



Teachers' Committee Minutes
Draft

Meeting

Saturday 20 September, 2014
at the home of Don MacQueen, Livermore, CA

Present

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

Regrets

Gail Erwin, Alex Harvey, Marianna Harvey, Linda Henderson, Susie Langdon Kass, Lin Pettengill, Sandee Schultz, Gary Thomas, Tim Wilson.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:51 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: Paula – that the [31 May, 2014] draft minutes be accepted as written.

Seconded: Trina

Motion carried, without objection

Report on Party Program Committees

Paula (Ball Program Continuity Person) reported that the programs for the Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball and the Asilomar Welcome Dance have been completed and sent out. The Valentine's Ball program has also been completed and will be sent out after the Asilomar Workshop weekend.

The October and November Monthly Party programs were sent out in August. The December and January Monthly Party programs will be sent out in October when they are completed.

New Business

Report on future Teachers' Workshop: Injury Prevention and Recovery

Following the discussion at the 18 January 2014 Teachers' Committee meeting, Trina met with a volunteer member of The Healthy Dancers [sic] Clinic at the ODC Dance Commons in San Francisco. She spoke with the medical professional of the TC's interest in a workshop on injury prevention and recovery, which is the raison d'être of the clinic. Trina and Shirley agreed that it would be best if Shirley observe a dance class before making her recommendations. Shirley will visit the San Francisco class in the next few weeks.

It is hoped that the final outcome would be a workshop for Branch teachers. Whether a workshop is held for teachers, or a volunteer of the Healthy Dancers Clinic addresses a dance class with information on injury prevention and recovery, it was suggested at the Teachers' Committee meeting that the session be video recorded.

Report on future Teachers' Workshop: Visiting Asilomar teacher

Margo Priestley (West Lothian, Scotland) will be the overseas teacher at the Asilomar workshop this year. Often in previous years, the overseas teacher at the Asilomar workshop has also led a teachers' workshop apart from the Asilomar Workshop weekend. This will not be the case this year: Margo Priestley's schedule precluded conducting such a workshop.

Report on future Teachers' Workshop: Teaching Scenarios

Also 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 has been investigating this topic to discover what situations teachers have encountered and the best forum to resolve these sticky wickets.

Juliet discussed problematic situations in the dance class with Kristi and came to the conclusion that, almost universally, the solution was to isolate the problem. It was pointed out, however, isolation is not always possible or the appropriate remedy. Isolating would not necessarily be effective when there is a power outage or when there is a failure with the music player. A consensus was reached that this matter would be best handled as a special topic discussed or role-played after a TC meeting.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin (TC Chair), please add "Handling unforeseen scenarios in the dance class" to the list of Special Topics for Future Meetings.

Selection of Party Program Committees

To allow more lead time for compiling the programs, the program committees for the Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball and the Jean Patrick Memorial Dance were settled at the September TC meeting. Jennifer

Kelly volunteered to collaborate with Paula (Ball Program Continuity person) to compile the KMMB program. Sandee Schultz had also expressed interest earlier in working on this program, which is due 1 March 2015.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin (TC Chair) will contact Sandee to confirm that she still wishes to serve on the KMMB program committee.

Paula (Ball Program Continuity person), Bradley and Greg Reznick will serve on the JPMD program committee. The JPMD program is due 15 March 2015.

Report from BC

Bradley (BC-TC liaison) reported that at the request of the TC, a youth rate has been established for monthly parties. Beginning with the October party, dancers age 18 and under may attend Monthly Parties for \$6 (half of the members' rate). Inspired by the example set by the Berkeley class' Musician's Workshop, this discounted rate has also been made available to Branch members with limited incomes. The Branch Committee is aware that the Society's subscription fee (membership rate) increase has put undue burden on some of our Branch members, having to choose between renewing their membership and attending Branch events. The Monthly Party sign-in sheet has been revised to include another column alongside the members and non-members columns for youth/limited income.

Other than routine business, the BC is focused on preparations for our 50th anniversary as an RSCDS Branch in 2015. The main celebration will be at the February ball, but there will likely be other celebrations throughout the year.

The BC is also tackling getting our financial house in order. David Deacon (BC member-at-large) with the assistance of Sylvain Pelletier (BC, Treasurer) and Don Grant (BC, Assistant to the Treasurer) is reviewing the finance ledgers to correct mis-categorized entries made in the past.

The BC November meeting will be devoted to addressing membership recruitment and retainment. Teachers, class managers, dancers, members, non-members are encouraged to attend. A suggestion was raised for the Class managers to survey their class to sort out how many of their dancers are members and how many are not members. Dancers who regularly participate in Branch events are expected to have joined the Branch.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Bradley (TC-BC Liaison) will relay to the BC that a request was made to have the Class Managers survey their class to sort out how many of their dancers are members and how many are not members.

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).

TAC Sound, which had closed briefly during the summer, is now being managed by Gary Thomas. Gary succeeds Lydia Hedge of Nova Scotia in this role.

Report on AGM 2015 program

The Society has invited the San Francisco Branch to compile the program for the Friday night AGM 2015 dance on the occasion of our 50th anniversary. Armin (AGM dance selection ad hoc committee)

contacted Moira Thomson (RSCDS HQ Events Coordinator) for clarification of the program criteria. Moira responded that the program needs to be balanced between reels, jigs and strathspeys with one mid-dance break. The Friday night band will be the Luke Brady Band, an accordion-based band from Dundee, Scotland.

The dances we select for this program must be from the RSCDS canon. Alan pointed out that the 18th Century Book and Imperial Books 1-3 are now considered RSCDS books, as the Society now publishes those books. Members of our dance community are encouraged to send Armin the names of dances they feel would be appropriate for this honor. Dances by local or regional devisors which have been published by the RSCDS or RSCDS dances with regional or national significance would be most fitting.

The TC had originally thought that the program deadline of mid-November would be adequate lead time for the Society, but Moira informed Armin that the Society had hoped the program would be completed earlier. The AGM dance selection ad hoc committee (Alan, Armin, Paula, Trina, Bruce Herbold, Rebecca Davis) have targeted the end of October to complete the AGM 2015 Friday night program.

MC Feedback form

The MC feedback form has been available at Monthly Parties for two years now with mixed results. Many times the Monthly Party host would not set up the forms and deposit bags, despite a nice kit with clear and explicit instructions. Often observers answered all the questions "excellent" without any other feedback. Sometimes unfavorable feedback was dismissed by the MC.

It was the general opinion of those present at the meeting that there was no benefit in continuing the project for another year. The TC may revisit using the feedback form at some later date.

Proposed: Armin – to abandon using the MC feedback form at Monthly Parties

Seconded: Trina

Motion carried, without objection

Special Topics for future Meetings

"Handling unforeseen scenarios in the dance class" has been added to the list of special topics.

"Teaching dancers of a more advanced age" remains on the special topic list. A presentation on this topic will occur at the next opportunity.

Other Business

RSCDS New Zealand Motion (AGM 10.4)

The New Zealand Branch of the RSCDS has put a motion on the 2015 AGM ballot which reads:

"That RSCDS Members who hold the full RSCDS Teaching Certificate, and have indicated that they wish to do so at membership renewal time, shall be entitled to receive RSCDS numbered books free of charge when they are first issued."

The Management Committee is opposed to this motion sighting egalitarian and economic concerns.

Before directing our delegates how to cast their seven votes, the Branch Committee thought it wise to consult the Teachers' Committee, as this motion directly affects Branch teachers.

There were no dissenting views expressed during the discussion of this motion; some thought that it was long overdue.

Proposed: Armin – To advise the Branch Committee to endorse the New Zealand motion.

Seconded: Paula

Motion carried, without objection

Juliet will justify the teachers' stance by compiling a short response from comments and opinions submitted from the attending teachers.

- ▶ **Action Item:** All, please send Juliet reasons why you support the New Zealand AGM motion 10-4 (free numbered dance books for Branch full-certificate teachers).
- ▶ **Action Item:** Juliet will compile a short justification of the teachers' stance from comments and opinions submitted from the attending teachers, which she will forward to Bradley (TC-BC Liaison)
- ▶ **Action Item:** Bradley (TC-BC Liaison) will present the TC defense of their support for AGM motion 10-4 to the Branch Committee.

Discussion on Dances

There were no dances which required discussion. Perhaps when classes undertake the Asilomar dances some issues will come to light.

Suggestions for a new Starter Jig

Trina thought that there were several good starter jigs taught at TAC this summer. Having attended the workshop, she will review the programs to generate a list of appropriate starter jigs.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Trina, please review the programs from TAC to generate a list of new starter jigs. Forward this list to Armin (TC Chair).

Other announcements

Another dancer has expressed interest in the teachers' candidate course and examination. This makes two dancers in our Branch pursuing their teacher's certificate. TAC's Nora Sutherland (North America Examinations Coordinator) has been informed that there is currently insufficient interest to warrant having San Francisco be an examination center in 2015.

Choose date and location for next meetings

Alex and Marianna Harvey had expressed some interest in hosting the next meeting. Armin (TC Chair) will confirm that they are willing to host the January TC meeting.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin (TC Chair), please confirm with the Harveys that they are able to host the 10 January 2015 TC meeting.

Meeting locations for 16 May, 2015 and 17 September, 2015 were not settled, although Kathleen McAdam may be able to host the May meeting.

Adjourn

Proposed: Paula – that the meeting adjourn

Seconded: Armin

Motion carried, without objection

The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 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

- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin (TC Chair), please add "handling unforeseen teaching scenarios" to the list of Special Topics for Future Meetings.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin (TC Chair) will contact Sandee to confirm that she still wishes to serve on the KMMB program committee.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Bradley (TC-BC Liaison) will relay to the BC that a request was made to have the Class Managers survey their class to sort out how many of their dancers are members and how many are not members.

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