



Saskatoon Scottish Country Dancers

Annual General Meeting

June 24, 2020

Via Zoom

In attendance: Tara Zrymiak (chair), Marian Holmes, Bill Pollock, Robert Clark, Kathleen Pollock, Jean Gibson, Bev Will, Bob McNaughton, Diane Cross, Diane Davis, Sandra Beardsall, Bill Richards, Ron McLean, Eliza Meggs

1.0 Call to order at 7:04 p.m. by Tara Zrymiak.

2.0 Approval of agenda moved by Marian Holmes. CARRIED.

3.0 Approval of Minutes of May 15, 2019 as amended, moved by Diane Cross. CARRIED.

Bob noted that under 9.1 New Members: it should have read, "A new member kit was given to Shelley Coggins; Myrna Schellenberg will receive hers at the next available opportunity."

4.0 Business Arising – none

5.0 Correspondence

Thank-yous were received from Bev Will and Jean Gibson for their honoraria.

6.0 Reports

6.1 Treasurer

Treasurer, Robert Clark presented the Financial Statement.

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

6.2 President - Tara Zrymiak

This is certainly not the way we wanted to finish the 2019-2020 season of Scottish Country Dancing in Saskatoon – I certainly hope it won't be long until we can get together again. In the meantime, we did have some things happening before we all had to stay home. Since our regular venue continues to be unavailable for the foreseeable future, we have continued dancing at the Unitarian Centre on Wednesdays (teaching nights with a social at the end of each month) and at All Saints Church Hall for the demo team on Fridays – that is until we all had to stop gathering together to dance. Immediately before that happened, we were able to have a briefers workshop with 7 students – some new and some there for a refresher. Now we are all set for when we can dance together again. Our demo team has progressed well with our new program, including a couple of dances brought back from the 2019 TAC Summer School in Calgary. As expected, our regular summer performances have all been cancelled, but we should be able to polish the dances up when things get back to normal. Robert Clark is keeping our Facebook page up to date and posting amusing and inspirational pieces on a somewhat regular basis. Bob McNaughton has been maintaining and updating our pages on the Branch website. We hope it will be upgraded to be able to include a photo gallery, which

would likely involve some additional costs. The Branch Executive has been approached to consider how to address the expense. Our primary focus this year has been planning for the branch workshop that we hope will still be able to proceed in October. We are relatively on schedule for the required tasks – the details are on the website. If the COVID-19 situation does not allow us to proceed with the event, the plans and resources should all be available for next year. The Saskatoon club membership sits at 21 regular members, 8 life members, and 4 members listed as drop-in. Our club continues to be in a positive financial position. I want to thank all the Executive Committee members and other volunteers for their dedication and efforts to keep our small club vibrant and enjoyable. I truly value their assistance. My term as President has now ended as I hand the reins (back) to Marian – I am confident that she will do a wonderful job. I'll still be around, and willing to help where I can. Stay healthy, and remember – when there's music, you dance, and when there isn't music, you make your own!

6.3 Vice President Marian Holmes

The season 2019-2020 started off conventionally. Bev taught the majority of the classes in the first half so Jean could make her health priority. Bob kickstarted the season with a terrific social program. I took on October, followed by Bill Pollock, Bev, Diane Cross and Robert Clark. Robbie Burns Night was scaled down and we had a good time as always. In March, a small group of us learned or refreshed skills in briefing a dance. There were seven eager students ready to put it all into practice when the admission gate closed. I will soon take over the Presidency again. It will be different this time. The likelihood of starting the season in September is microscopic given the nature of our type of dance. After all, we are the social dancers of Scotland. We have been innovative, keeping in touch, but nothing compares to actually having the social interaction which is often the biggest draw to Scottish Country Dance. You are all missed. Traditions will need to be looked at, reinvented, or replaced by new ones. Bev is a one step away from getting her full teaching certificate. We will be back, and I urge you to join us again when it is safe to do so. Make sure Bev gets that certificate. Safety is the key. We will not rush into anything. Think of this situation as a thistle. Prickly. People often forget to stop and see the true beauty of a thistle – the bloom. We have a perfect opportunity to reinvent ourselves. Let's re-plant the flower of Scotland. Time to re-invent ourselves while staying true to our core. That is what builds a healthy club for years to come. We shall dance again soon – safely. Patience is what I ask of you, along with input and creative ideas. With that, I wish you a safe and healthy summer!

6.4 Librarian – Bob McNaughton

Books:

- The Club purchased copies of “Thirty Popular Dances – Volume Two” from TACBooks (<http://books.tac-rscds.org/>) this year, for Jean Gibson, Bev Will and the Program Coordinators.
- Some RSCDS publications to consider: • “Imperial Book Vol. 1-3” – 46 dances from the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing, • “Imperial Book Vol. 4, 5 and More” – 54 more dances and • “The Emigrant Scot” – 18 dances by Mary Brandon with music by Murray Shoolbraid, Mary's brother.
- If any member wishes to order a SCD-related book, the Librarian1 will add it to the Club /Branch order.

Recordings:

- The Club purchased copies of the CD to accompany “Thirty Popular Dances – Volume Two”, from TACSound (<http://sound.tac-rscds.org/>) this year, for the Program Coordinators.
- There is a CD to accompany “The Emigrant Scot”.

- If any member wishes to order a SCD-related recording, the Librarian1 will add it to the Club /Branch order.

Library:

- Thirty Popular Dances – Volume Two and its CD have been the only additions to the Library this year. ➤ The Club's collection now contains 174 books of dance instructions, 18 SCD reference books and 88 SCD CDs.
- Through the kindness of our members, we may have access to an additional 47 books of instructions in their personal libraries.

Laptop:

- The total number of albums stored on Ghillie Tracks is now 164. This is far more than the Club's collection because of the generosity of members who allow us to copy their recording to the laptop.
- 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 2019-20 season will be retained. Only the Play Lists and Social Programs for the 2018-19 monthly socials have been 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. Not all Program Coordinators create Social Programs to accompany the Play List.
- The laptop has been scanned for viruses and backed up regularly throughout the year.

6.5 Publicity Report – Bob McNaughton

Web Site:

- The website is up to date and the external links have been checked recently. A note has been posted regarding the cancellation or postponement of activities and events to help prevent the spread of the virus.
- "This Season in Saskatoon" was revised regularly to list our social evenings. This page will be revised after the new Executive determines the 2020-2021 season.
- The website has been moved to a new hosting service to make the transition to the new platform smoother. The current website is very old and, aside from increasing its online security, has not been upgraded since 2000. For a new volunteer to update the information would involve a very steep learning curve.

Facebook

- We thank Robert for keeping the world informed of our activities.

Promotion:

- PSAs were sent to Bridges, Planet S, CFCR and Sounds of Scotland to promote our Open House and Ceilidh Dancing evenings.
- Email invitations, to the Open House were sent to a number of "friends" of the SSCD. Members were encouraged to send it to friends and family.

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 shared

with Club members.

➤ TAC Summer School has been postponed to July 2021.

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, your Publicity Coordinator plans to attend the June 29th AGM. When its Annual Report is published, the members will be informed. 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. In the midst of that, we were delighted to be invited to dance at the Rock Your Roots celebration on National Indigenous Day on 21st June. This was an intense hour of almost nonstop dancing. Approximately 5000 people filed by our site during the hour and we danced as much of that time as possible. The ladies were fortunate to have an extra lady so we could rotate a rest in between sets. The men were not as fortunate but performed admirably, regardless. We danced as usual at Canada Day celebrations and Folk Fest, also for St. Andrew's Day and Anavets in November. We had an extra couple to dance at Folk Fest which meant we could rotate the couples and reduce fatigue over the three days. The honorariums we received have been reported in the Treasurer's report. We were delighted to have Ron McLean re-join us in the Fall on a regular basis. Also, it was good to have Bev back as a dancer for the first time in a long while, in addition to her role as a backup for Jean. Bob has also continued to support throughout the year preparing our recorded music and making sure that it is ready at the various venues for us to dance. Jean, in spite of health issues, has continued to be our coach, working behind the scenes and at rehearsals. Our regular activity in the Fall, other than minor preparation for two demos, was to search for new dances as possibilities for our 2020 program. We had just confirmed a new set by March 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic meant all dancing rehearsals for the team, as well as summer dancing events were cancelled. The only positive is that we have a new program for a time when we might be dancing again. Although it has been a disappointing end to the year, we enjoyed what we had and I am so grateful to all the dancers and coaches who, year after year, support the team with energy and enthusiasm at rehearsals and public dance outs. So, to Jean, Bev, Bob, Cathy, Dale, Bill Pollock, Bill Richards, Sandra, Ron, Diane C, Tara and Robert -THANK YOU! You are the best!!

6.7.1 Teachers – Jean Gibson

I apologize for not being well during June 2019 – May 2020 season. However, I did manage to keep going and coached 14 demo practices and 8 Wednesday night classes. My other activities, as a teacher, included attending/coaching 6 demo performances, and at the end of December 2019, running a small tea dance. June and August 2019 demo practices were preparations for our major performance at Canada Day and Folk Fest where we did do some of our best dancing. In September and October, we began researching and trying new dances for our 2020-2021 program. In total, 17 dances, devised in recent years, were taught and reviewed. Our program was completed and tried just before the COVID-19 lock down. I expect they can easily be relearned once restrictions are lifted. Many thanks to Bev for all her great classes and for covering for me when I was ill. My lessons focused on step transitions and flow of the dance using traditional dances from the RSCDS early books. Each dance had special formation which made it interesting. Bev and I felt the season's teaching worked out well and propose something similar for 2020-2021. Bev will teach most of the Wednesday night classes,

which will be beneficial for taking Unit 5 in the 2021 Summer. Jean will continue with the demo practices (Friday's), mentoring Bev as needed, and a "fun" lesson from time to time, or when Bev is unavailable. Thanks to all the dancers for responding so well to our lessons. We are a good group. Well done!

6.7.2 Teachers – Bev Will

Jean, in her report, has outlined our plans for teaching and coaching this past year, the format of which we will continue when dancing resumes. Thanks go to Jean, who, through difficult health struggles this season, has continued her contributions to the life of our club - and a personal thanks from me for her ongoing mentorship. As well as teaching, it has been my pleasure to assist with social programs, ball programs, briefing, music, and club and Branch events. Jean and I have begun work on a new set of core dances for the Branch, and now, ironically, have time to complete it! All of this enhances the teaching experience, but is also, truly, a labour of love! To Bob, who has kept us provided with so many of the music and dance resources that are available, and who has also spent many hours learning how to maximize the use of the laptop technology to support the teachers' 'eight bars, please', and other musical requirements for dance lessons, I say, "Thanks to the musician!" Appreciation goes also to The Peat Fire Flame, whose music this season has been 'lifting our feet and our spirits' on the dance floor! For those of you who are wondering about this seemingly perpetual teacher candidate, I have been given a small window of opportunity to try one more time for my final certification and did indeed register for TAC Summer School! TAC is planning a 're-do' next summer of this year's candidate classes with, hopefully, the same personnel (tutors, musicians, and candidates). So, I will continue to work on physical health and fitness, as well as the study of dances and dancing, and, most important, with the support of the wonderful members of our dance club, my teaching experience. While looking ahead with optimism to 2021, I wish all a safe and rejuvenating summer 2020!

6.8 Branch - Ron McLean

For those that were at the annual AGM Zoom meeting, you will recall that I mentioned that we had started the year out great, until someone ate a bat. The year had so much promise to look forward to, and there was a lot of enthusiasm from everyone to make it the best year ever. Now hold that thought. We will get through this if we work together. I am looking forward to getting back together to dance, and not just because I need the exercise, but to enjoy each other's company, and challenge our minds, so that we may stay happy, sharp, and somewhat fit. I am speaking for myself there of course. The Saskatoon group has been a leader, in many ways, to keep the dance alive. It was not an easy decision to cancel the workshop, but we felt it was the safest and logical thing to do. I am confident in its new, and returning members, to get through this pandemic and flourish in a way that makes all people want to dance. Stay safe.

Marian asked Bev how many more hours are required for Bev to receive her full certificate. Bev replied that she needs 25 more hours which will be completed at TAC Summer School with a tutor.

Marian moved acceptance of all reports. CARRIED

7.0 Election of Officers – Chaired by Diane Davis

President – Marian Holmes (one-year term)

Vice President – no nominees. Diane C moved nominations cease.

Secretary – Diane Cross let her name stand. Kathleen moved nominations cease. (year two of two-year term)

Treasurer – Tara Zrymiak volunteered for the position. Marian moved that nominations cease. (year one of two-year term)

Librarian – Bob McNaughton volunteered for the position. Jean Gibson moved nominations cease. (year two of two-year term)

Publicity Jean Gibson nominated Shelley Coggins. Tara moved that nominations cease. (year one of two-year term)

The slate of officers listed above will be our executive for the 2020-2021 year. Control of the meeting was returned to Tara upon completion of elections.

It was moved by Ron McLean, seconded by Jean Gibson that Marian Holmes as president, Tara as treasurer, and Diane Cross as secretary, be appointed signing officers for the club.
CARRIED

8.0 New Business

8.1 Fees for 2020-2021

Proposed fees for a full year of dance are as follows:

Category	Branch	Club	Total
Adult, Single	\$55	\$90	\$145
Adult, Joint (per person)	\$50	\$90	\$140
Young Adult, Age 18-24	\$45	\$90	\$135
Youth, Age 12-17	\$40	\$90	\$130

* Substantial increase to Branch fees to cover increased costs including setup and maintenance of the new website.

* No Branch fees for new members in their first year

The Branch needs to be paid by the end of October. Our manner of doing that is to be decided.

It was moved by Robert Clark, seconded by Bill Richards, that the Executive be given the authority to set the club fees and payment schedule once we know when activities will resume, and how much our rent for the season will be. CARRIED

8.2 Venue Discussion

8.2.1 Review of Unitarian Centre and All Saints Hall

Jean told us that Wed. access at All Saints is hopeful. We will make decisions in August regarding hall rental(s) and return to dancing.

8.2.2 Update of status of St. Marks Hall

No progress has been made with repairs. No decision has been made regarding said repairs.

8.3 Event Planning for the next year

To be decided when we resume dancing.

9.0 Recognition

Honoraria were sent to Jean and Bev and to Peat Fire Flame c/o Hugh Goldie.

10.0 Adjournment

Tara thanked the old and new executive. Tara declared adjournment.