



*Saskatoon Scottish Country Dancers
Annual General Meeting
May 15, 2019
Saskatoon Unitarian Centre*

In attendance: Marian Holmes (Chair), Bill Pollock, Robert Clark, Kathleen Pollock, Alice Gibson, Lynn McKenzie-Barteski, Lloyd Barteski, Shelley Coggins, Don McEwen, Gloria Hill, Jean Gibson, Barbara McEwen, Gene Patrick, Bev Will, Bob McNaughton, Diane Cross, Diane Davis.

1.0 Call to order at 7:30 p.m. by Marian Holmes.

2.0 Approval of agenda moved by Robert Clark. **CARRIED.**

3.0 Approval of Minutes as circulated of May 16, 2018 AGM moved by Kathleen Pollock. **CARRIED.**

4.0 Business arising from 2018 AGM- none

5.0 Correspondence – Diane Cross- none

6.0 Reports

6.1 Treasurer – Robert Clark

Robert presented the Saskatoon Financial Statement.

Acceptance of the Financial Statement was moved by Robert Clark, seconded by Diane Davis. **CARRIED**

6.2 President Prepared by – Tara Zrymiak (read by Marian Holmes)

Saskatoon Scottish Country Dancers – President Annual Report –May 2019

I will start by apologizing for my absence from the annual meeting, and from much of the club dancing for the second half of this past year. Rest assured that I am still thinking of all of you and making every effort to perform the tasks related to this position even without being physically present.

The key item for our club this year was our venue relocation for the second half of the year. The Saskatoon Unitarian Centre for club dancing on Wednesdays and All Saints Church Hall for demo team practices on every second Friday are both working out well - we are getting a lot of dancing done, since logistical differences have caused us to discontinue our weekly tea and cookies. Unfortunately, we have also discontinued our biweekly Friday basic class, hopefully only temporarily. We have recently learned that the repairs to St. Mark's Hall are going to take a considerable amount of time (complete roof replacement with corresponding

structural repairs to the walls), so the Executive is making arrangements to continue in our new venues next year.

Another major activity for the past year was our first-ever Bok Haggis - a combined celebration of Burns Night and the Lunar New Year. This joint effort with the University of Saskatchewan Ecumenical Chaplaincy was a tremendous sharing of culture and fellowship – well-attended and enjoyed by all. We are considering the possibility of holding a similar event again in the future, dependant on the volunteer capacity of our membership to undertake this substantial effort along with other activities in the club.

We have gained a few new members this year - our current membership includes 25 branch members, comprised of 23 paying members and 8 life members, some of whom still dance regularly. We normally have 2-3 sets each Wednesday evening. We would still like to get more members, and we would appreciate it if all of you could spread the good word in your social circles and invite others to join us.

We have started preliminary planning for the 2020 Fall Workshop to be held in Saskatoon. Many hands make light work in this type of endeavour, so please consider seriously lending your talents to be a part of putting on a successful event.

I want to thank all the Executive Committee members, especially Marian, for taking up the slack for me when I couldn't be around over the past year. I truly value their assistance. I look forward to continuing to serve the club as president over the next year, hopefully with increased physical presence.

Keep on dancing!

6.3 Vice-President – Marian Holmes

In the absence of a true Vice-President this year, I absorbed the duties traditionally assigned to such a role. This is making sure there was enough programme coordinators each month. In addition, I arranged for volunteers to prepare the tea. The fact that we did not hold it in the second half was a mixed blessing. We are a social club and that social interaction is crucial to making it fun each week.

We can definitely use help in briefing dances, or by helping the social programmers by briefing dances or learning to choose the social dances – even one of the weeks per month. You can work with programmers. Next year, if there is enough demand, we can hold training workshops.

I was bound and determined to continue with the newsletter. However, I found myself wearing too many hats this year, and the project fell by the wayside. I will revisit this goal next year.

Finally, a big shout out to the executive who are most enjoyable to work with. We don't bite, we might yap a little, but we are efficient and passionate.

It is the people of this club – all of you – that make me want to continue to be involved with this club. This club is more than just dancing. It is about community and friendship. I felt welcomed the minute I stepped into the door for the first time. I hope you elect me officially as VP for 2019/2020.

Thank you to all of you for making this a terrific year. The transition to the new location was smooth. Have a wonderful summer. Be safe. Be joyful. And shameless plug, if you find yourself at Art in the Park, 2nd Ave Sidewalk Sale, or Broadway Street Fair, come say hi at my booth!

6.4 Librarian – Bob McNaughton

Books:

- Three copies of Book 52 were purchased for the Club; one for each of the teachers and one for the Program Coordinators.
- RSCDS appears to have Book 53 in the works.
- If any member wishes to order a SCD-related book, the Librarian¹ will add it to the Club /Branch order.

Recordings:

- The CD for Book 52 was purchased for the Club.
- If any member wishes to order a SCD-related recording, the Librarian¹ will add it to the Club /Branch order.

Library:

- The Club's collection contains 162 books of dance instructions and 15 SCD reference books. In addition, we own 82 SCD CDs.
- Book 52 and its CD have been the only additions to the Library this year.

Laptop:

- The CD for Book 52 has been loaded into the Ghillie Tracks inventory. This brought the total number of albums stored on Ghillie Tracks to 153. Unlike the music, Ghillie Tracks does not allow for new books of dance instructions to be added to its inventory.
- As we did last year, all the play lists and social programs for the 2018-19 season will be retained. Only the play lists and social programs for the 2017-18 monthly socials will be kept.

It should be noted that some Program Coordinators have created the play lists on their own computers. This means that there might be no record, for subsequent Coordinators, of the dances and music used for those evenings.

- The laptop has been scanned for viruses and backed up regularly throughout the year. It has been taken to the "computer hospital" for a check-up because the battery does not seem to be working. Any repairs etc. will be discussed with the Executive before any work is done.

Workshops:

- No workshops are planned. It appears that there are no more club members (*other than Tara*) who wish to take on responsibilities for the Social Programs; either as Briefers or as Coordinators.

1 *The Club Librarian is also the Branch Librarian and, as such, is often able to reduce the cost of books and recording from TACBooks and TACSound.*

Robert Clark moved, Don McEwen seconded that we have the battery for the laptop replaced.

6.5 Publicity Report – Bob McNaughton

Web Site:

- “This Season in Saskatoon” was revised regularly to list our social evenings and include events such as Bok Haggis and the Branch AGM. It will be changed after the new season is determined.
- The website is up to date and the external links have been checked recently.
- We have said that we will create a new website by June 2020. The new website will be better for mobile devices and easier for volunteers to administer. It should be noted, however, that there might be some cost involved. As well, it has always been a Branch website, with information about the other Groups and SCD events in the Province. So, there might be some negotiation required with Yorkton and Moose Jaw.

Facebook:

- Continued appreciation to Robert for keeping our account current.

Promotion:

- PSAs were sent to Bridges, Saskatoon Express, Planet S, CFCR and Sounds of Scotland to promote our Open House.
- Email invitations, to the Open House and Bok Haggis, were sent to a number of “friends” of the SSCD. Members were encouraged to send it to friends and family.
- No PSAs or other ads have been produced since January.

Bulletin Board:

- The Bulletin Board has been discontinued for the time being.

TACTalk:

- Four online issues have been received this year. Relative excerpts have been announced.
- As of April 24, TAC Summer School registration for residents is full. There might be some non-resident vacancies.

SIA:

- The primary benefit of our SIA membership is invitations for our Demo Team to participate in some performances, such as Canada Day, most of which provide an honorarium.
- On your behalf, I plan to attend the June 19th AGM. The Annual Report will available from the SIA web site after June 17th. We have two votes at the AGM. So, anyone wishing to join me is welcome.

6.6 Demo Convenor – Diane Davis

Our year began as usual with increased practices from mid-May to the end of June in preparation for our summer commitments at Canada Day and Folk Fest. Unusually, we were invited to dance at a couple’s wedding in early July. They came to learn a dance with us, which we all danced together at the reception and then we led a couple of participation dances. Bob was the MC and did his usual great

commercial for Scottish Country Dancing. Ron participated by providing pipe music for the ceremony and I am told an impromptu solo.

We danced at Canada Day celebrations and Folk Fest but were disappointed not to be invited to dance at the Fireworks Festival last summer. However, we were excited to be invited to dance on the new Traffic Bridge on opening day, October 2nd. We also danced as usual for St. Andrew's Day celebrations at St. Andrew's College and at Anavets on Remembrance Day. For the Bok Haggis event, the team only did an introduction to the participation dancing but, if the event continues, I would like to see the team do a demonstration dance of its own.

As a result of the joint cultural team that planned the Bok Haggis event, we were invited to dance at a Chinese New Year celebration a week later. Through a confusion with the music, we only danced one dance of our set but we consoled ourselves with a healthy honorarium for 2 minutes of dancing.

Our new 2019-20 set of dances has been in place since the end of February and Bob has been working on getting recorded music for us which has been very helpful. In fact, he has been helpful through the entire year by organizing the music, attending practices and demos and to MC and take charge of the music when required. He was particularly helpful with Folk Fest and Canada Day by contacting the sound technicians to ensure we had our music in the right format. This has made my job so much easier and a big thanks goes out to Bob for this.

We have been invited to dance at the National Indigenous Day on 21st June this year and even though it is a week day, we have been able to provide a team, which is not always the case. Apart from this, our summer activities at this time appear to be the normal ones of Canada Day and Folk Fest.

Since leaving St. Marks, we now have our rehearsals at All Saints Church and this appears to be working out well, despite some embarrassment with all the mirrors highlighting our faults!

We have welcomed Dale Gunderson onto the team this year – a very welcome addition to the men's side.

Finally, I have to thank the whole team for their continuing support and enthusiasm to come to rehearsals and perform at various events. Bev has also attended practices and has added beneficial advice, encouragement and perspective, which I appreciate very much.

Finally, a big thanks to Jean for continuing work with us, both behind the scenes and at rehearsals.

6.7.1 Teachers – Jean Gibson

Bev and I shared the teaching on Wednesday evenings. I began in September with five basic classes and five more intermediate lessons in the new year. The latter focused on 'corner' formations followed by reels of three. Phrasing and flowing from one formation to another were emphasized. The last two classes in May were old favourites, easily learned, danced and enjoyed. This showed how much dancing our members had learned and improved.

I continue to coach the 'demo' dancers throughout the year. We are ready to entertain with a new program of five dances as reported by the Demo Convenor.

Bev awaits taking the last unit of her Full Certificate, so I am still mentoring her. At this time, I recommend to advanced dancers the new RSCDS system of acquiring a teaching designation through the use of videos and information technology, etc. This will be less expensive and requires very little travel.

I hope to continue teaching and coaching next year. As a result of members telling me they would like more social dancing and repetition of dances, I look forward to discussing any changes needed with the club executive e.g. establishing a set of Core Dances

Thank you for being such a wonderful, supportive and responsive club. I enjoy every minute of Wednesday and Friday evenings.

6.7.2 Teachers – Bev Will

Everyone: keep coming to dancing. You are all, always, welcome.

I am delighted that we are getting more dances done on a Wednesday evening! That is what we come for. Shelley and Myrna have been great additions to our club.

Dancers: thank you for your continued patience and support; it means a great deal. If you have a question during the lesson, don't hesitate to ask – I don't always know the answer, but will talk to Jean afterwards and/or go back to studying to find it.

Thanks to those who have saved comments and concerns for off the dance floor, either by email or in person. Thanks to all dancers for their help and encouragement to each other in the set.

I have been able to do a little more dancing this season – though sometimes not much past the warmup and step practice. I will continue to pursue my Unit 5, or the new level 5 qualification being developed by the RSCDS. [Jean spoke about the new qualification in her part of the report.]

Jean and I have worked very hard on what I have called the one-size-fits all Wednesday club night. Much thought and discussion and preparation has gone into meeting the needs of all our very diverse group of dancers.

I have enjoyed working with the Social Programmers and would like to do more planning and discussion with them next year [noted at the AGM: this might help if there are no workshops for programmers/briefers next season]. Our Social Programmers are volunteers, and we owe them a great vote of gratitude for the hours they spend working on behalf of the club. There are challenges at times, but with everyone's patience and understanding, we will carry on – and we do carry on, very well!

Two clarifications [re: distributed list of teaching dances for the season]: one, when I said that some of our intermediate teaching lesson dances were on the AGM program in Yorkton, I chose only two: The Bon Viveur and The Three-Square Strathspey, because formations that we were working on were in them. Robert, Diane, Bob and Bill also included more in their social programs – not to divert from

anyone's plans for the month or the year, but because they were good dances for us to do, and some may find their way to a new set of Core Dances for the Branch.

The second clarification: when, at the beginning of a lesson, I often mention that this is the beginner/basic or the intermediate teaching time of the year. I'm just trying to remind people of 'the plan', for progressive teaching during the year.

I would like your opinion on the use of videos as a teaching support. I may do more of this next season.

Thanks again to all – and keep coming to dancing!

6.8 Branch – Ron McLean

To be added when I receive it.

Bill Pollock moved acceptance of all reports. **CARRIED.**

7.0 Election of Officers (Chaired by Diane Davis)

Vice president was the only position which needed to be voted on.

President – Tara will stay.

Vice-President – Marian will let her name stand.

Treasurer – Robert will stay.

Secretary – Diane Cross will stay.

Librarian – Bob will stay.

Publicity – Bob will stay.

Demo Convenor – Diane Davis will stay.

Diane C moved nominations cease. The new slate was voted on. **CARRIED.** The slate of officers listed above will be our executive for the 2019 – 2020 year.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Events for 2019 – 2020

We will have a scaled down Burns Night and we will have a workshop in 2020. Our group has been decreasing in numbers and therefore the volunteer efforts required to organize events is leading to volunteer burnout. Jean moved, Gloria seconded, that we have a scaled down Burns Night in 2020. **CARRIED.**

8.2 Fees for 2019 - 2020

From the Branch AGM the following fees were set (remain the same as last year).

For individual members \$40 per person

For joint memberships (2 people from the same address) \$33.00 per person

Robert moved, Bob seconded, that the club fee be increased by \$10 per person for the upcoming year. The Branch fee will be as set by the Branch. For most this means that fees will be \$90 plus \$40 making \$130 in total. **CARRIED**

8.3. St. Mark's Update – Jean Gibson

Jean brought an update from Chris Wood who is an architect and is on the Diocesan Executive.

1. The whole roof needs to be removed and a new one built at a cost of approximately \$165,000.
2. More structural repair is needed on the building which will increase the total cost (to possibly double the amount above).
3. Emmanuel Church has returned the responsibility of St. Mark's Church and Hall to the Diocese.
4. The new Bishop, Chris Harper, and the Diocesan Executive will have to decide on the following options
 - a) Renew the Parish of St. Mark's and upgrade the Church and buildings
 - b) Renew the hall as a community centre
 - c) New and other ideas in view of the problem that the Church is designated an historic building plus all the buildings overlap on 4 city lots

8.3. Review of the Unitarian Centre

It was felt that, aside from the need to move chairs, this venue has been working well.

8.4 Other

Gene Patrick asked if we could extend our dance season to the end of May. Kathleen Pollock moved that the executive discuss the end date for the 2020 dance season. **CARRIED**

Jean told us that June 21, 2019 is available for social dancing. Gloria reminded us that the minutes of the AGM need to be forwarded to all members about 2 weeks prior to the AGM.

9.0 Recognition

9.1 New Members

Bob gave new member packages to Myrna and Shelley Coggins.

9.2 Teachers and Peat Fire Flame

Recognition was given to our teachers, Jean and Bev, and to Peat Fire Flame (in care of Bob) by Marian.

10.0 Adjournment and Next Meeting: Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. by Lloyd Barteski. Next Meeting May 2020.