

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee

January 6, 2016 (December 2015 Meeting)

Present: Andrea Aeschlimann, Janet Anderson, Cathy Crabtree, Kat Dutton, Cathy Goode, Susan Haines, Linda McJannet, Jeremy Thorpe

Absent: Dale Birdsall, Merrill Henderson

1. **Minutes from the December 6, 2015 meeting** – The minutes were approved after correcting the spelling of Laban. Thank you to Kat for recording these minutes!
2. **Treasurer's Report** (Cathy C.) – Cathy reports that membership dues have been paid to Headquarters, so the cash is down a little. Other than that, there was little activity for the month of December. As of December 31, 2015, the Main Checking account is at \$31,998.43 and the Lloyds account is at \$440.49 to bring the Total Current Assets to \$32,438.92. There are some unreimbursed expenses from ESC 2015, but it is not clear what these may be, so the chairs will be asked if these can be rolled into ESC 2016.

There were discussions concerning possibly changing our tax status from 401(c)(7) to a 401(c)(3). This would allow contributors to deduct their donations on their taxes. This type of change would require a change in the By-Laws, and we would need to look at the articles of corporation and discuss what would be done with the money if we were to ever fold. Cathy will do some further research to determine the cost to change and the answers to any other questions that the membership might have, then we should survey the membership for their thoughts and feelings.

3. Reports from Liaisons –

- a) Fall Concert (November 2016) (Janet) – Historically speaking, the November Concert usually only makes money when there is a “big name” artist like Alasdair Fraser. Maybe we should try for a “big name” and add an opener or a dance band depending on who is hired. Janet has a list of possible performers and will contact as many as possible to determine their availability and their interest in performing at the Concert. Also to remember/consider is that the hall rental is \$3500 and we pay additional fees for sound and light.
- b) Highland Ball (May 14, 2016) (Cathy G.) – Emily Peterson reports that everything is going fine with preparations for this year's Ball. She did have a couple of items for Exec to think about. The first item was to think about whether or not the Ball should stay at the site in Melrose or should we look for a new location. Perhaps we should poll the membership and ask what halls they have used/might suggest and what they know about the rental fees. The second item is that there doesn't seem to be a checklist/timeline or information from past Balls concerning budgets, contracts, and other details

readily available to the new or current chairs. There should be a resource for all of the tasks and elements necessary for putting on the Ball. As we are making better use of our web site, this information will eventually be posted in the members section.

- c) ESCape (July 4-8, 2016) (Kat) – The proposed 2016 budget, based on the 2015 actual budget, was presented, seconded, and approved. The tallies are based on slightly fewer campers and adding a full-time musician, a part-time musician, and a ritual dance teacher.
- d) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (July 8-16, 2016) (Linda) – Linda reports that everything is on track. The application has been revised. The musicians are set and the contracts are nearly done. Laird Brown and two other musicians are doing the sound, but should there be another sound person “on tap?” The deadline for applications is March 1, 2016.
No, there won't be extra protein on the menu, but the co-chairs will work with the cooks.
Co-chairs are needed for 2017, and they should be introduced to the role by functioning as the jobs coordinator for 2016. Several names were suggested and will be asked.
- e) New Hampshire Highlands (August 26-28, 2016) (Susan) – The contract with Camp Methodios has been signed.
- f) New Hampshire Highland Games (Merrill) - The southern Maine classes (Patti for Brunswick and Merrill for Kennebunk) are in discussion with the New Hampshire Games organizers about SCD's presence in this year's games. We will have a booth to promote SCD the same as last year. The organizers have asked what else we would like, so we have requested an audience participation session on Friday afternoon, as we did last year, and also slots for an audience participation session and a more formal workshop session on Saturday. I'll keep you posted as the planning goes forward.
- g) Teaching and Music Committee (Linda) – The budget for the February 28 Laban Movement Analysis workshop was reviewed. Fifteen people will be needed to break even. Laban Movement Analysis is a way for dancers to become more conscious of their dancing and to improve style, phrasing, and other aspects of their dancing.
The evening dance programs for Pinewoods have been approved. The class grid has some changes to allow for more time after lunch and a little less time before dinner. The contract with the camp has been received but needs to be signed. The TMC also had a discussion concerning people taking on projects and the time commitments and hard work involved. They have also agreed to no longer have long e-mail conversations.
- h) *Tartan Times* (Kat) – The latest edition just came out today, a little late due to the fact that Barbara had been travelling

- i) Demonstration Team (Kat) - Upcoming performances for the Demonstration Team are the BCMFest scheduled for Saturday January 9 and the Ancient Universities Burns Night Banquet. The team has lined up a choreographer and music for NEFFA and will go into rehearsals in February.
- j) Membership (Dale) – No report at this time.
- k) Nominating Committee (Dale) – The committee is asking who is due to go off Exec and who may be willing to stay on for another term.
- l) Website and Publicity (Kat) – The webmasters report that there is still confusion over the new calendar scheme. People periodically ask them why an event is not listed or try to send posting info to them as webmasters. They continue to refer those people to calendar@rscsdboston.org. In addition, they have noted that some events are being publicized before they are listed on the calendar. This creates confusion when people see the announcement and then go to the calendar for details.

When the announcement goes out through the webmasters, they can check that it is listed before sending it. When the announcement goes out independently, there's not much else they can do. Exec needs to continue to educate people and monitor the situation.

- m) Bookstore (Merrill) – No report at this time.
- n) Calendar (Jeremy) – Jeremy will work on sending links for individual events.
- o) SDCEA (Janet) – The Scholarship dance is scheduled to be held on March 19. The MCs are Laura DeCesare, Katarina Dutton, and Susie Long, and the musicians are Beth Murray, Catherine Miller, and Anne Hooper.
- p) Class Liaisons –
 - Brookline, MA (Kat) – The annual Twelfth Night Celebration is scheduled for Sunday January 10th starting at 6:30 PM. Music will be provided by Highland Whisky.
 - Cambridge, MA (Kat) - The St Andrew's Day Celebration (double social hour) at the end of November was a great success and attracted a good group of Scottish Dancers, including some people who have not been to Cambridge Class for a long time. Having the bar open downstairs worked well and the Canadian American Club people were happy with how things went. The evening guests were also very pleased with how things went. Susie Petrov and Cathy Fahey were the teachers for December with music by Tom Pixton and friends.
The Holiday party on December 21st was also a great success and well attended. Wonderful music was provided by Anne Hooper and friends and a nice program of dances was offered by MaryEllen Scannell and Charles Liu.
MaryEllen Scannell and Gregor Trinkaus-Randall are teaching during January. Elizabeth Anderson is the band leader.

2016 got off to a good start with 4 new dancers at class on January 4th and great music from Elizabeth Anderson, Debbie Jarvis, Jerome Fung and Ben Anderson.

The Cambridge Class is planning an informal Burns Night double social hour on Monday 25th Jan (it is actually Burns Night), including dances with a Burns theme, Address to the Haggis etc. We are expecting about 10-15 people from the Ancient Universities Alumni group to attend the event.

- Brunswick, ME (Merrill) – The class had a 2 week break for the Holidays and begin again this week (Thursday, Jan 7).
The date is set for the Annual Fall Dance Party - Saturday, October 15.
- Kennebunk, ME (Merrill) - Class resumed on Sunday, January 3, after taking the month of December off. They consistently have a full set and sometimes 5 couples. The date for the Downeast Fling has been set and the hall reserved for Saturday, June 18.
- Greenland, NH (Merrill) - The class met Tuesday, Jan. 5, for its first session of the New Year, having taken a break since December 1. They consistently have a full set.
- Fairlee, VT (Dale) - Two class members attended the Pinewoods Benefit Ball and four members attended the Nashua New Year's Day Dance. There's not much else to report at this time.
- Montpelier, VT (Dale) - The Montpelier Scottish Country Dancers will be holding their annual social on April 9, 2016. The program will be available soon. Music will be provided by Peter Macfarlane, Joanne Garton, Aaron Marcus and Hollis Easter
- Salem, MA (Andrea) – The Salem Class has forged a very satisfying relationship with their new “landlords” The Bridge @ 211, and their new “roommates” The Neverland Theater. They are currently discussing a fundraiser for The Bridge in March featuring a Celtic theme and will have an ad in the Neverland’s playbill for upcoming performances.
During the holiday season, MaryEllen was able to visit a number of local businesses who are interested in supporting SCD by posting flyers & notices inviting people to join the class. The first posting is scheduled for next week! This is part of a plan to grow the Salem Class and is supported by the Bridge @ 211 community services and their contacts.
The Pinewoods Benefit Ball & Book 49 workshop were well attended and netted \$1300.00 for Pinewoods. Another workshop hosted by the Salem Class is on schedule for Feb 28th and also one on the afternoon of the Salem Party the first Saturday in April.
- Nashua, NH (Linda) – The Nashua Class has requested a music subsidy for their New Year’s Day Dance. The request was approved.

- Northampton, MA (Cathy G.) – The class has moved to the Florence Civic Center and is averaging 4 couples, more or less. They will be requesting a music subsidy for their upcoming June Party.
- Great Barrington, MA (Cathy G.) – The class has moved locations and usually dances 46 out of 52 weeks per year, averaging eight or so dancers. They are interested in having a flier to promote dancing for children.
- Chelmsford, MA (Cathy C.) – The class has not yet met since January 1.

4. Old Business – none

5. New Business –

- a) Pinewoods chairs 2017 – discussed previously in Scottish Pinewoods Sessions report.
- b) Laban Movement Workshop budget – discussed previously in the Teaching and Music Committee report.
- c) Possible things to work on during the next few months –
 - Electronic ballot
 - On-line payments
 - Beginners' Class
 - Improved publicity

6. Next Meetings –

- a) Wednesday January 27 – phone meeting – 7:15 PM
- b) Wednesday February 24 – Andrea's home in Salem, MA – 7:15 PM