



SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH, INC.

Teachers' Committee Meeting, September 18, 2010, minutes

Location: Home of Kathleen McAdam

Note:

1. Most action items are for all of us. Where any or all of us is expected to do something, the words in parenthesis "[Action Item]", followed by ***italics and bold type*** is used!
2. Although it takes place after the meeting is adjourned, the Special Topic for the meeting is included in the minutes.

Meeting called to order:

by Armin, at 2:05pm, with thanks to Kathleen for hosting.

1. Present:

Those present signed in. Kathy Allen, Cathy Bertics, Armin Busse, Laura Cooper, Juliet Davoren, Linda Henderson, Bradley Hobbs, Paula Jacobson, Susie Langdon Kass, Kathleen McAdam, Alan Twhigg

2. Regrets:

Armin emphasized that [Action Item] ***regrets should correctly be sent directly to the Chair (Armin), or Secretary (Juliet)***. Armin requested that [Action Item] ***everyone should send regrets if they are not attending***. Further, that [Action Item] ***anyone definitely planning to attend should respond affirmatively***, since this helps ascertain whether a quorum will be present. Four of those present stated they did not receive the reminder of the meeting that was sent out 1 week ahead (and hence did not respond). ***Armin*** noted their names and [Action Item] ***will follow up with Don Pettengill***. The following regrets were noted: Fred DeMarse, Sara Gratiot, Bruce Hamilton, Alex Harvey, Marianna Harvey, Dwayne McQuilliams, Mary McQuilliams, Don Pettengill, Lin Pettengill, Gary Thomas, Ron Wallace, Tim Wilson.

3. Agenda review/edit:

The agenda was supplemented as needed. Post-it notes were passed round soliciting issues, topics and ideas for future meetings.

4. Minutes of May 8, 2010 meeting:

Accepted as written (Proposed Paula, 2nd Kathleen). For the future [Action Item] ***the Secretary was requested to make Action Items stand out more prominently in the minutes, by preceding them with the words in parenthesis [Action Item], and by using bold type, not just italics***.

5. Report on Party Program Committees:

Monthly Party program committees are believed to be on track. Paula reported the Valentine's Ball program is complete, the committee having met with just two Teachers and a musician who

dances. There was discussion of the process for proof-reading and checking sources. It was agreed the Program Committee needs to check sources, but that help can be solicited. Paula plans to ask Sara Gratiot and Marilyn Stocker to assist her with this. There was a reference to the previous minutes, which state [Action Item] **Armin... will send an email to us all** when he has made the program available on the Teachers' website.

Relating to Ball and Party Programs, there was an observation by Susie that [Action Item] **we should use the correct term "diagram sheets" for diagrammatic renditions of the dances.**

6. Teachers' Workshop

Since the last meeting, Armin had surveyed the teachers, with 17 responses, and in light of those responses is in discussions with Bruce Hamilton to decide on a date and time for a 1-day workshop, provisionally in the order of 4-6 hours in length, possibly in spring 2011. Thanks to Armin and Bruce for their work so far.

7. Report from Branch Committee and Approve TC-BC Liaison

Since the last meeting, Bradley Hobbs has stepped forward to serve on the Branch Committee and expressed willingness to serve as the TC-BC Liaison. It was proposed (Susie) and seconded (Juliet) and approved (with all in favour) that Bradley be appointed to the role. The Branch Committee had yet to hold a meeting since Bradley's appointment to it, so there was nothing to report. However, it was stated that more people are needed to serve on the Branch, since some have resigned. We should all [Action Item] **encourage others to become members of the Branch Committee.**

The Teachers' Committee expressed thanks to Jim Passage for past services.

8. Report on TAC AGM

Since the last meeting, Paula has forwarded the TAC Area Representatives' Meeting 2010 report to us (emailed Sept 15), which Paula attended (part of, due to delayed flights). Paula expressed her gratitude for the good notes taken by others.

Paula mentioned the extensive discussion of the Basic Teaching Skills Course (BTSC), and that TAC and the RSCDS have starter kits/books for new, outlying classes, leading to mention of possible groups in Eureka, Modesto, and San Luis Obispo, possibly led by non-teachers and therefore non-members of TAC. [Action Item] **If we know of a SCD group that needs help, tell Paula.**

Paula commented, and others endorsed her comment, that our San Francisco Branch, committees and events are extremely well organized and well run compared to many others. The Committee thanked Paula for attending the TAC AGM.

9. Asilomar Ball Program Write-Ups, & Discussion of Dances on Upcoming Programs

Since the last meeting, Paula received questions on Ferla Mor and Last of the Lairds and there was a comment on May Yarker's Strathspey. The instructions are correct. In response to questions, note the following:

Ferla Mor: No hands while setting on bars 5-6; use all 8 bars for the diagonal reels of 3, 1s accelerating at end.

Last of the Lairds: No hands in reels. Note phrasing of bars 19-20: cross and cast in 2 bars; therefore 2s step in and up. Note that both adult and youth teams used this dance for adjudication at Pleasanton, and phrased it perfectly.

May Yarker's Strathspey: Note written instructions state release of hands in bars 9-16 . (Dance diagrams don't have such detail: they're not intended as substitute for the written instructions.)

Armin commented that we are at liberty to use the Teachers' email list to ask questions about dances, However, we should each reply to the individual, not broadcast our replies.

10. Starter Jigs

"Jig to the Music", by Doris Young, the suggestion from Angela Young alluded to in the previous minutes, was deemed too basic for our Monthly Parties. Alan Twigg mentioned the new "Graded book Vol II", some of which may be suitable. [Action Item] **Alan will check.**

11. Teacher Candidate Training

Congratulations to Greg Reznick, on passing Units 2 & 3; to Laura Cooper on passing Unit 3; and to Monica Pollard, on passing Unit 5 at TAC this summer!

Since the last meeting, 5 new people have expressed interest in a local Teachers' Candidate Class prior to the Spring 2011 Exam Tour: 1 for Unit 5; others for Units 2 & 3, or 3 only, so it is likely there will be a class, commencing in January, with the exam in May. As of now, likely tutors would be Alan Twigg, Bruce Herbold, and Armin Busse (Armin attended the Tutor Trainer class at TAC this summer). They will likely use guest instructors too. We should [Action Items] **a) Contact Alan Twigg right away if we are qualified and either have a separate interest in teaching the class, or have interest in participating in teaching the class. b) Let Bruce Herbold know if we have suggestions for suitable halls, particularly in the East Bay. c) Make a repeated call to our class members for any interested candidates.** Candidates must be 18+ at the time of exam, and have 2+ years Scottish Country dance experience. A final choice/approval of tutors will take place at the beginning of 2011.

Other business

12. Walk-throughs at parties, and inexperienced dancers

Juliet requested a brief discussion of guidelines for teachers to give newer, inexperienced dancers when it is announced during an event that there will be a walk-through of a particular dance. It was concluded that if dancers absolutely need the walk-through, they should not be on the dance floor. We, as teachers, should [Action Items] **a) advise dancers to err on the side of caution, b) compliment newer dancers who decline a difficult dance on making the right choice and c) make sitting out a positive choice by encouraging dancers to enjoy listening to the music/watching the musicians.**

13. How many \$\$ to dance one time?

Kathy requested a brief summary of how much it costs to dance at the various classes, on a one-time basis. It was commented that the cost of the hall is a major factor, and it was emphasized that much better rates are available if paying for the whole session. Prices quoted (though not guaranteed to be 100% accurate) were: Lafayette: \$6; San Jose: \$6; Santa Cruz: \$6; "Campbell": \$6; Berkeley: \$6; San Francisco: \$8; Mountain View: \$9; South Bay Youth Class: \$7

This discussion led in turn to a discussion of new dancers for this session. Generally, there were few new dancers. It was suggested we should [Action Item] **ask existing class members to bring their friends.**

14. Youth EZine

Kathleen alerted us all to the new Youth EZine, http://www.rscds.org/images/stories/pdfs/NonET/youthezine1_final_august.pdf and mentioned that Mary McQuilliams is possibly encouraging her teenage writers to contribute.

15. Pleasanton Games

A brief review of the Pleasanton Games concluded that from a teachers' perspective all went extremely well, in large part due to the huge efforts of John Taylor and Margaret Mitchell. They were efficient, welcoming, pleasant, accommodating, hard-working. [Action Item] **Juliet was requested to write a note of thanks to each of behalf of the committee.** Beyond that, individuals (people or classes) may give/have given other tokens of appreciation. It was further commented that there were a lot of youth dancers in adjudication sets this year.

16. Dates and locations of next meetings

Previous suggestion of May 14 changed due to the Campbell Games that day. Dates are: January 22, 2011, Armin's house, Milpitas

May 21, 2011, [Action Item] **Susie will check with Pat if she is willing to host.** (Otherwise the meeting will be at Susie's)

September 17, 2011, location tbd. [Action Item] **Everyone should write these dates into their calendar.**

Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm. (Proposed Alan; 2nd Paula; with all in favour)

Post-adjournment

Follow-up on How to Make Demonstration Sets of Tunes using Software

Juliet commented that Armin's presentation had yielded results: based in part on what she learnt at the last meeting, she successfully used Garageband to compile the adjudication set music for the South Bay Youth Class Pleasanton performance.

Armin noted that his presentation is available on the teachers' webpage.

Visual Aids to Teaching

Various participants contributed to the session, occasionally including techniques beyond the visual, and broadening our teaching horizons. Examples relating to teaching techniques included using toys to demonstrate the body angles in a poussette, toy cars for petronella turns, having dancers draw the pattern of Schiehallion reels with crayons, and suggestions such as using dry-erase markers on a mirror to draw the patterns of reels. Examples relating to individual dances included pictures and photos on the Internet for names of castles/buildings/monument's etc. (e.g. Hole in the Wa' pub in Dumfries, Sueno's Stone in Moray), and a wonderful display by Bradley Hobbs of various different meanings of "frog" - "Frog in the Middle" referring to railway tracks.

Many thanks to all for their contributions.

Submitted by
Juliet Davoren