent:** Sharon Gilmour

**Guests:** Laurie Somario, Ellen Scannell-Wood (by phone)

- 1. Minutes from the November 28, 2018 meeting** – The minutes were approved as submitted.
- 2. Treasurer's Report** (Cathy) – Cathy reports that the membership fees have been paid to Headquarters. The number of members is down but the exchange rate is good, leaving us up a little over last year. The total liabilities and net assets stand at \$53,603. A music subsidy was paid to Nashua for the New Year's Day event.
- 3. Reports from Liaisons** –
  - a. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (July 5 – 13, 2019) - Laurie and Ellen presented the proposed budget which included several changes from 2018. In particular, the PCI fees have been increased 5% over last year, the largest increase in several years. The insurance, piano tuning, and crossover lunch fees did not change, but the travel budget for the teachers was increased because one teacher is coming from Australia. In addition, the music director and the Teaching and Music Committee have requested an increase in musician fees from \$800 to \$900. Exec moved and approved this increase. The overall camper fees would be increased \$20 per session over last year bringing them to \$360 for Session I, \$440 for Session II, and \$750 for both sessions. The General Expenses line item leaves a little cushion for travel expenses and party supplies. Applications will be done electronically but payment can be made with a check, and there is scholarship money available. There will be no fee charged for electronic deposits for Pinewoods, but the balance would pay the convenience fee surcharge of 3% if submitted electronically versus by check. The proposed budget was approved by Exec, and the chairs will have the application posted on the website very soon.
  - b. ESCape (July 1 – 5, 2019) (Sharon) – Jeremy had spoken with Kat Dutton who is the RSCDS person working with April Birnie and Daniel Potter, the new co-chairs for ESCape. They will be sending a budget that is similar to last year's, and the application should be available soon, probably electronic. The teachers and musicians are in place.
  - c. Highland Ball (Cathy) – The chairs are working on the budget (waiting for the caterer's information) and will present it at the next meeting. Dave Wiesler will be bringing his keyboard, so there will be no need for a piano rental or

tuning. The flyer is coming along.

Please start thinking about possible co-chairs for the 2020 Highland Ball.

- d. Joint Ceilidh (Cathy) – Do we want to do another Joint Ceilidh? As an organization, we can put into play the lessons that were learned. Do we want it to be like a party, or do we want it to be better organized with better performances? It should be a family-focused event that will encourage families and young dancers.  
Exec. approved doing a Joint Ceilidh in 2020.
- e. New Hampshire Highlands (August 23 – 25, 2019) (Susan) – The committee is in the process of hiring teachers for 2019.
- f. Loon Mountain Games (September 2019) (Jeff) – Nothing to report at this time.
- g. Teaching and Music Committee (Marsha) – The committee would like to see the Event Runner’s Guide and the Policies and Procedures and Youth Guidelines. We don’t yet have a Youth Coordinator in place, but when we do, their role will be to handle issues concerning youths when they arise.
- h. *Tartan Times* (Susan) – The latest edition was late in getting out but has been sent.
- i. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha) – The dancers will be performing at a Burns’ Night event on January 26<sup>th</sup>, and they are planning to be at NEFFA.
- j. Membership (Susan) – Membership as of January 6, 2019 stands at 207 members and 17 associate members.
- k. Nominating Committee (Marsha) – For the 2019 elections, the Nominating Committee needs to find 2 candidates for at-large positions on the Executive Committee. Sue Chari and Jeffrey Hopper will be stepping down. The Vice President (Marsha) and Treasurer (Cathy) are up for re-election and have agreed to run for another term. Exec will need to find a candidate for the Nominating Committee as Rose Mary Jackson ends her term.
- l. Website (Jeff) – The webmasters will post the Pinewoods information as soon as it is available.
- m. Bookstore (Cathy) – Nothing to report at this time.
- n. Class Liaisons –
  - Stow, MA (Sharon) – Vickery Trinkaus-Randall reported that December was a livelier month than they had expected! Nora Smith played on one Friday and there were two 4-couple sets of people from years ago that Vickery had not seen for a while. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, they had three 4-couple sets plus, and it was great fun again seeing people they hadn’t seen in years. They will see what January brings and will start off the year with Elizabeth Anderson.
  - Salem, MA (Sharon) – MaryEllen Scannell reports that the only class news is the success of the Pinewoods Benefit Ball. They will be producing a check for PW for \$1200.00. Their class Christmas Party

featured Peter Tandy as Santa! The class all received handmade ornaments with sheep on one side and the Wee Bluet Tartan on the other!

- Nashua, NH (John) – The New Years Day Dance had great music and seven sets of dancers.
- Chelmsford, MA (John) – The class has again received a grant from the Cultural Council to provide live music at their classes.
- Newton/Brookline Class (Sue) – Evelyn Murray, Flo Hearn, and Heather Day are working on a combined Brookline/Newton party to be held in Brookline in March, tentatively March 10th. Similar to the Nashua party, it will start in the afternoon and will include a pot luck meal.

This will be Evelyn's last official party as she is returning to England later in the year. Brookline ends its season on the weekend before Memorial Day, so, as soon as the plans are finalized, they want to get the word out so that there will be a good turnout. The church facility is secured, Evelyn is working on getting musicians, and the three of them (Evelyn, Flo, and Heather) will be the MCs. There should be something in the latest *Tartan Times*.

- Fairlee, VT (Karen) – Gary Apfel reports that class attendance continues to hover slightly below to slightly above two sets most Wednesday nights. Overall, there are approximately twenty active or semi-active dancers. They have not enrolled quite as many Branch members as in recent years, a problem Gary hopes to rectify in the coming year.

Twelve class members attended the Nashua New Years Day Dance. Their next event will be a workshop on January 12, co-sponsored with the TMC. Then, it's off to Mt. Cardigan, for which activity several class members have signed up.

Dawn Hathaway is currently a teacher candidate, participating in the class sponsored by the Branch. She is making considerable progress, and the class expects she will do well during her examination this spring.

Gary says that he does not have specific suggestions about how the Branch can further aid more remote classes. They are already much appreciative of the services they do receive, including liability insurance and an annual music subsidy. That being said, they are open to suggestions that Exec might generate. TMC's most recent outreach by means of suggesting the January 12 workshop is one example of unsolicited but appreciated support. Gary says that if some ideas do come to him, he will be sure to convey an opinion.

- o. SDCEA (Sue) – Gail Wine reports that the Scholarship Dance will be held on March 23, 2019 with Connie Kent and Lance Ramshaw as MCs and Elizabeth Anderson, McKinley James, and Beth Murray as musicians.
- 4. New Business –
- 5. Old Business –
  - a. Discussion of Policies and Procedures – Due to the late hour, all discussions were postponed until the next meeting. One discussion should be whether or not to offer some sort of stipend to the equipment manager.  
As liaisons, please ask your committees if the information in the Policies and Procedures that apply to the particular committee in current or if revisions are needed.
- 6. Next Meeting –
  - a. Wednesday January 30 at 7:15 PM – phone meeting