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# THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

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*Bulletin  
Number 77*

*October 1999*



**Scottish Country Dancing  
Around the World**





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**THE ROYAL  
SCOTTISH COUNTRY  
DANCE SOCIETY**

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No.: SCO16085

**Office Bearers**

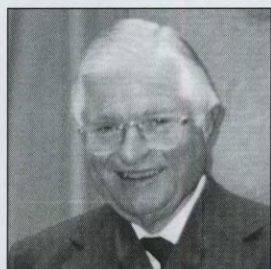
*Patron:*

The Queen



*President:*

The Earl of Mansfield



*Honorary Vice-Presidents:*

Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel  
The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine  
Lt.-Col. (Retd.) M. Muriel Gibson  
The Hon. Peregrine Moncreiffe of  
Moncreiffe

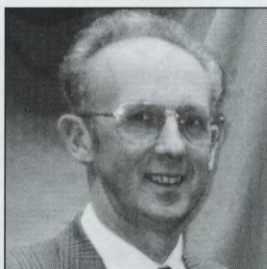
*Chairman:*

Mrs Linda Gaul



*Vice-Chairman:*

Mr Alan Mair



*Director of  
Administration/Secretary:*

Miss Gill Parker



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No statement, advertisement, or views presented here are to be construed as supported by the Society, unless specifically stated and no liability is accepted for any matter therein.

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**Deadline for  
Next Issue**

All articles, letters, etc. must be submitted in writing to the Editor by 30 May. The Editor reserves the right to edit articles subject to space.

All advertisements are dealt with by contacting Buccleuch Printers Ltd., Carnarvon Street, Hawick  
Tel: 01450 372566  
e-mail:  
[buccleuchprinters@btinternet.com](mailto:buccleuchprinters@btinternet.com)

**Message from  
the President**

I AM HAPPY once more to contribute to the RSCDS Bulletin, although I may not be able to take the chair at the Annual General Meeting in Edinburgh.

My wife and I were very happy to participate in the Society's 75th Anniversary celebrations. We enjoyed our meetings with members from around the world – all of whom are united by their love of the dances of Scotland.

I have been interested to hear about how much the Society has progressed throughout 1999 and in particular to read of its future plans, as outlined in the new Strategic Plan. While there will be no immediate changes without the sanction of the Executive Council it is indeed a good first step.

The positive steps taken to embrace younger dancers are also encouraging and will ensure that the Society flourishes in years to come.

Communication, I know, is always a matter of concern to members and officials alike, and it is good to see that the Society is embracing new technology and making use of the opportunities offered by the Internet. This, too, has been taken gradually and will, no doubt, be expanded in the fullness of time.

I do hope that we can all work together and continue to support and encourage the Society in its development and its promotion of the best in Scottish country dancing.

*Mansfield*

*The Earl of Mansfield*  
President



## Chairman's Foreword

AS THE NEW century comes ever closer, we, the members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, must make some important decisions. It has been said in many ways and at many times, but the harsh truth is that the Society's income is no longer sufficient to fulfil its objects and to give us the services we wish.

There have been enormous changes over the last ten years, some forced upon us but most as a result of reacting to the membership's wishes. All of these have cost money. Now the Executive Council has agreed 12 strategic objectives for the next five years and has to decide how to move forward. Implementing these will also cost money. So it is up to us! Do we wish to continue to preserve, develop and promote Scottish country dancing and to be able to hand it on to the next generation? My answer is a resounding "Yes!" So to balance the books, we must either find other sources of income, increase the number of members, increase subscription levels or reduce the services provided to members. My small contribution, as a Life Member, will be to donate annually the equivalent of the annual subscription.

Our Society needs your support not only on the dance floor and in your local Branch but also to finance its development projects and to invest in its future. The future may mean radical changes in structure and governance but that is a matter requiring much thought and wide consultation. Scottish country dancing is extremely popular in all sections of society and all over the world, so, let us all enjoy our dancing and encourage others to do the same.

Finally, I would like to thank all those members throughout the world and the staff at Headquarters for the support and help they have given me in my first year of office.

## Editorial

I THINK that we all wondered if 1999 would mean a quieting down of the Society – post 75th celebrations and pre 2000 celebrations – nothing of the sort. The enthusiasm generated throughout 1998 has progressed into 1999 with a vigour; the music and dance goes on and for some, so do the celebrations (see page 12).

As you can see from the Annual report the Society continues to investigate alternative ways of providing training opportunities for musicians, tutors, adjudicators and examiners, and to take into consideration suggestions made by members.

One of those changes was the decision to introduce the first RSCDS Winter School, which will be based in Pitlochry.

Other suggestions are very much welcomed. Please feel free to write, fax or e-mail your comments on any subject to me at HQ.

I do hope that you will be able to join in some of the core dances on the programmes this year (see page 26), and that you continue to enjoy all your dancing activities, wherever they are, throughout the remainder of 1999 and into 2000.

*Gill Parker*

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# ANNUAL REPORT

## Headquarters

AS CAN BE seen from the following pages, the headquarters building and it's staff have been kept busy with visitors and meetings throughout 1999.

This year has seen no new members of staff and thus the HQ staff are: Gill Parker, as Director of Administration and Secretary; June Dick, Assistant Secretary; Linda Bates, Membership Administrator; Eileen Watt, Office Manager; and Elizabeth McNeill, Part Time Office Assistant.

Our sincere thanks go to all the HQ staff for their hard work. Not only do they deal with visitors, membership queries, orders, arrangements for courses, Summer School, publications, recordings, examinations and the very many weekend and evening meetings which take place as part of the work of the Society, but they also continue to cope with changing structure and policy and deal with the ever increasing demand for new technology and better communication.

Of course the work of the Society could not continue without the very many volunteers throughout the world, both as Honorary Secretaries and Treasurers, who deal with the correspondence from HQ. Our thanks also go to them for their patience and continued support.

## Membership

Despite fluctuating exchange rates over the past year, the number of members has remained steady. As we go to press, the number of Society members is 22,502 with 169 branches and 466 affiliated groups covering all continents.

We were pleased to welcome the following as affiliated groups in 1998/9:

*Abernethy SCD Club (Inverness)*

*Chaffcombe & Chard SCD Club (Somerset)*

*Highland Heritage Society (Argentina)*

*Kalamazoo SC Dancers (Michigan, USA)*

*Kuban SC Dancers (Russia)*

*SCD of Hamburg (Germany)*

*Jabadao (Buxelles)*

*Munich Scottish Association (Germany)*

*Skagit SC Dancers (Burlington, USA)*

*Club de Danse Ecossaie de La Mure D'Isère (Grenoble)*

Our very best wishes also go to all of the above and to those branches and groups who have celebrated anniversaries in 1999.

We particularly send greetings to everyone for the new Millennium!

## Standing Committee Reports

*The Chairman and Vice-Chairman are ex-officio on all standing committees.*

*The Immediate Past Chairman was ex-officio on all Committees for the year 1998/99.*

Members in *italics* are ex-officio on Committees. Committee members are re-elected at the November Executive Council Meeting. Either the Secretary or a substitute is present at all Society meetings.

## General Purposes Committee

*Functions: to consider from time to time matters concerning the general administration of the Society and to make recommendations thereon to the Executive Council and to prepare the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting.*

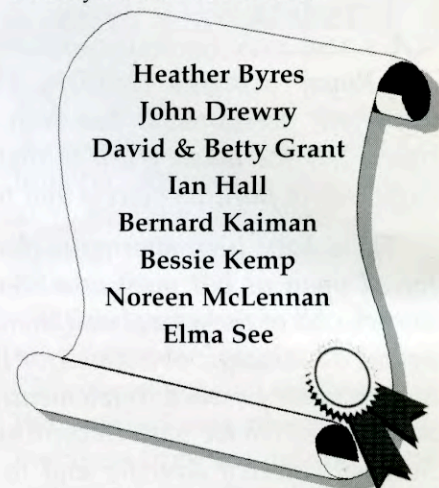
Members: *Mrs Linda Gaul* (Convenor, Chairman), *Mr Alan Mair* (Vice Chairman), *Mr Bill Clement* (Past Chairman), *Mr David Watson* (Finance Convenor), *Mr Bob Grant*, *Mrs Jessie Harper*, *Mr Jim Healy*, *Dr Alastair MacFadyen*, *Mrs Christine Munro*, *Mrs Alice Murphy*, *Mr Alastair Reid*, *Dr Jerome Reinstein*, *Mr Alasdair Smart*.

*In attendance: Miss Gill Parker*

*The Committee usually meets three times a year.*

The Committee was delighted to arrange funding for two teaching tours in 1999. One took place in May, over a period of 10 days covering several regions in Spain, and the second, to Budapest, took place over a weekend in June. Other projects also received funding from the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund. (see page 20)

Recommendations were made for the following members to receive the Society's scroll of honour:



Discussion has continued as to the suitability of the current HQ premises. An alternative building, which is considerably bigger than 12 Coates Crescent, and which could incorporate other Scottish dance bodies is being investigated.

As part of its work the General Purposes Committee considers the discussions of its various sub-committees: Marketing and Public Relations, YSDA, Under 16s, Strategic Planning and the AGM.

Details of the Strategic Plan and the proposals for change from the Under 16s sub-committees were published in the June Newsbrief. The Marketing sub-committee (which meets approx. six times per year) continues to produce half-yearly Marketing Updates which are issued to branch secretaries in May and October. They have also been looking at items for the Millennium and a 'Millennium Logo' for use on such items. (see page 26)

The YSDA has produced a Newsletter for 1999 and is looking into events for St Andrew's Day 2000. (further details on page 20)

## Finance Committee

*Functions: to be responsible for the funds of the Society and to deal with its financial business.*

Members: *Mr David Watson* (Convenor), *Mrs Linda Gaul* (Chairman), *Mr Alan Mair* (Vice-Chairman), *Mr Bill Clement* (Immediate Past Chairman), *Mr John Fenningworth*, *Mr Tom Kerr*, *Mr Robert Mackay*, *Miss Beatrice Nairn*, *Miss Margaret Ross*, *Mr Ronald Taylor*.



*In attendance: Miss Gill Parker and Mrs Marilyn Jeffcoat.*

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***The Committee usually meets four times a year.***

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The Committee has indeed been busy this year. The main subject of concern, both to the Committee and to the Executive Council, is the need to increase income to offset the increasing Society expenditure. The projected deficit of £30,000 has arisen from the need to satisfy members desire for more communication.

In the past three years the Newsbrief has been introduced, doubled in size and doubled in its frequency. The Bulletin has gone from A5 single colour to an attractive A4 colour covered Magazine with bi-annual Directory of Secretaries. Marketing Updates are issued twice per year. Secretaries Updates are issued three or four times a year. Annual Tutors, Potential Tutors and Musicians Courses have been run with no cost to the participants, and examiners have been sent around the world to Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Africa, Eastern USA, Western USA, Canada, Germany and the UK. Recordings are available on CD and cassette, and the Society has finally launched itself onto the Internet and has a direct E-mail address.

While subscriptions rose by 50p last year, deficit budgets are continuing to erode the Society's assets. This cannot continue. The Committee has considered a wide range of options for reducing subscriptions:

- Not issuing subscription copies
- Not issuing a Directory of Secretaries
- Not issuing Newsbriefs
- Not doing any further recordings or videos
- Not funding any further teaching or examination tours

But, all this was deemed unacceptable in a Society which was established to educate the public in Scottish country dancing. Therefore, the Finance Committee have had to consider an alternative membership and subscription structure.

The Committee have agreed to request further increases to the membership subscriptions at the AGM in November and to

recommend that an immediate investigation be carried out by the Society into an alternative membership structure. The Committee acknowledge that this action will further deplete the Society reserves but recognise that under the current Society structure no immediate action can be taken. Further cost savings will also have to be made.

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***Examinations Committee***

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*Functions: to consider from time to time the regulations governing the examinations and the awarding of Teaching and other Certificates and Diplomas of the Society and to make recommendations thereon to the Executive Council.*

Members: Mr Bruce Frazer (Convenor), Mrs Linda Gaul (Chairman), Mr Alan Mair (Vice-Chairman), Mr Bill Clement (Immediate Past Chairman), Mrs Brenda Burnell, Mrs Helen Frame, Mr Alex Gray, Miss Lesley Martin.

*In attendance: Mrs June Dick or Mrs Eileen Watt.*

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***The Committee usually meets three times a year.***

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The Committee were disappointed that, due to lack of response, the Potential Tutors' Course could not go ahead, however, the applicants affected were able to attend the Tutors' Course. Two new tutors were invited to tutor the Summer School examination classes this year, giving them valuable experience.

The Musicians' course has again been very successful and discussions are continuing as to whether it could be held in conjunction with the Summer School to allow more access to musicians from overseas.

The Committee are aware of the need for additional examiners and are assessing the suitability of several experienced teachers.

An assessment took place resulting in five new adjudicators being appointed.

The Committee was concerned that candidates are finding the stress of the current examination system overwhelming and agreed to investigate means of reducing any unnecessary stress.

As we go to press, plans are underway for the examiners seminar which is a valuable opportunity for all examiners to gather together in one venue to discuss standards and policy of the Society examinations.

Two tours of North America took place in 1999 and plans are underway for the Australian and Japanese examination tours in 2000.

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***Publications & Research Committee***

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*Functions: to arrange for the publication of such instructional literature and other relevant material as may be deemed to be in the interest of the Society, subject to the approval of the estimated expenditure by the Finance Committee and to the approval of the Executive Council. To conduct and to encourage research in furtherance of the objects of the Society.*

Members: Miss Irene Bennett (Convenor), Mrs Linda Gaul (Chairman), Mr Alan Mair (Vice-Chairman), Mr Bill Clement (Immediate Past Chairman), Mr Alan MacPherson (Archivist), Miss Christian Catto, Miss Muriel Johnstone, Miss Christine Traynor, Miss Angela Young.

*In attendance: Miss Gill Parker.*

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***The Committee usually meets six times a year.***

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The Committee has again experienced an extremely busy year. The Committee regularly considers a whole range of stock items for the Society, these include books, leaflets, recordings, videos and CDs.

With 40 numbered books and various pocket editions and other publications now available, book revisions continue to be required. The Committee is progressively working through the older publications to ensure that the terminology is up-to-date and consistent. (see page 11)

Many new projects are being considered including a music handbook to assist musicians new to playing for classes.

The long awaited video of the manual has, with considerable regret, been withdrawn due to a number of technical hitches. However, to assist teachers and experienced dancers who



may have difficulty with 'the tricky bits' of some dances, we have released a video 'How do you do it?'. This is now available from HQ and gives a representation of the more complicated dances as contained in the Manual.

It was deemed appropriate that, in the new Millennium, we should produce a reprint of the first edition of the Society's first publication and a recording on CD will be available to accompany this.

The dances have poured in for the 1999 and 2000 subscription copies. The Committee put a call out for appropriate tunes and received over 100! The Committee has very much enjoyed sifting through the dances and choosing tunes to accompany them.

In line with current Society policy, the Publications Committee has this year released a subscription copy, which, it is hoped, will appeal to young people and less experienced dancers. A new co-ordinated look has also been launched with the book, CD and cassette all tied in together.

We have finally completed the mammoth task of recording all the books on cassette - this year sees the release of the final recordings of Book 25 and Book 26. The Committee have been considering means of releasing more of the tunes on CD and are investigating this further.

The Archivist continues to answer members queries and you can read about his activities on page 17.

### Summer School Committee

*Functions: to assist the Director in the administration of the Summer School.*

Members: Mrs Marjorie MacRae (Director), Mrs Linda Gaul (Chairman), Mr Alan Mair (Vice-Chairman), Mr Bill Clement (Past Chairman), Mrs Johan MacLean (Director Designate), Mrs Atsuko Clement, Miss Fay Golding, Dr Ian Hall, Mr Jim Rae.

*In attendance: Mrs June Dick*

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*The Committee usually meets twice a year.*

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Due to the refurbishment of the kitchen in our usual venue, the Summer School this year was split

between two residences of the University. Despite this, the School ran well and many new participants were able to attend for the first time. Members will, no doubt, be looking forward to a return to our usual venue in 2000. This year also saw the introduction of a daily newsletter at the School so that everyone could be kept up-to-date of developments whether they were resident or non-resident.

Introduction classes for Men's Highland and Ladies' Step were available this year and crib sheets of all the social dances were available from the Shop.

Unfortunately due to lack of demand the Preliminary Test examination class was only held on the first course of the School.

Despite the slightly lower number of participants at the 1999 Summer School, there were members from 28 different countries, including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA and Zimbabwe.

The Committee were also delighted to announce the introduction of a Winter School which is to be held from 24 - 29 February 2000 in Pitlochry, Scotland. As well as the usual morning and afternoon classes and social dancing, an end of School ball is to be held in nearby Blair Castle, seat of the 11th Duke of Atholl.

*1998 Summer School: Younger Hall Ceilidh and dance.  
The band was "The Keltic Fiddlers".*



## Summer School

*24 July - 20 August 2000,  
University Hall, St Andrews*

Approximately 1,000 dancers join together each year to attend the Society's annual Summer School in St. Andrews, Scotland.

Unfortunately due to the Open Golf tournament taking place in St. Andrews in July 2000 the start of the Summer School will be delayed until 24 July. This also means that the first week of the School will commence on Monday, with classes from Tuesday - Saturday inclusive. All other weeks will revert to the usual Sunday to Sunday format. Because of this it is anticipated that the first week's fees for the 2000 Summer School will be reduced appropriately.

Classes are available to students of all levels from elementary to fully qualified and include examination classes for Preliminary Test and Teachers' Certificate.

Accommodation is in single study bedrooms, and this year will be based at University Hall. Students may attend on a residential or non-residential basis.

Please ensure to forward your completed booking forms as soon as possible. Forms are available by sending a stamped addressed envelope, marked 'Summer School' to:

*The Secretary, RSCDS, 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AF, Scotland.*

Overseas members who cannot stamp the envelope should include an international reply coupon.

Application forms will not be available until January, but will be sent out, as soon as possible thereafter. They should be returned no later than 1 March 2000. Those hoping to enrol for an examination class should also request a syllabus and application form for candidate training.

**Note: residential places are limited, and early booking is recommended**



# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held in The Kelvin Hall Sports Arena, Glasgow  
at 14.30 hrs on Saturday, 7 November 1998

## Present

*Office Bearers:* The Earl of Mansfield (President, and Chairman of the meeting), Mr W Clement (Chairman), Mrs L Gaul (Vice Chairman), Lt. Col. M Gibson (Hon. Vice President).

*Past Chairmen:* Mr A Aitkenhead, Mr J B C Brown, Mr G Lawson, Dr A MacFadyen, Mrs M Parker.

219 Delegates and 270 observers were also present.

*In Attendance:* Miss G Parker (Secretary), Mrs M Jeffcoat (Treasurer)

## Apologies

Apologies had been received from the following Honorary Vice Presidents: Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel, The Hon. Peregrine Moncreiffe of Moncreiffe, The Earl of Elgin; Past Chairman: Mr James Taylor; and ten delegates.

## President's Welcome

This has been a particularly special year for the Society which I am sure will have unique memories for all those who took part. Speaking to members at several of the anniversary events held this year, I know that the one common thread throughout all the celebrations has been one of friendship and enjoyment. These two ideals have long been heralded as the core of the Society.

Her Majesty The Queen has also expressed her pleasure at being able to attend the 75th Anniversary Reception where she enjoyed the dance demonstration.

Her Majesty has graciously sent the following message to members:

*"Please convey my sincere thanks to the Executive Council and members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society for their kind message of loyal greetings sent on the occasion of their Annual General Meeting. As patron of the society I was delighted*

*to receive this message and send my best wishes to all concerned for a most enjoyable and successful occasion.*

*I much enjoyed my visit to the City Chambers in Edinburgh last July to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society"*

Signed *Elizabeth R.*



*The President and Hon. Vice-President at 75th Anniversary Lunch*

I am delighted that the Society is able to return to Glasgow on this occasion for two reasons. Glasgow is of course where the original idea for the establishment of the Society was discussed, seventy five years ago. It is also where I chaired my first Annual General Meeting as President

of the Society, twenty years ago.

It is a pleasure to welcome so many members to this Annual General Meeting. We also are joined by some of our Past Chairmen, one of our Honorary Vice Presidents - Muriel Gibson and the members being honoured with the Society's scroll.

## Presentation of the Society Scroll of Honour

The Earl of Mansfield made the presentation of the Society's Scroll of Honour to the following recipients:

*Mrs Margaret Ackers*

*Mr Alastair Aitkenhead*

*Mr John Armstrong*

*Mrs Mina Corson*

*Mr John Douglas*

*Mr George and Mrs Nan Lawson*

*Mr Robbie Shepherd*

*(Mr Robert Blackie's family, Mrs Dorothy Carr, Mrs Brenda Kampf, and Mr John Middleton were presented with their scrolls locally).*



*1998 Scroll Recipients - (l to r) Mr John Armstrong, Mr George Lawson, Mr Alastair Aitkenhead, Mr John Middleton, Mr John Douglas, Mrs Nan Lawson, Mrs Margaret Ackers, Mrs Mina Corson, Mr Robbie Shepherd*



*Dorothy Carr*



*Brenda Kampf*



## *Minutes of Meeting of 1 November 1997*

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously.

## *Appointment of Office Bearers*

### **Honorary President:**

The Earl of Mansfield, D.L., J.P. was unanimously re-elected as President of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

### **Presentation to The President**

Mr Clement announced that as part of the 75th Anniversary celebrations the Society had commissioned a new President's Badge of Office. He was indeed honoured to be able to present this on behalf of the members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. In addition, to mark the twentieth anniversary of Lord Mansfield's presidency a special Atholl kilt pin was presented to the President.

Lord Mansfield was, he said, delighted to have more time to be able to attend Society events and was honoured to receive the presentations. He would be honoured to wear the new pin to match the family kilt.

### **Honorary Vice-Presidents:**

It was unanimously agreed to reappoint the following Honorary Vice Presidents of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society:

Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel  
Lt. Col. (Retd.) M. Muriel Gibson  
The Hon. Peregrine Moncreiffe of  
Moncreiffe  
The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine

## *Adoption of Annual Report*

The full annual report having been printed in Bulletin 76 on pages 7-9, Miss Parker gave a summary of the main issues which arose during the year.

"To say it has been an extraordinary twelve months would, of course, be stating the obvious. The Society's logo for the year summarised our hopes with the catch phrase 'Let's celebrate in 1998' and this we did. For who could forget the wonderful occasions, the family spirit and the

enjoyment which has encompassed the 75th anniversary year."

She went on to highlight the various 75th anniversary events which had taken place, including those attended by the Patron, President and Hon. Vice Presidents.

Many people had commented on the spirit of the 75th year, and someone recently summarised the year. "What a great 1998!"

"But the year has also brought a considerable amount of hard work. There have been 23 standing committee meetings, 11 sub-committee meetings and 3 convenors meetings this year alone!"

The General Purposes Committee had approved several projects for funding from the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund, one of which included the AGM Founders Ball. 28 students had benefited from the subsidy to members under 21 years of age who attend Summer School. In addition the usual 5 Summer School scholarships were also awarded.

Two Examination tours had taken place - one in New Zealand and one in South Africa as well as several examinations throughout the UK. 1999 will be equally busy with two tours of North America, an Adjudicators' course, an Examiners' seminar, and the three annual courses for Tutors, Potential Tutors and Musicians.

Further investigation is being carried out into the possibility of holding a Winter School in the year 2000, and a questionnaire was being issued to members to gauge demand.

Branch numbers had continued to rise. (170 including the two Teachers Associations) The affiliated groups stood at 458. After a reduction in Membership figures last year, they were again level with those in 1996 with the current membership standing at 24,265.

Five new CDs had been released in the year, and the 75th Anniversary year could not go by without a special commemorative book. A copy of this and a special 75th anniversary recording was presented to Her Majesty the Queen at the 75th Anniversary Reception.

The 1999 subscription copy (Book 40) was to be a book of dances for young people and new dancers. A CD and

cassette will accompany the book. Books 25 and 26 are to be recorded next year. This will complete the process of recording all the numbered books. Plans for the Millennium publication (Book 41) are also underway.

1999 also sees the launch of the newly expanded Newsbrief, and news items continue to be included in regular RSCDS Updates to Secretaries and on the Society web pages.

She concluded by thanking each of the office staff at Headquarters.

The annual report was unanimously adopted.

## *Adoption of Annual Accounts*

Mr David Watson, Finance Convenor gave a summary of the annual accounts.

While there was a large variation from the anticipated surplus, Mr Watson explained that there was no need to be disappointed as much had been achieved by the Society in the year. The main deviations arose from:

- early payments of Subscriptions in the financial year 1996-7 (which had resulted in an over-estimate for 1997-8).
- a less well attended Summer School in 1997 had been the result of a year without a new book.
- while the School had produced a modest surplus, the sales were down.
- a record number of CDs had been produced and this had resulted in a large increase in stock prior to the year end.
- the new style A4 Bulletin had over run the expected number of pages partly due to a higher number of adverts than expected.
- meetings expenses had varied over budget due partly to increased expense claims in respect of the new Executive Council start time.

He went on to advise that the level of investments were now such that an Advisory Panel had been appointed to assess the performance of the Stock Brokers who had been appointed to manage the funds.



The Society's finances now involve approx. £730,000. In order to assist with more accurate budgeting procedures, the Finance Committee had asked the committees to predict their requirements on an ongoing basis. Budgets will be set in April to be presented to the Executive Council in May.

The accounts were unanimously adopted.

### **Appointment of Auditor**

It was unanimously agreed to reappoint Mr Humphrey Holmes, C.A., as Auditor.

### **Motions**

#### *Annual Membership Subscriptions*

It was agreed unanimously:

"That with effect from the beginning of the 1999 subscription year the annual membership subscription to the Society be increased to £6.50."

#### *Long Term Membership Subscriptions*

It was agreed unanimously that:

"With effect from the beginning of the 1999 subscription year the long term membership subscription to the Society be increased to £65 and that the long term membership period remain at ten years."

### **Amendments to the Constitution**

#### *Annual Review by Finance Committee*

The motion:

"That with effect from 1 July 1999 the Finance Committee of the Executive Council be authorised to undertake an annual review of the membership subscriptions to the Society and to set the subscription at a level which would not vary from the previous rate by more than 5%."

was overwhelmingly carried.

#### *Changes required by Inland Revenue*

The following motion requested by the Inland Revenue who are responsible for registering charities in Scotland was unanimously carried.

"Clause II Objects to be amended as follows:

Insert after the words "The objects of the Society shall be:" the following:

"to advance the education of the Public in traditional Scottish country

dancing and in furtherance thereof:-"

Add new Clause "X. Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of the Society any assets remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall not be paid to, or distributed among the members of the Society but shall be given or transferred to a recognised charitable body or bodies with similar objects."

Insert new paragraph after VI(4)(b) "Functions"

"All monies raised by, or on behalf of, the Society shall be applied to further the objects of the Society and for no other purpose; provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any employee of the Society and fees to professional and technical advisers; or the repayment to members of reasonable out of pocket expenses."

*(similar amendments to be made to the Model Constitution for Local Associations in Scotland)*

#### *Deadline for Executive Council Representatives*

The following motion was unanimously carried:

"delete clause VI (1) (c) and replace with following:

"(c) (i) The representative from each Local Association shall be appointed by the Local Association in terms of the procedure contained in its constitution.

(ii) A Local Association may appoint a representative who is not a member of the Local Association provided the representative is a member of the Society.

(iii) Representatives shall be appointed for the period from the Executive Council meeting immediately following an Annual General Meeting of the Society until

the immediately succeeding Annual General Meeting. Representatives may be appointed at any time during this period.

(iv) Confirmation of an appointment must be in the hands of the Secretary at least eight weeks before the first Executive Council meeting to be attended by the representative.

(v) In the event of the nominated representative being unable to attend any meeting of the Executive Council, an accredited substitute shall be allowed, provided no one representative shall represent more than one Local Association.

insert additional clause VI (3) (d)

(d) The Executive Council shall have the power to make rules regulating the expenses payable to representatives attending meetings of the Executive Council or to delegate the making of such rules to the Finance Committee."

renumber current VI (3) (d) as VI (3) (e)." The foregoing motion was unanimously approved.

#### *Membership Age Barrier*

The motion:

"Clause III (1) to be amended as follows:

"Membership of the Society shall be open to all persons over the age of 16 interested in the objects of the Society" to be deleted and replaced with "Membership of the Society shall be open to all persons interested in the objects of the Society. Only members of 16 years of age or over shall be entitled to vote at Society meetings or hold office within the Society". having been proposed and seconded was dropped in favour of the following amended motion which was overwhelmingly carried with 57 votes against.



*Delegates at 1998 AGM*



"i that Clause III (1) be amended as follows:

"Membership of the Society shall be open to all persons over the age of 16 interested in the objects of the Society" to be deleted and replaced with "Membership of the Society shall be open to all persons interested in the objects of the Society." subject to the following:

(a) that the Executive Council be instructed to propose further amendments to the Constitution to allow for members under the age of 16, and in so doing, to propose suitable terms and conditions of membership;

(b) implementation of the change to Clause III (1) as per (i) above to await approval of such amendments as are determined in (a) being approved by the Inland Revenue and the Society in General Meeting."

### **Elections for Office Bearers**

#### *Society Chairman*

Mrs Linda Gaul was unanimously confirmed as Society Chairman, being the sole nominee.

Mrs Gaul was presented with the Chairman's chain of office by Mr Bill Clement and she in turn presented Mr Clement with the Past Chairman's badge.

In presenting the badge Mrs Gaul said, Bill had been Chairman during a time of unprecedented change within our Society. "He has worked extremely hard for the Society in all fields and in today's parlance has been a very 'hands on' Chairman." She said that she would now take over responsibility for implementing the strategic plan, reorganising the Executive Council, seeing that Scottish country dancing is taught in Scottish schools and possibly redeveloping the basement area of Coates Crescent. She hoped that he would maintain his interest and continue to give advice when required.

She was, she said, very conscious that she followed an illustrious line of dedicated dancers who had led the Society to the very best of their ability, and she promised to do no less.

#### *Vice Chairman*

Mr Alan Mair (St. Andrews) was elected Vice Chairman of the Society for the forthcoming year.

### **Elections for Six Members to the Executive Council (1998/9)**

The following six members were elected to the Executive Council.

*Miss Irene Bennett*

*Mrs Helen Frame*

*Dr Alastair MacFadyen*

*Miss Lesley Martin*

*Miss Margaret Ross*

*Mr David Watson*

### **Vote of Thanks**

Mr B Harry (Edinburgh) gave the vote of thanks. Taking a leaf out of Mrs Anna Holden's book he was, he said "keeping his words short and sweet, because you never know when you might have to eat them".

This had been a season of great joy and festivity and a year of indulgence exactly as had been predicted 20 years ago when the Society had been in Glasgow.

20 years ago Lord Mansfield had, he said, been in the 'hot seat' and had said that "it was a matter of pride and honour that he had been invited to become President of the Society". It was wonderful to hear that the President still felt that way. He expressed the thanks of those present to The Earl of Mansfield for sitting in the 'hot seat' again and for the light and business-like way that he had conducted the meeting.

He thanked all the members of the Glasgow Branch for the huge undertaking in organising such a tremendous event. Without the dancers and musicians however the Society would not have existed and thanks were given to all members of the Society.

He concluded by saying that RSCDS Edinburgh Branch were looking forward to greeting members to the 70th Annual General Meeting.

The President closed the meeting and announced that the next Annual General Meeting of the Society will be on Saturday 6 November 1999, in Edinburgh.

## **RSCDS Courses available in 2000**

### **Potential Tutors' Course**

20 February

Tutor: Mrs Johan MacLean

Open to members with a full Teachers' Certificate, with wide and varied teaching experience, who intend to run a candidate class in the near future.

### **Tutors' Course**

27 March

Tutor: Miss Lesley Martin

Great refresher course for tutors with experience in presenting candidates for examination.

### **Musicians' Course**

16-18 April

Tutor: Ms Muriel Johnstone

A course designed to assist competent musicians to play for classes. Covers instruction in the various styles and aspects of playing for Scottish country dancing. Depending on applicants may be adapted to cover accordion, fiddle or piano.

*Application forms for all of the above are available from your branch secretary or HQ.*

**All applications must be returned to the Secretary at:**

RSCDS, 12 Coates Crescent,  
Edinburgh EH3 7AF,  
before 30 December 1999.

*The cost of tuition and lunch will be paid by the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund. Students must arrange their own accommodation and travel.*





## Millennium Items

The Society is to commission a small range of special millennium items which will only be available for a limited period of time.

These items will include:

**Millennium hallmarked silver brooch**  
in the shape of the Society crown.

**Art Pewter Brooch**  
incorporating RSCDS letters in design.

**Suit Covers**  
in navy with Society logo.

**Car Stickers**

with millennium logo included.

**Mouse Mats**

with 2000 calendar and RSCDS details printed.

For further details of these and other items contact your local Secretary or RSCDS HQ at 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AF, Scotland.

Tel: +44 (0)131 225 3854

e-mail: info@rscdshq.freeserve.co.uk

## LIST OF BOOKS - Latest edition currently available

*Check your version and see if perhaps it needs updating.*

*Many of the older editions have been revised to ensure clarity in the dance instructions.*

Book 1 ..... 1998	Book 26 ..... 1994	MMM2 ..... 1998
Book 2 ..... 1998	Book 27 ..... 1984	30 Popular ..... 1999
Book 3 ..... 1999	Book 28 ..... 1981	Index to Formations..... 1996
Book 4 ..... 1985	Book 29 ..... 1979	Dance with your Soul ..... 1982
Book 5 ..... 1985	Book 30 ..... 1981	Album for Mrs Stewart ..... 1988
Book 6 ..... 1983	Book 31 ..... 1999	A5 Index ..... 1996
Book 7 ..... 1998	Book 32 ..... 1991	
Book 8 ..... 1981	Book 33 ..... 1985	
Book 9 ..... 1988	Book 34 ..... 1999	<b>Pocket Editions</b>
Book 10 ..... 1994	Book 35 ..... 1988	1-3 ..... 1995
Book 11 ..... 1991	Book 36 ..... 1999	4-6 ..... 1995
Book 12 ..... 1994	Book 37 ..... 1992	7-9 ..... 1999
Book 13 ..... 1999	Book 38 ..... 1994	10-12 ..... 1987
Book 14 ..... 1986	Book 39 ..... 1996	13-15 ..... 1996
Book 15 ..... 1999	Book 40 ..... 1999	16-18 ..... 1984
Book 16 ..... 1984	Graded ..... 1998	19-21 ..... 1988
Book 17 ..... 1993	Children's ..... 1991	22 + Graded..... 1993
Book 18 ..... 1984	5 for 1965 ..... 1994	23, 24, 5/65 ..... 1993
Book 19 ..... 1957	4 for 1978 ..... 1993	25-27 ..... 1994
Book 20 ..... 1959	5 for 1982 ..... 1982	28-29 ..... 1998
Book 21 ..... 1999	MacNab Vol. 1..... 1991	30, 31, 5/82, children ..... 1985
Book 22 ..... 1963	MacNab Vol. 2..... 1991	32 and leaflets ..... 1996
Book 23 ..... 1964	The Manual ..... 1997	33-35 ..... 1988
Book 24 ..... 1968	An Introduction to SCD ..... 1998	36-38 ..... 1995
Book 25 ..... 1999	MMM1 ..... 1998	Index ..... 1996



# Branch Anniversaries

*Our best wishes and congratulations go to all branches who celebrated anniversaries in 1999. There will be celebrations all round for the millennium but the following branches, are also celebrating their own special anniversaries in 2000: Perth & Perthshire, Dundee, and Aberdeen will be 75. Boston, Capetown, Carlisle & Borders, Castle Couglas, Forres, London, Moffat, Monklands, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne & District, and Whitehead will be 50. Northern Virginia, San Diego, Washington and York & N. Humberside will be 25. Congratulations all round!*

## **Edinburgh – 75th Anniversary**

The Branch celebrated its seventy-fifth Anniversary, with various functions starting with a Ball and culminating in our hosting the Society's Annual General Meeting in November. The Ball was a great success. Our guests on this occasion were the Chairman of the Society, Mrs Linda Gaul and the Chairmen of many branches from the length and breadth of Scotland.

In May, the Branch were honoured by the Lord Provost and Council of the City of Edinburgh with a civic reception. The Chairman's Reception, in June, was an opportunity for all Branch members to meet in a social atmosphere. This was a non-dancing event, although the guests were entertained by an exhibition of dancing by the children from the Branch class.

A family picnic took place in September. A totally informal occasion, open to everyone, grannies, bairns and non-dancing partners, with dancing in the open air.

Edinburgh is always a busy place for dancing, and this year was no exception. When the final notes of Auld Lang Syne drift into the cold night air at Meadowbank in November, we will finally be able to relax. Let no one dare mention the Centenary Celebrations in 2024, not for a wee while anyway!

## **Annan – 50th Anniversary**

This year the Annan Branch has had two important events. Not only is the Branch celebrating its 50th Anniversary but our oldest member Christina MacDonald celebrated her 90th birthday. To reach the age of 90 and to still be dancing is quite an achievement, so to mark the event Jackie Johnston composed a dance for her and we all danced it at an evening party where we were joined by some past members. We also presented Christina with a scroll to mark her long life in dancing.



*Annan Branch*

We were pleased to welcome several new members whom, with sympathetic and expert teaching, have enjoyed their dancing, as have we all. In November we will hold an anniversary dance to which we hope to welcome past and present dancing friends.

## **Inverness - 50th Anniversary**

Thursday 4th February marked the 50th Anniversary of Inverness & District Branch. At this social evening we were happy to welcome founder members and former teachers also our Hon. President Mr Bill Murray, accompanied by his wife, who cut our Anniversary Cake.

Our 50th Anniversary Supper Dance took place on 19th March and was attended by 150 dancers and the music was supplied by Alistair Hunter's Band. Proceeds from the raffle were donated to the Highland Society for the Blind.



*Inverness Branch*

The Branch was delighted to accept an invitation from the Provost and members of the Inverness Area Committee of the Highland Council to a Civic Dinner which was held in Inverness Town House on 27th March in recognition of our 50th Anniversary. This was a thoroughly enjoyable evening for all who attended and especially as the toast was given by Provost Alan Sellar who was a former member of the Branch in its earlier days.

## **Hunter Valley – 25th Anniversary**

Members of the Hunter Valley (Newcastle, Australia) Branch were delighted to take the opportunity of the occasion of their 25th Anniversary to celebrate the anniversary of their formation in 1974. Hunter Valley Branch conducted the first Australian Winter School in 1976. Members joined together to enjoy the dancing at the anniversary Ball in August and at the re-union luncheon in October.



# 1999/2000 BRANCH WORKSHOPS

DATE	BRANCH	DATE	BRANCH
1999 October 1-3	Gothenburg	2000 March 18	Leeds
1999 October 9	Exeter	2000 March 18	Portland (Oregon)
1999 October 15	Atlanta	2000 March 18	Richmond
1999 October 16	Royal Leamington Spa	2000 March 18	Royal Tunbridge Wells
1999 October 22-24	Houston & District	2000 March 24-26	Leeds
1999 November	Belfast	2000 March 25	Bath
1999 November	Calgary	2000 March 25	West Lothian
1999 November	Hamilton & Clydesdale	2000 Spring	Montreal
1999 November	Medicine Hat	2000 April	Sacramento
1999 November 5-7	Kingston (Ontario)	2000 April 14-16	Orange County
1999 November 5-7	Northern Virginia	2000 April 14-15	Helensburgh & District
1999 November 6	Kitchener-Waterloo	2000 April 15	Bournemouth
1999 November 13	Bristol	2000 April 22	Leeds
1999 November 19-21	Croydon & District	2000 April 22-24	Paris
1999 November 20	Edinburgh	2000 April 28-29	Isle of Islay
1999 November 21	Birmingham	2000 April 28-30	East Lothian
1999 November 27	Norwich	2000 April 29	N W Craven
1999 December 3-5	Carlisle & Border	2000 April 29	Winchester
1999 December 10-12	Leeds	2000 May	Orange County
1999 December 19	The Hague District	2000 May	Pietermaritzburg
1999 Dec/2000 Jan	New Zealand	2000 May 1-5	Tokai
2000 January 8	N W Craven	2000 May 5-6	Portrush
2000 January 14-16	Falkirk	2000 May 19-20	Isle of Skye
2000 January 15	The Hague District	2000 May 19-20	Duns & District
2000 February	Nova Scotia	2000 May 19-21	New York
2000 February 5	Inverness & District	2000 May 20	Leeds
2000 February 5	Carlisle & Border	2000 May 26-28	Mornington Peninsula
2000 February 5	South Wales	2000 June	New Mexico
2000 February 5-6	Cheltenham	2000 June 10	Leeds
2000 February 11-13	York & North Humberside	2000 July	Boston
2000 February 12	Stirling	2000 July	Canberra & District
2000 February 18-20	Hawaii	2000 August	TAC
2000 February 19	Oxfordshire	2000 August 25-27	London
2000 February 19	Leeds	2000 September	Johannesburg
2000 February 19	Perth & Perthshire	2000 September	Seattle
2000 February 19	Vancouver	2000 September 5	Central Iowa
2000 February 25-27	Atlanta	2000 September 9	Lochaber
2000 February 26	London (Ontario)	2000 September 16	Leeds
2000 February 26	New Jersey	2000 September 23	Ayr
2000 March	Seattle	2000 September 23	Buffalo
2000 March 4	Birmingham	2000 September 30	Manchester
2000 March 4	Somerset	2000 September 30	South Wales
2000 March 4-6	Winnipeg	2000 October	Hamilton & Clydesdale
2000 March 10-11	Lorn (Argyll)	2000 October	Glasgow
2000 March 10-12	Cincinnati	2000 October 7	Leeds
2000 March 11	Berks/Hants/Surrey Border	2000 October 7	York & North Humberside
2000 March 11	Cheshire	2000 October 9	Lochaber
2000 March 11	Leicester	2000 October 14	London
2000 March 11	Newcastle-Upon-Tyne & District	2000 October 20-22	Sutton Coldfield
2000 March 11	The Hague District	2000 October 21	Aberdeen
2000 March 18-20	Tokyo	2000 October 28	Sheffield
2000 March 18	Edinburgh		



# A day in the life of . . .

## A BAND LEADER

BY COLIN DEWAR

Colin Dewar's dance band has made several recordings for the Society, the most recent being the two CDs that accompany the Collins Pocket Reference to Scottish Country Dancing. The following article gives a brief insight into the work involved prior to, and on the day of, an RSCDS recording.

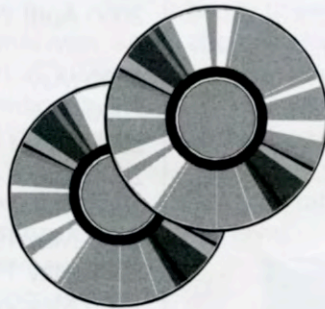
IT IS ALWAYS a pleasure to be asked by the RSCDS to go into the studio and record an album of music for one of their many books. However, it's possibly quite difficult for the dancing and listening public to realise just how much time and effort goes into producing the finished product.

After being approached by the Society to do the recording, the long, hard task begins, firstly by organising that each member of the band is available to suit the studio dates. Rehearsals are then arranged and, if the band members are widely spread over Scotland, it can be difficult to arrange rehearsals around work commitments.

The hardest task of all must be selecting alternative tunes for the dances as they have to match the original tune i.e. *flow* the same way and have the same bar sequence. For example, a 32 bar tune could be played in the order of first 8 bars repeated followed by the second 8 bars repeated or, the entire 16 bars repeated, depending on how it is written in the book. The alternative tunes have to follow the same sequence as the original. This, is why it is difficult to select some of the many pipe tunes which are available, because pipe tunes are

usually in 4-(not two) parts, a *reel* pity!

The norm is to use 4 tunes including the original tune, starting with the original and ending with the original, the playing order being – tune 1, 2, 3, 4, 2, 3, 4, 1, with this order it is important that all the tunes blend with each other.



All the music is written out, melody first, 2nd accordion copies, bass and piano copies, a lot of writing you will agree. Once all the copies are written they are then submitted to check notation, barring and copyright etc.

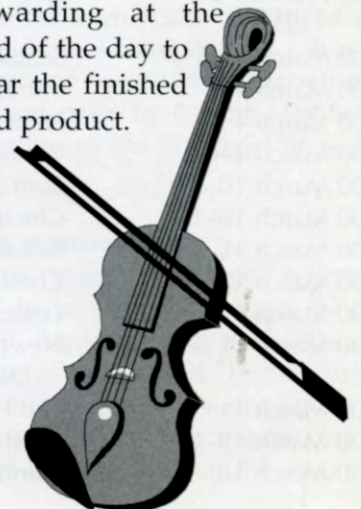
Then to rehearsals. Once the okay has been given for the music. The first (possibly the only) rehearsal is when the 'T's are dotted and the 'T's crossed! It is important for the 1st accordion and the fiddle to be accurate, so the dots and tails in the note values are clearly marked. The chords are then checked and changed when required, whether it be to correct or simply just to improve the arrangement.

I usually set the tempos and am fortunate to have had a good grounding in playing for Scottish country dancing from the age of nine. This has helped to make this

task easier, and with the help of the other very experienced members of the band, we ensure that the tempo set is maintained to the end of the dance.

Into the studio, usually a Sunday morning, probably after playing the night before and feeling rather lethargic. However, after a brief sound check, (this is when the sound engineers make sure that all the microphones are in the right place, and everything is being properly recorded), we are soon under way. Tempos are very important, but the Society always provides a contingent of experienced dancers/committee members armed with stopwatches. Every tune and set is checked with the stopwatch as well as monitoring the number of bars, as the main purpose of these recordings is to provide music for dance classes.

A lot of work and joint input is needed, both from the band and the Society, and indeed from the studio staff, who play a very important part in the finished production. Despite the hard work, it is always very enjoyable to do a recording, and quite rewarding at the end of the day to hear the finished end product.





The last twelve months have been memorable! The combination of the 75th Anniversary of the Society, of being invited to visit St Andrews Summer School, and having examiners visit us here in South Africa all contributed to making a most exciting, exhilarating year.

In Johannesburg, the dancing year starts in January, the height of the summer, when temperatures are as high as 28 – 30 degrees centigrade. Kilts are forsaken for shorts by the men and the ladies wear the coolest of summer dresses. The dancing, however, is energetic and lively and everyone agrees that it is good to be together again after the long summer break.

The beginning of term is immediately followed by Burns Suppers throughout the country, which means demonstrations of Scottish Dancing, so the men donned their kilts and doublets and looked magnificent despite the heat while their partners looked cool and graceful as they danced in honour of the 'Bard'.

Knowing that examiners were going to visit in August, candidate classes were started in April. Because of vast distances between branches, and varied holiday periods, it was necessary to conduct candidate classes over a period of months in various areas rather than try to organise a central venue for a period of two weeks.

In Johannesburg, I was able to run the candidate training class concurrently with the regular classes. Members of the classes were willing to act as volunteers for the candidates teaching practice, and became very involved in the project.



The view from the Cavern Berg Resort, Natal

In between the training classes I travelled to Pietermaritzburg in May to teach at their Day School. The School, well organised, though small in number, was most successful, catering for elementary, intermediate and advanced dancers. It was held in Epworth School, a lovely venue surrounded by beautiful grounds. Although bad weather struck, spirits were not dampened and the enthusiasm of the dancers ranging in age from teenagers to seniors was heart-warming.

In June, the Johannesburg Branch organised a Saturday morning workshop. This, was introduced as a stimulus for local dancers and has been a successful innovation, involving a full range of dancing standards.

The weather can be cold, as winter is well upon us, and that particular morning was 'bracing' to say the

least. The dancers worked away with great vigour and became quite pink with effort while we teachers gradually became blue! The scrumptious mid-morning tea added greatly to everyone's comfort.

July brought the excitement of a short, flying visit to Scotland. After a gap of twelve years, it was wonderful to be at Summer School again, albeit in the rather stressful capacity of potential examiner. To meet old and new friends, be welcomed and looked after so wholeheartedly, and be part of the marvellous atmosphere of Summer School celebrating the Society's 75th Anniversary was a very special experience never to be forgotten.



Back in South Africa again, the examinations all went well, and we were delighted to have the examiners teach as well as examine throughout the country. Their visit ended with the 57th Weekend School held at the Drakensburg Mountain Resort called the Cavern, a beautiful scenic spot nestling in the lower slopes of the mountains, and enjoyed by dancers from all parts of South Africa, as well as Botswana, Lesotho and even Zimbabwe.

Throughout the year each of the Branches celebrated the 75th Anniversary with special balls, which made us very conscious of being part of the world-wide community and glad of it.

Great credit must be given to all those members who keep Scottish Country Dancing alive and well here, as life becomes increasingly difficult with the effects of the continuing drop in the value of the Rand. The general result is soaring costs for everything connected with SCD. Added to this is the concern that in most of our cities driving at night can be hazardous with car hijacking a scary reality. Security guards have to be employed to patrol parking areas where classes are held to prevent cars from being stolen or broken into. These circumstances are causing a decline in numbers attending classes, and so costs keep mounting for those who do.

Despite the problems the enthusiasts remain undaunted and still derive great pleasure from their dance.

For my part, I love to see faces light up as the music starts and dancing begins. The knowledge that, for a few hours, all cares are forgotten makes teaching even more rewarding and Scottish Country Dancing even more important in our lives. What a great traditional heritage we have been given to enjoy. Long may it continue to do so!

*Margo Monteith*

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# SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE – 'A Reel Ceilidh On ...'

SCOTTISH DANCING is a wonderful pastime as it encompasses such a wide variety of styles, skills and repertoire, both within and outside the borders of the nation of Scotland. This variety has been described and categorised in many ways – almost as many ways as there are dancers! It is a pity that so many see only the differences and do not appreciate that there is much more that is common. One of Miss Milligan's wishes was to have all of Scotland dancing together, in this she did not succeed, but it is still a worthwhile aim.



Ceilidh dancing has come to mean up-beat, social dancing for young people (or the young at heart) and is just an extension into modern times of the local dances or hops, particularly in Scotland, where everyone went and learnt to copy what was going on. In rural Scotland it is still what happens today. The dances are generally not taught, but passed on in the traditional manner by watching and doing. The repertoire is limited, but expanding due to the efforts of some 'callers' who encourage dancers on to the floor and give more detailed instructions. The style is relaxed and uninhibited, and the emphasis is on Scottish flavour of the music and the dress. Bands come in all shapes and sizes and cost is not always an indication of quality, but energetic fiddlers are a common element. A typical evening's dancing will include some couple dances (eg Boston Two Step, Eva Three Step, Barn Dance, St Bernard's Waltz, Gay Gordons) and some country dances (eg Strip the Willow, the Eightsome Reel, The Dashing White Sergeant, The Duke of Perth,

The Flying Scotsman, The Virginia Reel). Much energy is expended and the consumption of alcohol is not unknown!

The 'Reelers' dance in a style which has been handed down over generations and which predates the Society. Their traditional repertoire is limited to ten or twelve dances, with very few strathspeys included, and has not changed much over the years. However, The Reel of the 51st Division, The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, Mairi's Wedding and Postie's Jig have now become firm favourites. Most 'reelers' learn some dances at school and then have private practices to refresh the memory. They enjoy informal functions in private homes or formal events such as the Royal Caledonian Ball or the Skye Gathering Ball at Portree and the Northern Meeting Ball at Inverness. The dress and the footwear determine the style of dancing, with a lilted pas de basque being used for all movement. The handholds and footwork are less rigid than the Society teaches, but the innate rhythm of the dance is rarely lost. In such gatherings it is the social function that is most important, dancing is what they do to have fun and enhance the sociability of the evening.

At its inception the Scottish Country Dance Society began to collect and publish the dances that were still being danced in Scotland and also to search for the dances that had been forgotten or simply gone out of fashion. There was also a move towards standardisation of steps and dances, so that wherever dancers met, a common repertoire would exist. As the teaching of the dances became more formalised, the dancers began to wear soft shoes for classes. This was sometimes because outdoor shoes were not permitted in halls or gymnasiums but more often because the dancers found that it was easier to practise the precise steps required. However, at that time, it would still have been considered very odd to wear 'dancing pumps' at a Ball or Social Dance! The style of dancing as practised by RSCDS members has developed over the years, some will say for the better and others will regret the change, but it has happened.

Scottish Dancing, in all its forms, is a very popular, enjoyable and social activity. The RSCDS is the custodian of part of this tradition and its members must continue to respect its aims and objects and to respect the traditions of others. Then we can truly say to one another 'Won't you join the dance?'

**With thanks to John Carswell, Bill Clement, Linda Gaul and Peter Knight for their contributions to this article.**



# The RSCDS Archive

The RSCDS Archive is located at 12 Coates Crescent, and is a collection of manuscripts, documents, photographs and memorabilia, which relate to SCD, its music and the history of the Society. The Archive in its present form was assembled by Dr. A MacFadyen during his tenure as Archivist. In recent years the catalogue has been 'computerised' and is now held on a MS Access database, and is of course fully searchable.

Unfortunately the Archive is not of the browsing type, but all members of the Society may make use of it. All that is required is a written request to the Archivist detailing the area of interest, and arrangements will be made to provide the resource material (if it is in the Archive) for viewing at Coates Crescent. If it is possible and appropriate to the need, a photocopy of the item or items can be provided.

Items are not usually available for use outwith HQ, but applications for such use may be considered.

Recent additions to the Archive include:

- The Hill Ms (photocopy) which is the source of the Longways Eightsome Reel (Book 19), and the Step Dance the 'King of Sweden'.
- A notebook of dance which belonged to a student of Miss Milligan at Jordanhill College in the days before the Society was formed.
- The 'Ayrshire Ms'. This is probably a 19th century Ms, and was presented to the Archive by Jean Walker of the Ayr Branch. The origin of this Ms is still being researched, but it does contain some previously unpublished dances.

BY ALAN MACPHERSON, ARCHIVIST

## Dan Blackwood

*On August 4th 1998 Dan Blackwood celebrated his 75th birthday (just three months short of the Society's own 75th 'birthday') with friends, dancers and family on the island of Lismore complete with surprise birthday cake. Dan recently designed the RSCDS notelets. He is a long time supporter of Roxburgh Selkirk and Peebles Branch and Lorn, Argyll Branch. Sue Porter, his daughter, wrote the following account of the lead up to the event.*

How to bake a cake in secret when the recipient is in the house? Took him to a dance and hoped he'd go to bed when we got home. No, he stayed up until after midnight! Once he was in bed, out came the mixer but the noise had to be disguised by the washing machine. Next evening, excuses were made to go next door so that I could ice the cake. Calamity, she was making him a favourite 'cloutie dumpling' but had no string, so a piece of pink cord from an old corset was borrowed from a neighbour.

Tuesday evening arrived and Dan, Gordon, myself and a friend set off for the 24 mile trip to Port Appin to catch the ferry. Of course we couldn't forget Anne's 'shopping' alias cake etc. At the ferry, we met up with several other dancers whom Dan, and his late wife Connie, knew through visiting dances in the Oban area for over 20 years. Fortunately the weather co-operated and the ferry sailed. The Lismore class knew nothing about the birthday surprise. At tea time the table was set, suddenly we were plunged in darkness. Dan, still suspected nothing thinking typical village hall needing money in the meter. However the production of a birthday cake complete with self lighting candles, soon set him straight. Needless to say the rest of the evening's dancing was a 'reel' good time.

*Sue Porter*



## Margaret G. Parker

*In December 1998 Mrs. Margaret G. Parker, former Society Chairman and Hon. Vice President of RSCDS Ayr Branch celebrated her 90th Birthday.*



Margaret (Meg) has been a Branch member for a very considerable time. In the early 1950s she gained her RSCDS Teacher's Certificate, going on to teach both adults and children. She has served almost continuously on the Branch Committee, including several terms as Chairman. For many years she was Branch Representative on the Society's Executive Council, serving on the Finance Committee and ultimately served as Chairman of the Society from 1982 – 1985. She was much gratified to have her namesake dance (devised by John Drewry) included in Book 31. Meg attended Summer School regularly, and has many pleasant memories of mornings in the Younger Hall listening to Kitty's pre-class recitals, and afternoons seated on Crail harbour wall enjoying an ice-cream! Part of her heart still lies in the Bow of Fife.

Country dancing apart, Meg's life has been varied and interesting. She was Head of a local Primary School. After retiring she taught 'special needs' classes. She is still actively interested in her Church and became a J.P. Following the death of her husband she took up two of his interests – politics and the National Savings Movement. For her work with the latter she was awarded an MBE. She served for many years as a Councillor on the former Kilmarnock Burgh Council, ultimately becoming Provost.

No gathering including Margaret Parker is ever dull. She has a racy wit and a graphic turn of phrase. We all send our salutations to Margaret and wish her well.

*Ethel Carlyle*



# RSCDS Price List

All items subject to availability. Prices as at 1 June 1999.

## Full price list available from HQ

Please place your order with your local branch Secretary. Remember to check prices with them first. The prices shown are retail, and it may be possible to get a members' discount. If you wish to order through HQ remember that p+p has to be added. We accept payment via Access, Visa, Delta, JCB and Eurocard, or cheque in £ sterling.

### Sale Books

Books 8, 18, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 5 for 1965, 4 for 1978 and 5 for 1982. 50p each

An Album for Mrs Stewart (co-founder of the Society) £3.00

### Books with Printed Music

Books 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 25, 32, 33, 34, 37, 38, 39 £2.75

Books 13, 21, 25, 31, 36 and 40 £3.50

Graded Book £2.75

Scottish Country Dances for children £2.75

McNab Dances Vol. 1 and 2 £5.50

### Books without printed Music

Pocket Editions:

1-3; 4-6; 7-9; 10-12; 13-15; 16-18; 19-21; 22 and Graded Book; 23, 24 and Five Traditional; 25-27; 28, 29 and Four for 1978; 30, 31, Five for 1982 and SCD for Children; 32 and

Leaflets; 33-35 £2.20

36-38 £2.75

Miss Milligan's Miscellany of Scottish Country Dances Volume I (39 Dances) £3.30

Volume II (38 Dances) £3.30

An introduction to Scottish Country Dancing (suitable for beginners) £3.30

Thirty Popular SC Dances £2.30

Scottish Country Dance Music (alternative tunes Books 8 to 14) book of music £5.50

### General

Dance With Your Soul (Biography of Miss Jean Milligan, co-founder of the Society) £5.50

The Manual of Scottish Country Dancing £6.25

Index to RSCDS Dances (available in A5 or Pocket size) £1.75

Index to Formations (for teachers) £2.20

Examination Syllabus £1.75

Syllabus for Teaching Beginners £1.75

Notes for Tutors of RSCDS

Examination Courses £1.75

Core Programme for Tutors £2.20

Hopscotch (SCD for Schools) £4.40

Glossary of Standard Dance Terminology £1.00

### Leaflets

Preliminary Test Dances £1.65

Teachers' Certificate Dances £1.65

1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14,

15, 16, 17, 21-22, 27, 30, 31 £0.55

3-5, 18-20, 23-26, 28-29 £1.00

32 £1.50

33 £2.00

### Cassettes

containing tunes to accompany dances as described in Books 1-40 are £9.00 each

### CDs

Compilations:

A Scottish Celebration £12.00

The World of Scottish Dance £12.00

Scottish Dance Favourites

Volume I: £12.00

Volume II: £12.00

Volume III: £12.00

Tweedside £12.00

Scottish Reflections £12.00

Music for Collins Pocket Reference

Volume I: £12.00

Volume II: £12.00

CDs from the Books

75th Anniversary Dances £12.00

(incl. Leaflets 32 & 33 and 5 for 1965)

Book 23 £12.00

Book 24 £12.00

Book 25 £12.00

Book 26 £12.00

Book 40 and Children's Book £12.00

### Videos (VHS PAL and NTSC)

Books 32, 33, 34 £ 8.50 £10.00

Books 35 and 36 £10.00 £12.00

Books 37 and 38 £10.00 £12.00

Book 39 £ 8.50 £10.00

The 75th Year £10.00 £12.50

How Do You Do It £10.00 £12.50

### Accessories all with motif

Badge with dancer motif £0.30

Binder (two ring) £3.00

Book Mark (leather) £1.00

Brooches

Saltire flag £0.80

Junior £1.50

Dancer motif on gilt £12.50

RSCDS on enamel £1.75

Silver (Celtic RSCDS letters) £30.00

Car Sticker

- Society name and motif £0.50

Coasters (set of six) RSCDS £6.00

Cuff Links (Dancers motif) £11.50

Eraser (dancers motif) £0.25

Hose Flashes (in green, blue, red or black) £9.00

Key Ring (acrylic blue

on white) £1.25

(leather) £1.50

Kilt Pin (art pewter) £9.75

Manicure Scissors £1.85

Notelets (pack of 10)

(Scottish Scenes) £2.50

Pencil with eraser £0.30

Pen £0.50

Plate (bone china, boxed) £15.00

Purse (Plastic, with zip) £0.75

Sash (silk - tartans to order) £97.70

Scarf Ring (gilt dancers motif) £9.00

Serviettes (pack of 25) £1.25

Shoe Bags

Plastic with motif £0.10

Calico with motif £4.00

Slip Stop

Small £2.00

Medium £7.50

Stick Pin (enamel and gilt) £1.55

Tartan Material

(Dress Strathspey) (metre) £20.50

Tea Towel (cotton) £3.20

Ties

Repeat dancers motif (navy) £7.00

Repeat crown motif (navy) £7.00

Single crown motif (brown,

green, navy, maroon or black) £7.00

Tie Pins (Dancers motif) £5.50

Tote Bag (PVC) thistle design £5.10

Umbrellas

(Gents, Golf Style) £13.50

(Ladies, Telescopic) £9.50

## Embroidered Knitwear

A range of high quality knitwear, with embroidered logo, is available from Balmoral Knitwear. Includes V-neck pullovers, cardigans, slipovers, poloshirts and sweatshirts,

**The Society receives 5% of the value of all purchases.**

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**Balmoral Knitwear**

Galston, Ayrshire KA4 8HF.

Tel: 01563 820213 Fax: 01563 821740

Quoting RSCDS



# REVIEWS

Unless otherwise indicated all items available from  
RSCDS, 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AF, UK

## Books



### 'North Ayrshire 50th Anniversary Album'

Edited by Eric Finley

Available from:  
MR COLIN McDOUGAL,  
83 Gateside Street, West Kilbride,  
Ayrshire KA23 9BB, UK.  
Cost £4.00

All proceeds to North Ayrshire Cancer Care.

An album of 8 dances devised by Eric Finley with music composed by local musicians, many of whose names you will recognise – Muriel Johnstone, Sandy Nixon, Ian Muir, Archie Gray, David Ross and Eric Finley wearing his other hat.

Contains 3 x 32 bar jigs (one a round the room), 1 x 32 bar reel, 1 x 40 bar reel, 1 x 32 bar strathspey, 1 square set medley of 32 strathspey/32 jig and 1 round the room couples waltz.

Descriptions are very clear with good diagrams. Lots of movement involving 3 couples simultaneously (or in the case of the Half Century Jig 5 couples!)

The medley would be very effective as a demonstration; the round the room a good mixer to involve less experienced dancers. The 5 couple jig presents more of a challenge but, like others, good when you know how. The topical note? The Ayrshire Wheelie Bin, a piece of social history. Worth buying.

Review by Nan Lawson

### 'To Dance To'

Muriel Johnstone

Cost £10.00 plus p+p

Muriel writes music for playing and as the title of this book says for dancing to! Here in her new book we have a vast array of tunes to fit with all styles of dances. Music that we have heard on her tapes and CDs is now here to be played - reels, jigs and strathspeys as well as music for pure enjoyment - airs, waltzes, marches and medleys.

As with 'A Score and More' and 'Two Score More' Muriel has written a footnote for each tune to explain who

it was written for or the occasion that inspired it. This really helps musicians to interpret the music.

I find it extremely difficult to pick out my favourites from this book, as I think there is something for every emotion and occasion, with a variety of keys to choose from – especially the minor keys. Placed in groups of tunes that can be played together, Muriel shows how key transitions can be made, as well as helping new musicians to see how to put tunes together.

I have had great enjoyment using this book at class and playing at home for my own pleasure – I hope you have the same.

Angela Young

### 'Tunes for Scottish Country Dancing'

RSCDS London Branch

Cost £6.00 plus p+p

Having kept the same cover as previous publications, this book is easily identified as from the London branch - the music is clear and well presented. It was great having the additional background information the composers provided about the tunes - although I would have preferred this to be at the foot of each tune, rather than all together at the beginning of the book. These footnotes do give more meaning to the tunes, and I like having them there while I play.

The tunes are straightforward useful additions to the repertoire of those starting out playing for classes. Some of the compositions are more suited to the accordion than the piano, particularly some of the reels. However there are a good range of tunes in different key signatures - including the 'Flat' keys which are always more difficult to come by.

Here in the London Book we have simple, uncomplicated tunes well presented in a handy publication. My reservation would be that I think that it would perhaps have been better to have gone for fewer tunes with a little more depth of music.

Angela Young

## Audio

### 'Sound of Feolin'

David Hall and his SCD Band

Cost £12.00 plus p+p

A CD which will appeal to both the listener and the dancer. An interesting choice of music, played well and clearly enunciated, with all instruments well

balanced to produce a pleasant lightness but with a fullness which adds to the listening pleasure. Tempos for the full length dances are precise.

A recommended buy.

A MacPherson



### 'Haste Ye Back'

Muriel Johnstone's SCD Band

Cost £12.00 plus p+p

This is a CD of full-length dance music to accompany a selection of Roy Goldring dances and will no doubt be appealing for that reason alone. The music is superbly played with the prominence given often to the fiddle. The tempos are precise. The tunes are pre-dominately modern compositions and offer a refreshing contrast to the smattering of traditional tunes also included.

This CD will appeal to those seeking well composed modern tunes played in a traditional style, and it offers an alternative choice for those who have to organise dances without live music.

Review by Alan MacPherson

### 'Cairngorms'

Keith Smith and Muriel Johnstone

Cost £12.00 plus p+p

A CD of full length dance music for a selection of popular RSCDS dances. Recorded live during the Cairngorms Midsummer Ball in 1998, it is, to my mind what traditional SCD music should sound like. A beautiful blend of fiddle and piano with each instrument both complimenting and supporting the other in a way that inspires you to dance. Both musicians play with great feeling and understanding and the breadth of light and shade demonstrated in the performance is quite remarkable. The tunes chosen are a happy blend of Muriel Johnstone compositions and the traditional. The tempos, as you would expect, are just right, but special mention must be made of the strathspeys which are beautifully executed and will please all of those who aspire to 'dance elegantly for Miss Milligan'.

Alan MacPherson





## Dance Scottish with the YSDA

## Tutor's Course

27 MARCH 1999

An estimated 40,000 dancers took part last November in 'Dance Scottish Worldwide', the final event of the 75th Anniversary celebrations. Letters, poems, drawings and photographs have been received from many corners of Britain and also from Norway, Germany, France, Canada, United States, Australia, New Zealand and Japan; evidence that Scottish country dancing is alive and bringing fun and pleasure to both children and adults. Thanks are due to all those who continue to introduce the joys of dancing to children. The following poem, from Lanark Primary School, was one of many which express the happy atmosphere at these events.

*The day of dance was short but sweet,  
I'll tell you now, I've got sore feet.  
We danced the afternoon away,  
To Sergeants Dashing and Gordons Gay.  
We'd like to dance again quite soon,  
We enjoyed this Friday afternoon.*

Poem by Katie Melvin

To assist teachers with little experience of Scottish country dancing the YSDA committee is preparing packs of learning resources. The first pack is being piloted with Primary 4 classes in Scottish schools this year to check the suitability of the material. Children will learn dances which they may meet at social family occasions such as weddings and parties as well as exploring the music, history, drama and art work associated with dancing. Any teacher who would like more information should contact YSDA through Headquarters.

The first YSDA newsletter has been published and is available for all schools and groups of young dancers. It contains more of the children's comments and drawings of their 'Day of Dance'.

A penpal scheme is now operating between Scottish children and some in America and Australia. More participants would be welcomed.

Write in to  
YSDA

12 Coates Crescent,  
Edinburgh, Scotland EH3 7AF

## Projects Funded by the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund

WE TRADITIONALLY FEEL sorry for those taking exams, but those of us who have been tutors are also under pressure. In the past this has just been the worry of whether we are teaching our students the right things. However those of us attending the recent tutor's course taken by Lesley Martin also had the challenge of performing in front of our peers. It is fine showing the less experienced how to teach, and it is not exactly hard to criticise their efforts, but when you are doing it in front of other tutors, (not to mention one of our very senior examiners) it is a little less comfortable.

It was a small but very experienced and diverse group of teachers who met in the church room a few hundred yards from HQ, at 9.00 a.m. on the Saturday morning. We even had three people who had travelled from overseas to attend this course – one from Holland, one from Japan, and one from California – and I thought travelling from York showed dedication!

So how did we spend our day? Well we spent the morning working on our personal dancing – we took it in turns to dance and observe, and then of course feed back our comments. As if that was not hard enough, Lesley kept asking us questions about "teaching points". We, in turn, were bombarding her with questions throughout the day!

In the afternoon we got down to the real heart of the course, how to teach Scottish country dancing, how to build up the skills of our candidates, and what needs to be shown by the candidates when they are teaching in the exam. (I returned to York with the phrase "Isolate & Practice" ringing in my brain!)

The value of such courses cannot be overemphasised. Until recently many tutors were simply experienced teachers. We trained our candidates relying on the memory of our own training, which in my own case was over 25 years ago. I wonder how many other tutors were trained by being asked to teach a step or a formation, and were then shown how it could have been improved, usually after all the faults and weaknesses had been pointed out! As Lesley said, it was a little like asking someone to dive off the 10 metre board, and then telling them what they did wrong; not exactly a method designed to build up confidence, or even basic skills.

The whole day was a very salutary experience, and I hope I showed a little more sympathy for my students the following day!

by Malcolm Brown





## TEACHING TOUR OF SPAIN

21 May – 1 June 1999

*Funded by the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund, Mrs Helen Frame was invited by the Society to conduct a teaching tour of Spain taking in various different locations. Helen is an experienced teacher, adjudicator and tutor, and was accompanied by accordionist David Ross from Kilmarnock. Señor Jeronimo Maseo Castrillon of Madrid was the local organiser with valued assistance from each of the groups visited.*

On the 21st of May we set out for the airport at 5.00 a.m., it was pouring with rain and very windy, but by lunchtime, we had arrived in sunny Madrid temperature reading 28 – 30 degrees centigrade.

Our tour started in Madrid, then we flew to Malaga and back, then by road to Alicante and rail to Barcelona before returning to the UK. In each of these centres we experienced marvellous hospitality. The workshops and dance sessions were enthusiastically received, as was 'live' music. In every class there was a tremendous desire to improve personal technique, and understanding of technique and phrasing, then to implement these in the dance sessions.

On our journey from centre to centre we were privileged to see much of Jeronimo's beloved Spain, what a marvellous guide he was.

The tour passed all too quickly. Many happy memories remain. We did enjoy meeting and making friends with so many dancers. We were impressed by the so many kindnesses shown to us everywhere we went, the obvious enthusiasm for Scottish Country Dancing, the good standards and apparent enjoyment which is being established by the teachers and dancers in Spain.

*by Helen Frame*



*Standing Left – David Ross. Kneeling Front Right – Jeronimo Castrillon.  
On His Right – Helen Brown*

## TEACHING VISIT TO BUDAPEST

5/6 June 1999

*Following a request, funding was approved for a teaching visit to Budapest. This was undertaken by Mrs Jean Martin of Aberdeen, with Mr James Gray of Manchester as pianist. The visit took place over a weekend, with classes throughout the Saturday and Sunday.*

*Article by James Gray*

Travelling is exciting. What could be more unpredictable than being in unfamiliar surroundings with people speaking a language not related to any you have heard before? This was my situation when I landed in Budapest Airport.

Zsuzsa, my host, greeted me in perfect English as I got my bags off the bus into the heat of a sunny afternoon. Two tram rides later, and we were at Zsuzsa's place, in the centre of Buda (Buda is to the East of the Danube and Pest to the West).

The next few days went very quickly, there was always offers from members of the group to take me to places of interest, so no moment was ever spare. I attended one of the groups weekly classes, and felt extremely welcome. The class was taught by Gábor Turi, the leader of the group and was a fun evening, with some fast and frantic dancing. The next day, Gábor took me to Szentendre (literally translates to St. Andrews), a small town just outside of Budapest. Like its Scottish namesake, it is a market town with a pleasantly quaint feel. Gábor told me that he plans to have a Summer School of dancing there one day!

Jean Martin was the teacher for the weekend. On Saturday morning, after we met in the foyer of the brewery where the school was taking place, we headed upstairs to inspect the hall and the piano. From the doorway, the most striking feature was a sense of space, both sides were entirely windows. At the far end was a stage, and, pulling back a large drape at the back of the stage, I discovered to my delight a

beautiful Grand Piano. Some improvisation was called for to find a suitable seat: two wood planks were laid on the floor, on top of these was placed a chair, then a few strips of foam and finally, for just that extra bit of height, my dance shoes. Now after conferring with Jean, a plan was set and we were ready to start.

Jean included a balanced amount of step practice and dances in her programme. When concentrations were beginning to flag, at the end of the weekend, she gave them some easier dances to do, just for the sheer enjoyment of them. Language barriers seldom caused too many problems with Gábor on hand to do any translating, and plenty of visual demonstrations from Jean. The dancers were a joy to play for. I remember at one stage I was laughing so much that I could barely play the right notes! It was also a joy to see some old friends from Summer School in the class, who had come through from Vienna for the weekend.

Come Sunday afternoon, after one and a half days full of dancing, everyone was suitably tired. I had a great time, and for this I would like to thank the RSCDS for giving me such an opportunity. Thanks also to: Jean, Gábor, Zsuzsa, and all the Members of the Budapest Scottish Dance Club, to which I now belong as an honorary member.

*If your group or branch have a specific project that could merit funding from the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund, submit your detailed application giving information on the project, budget proposals, reasons for the request and any other relevant information to HQ.*



# Donations

We are most grateful to all those members who have donated to the Society this year. All donations are very much appreciated and are used to fund the many activities of the Society. If you wish to consider making out a legacy in your will, please be sure to take legal advice and clearly state that the recipient is the Society. Without such donations many of the valuable projects undertaken by the Society would not have been possible.

## The Jean Milligan Memorial Fund

The Jean Milligan Memorial Fund was established in December 1978 in memory of Miss Jean Milligan, the Society's co-founder. The Fund continues to benefit from donations and legacies from a variety of sources. All donations are gratefully accepted. We are particularly grateful to those who organised and donated to the raffles at Summer School which contributed a total of £1,197.27. Other donations at Summer School, of £191.80, added capital to the Fund. Total donations received throughout the year were £2557.30. Please note that the Fund was established with the agreement of the Executive Council that only the interest accruing from the Fund is to be used for grants for funding of projects. Thus, the capital donated is secured to provide for future income.

## Acknowledgements

We are very grateful for all donations, large or small, and particularly those who did so anonymously. Listed below are those who kindly donated £20 or more to the Fund.

K A Hoskyn	£20
Leominster Scottish Dancers in memory of Flora Inglis	£20
Mary J Wildgoose	£20
Commander R Simpson	£23.50
Mr Clive Robertson	£25
Murray Wilson	£25
George Douglas	£30
NW Craven Branch	£37
Cologne Scottish Dancers	£40
The Hague and District Branch	£63.50
Peterborough and District Branch	£65.00
Mr and Mrs W Clement	£100
Frimley Green SCD Club	£100
The Nashville Affiliate	£100
Tokai Branch in memory of Miss Margaret Prentice	£200
Tokyo Scottish Dance Club in memory of George Mechan and Bobby Watson	£200

The General Purposes Committee are responsible for the expenditure from the fund. It considers each application for funding carefully and continues to ensure that the funds available are distributed to benefit as wide a range of projects as possible.

As well as funding £2400 towards the Young Scottish Dancers Association, and providing a £50 discount to everyone under 21 attending Summer School, the Committee have put aside £1,000 per year to fund projects specifically aimed at Young People.

*To say that my two weeks at St. Andrews Summer School was an experience of a lifetime is by no means an exaggeration!*

*I was slightly nervous as to what was in store at St. Andrews. However, on initial entry all doubts were replaced by excitement! All first timers were presented with a gold star name tag. On noticing this, others would go out of their way to make us feel at home. This was the key to the door of pleasure.*

*A sincere thanks to RSCDS for my scholarship and for an experience never to be forgotten.*

*Nolene Petrie*

In 1999, a total of £2490, was granted in five scholarships to Summer School, St. Andrews. In addition, £1300 was made available to cover the costs of the musicians' course, and the combined potential tutors' and tutors' course; and £3000 from the Fund was made available for board and accommodation for those attending the Examiners' Seminar. (A further £4,500 from the General Fund was made available to cover travel costs for examiners travelling to the UK to take part in the Examiners' Seminar.)

*Going to St. Andrews for Summer School was for me, a dream come true. The fact that I was going to complete my teachers certificate only heightened the excitement. All in all I would say that my first, and I hope not my last, experience at St. Andrews was most pleasurable and memorable. I came away with a lot of knowledge of dancing ... I found some new friends ... I learned a new respect for all the musicians ... (and) ... if I had a wish, it would be that every country dancer could experience St Andrews Summer School*

*Mary Lund*

## Further Information

If you require any further information on the above Fund, please contact the Secretary, Gill Parker, at 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AF, Scotland.

Cheques should be made payable to 'RSCDS' and clearly marked as donations to the Society or JMME.

*We appreciate your generosity.*





# R.S.C.D.S. Scholarships

## Applications for Scholarships

Scholarships are offered annually by the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund and the Duncan MacLeod Scholarship Fund. Residential fees and examination fees (where appropriate) are covered by the Scholarships but travelling expenses are not covered. A recommendation from the Branch should accompany each application and the Summer School Committee will be responsible for selecting the recipients from the applications received.

No Branch may submit more than one recommendation for any of the five scholarships.

**THIS APPLICATION MUST BE RETURNED TO HEADQUARTERS NOT LATER THAN 31 DECEMBER.**

### 1. Teachers Scholarship

A Scholarship is offered annually to Members who wish to attend Summer School with a view to taking the Teacher's Certificate. A report from class teacher and a recommendation from Branch (to be signed by Branch Chairman and Secretary) with reasons for nomination should be sent with application form.

### 2. Preliminary Test Scholarship

A Scholarship is offered annually to Members who wish to attend Summer School with a view to taking the Preliminary Test. A report from class teacher and a recommendation from Branch (to be signed by Branch Chairman and Secretary) with reasons for nomination should be included with application form.

### 3. Junior Scholarship

A Junior Scholarship is offered annually to Members aged 16-20 years, wishing to attend Summer School. A recommendation from Branch (to be signed by Branch Chairman and Secretary) with reasons for nomination should be included with application form.

### 4. General Scholarship

A General Scholarship is offered to Members wishing to attend Summer School. A recommendation from Branch (to be signed by Branch Chairman and Secretary) with reasons for nomination should be included with application form.

### 5. The Duncan MacLeod Scholarship

The above Scholarship will be offered to a student in (preferably) Physical Education Training. The Scholarship will consist of payment for two weeks Summer School in St. Andrews. The student selected by the Summer School Committee will attend the class preparing candidates for the Preliminary Test for the Teacher's Certificate and will take the Preliminary Test at the end of the course. The examination fee will also be covered by the Scholarship.

### 6. John Duckett Scholarship

A Scholarship funded by the proceeds for the "Green Book". Preferably it will be offered to full-time students aged 16-25.

Please indicate the Scholarship being applied for by ticking the appropriate box below.



1	Jean Milligan Memorial Fund Scholarship for Teacher's Certificate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Jean Milligan Memorial Fund Scholarship for Preliminary Test	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Jean Milligan Memorial Fund Junior Scholarship	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Jean Milligan Memorial Fund General Scholarship	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Duncan MacLeod Scholarship For Student in (preferably) Physical Education Training	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	John Duckett Scholarship For full-time students under 25	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name of Applicant .....

Address .....

Date of Birth ..... Branch .....

Date of Joining the Society .....

Reasons for Application .....

.....

.....





## New Recordings

THE PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE are delighted that the project, started in 1975, of ensuring that all of the numbered books are recorded, has now been completed. We now have recordings of Books 1-40 available on cassette.

However, with the increasing popularity of, and subsequent demand for CDs, it is now apparent that the Society needs to consider making all of its recordings available on CD. This poses a dilemma. Some recordings did not include the music for the complete dances, while others were recorded on early medium material which is not suitable for recordings today.



Members of the Music sub-committee have carefully considered the available recordings and agree that there are some 15 recordings that are suitable for transfer to CD format, there are 20 that require to be re-recorded and Books 23, 24, 25, 26 and 40 are already on CD.

### Sponsorship

Before any decision can be made about taking on this new project, consideration has to be given to funding. The sale of these CDs will provide valuable income for the Society, but the funding for the initial recording and manufacture of the CDs must also be found.

*We need your help.*

The Committee is seeking sponsors to fund the transfer of suitable material or re-recording where necessary. Due acknowledgement of the sponsors will be included in the inlay card of the CDs. Please channel your donations through your local branch, so that we can avoid valuable resources being wasted on bank charges. We need your donations to ensure that these valuable recordings can be made available to you and other dancers around the world.

*A donation of £1,500 pays for a transfer to CD*

*A donation of £4,600 pays the recording costs*

**Please give generously**

To help ensure that this project can proceed as quickly as possible, it was agreed that no new publications, beyond those already planned, would be considered until such time as all recordings are available on CD.

The projects currently in production are:

- Commemorative Re-issue of 1st Edition of Book 1
- Subscription Copy 2000: Book 41
- Re-release of CD of Book 1
- New Recording of Book 41 on CD only
- New Recording of Book 38 on CD only
- Video of Book 41 (also containing some dances from Book 40 and Book 1)

Donations should be sent together with a sponsorship form, to your local Branch Secretary making clear that the money is to be used by the RSCDS for new recordings. Or send direct to HQ, at 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 7AF, Scotland.



## A Gift to the Archives



A small group of people met in Coates Crescent on the morning of Sunday, 9th May. The purpose of their meeting was to witness the happy finale to a story which began more than eighty years ago. The details of the story were in an article I contributed to the Bulletin of October 1986.

*(reproduced right)*

*(l to r: Mrs Linda Gaul, Mrs Margaret McWaters, Mr Alan MacPherson)*

The story concerns a small black bound notebook, the contents of which were written out by Maggie McDonald of Clydebank. During the years 1912 to 1914, Maggie was trained as a teacher in Glasgow and it was there she met Miss Jean Milligan who was her lecturer in Physical Education.

Having completed her training, Maggie joined a weekly dance class organised in Glasgow by Miss Milligan for her former students. The class members gave demonstrations and displays, mostly to aid the various charity interests of their instructress. Maggie McDonald's notebook recorded the instructions for the dances, including the Scottish country dances, which were taught by Miss Milligan for those occasions.

Having married in 1921, Maggie McDonald emigrated to Canada, taking her notebook with her. She took good care of it and it was no doubt a happy reminder to her of her early life in Scotland. Eventually, the notebook came into the possession of Margaret Macwaters of the Ottawa Branch. An RSCDS teacher and Scroll recipient in 1988, Margaret recognised the value of the notebook and, like its originator, continued to cherish and treasure it.

Having decided to gift the notebook to the RSCDS, Margaret took the opportunity of a UK visit to arrange to hand it over at Coates Crescent. For the occasion, she was accompanied by her husband, Alec, and by her sister-in-law, Barbara.

Present for the Society were, the Chairman, Linda Gaul; Archivist, Alan Macpherson; Former Archivist Alastair MacFadyen; RSCDS Ottawa Branch Representative, Jean Yeats; and RSCDS Winnipeg Branch Representative, Mina Corson.

We are very grateful to Margaret Macwaters for the gift of the notebook. It is a valuable addition to the RSCDS Archives. As I remarked in my 1986 article, it is further proof of how far reaching, both in time and distance, has been the influence of our co-founder, Jean Milligan.

*by Alastair MacFadyen*



# THE FOUR MARGARET'S AND A NOTEBOOK

MY STORY BEGINS on Saturday, 11th May 1985. Just prior to the commencement of the Executive Council Meeting, held on that day in Edinburgh, the late Margaret Anderson, recently returned from an examination tour of North America, placed a small package in my hand and said:

*This belongs to Margaret Macwaters of Ottawa, and I am sure that you would be very interested to see it.*

Sometime later that day, I was able to inspect the content of the package. It was a black bound notebook; a note inserted inside indicated that it was Margaret MacDonald's notebook. Who was Margaret MacDonald.

The contents of the notebook were set out at the beginning in a neat and clear hand. There were nine country dances, all of them familiar and described in subsequent pages as we know and dance them. It was when I came to what were listed as 'Aesthetic Dances' that my interest really began to grow. Titles such as 'Dance of Mists in Autumn', 'Entrance of Summer' and 'Shortest Day' were very familiar because they had been named and described to Miss Adams and me by former students of Dr. Milligan when we were preparing *Dance with your Soul*. Was this then the notebook of one of Dr. Milligan's students?

My conviction that it was strengthened as I examined the contents further. Page seventy-five was headed 'Show of 1917 (December)'. I was aware that Miss Milligan, with the help of her students and former students, had frequently arranged dancing displays in Glasgow, usually for charity. On another page there were the initials, including those of Margaret MacDonald, of the participating dancers; all of them I was able to identify with the help of earlier researches into the life of Dr. Milligan. The description of a dance entitled 'Russian March' contained the following words:

*Stamp two together, hop, balance, balance.*

Those words immediately brought to mind a meeting I had had in the Spring of 1979 with one of Dr. Milligan's former students. After casting aside her stick, which she then needed to aid her walking, and after insisting that I would be the 'lady' because she had always been the 'gent', my instructress proceeded to demonstrate the Russian March which Miss Milligan had taught her in the early 20s. 'Stamp, two, together, hop, balance, balance' she chanted as we danced, much to the astonishment and amusement of the onlookers who were also taking tea in the Ceylon Tearoom, Buchanan Street, where our meeting took place. These coaching words, she assured me, had been used by Miss Milligan. Another former student, Miss Peg MacAulay of Newcastle, has since described the same dance and sung the same words to me.

By now I was convinced that the notebook handed to me by Margaret Anderson was indeed a significant written record of Dr. Milligan's interest in dance before the formation of The Scottish Country Dance Society. It was, of course, necessary to prove that Margaret

MacDonald had been one of her students. Unfortunately, the College records at Jordanhill at that particular point in time were not available to provide the evidence.

I wrote immediately to Margaret Macwaters expressing my great interest in the notebook and requesting more information. Her reply informed me that the notebook had come into her possession because of her known interest in Scottish country dancing. Margaret MacDonald, from Clydebank, had married in 1921 and had emigrated with her husband, Robert Callan, to Canada. Now aged ninety-one the writer of the notebook was no longer able to help, but her daughter, Mrs Margaret Currie, was very willing to assist in any way that she could. Her mother had been a student and a teacher in Glasgow and she thought that the name 'Milligan' had been mentioned. There were amongst her mother's possessions some old certificates and photographs which she would allow Margaret Macwaters to investigate and copy. Would these provide the evidence I was looking for? I eagerly awaited the next communication from Canada.

Eventually it arrived, a sizeable envelope from which emerged copies of certificates which finally proved that my original hunch had been correct. Margaret MacDonald had been a student at Dundas Vale Training College, the staff of which Miss Milligan joined in 1909, during the years 1912 to 1914. A teaching appointment in Glasgow followed the completion of her training. The College records have since confirmed these details.

The next stage in the story concerns two photographs of a group of Miss Milligan's dancers. Although they reached the RSCDS Archives from two different sources, the two photographs obviously record the same events. One of them was included in *Dance with Your Soul*, but at the time of publication, the co-authors were not able to state exactly when and where the photographs were taken. Further research has established that they record an appearance of Miss Milligan's dancers at a Garden Fete held at Queen Margaret College, Glasgow, in May 1914. Was it possible that Margaret MacDonald was present on that occasion?

A copy of the group photograph was sent to Margaret Macwaters whose letters in reply began 'Eureka'. Margaret Currie and her husband, separately and positively, had identified Margaret MacDonald in the group.

There is a finale to the story. In pursuit of an entirely different matter, I had occasion to look through the RSCDS Log Books compiled by Miss Florence Adams; I came upon the programme of dance display arranged by Miss Milligan in The Queen's Rooms, Glasgow, on March 27, 1914. I had forgotten until I turned it over that the back of the programme listed the dancers who participated. To my great delight, there amongst them was the name of Margaret MacDonald.

Mrs Currie has been most generous in sending me photographs of her mother, via Margaret Macwaters, to copy and some to retain.

I am very indebted to all four Margarets who, by their combined efforts, have made possible a further glimpse of Dr. Milligan's dancing interests of seventy years ago and have demonstrated once more how far reaching, both in time and distance, has been the influence of the co-founder.

Alastair MacFadyen



Margaret Currie



Margaret Macwaters



Margaret (MacDonald) Callan



Margaret Anderson with the author



# CORE PROGRAMME



Following the success of the core dances suggested for the 75th Anniversary, the Publications and Research Committee have prepared a list of dances that branches, groups and individuals may wish to include in their programmes during the year 2000.

The idea is that as we move into a new millennium we take the opportunity to look back and "dance through the decades". As you will see, the dances are selected, one from each of the decades of the Society, from the 1920s to the 1990s inclusive.

The Committee hopes that you enjoy dancing them and listening to the music.

1920s	<i>Scottish Reform</i>	J	3
1930s	<i>Cadgers in the Canongate</i>	R	9
1940s	<i>The De'il amang the Tailors</i>	R	14
1950s	<i>The Birks of Invermay</i>	S	15
1960s	<i>The Starry Eyed Lassie</i>	J	23
1970s	<i>Staffin Harvest</i>	S	4 for '78
1980s	<i>John of Bon Accord</i>	R	33
1990s	<i>Gang the Same Gate</i>	S	36

## Sadly Missed . . .

### Liliane Chamoin

*Died 11 June 1998*

Liliane Chamoin was a member of the RSCDS for more than 40 years and came to the St. Andrews Summer School many times. She founded the Chardon d'Ecosse Group in Paris in 1965 with her late husband Jacques, and taught classes until 1995.

A wonderful dancer herself and a dedicated teacher, she transmitted her enthusiasm and taste for reaching a high standard of technique to a great number of dancers who now dance in groups across France.

She was delighted to see her dance *Le Moulin Rouge* published by the Society in Book 39.

*Patrick Chamoin*

### Douglas Sutherland

*Died 21 September 1998*

Scottish country dancing in Pietermaritzburgh lost its doyen with the death of Douglas Sutherland. Douglas, born in Edinburgh, moved to Pietermaritzburgh in 1951. Shortly after his arrival he became the teacher of the local Scottish country dance class and guided the class

until 1986 when teachers trained by him took over. He was awarded the Society Scroll in 1991 in recognition of his work in building up the Pietermaritzburgh class, which started off as an affiliated group and in 1990 became the Pietermaritzburgh branch of the Society.

*Sandy Nesbitt*

### Margaret McLauchlan Cameron Prentice

*Died 7 December 1998*

All who knew Margaret Prentice, were deeply saddened by her sudden and unexpected passing. She was an examiner, an adjudicator and a teacher of very long standing, and received the Society's Scroll of Honour in 1985.

We all remember Margaret in a variety of roles. Wherever she could she grasped the opportunity to teach Scottish Country Dancing. She had the great gift of successfully encouraging the most apprehensive of dancers and was much respected for her imaginative and lively approach.

Margaret was also an accomplished and sensitive musician, contributing to the 1973 Golden Jubilee dance book with the music and diagrams.

*Ruth Beattie*

### Catherine J. Mowat

*Died 15 January 1999*

Miss Mowat, better known to her fellow dancers as Daisy, was a founder member of Leven Branch, she was Branch Secretary for many years and represented Leven on the Executive Council.

Miss Mowat taught Evening Classes in the rural schools as well as being a Branch teacher. After the Branch disbanded in the 1970s she attended classes in St. Andrews Branch and rarely missed her annual week at Summer School

*Nan Lawson*

### Flora C. Inglis

*Died 21 February 1999*

Members of the Herefordshire Branch were saddened to hear of the death of Mrs Inglis. She was a founder member, Secretary for 25 years and representative of the Branch. Flora regularly attended Summer School and gained her teaching certificate in 1971.

Flora Inglis will be long remembered for her critical eye, high standards, her wholehearted support of Scottish Country Dancing and her dedication to the Society.

*Audrey McGilvery-Davis*





## Teachers' Association (Canada)

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★ TAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
An annual weekend held at various locations in North America with a guest teacher for class instruction, banquet and ball, and an opportunity for input at the Saturday afternoon AGM.

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## The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society New Zealand Branch

### Summer School – Dunedin 2000/2001

Dunedin in the South Island of New Zealand welcomes Scottish Country Dancers to the Summer School to be held there at the end of the year 2000. The venue for the School will be John McGlashan College, with Columba College as auxiliary residence. These schools will be excellent accommodation, and are located on the ridge above the city with views of harbour and hills, and have easy access to the city.

Dunedin has just celebrated the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Scottish settlers who laid the foundations of the present city, which is noted for its Victorian and Edwardian architecture, as a centre of learning, as well as being home for albatross, seals and penguins.

Morning classes will be held, and evening social functions, with music workshops if there is interest. There will be time for sightseeing during the school and the scenic areas of Fiordland, the Lakes and the Southern Alps are within touring distance for holidays either before or after the school.

Your organising Committee is looking forward to showing you what a wonderful friendly place Dunedin can be.

If you would like any further help of information, please contact the Organiser:

**Mary Ronnie** RSCDS New Zealand Branch Summer School 2000/2001, 21 Belmont Lane, Dunedin, New Zealand. Tel: +64 3 456 2652 Fax: +64 3 456 2613.

OR

Robyn Ferguson Secretary, RSCDS New Zealand Branch, 102 Darraghs Road, Tauranga, New Zealand. Tel: +64 7 576 4106 Fax: +64 7 578 0940 e-mail: robynri@internet.co.nz



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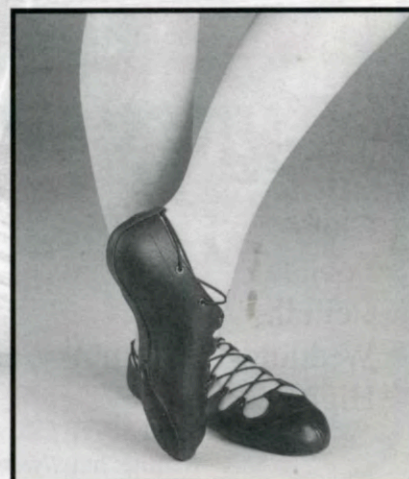
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