



## Teachers' Committee Minutes

### Meeting

Saturday 21 September 2019  
at the home of Kathy Allen, Campbell

### Present

Alan Twigg, Bradley Hobbs, Bruce Herbold, Dilip Sequeira, Geoffrey Wood, Juliet Davoren, Kathy Allen, Laura Cooper, Lin Pettengill, Marianna Harvey, Paula Jacobson, Rachel Pusey, Rebecca Davis, Trina Merriman.

### Regrets

Fred DeMarse, Mary & Dwayne McQuilliams, Gary Thomas, Sara Gratiot, Tim Wilson, Linda Henderson

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 pm by Armin Busse, Chair.

### Changes to Agenda

Special Topic: Repertoire list by Bruce Herbold moved by popular acclaim from the New Business section. Then moved back to Old Business by popular acclaim. *The crowd is fickle - Sec.*

Guidelines for the monthly party programs.

### Announcements

Armin has a son, Alexander! Congratulations!

## Old Business

### Change/accept minutes of previous meeting

Thanks to Bradley for taking them at very short notice.

Trina proposed that they be accepted as written, Alan seconded, approved unanimously.

### Report on Party Program Committees

Oct/Nov 2019 and Winter Ball 2020 are completed.

December program is due on Oct 1.

#### New Programs

Paula requested that committees have one person from the geographic center of the branch. Alan & Rachel/Dilip volunteered as middle-ish houses for people to meet if that's helpful.

**Kim McGarrity** program is due Feb 15<sup>th</sup>: Paula, Trina, Kathy

**Jean Patrick** Memorial Dance is due Mar 15<sup>th</sup> : Paula, Geoffrey. Fred indicated he may be willing, we will ask him.

For future balls other than Asilomar, we might consider an online survey to gather feedback.

Bruce solicits feedback on whether we should memorialize dancers at dances.

### TAC Report

Trina:

It was at Calgary this year, and also next, as a 2-year contract provided a better rate. Great dancing, lots of good activity, further fundraising. The sponsor-a-dance program netted around \$8000. The debt is now 80-something thousand.

TAC offered the DAA course, and also for DAA assessors. Next year there will be Teacher Training at TAC.

Lin:

When publicizing summer events at TAC, class teachers should help to promote summer school, and endeavor to dispel the notion that you need to be a teacher to attend – and that it's especially helpful for beginners. The ball dances are spaced out over the evening dance sessions to ensure the ball is accessible. Lin has postcards with the dates.

Lin encouraged everyone to join - from next year, TAC newsletters will all be online, so you will need to be a member to access them. If you need to check whether you're a member, contact Katherine Shearman.

### Report from the Board

Bradley:

Walkthroughs before monthly parties should focus on basic dances. This should not be a board policy but left to the discretion of the Teachers' Committee. Bruce has circulated guidelines.

Dance lists posted should have B/I/A classification.

Jamie has a proposal for branch envoys – accomplished dancers wear “envoy tags” on their badges, indicating they are happy to dance with the beginners. It signals to accomplished dancers that those people are interested in dancing with new dancers, either from out of town or beginners. The meeting consensus was strongly in favor although “envoy” was not considered an ideal term; Bruce volunteered to work with Jamie to move this forward.

The Branch committee proposed that Teachers' Meeting dates be posted on the branch calendar. Armin will enter them.

Web site upgrade: has been on the agenda for 2 years... every single month. A sub-committee now exists. The focus is to make the public areas more appealing and get the calendar working. Salina is working on design prototypes.

Jordan Hill Stage: we had thought we would resurface before the games, but the bigger problem is the structure, which has more give than we would like. The focus is to ascertain what needs to be done to the aluminum framing; priority 2 is to revamp the deck on top. We are looking for a structural engineer.

Society AGM: we are voting to reduce the membership fee by £2 – the fee was last set when the society had a huge deficit; now there's a huge surplus. Bradley gave a summary of the open seats:

Candidates for the Education & Training Committee (four open seats).

Allana Creighton (Perth and Perthshire)  
Dierdre MacCuish Bark (Toronto)  
Anne Robertson (Oban and Lorn/Glasgow)  
Chris Ronald (New York)  
Angelika Schmidkonz (Central Germany)  
Mervyn Short (Berks/Hants/Surrey Border)

Candidates for the uncontested Youth Services Committee (three candidates for three seats):

Malin Altenmuller\* (Central Germany/Glasgow) \*umlaut over the "u"  
Margaret Lambourne (International)  
Phillipa McKee (Mid Argyll)

No candidates for either the Membership Services Committee or the Management Board.

## Walk-through Guidelines for the Monthly Party Programs

Bruce read out the most recent version of the guidelines, updated with feedback from Juliet & Sara.

Paula proposed we accept; Armin seconded. Accepted unanimously.

Bruce will send the latest version to the mailing list ASAP, and Armin will post it in the teachers' section of the web site.

## Repertoire

At the last teachers' committee meeting, people provided feedback. 20 rep dances per year, with a repeat no more often than once/3 years means minimum 60 but 100 provides more freedom. Based on Campbell Tyler's list, with more Strathspeys and locally devised dances.

Bruce read out the dances, there was much discussion with a small number of potential dances both to remove and add.

Bruce & Dilip will organize a poll to close in a week, on the basis of which Bruce will decide.

## Guidance and Courtesy of Dancers

Reminder from Armin to encourage good behavior and discourage less good behavior at the start of the year. Trina mentioned that lines have not been forming at the bottom recently.

## New Teachers' Mailing List

Armin has sent out an email announcing the closure of the old list, and for people who were on the old list who did not think they were on the new list to reach out. There was no response.

We will stop using the old list: teachers wishing to be added to the list should contact Armin.

## Next Exam Course 2020

(for exams in 2021)

Any potential candidates should contact Alan. Geoffrey noted that Amelie had expressed interest.

## Officers of the Teachers' Committee

The question of what the frequency of turnover should be was due for discussion this month.

We should ensure that people who are interested in positions should feel comfortable submitting their names, and that we encourage people to apply. Armin & Alan will work on the text.

## Special Topics for Future Meetings

- Teachers' perspective on the new branch web site.
- Microphone workshop. Vote was for a workshop in a hall. Trina volunteered to organize, but will not be able to do it soon.
- Coordinated strategies for increasing class size.

## New Business

### New DAA Intermediate Course

Laura & Lin are planning a course on Sundays at the start of 2020 from January 26<sup>th</sup>. Exam 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> of March. A lot of interest from folks at the upper end of the beginners' classes. 2 sets max.

### Discussion on Dances

Bruce provided guidance from the devisors on A Reel for Poggy and The Zoologist. Original Instructions for non-RSCDS dances will be mailed to the Teachers' List as usual.

### Other Announcements

Asilomar still has 30 places open.

### Location for Next Meeting

January 18<sup>th</sup> 2020: Trina, San Francisco 139 Charles' Street.

## Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 5:02pm

*Proposed:* Bruce

*Seconded:*

*Motion carried, without objection*

The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 pm by Armin Busse, Teachers' Committee Chair.

Humbly Submitted,  
Dilip Sequeira  
Recording Secretary