

**Boston Branch of the Royal Scottish Dance Society**  
**Minutes of the Executive Committee**  
October 23, 2019

**Present:** Marsha Byrnes, Cathy Crabtree, Karen Gansz, Sharon Gilmour, Susan Haines, Winifred McGowan, Linda McJannet, Lance Ramshaw, John Salyards, Jeremy Thorpe

**Guest:** Barbara McOwen

- 1. Minutes from the September 25, 2019 meeting** – The minutes were approved with the correction of a typo in the Bookstore report.
- 2. Treasurer's Report (Cathy)** – Cathy reports that the total liabilities and net assets stand at \$66,001. Liabilities include \$1,621 to be sent to CDS for their share of the profit from ESCape and \$207 in payable sales taxes for the Bookstore sales at Pinewoods. In comparing 2019 to 2018, Pinewoods Scottish Session was down slightly due to a few last minute cancellations plus a slight increase in PCI fees; ESCape was just about even with a pretty full camp and barebones expenses; the Highland Ball made a small profit in 2019; the Concert in 2017 made a significant profit while the Ceilidh of 2018 was just about breakeven; Membership fees to Headquarters worked in our favor because of a favorable exchange rate; the Bookstore sales were down; and the Boston Scottish Country Dancers brought in less money because of fewer paying gigs. The honoraria to the Boston Scottish Country Dancers administrator and leader have been paid, plus miscellaneous expenses included a slight increase in our liability insurance, an update for QuickBooks, an increase in fees to Square because it is being utilized by more event groups, and payment for the website domain registration. Cathy also reports that she has filed the annual report with the Secretary of the Commonwealth.
- 3. Reports from Liaisons –**
  - a. Highland Ball (May 9, 2020) (Marsha) – Marsha will have the budget ready for the November meeting (to be held in early December). She still does not have a co-chair, but she is not afraid to speak up when trying to find people to do both the large and small jobs. Kat Dutton will put together the booklet, Linda McJannet has volunteered her services, and Karen Sollins is organizing the Friday Night Welcome dance. Marsha is still waiting for an answer on the Sunday Brunch location. A devisor is needed for the Grand March (Cam Webster has been e-mailed to alert him that he will be needed to play for it.). Other jobs needing to be filled include sound people, Friday night MC and band, three MCs for Saturday, and an MC for Sunday.
  - b. Joint Ceilidh (November 2, 2019) (Cathy) – A few jobs need to be filled – ticket taker(s), people to bring cookies, and a table to promote the Branch

and dancing. The Boston Scottish Country Dancers have been working hard to produce a performance that will be lively and interesting to watch.

- c. Scottish Sessions Pinewoods (July 10 – 18, 2020) (Jeremy) – Jeremy filled out the report for PCI. The Board meeting is occurring this weekend and the rates for the next season will be set. Once the rates are set, the Budget can be presented.
- d. ESCape (July 6 – 10, 2020) (Sharon) – Chairs April Birnie and Dan Potter are working on finalizing the staff for next year.
- e. Loon Mountain Games (September 18 – 20, 2020) (Karen) – Merrill Henderson reports that she had neglected last month to express thanks to those who helped with the Scottish Country Dance tent at the New Hampshire Highland Games. They were Jim and Denise Nelson, Alan and Lillian Wilson, and Brenda and George Walker from the Kennebunk class, Merrill's husband Joe Seale, and Patti Tillotson's friend Jim who set up the tent for them.  
"I'll put in writing what we discussed the other night regarding a class in the Concord area. The folks who have signed my list over the past couple of years are:  
Jessica Willis [jrwillis87@gmail.com](mailto:jrwillis87@gmail.com)  
Stephanie Hart [skhart88@gmail.com](mailto:skhart88@gmail.com)  
Not everyone we talk to signs our list, so there are others who have expressed interest. I wonder whether there is any record of dancers who came to the Concord class when there was one. I also had thought Susie Long might be interested in teaching. She has expressed a willingness to travel to help me out with substituting at the Greenland class."  
We need to remember to endow a trophy in Evelyn's name for next year's games.
- f. Teaching and Music Committee (Marsha) – Marsha reports that the group is still working on teachers for 2020, updating class descriptions so that attendees will better be able to classify themselves, and Charles is helping Elke Baker (with travel costs, etc.) in her search for musicians.  
The Vintage Workshop is on hold for the time being, but Karen Sollins is working on a workshop for MCs. An application was submitted to NEFFA, but a location has not been determined. Debbie Jarvis is interested in serving as a musician on TMC, but an at-large member is still needed.
- g. Boston Scottish Country Dancers (Marsha) - The team is getting ready for the Ceilidh.
- h. Nominating Committee (Marsha) – Nothing to report at this time.
- i. New Hampshire Highlands (August 28 – 30, 2020) (Susan) – The committee is looking for teachers for the next session in August.

- j. *Tartan Times* (Susan) – Barbara McOwen attended this meeting to discuss the *Tartan Times* and to help us understand how it all comes together. It seems that Evelyn Murray would like to continue working with Barbara and doing her portion from long distance. Once an edition is ready for printing, it is sent from a thumb drive to the printer. The printed edition is addressed by Marcie Rowland (we're assuming she picks them up from the printer) and sent to those people requesting a paper copy. Barbara forwards the pdf to the Secretary, who sends it out to the membership. Evelyn may also have a list of those organizations to whom she sends a paper copy, but that is not a certainty. The class listings in the *Tartan Times* are maintained by Barbara, but Lance has also been working on them. The Branch is not good with publicity, and the *Tartan Times* helps to fill that void. Cathy will ask John Crabtree if he would be willing to send out the hardcopies and if he can re-create the mailing list.

Any submissions for the *Tartan Times* should be sent to Evelyn or Barbara by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the even months so that distribution can occur as close to the 1<sup>st</sup> of the odd months as possible.

- k. Membership (Susan) – Nothing to report at this time.
- l. Website (Lance) – There were some credit cards issues, and Jeremy is trying to find out why they are hanging. Lance is working on updates for the Members page and has brought the web page of the class listing and contacts up to date. Updates of the minutes are still needed.
- m. Bookstore (Cathy) – Cathy has information for a job description and will work on writing one, but do we still need a Bookstore when it is so easy to obtain books and CDs? At Pinewoods, the Bookstore serves as a resource center, a meeting place, and a location for musicians to place their items on consignment. Many other branches have given up their bookstores. Do we need a survey to ask the membership how they feel about having a Bookstore?
- n. SDCEA (John) – The SDCEA will report at the Annual General Meeting, but will otherwise function as an independent, self-governing organization.
- o. Equipment (John) – John reports that Thom Howe received his money for the needed repairs. The Sound System went to the Brunswick party. There were some issues with the soundboard, and Thom is trying to solve them.
- p. Class Liaisons –
- Salem, MA (Sharon) – Cathy Fahey and Karen Sollins have been teaching but a couple of cancellations have occurred.
  - Stow, MA (Sharon) Jeanetta McColl is helping Vickery Trinkaus-Randall for now, opening the hall and getting class started.

- Northampton, MA (Winifred) – The class has moved to the Florence Congregational Church. They are planning for their Tea Party and New Year’s Party. They are averaging five couples and have had some new dancers.
- Albany, NY (Winifred) – The class is planning for their Fall Dance and for the Dance Fleury which is held in February.
- Greenland, NH (John) – The class has three dancers who learned about the class at the New Hampshire Highland Games and have continued to attend class.
- Kennebunk, ME (John) – The class has had three sets.
- Fairlee, VT (Karen) – The class would like to apply for the distribution of the subsidy for the Fairlee class for FY 2020. They have 13 members and would like the larger amount.
- Belfast, ME (Karen) – Mike Little reports, “ We would like to get the Belfast Party on the radar of the Branch. It will be on Saturday, May 23, 2020, the usual Memorial Day Weekend date. “  
 “Also, the Blue Hill Class will be applying to become an "official" Branch Class as we have enough members to qualify, plus a newly minted teacher.”

**4. Old Business –**

- a. SAGM – The SAGM is scheduled for Monday November 4<sup>th</sup>.

**5. New Business –**

- a. HQ AGM – Ballots for the HQ AGM in Perth were completed and will be forwarded to HQ.

**6. Next Meetings –**

- a. December 4 – phone meeting