



Teachers' Committee Minutes
Final

Meeting

Saturday 16 January, 2016
at the home of Kathleen McAdam, Lafayette, CA

Present

Kathy Allen, Armin Busse, Juliet Davoren, Marianna Harvey, Linda Henderson, Bradley Hobbs,
Susie Langdon Kass, Kathleen McAdam, Trina Merriman.

Regrets

Kristi Closser, Patti Cobb, Laura Cooper, Fred DeMarse, Bruce Hamilton, Bruce Herbold, Lin Pettengill,
Alan Twigg, Tim Wilson.

Call to Order

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

Edit Agenda

There were no edits or additions to the posted agenda.

Announcements

Armin welcomed the attendees to the meeting and wished them a happy new year.

Kathleen disclosed that since she is no longer teaching the Lafayette class, she has taken a position as Class Host. Not up to the demands of teaching, yet ever vivacious, Kathleen will attend class in a supportive role. When the Class Manager is checking in dancers, counting the day's money, or similar Class Manager duties; and likewise the teacher is occupied with sorting out the music or reviewing the lesson plan; the Class Host will be available to lend a hand benefitting the dancers. With years of experience, Kathleen will be able to answer dancer's questions as well as assist those having difficulty with a step or a formation.

Old Business

Change/accept minutes of previous meeting

Proposed: Marianna– that the [19 September, 2015] draft minutes be accepted as final.

Seconded: Trina

Motion carried, without objection

Report on Party Program Committees

The programs for December's and January's Monthly Parties have been sent out and danced.

The Valentine's Ball program has also been completed and was sent out 1 December.

March's and April's Monthly Party programs were sent out 12 December.

Kathy, Linda and Bruce Herbold will meet on 19 January to compile the programs for May's and June's Monthly Parties. The due date for these programs is 1 February, with non-RSCDS dance descriptions being sent out by 15 February.

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 Spring of this year, having identified a few potential candidates to lead the workshop. The two to three-hour afternoon workshop will include a panel discussion as well as elucidatory activities.

Guidance and Courtesy of Dancers

Greg Reznick had expressed interest in writing an article for the Reel & Strathspey on guidance and courtesy of dancers. The article would focus on conduct in class.

For further reading, a six-page article titled [Courtesy for SF branch members](#) by Bruce Hamilton and Armin Busse (November, 2013) is posted on the Teachers' Webpage.

http://teachers.rscds-sf.org/SCTCdc20131130_Courtesy.pdf

- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin (TC Chair), please ask Greg if he still plans on writing an article on guidance and courtesy for the Reel & Strathspey.

New Business

Report from BC

Asilomar Workshop and Ball

Bradley (BC-TC liaison) reported that due to the extraordinary marketing efforts of Charlotte Greig and Greg Reznick, fundraising for the Asilomar Workshop and Ball has been very successful. Plans are moving ahead for Asilomar 2016 (28-30 October) and a deposit has been made to reserve the facility for Asilomar 2017 (17-19 November). We may have an opportunity in September 2016 to reschedule Asilomar 2017 to an earlier date.

Monthly Parties

Monthly Parties continue to lose money. The January party hosted not more than six sets of dancers: our attendance goal is 85 dancers. The BC asks that teachers encourage dancers in their classes to attend the parties.

A good way to achieve higher attendance is by carpooling to the dance. Some of our dancers simply do not like driving a long distance to the Monthly Parties. Others do not like driving at night. It was suggested that simply having a clipboard with carpool offerings at dance class sign-in tables might facilitate organizing carpools to the Monthly Parties.

Hall rental charge is the major expense of Monthly Parties. Lower facility rent—such as in Aptos and Hayward -- can help balance the overall budget for Monthly Parties. Teachers are solicited to look out for halls which may suit our needs. Please contact Mark Burt (Monthly Party Venues Coordinator, m5burt@yahoo.com) should you find a possibly suitable facility.

While discussing Monthly Parties, factors for lower attendance were cited and dance programs were brought up. The teachers present at the meeting felt that the programs at Monthly Parties should be largely familiar to entice dancers to attend. There needs to be one or two “chestnuts” on every Monthly Party program. On this point, it was suggested that the repertoire list be reviewed and updated as there are reportedly many unfamiliar dances on that list.

At the Society's AGM (Perth, Scotland; 7 November, 2015), motion 12.1 passed which raised subscription fees (membership dues) £2. In the March meeting, the BC will decide on the rates for membership dues, taking in to account the higher payment to Scotland.

The annual Class Managers' meeting will be in March this year, before the Monthly Party. Class managers were polled and the March date was preferred, notwithstanding the party-- and thus the meeting-- being in outlying city of San Rafael.

Members of the Santa Rosa class are planning the second annual Youth Workshop and Ball to be held on 30 April 2016. Tim Wilson and Sheena MacQueen will be teaching. The workshop will be held in the regular class space (Monroe Hall in Santa Rosa) and the Ball will be at Finley Community Center, also in Santa Rosa. The workshop is for dancers 35 years old or younger; the Ball is open to all Scottish Country dancers.

Teachers' Reception at Asilomar

The Teachers' Reception has been a long-standing tradition at the Asilomar Ball and Workshop weekend. It is a lovely get-together where the teachers have the opportunity to gather in a social setting. It is the collective Branch's way of thanking teacher's for the many hours they put in to their classes supporting and preserving the tradition of Scottish Country dancing.

In this time of fiscal restraint, it is questioned whether the Branch can afford such an event. When considered solely as an event, the Teachers' Reception's net costs are more than any other event the Branch sponsors, with the possible exception of the Asilomar weekend itself (the Teachers' Reception is paid for out of the General Fund and its accounting is separate from Asilomar). Branch events are expected to be self-supporting.

However, the Teachers' Reception cannot only be regarded as an event: it is also a gift of appreciation to the teachers. As gratitude to the teachers, it falls short because not all the active Branch teachers attend Asilomar and thus cannot enjoy the reward of the reception.

There are three components in the cost of the Teachers' Reception: food, drink, service fees and taxes. The room itself is paid for under the Asilomar weekend budget because it is used for Saturday classes. Having the reception in the Surf building does not incur additional costs.

In serving wine, beer, or any alcoholic beverage, we are required to serve food as well. Attached to serving food and drink are a myriad of service fees and applicable taxes. This overhead expense adds 32% to the cost of the event.

The teachers gathered at today's meeting had some suggestions for the Branch Committee, and in turn, the Asilomar Committee:

- Have the teachers' afternoon class (second afternoon class, 2:30 – 4:15) be a social time rather than a structured workshop.
- Have this social time go from 2:30 – 5:00 so that teachers attending an afternoon dance class will be able to enjoy some social time with the other teachers (from 4:15 – 5:00).
- A modest social in one of the living rooms would be fine.
- Food and drink are not necessary for this social gathering.
- Just as the Asilomar committee and staff teachers have identifying ribbons on their name tags, perhaps the other teachers could have a distinguishing ribbon of a different color to encourage spontaneous conversations among teachers from different Branches throughout the weekend.

It was also pointed out that no other Branch sponsors a teachers' reception at their workshop. Additionally, the Teachers' Committee meetings are structured with a half hour social time before the meeting is called to order: there are other social opportunities for teachers to converse amongst themselves besides the Teachers' Reception at Asilomar.

While the teachers assembled at today's meeting unequivocally felt that food and drink were not needed at the reception, especially in light of the fact that dinner follows the reception, in other years (with other teachers) there was an appeal to keep wine at the reception.

[Post meeting, it was asserted that for the cost of the Teachers' Reception, the Branch could gift every active Branch teacher the latest RSCDS dance book. It would also be less expensive for the Branch to pick up the tab for a teachers' workshop. These may be more fitting ways to show gratitude to the teachers than the teachers' reception.]

- **Action Item:** Bradley (BC-TC Liaison), please relay the alternative suggestions for the Teachers' Reception, as well as a summary of the teachers' comments to the Branch Committee at the March meeting (5 March)

Report on TAC

Trina (TAC representative for the Branch) reported that Teachers' Association (Canada) continues to consider whether membership should be opened to non-RSCDS certificated teachers. One point of view from TAC members was that membership should remain exclusive to certificated teachers, while others assert the benefit of being inclusive. Information from TAC would be invaluable to teachers of International dance styles who include Scottish Country dancing in their lessons. Reciprocally, the sharing of information would help bring Scottish Country dancing to RSCDS standards in these classes.

To get a better understanding of this membership question, from a broader array of people than were at the TAC AGM in 2015, a survey will be distributed to all TAC representatives. Teachers at the TC meeting felt that admitting non-RSCDS certificated teachers as Associate, non-voting members would be appropriate. This issue will be readdressed at the 30 July 2016 AGM in Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada (Bishop's University).

From this discussion of TAC membership for non-certificated teachers arose a spirited exchange on the benefits of a TAC membership. Many of the perquisites of a TAC membership can be enjoyed by non-members; the exceptions being voting privileges and discounts at Summer School, TAC Books or TAC Sound. TAC Talk, the quarterly newsletter, is available by subscription to non-members. Further, some teachers felt that the confirmation and accounting of memberships was poor. Since memberships can be paid for one to three years at a time, a reminder of upcoming membership expiration would be convenient.

Election of Officers

The slate for officers and volunteers remained as current.

For Chair: Armin

Proposed: Bradley

Seconded: Marianna

Motion carried, without objection

For Secretary: Bradley

Proposed: Juliet

Seconded: Trina

Motion carried, without objection

For Monthly Party Program Continuity Person: Bruce Herbold

Proposed: Trina

Seconded: Kathy

Motion carried, without objection

For Ball Program Continuity Person: Paula Jacobson

Proposed: Marianna

Seconded: Trina

Motion carried, without objection

For TAC Representative: Trina

Proposed: Bradley

Seconded: Armin

Motion carried, without objection

Selection of Party Program Committees

As recorded at the TC September meeting, Alan Twhigg and Sara Gratiot volunteered for the Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball program committee with Paula Jacobson (Ball Program Continuity person). The KMMB program is due 1 March, 2016. Also, the JPMD program, which is due 15 March 2016, will be arranged by Paula, Juliet and Trina.

Other dance programs committees for the 2016/2017 dance year are as follows:

October and November (due 1 August):

Lin Pettengill, Bradley, Bruce Herbold

Valentine's Ball 2017 (due 15 August):

Armin, Trina, Paula Jacobson

Because of her TAC responsibilities, Trina asks that this program be completed by mid-July

December and January (due 1 October):

Kathy, Bruce Herbold

Another volunteer is needed. Perhaps Fred DeMarse will serve on this program committee.

March and April (due 1 December):

Juliet, Kristi Closser, Bruce Herbold

May and June (due 1 February):

Marianna, Linda, Bruce Herbold

- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin (TC Chair), please ask Fred DeMarse if he is willing to serve on the December/January Monthly Party Program Committee. If Fred cannot serve, another volunteer will need to be sought.

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. No other topics were raised, or teachers suggested, for future workshops.

Special Topics for future Meetings

There were several topics suggested for discussion at future meetings. Proposed topics were:

- Music technology for classes (focus on music players and software)
- Teaching to dancers who do not hear well
- Editing dance video footage (perhaps Viki Lewis could lead this post-meeting workshop)

- Teaching under unusual conditions (e.g., teaching outdoors, acoustically dead rooms, cold rooms).

Other Business

Discussion on Dances

No dances were brought up for resolution.

Suggestions for a new Starter Jig

Trina suggested "Slow Simmer" from StrathsBabes (Pam Stephens and Ellen Ternes).

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

For the meeting scheduled for 21 May, 2016, Alan Twhigg had communicated to Armin that he would be willing to host the May meeting. Kathy also volunteered provisionally to host.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin (TC Chair), please ask Alan Twhigg if he is able to host the 21 May 2016 TC meeting. Kathy may also be able to host this meeting.

Lin Pettengill volunteered to host the 17 September, 2016 meeting; while Marianna offered to host the 21 January, 2017 meeting.

Adjourn

Proposed: Bradley – that the meeting adjourn

Seconded: Trina

Motion carried, without objection

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 by Armin Busse, Teachers' Committee Chair.

Because of the full agenda, no post-meeting special topic was scheduled.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Hobbs
Recording Secretary

Follow-Up Actions

- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin (TC Chair), please ask Greg if he still plans on writing an article on guidance and courtesy for the Reel & Strathspeyper.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Bradley (BC-TC Liaison), please relay the alternative suggestions for the Teachers' Reception, as well as a summary of the teachers' comments to the Branch Committee at the March meeting (5 March)

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