

The Scottish Country Dance Society of Boston, MA, Inc.
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 4 June 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:49 p.m. by President Jean Farrington.

Minutes of the SAGM: The minutes of the Nov. 2011 SAGM were approved as submitted.

Election Results: 93 ballots were received. For President, Jean Farrington was elected with 54 votes to 39 for Susie Petrov. The remaining slots were not contested, with Lance Ramshaw elected Secretary, John Crabtree and Alex Hall elected to the Executive Committee, and Lea Sewell elected to the Nominating Committee.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Littlehale reported a total current balance of \$25,475.59, with \$9,448.50 in the main checking account, \$4,423.67 in ING Direct, \$1,007.68 in Lloyds, \$6,593.07 in general SCDS CDs, and \$4,002.67 in CDs of English-Scottish Session funds. (These balances do not include camper fees received for the upcoming Pinewoods sessions.) The Demo team loss for the year was \$1,350.58. The November Concert had a loss of \$459.65. The Highland Ball lost \$168.53, much less than in 2011. Bob also reported that he has moved our checking account to Century Bank, since Citizens Bank was about to start charging monthly maintenance fees. MSP to approve the report.

Update on Transition to Electronic Communications: Beth Birdsall gave an update from Exec on the transition to electronic communications, as suggested back at the SAGM. Most Branch notices are now sent by email to most members. The May/June edition of the Tartan Times was sent out in April in both email and hardcopy, and beginning with the July/Aug issue, distribution will be primarily email, except for those members who request hardcopies. This should save the Branch hundreds of dollars in printing and postage.

SDCEA: Gregor Trinkhaus-Randall presented SDCEA President Nancy Rawson's report regarding the organization that administers our scholarship funds. In 2011, a total of about \$2,300 in aid was awarded, with roughly \$1,300 in partial scholarships to dancers attending the Pinewoods Scottish and NH Highlands sessions. Award recipients are now asked to provide a very brief report after the event. Roughly \$560 from the Ed Rawson Fund was used for Class Awards to new dancers showing strong commitment to SCD: Bruce and Linda Alexander, Kathy Sullivan Mallon, and Irene Myles from the Medford (Cambridge) Class, Sophia Adami-Sampson from Stow, Stephanie Sallum from Brookline, and Alana King and Bruce Bobier from Albany. Recipients who were present were acknowledged. Dancers and musicians should bear in mind that scholarship funds are available. (Applications are confidential.)

Membership: MaryEllen reported 249 members for 2011-2012, including 23 Associate members. In the final mailing of directories, despite each being weighed individually at the Post Office, some still came back for insufficient postage. She is happy to replace any that didn't make it. The membership year ends in August; please renew as early as possible

Mailing List: Peter Tandy reported 8 more member records on the mailing list than a year ago. He has converted his database to Excel, for easier interfacing with the Membership chairs.

Demo Team: Karen Sollins, the Demo Team coordinator, reported 22 active dancers under the continued dance leadership of Andy Taylor-Blenis. The team danced at the November Concert, NEFFA, BCMFest, the Ancient Universities' Burns' Night, and the 250th Anniversary of the town of Athol, MA, and also provided teaching and demos during the NH Highland Games.

Teaching and Music Committee: Susan Haines, the committee chair, reported on their organizational work through the year for our Scottish Pinewoods sessions, and devising ball dance programs. They also sponsored three Advanced dance classes this spring, and are planning to resume that series in the fall.

Tartan Times: Evelyn Murray, editor, described the recent changes to enable electronic distribution. The email version will be full-sized (8.5x11) for improved legibility. Copy due dates are usually the first day of each even month, and contributions are encouraged.

Website: Laura Billmers (speaking for herself and Meyer) reported a moderately busy year, including working out procedures for electronic distribution of membership materials and the Tartan Times. They stressed the importance of proofreading submissions carefully in advance. Their website mailing list is an excellent way to keep track of Branch activities.

Branch Calendar: Lance read Nancy Rawson's report on the Tartan Times calendar. Those planning events should check with her first, as well as notifying the Webmasters.

Equipment: Peter Tandy reported on the Branch sound system, used at most monthly parties. Our second system will need to be repaired if we anticipate needing two systems at once.

Archives: Lance continues to collect materials to be passed along to the UNH Durham Library, where the Archives are housed. Gregor Trinkhaus-Randall stressed the importance of collecting materials, including labeled photos, and, before long, electronic media as well.

Bookstore: Patti Tillitson reported Bookstore presence at 10 events this year, including NHHG. Total purchases were \$5,011.65, with total sales (including consignments) of \$7,819.37.

Pinewoods Camp: Bill Card, our new PCI rep, thanked Ken Launie for help in transition. Bill has joined PCI's Facilities Committee. Damage from hurricane Irene has been repaired, and the new Dining Hall will open June 9, with a "Twenty Tables of Eight" fund-raising gala.

November Concert: Jim Kuhn reported on an artistically successful Concert under Robert McOwen's direction. Unfortunately, the event was undersubscribed. Despite lower costs, they did not break even, though the loss was much less than in the previous year. Next year's concert, scheduled for Nov. 10, will feature Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas.

Pinewoods Benefit Ball 2010: Gillian Charters read the report from event chairs Sarah Schechner and Ken Launie. 77 tickets were sold, netting \$1037 for Pinewoods, \$300 more than last year. The plan for next year is to stick with this new venue (the Old Town Hall in Salem), but to switch back to a Saturday evening timeframe, on Dec. 1.

Highland Ball 2011: Cathy Fahey reported (for herself and Erin Chetwynd) on a very successful Ball Weekend, held for the first time at Moseley's, with the Brunch hosted again by Ron McDougald. Veronica McClure then presented Cathy with a \$160 check from sales at Veronica's Attic on the morning of the Ball, plus \$8 in cash, bringing the Ball to the break-even point, a gesture warmly acknowledged by the membership.

RSCDS AGM: Any member interested in being a Branch delegate to the Headquarters AGM in Scotland on Nov. 3-5 should notify Exec.

Class Reports were received and placed on file from Branch Classes in Brookline, Cambridge/Springstep, Northampton, Salem, Stow, and Brunswick.

Acknowledgments/Awards: Jean acknowledged all those who ran major Branch events, and announced a contribution to the Scholarship Fund made in acknowledgement.

Other Business: Various upcoming events were announced, including the Downeast Fling, the English Scottish Sessions at Pinewoods, and the NH Highlands weekend.

On motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lance Ramshaw, Secretary