

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee
January 29, 2020

Present: Marsha Byrnes, Cathy Crabtree, Karen Gansz, Sharon Gilmour, Susan Haines, Winifred McGowan, Lance Ramshaw, John Salyards, Jeremy Thorpe

Absent: Linda McJannet

- 1. Minutes from the January 8, 2020 meeting** (December meeting) – The minutes were approved with one correction – removing the reference to Square fees from the ESCape report.
- 2. Treasurer’s Report** (Cathy) - Cathy reports that we are four months into the fiscal year, and the total liabilities and net assets stand at \$62,036. The deposits for Pinewoods Scottish Sessions have started to come in. The profit for the Branch from the Joint Ceilidh was \$770.31, but the security deposit (\$200) from the Irish Social Club has not yet been returned. Membership fees to Headquarters were paid in January, and the remainder (for later applications) will be paid at a later date along with payment for some Bookstore inventory. Cathy also reports that the 1099s were prepared and sent. Our insurance broker contacted her and will be shopping around for better rates. From an expenses point, the Boston Scottish Country Dancers have not received an invoice for their rehearsal hall rental.
- 3. Reports from Liaisons –**
 - a. Highland Ball (May 9, 2020) (Marsha) – Marsha reports that the budget is based on 125 attendees at \$65 each, 10 students at \$45 each, and no “early bird” rate. The application and Ball flyers are posted on the Branch website, and Marsha can be contacted at highlandball@rscdsboston.org. The on-line reservations system is functioning, and publicity will be sent to the links on the web site. There are still some minor jobs that need to be filled.
 - b. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (July 10 – 18, 2020) (Jeremy) - The Pinewoods chairs report that the application is posted and people have been applying. They have received about 77 applications so far, 11 for Session I only, 23 for Session II, and 43 for both sessions. To date, there are 5 first timers. Elke Baker has compiled her list of musicians, and this information will be posted on the web site. The musicians include Andy Imbrie, Kate Barnes, and Dave Wiesler (Session I only) on piano; Larry Unger on guitar; Scott Weaver on bass; Elke Baker, Catherine Miller, Tim MacDonald, and one yet-to-be-named on fiddle; and Peter Olszowka and Ward Whitlock doing sound.
 - c. ESCape (July 6 – 10, 2020) (Sharon) – Exec approved the 2020 Budget. The numbers are based on 117 campers and were increased by \$5.00 for each category of applicant. Payment by credit card has been set up with a 3% fee passed on to the user.

- d. Equipment (John) – Thom Howe forwarded his list of suggested equipment to be purchase – two “best” speakers, a “good” mixer, and an “adequate” monitor with some money on top for extras. It was proposed and passed by Exec to allow for the expenditure of \$2600 for sound equipment.
- e. Loon Mountain Games (September 18 – 20, 2020) (Karen) – Merrill Henderson reports that it is pretty quiet this time of year. She did lead some Ceilidh dancing at NHSCOT's request for their Hogmanay Celebration on December 28.
- f. Joint Ceilidh (Cathy) – Cathy reports that the organizers have still not held a debriefing session. A response has been sent to NHScots as a follow-up to their grant. Both Cathy and Linda McJannet think that it is worth doing again, but is the Irish Social Club the best venue? With being part of a trio, the message of the RSCDS Boston Branch seems to get lost.
- g. Teaching and Music Committee (Marsha) – Much of the meeting time was spent on details concerning Pinewoods Scottish Sessions. Recent discussions have concentrated on the self-evaluation to assist dancers with determining their proper dance level. There also was some talk about the upcoming Highland Ball. Likewise, Dancing Achievement Awards were discussed. According to the RSCDS website, “The Dancing Achievement Award is an opportunity for dancers to work with a course tutor and have a personal critique of their dancing. It is also a chance for those who are thinking of taking the RSCDS teaching qualifications to have their dancing assessed in preparation for Unit 2.” The course requires a 5 to 8 hour commitment from the dancer and can be run by the Branch or at Summer School in St. Andrews. Perhaps this is something that the Branch could offer during the year to recognize its good dancers.
- h. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha) – The team was paid for its Burns Night performance, including some extra money for parking. The crowd was quite enthusiastic. Their next performance will be at NEFFA, April 24 to 26, 2020 at the Acton Boxborough Regional High School.
- i. Nominating Committee (Marsha) – The committee will be looking for two at-large members for Exec and possibly a President and Secretary (not yet decided).
- j. New Hampshire Highlands (August 28 – 30, 2020) (Susan) – Roberta Lasnik reports that the staff for 2020 is in place. Terry Traub will be the music director, and the teachers are Holly Boyd, Arthur McNair, and Jen Schoonover.
- k. *Tartan Times* (Susan) – Evelyn Murray now has a working computer and internet connection from her new home and will continue to work with Barbara McOwen via e-mail to compile the *Tartan Times*.
- l. Membership (Susan) – There are nineteen new members (some singles and some couples) who will be receiving new member packets. Jeremy had 12 packets and will be requesting more from Headquarters.
- m. Website (Lance) – Nothing to report at this time.

- n. Bookstore (Cathy) – The Bookstore managers have a new book, “30 Popular Dances Volume 2.”
- o. Class Liaisons –
 - Fairlee, VT (Karen) – Gary Apfel sends his thanks to the TMC for the very successful workshop held on January 11. Jen Schoonover led a most remarkable session, combining historical dance and principles of body movement in a way only she can! There were approximately twenty-four dancers, down a bit from last year, but still a good turnout in rural Vermont in January with threatening weather forecast for later that night.
Several class members are looking forward to and preparing for the ski/dance weekend at Mt. Cardigan.
 - Chelmsford, MA (John) – The class once again received a grant from the Chelmsford Cultural Council. The class also performed a demonstration at the International Heritage Festival held at the Harrington School.
 - Cambridge, MA (Lance) – The class had a great Burns Night session.
 - Great Barrington, MA (Winifred) – The class is struggling to keep its membership numbers up, and several classes have needed to be cancelled. They are working on more advertising.
 - Salem, MA (Sharon) – The class will be meeting in the Dickson Room until it is warmer upstairs.
 - Stow, MA (Sharon) – Vickery Trinkaus-Randall reports that the last couple of sessions have been “weird” but nice, and the numbers have been good.

4. Old Business –

- a. Volunteer Fatigue – This situation is still an issue although it seems better at the present time. People want to be asked and wait to be asked to do something, but it’s always easier to ask people you know, so the same people are constantly being asked. Starting with a small task may help to get newer/other people involved. Make sure the task is well-defined when asking and keep notes. Clear communications and documentation is necessary when making a request. Just a paragraph or two will outline the expectations and responsibilities so that the person being asked knows what they are consenting to do.

5. New Business –

6. Next Meeting -

- a. February 26 – Phone meeting