

The Scottish Country Dance Society Bulletin

No. 22.

December 1944

Editorial

THIS *Bulletin* begins with the hope that it will be the last war-time effort—at least, the last issued during the war with Germany.

We look forward to an increasing interest in Scottish Country Dancing, which has been so well maintained during these war years. Letters continue to come from members who are scattered all over the world telling of their endeavour to hold classes and interest their friends, on board ship, in Prisoner of War camps, and in many varied circumstances. From Branch Reports it will be noticed that membership has remained steady and in some cases has been increased; where Branches have ceased to function through difficulties of accommodation for classes and members being on active service it is hoped that the threads can be caught up again and interest renewed later.

From the South of Scotland comes an interesting account from two of our members who have gone to a new district and have started a class in Scottish Country Dancing; their pupils are mostly agricultural workers, and one of the most promising features is the numbers of men who have joined. So enthusiastic have the school children become that a special class has been started on Saturday forenoon for them.

Scottish Country Dancing continues to be a popular activity in Youth Service work all over the country, and the Leaflet dances are constantly being requested from Club Leaders, Guiders, and others working with young people.

From the Financial Statement it will be seen that the Society has managed to end its financial year with a balance of £878, 17s. 3d., which shows a profit of £56, 7s. 2d. on the year's working. The reprinting of a Dance Book was a large item in the expenditure, but the increase in subscriptions of £31, 11s. 9d. has been an encouraging source of income.

Examinations were held during the past year in Aberdeen (Dunfermline P.T. College), Carlisle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, St Andrews and Wishaw. One hundred students were successful in gaining Certificates—57 passed in Certificate I and 43 in Certificate II.

Members will be pleased to hear that the Society hopes to hold a Summer School during the first fortnight of August 1945, at University Hall, St Andrews. This is just a preliminary notice, as dates are not yet fixed; nearer the time, application forms will be sent out to members with particulars.

Subscriptions for the current year are due, and should be paid to the Treasurer. Members sending their subscriptions direct are asked to state which Dance Book they wish to receive; there is a good supply of Books 6 to 12 and "Twenty-four Favourite Scottish Country Dances," also of the pocket edition of Books 10, 11, and 12. The dance leaflet, "The Machine Without Horses," is being issued with this *Bulletin*.

PRESENTATION OF BOOK TO THE QUEEN.

It may be remembered that in 1939 the Society decided to present a bound volume of Books 1 to 12 to Her Majesty the Queen. The book was prepared—a beautiful binding of blue morocco with gold lettering and the Scottish Lion on the cover—and was ready in September of that year.

Naturally it was felt that when war broke out the time was not appropriate for such a presentation, so the book was placed for safety in the bank, awaiting a suitable opportunity.

In September this year, Lady Victoria Wemyss, who was acting as Lady-in-Waiting to the Queen, was asked to find out if it would be possible to make the presentation while the Court was in Scotland. A gracious reply was received, stating that the Queen would be very pleased to accept the book at the Palace of Holyroodhouse on Thursday, 21st September.

Mrs. Stewart (Vice-President), Mrs Hamilton-Meikle (Chairman), and Miss Hadden (Secretary) had the honour of being received by both the Queen and the Princess Elizabeth.

Mrs Hamilton-Meikle in a few well-chosen words asked Her Majesty to accept the book as a token of the Scottish Country Dance Society's loyalty and affection for the Throne; Mrs Stewart then handed the book to the Queen, who was obviously very pleased and interested, and in the course of her reply showed her appreciation of the work of the Society in collecting dances from various parts of the country and publishing them. On hearing about the dance, the "51st Division Reel," sent from a German Prisoners of War camp, Her Majesty said she hoped it would be published some day.

Members of the Society would have been very gratified to see the interest expressed by both the Queen and the Princess Elizabeth as they looked over the book and remarked on some of their favourite dances.

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP TO SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.

Annual Subscription	- - - - -	5/-
Life Membership Subscription	- - - - -	£3, 3/- or
£2, 10/- to those who have paid their annual subscription for four years.		
Those who have paid their annual subscription for ten years may become		
Life Members on payment of £1, 10/-.		

Secretary—Miss HADDEN, Thornhill, Cairnmuir Road, Edinburgh, 12.

Treasurer—Miss J. W. McLELLAN, Parkend, Galston, Ayrshire.

Branch Reports

ABERDEEN Branch this year sustained a great loss in the death of Lady Sempill, who had been Hon. President since 1931, and who was a regular and enthusiastic member of our classes.

Last season, which was our first active one since the outbreak of war, we had 22 Life Members and 82 Ordinary Members.

A weekly class was held, when part of the time each evening was devoted to the teaching of beginners. The membership of the class was large and the attendance regular.

During the winter, one of our Life Members ran a class at the Royal Infirmary for Sisters and Senior Nurses, while another of our members is now running a small but successful class in British Guiana.

During this season we are running three classes, including a Certificate one.

PETERHEAD.—Peterhead members have kept going during the whole of war-time, and have again had a most successful season. Their teacher has conducted classes for adults and children, and also at an R.A.F. Station.

ANGUS Branch (1930) (100 members).—This Branch has had, once again, a very successful year. Classes have been very large, and many new members have learned Scottish Country Dancing. Demonstrations have been given to W.R.I.s and Woman's Guilds and classes have been held for Girl Guides and other children.

By means of a big Dance in Arbroath, to which spectators were invited, the sum of over £54 was sent to the Red Cross, Prisoners of War Fund.

In July the Arbroath centre were responsible for an evening of Scottish Country Dancing in the open air, in connection with the "Holidays at Home" movement. This was very popular, and was attended by a large number of spectators and dancers.

NORTH AYRSHIRE.—This Branch finished their session in March with a Dance in Troon, and the proceeds were handed over to the Red Cross for Prisoners of War Parcels. The new session has just begun, and our numbers have increased very much. Our hall is small, but we are making the best of it.

A Children's Class was begun in January of this year, and was a great success. It has started a new session now, and the numbers are keeping up.

DUNDEE.—This Branch has resumed classes for the winter months, and it is gratifying to report an increase in numbers. During the summer the Branch sustained a great loss by the death of their Chairman, Dr. A. E. Kidd. Society members will remember with gratitude the great interest and many services he rendered to Scottish Country Dancing. Miss Dow has severed her connection with our Branch owing to her departure from Dundee.

EDINBURGH.—Membership is increasing steadily, and an extra class has been started to avoid overcrowding, making four Branch classes weekly.

The usual monthly dances were held throughout the winter, and were always "sold out." A considerable sum was handed over to the Red Cross as a result. Several demonstrations have been given, often by a team of men and women, and more invitations are coming in, including one from the Colonial Club.

Footnote.—An Edinburgh member who was married recently to a Glaswegian received the following telegram from one of her S.C.D. Classes:—"May the Flower of Edinburgh and the Glasgow Highlander never have cause to Fight about the Fireside!"

Statement of Receipts and Payments

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand at 30th September 1943	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£822 10 1
SUBSCRIPTIONS—									
Received from Branches	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£214 0 9
Paid direct to Headquarters	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61 9 0
								275 9 9	
Sale of Dance Books and Leaflets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	86 7 8
Repayment of Income Tax (three years)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9 6 1
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 8 0
Week-end Course (Surplus)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15 0 6
Rebate on Insurances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 8 6
INTEREST—									
County Council of Lanark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£3 2 8
Savings Account	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 18 8
								6 1 4	
									£1220 11 11

The following articles are the property of the Society:—3 Typewriters, 2 Portable Gramophones, 1 Writing Desk, Music Cabinet, Filing Cabinet, 2 Chests of Drawers, and Sundry Books of Music.

for year ended 30th September 1944

PAYMENTS.

Cost of October Bulletin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£20	12	6
Printing and Stationery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90	16	11
Postages and Telephones	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	13	8
Travelling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	15	6
Insurances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	0	6
Auditor's Fee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	0
Examination Fees and Organising Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	7	7
Secretary's Salary and Office Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	129	4	0
Treasurer's Salary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52	0	0

BALANCE—

County Council of Lanark Loan	-	-	-	-	-	£250	0	0						
Government Loan (free of Interest)	-	-	-	-	-	250	0	0						
British Linen Bank—Current Account	-	-	-	-	-	167	5	2						
Do. do. Savings Account	-	-	-	-	-	208	14	7						
Petty Cash in hands of Secretary and Treasurer	-	-	-	-	-	2	17	6						
										878	17	3		
												£1220	11	11

23 BARNES STREET, AYR, 20th October 1944.—I have examined the foregoing Statement with the Books, Accounts and Vouchers relating thereto, and certify them to be correct.

NORMAN MACKINNON, C.A., Auditor.

GLASGOW.—Membership—By Annual Subscription, 158; Life Membership, 32.

There was a regrettable fall in the number of members who paid their Annual Subscription during last year. This was probably due to forgetfulness on the part of many of those still at home, who for various reasons were unable to attend classes during the session.

Classes, of which there were five weekly during two terms, were very well attended. For the first time during the war years, the Branch was able to show a credit balance in this connection.

In the spring, in conjunction with the Kelvin Club, the Branch held a very enjoyable Dance in the Highlanders' Institute. Tickets were strictly limited, and many were disappointed at not being able to attend. It is hoped to run more dances of a similar nature during the coming winter.

Many Scottish Country Dances and Socials were organized by members of the Branch, and were most successfully run.

As usual, the Scottish Country Dance Society's team, under the direction of Miss Milligan, gave many demonstrations at indoor gatherings, including Keep Fit Displays, and at Garden Fetes.

Candidates for the Teacher's Certificate were presented by the Branch, as well as from Jordanhill Training Centre and from the Certificate Classes held in connection with the Glasgow Keep Fit Movement.

A sum of £25 was donated by the Branch to the Prisoners of War Fund, 51st Division.

Through a B.B.C. broadcast Miss Ross received a request from The Paymaster, Lieutenant, Patrol Service Centre, Lowestoft, for information about the Eightsome Reel. In replying she forwarded a copy of Twenty-four Dances, and has had an acknowledgment thanking her, and saying how much enthusiasm has been aroused by the Scottish Dances and Tunes.

Another request was received from a Prisoner of War for books to enable prisoners to practise Scottish dances. Accordingly, some books were forwarded to Stalag 344.

Classes commence this month and we are hopeful of bigger attendances than last session, under what we hope will be ever brightening conditions.

HAMILTON Branch of the Scottish Country Dancing Society has continued in spite of war conditions during the session that has just closed. One weekly class has been held for two terms of ten nights each. The attendance was small, but the enthusiasm has been very keen throughout.

Once each month during the class terms, the Strathaven Ladies' Circle joined with the Hamilton Branch, and *vice versa*. This augmented class did much to cement friendship between the two districts represented. On 10th February a team from Hamilton gave a demonstration of Country Dancing in Glasförd to the Glasförd Rural Institute, at which members from Sandford and Auldhouse Rurals were represented. In the display the Reel of the 51st Division was explained by Mrs. Rankin and danced by the team. At the close of the evening the sum of £2, 8s. was handed to Mrs. Harley, to be sent to Mrs. Milligan for Prisoners of War Comforts Fund, for the men of that Division. In Mrs. Milligan's letter of thanks she stated that the money had done its work in sending books, music and records to the men who so much needed them. The Hamilton Branch held parties at Christmas and Easter, and these were much appreciated by all present.

The membership this year is 3 Life Members and 27 Ordinary Members.

KIRKCALDY.—The Class held during the months of winter and spring was for the most part well attended by members, dancers taking advantage of nights free from war-time duties to join those whose duties allowed them to be regular enthusiasts.

At the close of the season a Party was held as in former years, the proceeds of which were sent to help to augment the funds of The Shipwrecked Mariners' Society.

LONDON.—The Branch is still carrying on, and recruiting new members. As in the previous year, fortnightly Saturday afternoon dances were held from October to March. A beginners' class under Miss MacLennan was also held before each meeting, but owing to war duties and to other evil things which still come to London, the attendance was somewhat irregular. A similar programme has been arranged for the coming winter. The Branch were fortunate in securing the use of a hall at the Y.W.C.A. Central Club, where they are being made very welcome. The facilities provided by the Club are much appreciated by the members.

A special meeting was held in April in aid of the Prisoners of War Comforts Fund, and eighteen guineas were collected. The dancing was much enjoyed, not only by the dancers, but by many spectators. Miss Kaye at the piano and Pipe-Major Mackenzie supplied the music.

The London County Council have again arranged for a class at one of their evening institutes, with Mrs. Sandison as instructress.

Several inquiries for demonstration teams have been received, which is very encouraging.

MANCHESTER.—The session 1943-44 has been uneventful, and activities have been fewer than formerly, for members have been more than ever occupied with war-time work, and have found that opportunities for Scottish dancing have been crowded out. The membership remains the same as last year, viz., 41.

Classes were held on alternate Saturday afternoons during the winter, and were well attended, but classes between Easter and Whitsun had very small attendances.

A Christmas Party was held on 11th December at Manchester University. The Ninth Annual General Meeting was also held at that time. Between the dances at the Party carols were sung by the members.

The Heaton Moor Group has continued to meet with great enthusiasm during the session.

The standard of dancing in the Branch shows a definite improvement, and there is evidence from various sources that this form of exercise and entertainment is gaining in popularity in the city.

The financial position of the Branch is, considering all the circumstances, quite satisfactory.

PERTH.—No classes have been held in Perth under the auspices of the Society. There are many enthusiastic country dancers, and many successful classes have been going on throughout the year. The Tuesday Night Club has had a very successful year, and have been able to hand over about £30 to charities. Most of the members are members of the Society.

RENFREWSHIRE.—During the year the classes have been well maintained, and the increase in membership shows a keen interest in Scottish Country Dancing. These evenings mean a happy and enjoyable time for everyone.

The sum of over £30 was raised for charitable purposes.

By special request the Dance Club was continued until the end of May. We were very pleased to welcome members of the Allied Forces to the Club. They joined in the dance and seemed to enjoy themselves.

ROCHDALE.—The Committee, in surveying the activities of the Branch throughout the past year, feel that there is good reason to be pleased with the success of this, the first year of the formation of the Rochdale Branch.

Fifty-two members have been enrolled, and although attendances have not always been high, they have been satisfactory, considering the many war-time demands made upon the time of all. Classes have met regularly throughout the year—Monday evenings being reserved for Advanced Training and Wednesday evenings for the Beginners' Class, Mrs. Gudger's class—open to both sections, has met regularly once per month on Saturday afternoons.

Two special features are worthy of notice—first, the Christmas Party—over a hundred members and friends attended, and no doubt exists as to the "howling" success of this party. It is hoped that the Christmas Party will become a regular feature of the Branch. Another social evening for members and friends was held on the last Saturday session of the Summer Term. This took the form of a tea party at the Tudor Cafe, followed by a visit to the theatre.

It was unfortunate that the visit from Miss Milligan had to be cancelled, but it is hoped that she may be able to come at a future date, when it is expected there will be candidates for the Society's examinations.

STIRLINGSHIRE.—Instead of weekly classes, a Social Dance was held once a month, last winter. These Dances proved a great success; there was an excellent attendance of country as well as Branch members. We are holding these monthly Socials again this winter. Miss Kemp Smith, Certificated Teacher, had classes at Gargunnoch and Bridge of Allan.

Two Children's Dances held during the Christmas holidays were very popular.

The Branch sent a donation of £15 to the local Prisoners of War Parcels Packing Depot.

EAST STIRLINGSHIRE.—The Country Dance Class held in Falkirk last session proved both enthusiastic and well attended.

Two Dances were held, one in December and one in March, at the close of each term—both successful and enjoyable functions.

An interesting feature of the class was a "Polish Evening," when members of the Polish Forces stationed in the town joined with members of the class in an evening's Country Dancing.

Demonstrations of Scottish Country Dances were again given at a Social Evening of the Falkirk Branch of the Scottish-Polish Society.

A team was entered for the Central Counties Musical Festival, and was successful in gaining a First Class (Honours) Certificate.

WEST LOTHIAN.—During the past year, Branch membership has increased from 7 to 31 members.

Classes were held in Linlithgow and Bo'ness. These classes have resumed this session, and are very well attended.

A very successful Dance was held in Linlithgow in February. Branch members and friends from all parts of West Lothian attended. A dance, run by Uphall members, was held in March. In August a Dance was held on the lawn at Thornton, Linlithgow, the residence of Provost and Mrs. Ford. Proceeds were given to Y.M.C.A. Canteen Funds.