



Teachers' Committee Minutes  
Final

**Meeting**

Saturday 18 May, 2019  
at the home of Patti Cobb and Bruce Herbold, Oakland, California

**Present**

Armin Busse, Patti Cobb, Bruce Herbold, Bradley Hobbs, Trina Merriman, Sandee Schultz, Alan Twigg.

**Regrets**

Kathy Allen, Laura Cooper, Juliet Davoren, Fred DeMarse, Bruce Hamilton, Linda Henderson, Paula Jacobson, Dwayne McQuilliams, Mary McQuilliams, Pat O'Brien, Gary Thomas, Tim Wilson.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:11 pm by Armin Busse, Chair.

**Edit Agenda**

There were no edits to the agenda.

**Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**Old Business**

***Change/accept minutes of previous meeting***

*Proposed: Armin* - that the [19 January, 2019 Preliminary A] minutes be accepted as final.

*Seconded: Trina*

*Motion carried, without objection*

***Report on Party Program Committees***

The programs for the May and June Monthly parties have been completed and distributed.

The Jean Patrick Memorial Dance program was sent out 4 May. The dance is scheduled for 31 August at the Veterans Memorial Building in Pleasanton.

The program for the Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball at Asilomar has been posted on the Asilomar website (<https://sfasilomardance.wixsite.com/asilomarweekend/saturday-ball-program>) and is scheduled to be sent out on 1 July.

### ***Report on Future Teachers' Workshop***

Trina has sent e-mails to Sarah Pawlowsky, head of the Physical Therapy department at San Francisco State University, but has not gotten any response from her. There was hope that Sarah would lead a workshop on dancers' health, including a research survey conducted by the graduate department which would benefit teachers. Lacking a response from Ms. Pawlowsky, Trina is no longer actively pursuing arrangements with Sarah. Should Sarah reconnect with Trina, there is a possibility this workshop might happen at some future date.

Teachers were reminded of the workshop led by Bob Britton, an Alexander technique trainer. Bob led an injury prevention workshop on 20 May, 2017 prior to the Teachers' Committee meeting, and also at Asilomar that year at the Saturday afternoon seminar for teachers. There was interest in running this workshop again.

Since the last two workshops of this kind were held in San Francisco and Asilomar, it was suggested that the next workshop be held in the South Bay. It was not discussed whether this workshop should be connected with a Teachers' Committee meeting, or be a stand-alone event.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Trina, please contact Bob Britton to gauge interest for a Teacher Workshop at some date in the near future, in the South Bay.

### ***DAA Intermediate Course***

A series of six intermediate level classes started on 24 February, 2019, taught by Trina Merriman and Tim Wilson. The DAA assessment was held on 14 April and all 13 remaining dancers passed.

The classes were three hours long; Trina suggested that two-hour classes might better serve the dancers. Three hours is a long time to dance at such a high intensity.

Plans for an Intermediate DAA course in the South Bay, taught by Laura Cooper and Lin Pettengill, are in the works. They are targeting spring dates for the course.

Trina also reported that the Society is updating the DAA program and the new syllabuses for Intermediate, Advanced and Very Advanced courses will be presented at Summer School in St. Andrews this year.

## **New Business**

### ***Discuss Future Teachers' Workshops***

(Discussed under Report on future Teachers' Workshop)

### ***Approve TC-BC Liaison***

Bradley, having been re-elected to the Branch Committee, is amenable to assuming the TC-BC Liaison role once again. By unanimous decision, Bradley was approved as the TC-BC liaison.

### ***Guidance and Courtesy of Dancers***

Three separate incidences of ill-mannered behavior on the dance floor were relayed at the meeting. One of these reports led to a tangential discussion on the purpose and intent of walk-throughs before a Monthly Party. Since there is no written policy on Monthly Party walk-throughs to guide teachers and dancers, Bruce offered to write such a document based on viewpoints raised at the meeting.

*Proposed: Bruce* - that a document be written up detailing the guidelines for Monthly Party walk-throughs.

*Seconded: Patti*

*Motion carried, without objection*

Bruce Herbold and Patti Cobb will write the policy and make it available to the Branch Committee to advise and approve at their September meeting. The policy will be reintroduced at the Teachers' Committee meeting in September for approval by the TC so as to be in place by the first Monthly Party of the 2019/2020 dance year. It was recommended that the policy be posted on the Branch website and written up in the Reel & Strathspeyper.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Bruce and Patti, please create a policy document for Monthly Party walk-throughs. Please deliver it to the Branch Committee by 1 September, 2019.

The teachers also discussed the role and appointment of MC's at Monthly Parties. Some felt that there were too many MC's at Monthly Parties. It was suggested that a distinction be made between MC's (Master of Ceremonies) and dance briefers. A preference was made for having one MC, who would introduce the briefers. All briefers must be teachers.

Bruce Hamilton addressed the role of the MC (which is posted on the TC webpage—[https://rscds-sf.org/teachers/SCTCdc20050716\\_MCing.pdf](https://rscds-sf.org/teachers/SCTCdc20050716_MCing.pdf)). However this document focuses on larger events such as Balls or Memorial Dances. Guidelines for MC's at Monthly Parties are needed.

Bradley reported that the Branch Committee has composed and approved a Code of Conduct policy detailing minimal courtesy standards expected of dancers at Branch classes and events. The document also detail actions one might take if they feel uncomfortable or harassed in any way. The third part of the document establishes our non-discrimination policy. The Code of Conduct has been printed out and laminated and is now included in the Monthly Party supply kit.

Trina reminded us of Marianna Harvey's welcome at the April 2016 Monthly Party—inspired by Kathy Allen. Marianna kindly reminded the experienced dancers to dance with the beginner dancers and be welcoming to new dancers at the dance. This encouraging greeting had a noticeable effect in that the new dancers in attendance enjoyed a pleasurable and uplifting evening. It was recommended at today's meeting that the MC of future Monthly Parties open the event with a similar warm and inclusive greeting.

### ***New Teachers' Mailing List***

Armin has set up a new teachers' mail list utilizing Google Groups. This mail list replaces the list run by Don Pettengill for the last several years. Teachers are added to the new list by invitation. All teachers on the old mail list were invited to join the new mail group by an e-mail message from Armin on 19 April.

There are, however, a few flaws in the system. If you have not received an invitation to join the Google Group, or believe that you are not receiving messages sent to the teachers' group, please contact Armin to verify and correct the situation if necessary.

### ***Special Topics for future Meetings***

A request was made to have a refresher training course for teachers. Such a course may be of particular benefit to teachers who have earned their teaching certificate years ago and may not be familiar with current standards and practices. Bruce and Trina volunteered to look into interest for a refresher course and make the necessary course arrangements if necessary.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Bruce and Trina, please look into creating a refresher course for teachers.

Bruce is working on compiling an updated Branch repertoire list. He will make his presentation post-meeting to solicit input from the teachers assembled at today's meeting. The current repertoire list dates to 1999.

### **Other Business**

#### ***Monthly Party Band Involvement***

Following a discussion with Steve Wyrick, Bradley suggested that the program for a given Monthly Party be forwarded to the band leader of that party for confirmation that a balanced mix of music styles is represented. Currently the Monthly Party programs are sent to Andy Imbrie (Monthly Party Music Coordinator). Bruce (Monthly Party Program Continuity Coordinator) accepted the change that the program is to be sent to the band leader for that party before it is released Branch-wide.

- ▶ **Action Item:** Bruce, henceforth, please send a copy of the Monthly Party program to the bandleader for that party to consult on the music mix for the evening. Consult with Patti for the Monthly Party bandleader assignments.

#### ***Discussion on Dances***

The spoke in Johnnie's Welcome Home (Neil M. Grant, RSCDS Book 32) is apparently being dance in different ways in our classes. Bruce points out that the corners set for all eight bars in the spoke figure.

#### ***Suggestions for a new Starter Jig***

From the survey, the dance "Yan, Tan, Tethera" by Derek Haynes (The Second Canforth Collection of Scottish Country Dances) was suggested, which Laura Cooper recommended at the September 2015 Teachers' Committee meeting.

The teachers also contend that the starter dance could be a reel, if the dance has appropriate music. The important factor is that the first dance of a program should be accessible and not strenuous. Henceforth, the agenda for these meetings should list "Suggestions for a new Starter Dance".

- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin, henceforth, when compiling the agenda for Teachers' Committee meetings, please list "Suggestions for a new Starter Dance" instead of "Suggestions for a new Starter Jig".

### ***Other announcements***

There were no further announcements.

### ***Choose date and location for next meetings***

21 September: Kathy Allen will be asked, default to Alan Twigg

18 January: TBA

16 May: TBA

- ▶ **Action Item:** Armin, please contact Kathy Allen to confirm that she will host the September Teachers' Committee meeting. Alan Twigg offered to host if Kathy cannot.

### ***Adjourn***

*Proposed:* Patti – that the meeting adjourn

*Seconded:* Bruce

*Motion carried, without objection*

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm by Armin Busse, Teachers' Committee Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bradley Hobbs  
not the Recording Secretary

Post-meeting, Bruce Herbold discussed the Branch repertoire list and asked for suggestions and confirmation from the teachers.

### **Follow-Up Actions**

- ▶ **Action Item:** Trina, please contact Bob Britton to gauge interest for a Teacher Workshop at some date in the near future, in the South Bay.
- ▶ **Action Item:** Bruce and Patti, please create a policy document for Monthly Party walk-throughs. Please deliver it to the Branch Committee by 1 September, 2019.
- ▶ **Action Item:** Bruce and Trina, please look into creating a refresher course for teachers.
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