

TAC AGM Report

I had a good time during my first visit to the TAC Summer School held in Waterloo, Ontario and enjoyed learning more about the organization's programs and communications during the Area Representatives meeting, held Friday evening, August 6. There were approximately 40 Area Representatives in attendance, including a guest visit from Susi Mayr (Vienna), who serves on the RSCDS Management Board. Topics of discussion centered on furthering the goals for Area Reps, which are to acquaint local teachers and dancers in various geographical areas with the services offered by TAC, and to facilitate communications in both directions between the TAC Executive and the local dance groups. The topics included:

- review of the TAC Constitution, in particular the way that Area Reps are chosen and their terms of office, which currently work well for large branches but not for small or widely dispersed groups
- dissemination of the new TAC brochure listing offerings and contact information
- beta-testing the Area Reps Forum, a web-based tool for relaying information, inquiries, and discussion of teaching or TAC-related issues
- promoting the Teacher Resource Program, a contact list mailed out to all members with designated experts on various topics related to teaching and dancing, such as youth, music, and class management
- using the TAC website to publicise teachers' workshops across North America
- banding groups together to defray the cost of group liability insurance (particularly an issue in Canada at present)

I have more information, including printed material, about most of these topics; please contact me if you are interested.

The Area Reps meeting was followed by a forum led by Keith Bark on the new examination structure, which will likely be finalized at the RSCDS AGM in November for initial implementation at St. Andrews next Summer. Again, if you have interest or concerns about this, contact me.

Classes during the weekend were conducted by Lesley Martin (Aberdeen), who accomplished the not inconsiderable task of steering

the attendees through the 10 dances in the new subscription book, RSCDS Book 44. These dances were chosen in a new way - groups of candidate dances were sent out to various Branches and groups for evaluation last Summer, our Branch being one of the participants. Lesley's overall comment on the book was that most of the individual dances are good, but as a whole they tend to be very similar and it is difficult to distinguish one from another; they are all at a similar level of complexity and tend to employ a lot of the same movements.

The AGM meeting fulfilled its objectives and did not conduct any controversial business. The new Chairman, Rebecca Roman from Buffalo, NY, is noteworthy for being the first chairman who is born and raised in the US and has no Scottish heritage. The AGM confirmed the bid from the Vancouver Island representatives to hold next year's AGM and Summer School on the Island. It will take place on the campus of a private high school about an hour's drive north of Victoria, and looks to be a scenic and comfortable location. The number of attendees is limited to 200 by the ballroom capacity, so it is likely to fill up quickly.

respectfully submitted, Alan Twigg.