



Teachers' Committee Minutes
Final

Meeting

Saturday 19 September, 2015
at the home of Alex and Marianna Harvey, Mountain View, CA

Present

Kathy Allen, Armin Busse, Laura Cooper, Rebecca Davis, Juliet Davoren, Sara Gratiot, Alex Harvey, Marianna Harvey, Bradley Hobbs, Paula Jacobson, Susie Langdon Kass, Don MacQueen, Trina Merriman, Alan Twhigg.

Regrets

Kristi Closser, Fred DeMarse, Gail Erwin, Bruce Hamilton, Linda Henderson, Lin Pettengill, Sandee Schultz, Dave Wilson, Tim Wilson.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 by Armin Busse, Chair.

Edit Agenda

There were no edits or additions to the posted agenda.

Announcements

Alan reported that Stephen Thomforde, a new Part 1 (preliminary pass) teacher from Boston, has relocated to the Palo Alto area and is seeking teaching opportunities. Stephen is also a piper.

Old Business

Change/accept minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes of 16 May 2015 were edited to clarify under "Announcements" that "Don" referred to Don Pettengill, the maintainer of the Teachers' Committee e-mail reflector.

Proposed: Alan – that the [16 May, 2015] draft minutes be accepted as amended.

Seconded: Trina

Motion carried, without objection

Report on Party Program Committees

The program for the Jean Patrick Memorial Dance has been sent out and was danced two weeks prior to this meeting.

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 1 December.

The October and November Monthly Party programs were sent out in August.

Report on future Teachers' Workshop: Injury Prevention and Recovery

Trina continues to follow up on and research possibilities for a teachers' workshop on injury prevention and recovery. She anticipates such a workshop in the Winter/Spring of 2016.

Report on future Teachers' Workshop: Teaching Scenarios

A post-meeting workshop will be lead by Juliet covering the special topic "handling unforeseen scenarios in the dance class".

Guidance and Courtesy of Dancers

Greg Reznick had expressed interest in writing an article for the Reel & Strathspeyer on guidance and courtesy of dancers. The article was originally planned to be published at the close of the dance year in preparation for the new year. The teachers present thought including the article in the next issue of the R&S would be fine timing.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin (TC Chair), please ask Greg to include his article regarding guidance and courtesy of dancers in the next issue of the Reel & Strathspeyer.

New Business

Selection of Party Program Committees

Alan and Sara volunteered for the Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball program committee with Paula (Ball Program Continuity person).The KMMB program is due 1 March, 2016.

The JPMD program, which is due 15 March 2016, will be arranged by Paula, Juliet and Trina.

Report from BC

Bradley (BC-TC liaison) reported that the Branch membership level has dropped below 300. In turn, in all likelihood we will be limited to six votes (down from seven) at the Society's Annual General Meeting.

At the Society's AGM (Perth, Scotland; 7 November, 2015), a vote will be called for the approval of a £2 subscription (membership) increase for adult dancers effective 1 July, 2016. The last rate increase was 1 July 2014. The teachers present supported this increase: no objections were raised.

The Branch Committee debated the possible advantage of holding the Beginners' Ball earlier in the day as a tea dance. It was thought that an earlier start time would allow participants an easier commute back home as several dancers have previously expressed they are less likely to attend an event if it means they have to drive long distances after dark. However, it was pointed out that participants may encounter more traffic problems with an earlier start time. The Beginners' Ball, sponsored by the Santa Rosa classes, is held annually in June in Petaluma. Hospitality is offered.

As reported in the minutes of the 16 May 2015 TC meeting, the Caledonian Club had invited our dancers to their Labour Day ceildh on the occasion of their 150th anniversary. We, the BC, respectfully declined as this would conflict with our Jean Patrick Memorial Dance. Instead, Don MacQueen (Branch Committee Chair) visited the Caledonian Club at their celebration to present them with a commemorative dance written by Branch member Tim Wilson.

The Caledonian Club presented the Branch with a plaque on our 50th anniversary commemorating the work done to preserve and present Scottish culture.

Bruce Hamilton's query paper on dealing with "difficult people" was briefly covered by the Branch Committee and passed on to the Teachers' Committee to get their input on the issues it raised. While the Teachers' Committee discussed this agenda item in their 16 May 2015 meeting, the Branch Committee seeks more guidance from the Teachers' Committee before it decides if policies need to be established. At this time, the Branch Committee will focus on the vulnerability of the Branch and exposure to liability from "difficult people".

The Santa Rosa Youth Workshop and Ball, a Branch sponsored event, was held on 11 July. The eighteen youth dancers enjoyed the classes taught by Bruce Herbold and Mary McQuilliams with accompanying musicians. Twelve additional youth dancers attended the ball. The Branch Committee salutes the efforts of the organizers, lead by Ann Rodier who hopes to see this become an annual event.

Should the Santa Rosa Youth Workshop and Ball become an annual event, it was suggested by TC consensus that notice of the workshop be sent out at the beginning of the dance year—minimally six months in advance. It was also questioned why a one-day workshop would be held in the far reaches of the Branch's district; that a workshop supporting our youth dancers should be more centrally located to make it more accessible to more dancers. Conversely, it was pointed out that the Children's Ball held in Lafayette (annually in May) is too far to travel for Santa Rosa dancers.

Jane Muirhead (Branch Bookstore Manager) has been working to identify and isolate slow-moving stock with the intent of selling it off. A list of this inventory was circulated to the Branch teachers, which was met with lack-luster response. The Branch Committee will continue to support Jane in reducing the bookstore inventory with the goal of making the bookstore more streamlined as to better serve the needs of the Branch and its teachers.

The marketing and promotional campaign for the Asilomar workshop and Ball has been very successful: Asilomar is fully subscribed and there is now a waiting list for dancers. The Branch Committee is considering producing other promotional videos of various lengths from the many hours of video recorded at last year's workshop and ball.

Report on TAC

Trina (TAC representative for the Branch) attended the Teachers' Association (Canada) AGM on 25 July held at Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia. TAC members are debating whether membership should be opened to non-RSCDS certified teachers. Some felt that TAC membership should remain exclusive to certificated teachers, while others voiced the benefit of being inclusive.

This group felt that making TAC resources available to all teachers of Scottish country dance would aid in unifying the dance form to RSCDS standards. As no consensus was reached, a survey was distributed to all TAC reps to ascertain how many teachers in their area were/were not RSCDS certified and whether those who were not certified might be interested in joining TAC. This issue will be readdressed at the 30 July 2016 AGM in Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada (Bishop's University). Subscription to TAC's newsletter, TAC Talk, is available to non-members.

New business at the 2015 AGM included news of a membership rate increase from CAN\$30/yr. to CAN\$35. The TAC membership year coincides with the Branch's and the Society's membership year.

The TAC Bylaws changes have been approved which establish the Bobby Brown Music Scholarship fund. This self-sustaining fund was created to support education of musicians.

Discuss future Teachers Workshops

As detailed under "*Report on future Teachers' Workshop: Injury Prevention and Recovery*", Trina is proceeding with her plans for a workshop on this topic.

Special Topics for future Meetings

The teachers present felt that the topic of a workshop was more important than the workshop leader. It may be enticing to have a visiting teacher lead a workshop, but not all visiting teachers wish to lead a workshop or have expertise on a subject that would be of interest to our teachers.

No topic suggestions were raised at this time.

Other Business

Discussion on Dances

"Red Wine and Straight Lines", a dance written by Jennifer Kelly with intentionally unspecified tempo (J, R, S), will be danced as a strathspey at the Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball.

Suggestions for a new Starter Jig

Paula suggested "Jig to the Music" from A Second Book of Graded Scottish Country Dances.

Laura put forward "Yan, Tan, Tethera" by Derek Haynes (The Second Canforth Collection of Scottish Country Dances). She also recommended "Happy Meeting" from Book 29.

If other people have suggestions, submissions should be sent to Bruce Herbold (Monthly Party Continuity person).

Other announcements

There were no additional announcements.

Choose date and location for next meetings

Since today's meeting was hosted in the South Bay, it was thought that the next meeting (16 January, 2016) should be in the East Bay. Perhaps Bruce Herbold and Patti Cobb could host the meeting. Kathleen McAdam may also be able to host the January meeting.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin (TC Chair), please contact Kathleen and Bruce and Patti to determine who is able to host the 16 January 2016 TC meeting.

Meeting locations for 21 May, 2016 and 17 September, 2016 were not settled.

Adjourn

Proposed: Trina – that the meeting adjourn

Seconded: Paula

Motion carried, without objection

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 by Armin Busse, Teachers' Committee Chair.

The post-meeting special topics for discussion were: "Handling unforeseen scenarios in the dance class" lead by Juliet and "Teaching dancers of more advanced age" lead by Marianna.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Hobbs
Recording Secretary

Follow-Up Actions

- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin (TC Chair), please ask Greg to include his article regarding guidance and courtesy of dancers in the next issue of the Reel & Strathspeyer.
- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin (TC Chair), please contact Kathleen and Bruce and Patti to determine who is able to host the 16 January 2016 TC meeting.