



Teachers' Committee Minutes
Draft

Meeting

Saturday 31 May, 2014
at the home of Kathy Allen, San Jose, CA

Present

Kathy Allen, Armin Busse, Rebecca Davis, Juliet Davoren, Bradley Hobbs, Paula Jacobson, Don MacQueen, Trina Merriman, Greg Reznick, Alan Twhigg.

Regrets

Fred DeMarse, Gail Erwin, Linda Henderson, Susie Langdon Kass, Pat O'Brien, Lin Pettengill, Sandee Schultz, Marian Stroh, Gary Thomas, Tim Wilson.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 by Armin Busse, Chair.

Edit Agenda

There will be no presentation or discussion on the scheduled topic, teaching dancers of more advanced age, as the presenter was unable to attend today's meeting

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Old Business

Change/accept minutes of previous meeting

There were no changes to the draft minutes.

Proposed: Kathy – that the [18 January, 2014] draft minutes be accepted as written.

Seconded: Don

Motion carried, without objection

Report on Party Program Committees

The May and June monthly party programs have been completed, as have the Jean Patrick Memorial Dance and the Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball. The monthly party programs and the JPMD program have been posted on the Branch website. The KMMB program will be posted by 1 July, 2014.

As an aside, Don (JPMD co-chair) mentioned that PayPal service was set up for purchasing tickets to the JPMD through the Branch website. The annual Labor Day event will be held at the Pleasanton Veterans' Hall. The non-RSCDS dances on the JPMD program have yet to be sent out to teachers, although the few non-RSCDS dances on this program have been on other programs recently that there is little need to send them out anew.

New Business

Approve TC-BC Liaison

Bradley has been serving as the Teachers' Committee-Branch Committee liaison and was happy to continue in this post. By unanimous decision, Bradley was approved as the TC-BC liaison.

Report on Database for Ball Program Write-ups

For many years, Alan and Paula have been formulating the written dance descriptions for the ball programs. This project sought to standardize dance descriptions within the Branch at a time when written cribs were not otherwise available. Currently there are three widely used sources for this type of crib (www.minicrib.org.uk, www.scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com and mystrathspey.org/dd/index —“dd” is an abbreviation for “dance data”, which some teachers may be familiar with). Given that there are extensive databases of written cribs now, there is little need for Branch volunteers to spend time on this task. Rather than Alan and Paula writing dance description cribs, which would be very similar—if not identical—to what is available on at least one of the aforementioned websites, the Teachers' Committee recommends that Ball Committees simply find their needed dance descriptions online for program booklets. The Teachers' Committee thank Alan and Paula for years of diligent work on this project.

Proposed: Greg – To abandon the Branch crib database in favor of generally available cribs. Alan will produce a computer plain-text file of previously compiled cribs which are not available through standard sources. This file will be posted on the Teachers' Committee webpage. The Program Continuity person [Paula] will provide otherwise unavailable cribs upon request from event chairs which will be added to the file on the Teachers' Committee webpage.

Seconded: Armin

Motion carried, without objection

- ▶ Action Item: Alan will produce a computer plain-text file of previously compiled cribs which are not available through standard sources. This file will be posted on the Teachers' Committee webpage.

Teachers are encouraged to verify the accuracy of future cribs which may be produced by event committees or others.

The Teachers' Committee also emphasized that cribs (either written or in diagram form) are a memory aid for dancers and are not to be used for teaching dances.

Teacher Tutoring

The San Francisco Branch may apply to be an examination center for the teaching certificates as part of the Society's examination tour on odd-numbered years. The exams would naturally be preceded by a thorough candidates' course covering the required material. As only one candidate expressed interest in a candidate course and testing locally, the Teachers' Committee saw little need in nominating a teacher tutor for Branch Committee approval. Alan expressed willingness to remain Branch Teacher Training Liaison.

- ▶ Action Item: Bradley (TC-BC Liaison) will inform the Branch Committee that a Teacher tutor was not selected. As there will be no candidates' course in 2014/2015, there is no need for a budget to be submitted. Alan Twigg will remain Branch Teacher Training Liaison.

Report on future Teachers' Workshop

At the 18 January 2014 Teachers' Committee meeting, it was agreed that a workshop on injury prevention and recovery would be very beneficial for Branch teachers. The medical staff at The Healthy Dancers [sic] Clinic at the ODC (Oberlin Dance Collective) Dance Commons (351 Shotwell Street, San Francisco) may be able to lead such a workshop. This limited-hours clinic offers medical help and physical therapy to dancers of any discipline on a donation basis. Trina has attempted to make inquiries to The Healthy Dancers Clinic, but has been unable to make contact to get the information the TC seeks.

- ▶ Action Item: Trina will continue to contact The Healthy Dancers Clinic for information on an injury prevention and recovery workshop.

Margo Priestley (West Lothian, Scotland) will be the overseas teacher at the Asilomar workshop this year and may be available to lead a teachers' workshop. A discussion ensued on whether a workshop at Asilomar during the second afternoon session on Saturday would be preferred over a half day workshop apart from Asilomar. Such a workshop may be able to be held the Saturday after the Asilomar weekend (14 November) at St. Mark's church in Palo Alto. Trina (Asilomar Weekend Teacher Liaison) will get in touch with Margo to discuss her availability and preference. Kathy expressed that she may be available to help organize the teachers' workshop and offered to check on the availability of St. Mark's church.

- ▶ Action Item: Trina (Asilomar Weekend Teacher Liaison) will contact Margo Priestley to determine if she would like to lead a teachers' workshop while she is in the area.
- ▶ Action Item: Kathy will contact the office administrator at St. Mark's church to ascertain the availability of the parish hall on 14 November 2014 as well as other weekend dates around the Asilomar weekend date.

Teaching Scenarios

At the 18 January 2014 TC meeting, Kristi Closser suggested that a workshop on handling unforeseen teaching scenarios would be beneficial, especially for newer teachers. Juliet followed up by sending an inquiry (21 February) via the teachers' e-mail reflector asking teachers to relay any teaching scenarios they needed to resolve on the fly. Only one teacher responded. Juliet will resend her survey inquiry.

- ▶ Action Item: Juliet will resend her survey via the teachers' e-mail reflector to compile a list of awkward scenarios the teacher was faced with and how they were resolved.

Selection of Party Program Committees

Armin included in his survey form sent out on 8 April, 2014 and again on 18 May, 2014 a section where teachers could choose for which parties and events they would like to select the programs. Program committees for the 2014/15 dance year events were settled at the 18 January meeting, however, the Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball (2015) and the Jean Patrick Memorial Dance (2015) program committees will be decided at the 20 September 2014 meeting.

Report from BC

Bradley (BC-TC liaison) reported that at the close of the 2013-2014 membership year, the Branch has 312 members, including 6 Branch-only members who are Society members through other Branches. We still maintain 7 delegate votes at the Society AGM, unless membership drops below 300 with the July renewal. Dancers who regularly participate in Branch activities and classes are expected to have joined the Branch. It was suggested that a membership recruitment forum should be held, perhaps online. This idea will be passed on to the Membership Committee, which deals with issues of membership recruitment.

The Branch continues, on average, to lose money on the monthly parties. The Branch Committee is focusing on solutions to this problem. Teachers, however, are encouraged to support the monthly parties in their classes. Greater attendance at the monthly parties will make the parties self-supporting and free up the general funds to be spent on other Branch-wide interests. The idea was raised to offer youth discounts at monthly parties. This will be discussed at a Branch Committee meeting.

- ▶ Action Item: Bradley (TC-BC Liaison) will relay to the BC that there is interest in creating a youth dancer rate for monthly parties.

Our Branch sent a message to the Society responding to their request for input on how to use the legacy fund left to the Society by Derek Wilson of Florida. John Wilkinson (Society Chair) returned a reply expressing agreement with our ideas which included: using social media to recruit and retain members, fostering communications between the Society and Branches—particularly oversea Branches (oversea from the Society's perspective), defraying travel expenses of oversea Branch representatives attending the Society AGM.

Following a long debate, the Branch Committee has raised subscription dues by \$3 for a full adult membership effective starting with the 2014-2015 membership year. Other categories of memberships have been raised proportionately. The increase was brought on by the Society raising the Society rate at their AGM in November 2013.

In an attempt to save money (and trees), members will have a choice on their membership renewal form whether or not to receive a hardcopy of the Branch directory. The directory is currently available online in the members' section of the Branch website.

Dwayne McQuilliams will continue as the Valentine's Ball Chair.

It was suggested that Branch AGM documents (State of the Branch, Financial report, et cetera) be posted on the members section of the Branch Website.

- ▶ Action Item: Bradley (TC-BC Liaison) will relay to the BC that a request was made to have the Branch AGM documents posted on the Branch Website.

Report on TAC

Paula continues to relay to Branch teachers via the teachers' e-mail reflector any general information she receives from the Teachers' Association (Canada).

Paula will be representing the San Francisco Branch at the TAC AGM in Greeley, CO on 25-27 July, 2015.

Alan, Paula and Trina will all be teaching classes at the TAC workshop. Fred DeMarse is in charge of the Tuesday night dance and Tim Wilson is a staff teacher for the week.

TAC Sound had to close un-expectedly and hopes to reopen after Summer school (4 August) if a new volunteer steps forward to run the operation.

Special Topics for future Meetings

The Sacramento Branch is dwindling and the discussion ensued as to what is our Branch's responsibility in supporting our neighboring Branch. No decisions were reached, although it was thought that with the return of Jeff and Patsy Corrigan after a long absence, the Sacramento Branch might fair a little better.

AGM dance selection

In recognition of the SF Branch's 50th anniversary next year, the Society has invited the Branch to compose the program for the Friday night AGM dance, 2015. Teachers at the meeting volunteered for this program committee: Armin, Paula, Rebecca, Trina. Alan expressed willingness to be on the committee. It was also thought that Bruce Herbold (Monthly Party Continuity Person) might also want to be on the program planning committee. The committee will meet in September to submit a program to the Society in November.

- ▶ Action Item: Armin (TC Chair) will contact Bruce Herbold to invite him to participate in the Society AGM Friday night dance program planning committee.
- ▶ Action Item: Armin (TC Chair) will send out a notice via the teachers' e-mail reflector requesting suggestions for RSCDS dances for the Society AGM Friday night dance.

Other Business

Discussion on Dances

It was rumored that the Manual of Scottish Country Dancing, 3rd edition stated that the three-couple allemande should start in allemande hold. Although many teachers found this odd, there was not a current edition of the Manual handy to verify this approach to the three-couple allemande.

N.B. Post-meeting it was confirmed that "[w]hen an [three-couple] allemande follows leading up the middle, the hands are raised into the allemande hold at the beginning of bar one of the allemande. When a turn precedes the allemande, the hands are raised at the end of the turn."

Suggestions for a new Starter Jig

Paula suggested "The Ecclefechan Feline", 32J3 by Bob McMurtry from his collection The Petit Chat Celtique.

Rebecca offered "Campbelltown Haunt", by Rebecca Davis. In turn, Trina offered "Chasing Sanborn", by Trina Merriman. Both of these dances are available as self-published leaflets. In the interest of having these dances included in Branch programs, it is suggested that they be posted online in the Dancing

Resources section of the Branch website. This can be done by sending the dance description document as a pdf file to the Branch Webmaster (Larry Wakeman) at info@rscds-sf.org.

- ▶ Action Item: Rebecca, please contact the Branch Webmaster about posting the dance instructions for "Campbelltown Haunt" on the Branch website.
- ▶ Action Item: Trina, please contact the Branch Webmaster about posting the dance instructions for "Chasing Sanborn" on the Branch website.

Other announcements

The application due date for adjudication sets at the Pleasanton Highland Games and Gathering has been extended, but class managers are urged to send in their applications promptly. Applications and inquiries should be sent directly to Ron Dunne, Caledonian Club Celtic Heritage Area Chair (heritage@thescottishgames.com).

Choose date and location for next meetings

Don thought the he might be able to host the next meeting, tentatively scheduled for 20 September, 2014. In the interest of geographic equality, it was thought that Pat O'Brien might want to host the September meeting.

- ▶ Action Item: Don, please confirm to Armin (TC Chair) that you will be able to host the 20 September TC meeting.
- ▶ Action Item: Armin (TC Chair), in the event that Don MacQueen cannot host the September TC meeting, please ask Pat O'Brien if she would be willing to host that meeting.

Meeting locations for 10 January, 2015 and 16 May, 2015 were not settled.

Adjourn

Proposed: Trina – that the meeting adjourn

Seconded: Paula

Motion carried, without objection

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 by Armin Busse, Teachers' Committee Chair.

The special topic for discussion, "Teaching dancers of more advanced age" lead by Marianna Harvey was tabled for another time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Hobbs
Recording Secretary

Follow-Up Actions

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