

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

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

March 1, 2017 (February meeting)

**Present:** Janet Anderson, Sue Chari, Cathy Crabtree, Susan Haines, Merrill Henderson, Jeffrey Hopper, Linda McJannet, Jeremy Thorpe

**Absent:** Andrea Aeschlimann, Cathy Goode

1. **Minutes from the January 25, 2017 meeting** – The minutes were approved as submitted.
2. **Treasurer's Report** (Cathy C.) – Cathy reports that the total Branch assets are at \$43,513.70, but the first payment to Pinewoods is due in March, so this number will be decreased. To date, approximately \$7000 has been received through Square from Pinewoods applications plus a few memberships fees. Compared to last year, the administrative expenses are higher due to the fees to wire money to Scotland and the fees for utilizing Square. Moneys from both the Highland Ball and ESCape are also behind from last year.
3. **Reports from Liaisons** –
  - a) Fall Concert (November 11, 2017) (Janet) – Thank you to Linda McJannet and Cathy Crabtree for stepping forward to co-produce this year's Concert. They are working with the hall in Lexington to obtain a new contract plus arranging for lighting and other jobs.  
Jeremy will be drafting a message for the membership with the concerns for 2018. The general consensus is that there should probably not be a Concert in 2018 but perhaps something could occur that would be more in line with our mission. Exec is open to other options and will wait to see what might come forward.
  - b) Highland Ball (May 12 – 14, 2017) (Cathy C.) – For the 2017 Ball, the flyer has been created and soon will be posted on the website. The hall has been paid with an extra half hour on either end of the evening, and the band, MCs, and police detail are set. There has been no deposit or contract with a caterer. If the previously used caterer doesn't work out, we will need to think about other options. The Friday Welcome dance seems to be on track with Cathy Fahey as the MC and Dan Wheatley and Friends providing music. There was no further information concerning the Sunday Brunch.  
There was discussion on an honorarium for the MCs. It was proposed and accepted to give free Ball tickets minus the price for dinner to the MCs. The Jotform application is ready to be launched and flyers for Friday and Saturday are posted on the Branch calendar, but printed publicity still needs

to go out.

For the 2018 Highland Ball, the hall has been reserved (for May 19, 2018), and there has been a verbal agreement from Laura Risk, with Nicholas Williams and others, to provide the music. Laura would like to know her budget, including travel allowance. Exec will need to look at the budget for the last three years to determine the figure.

- c) ESCape (July 3 – 7, 2017) (Cathy C.) – The contract has been received, the application is available on the Branch website, and there is a big planning meeting scheduled for March 11<sup>th</sup>.
- d) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (July 7 – 15, 2017) (Linda) – The deadline for applications is today, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Everything seems to be going well, and the theme for the week was announced, “Out of this World.” There will be two advanced classes offered this year, one focusing on technique and one focusing on repertoire. The Teaching and Music Committee is currently working on the descriptions for these two classes.  
On March 11<sup>th</sup>, there is a Pinewoods program providers meeting where there will be discussions about the changes at camp, for example that there will be one dining hall manager for the summer.
- e) New Hampshire Highlands (August 25 – 27, 2017) (Susan) – The third teacher has been hired, so the staff will include Kathy Giacoletti, Charles Liu, and a guest from Canada for teachers with Terry Traub as Music Director.
- f) New Hampshire Highland Games (September 15 – 17, 2017) (Merrill) – Nothing to report at this time.
- g) Teaching and Music Committee (Janet) – The committee continues to work on Pinewoods-related items.
- h) *Tartan Times* (Susan) – Evelyn Murray and Barbara McOwen have been working from long-distance (Barbara was in California) to put together the latest edition, but it is now ready and will be sent out in the next couple of days. They would appreciate any suggestions that Exec may have.
- i) Demonstration Team (Linda) – The team has been joined by two new couples. They are working with Loren Wright’s choreography in preparation for NEFFA. The team had a great time at their recent performance for the Ancient Universities Burns’ Night, and Kat Dutton was the MC. The team finds that the community events are more fun and less stressful.
- j) Membership (Andrea) – A report is needed from MaryEllen Scannell.
- k) Nominating Committee (Andrea) – Open positions on Exec include Vice President, Treasurer, and two at-large members. Exec needs to find candidates to run for positions on TMC.
- l) Website (Jeffrey) – All is well.

- m) Publicity (Linda) – There has been no response to the e-mail request for a Branch publicity person. The people who are running an event are usually the people interested in getting out the publicity. The publicity person for the event should be able to post items to social media, do routine distributions for classes, may be interested in designing flyers, and has knowledge of folk dance calendars, contact people, and links to other groups and sites. Jeff has a list of contacts that the event runners could use.
- n) Bookstore (Merrill) – Mike Little reports that it would cost \$150 (plus the fee to set the print) to print 50 copies at \$3 each of *The Yankee Sampler*. Exec approved this amount.
- o) Class Liaisons –
  - Cambridge, MA (Sue) – The class closed out the month of February with a double social hour. Charles Liu and Laura DeCesare were the teachers. Attendance at the class has been strong.
  - Newton, MA (Sue) – Naomi Lev was the teacher last month, and she focused on unfamiliar dances.
  - Stow, MA (Merrill) – The class is averaging 3 sets and includes a family with children. They have been working on the dances for the Scholarship dance.
  - Brunswick, ME (Merrill) – The date for the Fall Party is not definite, so everyone is asked to keep both October 14 and October 28 open.
  - Kennebunk, ME (Merrill) – The DownEast Fling will be held on June 10, 2017.
  - Greenland, NH (Merrill) – Due to various issues, the class met a total of three times in January and February.
  - Chelmsford, MA (Cathy C.) – The class was included in the Chelmsford Winterfest Celebration. They welcomed three new dancers at the February class led by Susie Long with music by Catherine Miller.

#### **4. Old Business**

#### **5. New Business -**

- a) RSCDS Boston Branch Event Runner's Guide – Jeremy distributed a draft of an Event Runner's Guide filled with valuable information for anyone running a Branch event. Suggestions were made for some additional pieces of information to be included. Once it is complete, the document will be shared with TMC and the Webmasters.

#### **6. Next Meetings -**

- a) March 29 – phone meeting at 7:15 PM
- b) April 26 -