

San Francisco Scottish Country Dancers

Annual meeting, April 19, 2009, 1-4 pm

Place: Bruce and Patti's home, San Francisco

Class manager Linnea Johnson chaired the meeting.

Present: Linnea Johnson, Victoria Lewis, Allan Viner, Frank Simeone, Eileen Richey, Tim Wilson, Trina Merriman, Bruce Herbold, Sylvain Pelletier, Amy Van Doren, Susie Langdon Kass, Sid Kass. Patti Cobb arrived at 2 pm.

Finance Committee:

TM reported that the Finance committee collected data and created a budget at the end of one year. The class is currently on budget--mostly. General comment that the class sticking to a budget was "breath-taking." TM noted that we may go into the red since spring is usually a leaner period for the class. Book sales have helped; at this point the book has made a \$400 profit. TM noted that the real key to a successful financial year is more dancers. The current budget is based on the rent remaining the same. General comments that the church likes us as renters for various reasons.

Publicity Committee:

Eileen Richey noted that "publicity" is not listed in the budget that Trina circulated. TM noted that this is because the budget print-out only includes current expenditures. Also some expenditures may not have been reported at this point.

ER said that PubCom costs will be less this year (compared to last year) because the postcards were expensive but we still have a large amount of them for the coming year. ER's goal is to get postcards into Scottish stores in downtown SF, British and Scottish specialty stores around the city (note made of British food shop at 15th and Potrero) and dance studios. Print publicity ads: one is always run in the Noe Valley Voice (\$15-\$20/mo), ER will put ad in the Potrero View (\$50/2 months), West of Twin Peaks ad is free; Glen Park newspaper cost varies depending on the number of ads they print. BANDW ad (\$200) was paid for by RSCDS-SF branch. It is formatted as a bookmark. SLK passed out bookmarks. Our class is not participating in the event.

ER hopes that when the Asilomar videorecording is complete, we may get the okay to post a clip on youtube of dancing, and to have a link from our class page to the youtube clip. Sylvain and Linnea will look into this after the recording is released by Jeff P. ER wondered about whether we could have some video of a class in action to give people an idea of what it's like. Viki mentioned that she'd like to get some footage of each of the branch classes since they're all so different. ER said that the committee could use more people and that they'd like to plan a new flyer.

Guerilla dancing led by Patti was mentioned. General consensus that one time was successful, the other not so much. Did not get any new dancers from these. But consciousness-raising is good. Viki

mentioned the success of the Solano Stroll for recruiting Berkeley/East Bay dancers and wondered about whether we've participated or had other opportunities. BH and others noted that SF class has participated in the Solano Stroll and had flyers there—but that it mostly draws an East Bay crowd rather than SF. General discussion of the street fairs—when they take place and which might be timed well for our new class in September. Trina agreed to look into the Cole Street fair. SLK noted that the Upper Noe Valley recreation center fair is not happening currently but has been a successful venue for recruiting. Timing issues came up—Viki noted that it's difficult to get people to wait until September—they're impatient to start learning. On the other hand, starting a class in Spring means it is difficult to keep those dancers through June and beyond to bring them up to speed for the combined class in summer.

SLK advised start planning now for next year's BANDW. LJ noted that it is on the agenda later.

Class Manager's Report:

SLK asked Linnea if she'd like help? LJ responded that most of the weekly set-up and take-down is fairly easy though help with chairs is always appreciated. She asked for a volunteer to write the class report for the Reel and Strathspey. Donald Robertson's name was suggested. LJ will check with Donald. If DR declines, BH has agreed to write the report. The report is due June 1, 2009.

LJ noted that our class will host the May 2010 monthly party which is also the branch's annual general meeting. Sandra Fritts is trying to get a hall in San Francisco. The Solstice party is June 18, 2009. SLK passed around a dance suggestion list for the party. A new series starts next week; LJ encouraged paying for the entire series to help support the class financially—even if you might miss a few classes.

LJ noted that help is always needed for the Solstice Party and the monthly party. There is always a sign-up sheet with the various duties that need to be done. If you sign up for something, please remember to check the sheet to make sure you get it done. TM suggested that SP add the list of sign-ups in the weekly newsletter as a reminder since people often sign up weeks before the event.

SLK asked about decorating help. LJ mentioned that decorating requires people who are able to free up the daytime hours to help. Yes, we could always use more help. Special note made that the decorations for the summer Solstice Party must come down at the end of the evening. SLK noticed the beautiful banners that are currently hanging in the church—spring flowers are illustrated. General discussion of when you can find holiday decorations.

Publications Committee:

SLK mentioned that she has 3-1/2 boxes of Measures of Pleasure at home. BH will take copies to sell in London (where he'll teach), St. Andrews, and Kaleidoscope (where he'll present).

BH recalled that there had been some discussion of digitizing the Solstice Party Book. He wondered if anything had happened with that. TW responded that nothing has happened with the digitizing. TM has a clean copy of the book and made 27 copies for Jane Muirhead to fill a 10 book order from TAC and provide some extras. BH had thought we might offer the scan with a suggested donation PayPal button. LJ said it's easy enough to set up a PayPal account and that she would want to be the one

to do so. BH though perhaps we could offer print or download. TW noted that the SF Collection v.1 is available as a free download—dance by dance. SLK noted that if there is a dance by dance download we'd want to have the copyright notice at the bottom of each page. TW will get in touch with SPB copyright holders to see if scan is okay.

[Discussion of PayPal uses and “mp3 for vinyl” Fundraising issues]

ER wondered if the same PayPal account could be used for series dues? LJ seemed to think there would be no problem with that but that it would depend on how it is set up. BH described his fundraising idea which is to provide mp3s of Scottish Country dance music to those people who request it to replace their vinyl recordings. BH has a large collection of SCD recordings which he has transferred to mp3 format. Those who request the mp3s would need to indicate that they own the album(s) in question. Several expressed concern about the legality and possibility of copyright infringement. BH thinks that the law says it is okay to reformat a recording that you own for your own use. TM suggested asking Paula Jacobson since she had some dealings with the branch's re-mastering of some old 78s. The difference was noted that PJ's legal issues had to do with securing copyright permissions in order to sell the cd—which is not precisely the issue here. BH will check with lawyer friends about these questions—though he noted that one lawyer friend refused to make an opinion. LJ can set up PayPal; the identifier is an email account.

Children's Class:

SLK noted that the YMCA children's class has folded. She needs to find a new location. The South San Francisco class did not work out; there was a location problem. SLK would like to focus on a children's class for fall of the coming year. Since she does everything from getting the hall, to publicity, to teaching and class managing, Susie would like help from the SF class. TM suggested that Susie write up her financial needs for the Children's class to give to the Finance Committee.

Class update:

BH noted that he will not be teaching from the end of May and the beginning of June. Patti Cobb will teach the experienced class while Bruce will be teaching the Red Thistle Dancers class. BH noted that the Red Thistle class will be invited to dance at our Solstice Party.

Patti arrives!

Music Report:

Patti's goal this past year has been to get Joy Graham and Michael Crandall able to play solo (i.e. without PC on piano). MC is better at arranging but has been verbally “trying to back out.” PC will check on why. PC has not accepted pay for playing this year. PC needs to dance and Thursday is the only night that can happen. SLK wondered if there were other pianists ready? PC named several who are getting there—Heather McKay, Barbara Salisbury, Julie Carapanos—all of whom live in the East Bay. Sid suggested using recorded music. PC would prefer to have them play though she recognizes that they do

not have the experience of dancing that would allow them to get back “on the music” if there is a glitch. Also recognized that getting the musicians back with the dancers is also responsibility of the teacher.

“How it goes next year?” The class only shows a profit because we didn’t pay Patti. Other possibilities are to use recorded music once a month, or every third week (Sid), or have Patti play part of the evening and dance some of it—to get Joy and Michael playing on their own. We could open it up to Monday night musicians? Joy is getting better; TM noted how she stepped up her game a few weeks ago when Patti was not there. Sid noted that Joy felt she “really earned it” after an evening playing solo.

Patti will focus between now and Solstice Party to “push the fledglings up.” ER asked about Katherine’s status. PC said she’s doing great, back to work 3 days a week, off Wednesdays and Fridays, daughter Sofia is having trouble taking the bottle, KC regularly goes to bed around 8/9 pm. Joy asked if Katherine would play for Solstice Party. Joy also asked about Beth Christian, who plays cello with the San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers, and played at the April monthly party. PC said that coordinating the musicians and music takes a lot of time.

Summer Music:

Patti will be gone most of July. Joy said that she would like a break. Guest teachers should plan on using recorded music. BH/SLK enjoy getting to play their band and accordion recordings for a change of pace. TW will ask David Strong if he is interested in playing during the summer. PC noted that Cherry/Margaret Clark was been asked but is not interested. Sylvain is willing to help out playing in the new season (i.e. September). PC would like to be paid in coming year; TM noted that the Finance Committee assumed that she would. Sid noted that recorded music is free. The Valentine’s Ball review that the class hosts used to be to recorded music only—and was a money-maker for the class.

Summer Teaching:

TW has asked Linda Henderson, Fred DeMarse, Alan Twigg, Paula Jacobson, Don and Sheena MacQueen. TW asked for additional suggestions. Replies: Lin Pettingill, Dwayne and Mary MacQuilliams, David Newitt, Kathy Allen, Lori Howard, Marianna Harvey, Rebecca Davis, Ellen Aaron. BH asked about newer teachers and TW mentioned Sandee Schultz and Sandra Fritts. TW wondered if we wanted to invite Laura Cooper and Armin Busse to teach since Laura is now beginning to work towards her certificate. BH suggested asking on the strathspey server if there were teachers coming to SF who’d like the opportunity to teach.

Adjudication:

SLK received a revised letter from John Taylor regarding adjudication team registration for the Pleasanton Scottish Games during Labor Day Weekend. SLK would like for there to be team and would like to be the coach. TM will broach the subject with the basic class members. The deadline for registration is May 30. SLK knows that she may need to miss a few weeks; BH and TM are available to assist as needed. SLK convenor.

BANDW:

This year: We did not participate this year. No one stepped up to organize, so it did not happen. BH suggests that we make an effort to participate next year because it allows an opportunity for people to experience the dance form and gets us phone numbers and email addresses to follow up on. SLK noted that there _is_ and RSCDS workshop—the children’s session that she is handling through the YMCA; that free workshop is Sunday May 3rd. SLK asked all who are available to come to help out for this event. ER suggested that the information be posted on the branch website; ER agreed to contact Larry Wakeman to request the link.

Next year: someone will need to step forward to make our class participation happen. This should be decided by the end of December since that is when BANDW begins organizing. The work involves keeping up with emails and other contacts by BANDW and possibly some coordination with our class plans. PCobb suggested that the fall newsletters ask/advertise for a BANDW coordinator for the class. BH noted that this is an important event because people get to see SCD and dance it. Fall Harvest Fair on 24th St. in Noe Valley was the best venue for this. VL “got to get people in while the iron is hot.” SLK mentioned clan newsletters as a way to get the word out. Viki had been involved with sacred dance years ago...and said if she’d known about SCD we have had her 15 years ago. BANDW magazine is out. Go to site to find out where to pick them up.

Teachers for next year’s classes:

All teachers expressed their wishes and availability for the 2009-2010 dance season.

SLK wants to participate in the teaching of the SF classes this year; she noted later that she would be more interested in a long-term teaching (i.e. 3 or more months together) with other teachers to fill-in as needed.

PC willing to serve as needed.

TM would like to teach in both the basic and experienced classes. Recognizes that her business requires enough of her time that a 4-month rotation on her own might be too much; would welcome the opportunity to share the teaching load.

BH happy doing both levels. Would like some feedback on class wants.

TW happy working with basic and experienced. Would like to teach part-time like last year. Enjoys the chance to just dance—free of responsibility.

Sid asked Bruce his opinion on what kind of teacher or teaching is best for basic class. Sid juxtaposed a teacher in the Milligan/RSCDS-style vs. another more personality-driven teacher. BH noted that a teacher could have both. Discussion ensued about what keeps our new dancers beyond the initial few weeks. BH/SLK and others agreed that a sense of cohesiveness is what usually keeps the class together and that is often dependent on the individuals in the class.

The teachers were excused while the assembled class members discussed the teachers' wants and their own. The class made the following recommendation for September 2009-June 2010:

	Basic	Experienced
1 st third	Tim	Bruce
2 nd third	Trina	Bruce
3 rd third	Susie	Tim

Teachers accepted.

Brief discussion on the use of the word "Basic" in preference to "Beginner" as a way to emphasize that the skills being taught are good to work on no matter whether one has been dancing 2 months or 12 years. Sid wondered about volunteering to dance in the back—mentioned that he is happy to do so if he already knows the next dance to be taught in the Experienced class. SK/TW suggested that announcing the next dance to be taught would be a good way to help dancers decide when to volunteer to go help the other class. Better sharing of dancers recommended—i.e. be sure to rotate dancers through. PC asked Viki if she'd done any of that yet; Viki has sometimes in Berkeley. PC wondered in terms of getting that feeling of being the dancer helping another through. BH noted that it's important to experience both sides—especially as a somewhat newer dancer to get the feeling of assisting—and "I know what I'm doing."

BH noted that he has been bringing his white board to Berkeley on Mondays and could do the same on Thursdays—to list the dances planned, and to collect dancers' ratings on the popularity of a dance. Consensus was for him to bring it.

Allan requested an explanation of the difference(s) between SCD and English country dance.

Other Business:

Viki brought forward for discussion the desire to find a non-profit organization that would sponsor the grant she is writing for a film that she is producing on Alasdair Fraser, Scottish dancing and music. The sponsoring organization would act as the financial clearing house for the film. That organization would also get a percentage of the film's profit; so Viki thought that the San Francisco branch of the RSCDS would be a good choice. PC referred Viki to the Branch Committee, specifically Dotty Lieber as Chair. PC also noted that San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers is a non-profit organization as well. Some discussion of what has been filmed already. Viki noted that the dancing and music is engaging but that it is the stories that draw people in and give the film a punch. She has interviewed Alasdair already and mentioned interest in interviewing someone who knew Miss Milligan. PC mentioned that BH knew her. Others suggested branch members who would be good to interview: Kathleen McAdam, Eugene Bissell, Marianna Harvey, and John and Jennifer Kelly.

Minutes prepared by Tim Wilson.