

**Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society**  
**Minutes of the Executive Committee**  
February 27, 2019

**Phone meeting:** Marsha Byrnes, Cathy Crabtree, Karen Gansz, Sharon Gilmour, Susan Haines, Jeffrey Hopper, Winifred McGowan, John Salyards, Jeremy Thorpe

**Absent:** Sue Chari

1. **Minutes from the January 30, 2019 meeting** – The minutes were approved with a correction concerning the Northampton end-of-the-year party.
2. **Treasurer's Report** (Cathy) – Cathy reports that the total liabilities and net assets stand at \$62,588. It has been a relatively quiet month with the exception of the number of Pinewoods registrations being received through Square. Overall, the finances are down a little this year mainly due to the income from the Concert in 2017 versus the income from the Joint Ceilidh in 2018.

Only two Highland Ball registrations have been received through Square but MaryEllen Scannell has some checks to give to Cathy. Cathy reported that she filed tax form 990EZ, an informational return, for the February 15 deadline, and the 1099s were sent out for January 31.

A letter was received from Headquarters stating that the Bank of Scotland would no longer be able to offer banking facilities to a charity like the RSCDS, so all financial activities will now be handled through Triodos Bank.

3. **Old Business -**

- a. Discussion: Policies & Procedures Review – What defines a Branch Class? According to the current Policies & Procedures, a Branch Class must have eight members in order to receive an annual music subsidy and liability insurance. Perhaps these criteria should be separated so that smaller classes would continue to receive insurance coverage yet would also be encouraged to increase their membership in order to qualify for a music subsidy (“x” number of members would qualify the class to receive insurance while “y” number of members would qualify the class to receive the music subsidy). Cathy will investigate the cost for insuring a hall. There will be further discussions on this topic. If you have any thoughts on what you think members want to see for their membership, please share those thoughts with Jeremy.  
Jeremy has requested 30 membership packets from Headquarters.
- b. Guidelines for Children and Vulnerable Adults - The final version of the “Guidelines for Children and Vulnerable Adults Dancing with the Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society” was moved and approved by Exec. It has been sent to the Teaching and Music Committee,

Jeremy will send it to the webmasters, and Susan will send it to the class contacts. Marsha Byrnes volunteered to fill the role of Youth Coordinator, as stated in the Guidelines.

Winifred suggested that any changes that have been made to the Policies & Procedures and Guidelines be shared with the membership at the Annual Meeting in June.

#### 4. Reports from Liaisons -

- a. Highland Ball (May 11, 2019) (Cathy) – The registrations are starting to come in. MaryEllen has spoken with the caterer concerning reducing the prices for lower numbers. Cathy will remind MaryEllen about sending out an e-blast.
- b. Joint Ceilidh (November 2019) (Cathy) – The tentative date for the Ceilidh is November 2, 2019, but the deposit has not yet been paid. There is a possibility of the Scots' Charitable Society wanting to join forces for the Ceilidh, but there are still many questions to be answered. The biggest question is the goal of this event – to showcase the performances versus to encourage dancing.
- c. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (July 5–13, 2019) (Jeremy) – The deadline for applications is February 28, and there are still spaces remaining. Jeremy reported that he had received the contract from Pinewoods Camp, Inc. Cathy will be making payments to Pinewoods in March, April, and May, totaling \$25,300.
- d. ESCape (July 1-5, 2019) (Sharon) – April Birnie had forwarded the proposed budget, being conservative and basing it slightly lower than last year's actual budget. Cathy has asked April to forward reservation checks every two weeks. Overall, the plans are falling into place with a few details left to be completed.
- e. Loon Mountain Games (September 20-22, 2019) (Jeff) – Nothing to report at this time.
- f. Teaching and Music Committee (Marsha) – The group has been working on Pinewoods schedules, musicians' contracts, and other details for camp. Also, a Vintage Dance Workshop is being planned for the Fall. The Candidate Class is moving forward, and an e-mail will be sent for when dancers are needed. Marsha will relay information to the committee concerning the status of the new member packets.
- g. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha) – The team is preparing for their NEFFA performance. Attendance has been light. A process still needs to be developed to recruit new members.
- h. Nominating Committee (Marsha) – The slate of officers is needed very soon.
- i. New Hampshire Highlands (August 23-25, 2019) (Susan) – The teachers will be Linda Henderson, Robert McOwen, and Chris Ronald. The musicians will

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be Terry Traub as band leader, Barbara McOwen, Howard Lasnik, Stephen Thomforde, and a second fiddler yet to be named. The flyers should be available soon.

- j. *Tartan Times* (Susan) – Evelyn Murray and Barbara McOwen report that they will be starting on the March/April edition. They have not had an opportunity to discuss the future of the *Tartan Times* when Evelyn moves.
- k. Membership (Susan) – There are currently 210 Branch members including 18 Associate members. The new member packets from Headquarters should be sent to members who were new both this year and last year. Jeremy will draft a welcome letter that can accompany the packet.
- l. Website (Jeff) – Nothing to report at this time.
- m. Bookstore (Cathy) – The question was raised of how to get the Bookstore and other products to Albany. They could contact the Bookstore directly or speak with Patti Tillotson of Thistles and Things.
- n. SDCEA (Sue) – The Scholarship dance will be held on March 23, 2019. Thom Howe will be bringing the sound equipment.  
The new online scholarship application is a Jotform that will be added to the website.
- o. Calendar (Jeremy) – Jeremy has revised the instructions for posting to the Branch Calendar. There will be a direct link on the calendar page to the instructions.
- p. Class Liaisons –
  - Fairlee, VT (Karen) – Gary Apfel reports that the weather on Wednesday evenings this winter has presented the class with a lot of difficult driving weather, resulting in the cancellation of some classes and reduced attendance at others. Nonetheless, they have maintained more than a set every week when class was not cancelled and oftentimes there are 12 to 14 dancers.  
Five members of the Fairlee Class attended the Mt. Cardigan Ski and Dance Weekend. All enjoyed hiking the mountain and the dancing Saturday evening.  
The Fairlee Spring Fling is early this year - May 4. They have been test-driving dances at class and anticipate publishing a program very shortly. As always, the Fairlee class appreciates the Branch's support of their class's activities.
  - Burlington, VT (Karen) – Connie Kent reports that the class was in “hibernation” for the winter, so she took a break from teaching during February and March and hopes to resume in April.
  - Newton, MA (Sue) – The class meets every Wednesday and has been reviewing dances for the March 10 Tea Dance.

- Kennebunk, ME (John) – The DownEast Fling is scheduled for June 15 with musicians Terry Traub and Catherine Miller.
- Greenland, NH (John) – The winter weather has not been very kind to the class.
- Albany, NY (Winifred) – The class averages 5 to 6 couples and sometimes 2 sets. There has been a turnover of some dancers, and a few younger dancers have joined in.  
The Fall Frolic encountered a timing issue last year and may need to find a new venue. Meanwhile, the Dance Flurry had a strong, energetic turnout including two pipers from the Mounties.  
The Albany Class is happy with the support they receive from the Boston Branch, in particular the Ed Rawson Fund for new dancers. They would appreciate help with promotional materials.
- Stow, MA (Sharon) – The Stow Class has been enjoying having Elizabeth Anderson play for them.
- Salem, MA (Sharon) – A video is scheduled to be shot during class on February 28.

**5. New Business –**

**6. Next Meeting –**

- a. March 27 at 7:15 PM at Marsha's