

The Scottish Country Dance Society of Boston, MA, Inc.
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 3 June 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:48 p.m. by President Jean Farrington.

Minutes of the SAGM: The minutes of the Nov. 2012 SAGM were approved as submitted.

Election Results: 38 ballots were received. With no slots contested, Betty Allen was elected Vice President, Bob Littlehale as Treasurer, Kat Dutton to the Executive Committee, and Chris Gallagher to the Nominating Committee. This leaves one open slot on the Executive Committee, and Vickery Trinkaus-Randall has agreed to continue, in accordance with our By-Law that members serve “until their successors are elected (or appointed) and qualified.” We thank Barbara McOwen, outgoing Vice President, who will be leaving the committee.

Treasurer’s Report: Bob Littlehale reported a total current balance of \$41,032.23, with \$30,078.36 in the main checking account, \$266.48 in Lloyds, \$6,676.96 in general SCDS CDs, and \$4,010.43 in CDs of English-Scottish Session funds. (These balances do not include camper fees for the upcoming Pinewoods sessions.) The Demo team recorded a profit for the year of \$585. The Fall Concert 2012 recorded a very admirable profit of \$5,777.93. The Highland Ball sustained a loss, which looks like it will be roughly \$2,600. MSP to approve the report.

SDCEA: Gregor Trinkaus-Randall reported on a year of transition for the SDCEA, as he took over from Nancy Rawson as President and Gail Wine took over from Jeanetta McColl as Treasurer. A total of \$3,415 in aid (half scholarships) was awarded to dancers attending Pinewoods sessions, NH Highlands, or the Ball. \$334.50 from the Ed Rawson Fund was used for class awards to committed new dancers: Kevin Chen from Cambridge, Jane Straus and Marilyn McLellan from Belfast, Kate Babbitt from Brunswick, Tannis Boyajian from Salem, and Lisa Meisinger and Judy MacMaster Lees from Albany. The SDCEA Benefit Dance was a great success, with six sets even at the end of the evening. Members should keep in mind that scholarship funds are available.

Membership: MaryEllen Scannell reported 224 Branch members so far, plus 12 Associates. The additional contributions from 32 Benefactor and Sustaining members more than offset the reduced rates offered to 22 student or limited income members. The Albany and Kennebunkport groups are currently in abeyance, with less than the eight required Branch members. 166 members opted to receive notices and the Tartan Times by email, 24 requested both in hard copy, and 46 chose notices by email but a hardcopy Tartan Times. She and John are working to bolster our membership, given that many people did not re-up this year. They are hoping to visit all of the classes early in the fall, as well as Pinewoods and other events, to encourage people to join.

Mailing List: Peter Tandy continues to maintain our mailing list and to print labels for hardcopy mailings. The list, which includes Fall Concert attendees, totals 1490 records.

Demo Team: Karen Sollins reported that the team performed at the Fall Concert, BCMFest, the Ancient Universities event, NEFFA, and the Lexington 300th anniversary.

Teaching and Music Committee: Susan Haines reported on the committee’s work on the Pinewoods sessions, thanking this year’s Co-chairs for their active participation. The Committee decided not to sponsor a Candidates’ Class until clearer guidelines were in place, and formulating these turned out to be a major effort, including consulting with Headquarters. The Committee also formulated policies regarding teachers in classes. While the Branch did not sponsor a class, Susie Petrov organized one, and the committee thanked her for her efforts and

congratulated the candidates on their success. The Committee is also organizing an ongoing series of Advanced Classes geared toward high intermediate and advanced steps and figures.

Tartan Times: Editor Evelyn Murray, currently abroad, sent a written report. The shift toward electronic format is continuing, with over half of the members receiving the Tartan Times by email, with considerable savings in printing and postage. She reviewed the suggested schedule and formats for event chairs to list their events, and encouraged news submissions in general. Someone asked about posting past issues of the Tartan Times on the website. Perhaps the two most current issues could be reserved for members, with older issues open to everyone.

Website: Meyer Billmers reported on another busy year, with page requests running at 31,000/week. They worked with the Pinewoods chairs to redesign the Pinewoods webpages. They are about to implement a “Members Only” page for Branch internal documents like the By-Laws or these AGM minutes. Access will be limited to members and controlled by a single, shared username and password, which will be changed each year when the membership list is updated. They also are planning a minor change in email list administration. Event announcement emails have been sent to the “Breaking News” email list, which anyone can join from the webpage. From now on, such emails will also be sent to the Branch members email list. Branch members who have also subscribed to the Breaking News list will be removed from it, to avoid duplicate messages. The Webmasters will send out an email explaining these changes.

Equipment: Peter Tandy reports that the Branch sound systems continue to be available for Branch events, and for related activities for a reasonable rental. After many years, one system is now missing a channel, and many of the microphones no longer work. The Branch should consider soon replacing some of the mics, and purchasing a modern mixer and 2-channel power amplifier for use with the current speakers, which are in fine shape.

Archives: The archives are housed at the UNH library. Lance passes materials along to them.

Bookstore: Patti Tillotson took the Bookstore to six different events, with total sales of \$5,910.30 (including \$742 in consignment sales at Pinewoods). Sales in general are down somewhat from previous years, and she is offering a special on Celebrate 50 CDs. She is retiring as Bookstore Manager as of this meeting, though she will continue to organize things through Pinewoods. Patti pointed out that a new Manager could choose to shape the job differently, and Jean noted that different parts of the job could be split among different people.

Pinewoods Camp: Bill Card reported that while Pinewoods was not hit hard by Sandy, a number of buildings did suffer substantial damage from Nemo in February. One Lads cabin was totaled, and has been replaced by a former crew cabin, with a new crew cabin constructed elsewhere from lumber milled from the fallen trees. All of the damage has been repaired, with the costs largely covered via self-insurance from their reserve fund, with thanks to all who have contributed the funds over past years to make that possible. One member suggested that the Branch may want to choose to designate contributions this year toward the replenishment of that fund. The new Dining Hall is working out well, with open-up help this spring from an enthusiastic group of Boston Branch volunteers. Renovation of the Pinecones showers is the next planned project. Pinewoods has a new website, and they have also added archives materials about some very early Scottish sessions to the binders in the Camphouse.

Fall Concert: Linda McJannet reported on a very successful show, and thanked all who helped, especially the Billmers. This coming fall, the group “Blazin’ Fiddles” from Scotland will be coming, with an evening show on Saturday, Oct. 26, and a Sunday matinee on Oct. 27.

Pinewoods Benefit Ball 2012: Gill Charters (and Betty Allen) reported on a fine dance at the Old Town Hall in Salem, with \$660 contributed to Pinewoods. This year's ball will be on Dec. 7, with music by Laura Risk and Susie Petrov.

Highland Ball 2013: Peter Olszowka gave a preliminary report on the recent Ball. There were six sets at the Friday Welcome Dance, but the attendance of 130 at the Ball was well below what was hoped for. While Moseley's is happy to have us, they have a minimum of 150 dinners that we have to pay for, even if not used. There was some discussion about scheduling and other issues. One member asked whether the Friday night dance might be taking away from the Saturday Ball. A number of people noted the expense as an issue. If Moseley's is a problem given our current attendance, one member suggested the Corinthian Hall in Melrose as both gorgeous and reasonably priced. Jean noted that Exec has been discussing these issues, and that they plan to send out a survey soon to collect additional input from Branch members.

RSCDS AGM: The Headquarters AGM in Scotland will be on November 2. We have space for more delegates, if any member is interested in attending.

Class Reports: Class reports were received and placed on file from the Branch Classes in Cambridge, Northampton, Salem, Stow, Nashua, and Brunswick. With the Springstep building up for sale, the Cambridge Class Committee has been exploring new venues. Beginning in July, they will be meeting at the Fayerweather Street School, off Concord Ave in Cambridge. Meanwhile, the Nashua class has been working with Rebecca Gore to organize a new group in Chelmsford, MA.

Other Business:

Merrill Henderson, speaking for Morven Troost, reported on the efforts of the Kennebunkport group to get going again after disbanding for a time. Their Downeast Fling will be on June 8.

Susie Petrov made an announcement about the very successful Candidate Class for which she was the Tutor, extending thanks to the candidates for all their efforts, and to the Branch classes and dancers who supported them.

Jean passed on the suggestion that, widespread as we are, we have some way of identifying us as a Branch, perhaps polo shirts or the like. Please let her know if you have ideas for a design

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

Respectfully submitted,
Lance Ramshaw, Secretary