

Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society
Minutes of the Executive Committee

August 30, 2017

Present: Janet Anderson, Marsha Byrnes, Sue Chari, Cathy Crabtree, Cathy Goode, Susan Haines, Jeffrey Hopper, John Salyards, Jeremy Thorpe

Absent: Sharon Gilmour

- 1. Minutes from the June 24, 2017 meeting** – The minutes were accepted as written.
- 2. Treasurer's Report** (Cathy C.) – Cathy reports that the current total liabilities and assets following Pinewoods are at \$40,201.61. This includes \$760.00 for CDSS from ESC, and Square fees and deposits for the November Concert. At the end of the fiscal year, September 30th, the Branch should be at or near the breakeven point considering the loss from the 2016 Concert bit a slight re-coop from Pinewoods. One teacher returned their honorarium as a donation, and camper musicians played for the Potpourri Class. Most of the receipts for reimbursement have been received, but one thing to think about is the cost of party refreshments especially when alcohol is involved.
- 3. Reports from Liaisons –**
 - a) Fall Concert (November 11, 2017) (Cathy C.) – Cathy reports that Linda McJannet had 2500 postcards printed and they are being or will be distributed to classes and numerous other locations (New Hampshire Highland Games, stores, shops, libraries, musical gigs, etc.). The volunteers are organized and on-line publicity is being done. In addition, the Demonstration Team is getting organized as is Robert McOwen and Highland Dance Boston.
 - b) Highland Ball (May 19, 2017) (Cathy C.) – Kat Dutton is willing to help with the Ball but needs assistance. There have been a couple of tentative “Yes” responses, but Jeremy will ask one or two other people. Cathy will get the contract, and everyone needs to push Publicity for the Ball.
 - c) ESCape (July 3 – 7, 2017) (Sharon) – ESCape 2017 turned a small profit which will be shared with CDSS. There is one outstanding receipt that needs to be submitted for reimbursement.
 - d) Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (July 7 – 15, 2017) (Cathy/Jeremy) – Scottish Sessions also turned a small profit for 2017. The evaluations are being reviewed by the Teaching and Music Committee. There were mostly positive comments and comments on the musicians for classes.
The teachers for 2018 are Helen Russell, Andrew Smith, Linda Henderson, and Laura Scott for Highland.

- e) New Hampshire Highlands (August 25 – 27, 2017) (Susan) – This year’s session was held this past weekend and was great fun. The committee will meet soon to start planning for 2018.
- f) New Hampshire Highland Games (September 15 – 17, 2017) (Jeffrey) – The Brunswick and Belfast classes will be sponsoring a booth at the Games. They would appreciate volunteers to help staff it. SCD workshops will be held on both Friday and Saturday. They have also ordered 300 stretchy bracelets that are labeled with rscdsboston.org.
- g) Teaching and Music Committee (Janet) – At their recent meeting, the TMC chose Charles Liu as Chair, Roberta Lasnik as Vice Chair, and Karen Sollins as Secretary. Much of their discussion involved Pinewoods – the evaluations, plans for 2018, and considerations for 2019. Further discussions concerned the proposed workshop focusing on transitions scheduled for November 4 at the Topsham Grange Hall. Howard Lasnik will be the teacher and Christine Anderson and Dave Arnold the musicians. The thought is for an afternoon workshop and evening social, charging \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members. The budget proposal seems a bit high with \$50 for the teacher, \$75 for the hall rental, and \$400 for the musicians, including some travel money. This is higher than the Branch music subsidy rate of \$265 for one or two musicians. How much do other classes pay musicians? The class liaisons will ask their classes.
- h) *Tartan Times* (Susan) – Evelyn and Barbara report that the September/October edition is nearly complete and will be sent out soon.
- i) Demonstration Team (Marsha) – Discussions concerning moving to weekly sessions will not occur until after the Fall Concert. The goal would be to develop a repertoire of dances and a team that would be available to perform at a variety of gigs.
- j) Membership (Cathy G.) – MaryEllen Scannell reports that she will begin membership reports after 9/30/17, when the new year begins. At this time, she has collected membership applications at Pinewoods and New Hampshire Highlands. They (MaryEllen and John) have also received a few electronic applications. Cathy Crabtree informed her there is no additional charges for online membership applications. Karen Sollins and MaryEllen plan to attend as many branch classes as possible to encourage membership and participation in branch events. Cathy Crabtree has agreed to be membership rep for the Albany group at their October party. Salem is about to embark on a development campaign to attract newer dancers and may find itself (they hope) a group for newer dancers for a

while. Bruce Mabbott and Andrea Aeschlimann will be the Salem residents behind the campaign!

- k) Nominating Committee (Marsha) – MaryEllen Scannell has agreed to fill the open position on the team, along with Ed Pokrass and Rosemary Jackson.
 - l) Website (Jeffrey) – Updates are needed for the website, including holding dates for future events. The liaisons should remind the event organizers.
 - m) Publicity (Janet) – The recent publicity push is for the Concert with postcards being distributed wherever possible.
 - n) Bookstore (Cathy C.) – Cathy is still discussing how best to make sure the Bookstore is successful and supported.
 - o) Class liaisons –
 - Cambridge, MA (Sue) – Jean Martin taught on the Monday after Pinewoods. The succeeding teachers have been focusing on dances by one devisor.
 - Brookline, MA (Sue) – The class will resume after Labor Day.
 - Newton, MA (Sue) – The class has been meeting at the VFW for the summer but will move to their regular location after Labor Day.
 - Stow, MA (Sharon) – The first session of the year will be on September 22nd, and their party will be on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.
 - Chelmsford, MA (John) – There were 23 dancers and 6 musicians at the August 12th party.
 - Nashua, NH (John) – Highland Whisky will be the band for the January 1, 2018 New Year's Day party.
 - Brunswick, ME (John) – The class will start on September 7, and, along with the Belfast class, they performed at the Maine Games on August 19th.
 - Salem, MA (Cathy G.) – The class is doing a push for new members, and Bruce Mabbott and Andrea Aeschlimann are heading up the drive.
 - Albany, NY (Jeffrey) – The class had a summer of schiehallion reels. They are currently planning for their annual Fall Frolic on October 28th.
 - Burlington, VT (Jeffrey) – The class will resume in mid-September.
 - Fairlee, VT (Jeffrey) – Their fall party is scheduled for October 21st.
4. Old Business –
- a) AGM – Jean Farrington and Evelyn Murray will be serving as Delegates. Roberta Lasnik and Diane Lockhart would be interested in serving as delegates.
5. New Business –
- a) Beginners' class – The New York Branch uses centers for adult education to outsource for classes and dancers and runs progressive classes. What would you like to see if the Boston Branch were to try this approach – charismatic

teaching, musicians, advertising? This would be an opportunity to utilize social media and interpersonal connections to attract new dancers.

6. Next meetings –

- a) September 27 at 7:15 PM at Marsha's
- b) October 25 at 7:15 PM