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SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH, INC.  
**Minutes of the Teachers' Committee Meeting**  
June 14, 2003

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At Pat O'Brien's house. We watched a video on the tension between keeping the dancing a living tradition and preserving standards of performance. Armin called the meeting to order at 1:58 pm.

**Present:** Gene Bissell, Coletta & Armin Busse, Juliet Davoren, Bruce Hamilton, Susie Langdon Kass, Kathleen McAdam, Pat O'Brien, Alan Twigg.

**Regrets:** Cathy Bertics, Rebecca Davis, Emily Evans, Sara Gratiot, Jo Hamilton, Alex and Marianna Harvey, Janet Hayter, Bruce Herbold, Paula Jacobson, Jennifer Kelly, Don & Kathy Kennedy, Trina Merriman, Lin Pettengill, Gary Thomas, Ron Wallace. Thanks to those who sent regrets *before* the meeting. That makes life easier on the hosts, and on your secretary and chairman in preparing for the meeting.

There were many conflicts today: the Campbell Highland Games, the Beginner's Ball in Santa Rosa, and a Red Thistle performance tonight. Thanks to those who were able to attend.

## **Old Business**

### **1 Minutes of meeting April 12, 2003**

**Moved** (Gene/Coletta) to accept the previous minutes. **Carried.**

### **2 Teachers Resources**

Kathleen McAdam mentioned that she has a couple of record players. The videotapes Susie had lent were returned: Ron Wallace recovered them from a candidate he'd lent them to. We'll show one of them as prelude to the September meeting. **Susie** will send a list of the videotapes to Armin.

### **3 Teachers Web Page**

Armin has been working on this, and has permission from Greg Reznick to administer it directly. He'll put up the list of resources, together with their respective owners (name only, no contact info, since the page is public). Each owner will manage their own stuff: decide whether to lend it, keep track, etc. We discussed other things to go on the web page. So far Armin plans to display the following: minutes of meetings, party planning+link to event calendar, documents that came out of previous meetings, link to dance repertoire, and contact information.

#### **4 Fall 2003 Teachers Workshop**

Vicky Goodloe and Mel Briscoe declined our invitation for all dates before and after Asilomar. Jo asked the Asilomar committee if they'd be willing to devote a session to a teachers workshop and the answer was a reluctant Yes.<sup>1</sup> She asked Mel if he'd be willing to teach one, and he proposed a lecture-format session. [He has since given a definite Yes.] Q: is it OK for teachers not attending the weekend to attend this session? A: the Asilomar committee is not fond of this idea — it may be better not to push for a definite answer. We wondered about other times or locations, but observed that Asilomar runs its teachers into the ground as it is.

Bruce Hamilton mentioned that he's been running a weekend-long workshops for English dance teachers, and getting good reviews. He's thinking of adjusting it for an SCD format, and wondered whether there would be any interest. There was a general thumbs-up about the idea. The material won't fit into the morning-afternoon format we currently use, but people thought we might run it as a retreat — maybe in town using a place like St. Mark's, or maybe a residential retreat such as the candidate classes have done. Bruce will look into this for next year.

#### **5 Hambo after Formal Balls**

Sara Gratiot sent a letter (see Attachment 1) which was read at the meeting. Kathleen observed that we used to end evenings with a Highland Schottische. We saw three positions we might take on this issue: we favor hambos at formal balls, we oppose them there, or they are entirely the event chair's choice. A straw poll yielded 0 favor, 8 oppose, 2 chair's choice. It was pointed out that this committee's role is to guide teachers and advise the Branch Committee (BC). We can advise teachers not to schedule hambos as country dances on party and ball programs :-), but have no authority over event chairs, nor over the post-program dances. The secretary will advise the BC that this question came to us, that we took an informal vote, and what the outcome was. [Done, with cc: to David Mostardi and Donald Robertson. See Attachment 2.]

## **New Business**

#### **6 Quality of Live Music**

Kathleen has had a couple of complaints from dancers who were unable to hear the beat at monthly parties, and had the same experience herself at the May party. We discussed how widespread a problem this is, where it might lie, and what we ought to do about it. Q: how many have observed this problem or had it reported to you in the last 6 months? A: two of nine. The problem may lie with rhythm players, with halls, and with the sound. [It lies with dancers, too, but we didn't discuss this. Don't know why. -bh]. Teachers are encouraged to explore with their classes whether there is a problem, and if so how widespread it is (please do this discreetly). We will ask again at our September meeting.

We discussed dance music workshops. The branch used to have these regularly, but stopped for lack of someone to run them. Gene reported that the music fund is receiving pretty steady income. Someone reported that Andy Imbrie is in favor of having them, but does not want to run them.

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1. Some of this information came to light after the meeting.

**Kathleen** will approach Andy about re-starting them, offering branch teachers as resources; if **you** are willing to help, tell her or Andy. Armin will report to the BC that we are in favor of having these workshops again.

The Santa Cruz class used the music fund to bring musicians to class, and thereby introduced musicians to dancing, who otherwise would not have found it. In a side conversation we liked this, but didn't think paying established musicians is an appropriate use of the fund.

### **7 Report on project to collect past TC minutes and actions**

Bruce Hamilton is doing this as a rainy day project, and finally got some rain! He's made a list of all past committee actions — formal motions which carried. It is a textbook case of “the more things change...” The list is Attachment 3. Also attached (Attachment 4) is a not-yet-complete list of past officers. The committee thanked Bruce for his work.

### **8 Selection of Teacher Trainer**

At our January meeting we will elect a teacher trainer. At our September meeting, therefore, we will assemble a slate of candidates for the post. Please be thinking about whether **you** would like the job, and be prepared to say Yes or No in the fall. The requirements are:

- Must be a fully qualified R.S.C.D.S teacher [*I take this to mean “holds a Teacher’s Certificate” -bh*] with many years of wide and varied teaching experience.
- Must be a member in good standing of the San Francisco Branch.

A description of the job is on the branch web page. Follow links to Resources | Minutes/Agenda | Other Branch Documents | Teacher Tutor Job Description.

### **9 Book 44**

Headquarters has invited our branch (among others) to help select dances for Book 44. We will be sent six dances, with names of devisors removed, and asked to say what we think of them. There are guidelines for how to choose and what to say. The dances have not arrived yet. The deadline for sending in results is July 28. Yeah, we noticed that too. Greg Reznick is the contact person for HQ. **The secretary** will coordinate with Greg about how to get materials out to classes that want to try these. Gene and Juliet have volunteered already.

### **10 Distribution of Youth Guidelines**

Kathleen says the guidelines were put on the branch web page, but some were missing and some were changed. We will try to correct this. The guidelines committee wants to get paper copies into the hands of all class managers and active teachers ASAP, and wants them to be in an attractive (so they get read) and durable format. Witsie is working on a proposal for the BC to pay for the printing and binding and mailing. It was pointed out that both the web and paper versions should carry a copyright notice. Kathleen was under instructions to be calm, and we note for the record that she was. **Cathy**, please send a softcopy of the original files and the new version (with the copyright note) to Armin.

## 11 Branch Handbook

Susie reported that the membership committee is putting together a handbook for new members, in the same form factor as the branch directory. Everybody will get a copy when it's done; thereafter it will be given just to new dancers. It is near completion. Preliminary Table of Contents:

- Introduction & Purpose of the Manual
- History of Scottish Country Dancing
- History of the S.F. Branch
- How the Branch Works
- Events
- Etiquette
- What to Wear
- Epilogue

The committee congratulated Susie on the hard work, and she said that Bradley Hobbs was responsible for most of it.

## 12 Date and location for next meetings

- September 20, 2003, 2:00 pm (video at 1:30) at Juliet and Mark Davoren's.
- January 10, 2004, 2:00 pm (video at 1:30) at Kathleen McAdam's.
- April 18, 2004, 2:00 pm (video at 1:30) location TBD. **Note that this is a Sunday.**  
We had a request to put some meetings on Sunday, for those who can't attend on Saturdays.

(Gene/Alan) **Adjourned** at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Hamilton

## Attachment 1

*Here is the letter referred to in item 5.*

From: Saragratiot@aol.com

Date: June 14, 2003 9:37 AM

[...] Tradition? Going back to the 1970's? I started dancing in the fall of 1982 and the hambo was not a part of any evenings of dance at that time. Brian Tailleir started dancing shortly thereafter, and would sometimes ask the band, at the end of the evening, if they could play a hambo. Sometimes they obliged, other times not. It seems that there is as much musical character to the music as there is for Scottish, and it i.e. not just something anyone can play well. (I think Brian may have been dating Valerie Thompson around that time — mid to late eighties — so was involved with her and Mikkel in the Scandinavian dance scene.

Then, Brian became the chair of the Asilomar Ball. I am pretty sure that the "tradition" got its foothold then.

I have to align myself with those who think that the hambo is not and should not be considered a traditional part of our dances. I agree that:

- it is not well suited to a kilt

- there are few who do it very well (meaning not many partners, because of the very different pattern of the men's and women's parts)
- it bears no resemblance to Scottish dance

But, most important, we need look no further than the music:

- There are no Scottish hambos in the music

We always talk about how the music, dance, and language are tied together. There are definitely Scottish waltzes. I don't know from what time period they come - but the tradition was not established in this Branch, or probably even this country.

The polkas I'm not so sure about, but they do well to a ripping Scottish reel. It appears to be a tradition going back a bit further. Maybe those who started this branch could help out here, or information from programs earlier than the birth of this branch. What is done at St. Andrews?

I don't think that there are any Scottish hambos in the musical literature, and as I said, they seem to require a different style of playing.

I like the hambo, and I went to a great deal of effort to learn it, but I do not think it should be considered a traditional part of a Scottish evening of dance. Yes, our dance tradition continues to grow and evolve, as any living art does. But there are folk dance classes and events that can include the hambo.

Please add my vote for the side of NOT having hambos be a traditional part of our Branch events/evenings of dance.

Thanks, Sara

## Attachment 2

*Fax sent to BC regarding item 5.*

From: Teachers Committee

To: Branch Committee

Date: June 15, 2003

The Teachers Committee received correspondence on the subject of dancing the hambo at formal balls. We determined that our role is to advise the Branch Committee, and that we have no authority at dance events over the choice of dances outside the regular program. We are therefore advising you of our deliberations.

First, note that the question applies only to formal balls (vs. classes, monthly parties, etc.) There are three plausible positions: we favor hambos at formal balls, we oppose them there, or they are the event chair's choice. Of the four letters we received, two were Favor and two were Oppose. We debated this briefly and then took a straw poll. The outcome was: 0 favor, 8 oppose, 2 "chair's choice." Note that this was a lightly-attended meeting. We took no formal action on this question.

Summary: We do not think we have authority in this matter (unless someone schedules a hambo as one of the country dances at a ball :-). We have not debated this extensively (neither many people, nor much time), but we generally oppose playing hambos at formal Branch balls. The minority opinion is that this is the event chair's choice.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bruce Hamilton, secretary

### **Attachment 3**

*The list of past TC actions referred to in item 7.*

October 28, 1978: Each dance program committee will include one experienced teacher and one new teacher. The third teacher will follow the committees through the entire year to add continuity. Our list of 50 dances will be used to select 12 of the 15 dances on each program.

October 8, 1981: Planning committees should dispense with trying to anticipate when beginners would be more likely to attend a program by inserting more beginner dances, and a standard level of difficulty should be maintained.

March 10, 1985: The continuity person does not serve on ball program committees. Those committees are asked to note which dances, if any, they wish continued into later party programs. The power to continue those dances or not lies entirely with the party program committees.

March 10, 1985: Holders of the prelim pass are voting members of the Teachers Committee. (actually, we just voted to submit this to the BC. Don't know whether it was approved).

September 27, 1987: Adopted process for selecting teacher trainer.

January 31, 1988: Number of meetings be set at 4/year. At two of the meetings, business be discussed for no more than 30 minutes total (I take this to mean 30 minutes per meeting. -bh), the remainder of the time being devoted to dance interpretation, music, and other matters related to the teaching profession.

January 31, 1988: We did not decide whether prelims can hold office in the TC.

January 31, 1988: We will talk through all dances at monthly parties.

19880711: [not a meeting] a memo from Bruce Hamilton states that, despite our having recommended that prelims be voting members of the TC, Article XI, Section 1 [of the by-laws?] states, "Preliminary-Pass teachers are non-voting members of the Teachers' Committee."

July 11, 1988: We will talk through all dances at monthly parties except those on the "Chestnuts" list, up to a maximum of three such per party.

July 17, 1988: We recommended to the BC that a quorum for the TC be 7 voting members.

July 17, 1988: [To avoid the appearance of impropriety] Monthly party programs will not contain dances devised by any member of the program committee. An exception is made for dances carried over from a previous month.

July 17, 1988: Branch members can bring dances they have devised to the TC. The secretary will arrange for them to be mailed to TC members.

July 17, 1988: The branch will support the TAC area representative's attendance at the AGM each year, up to a maximum of 50% of the registration and 50% of the lowest-cost available round-trip commercial air fare.

October 30, 1988: It was reported that the BC approved our recommendation that a quorum be 7 voting members.

October 30, 1988: TC recommends to BC that [for special events] the event chair and music coordinator may be considered advisory members of the Programming Committee for the event. Program meetings shall be scheduled so that all may conveniently attend.

November 11, 1988: We sent a letter to HQ asking for written feedback on teachers exams.

January 8, 1989: It was reported that BC approved our recommendation of 19881030 for special events with a change. The final wording is "The event chair and music coordinator will be considered advisory members of the Programming Committee for the event. Program meetings shall be scheduled so that all may conveniently attend."

January 30, 1994: After a period of training, the Teacher Trainer may inform any candidate that he/she cannot continue the current Course, nor will he/she be presented by the San Francisco Branch as an Examination Candidate for the current examination. Each Candidate so informed will also receive notification in writing regarding this decision. Prior to the beginning of the Course, all prospective candidates will receive written notification of the above policy.

February 10, 1996: The 1987 Policy and Goals be taken as Teachers Committee policy for choosing a teacher trainer, not merely a recommendation. The phrase "which may be an individual or a team" be deleted from the 1987 Policy and Goals. The 1996-97 and all subsequent candidate courses have an individual teacher trainer.

October 26, 1996: Approved teacher candidate training class policy and procedures with this date.

June 23, 1991: The advanced dances on the monthly party programs will appear for two months, rather than three, allowing a greater number of different advanced dances to be done during the year. Beginner and intermediate dances will remain on the three-month cycle. Half the program will be drawn from the Branch repertoire list. The advanced dances will be exempt from the Repertoire List quota. The list will continue to include advanced dances that can be put on programs, but there will no longer be a requirement that these dances be used.

September 19, 1998: The teachers' committee recommends that for formal events:

- The event chair is ultimately responsible for the event.
- The event chair, the dance program selection committee and MC discuss and decide which dances, if any, should be briefed and the style of the briefings. The chair should maintain awareness of setting a helpful, as well as, formal tone.
- Not all dances be briefed.

September 16, 2000: A skills focus session be incorporated into TC meetings with the exception of the January meeting, which is the Business meeting.

March 16, 2002: The deadline for the Jean Patrick Memorial Dance be set at March 15.

March 16, 2002: Tutor's job description accepted.

January 11, 2003: Youth Guidelines sent to BC (and subsequently approved by them).

## Attachment 4

*List of past officers (still in progress). Dates are meant to be the dates at which we elected people, but sometimes the minutes just have a report from the person, with no previous mention of their election — hence the question marks.*

Date	Chair	Secretary	Continuity	TAC Rep	Tchr trainer
28-Oct-79	Henry Thompson	Kim McGarrity	Bruce Hamilton	Barbara McOwen	
8-Nov-81	Ken McFarland	Ellie Wood	Carolyn Hunt, Ken McFarland		
24-Apr-82			Carolyn Hunt	Ellie Wood	
19-Sep-82	Ken McFarland	Ellie Wood	Mark Post		Carolyn Hunt
9-Oct-83	Ken McFarland	Bruce Hamilton		Robyn Dondero	
20-May-84			Gloria McConnell	Meredith Hoffman	Bruce Hamilton
10-Mar-85	Mark Post	Bruce Hamilton	Sheena West	Marjorie Kistemaker?	
1-Mar-86			Meredith Hoffman		Mark Post, Lynda Korsan
4-Oct-86	Sheena West		Gene Bissell		
31-Jan-88	Sheena West	Bruce Hamilton	Kay Thorne		Bruce (& Jo) Hamilton
8-Jan-89	Sheena MacQueen	Alan Twigg	Carolyn Hunt		
27-Jan-91	Carolyn Hunt	Alan Twigg	Lee Feinstein		
2-Feb-92	Carolyn Hunt	Claudette Sigg	Lee Feinstein	Jo Hamilton	Bruce (& Jo) Hamilton
2-May-92					Carolyn Hunt, Ron Wallace
31-Jan-93	Carolyn Hunt	Claudette Sigg	Lee Feinstein	Jo Hamilton	
30-Jan-94	Alex Harvey	Carol Leach	Gary Thomas	Jo Hamilton	Ron Wallace, Carolyn Hunt
2-Oct-94		Ken McFarland			
5-Feb-95	Alex Harvey	Ken McFarland	Gene Bissell	Jo Hamilton	
2-Feb-97	Alex Harvey	Avril Quarrie	Alan Twigg	Kathleen (actually chosen Jan 96?)	
1-Nov-97					
7-Feb-98	David Quarrie	Avril Quarrie	Alan Twigg	Kathleen McAdam	Ron Wallace
27-Feb-99	David Quarrie	Avril Quarrie	Alan Twigg	Kathleen McAdam	

Date	Chair	Secretary	Continuity	TAC Rep	Tchr trainer
26-Feb-00	Armin Busse	Coletta Busse	Alan Twigg	Kathleen McAdam	Ron Wallace
13-Jan-01	Armin Busse	Coletta Busse	Bruce Herbold		
29-Sep-01				Bruce Hamilton	
12-Jan-02	Armin Busse	Bruce Hamilton	Bruce Herbold		
11-Jan-03	Armin Busse	Bruce Hamilton	Bruce Herbold		
??			Vicki Wildman		

## Attachment 4

*I forgot to mention this at the meeting, so I'll just take secretary's privilege and include it here. I don't expect very many of you to attend on Labor Day weekend, though :-)*

*My spell-checker wants to turn "Pitlochry" into "Potty-chair."*

### REGISTRATION FORM

The Teachers' Association (Canada)  
 45th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEEKEND  
 August 29th - August 31st, 2003

Holiday Inn  
 700 Elm Street  
 Manchester, New Hampshire  
 Hosted by the Boston Branch

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Daytime ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Will this be your first TAC AGM weekend? Yes No

My special dietary or other requirements are \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your approximate time of arrival on Friday \_\_\_\_\_

### REGISTRATION FEES

CDN US

Teacher Package

Twin room	\$350	\$235
Single room (add on)	\$137.50	\$91.50
Spousal Package - Twin room	\$305	\$205
Non resident		
Classes, Reception, Banquet & Ball	\$185	\$125

PAYMENT Please make cheque/money order payable to:  
T.A.C. AGM Weekend  
and mail with this form to the Registrar:  
Laurie Stevens, Registrar  
3 Chapman Road  
Stratham, N.H. 03885

LAST DATE for REGISTRATION: JULY 15TH - NO REFUNDS after 2003/July/15  
>>> Topics for the Open Forum <<<

We welcome suggestions for topics for the Open Forum with Johan McLean. Johan has taught, examined, and adjudicated for many years. A particular interest of hers is teacher training. Currently she is Director of Schools for the Society and is responsible for the Summer School at St. Andrews and overviews the Winter School at Pitlochry and the Youth School.

I would like to know more about the following topics.

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Your replies will be considered by the AGM Committee in planning the program.  
Thank You!

#### AGM Saturday Evening Ball Program

Hooper's Jig	8X32 J	MMM 2 -15
Corn Rigs	8X32 R	4-12
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	8X32 S	Golden Jubilee - 20
Laird of Milton's Daughter	8X32 J	22-10
The Quaich	8X32 S	Drewry-Rondel Bk - 1
Sleepy Maggie	8X32 R	11-5
Burns Night	8X32 J	Boston Branch 50 Years - 8
Invercauld's Reel	8X32 S	11-10
None So Pretty	8X40 R	19-1
Fill the Fetters	4X32 S	Boston Branch 50 Years -13
Pelorus Jack	8X32 J	41- 1
General Stuart's Reel	8X32 R	10-3

