

The
Scottish Country
Dance Society
Bulletin.

No. 13.

MARCH 1938.

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The Scottish Country Dance Society Ball



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Editorial

Members of the Society will have received with very deep regret the intimation of the death, early in January, of the Lady Dorothea Ruggles-Brise, an Honorary Vice-President of the Society.

The Society will miss the very keen interest and help that the Lady Dorothea gave to the work, especially on the musical side.

It is perhaps not generally known that she was one of the most assiduous and knowledgeable collectors of our time. During her life she gradually gathered together a collection of the rarest and most valuable printed books of our national airs which is the finest outside the collections in our public libraries.

She had the true instincts of the antiquarian and the accurate notes that she kept are a mine of information for the student. In her copy of Glen's Early Scottish Melodies, she made over two hundred annotations of high value, and her appended notes to the Margaret Sinkler MS. in the National Library are as informative as they are complete.

The Lady Dorothea Ruggles-Brise has done very valuable work for Scotland and the Scottish Country Dance Society.

It is very satisfactory to know that by her own wish, her fine collection will go to the Sandeman Library at Perth as a token of her warm affection for her native country.

The Annual Summer School of the Scottish Country Dance Society will be held in the University Hall, St. Andrews, from August 1st to 15th.

As usual, classes will be held in the mornings and the afternoons will be left free for golf, bathing, etc.

Full particulars of the School, which is open to Members and Non-Members of the Society, will be found on the last page with the application form.

Two more dances have been re-published in leaflet form and are issued with this number of the Bulletin. The music has been arranged by Mr Wiseman.

It is very gratifying to note that a Branch of the Society has been started in Johannesburg. This is the first Branch that has been formed outside the British Isles, and we extend it a hearty welcome. The formation is due to the enthusiasm of Mrs Russell-Fergusson, who was with us at the Summer School last year.

There are also several new Affiliated Societies—Richmond Caledonian Society, Peterborough and District Caledonian Society, Colchester and District Caledonian Society.

It is particularly interesting to hear of the Society that has been formed in Calcutta and which is affiliated to ours—the Calcutta Scottish Country Dance Society. This is the first in India and we wish it every success.

The Publications Committee has been working hard with the selection and editing of the dances for Book 12. It is expected that this will be one of the most interesting of our books.

It will be issued to Members with the October Bulletin on payment of their subscription for the current year.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

The 14th Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Country Dance Society was held on Saturday, 13th November 1937, in the Music Hall, Union Street, Aberdeen, at 2.30 p.m.

Lord James Stewart Murray presided and over 100 members were present.

In addressing the meeting Lord James said that he was very glad that the Society was able to present a report which showed steady progress, and that Scottish Country Dancing had an increasing hold not only in Scotland, but over the Border and across the ocean.

It was perhaps not surprising that the credit of preserving and encouraging this form of dancing should be due to Scotland—the most democratic of countries. Scotland owed much to Mrs Stewart and her little band of pioneers for having rescued from oblivion a national heritage which gave such splendid opportunities of communal recreation.

Lord James said that he had listened recently to the broadcast of two well-known dance bands who played their reels and strathspeys like psalm tunes. He thought, however, that the B.B.C.'s own orchestras now played their strathspeys magnificently, though their reels were still occasionally too quick.

Lord James said he would like to take the opportunity of placing on record the great loss which the Society, and the Aberdeen Branch in particular, had suffered by the death of Mrs Shand. She would be missed not only for her wonderful playing but for her delightful personality.

Lord James mentioned that there were three new Affiliated Societies :—

Richmond Caledonian Society.

Peterborough and District Caledonian Society.

Colchester and District Caledonian Society.

Apologies were intimated from Sir John Lorne MacLeod, Miss Moir, Mrs Liddell, Mrs Law, Mrs Stark, Mr Reid and Mr Punchard.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed. The Annual Branch and Financial Reports, having been circulated amongst Members, were taken as read.

Mrs Stewart, in moving the adoption of the Annual and Branch Reports, said that the little band of pioneers who started the Society might justly be proud of its growth. The membership was very satisfactory and might be multiplied many times to give a proper indication of the number of people interested in and dancing Scottish Country Dancing.

She thought it was particularly interesting to read of the successful visit of the London Branch team to Brittany.

Miss Milligan seconded the adoption of the Reports. These were adopted.

Lord James said that Members had received copies of the Financial Report, but that he would ask Mr Terras to give a resumé of it.

Mr Terras stated that the funds of the Society showed another increase of £130, the balance on hand now standing at £605.

As regards Income there had been an increase in subscriptions of £50. Over £20 had been received from royalties on gramophone records, and £15 in broadcasting fees.

The sale of dance books showed a further increase of £7. With a profit of £44 the Summer School was again a financial success.

Repayment of grants and donations received were down about £17. Expenditure compared with the previous year was down about £30.

Mr Terras suggested that the present balance should be maintained as the growth of the Society demanded the expenditure of larger sums of money.

Mr Drummond, in moving the adoption of the Financial Report, congratulated Mr Terras on his excellent year's work.

Mr Drummond thought that the Society could now afford to spend a little more money on propaganda.

Mr Duncan, in seconding the Report, thanked Mr Terras for his untiring work.

The Financial Report was adopted.

The election of Office-Bearers for 1937-1938 was as follows:—

Chairman—Mrs Hamilton Meikle.

Vice-Chairman—Lord James Stewart Murray.

Six Elected Members—Miss Anderson, Mrs Bruce, Miss Dow, Miss Milligan, Hon. E. Forbes-Sempill, Mr Drummond.

It was decided that the Annual General Meeting of the Society should be held in Edinburgh in 1938, and if possible on the 5th November 1938.

Lord James stated that dissatisfaction had been expressed with the present examination system, in that it did not entail a full enough knowledge of the dances. The Executive Council had decided on the following series of dances published in leaflet form for Certificate I:—

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Petronella. | 7. General Stuart's Reel. |
| 2. Triumph. | 8. New Rigged Ship. |
| 3. Circassian Circle. | 9. Mrs MacLeod. |
| 4. Duke of Perth. | 10. Corn Riggs. |
| 5. Fight about the Fireside. | 11. River Cree. |
| 6. Dumbarton Drums. | 12. The Red House. |

Certificate 2 or Full Certificate:—

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Glasgow Highlanders. | 7. Scottish Ramble. |
| 2. Haughs o' Cromdale. | 8. Teviot Brig. |
| 3. Monymusk. | 9. Lady Susan Stewart's Reel. |
| 4. There's Nae Luck About the
Hoose. | 10. The Merry Dancers. |
| 5. Tulloch Gorm. | 11. The Punch Bowl. |
| 6. Dalkeith's Strathspey. | 12. Light and Airy. |

The Chairman said that the Executive Council had decided that this season the new system could be an alternative one to the old, but that next season it would be compulsory.

This ended the business.

Lady Dorothea Ruggles-Brise

By the death of the Lady Dorothea Ruggles-Brise the Society has lost one of its most valuable members. Ever since our first book of dances was published she took a deep interest in the research work of the Society. Not only did she own the finest collection (outside the collections in public libraries) of rare and valuable books of our national airs—she also had a marvellous memory for the tunes, and her books and knowledge were always available to the Society. As dances were chosen for each book, one only had to send the names to Lady Dorothea, who would at once set to work and write down all the information and historical notes available—taking infinite time and trouble to search for the tunes in her books where she alone knew how to find them, giving alternative names and versions of the airs and dances, and telling us which books were authentic and which were “pirates.” Our President writes: “My sister never grudged helping the S.C.D.S. with their music even though she was occasionally far from well when she was doing it.”

It has been the good fortune of the Society to have Lady Dorothea's wisdom and knowledge to help us in the publication of our twelve books, the notes and references therein will be a lasting memorial to her interest in Scottish music.

Y. S.

Extracts from Overseas Correspondence

The following is a letter from Mrs Trotter, Calcutta :—

“I am writing to inform you of what may be good news for the Society. My husband was appointed to the charge of St. Andrews Church, Calcutta, in October. I was able therefore to meet the Scots resident in this city and I have organised a class which, since its inception on the 16th November, meets in the Hall of St. Andrews Church every Tuesday evening from 6.15 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. We have a membership of thirty-four and each week more and more enquire about the class and express their intention of becoming members. So enthusiastic are the present members that they refuse to stop for Christmas and New Year. In January I intend to form a private circle of eight of the best dancers, including some who attended classes at home. To these I shall give further instruction that they may carry on after I have left Calcutta. We expect to stay over twenty years in India and we shall be moved around quite a lot, and it may be that I shall be able to form Branches in various parts of the country, if there is no difficulty regarding procedure.

“Besides this class I am teaching boys and girls—children of the K.O.S.B. regiment stationed at the Fort here. I have been asked, too, to teach Bengali and Hindi girls some of our dances during the warmer weather. I hope I can stand up to that. I believe it is an achievement if they can be made to march in time to our music, so I don't know what success I will meet with.”

The following is an extract of a letter from Mrs D. Richardson of the Public and Thomas Hanbury School for Girls, Shanghai :—

“Thank you for your reply to my enquiry about the Summer School. The letter was forwarded to me while ‘refugeeing’ in Hong Kong, but instead of returning to Shanghai I came home before my furlough was due. I am afraid I shall not be able to attend the School, because I have to leave for Shanghai early in July.

"I joined the Hong Kong Reel Club while I was staying in the Colony and attended every meeting.

"St. Andrews Day was celebrated in the Indian Ocean by a Head-dress Dance, including an Eightsome and an introduction of Strip the Willow, which proved so popular that I left the record on board for use on further voyages. I am hoping to be in Edinburgh before returning East and intend to buy more records to take back with me. The dancing is very popular with the small people in my Shanghai School.

"All success to the Summer School."

From Mrs Russell-Fergusson :—

"Thank you very much for your helpful letter of 9th December. I have pleasure in informing you that we have formed a Branch of the Scottish Country Dance Society in Johannesburg. We have twenty-two members, including myself as a Life Member of the Society."

Richmond Caledonian Society

The above Society held its inaugural meeting in February 1937, when the draft Constitution was adopted.

The objects of the Society are charitable and include the promotion of friendly social intercourse as well as the keeping alive of Scottish traditions.

It is interesting to note that the Society, formed in the Coronation year of H.M. King George VI, came into being exactly 100 years after the London Caledonian Society which was founded in the Coronation year of Queen Victoria. Historically, Richmond is closely associated with Scotland. In the Palace there, was proclaimed the wedding of Henry VII's daughter to James IV of Scotland. In the year 1603 Queen Elizabeth died in Richmond Palace whence a courtier was sent post haste to Scotland to break the news to James VI. Thus the Stewarts came to the throne of England, and to commemorate that event the Society has decided to hold annually a "Union of the Crowns" dinner.

The Society is looking forward, confident of success, to this, its first winter season.

[This interesting report of a new affiliated Society came too late for publication with the October Bulletin.]

Autumn School at Aberdeen, November 1937

Aberdeen presented a dismal and dreary exterior to us during Autumn School week-end, but within we were welcomed with a warmth which dispelled all chilly feelings.

On Friday evening a very large number of experienced dancers went through the dances mainly of Book XI, and I feel sure that Miss Milligan had much pleasure in brushing up our steps and putting finishing touches to dancers who came from all parts of Scotland.

On Saturday morning the Publications Committee and Executive Council held their meetings, which were distinguished by business-like conduct on the part of the Chairman, Mrs Hamilton-Meikle, and Secretary, Mrs M. K. Brown. Both meetings had record attendances.

Lunch proved a happy break, the Executive Council being the guests of the Aberdeen Branch at the Palace Hotel. The Council members were graciously received by Lady Sempill, President of the Aberdeen Branch.

The lunch was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Lord James Stewart Murray expressed sincere thanks on behalf of the Executive Council and of the Society generally for the kind invitation and warm welcome to Aberdeen. Lady Sempill voiced her satisfaction at having achieved a long wished for desire, namely to have the Autumn School at Aberdeen. Her remarks were touched with delightful humour.

The Annual General Meeting, though not so large as usual, was very representative. The business was carried through successfully, Secretary's and Treasurer's reports being received with warm approval. Lord James Stewart Murray impressed us with his speech dealing with the growth of the Society and its intricate and intimate relationships with the development of social standards of life and work, and one felt urged to strive to keep the Society's high ideals before us.

Mrs Stewart, with whom we associate the beginnings, and to whom we owe in large measure the steady growth of the Society and its Publications, endorsed Lord James Stewart Murray's remarks with characteristic dignity and true appreciation of all the Society's workers.

We all met then in a social capacity at the Thé Dansant, where we were the guests of the Aberdeen Branch.

At this stage many good-byes were said, but followed by "See you at Summer School at St. Andrews!"

Then came the "Grand finale" of the Autumn School, a ball arranged by the Aberdeen Branch. Many visitors stayed to it. It was a sure indication of the tireless energy of Scottish dancers to see them dance with such gaiety to the strains of Mr George Davie's Sextet, which included the pianists of the Autumn School, Misses Duncan, Reid and Scott.

Everyone realises, I am sure, the organising necessary beforehand and during the Autumn School. I, as a member, can only try to express the appreciation of all the members who were lucky enough to be able to attend the School.

Lady Sempill, as President, and the Hon. Elizabeth Forbes-Sempill, Chairman of the Committee of the Aberdeen Branch, were ably supported by efficient members of Committee and co-opted members. I understand, too, that the Secretary of the Business Women's Club was particularly helpful in granting the use of the Club Halls for classes.

Then above all we owe our thanks to the very efficient Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Doris Slater, whose thorough organisation and preparedness were sensed from start to finish of the School.

Lastly, may I express the opinion that the success of our Schools and progress generally are in some measure due to the physical, mental and social training we as active members are receiving, and that the longer we are associated with our Society the more do we realise its strength and power for the social good of the country.

M. M. Dow.

Demonstrations

If requests for demonstrations at balls, at dances and at meetings of the various social services are any indication of the success of a movement, then the Scottish Country Dance Society has had a very successful winter indeed. More demonstrations have been given in the large towns this winter than ever before, and as the teams which have given these displays of Scottish Country Dancing have been in nearly every case mixed, they must have done much to arouse popular interest in these dances.

And if the winter has been busy and successful, what of the summer which lies before the Society? To what extent will the Scottish Country Dance Society be asked to help at the Glasgow Exhibition? Quite probably to a greater extent than the Society is prepared for.

To return to the winter—the most important of the demonstrations referred to above have been those run in connection with the inaugural public meetings of the National Council for Physical Training and Recreation in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Both these displays were given by mixed teams and had a very good reception. The value of Scottish Country Dancing as a social recreation was recognised, and the fact that it was one of the few forms of recreation in which a mixed company could take part was noted with interest.

Here are two appreciations of the dancing overheard at the Kelvin Hall. One of the items on the programme was boxing by a dockside boys' club. These lads came to watch the dancers at the rehearsal on the evening before the show. On seeing the men leading their partners to place the boys began to make jeering noises and to laugh loudly. Soon the noise completely died and a passer-by heard this comment: "My! that's guid! They men can dance!"

The other was the exclamation of a member of the Town Council: "Now that's fine! We must have a class for the Corporation!!"

With regard to the future, the first important function at which the Scottish Country Dance Society is to demonstrate is the Eve of the Exhibition Ball on May 2nd. The Scottish Country Dance team will first give a demonstration of Country Dances and then take part in the Empire Broadcast which is to take place at the Ball. The broadcast is to be of Eightsome and Foursome Reels in particular, and these are to be done according to Scottish Country Dance standards.

At the Exhibition itself the Society will be called on for much help. The Highland Clachan has a concert hall, and as Lord James Stewart Murray is an important member of the Clachan Committee the Society is to be asked to help at the concerts which take place there.

The National Council for Physical Training and Recreation is also to have a hall where demonstrations of recreational work are to be given every week, and the Scottish Country Dance Society has been warned that their help will be asked here also.

It is hoped that every Branch of the Society will be willing to help and to make this not only a huge success for the Exhibition, but also a memorable year of progress for the Scottish Country Dance Society.

Copies of the following Dances which have been published in Leaflet Form are for Sale, price 2d. each.

Circassian Circle.	The Punch Bowl.	The New Rigged Ship.
Corn Riggs.	The Waltz Country Dance.	Mrs MacLeod of Raasay.
Dashing White Sergeant.	The Merry Dancers.	The River Cree.
Duke of Perth.	The Eightsome Reel.	Red House.
Flowers of Edinburgh.	Grieg's Pipes.	Haughs o' Cromdale.
Glasgow Highlanders.	The White Cockade.	Monymusk.
Petronella.	Jenny's Bawbee.	There's Nae Luck About the
Scottish Reform.	Teviot Brig.	Hoose.
Speed the Plough.	Dumbarton's Drums	Tulloch Gorm.
Linton Ploughman.	Fight about the Fireside	Dalkeith's Strathspey.
Lady Susan Stewart's Reel.	General Stuart's Reel.	The Isle of Skye.
Light and Airy.	Scottish Ramble.	Triumph.

Names and Addresses of Office-Bearers.

Executive Council.

Chairman—Mrs Hamilton Meikle, Brankstone, Bogside, Alloa.

Vice-Chairman—Lord James Stewart Murray, Cuil-an-Duin, Ballinluig.

Mrs Stewart, Camserney Cottage, Aberfeldy, Perthshire.

Miss A. Anderson, 16 Warriston Crescent, Edinburgh.

Mrs Bruce, 5 Rubislaw Place, Aberdeen.

Mrs M. M. Dow, Training College, Dundee.

Mr J. Drummond, Lynwood, 83 Craigcrook Avenue, Edinburgh.

Miss Jean Milligan, 19 Rosslyn Terrace, Glasgow, W. 2.

Hon. E. Forbes-Sempill, Fintray House, Aberdeenshire.

And Representatives of Branches.

Secretary—Mrs M. Brown, Thornhill, Corstorphine, Edinburgh.

Treasurer—Mr R. T. Terras, British Linen Bank, Galston, Ayrshire.

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 for ten years may become Life Members on payment of £1, 10/-

The new Life Membership Card having now been sent to all Life Members, would Branches please note to send the name and address of future Life Members to the Treasurer, Mr R. T. Terras, The British Linen Bank, Galston, Ayrshire, in order that this Card may be issued to them.

Gramophone Records

Will members please note that the cost of gramophone records has increased—these are now 3/- each—they may be ordered from Miss J. Milligan, 19 Rosslyn Terrace, Glasgow, W. 2.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
SUMMER SCHOOL.

The Twelfth Annual Summer School of the above Society will be held in University Hall, St Andrews, Fife, from 1st to 15th August 1938.

Two weekly courses will be held as follows:—

FIRST COURSE. Monday, 1st August to Monday, 8th August.

SECOND COURSE. Monday, 8th August to Monday, 15th August.

If there is room early application will be considered for the whole fortnight, and a decisive answer given after the closing date.

Applications are only taken for a week or a fortnight.

TERMS:—

RESIDENTS. 3½ guineas per week, plus a registration fee of 5/- which must accompany the application form. Non-members of the Society pay an extra 10/- per week.

NON-RESIDENTS. 1 guinea per week, 4/- per day, 2/- per class.

Classes will be held from 9.45—1 o'clock daily on all eleven books. A reel step class will be held from 5.30 to 6.30 p.m., and there will be social dancing each evening at 8.30 p.m. The afternoons are free for bathing golf, etc.

Examinations for Teacher's Certificate will be held at the end of each week.

NOTE. Please report at the Secretary's Office on arrival between 3 and 5 o'clock on Monday, 1st August and 8th August. The first Country Dance Class will be held at 5.30 p.m.

In the event of any member being prevented from attending, the registration fee will be refunded if notice of withdrawal is sent to the Secretary before 12th July.

TO BE SENT IN BY 18th JUNE.

TO THE SECRETARY, S.C.D.S.,
THORNHILL, CAIRNMUIR ROAD,
CORSTORPHINE, EDINBURGH.

Please reserve a room for me at the Summer School at St Andrews, from

to _____ (Please fill in dates).

Name _____

Address _____

I should like a room near _____

I would share a room with _____

My Registration Fee of 5/- is enclosed.

