



It has been another busy month for the Society, as covered at our Annual General Meeting which was held on the 12th of September. The meeting was more sparsely attended than I had hoped, but I know Saturday afternoons are often family time and meetings can be the last thing on people’s wish list. That said, I don’t want you to miss out on the information, so I am including the video of the presentation here so you can “attend” at your leisure.

What you miss in the video is the wonderful hour or so of discussion and general fellowship that followed the presentation. The opportunity to interact with Clan-mates and get to know each other is my favorite part of membership. We are a fun and interesting bunch, to say the least!

As always, I welcome your questions, comments, and concerns. Feel free to reach out to me at any time.

Kyle Jones
President, CMSNA



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Dancer Update: Sage Tousey

Hello Clan MacDougall!

Hope this email finds you all well, safe, and happy! We thought you might appreciate an update with your dancer you support, Sage Tousey. Lord knows we all need some happy ways to connect these days.

With everything being shut down we’ve had to get a little creative with how to keep the dancing spirit alive. Thankfully that Scottish heart of hers is strong and it will take more than a pandemic to keep it down. We made a happy little **video** with a bunch of our Highland friends early in the pandemic.

Sage has continued her dance lessons with Coach Emma safely. In addition, they’ve taken the opportunity to watch interviews and dances of champions past so Sage can learn from the experts. Above is a photo of Sage and Emma watching digital worlds this year. This would have been the first time for Sage to go and compete in Scotland but we all made the most of being here and watched Cowal’s online offerings instead (and then danced).



September First Sage turned 11. For you Harry Potter fans you know 11 is a special year and she was so looking forward to taking the Hogwarts Express in Scotland while we were there for worlds. Alas, it will have to wait but she celebrated turning 11 in style none the less at home with mom and dad and made magical wishes to be dancing in Scotland this time next year.

We want to thank you for your support and please know that any funds received are going as they originally were meant to... ongoing lessons with her coach, Emma Schiff. We look forward to a time in the future when we can connect and dance in person. Until then, we keep connecting when and how we can, practicing, and looking for opportunities to share the joy of all things Highland with others!

Stay safe and be well!
Jen, Josh, and Sage



Dunollie Completion

Dear Members, *8 September 2020*

Today the Dunollie Castle Phase III works were completed, inspected and signed off. We are absolutely delighted with the work. All four walls of the monument are now secure and we can at last offer public access to the 1st floor and also onwards up to a viewing platform at the 2nd floor level, via the original stone staircase (picture right).

There are great plans for future phases including excavating the first floor and then recapping and leveling it, removing the ivy and consolidating the outer curtain walls surrounding the barmkin and

finally, installing a fabricated steel stairs to the parapet with a viewing platform there.

First though we have to complete a full survey of the cliff under the castle which we will be working on over the next year or so.

We are also going to be working on the handrail/barrier up the castle path over the winter so that when we open for season next spring the Dunollie Castle visitor experience will be even more amazing than it was before.

As the person leading this project over the last eight years, I would like to personally thank you for the fantastic support and contribution you have made to achieving this work – this project would not have been possible with out you.

All the best

Jane

Jane Isaacson

Sustainability & Development Manager



Dancer Update: Audrey Trawick

Greeting Clan Organizations & Scholarship Committee Members,

My name is Audrey Trawick and my Highland Dance BATD Member results have just arrived!!!! I am very excited to share my exam results with everyone. They arrived on 9/22/2020.

First, I would like to publicly thank everyone for their kindness, generosity, and support over these last few years. I can honestly say that without your patronage it would have been very difficult for my family to financially support my Highland dance goals and endeavors. I would like to sincerely say thank you from the bottom of my heart. I hope you feel that I have been able to represent your beautiful Scottish community and scholarship program the way that it was designed and fully intended.

As I look back over the years, it's hard to believe how far I have come. I had attended my first premier competition and workshop in 2018. Since then, I have competed in multiple regional Championships and Premierships, placing alongside of Champions as well as World Champion competitors. Although I am not yet a Champion dancer, I still continue to work hard and aspire to one day become one.

I have had the great pleasure of attending teacher training programs both in and outside of the current studio, in which I



dance. I have danced at 2 United States Inter-National highland competitions and attended weeklong intensive workshops several times over the past few years. 2020 would have been my 3rd year if COVID-19 had not interrupted.

I have taken three Highland Dance exams, starting in March of 2019 with the Blue Ribband or Highland Championship steps, examination. Then, later that same year I had the privilege of taking my very first Highland Dance teacher’s examination. I was 17 at the time, and only permitted to take my Associates certification. I then continued to student teach acquiring over 750 accumulated teaching hours. I continued to study for an additional year to be able to take my Highland Dance Members exam at the age of 18 years old, this past August.

I am so extremely honored and happy to report to all of you, that exams over the past years were successfully completed with the highest recommendation of “Highly Commended”. My Members exam results being the most recent. This was a result that I was hoping to achieve but wasn’t entirely sure it was possible until today.



If I’m being completely honest, I am absolutely shocked and overwhelmed by these outstanding results. In so much, that I cried buckets of happy, grateful, joyful tears. This was yet another defining moment in my Highland Dance career that could be directly contributed to the overabundance of support from your community and members. And I feel the need to once again thank you for your love of the Scottish arts, and for your faith and confidence in me, to be a part of the Scottish heritage and arts that many of you are trying to preserve.

Thank you for helping me become a Highland dance instructor. Thank you for allowing me a future in this community, to teach and instill one aspect of the Scottish arts with future generations.

Thank you so much for allowing me these opportunities, without you I really don’t think I could have done it on my own. I hope you know how much I will always appreciate this gift, the growth, and the opportunities that you have allowed me. I am indebted to you all.

I hope that I can honor all of you one day by becoming the kind of person that can pay it forward to others in the future. I hope that I will be someone that others can look to for knowledge, guidance, and support within the community. Thank you for all that you do, for all that you contribute, and for your many sacrifices. I’m sure it’s hard as a scholarship patron, to know whether or not, you have made the correct choices when choosing a scholarship recipient. I hope however, that I give you some security and comfort in knowing that your investment in me was entirely worth it.

I will not forget all your contributions. I will continually look for you at the competition which I attend and will happily update you on new experiences and successes along my way. As I am 18 now, I find that there aren’t many scholarships that are offered for my age. And as I still aspire to become a USIR representative for my region and hopefully a Champion dancer one day, as well as a Highland Adjudicator; I hope that there might open up new scholarship opportunities for dancers like myself. Thank you kindly and sincerely from the bottom of my wee heart.

With sincerest love & adoration,
Audrey N. Trawick, Fully Certified Member of BATD, & Tampa Bay Highland Dancer

New Members

Travis Burchett
Chapmansboro, TN

Maureen McNally Bartkus
McDonough, GA

Eugene Kyle
Cumberland, OH

Ernest Dale Black
Bremerton, WA

Lauren Clontz
Danville, KY

Gina Rodkey
Pomeroy, PA

Peter McClintock Keeley
Naples, FL

Bryden Woods
Fredricksburg, VA

Amy Lynn MacDougall-Huthinson
New Market, MD

Kirsten Hawes
Chilliwack, BC

Richard Feuillâtre
Chécy, France



William "Bill" Austin MacDougall
Halifax, Canada



John Daniel "Mac" MacDougall
Farmington, MI

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NYC Tartan Day Parade

The New York City Tartan Day Parade will return April 10, 2021! Registration for this family friendly event will open on October 1, 2020 at 12pm. There is no cost to march in or attend the parade. Organizers will be following all CDC and government guidelines with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic.

April 6 is designated as National Tartan Day in the United States to observe and celebrate Scottish heritage and pride. For those that reside in or near the city, a full week of events, dubbed Tartan week, will preface the parade.

Membership Dues are on a calendar year basis ending on 31 December.

Dues may be paid, or prepaid, online for one or more calendar years.

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