



Teachers' Committee Minutes  
(final draft)

## Meeting

Saturday 19th September 2020, Zoom

## Present

Alan Twigg, Armin Busse, Bradley Hobbs, Dilip Sequeira, Dwayne McQuilliams, Fred DeMarse, Juliet Davoren, Kathy Allen, Kathy Jorgensen, Laura Cooper, Lin Pettengill, Lori Howard, Mary McQuilliams, Paula Jacobson, Rachel Pusey, Rebecca Davis, Sara Gratiot, Sheen MacQueen, Trina Merriman.

## Regrets

Gary Thomas, Sandee Schultz

## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 14:01 pm by Armin Busse, Chair.

## Announcements

### RSCDS Teachers' Database

HQ have issued a reminder to teachers about the database they are compiling:

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September Teachers' Newsletter  
14 September, 2020  
RSCDS, 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh Scotland EH3 7AF

### Teachers' Register UPDATE

There are currently 825 fully qualified teachers listed on the RSCDS Teachers' Register. However, the Education and Training Committee are aware that there are still some eligible teachers who have not yet responded to the Teachers' Register survey PART 1. If you (or any other fully qualified teachers you are aware of) have not yet completed this survey then please contact [info@rscds.org](mailto:info@rscds.org) as soon as possible. In the next phase, the Education and Training Committee are refocusing their efforts on contacting all of the teachers on the Register to ascertain their various areas of teaching expertise. If you have not yet received an email for PART 2 of the Teachers' Register survey then please contact [info@rscds.org](mailto:info@rscds.org) to request the link. At present the Register is only accessible to RSCDS staff and E&T Committee members, so there will also be further discussions in due course regarding GDPR to allow the Teachers' Register to be openly searchable.

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Bradley will also send this to the teachers' google group.

## Old Business

### Change/accept minutes of previous meeting

Alan moved to accept, Trina seconded, carried unanimously.

### Report on Party Program Committees

Oct/Nov 2020: not done, due to lack of clarity about whether programs are needed.

Valentines' Ball 2021: done and sent to chairs - waiting to see whether the ball will be held before distributing more widely.

There are three party programs already created and waiting to be danced. Bruce Herbold also also has a "Welcome Back" sample program

Armin proposed that we discontinue programs until we understand when we will be dancing again. Lin seconded. Carried unanimously.

## New Business

### TAC Report

The AGM was in May. It went smoothly over Zoom (kudos to Rachel for organization & Lin for testing.) There were just over 100 attendees. There will be a recording of the meeting on the TAC web site.

[TAC document on best practices & ideas for teaching online.](#)

### Board Report

New website: still working on it. The board hopes that it will go live by the end of the year

Jordan Hill Stage repair: on hold due to COVID.

Valentines Ball: still trying to figure out what to do.

AB5: Compliance was required 8 months after it passed, in January. Last month AB2257 passed, exempting musicians and sound techs. Whether teachers are categorized as employees remains an open issue.

The Society AGM is on November 7th, 6am PST. The meeting is on Zoom and open to members - an article in the next Reel & Strathspeyner will explain how to attend. The ballot should be available by the end of September, with several open positions to vote on. It has been decided that fees will not increase.

### Future Teachers' Workshops

Suggestions:

- Social distance dancing.
- Strengthening our feet to be ready to dance.
- Feldenkrais method.
- Gentle-but-satisfying dances for dancers who are not as able as they once were.
- Teaching/Presenting over Zoom.

It would be helpful to have proposed teachers for these.

Alexander Technique workshop: the teacher is willing, but nobody knows when we'll be getting together again. Trina will see if he could do something over Zoom.

### Next Exam Course

Current status is unchanged - everything is postponed by a year, and may be postponed by another year by HQ.

## Thoughts or Ideas on how Classes Might be Conducted in Future

### What's happening at the moment?

- Crockett class runs a regular Tuesday class on Zoom - half hour of easy step dancing, 45 minutes of country. Dances are mostly taught using diagrams & videos, with some demonstration. Also a 2-hour step dance class on Thursday.
- Sheena: teaching weekly as of March - up to lesson 17 now, with Don as tech. Students are mostly on cement, so gentle footwork and no footwork teaching. Going through the branch repertoire list; currently working on Fugal Fergus.
- Dwayne: Dunsmuir is meeting for 2 hours on Tuesday. 1-hour dance exercises, rest is new dances & repertoire. Initially difficult but now working well.
- Fred: Red Thistle (Thursday) 90 minutes/week, including a highland session. Susan & Michael are playing during the country session. Exercises plus country dancing, with personal technique for those who want. Working on RSCDS dances.
- Juliet: stopped in March, but recently had a socially distanced picnic with the ex-youth class, followed by 45 mins dancing - social dances with huge sets, socially distanced, and Sword Dance. Again with Santa Cruz folks. Introduced several of the kids to Fred's Highland class.
- Rachel: hosting social Zoom with San Jose on Monday evenings.
- Kathy: Campbell has been doing social chats on Wednesday afternoon 1pm since May/June.
- MV class: regular socials with votes on what else people would like to do.
- [Recordings of past RSCDS "Dance Scottish" classes](#) (scroll down to "Previous Classes".)

Privately owned venues are hurting. SF and Campbell classes are supporting theirs. Other classes that can afford it may wish to consider doing likewise.

### What more could we do?

Armin will create and maintain a document in the teachers' section on the branch web site of classes that local dancers could join, with the ability for others to add suggestions. Class managers are also interested in how to keep dancers engaged, thus it might be useful to have the list available to all members rather than just teachers.

A suggestion to the branch committee is that the branch be more proactive about distributing information about what's happening - telling people repeatedly helps them internalize it.

Other ideas:

- A dance exercise class for a broader audience than Red Thistle or Dunsmuir. Some of the RSCDS online classes contain warmups geared towards keeping dancers functional.
- Monthly social events across the branch using chat rooms to break out into small random groups, as at the TAC AGM.
- Zoom Tea Dance or Saturday Evening: 5 or 6 dances, with social time afterwards.
- SF branch "Dance Scottish" replay, so that people who can't make the morning time can dance together.

Please contact Rachel Pusey and/or Jamie Tanner with other ideas for how to maintain social contact at branch level.

## Other Business

### New Announcements

Red Thistle have a new [book](#) of Jennifer Kelly's collected works, accompanied by CDs and a DVD. A Reel and Strathspey announcement will be forthcoming.

Jonathan Lovell's position on the Scholarship Committee has been taken by Alan Twigg.

The San Jose class is considering a memorial dance for Jonathan. Maybe this could be a more general memorial for others who have also died recently.

### Date & Location for the next meeting.

Poll: should we consider holding future meetings online?

Result, according to Zoom:

- 19% - online-only
- 82% - in person with an online option [*Grrr. Honestly, who rounds 81.25 to 82???* - your ob't sec.]

2021 meetings: 01/16, 05/15, 09/18. Dates are posted on the [Teachers' website](#).

## Adjourn

Bradley moved to adjourn at 3:42, Armin seconded. Accepted unanimously.

Ever so 'umbly submitted  
Dilip Sequeira  
Recording Secretary