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SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH. INC.

## Minutes of Teachers' Committee Meeting

April 23, 2005

At the home of Kathleen McAdam. Armin called the meeting to order at 2:18 pm.

**Selection of acting recording officer:** Bruce Hamilton (whose term as secretary had expired) agreed to take minutes.

**Present:** Cathy Bertics, Armin Busse, Bruce Hamilton, Coletta Hill, Paula Jacobson, Susie Langdon Kass, Kathleen McAdam, Dwayne McQuilliams, Alan Twigg.

**Regrets:** Ellen Aaron, Juliet Davoren, Fred DeMarse, Jo Hamilton, Bruce Herbold, Trina Merriman, David Newitt, Pat O'Brien, Lin Pettengill. Dwayne McQuilliams sent word that he would be late. 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.

Your secretary also regrets failing to send the agenda to those members who get paper mailings.

### Old Business

#### 1. Minutes of meeting January 22, 2005

Moved (Alan/Kathleen) that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as distributed. **Passed.**

#### 2. Report on Party Program Committees

The Kim McGarrity Ball and Jean Patrick Memorial Dance programs are done.

#### 3. Report on Teachers' web page

Armin had nothing to report. We observed that the web page is a useful tool. There were several requests for a "printer-friendly" version of the agenda. **Action: Armin** will work on it.

#### 4. Tutor Training

Dwayne talked with Ron Wallace, who says he is definitely interested in teaching a tutor's class. **Action: Dwayne** will ask Ron his thoughts on duration, facilities, etc. We are thinking of spring 2006.

Alan mentioned that the candidate class used the Alpine Club on Mt. Tam and thought it might be suitable for this, or for a general teachers workshop. The possibility was raised of a combined event, so people who just wanted to see what training candidates

involves could dip their toes in.

**5. Candidate class report**

Alan read the report (attached). In addition he commented that he and Bruce were pleased by the examiners' (Helen Frame and Elinor Vandegrift) professionalism and the way they put the candidates and angels at ease. We thanked Alan and Bruce for their hard work.

**6. Email reflector**

Paula had one instance where messages were delivered to some but not all teachers. She's spoken to Don Pettengill about it. At this point we don't know how well it is working (there are no bounces, but we may simply not be sending to some addresses). This is hard to test, since a true test would require every recipient to reply, and that never happens). Bruce Hamilton has had no complaints about not receiving the agenda. We'll keep an eye on it.

A couple of people commented that they were pleased the reflector was not being used for trivial matters. Thanks to Don for putting this together.

**7. Fall 2005 workshop**

Dwayne volunteered to organize this. There were expressions of support for having Geoffrey Selling or Mary Murray.

**8. Selection of Secretary**

(Postponed from previous meeting.) Bruce Hamilton is willing to serve again, and was elected unanimously.

**9. Selection of Party Program Committees**

The remaining committees are as follows (convener in italics):

<b>Due</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Members</b>
08/01/05	Oct/Nov 2005 Monthly Party	<i>Bruce, Susie, Dwayne</i>
08/15/05	Valentine's Ball 2006	<i>Lin, Gene Bissell, Jennifer Kelly</i>
10/01/05	Dec 05/Jan06 Monthly Party	<i>Bruce, Pat, Fred DeMarse</i>
12/01/05	March/April 2006 Monthly Party	<i>Bruce, Alan, Armin</i>
02/01/06	May/June 2006 Monthly Party	<i>Bruce, Paula, TBD</i>

We recommended people for the unfilled spaces, but won't record them here until/ unless they accept.

**New Business**

**10. New Adjudication standards for Pleasanton**

Alastair Brown has proposed new guidelines for adjudication teams: the names and meanings of categories, types of dances, number of repeats, and criteria against which they will be adjudicated. He has sent these to some teams/ teachers but not others. We reviewed the pros and cons of last year's adjudications, and also the arrangements for both stages. We observed that Alastair is doing a huge amount of work. **Action:**

**Kathleen** volunteered to be liaison with Alastair. Her charges are a) to communicate with us (e.g. via the reflector), and b) to convey to Alastair that we want to help.

### 11. Spring Dance Workshop

This is the workshop being offered on May 7. There was a question why why there was no consultation with the TC when organizing this. Paula reported that the Branch Committee (BC) wanted to get it organized quickly, and the timing fell between TC meetings.

If you have class members who you think would benefit from either workshop, please encourage them to sign up. The flyer is under "Spring Workshop" at <<http://www.rscds-sf.org/events.html>>.

### 12. Old records project

Ken McFarland has a collection of old 78 and LP SCD recordings. He has given it to Paula with a request that they be transferred to CD. These would be made available to branch members, and a copy given to Ken. They would not be sold (it is still TBD who would get copies and under what terms).

The project needs volunteers to catalog the recordings, digitize them from vinyl, de-noise the sound files and burn the CDs. If you can help with any of those tasks, talk to Paula.

We discussed the likely pedigree of those recordings. The Reel & Strathspey Club had a large collection (Jo & I have some of the 7" recordings) which Kathleen gave to Mark Post. Mark gave some or all of his collection (which he presumably augmented) to Pat O'Brien.

### 13. Promotion of attendance at Monthly Parties

Paula reported that there is a subjective impression within the BC that attendance at monthly parties is down. In any case, net proceeds are down because our door charges have not kept up with hall rent increases. **Action: everyone**, please encourage your dancers to attend the parties.

The committee thanked Susie for producing the new Monthly Parties flyer to help promote the parties. Susie reported that she got good support from musicians and class managers when asked for information and has received positive feedback.

This made a nice segue into...

### 14. Core Dances and their inclusion in monthly party programs

We had a wide-ranging discussion of this year's party program dances and their relationship to beginners classes. Do we use them to teach figures to beginners? Should we? Is it useful or harmful for beginners to find different versions of a figure in one evening? Have the programs been giving the beginners enough opportunity to dance? Are the programs following the guidelines? Do they contain the repertoire dances? Etc.

We noted that no program will make everyone happy. We also agreed that making a program is quite a balancing act, and we should cut the programmers some slack.

Dwayne opined that one gets better programs if they are the product of one mind rather than a committee (and acknowledged that you can also get wide swings of quality).

**Action: everyone** read the party program guidelines <<http://www.rscds-sf.org/teachers/index.html#documents>> to see whether you agree with them and whether they meet our needs. Come prepared to discuss them next time.

**15. Date and Location for next meetings**

- July 16, 2005, 2:00 pm (video at 1:30) at Bruce & Jo Hamilton's. **Note change from July 9.**
- October 1, 2005. Video at 1:30, meeting at 2:00, place TBD once we know where the monthly party is being held. **Note change from October 8.**
- January 21, 2006. Video at 1:30, meeting at 2:00, place TBD

The meeting adjourned at 4:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Hamilton

**Post-Meeting Stuff**

**16. Show and tell**

Susie demonstrated the better shoe knot (and Bruce finally got it!).