

# The Scottish Country Dance Society Bulletin

No. 19.

November 1941.

## Editorial

THE Management Committee of the Society thought that it would be a good plan to give as much space as possible in this leaflet to the publication of Branch Reports, so that members might have a general idea of the position. In many districts there have been immense difficulties, and it has not been found possible to carry on; in others the work of the Branch has functioned to a considerable extent, although not, of course, as in pre-war days.

The drop in membership and in Branch activities has meant a definite decrease of income to the Society, as will be seen from the Financial Statement. Members are earnestly requested to keep up the payment of their subscriptions, so that the Society may continue its work in war-time. The practice of our Scottish Country Dances, which the Society has done so much to revive and make popular, still goes on—in Schools, at Camps, in Youth Centres, at Evening Classes, in A.R.P. posts and with our Forces. This widespread performance of the dances is one of the main objects of the Society, but unfortunately it does not mean an increase of revenue. It is fully realized that members have many demands on their income, both privately and by the Government, but it is hoped that they will again see their way to support the Society.

Members will be very sorry to hear that Mr Terras, our Treasurer, has been very ill, but will be glad to learn that he is making good progress. Miss McLellan, British Linen Bank, Galston, Ayrshire, has kindly agreed to carry on with his work in the meantime.

The ordinary work still goes on. Examination classes have been conducted and examinations have been held at the following centres:—Aberdeen, Birmingham, Glasgow and St Andrews.

Scottish Country Dancing was again included on the programme of Musical Festivals, and from the reports of the adjudicators the standard seems to have been satisfactory.

Many members will have heard the attractive and stimulating Broadcast of Scottish Country Dances that Mr John Reid and his Band gave on Thursday, 18th September, at 1.25 p.m. It swept our minds back to the happy days at St Andrews, where we very much hope we shall be able to hold our School next summer.

Although not in the form of a report, we had an interesting letter from our American friend, Mr C. Dewar Simons, telling of a successful Summer Camp of Scottish Country Dancing held in August in beautiful surroundings about 400 miles from New York. The headquarters of the Camp was a ship drawn up on the shore, and the members slept in bunks. We are greatly heartened to hear of the enthusiasm of our friends in America, and hope that the membership may increase and the work extend.

## Branch Reports.

*ABERDEEN*, 27 members, in addition to Life Members. No classes have been held in Aberdeen this year, under the auspices of the Society. At Peterhead, Miss Collie had a most successful class, and nine of her pupils became members of the Society.

Though this Branch has been inactive this year, it is by no means dead. The majority of the members utilize their spare time with A.R.P., fire-watching, and canteen work—the latter a big item in Aberdeen. When the black-out ends, our classes will start with renewed vigour.

*ANGUS* Branch continues to carry on under great difficulties. The membership fell to 68 for the year 1940-41, but the enthusiasm for Scottish Country Dancing remains as great. Only three of the five Centres have been able to carry on with weekly classes. These classes have all been very well attended, and in every case men and women of the Forces have been made welcome. Social Dancing has been found impossible for several reasons, but most members enjoy the weekly class, and find it an excellent relaxation from daily work and war-time activities.

*A YR.* This Branch still carries on with great enthusiasm. Classes were held last winter and were well attended, though suitable halls are difficult to obtain. A Dance was held in the Town Hall in conjunction with the Reel and Strathspey Society, in aid of the Spitfire Fund. Every ticket was sold, and a substantial sum was handed over to the fund. A most successful Dance was also held at the end of the season in aid of Cadet uniforms.

The new season promises to be equally successful. Our team is giving a demonstration shortly at a concert for Czech Air Force, who expressed a desire for Scottish singing, music and dancing.

We have, unfortunately, been without the helpful support of Mr Terras, owing to his serious illness.

*NORTH AYRSHIRE.* This Branch had a very successful winter, although our numbers were not so great as in previous years. We had a small Dance at the end of each session, and they were both most successful, and showed great improvement made by the members of the classes. We hope to carry on if possible this winter.

*CARLISLE.* This Branch had no summer activities at all this year. We had a successful season last year, and have commenced classes again; the membership at present is 12.

*CLACKMANNANSHIRE.* Our class has not been meeting since the outbreak of war, due, in the first place, to all the halls being taken over by the military.

*DUNDEE.* Owing to prevailing conditions, this Branch finds it impossible to carry on the usual weekly meetings. In an endeavour to maintain the interest monthly dances were arranged for last winter. The response was rather disappointing. We have decided this year to hold a Thé Dansant in November, in aid of war charities, and should this function prove successful, further activities will be arranged.

*DUNFERMLINE.* Owing to the difficulty of getting halls, etc., this Branch has been unable to hold meetings or classes, and the membership now consists of the Secretary and one other member.

*EDINBURGH.* Despite many of the members being engaged in various forms of A.R.P. work, and also a number having left Edinburgh, 77 rejoined during the year 1940-41.

Very successful classes were held during the winter and spring terms, and even during the summer it was found necessary to have one class.

In addition, monthly dances have been held, which have been very well attended.

Several members have introduced Scottish Country Dancing into hospitals, First Aid Posts, etc., in which they have been working, and by these means interest has been sustained. In the various organisations for girls interest in Country Dancing was increased owing to the Muir Wood Trophy, competed for at the Edinburgh Musical Festival.

*GLASGOW.* Glasgow finished the year with a membership of 178 (exclusive of Life Members). While this was quite good for war conditions, it is not good enough for Glasgow.

We hope to get the numbers which are necessary to keep the commitments of the Society as a whole maintained and expanded. After all, membership is our guarantee for the future well-being of Scottish Country Dancing.

Six classes were held weekly. In the second session one of these was an Examination Class. Six candidates gained the Teacher's Certificate. In addition to these, a class was held under the auspices of the Glasgow Keep Fit Movement. From it also several members qualified as Teachers.

The Social Evenings inaugurated in 1939 were carried out weekly till the end of the year, and in addition two very successful Dances were held, one on a Saturday afternoon, the other on a Monday evening.

It was most encouraging that, in spite of change of venue, black-out difficulties, and the blitz, the second period showed marked advances in the numbers at all classes, and we are happy to be able to report a credit balance on the year's working.

This encouraging state of affairs leads us to hope that both classes and membership will show further increases during the autumn.

Of course all the varieties of work done by the Scottish Country Dance Society cannot be maintained under war-time conditions, but Miss Milligan's Circle goes on merrily, and the enthusiasm shown by both sexes in the classes run in Youth Welfare Centres would justify the carrying on of our classes in these difficult times.

Early in the year a most enjoyable, though somewhat crowded, evening was held in the Commercial College Hall, under the joint auspices of the Glasgow Branches of the English Folk Dance Society and the Scottish Country Dance Society. This took the form of an International Night, when demonstrations were given by Poles, Austrians, and Indians, as well as by the teams of the English F.D.S. and the S.C.D.S. Wherever possible the company joined in the dances, which had been demonstrated. Between 200 and 300 were present, and the money raised was sent to the International War Fund.

To interest our members and friends in other Branches, a One-day Course was held at Jordanhill College on Saturday, 18th October. There were enthusiastic classes held in the morning from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., then a very appetizing lunch was served. In the afternoon between seventy and eighty members thoroughly enjoyed a Dance guided and directed by Miss Milligan, who made everyone feel that they had been transported to the happy atmosphere of a St Andrews Social Evening. The Glasgow Branch hopes to hand over to Headquarters £5, 5s. as a result of this effort, and to retain a sum for the local Branch.

*HAMILTON* (formed 1934). A year of maintained progress was reported at the Annual General Meeting of this Branch held on 7th April. The Secretary reported that there were now 3 Life Members, 37 Hamilton members, 14 Carlisle, and 6 Uddingston—a total of 57, as compared with 91 last year. The drop in membership was caused by present-day difficulties, and likewise the slight decrease in the number attending the classes. During the first and second terms classes were held in Hamilton, Carlisle and Uddingston. Very successful social evenings were held in all three centres at Christmas and Easter, and were largely attended by members of the Forces. The financial aspect of the Branch is satisfactory, and gifts were donated to men in the Services and to the Red Cross by Uddingston and Carlisle Branches. The Hamilton Branch continued its second term for an additional month in the interests of those members of the Forces who had expressed a strong desire that this should be done.

*JOHANNESBURG.* Owing to the Secretary having to leave for Rhodesia, it has been decided to discontinue this Branch until after the war.

## Statement of Receipts and Payments

### RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand at 30th September 1940 - - - - -		£837 8 6
SUBSCRIPTIONS—		
Received at Branches - - - - -	£197 18 0	
Received at Headquarters - - - - -	46 19 0	
	244 17 0	
* ROYALTIES—		
Gramophone Records and Broadcasting Fees - - - - -	16 19 5	
Books 1-5 for Year to 31st March 1940 - - - - -	15 10 10	
	32 10 3	
Sale of Dance Books and Leaflets - - - - -	42 18 9	
Sale of Gramophone Records - - - - -	14 10 7	
Donations - - - - -	0 19 0	
Discount received - - - - -	4 11 0	
INTEREST—		
County Council of Lanark - - - - -	3 3 11	
Savings Account - - - - -	6 8 4	
	9 12 3	
		£1187 7 4

\* No Royalties on Dance Books have been received for *this* year.

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

for year ended 30th September 1941.

## PAYMENTS.

Cost of Scottish Country Dance Books (1-5)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£20	11	0
Cost of Reprinting Dance Leaflets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91	7	8
Printing October and March Bulletins	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	5	9
Cost of Gramophone Records	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	9	3
Auditor's Fees (2 years)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	12	0
Teachers' Examination Fees and Organising Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34	16	7
Travelling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	17	9
Secretary's Salary and Office Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	183	16	0
Treasurer's Honorarium and Bonus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	87	0	0
Printing, Stationery and Advertising	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	19	10
Postages, Telephones, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	0	11
Insurances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	16	7

## BALANCE—

County Council of Lanark Loan	-	-	-	-	£250	0	0						
Loan to Government (free of interest)	-	-	-	-	250	0	0						
British Linen Bank—Savings Account	-	-	-	-	131	8	4						
Do. do. Current Account	-	-	-	-	31	8	2						
Petty Cash (in hands of Secretary and Treasurer)	-	-	-	-	7	17	6						
									670	14	0		
											£1187	7	4

R. T. TERRAS, Treasurer.

The British Linen Bank, Galston, Ayrshire.

23 BARNES STREET, AYR, 13th October 1941.—I have examined the foregoing Statement with the Books, Accounts, and Vouchers relating thereto, and certify them to be correct.

PETER LYLE, C.A., Auditor.

*KIRKCALDY.* A gathering, a compromise between a social meeting and a class, the attendance depending at times on the weather conditions, was held once a week from October to March. The final meeting took the form of a party, at which most members, with a few friends besides, managed to be present. The proceeds from the party were given to the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Royal Benevolent Society.

A class of the same nature, which we hope may be continued throughout the winter, is to begin, all being well, during October.

*KIRKCUDBRIGHT.* This Branch has not had a class for several winters, and the membership has lapsed. The Secretary writes that she hopes to see more interest taken after the war.

*LANARKSHIRE.* The Secretary writes that she is now in the Women's Transport, but hopes to be posted to Lanarkshire, where she will try to run a class this winter. There are 21 members in this Branch.

*LONDON.* Owing to the difficulties imposed by the constant air raids last autumn, and the black-out precautions, it was considered inadvisable to attempt any meetings during the winter. Six afternoon dances were held during the spring, and were very successful from the point of view of numbers and enjoyment; but, owing to the difficulty of finding a suitable room, they entailed financial loss, and could not be continued. It is hoped that it may be possible to hold a class on Saturday afternoons this winter, and arrangements are being made for this.

*MANCHESTER.* The session 1940-41 has been full of inspiration and encouragement, in spite of the difficulties of war-time conditions.

The first meeting of the session took place on Saturday afternoon, 7th December, when a social gathering was held in the Manchester University Women's Union Debating Hall. About thirty members and friends met and enjoyed a programme of lively dances. Occasion was taken to hold the Annual General Meeting during the interval for refreshments. The hope was then expressed that similar socials might be held at intervals during the winter. We had a second one on 25th January, and a third on 29th March.

By this time members were asking for classes again, and a start was made soon after Easter, when the evenings were lighter. Six regular class meetings were held before Whitsun, with an average attendance of 17 members. Another course was commenced after a week's break, and enthusiasm was fully maintained, though the attendance dropped to 15.

The great event of the season was a new experiment, a School for Scottish Country Dancing in Manchester district. The original proposal was to hold a week-end school, but the problem of catering proved too great a stumbling-block, and a scheme for a one-day school was proceeded with. The date chosen was Saturday, 5th July, at County High School for Girls, Altrincham, and the day was planned as follows:—

Morning session	- - - -	10.30-12.30.
Lunch	- - - -	1 o'clock.
Afternoon session	- - - -	2.30-4.30.
Dance (refreshments)	- - - -	6.30-9 p.m.

Enrolments for the school reached the unexpected total of 44—in the morning, 24; afternoon, 28; and evening, 34.

Mrs Liddell and Miss Booth shared the teaching. Both sessions were divided into one-hour periods. Miss Booth took elementary and general movements and dances during the first hour, and Mrs Liddell took general work and more advanced classes.

There has been a decided improvement in the general standard of dancing amongst Branch members, and there is increasing evidence of the fact that members are helping to spread the knowledge of Scottish Country Dancing by teaching in schools, clubs, etc.

The year closes with a membership of 56, an increase of 9 over last year.

The Branch financial position this year is in a healthy state. Classes have paid their way, and socials and One-day School have all made a profit. There have been no travelling

expenses to the Executive meetings, on each occasion it being decided that there was nothing on the agenda to necessitate the representative's attendance; and other expenses have been cut down. In this connection the Branch is most fortunate in having no bills for printing. All work of this description has been undertaken by Professor Oliver and Mr Gibb.

The Committee decided that the time had now come to return to Headquarters the loan of £5 which was granted in 1935 when the Branch was inaugurated, and which helped to defray the cost of preliminary advertisements and other initial expenses.

*MOTHERWELL.* The membership of the Branch has increased, though the activities were more restricted. Several social evenings were enjoyed, the last being on a larger scale in an endeavour to provide a small sum for the Burgh War Fund.

At a Fête in the grounds of Dalziel House (Lord Hamilton's) a great attraction was a display of Scottish Country Dancing by two teams of girls trained by Miss F. Adams. The sum collected was double that expected.

*NEWTON-STEWART.* I am glad to report that the enthusiasm for Country Dancing still persists. Last session our class numbered about 30, and we met once a week from October to March, with an interval at Christmas. We begin our new session on 7th October, and hope it will be equally successful.

*PERTH.* The Secretary writes that there is nothing to report from this Branch at the moment.

*RENFREWSHIRE.* The year has been one long struggle under difficult conditions. A request from Servicemen for a class was met during the latter part of the winter. During summer a class extending over six weeks was successfully arranged.

Our Annual Meeting and Dance were carried through in cheerful mood.

Membership at 31 represents a solid foundation for extension when happier circumstances prevail.

*ST ANDREWS and EAST OF FIFE.* Owing to war-time conditions it was not considered practicable to hold any classes, nor to give dances in this district during the past year.

*STIRLINGSHIRE.* Last winter Miss Morrison, Certificated Teacher, took a class weekly from October to March, which was most successful. Many A.T.S. stationed here attended it. Miss Morrison very kindly gave her fees for the Red Cross Funds. Money taken at the class was sent to the Red Cross Funds, and the Prisoners of War Parcels Fund. The Branch also sent a donation to the Central Counties Musical Festival Association.

Two Social Dances were held during the winter; both were well attended and greatly enjoyed.

Miss Morrison's class is to start again for the season in October.

*EAST STIRLINGSHIRE.* Despite black-out conditions, etc., a very successful class was held in Falkirk last winter, and the team entered for the Musical Festival held in June last gained 90 marks.

As all but one small hall are occupied at the present time, there is little scope for social evenings, etc., but a very enjoyable dance was held in January, as a result of which a donation of four guineas was handed over to the local Spitfire Fund.

Arrangements are well in hand for a class this winter, which is already being looked forward to with keenness.

*WEST LOTHIAN BRANCH.* Since last Annual Report, the activities of the Branch, as a Branch, have been in abeyance. Owing to circumstances prevailing in the county, it was not found possible to organize any Branch classes last winter. Branch members in Bo'ness arranged and carried on a class, while in Linlithgow several dances in aid of the funds of various war efforts were arranged and successfully carried through.

*WIGTOWN.* The Secretary reports that since the war no classes have been held in connection with this Branch.

## NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

### Executive Council.

*Chairman*—Mrs HAMILTON MEIKLE, Brankstone, Bogside, Alloa.

*Vice-Chairman*—LORD JAMES STEWART MURRAY, Easter Moncrieffe, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire.

Mrs STEWART, of Fasnacloich, Camserney Cottage, Aberfeldy, Perthshire.

Miss. A. ANDERSON, 16 Warriston Crescent, Edinburgh.

Mrs BRUCE, 5 Rubislaw Place, Aberdeen.

Miss M. M. DOW, Training College, Dundee.

Mr J. DRUMMOND.

Miss JEAN MILLIGAN, 22 Roxburgh Street, Glasgow, W.2.

Hon. E. FORBES-SEMPILL, Fintry House, Aberdeenshire.

### and REPRESENTATIVES OF BRANCHES.

*Secretary*—Mrs M. K. BROWN, Thornhill, Cairnmuir Road, Edinburgh, 12.

*Treasurer*—Mr R. T. TERRAS, British Linen Bank, Galston, Ayr.

## 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/-.

## SUBSCRIPTION COPY OF DANCE BOOK.

Members who have paid their subscription for the current year 1941-42 will receive a copy of the new pocket edition of books 10, 11, and 12, also a copy of the dance leaflet, "Come Ashore, Jolly Tar."

## GRAMOPHONE RECORDS.

Members are reminded that Gramophone Records (price 3/8, plus cost of packing and postage—9d. extra for one or two records, 10d. extra for three records, 1/- extra for 4, 5 or 6 records, 1/3 extra for 6 to 14 records, 1/4 extra for 14 to 20 records)—should be ordered either from Miss J. Milligan, 22 Roxburgh Street, Glasgow, W.2, or from the Treasurer, Mr Terras, British Linen Bank, Galston, Ayrshire

## DANCE LEAFLETS.

The cost of dance leaflets has been increased from 2d. to 3d.

The London Branch has requested that the following notice should be inserted:—

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY, LONDON BRANCH.—A series of Dances will be held at the Royal Scottish Corporation Hall, Fleur-de-Lis Court, Fetter Lane, E.C.4, on Saturdays, 1st, 15th, and 29th November, and 13th December, 3 to 6 p.m. (New dances will be taught.) Price 2/6 (refreshments extra). Miss Kaye will be at the piano. Station—Chancery Lane; Buses—7, 8, 17, 22, 23, 25 (Holborn); 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 60, 67, 96 (Fleet Street).