



Teachers' Committee Minutes
Final

Meeting

Saturday 20 January 2018
at the home of Kathleen McAdam, Lafayette

Present

Kathy Allen, Cathy Bertics, Eugene Bissell, Armin Busse, Laura Cooper, Juliet Davoren, Linda Henderson, Bruce Herbold, Bradley Hobbs, Paula Jacobson, Kathleen McAdam, Trina Merriman, Rachel Pusey, Dilip Sequeira, Sandee Schultz, Alan Twhigg, Geoffrey Wood.

Regrets

Patti Cobb, Rebecca Davis, Fred DeMarse, Crystal Goodwin, Sara Gratiot, Alex Harvey, Marianna Harvey, Susie Langdon Kass, Sheena MacQueen, Lin Pettengill, Gary Thomas, Tim Wilson.

Call to Order

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

Edit Agenda

DAA (Dancing Achievement Award) was added to the agenda (Other Business)

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Old Business

Change/accept minutes of previous meeting

Proposed: Alan - that the [23 September, 2017 Preliminary A] minutes be accepted as final.

Seconded: Trina

Motion carried, without objection

Report on Party Program Committees

December and January's Monthly Parties have been compiled, distributed and danced. This dance-year's remaining Monthly Parties programs have also been arranged. May and June programs are yet to be sent out

May's Monthly Party will include the unfamiliar dance, "The Wallace" by John Drewry ([Autumn Collection 1986](#)). This dance features the new (at the time) Drewry formation, set and rotate.

Jill Perry's dance "Carol McQuilling Strathspey" from [Heart of San Francisco](#) has been requested for Monthly Parties. This dance may be too advanced to be included in Monthly Party programs. Bruce Herbold (Monthly Part Continuity person) requested further feedback on this dance and whether it is approachable for our Branch's dancers.

Report on Ball Program Committees

The date for Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball (27 October, 2018) program meeting is 3 February. Members of the program committee are Rachel, Alan and Paula.

The Jean Patrick Memorial Dance program committee (Trina, Sheena, Paula) will meet on 18 February for the 1 September 2018 dance.

Report on Future Teachers' Workshop

Sarah Pawlowsky, head of the Physical Therapy department at San Francisco State University (SFSU), intends to do a research study with dance teachers, but has not gotten back to Trina. One aspect of her study focuses on the importance of warm-ups. Trina Merriman will follow-up with her for a future Teacher Workshop.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Trina, please contact Sarah Pawlowsky of the Physical Therapy Department at SFSU to make arrangements for a Teacher Workshop.

Candidates Class 2017

Candidates Kathy Jorgensen, Dilip Sequeira, Geoffrey Wood have all passed Unit 1 (Written test) of their Teacher Examinations administered on 7 October 2017.

Kathy passed Unit 3 at Summer School in Wairarapa, New Zealand Summer School (28 December – 5 January 2018). All three candidates are now Part 1 (Prelim) teachers.

New Business

Report from BC

At the last Teachers' Committee meeting in September, a request was made that a list of CPR/AED trained dancers be maintained and made available to teachers. The Branch Committee felt that such a list would serve no practical purpose. If there was a medical emergency, those trained in CPR or use of an AED would make themselves known. As for the formation of a Safety Committee, the defunct Safety Committee, part of the Membership Committee is unlikely to reform. Nonetheless, Mark Caplin, a Physician Assistant with extensive experience in Emergency Medical service, is willing to serve as Safety Coordinator on an as needed basis. Still, the BC is open to the need for a Safety Committee.

Branch membership has dropped to 297. With this, our votes in Society matters (AGM and special meetings) is reduced one vote to six votes. Half-year memberships are now open and teachers are asked to encourage their new dancers (as well as experienced dancers who have never joined the Branch) to become members of the Branch.

A newly developed Branch postcard is available to help promote the Branch and Scottish Country Dancing. The front features four photographs of dancers at party dances. The back has text describing Scottish Country dancing, Branch activities and the wide territory of the Branch. There is also a QR code for Smartphones as well as a newly created e-mail address, ask@rscds-sf.org. Postcard image is included in the appendix.

The BC is reviewing the Branch Website with the intent of making it more accessible and updating it. The website has been moved to a different server as a means of solving the problem of some members not receiving Branch e-mail.

Don MacQueen and Margaret Ward will continue as co-chairs of the Jean Patrick Memorial Dance. The dance didn't quite break even last year, losing \$63.24. One factor might have been that it was over 100° Fahrenheit on Labor Day Weekend.

Youth Weekend West will be held 25 – 27 May, 2018 in Santa Rosa. Marjorie McLaughlin and Linda Henderson are the scheduled teachers. Application to be out soon for this annual event for dancers ages 12 – 35. The evening Ball is open to dancers of all ages.

The BC is pursuing getting visa for Chris Duncan and Catherine Strutt through the Artists from Abroad program (O-B1). It is hoped that Chris and Catherine will play for Asilomar 2018. With the Catalina Workshop 4-6 May 2018, it is debatable whether it would be better to have Chris and Catherine play in 2019. Are Chris and Catherine enough of a draw to overcome the anticipated lower attendance at Asilomar due to the challenge of Catalina 2018? The Catalina Workshop is held every three or four years. On years when there is a Catalina workshop, would-be attendees to Asilomar from the Southern California Branches choose to attend the Catalina Workshop instead. It was announced at the meeting that Chris and Catherine are scheduled for Asilomar 2018.

Patti Cobb is chairing Asilomar 2018 (to be confirmed at the BC meeting on 27 January, 2018) but she expressed that a new Chair will need to be confirmed for 2019. Likewise, a new Chair is needed for the Winter Ball Committee.

Teachers are asked to encourage their dancers to volunteer for Branch positions. There are tasks small and large which need to be covered if members expect to receive the continued benefits that the San Francisco Branch has offered.

Report on TAC

Trina Merriman (Teachers' Association (Canada) representative for the Branch) reported that the only relevant news from TAC is the upcoming Summer School at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Minnesota from 29 July to 5 August with the AGM gathering from Friday 27 July to Sunday 29 July. The scheduled teaching staff are Ellie Briscoe (Alexandria, VA), Judy Poapst (Ontario), Antoine Rousseau (Paris, France), and Alan Twigg (Mountain View, CA). Ontario is a province of Canada—it is not revealed in TAC information which city or township Judy Poapst hails from.

Musical staff planned are Barbara McOwen (Music Director) joined by *Tullochgorum and Friends*: Anne Hooper, Robert McOwen, Terry Traub, Campbell Webster, Laird Brown, and Don Wood.

Early registration will open on 1 March, 2018.

Elect Officers

Chair

Armin Busse was the only candidate offered for nomination for the position of Chair of the Teachers' Committee.

Nominated by: Paula – that Armin continue as Chair

Seconded: Bruce

Approved, without objection

Secretary

Bradley Hobbs was the only candidate offered for nomination for the position of Secretary of the Teachers' Committee. Since Bradley intends to move out of state before the end of his term, after much discussion, Dilip consented to finish Bradley's term as needed.

Nominated by: Geoffrey – that Bradley continue as Secretary until resignation, then taken over by Dilip

Seconded: Juliet

Approved, without objection

Monthly Party Continuity Person

Bruce Herbold was the only candidate offered for nomination for the position of Monthly Party Programming Continuity Person.

Nominated by: Paula– that Bruce Herbold continue as Monthly Party Continuity Person

Seconded: Kathy Allen

Approved, without objection

Ball Program Continuity Person

Paula Jacobson was the only candidate offered for nomination for the position of Ball Programming Continuity Person.

Nominated by: Bruce– that Paula continue as Ball Program Continuity Person

Seconded: Trina

Approved, without objection

Elect TAC Representative

Trina Merriman was the only candidate offered for nomination for the position of TAC Representative for the San Francisco Branch.

Nominated by: Bradley- that Trina continue as TAC representative

Seconded: Alan

Approved, without objection

Lin Pettengill is on the TAC Executive Committee (Member at Large) and has withdrawn as our TAC Representative successor.

Selection of Party Program Committees

The following party program committees have been established:

due	1 August	Oct, Nov	Sheena MacQueen, Tim Wilson, Bruce Herbold (Monthly Party Continuity Coordinator)
	15 August	Winter Ball	Sandee Schultz, Bradley Hobbs, Paula Jacobson (Ball Continuity Coordinator)
	1 October	Dec, Jan	Geoffrey Wood, Kathy Allen, Bruce Herbold
	1 December	March, April	Juliet Davoren, Dilip Sequeira, Bruce Herbold
	1 February	May, June	Sandee Schultz, Laura Cooper, Bruce Herbold

The Winter Ball program committee will convene in May to accommodate its members' schedules.

Bruce tries to get the programs done a month in advance of the deadlines so Andy Imbrie (Monthly Party Music Coordinator) has time to review the program for music and Sara Gratiot can proofread the program for typographic errors and accuracy.

Jean Patrick Memorial Dance (JPMD) program committees are established at the May TC meeting. Likewise the Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball (KMMB, aka Asilomar Ball) program committee is also chosen at the May meeting for the Asilomar Ball one and a half years hence.

Dilip posed some questions on the established Monthly Party guidelines. Currently, Monthly Parties are configured with five reels, four jigs and six strathspeys. Kathleen offered the historic perspective that strathspeys were getting short-changed when the ruling came out, bringing strathspeys up to six per party. Dilip suggested allowing program committees the discretion to create programs consisting of five reels, five jigs and five strathspeys. This would reduce strathspeys by one and add one jig.

A lively discussion ensued with teachers offering justifications for six strathspeys. One teacher remarked, "Our Branch loves strathspeys". Older dancers may only dance the strathspeys on a dance program. Our musicians—particularly fiddlers—aggrandize strathspeys, which is why they are loved. Visiting dancers are impressed that we dance and love our strathspeys and are grateful for them

With the proposed change, that would put two quick-time dances in a row throughout the program, which may be too arduous for many dancers. Conversely, it is conjectured that this would appeal to younger dancers. This idea was disputed, stating that social structure is at least as important as dance selection for youth dancers. Nonetheless, younger dancers need to give their own input on which dances they want on programs designed for them. Perhaps we could feature a high-energy dance—one devised by youth dancers on party programs. Younger dancers like pas de Basque, while older dancers generally avoid pas de Basque.

Perhaps adding a dance (sixteen dance program) is a better idea. A quick-time dance as an extra in the second set may be a workable solution. An alternative suggestion was to give a Monthly Party program committee the leeway to devise a five reel, five jig, five strathspey program with the responsibility to return the program structure back to five reels, four jigs, six strathspeys. Dances on Monthly Party programs rotate off after three parties.

Since there was no consensus on a recommendation for the Monthly Party guidelines, the agenda item was tabled to the May meeting.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin (TC Chair), please include Monthly Party program guidelines in the agenda for the May 2018 Teachers' Committee meeting.
- ▶ **Action Item:** Dilip, Bruce, Geoffrey, Juliet—please arrange to convene prior to the May 2018 Teachers' Committee meeting to discuss viable changes to the Monthly Party program guidelines.

Possibly, the Monthly Party attendees could be surveyed for favorite dances.

Discuss Future Teachers' Workshops

There are no additional Teachers' Workshops planned. Arrangements for a workshop on effective warm-up routines are in the works, but are not settled at this point.

Suggestions for other possible future workshops include:

Logistics of teaching youth

Planning an arc of teaching (yearly teaching plan rather than weekly teaching plans)

Linda Henderson, Alan Twigg, Fred DeMarse, Tim Wilson may be tapped to lead a discussion on successful teaching. All are recognized workshop teachers.

Please send further suggestions to Armin.

Candidate Class 2019

Alan (Teacher Training contact) asked if there were there candidates for the Teacher Candidate course and following exams. Geoffrey and Dilp stated that they would both prefer to go to TAC for their Unit 5 exams. There are no other possible Teacher Candidates known. At this point, it is unlikely that The Branch would hold a Candidates' Course in 2019.

Special Topics for future Meetings

Topics for special topics to be presented at Teacher Committee meeting include:

Teaching Youth Classes

Discussing the Branch repertoire, in need of updating (last done in 1999)

Follow up on Greg Reznick's proposal to support new Part 1 (Prelim) teachers (See September 2012 minutes)

Other Business

Discussion on Dances

Many Happy Returns 32 bar strathspey by Mel Briscoe from The Slipknot Collection 1995
The dance will be danced in three-couple sets, as devised.

Suggestions for a new Starter Jig

Trina suggested four new starter jigs from Spark O' Water by the Nova Scotia Branch (2017)

Mhairi and I 4x40 bar jig (4 couple dance)

Spice it Up 3x32 jig (3 couple set)

Bill and Rajeev's Wedding 3x32 jig (3 couple set)
Leaving Portree 40 bar jig (4 couple dance)

While all of these are fine dances, Our Branch would not start an event with a 40 bar dance or 4 couple dance.

Dancing Achievement Award (DAA)

The DAA addresses a need for those dancers who want more technique instruction, but don't get it in their weekly classes. Trina is organizing the DAA course for the Branch, to start on 25 February 2018. Fred DeMarse and Linda Henderson will once again teach this course, this time for the Advanced level certification. Dancers will meet at Danspace, 473 Hudson, Oakland, 94618 for five to six classes. The assessment follows, which is an all-day affair. The assessors, Ron Wallace and Juliet Davoren, are appointed by the Society.

The course is fully enrolled with 17 dancers. Trina and the teachers agreed that having three sets, as was the case for the Intermediate course held last year, was one set too many. Half of the current enrollees participated in the Intermediate course. Dancers are expected to know the nine dances, chosen by the Society, before the first class (six dances for the Intermediate level, nine dances for the Advanced level and twelve dances for the Very Advanced level).

This is Trina's second year organizing this course, and while Trina has enjoyed the experience, she doesn't desire to make a career out of it. Since the DAA program has been successful and our dancers express interest in it, someone will need to take charge in Trina's stead for the program to continue. There is interest in offering the class at a South Bay location. Trina will help with the transition and she encourages other teachers to consider taking part in the program.

Other announcements

Burn's night celebration dance in San Jose (American Legion Hall, 1504 Minnesota Ave.) 22 January and elsewhere, check the Branch on-line calendar where all Branch activities are posted.

Choose date and location for next meetings

19 May: Alan possible conflict with Sacramento workshop

22 September tbd (Rachel, Juliet or Marianna)

19 January: tbd

Adjourn

Proposed: Bradley— that the meeting adjourn

Seconded: Laura

Motion carried, without objection

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 pm by Armin Busse, Teachers' Committee Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Hobbs
Recording Secretary

Special Topic

Electronic music players, software programs & apps, and amplifier

Follow-Up Actions

- ▶ **Action Item:** Trina, please contact Sarah Pawlowsky of the Physical Therapy Department at SFSU to make arrangements for a Teacher Workshop.
- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin (TC Chair), please include Monthly Party program guidelines in the agenda for the May 2018 Teachers' Committee agenda.
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Appendix

Branch promotional postcard image on the following page.



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