



Teachers' Committee Minutes

Meeting

Saturday 19 January 2019
at the home of Geoffrey Wood, Milpitas

Present

Armin Busse, Bradley Hobbs, Juliet Davoren, Rachel Pusey, Dilip Sequeira, Geoffrey Wood, Sheena MacQueen, Trina Merriman, Linda Henderson, Laura Cooper

Regrets

Lin Pettengil, Paula, Gary Thomas, Jo Hamilton, Dwayne & Mary McQuilliams, Sandra Schulz, Suzy Langdon Kass, Tim Wilson, Kathy Allen, Bruce Herbold, Patti Cobb

Call to Order

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

Changes to Agenda

Branch Committee Liaison - Bradley

Code of Conduct - Geoffrey

Teachers' Reflector - Armin

Announcements

None

Old Business

Change/accept minutes of previous meeting

Preliminary B included some clarification for the minutes of the TAC report around the summer school funds. This version had not been posted to the web site or emailed to the teachers' mailing list, so Dilip read out the relevant section.

Proposed: Dilip - that the September minutes be accepted as final.

Seconded: Sheena

Approved unanimously

Action: Bradley will finalize the September minutes and Armin will post them to the web site.

Report on Party Program Committees

Dec '18, Jan '19, Mar'19 and Apr '19 have been completed and distributed. May/Jun are due for distribution Feb 15th.

Report on Future Teachers' Workshop

Trina emailed her contact a couple of times, but that seems to have petered out, so we will discontinue that effort.

Armin suggested we might consider repeating the workshop on warmups, perhaps on a regular basis.

New Business

Elect Officers:

Chair: Bradley nominated Armin. Carried unanimously.

Secretary: Geoffrey nominated Dilip. Carried unanimously.

Monthly Party Program Continuity: Armin nominated Bruce, who had emailed to say he was willing to continue. Carried unanimously.

Ball Programming Continuity: Armin nominated Paula, who had emailed to indicate she was willing to continue. Carried unanimously.

Discussion arose that we used to have much more turnover, and it gives us more of a chance to shake things up, something which would also be encouraged by mechanisms such as term limits.

We would strongly encourage more people to stand if they're interested, and we should communicate to everyone that if they're interested in standing, they can speak to anyone about it to ensure they get nominated.

Armin proposed that we discuss at the September meeting, since that's better attended than May (Linda pointed out that the May Teachers' Meeting clashed with the Sacramento workshop, and maybe we should stop doing that? Later in the meeting it turned out that we don't clash this year!)

Elect TAC Representative

Dilip nominated Trina. Carried unanimously.

Juliet reminded us that the TAC representative has had a three-year rotation. Armin confirmed that this was common practice when more volunteers were available.

Trina commented that it helps her in her other role as teacher coordinator for Asilomar as she gets to see lots of people teach.

Selection of Party Program Committees

Armin thanked all who volunteered, present or absent.

08/01/19	Oct / Nov 2019	Bradley / Sheena
08/15/19	Winter Ball 2020	Patti / Trina
10/01/19	Dec 2019 / Jan 2020	Rachel / Geoffrey
12/01/19	Mar / Apr 2020	Lin / Juliet
02/01/20	May / June 2020	Dilip / Armin

Report from Branch Committee

(Geoffrey)

The Branch is coming up on elections, and we're looking for 2-3 nominations. The people who are (or may be) leaving are the three teachers on the committee, so it would help if some more of the teachers would consider it. Usually there are around 8 meetings per year - the time commitment is a meeting at 1:30 just before each monthly party, with sometimes an additional one in the summer.

Geoffrey circulated a Code of Conduct that the committee is proposing to adopt.

Classes and events sponsored by the RSCDS San Francisco Branch are intended to be pleasurable occasions for learning and enjoying the performance of Scottish country dancing. To foster those goals and to ensure the safety of all, the Branch expects that everyone attending its events will conduct themselves courteously and with respect for other participants.

Appropriate physical contact and social interaction are integral parts of Scottish country dancing, but it is important to be sure that everyone involved is a willing participant. If someone is making you uncomfortable by touching you, flirting with you, etc., you are encouraged to speak directly to that person if it seems safe to do so, or inform your teacher, the event organizers or any member of the Executive Committee. The Branch reserves the right to expel from an event any person whose behavior is determined by the event organizers or the Executive Committee to be offensive, dangerous, or disruptive to the enjoyment of the event by other participants. If a person is required to leave an event for any of these reasons, no refund of registration or other fees will be made. Repeated offenses, or individual blatant and deliberate offenses, may result in a ban from future Branch events at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Several specific suggestions were made about the text. In addition, there was a request for "Guidance to Teachers and Class Managers", and also guidance on how incidents should be communicated so that we would not lose the significance of repeated events across different locations. Geoffrey will forward all feedback to the branch committee.

The committee continues to work on the Jordan Hill stage with Trina's assistance.

Armin asked about CPR/AED training – Bradley said we'll be repeating that in the fall. In addition, it was suggested that an emergency preparedness checklist will be useful. Geoffrey will forward.

Report on TAC

(Trina)

Fundraising to ameliorate the debt has been quite successful, with lots of support from TAC membership and from branches across North America. There's still more to do. Summer School will be wonderful, and teachers should encourage all members of their classes to consider participating.

DAA Intermediate Course

(Trina)

Fred & Linda are about to complete the trifecta (Intermediate, Advanced, Very Advanced). It's a really good program for dancers who want technique which benefits the community. Trina and Tim Wilson will be teaching an intermediate-level course from 2/24 to 4/14, limited to 2 sets.

A new syllabus will be released in Summer at St Andrews: Intermediate and Advanced level will also be taught at TAC Summer School.

We are also looking for teachers in the South Bay interested in teaching DAA.

Special Topics for Future Meetings

Step Transitions and Foot Transitions.

Class Governance (Bradley will lead)

Greg's Proposal (helping prelim candidates become full candidates and full candidates become active teachers)

Class Planning (balancing Party vs non-Party) / How do teachers find out what the classes want?

Repertoire List Update

Actions:

- **Dilip** will ask Bruce if he would be willing to do the Repertoire in May.
- **Linda, Juliet and Laura** will do Step Transitions in September.

Class Governance and balance could be combined into a workshop on how different classes run and how we as teachers deal with them.

Discuss Future Teachers' Workshops

Microphone workshop?

There had been previous discussion that it would be useful in a session attached to a monthly party, so that more than teachers can participate. We would have to find a way that wouldn't interfere with walkthroughs and soundchecks beforehand and wasn't too exposed, but also doesn't interfere with socializing after the dance.

Actions:

- **Sheena** will talk to the sound folks – attendance at today's meeting is small and we would want to see if there's wider interest.
- **Armin** will ask Paula if she is willing to run a workshop.

Geoffrey mentioned that the teachers' committee has a budget for such events, so we could sponsor this and pay for the additional hall time.

Rachel said that having designated people to provide feedback on both briefing and microphone technique would be useful.

Other Business

Discussion on Dances

None.

Suggestions for a new Starter Jig

Maybe we can consider starting with a reel? Linda suggested that perhaps we might even end with a jig, and possibly one not with a circle? (*A pit reeking of brimstone did not immediately appear and swallow the gathering.*)

Liaison for Branch Committee

Possibly after the election we have no teachers on the branch committee so we don't have a liaison. If that happens, we ask a teacher to attend each branch committee meeting and report back.

There is value in month-to-month continuity, however, since some projects span many months.

Teachers' Email Reflector

Armin has created a Google group which he will try out with the meeting attendees, and then scale out to all the teachers.

As alternative: There are also paid service available

Armin thanked Don Pettengill for the years of maintenance and running of the teachers' reflector.

Choose date and location for next meeting

18 May:

21 September: TBA

18 January 2020 is proposed

Currently Marianna Harvey or Kathy Allen are scheduled to host in May.

Action: Since we're going to ask Bruce to present at the next meeting, Armin will ask him if he and Patti will be willing to consider hosting, and then see if Marianna/Kathy would be able to do September.

Adjourn

Proposed: Geoffrey – that the meeting adjourn

Seconded: Laura

Motion carried, without objection

The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 pm by Armin Busse, Teachers' Committee Chair.

Humbly Submitted,
Dilip Sequeira
Recording Secretary