

The
Scottish Country
Dance Society
Bulletin.

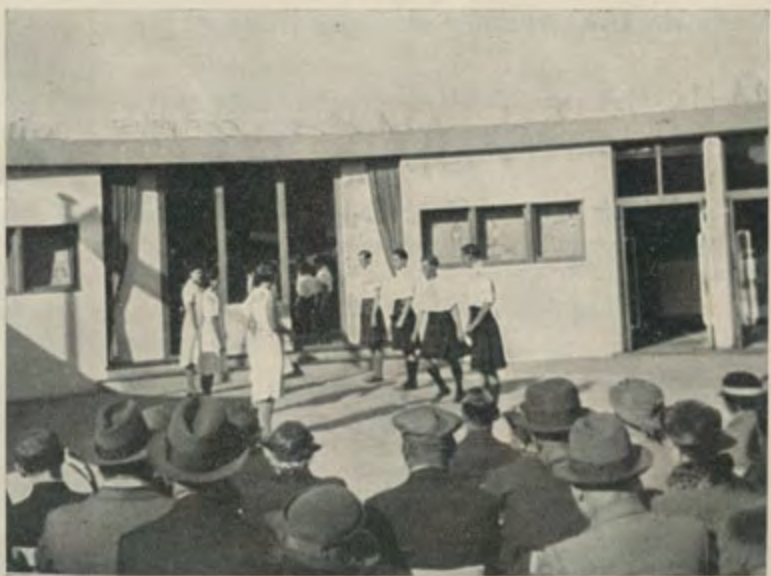
No. 14.

OCTOBER 1938.

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TEAMS DANCING AT EMPIRE EXHIBITION

The Scottish Country Dance Society Bulletin.

No. 14.

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Annual Report, 1937-38

The Council has pleasure in presenting its Fifteenth Annual Report, and in stating that the Society has had another successful year. It has maintained its individual membership, and has increased its number of Branches and Affiliated Societies.

The Branch Reports are very satisfactory, and show that there is an ever growing interest in Scottish Country Dancing, and that the practice of the dances is becoming more and more general.

Book XII, containing twelve new dances, is now published, and will be presented to Members on payment of their 1938-39 subscriptions. It is expected that this book will be one of the most popular.

The examination system has been changed this year. The list of dances required for Certificates 1 and 2 was given in the March Bulletin. These dances may be had in leaflet form—the directions and music for each dance costing 2d.

The Leaflets that will be issued with the October Bulletin are "Light and Airy" and "Scottish Ramble." The music for these dances has been arranged by Mr Wiseman.

The Summer School was again held at University Hall, St Andrews. There were an extraordinary large number of applications for the School this year, and many people had to be refused owing to lack of accommodation. The Society is again greatly indebted to Miss Milligan and her Staff for their work at the Summer School classes.

The Annual Dance was held in the Younger Hall on 5th August, and Mr Reid again very kindly gave the services of his Highland Orchestra.

Examinations for Teachers' Certificates were held during the past year at the following centres:—Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Hamilton, Aberdeen, Dundee, St Andrews, Arbroath, Liverpool, Ayr, Manchester and Birmingham. 159 Candidates passed in Certificate 1, 190 passed in Certificate 2, and there were 75 failures—30 of the successful Candidates were men.

This year the Scottish Country Dance Society has taken quite a prominent part in the demonstrations that have been arranged by the National Fitness Council. Teams of men and women gave very successful performances in the M'Ewan Hall, Edinburgh, and in the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, to large and enthusiastic audiences. Letters of appreciation have been received from

Captain Thomson, Chairman of the S.E. Regional Committee, and from Lord Rowallan, Chairman of the S.W. Regional Committee.

Teams from different parts of Scotland have also given demonstrations in the National Fitness Pavilion at the Empire Exhibition, which have been watched by interested spectators, many of whom have asked about the work of the Society, and have expressed the desire to become Members and attend classes.

Demonstrations have also been given at An Clachan, and have been exceedingly popular. Teams of Scottish Country Dancers have demonstrated the dances, and afterwards the spectators have taken part in the dancing.

It was estimated that 14,970 spectators watched the demonstrations in June, and approximately 12,400 in September. A team of men and women demonstrated Scottish Country Dancing at the eve of the Exhibition Ball, and it is understood that they will demonstrate again at the Closing Ball.

The Society is very gratified that Mr John Reid has given a series of broadcasts for the B.B.C. during the past season.

Branch Reports

ABERDEEN (formed 1925), 165 members, including 12 life members. Two public classes and one teachers' class were held during the winter, all of which were very well attended. In Peterhead the class for adults was again very successful, and a new class for children was started. These are the only classes sponsored by the Branch, but in the town and Aberdeenshire there are many other Country Dance Classes organised by the Education Authorities, W.R.I.s, and Juvenile Organisations.

An examination was held in March, at which nine candidates gained their full certificate.

The Branch was fortunate in being allowed to send two teams, a women's and a mixed, to dance in the Fitness Pavilion at the Empire Exhibition. Both teams enjoyed the experience, and were most appreciative of the work done by Miss Kenyon in organising the visit.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held here in 1937. The Aberdonians welcomed the opportunity of entertaining visiting members, and we hope they enjoyed their visit as much as we did.

ANGUS (formed 1930), 328 members. Once again this Branch has had a most successful season. The membership which again shows a big increase, is made up as follows:—

Montrose Centre	97
Arbroath Centre	93
Forfar Centre	77
Carnoustie Centre	31
Brechin Centre	30

Very large classes were held at all the centres throughout the winter. For the first time, two classes were run in preparation for the Teachers' Certificate—one before Christmas, one after. As a result of these classes 7 members

gained a Certificate for Book I., and 4 members completed the full Certificate. At Arbroath Musical Festival three teams entered for the Senior Class—a mixed team from Arbroath, a ladies' team from Forfar, a ladies' team from Arbroath, and were placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd respectively. The mixed Arbroath team also won the trophy for Senior Dancing at Perthshire Musical Festival. Two of these teams had the privilege of giving Demonstrations at the Empire Exhibition in June.

Many outside classes continue to be taught by members of the Society—chiefly Girl Guides, Boy Scouts, W. R. I.'s and other social clubs.

AYR (formed 1933), 60 members. The Branch has had a most successful winter. We started our activities with a whist drive and dance in September, which probably accounted for several new members, and a nice addition to our funds. Two weekly classes were run during the winter, with an average attendance of 24 at each.

A most successful dance was held in the Town Hall at the close of the Session, our first real dance but not the last. We were much indebted to the Reel and Strathspey Society Orchestra, and also to the Gaelic Society for their support.

We also attended three other dances in the district, and a dance held in a member's garden in June—one of the few fine evenings. There were a record number of entries at the Musical Festival.

A demonstration team gave a display at the "Crowning of the Bonnie Lassie" ceremony, which was much appreciated. The members are most enthusiastic, and we are looking forward to an even more successful winter with still more new members.

NORTH AYRSHIRE (formed 1936), 61 members. In Kilmarnock two classes were held during the winter with a good increase in the attendance.

The Branch closed with a most successful dance, about 120 being present. The Kilmarnock Reel and Strathspey Orchestra very kindly gave their services, and helped to make this a most successful evening.

CLACKMANNANSHIRE (formed 1927). Classes were started on 21st October, 1937, eight lessons being given before Xmas, with a late night on 16th December. A second Session started on 13th January, 1938, eight lessons again being given, with a late night on 17th March.

These classes were most successful.

An afternoon Session was also held for those who could not attend the evening classes.

The attendance was not so good as was expected, but the class was rather late in starting. The enthusiasm, however, made up for lack of numbers.

WESTERN DUMBARTONSHIRE (formed 1927). There are 33 members in this Branch, and classes were held in Dumbarton and Alexandria with average attendances of 30. Children's classes were also held in both centres, and demonstrations were given by the children at the Dumbarton Branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach, and the Alexandria Women Citizens' Meeting.

A demonstration was also given by the seniors at a meeting of the Milton W.R.I., and was greatly enjoyed. Some of the members joined in the simpler dances later.

Social dances were held in Dumbarton at Christmas, and in Alexandria in March. The children held a joint party in March. These events formed a pleasant conclusion to the classes

DUNDEE (formed 1925), 144 members. The past year has been full of activity and interest, and shows an increase in membership. Two classes have been held throughout the Session, one for beginners and the other for more advanced dancers. It was gratifying to see such a large increase in number of beginners. Many other classes have been formed in Dundee, and although they are non-members of the Society, all the classes are taught by Society certificated teachers. This has done much in spreading the interest in Scottish Country Dancing, and in the general dance programmes of the district many of the favourites appear. At Christmas and Easter the usual social dances were very enjoyable features of the Branch to which we were pleased to welcome members of neighbouring Branches. The Musical Festival once again attracted large entries, and the standard of dancing was well maintained. A new venture, in the form of a summer outing, was greatly enjoyed by some of our members. This took the form of a char-a-banc run through Glen Devon to Glenfarg, where tea was served. After tea the company enjoyed some country dancing before proceeding homewards. On 25th June the Branch was represented at the S. C. D. S. week at the Empire Exhibition. The team gave two demonstrations at the Physical Fitness Council Pavilion, and were fortunate in getting good weather.

DUNFERMLINE. As usual we had two classes of ten lessons each—October-December and January-March. Numbers were smaller this year, but well maintained till the end of the Session. Our membership (October-March) was 37.

EDINBURGH (formed 1923). The membership for the past year was 253, excluding life members and several organisations, such as the W.R.I. and Girls' Guildry.

To meet the ever increasing demand, the Branch held six classes weekly during the winter months, and the local Education Committee held a number of continuation classes in Scottish Country Dancing, all of which were very well attended. The weekly "Club Night" continues to be very popular, and at the three dances held in the Palais de Danse there was an average attendance of 400. In April a dance was held jointly with the local Branch of the English Folk Dance Society. A team of men and women members demonstrated at the Empire Exhibition in May, and so much was their dancing appreciated that they have been invited to dance at the Clachan in the autumn. A "Team" of women members is to demonstrate at the Exhibition in September. In addition, "Teams" have demonstrated at displays in connection with the "Keep Fit" movement at the International Club, at the Over-Seas Club, and at several fêtes and dances.

In connection with the S.C.D. section at the Edinburgh Musical Festival it is gratifying to report there was a marked increase in the number of entries. At the Annual Meeting of the Branch the resignation of Mrs Murchison (Miss Hannah Maxwell), who was an original member of the Society, and who had acted as chairman for eleven years, was received with much regret. The Branch has been fortunate in securing Miss J. L. Wood as her successor.

GLASGOW (formed 1923). The number of members for the year 1937-1938 was 422. In addition there were 20 Life Members. This creates a record for the Branch.

The year's activities were greater than ever.

A request was received for a class for men only. The Committee decided to try such a class, and to put it in charge of one of the certificated men teachers of the Branch. This venture proved well worth while, and raised the

number of weekly classes conducted by the Branch to thirteen, which proved quite a lucky number.

Classes were attended by record numbers, while Miss Milligan's advanced class had an attendance approaching 100, and actually danced all the dances from Books I.-XI.

Many Townswomen's Guilds held Scottish Country Dance Classes, which were taught by Certificated Teachers. As a result, in the spring, at their Rally, a Scottish Country Dance Competition attracted a number of Guilds, and a good standard of dancing was attained.

Miss Milligan's Circles were again in full swing, and sent donations of money to the Society.

Many classes, privately run, were very successful, members from them showing their interest in the movement by attending the dances held in Marlborough House and in the Plaza.

Both dances were very successful, but that held in the Plaza, in March, deserves special mention.

This was the first year that the Plaza Management Committee looked with favour on a suggestion for a Scottish Country Dance Evening. Great was their surprise when it proved a "bumper" night!

The programme was varied, about two-thirds of the dances being Scottish Country Dances. For these Mr Reid's Highland Orchestra supplied the music, while the music for the modern dances was given by the Plaza Orchestra.

Tickets were sold out about ten days before the dance, but numbers without tickets arrived at the Plaza, and were, of course, admitted. It was, from point of view of numbers, without a shadow of doubt, a triumph for Scottish Country Dancing in Glasgow and District.

As usual, many demonstrations were given during the winter months, while many more were given at the Empire Exhibition—at An Clachan and at the National Fitness Council Arena.

A noteworthy demonstration was that in the spring, at the Government National Fitness Display and Concert in Kelvin Hall, by sixteen couples—men and women students from Jordanhill Training Centre, under the direction of Miss Milligan.

Miss Milligan, who was co-opted on to the Committee for the Eve of the Exhibition Ball, was asked to arrange a demonstration of Scottish Country Dancing. Her Scottish Country Dance Team of men and women accordingly took a prominent part on the occasion of the Ball, and were so greatly appreciated that Miss Milligan has been asked to arrange a similar demonstration for the End of the Exhibition Ball.

Other demonstrations were given at the Plaza and at the Locarno.

Classes for Scottish Country Dancing were included in the local Musical Festivals, and again a high standard of dancing was seen.

At the National Fitness Council Arena of the Empire Exhibition, two weeks were devoted to Scottish Country Dancing. Committee Members of Glasgow Branch acted as stewards. Further particulars will be found elsewhere in the Bulletin.

The Annual General Meeting of the Branch was held on Friday, 30th September, when the Treasurer was able to show a very creditable Balance Sheet, in spite of heavy expenditure in connection with the Empire Exhibition.

Behind us is a year of great success! Ahead of us seems a year—in so far as our movement is concerned—full of promise.

GLENKENS (GALLOWAY) (formed 1936), 21 members, including one Life Member and one Hon. Member. The Branch had another successful year. There were again three classes. Unfortunately one class showed a drop in numbers, but about 60 people attended a course of 12 lessons. Classes started in October—there was a break at Christmas, and three breaking up dances were held in the beginning of February. These were much enjoyed, and we welcomed small parties from other classes and Branches. Six juvenile teams, taught by members of the Branch, competed at the following festivals—Kirkcudbright, Newton Stewart, and Dumfries.

Through the kindness of Sir James M'Leod, Bankend, New Galloway, the New Galloway class was entertained to a dance at Bankend on 21st January, and all spent a most delightful evening.

In May the Branch sustained a great loss by the death of Mr Gourlay, of Kenbank, Dalry, who started the Branch. The success of the Branch is largely due to him. We desire to put on record our grateful thanks for the many kindnesses he showed to the Branch, and also for his wise guidance on the business and financial side of the Branch. Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs Gourlay.

HAMILTON (founded 1934), 62 members, 1 Life Member, 16 Carluke members. This Branch has had another successful and progressive Session. Seven classes weekly in the first term and five in the second were held in Hamilton. In addition a class was held in Strathaven and one in Uddingston. The Branch supplied teachers for the W.R.I. classes at Auldhouse and Larkhall, and also at Community Service Centres. Eight members tried for the Teachers' Certificate, and all were successful.

During the year Demonstrations were given at Carluke, Uddingston, and Strathaven, and at the Trades' Exhibition in Uddingston two "Teams" danced each evening. The Branch sent teams to the Empire Exhibition.

This year Mr John Reid conducted two Reel Step Classes in the town, in preparation for the Annual Ball. Mrs Hamilton Meikle honoured the Branch by attending this function. Three hundred and fifty enjoyed dancing to Mr John Reid's full Highland Broadcasting Orchestra, and over five hundred looked on. The Spring Dance, while being of a smaller nature, was voted the finest function in the history of the Branch. All the classes had Christmas parties, and over one hundred were present at the Plaza Dance.

At the Annual General Meeting it was announced that next year's Ball would be held in the Town Hall, Hamilton, on Friday 25th November, and that the full orchestra had again been engaged for the function.

The Branch presented a sewing machine to Miss Ballantyne on the occasion of her marriage. She is still continuing her work as Secretary of the Branch.

CARLUKE SECTION. At Carluke a very enthusiastic section of the Branch has been formed, under the Chairmanship of Mr J. C. Allan. Sixteen have joined the Society, and over fifty have attended the classes. Two very successful parties were held at the close of each term.

INVERNESS-SHIRE BRANCH is in a fairly flourishing state, the membership dropped to twelve this year, owing to several members leaving the county, but it is hoped to increase and enlarge this Branch in the future.

The fact that the Northern Meeting Ball Committee now include several of the more difficult dances in the ball programme, helps to stimulate interest in practices.

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA. This Branch was started in December, 1937, and now has a membership of twenty-eight ordinary members, three Honorary Members, and one Life Member.

Twelve meetings have been held during the past six months, and have been very well attended, the average attendance being twenty-four.

We have not been successful in securing the services of a certificated teacher, but nevertheless keen interest and enthusiasm has been displayed in practising the dances with the aid of the Scottish Country Dance Society's publications, and under the able leadership of our President, Mrs Russell-Fergusson, who has regularly attended the classes held at St. Andrews for a number of years.

We are confidently looking forward to an increased membership in the near future, and to a successful season commencing in October.

KIRKCALDY BRANCH. Members fifty-three. During the year changes have taken place in Fife. Now each former Centre is a Branch, and works on its own.

This Branch held successful and enjoyable classes during the winter and the spring, the attendance at each class being well maintained throughout the term. The Annual Dance was held about Christmas time, and was a very happy function.

Besides the Branch classes other classes are held in town; one for adults, mixed, a small class but quite enthusiastic, and one for boys and girls, which is a very large class. Also some of the S.W.R. Institutes in the vicinity are reviving their interest in Scottish Country Dancing.

In Cupar interest is being revived as well. A Dancing Circle was formed there about the beginning of the winter, and continued happily until the early days of spring.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT. There was a slight increase in the membership this year. As usual there were twelve lessons and two open nights, when each member invited a friend. Beginning in September we were able to finish our classes before Christmas. This we found more satisfactory regarding attendances. Our last night was a most enjoyable one, when, on the occasion of her marriage, Miss Wilkie, our instructress, was presented with a handsome reading lamp in appreciation of her work for this Branch of the Society.

LONDON (formed 1930), 87 members. It is very satisfactory to record an increase in the membership since last year, and larger numbers at all the classes and dances has indicated the ever growing interest in Scottish dancing. Classes were continued this year until the end of May, besides children's and Caledonian Ball classes, and two very good dances were held in February and April, but only one was possible before Christmas.

The General Meeting was held in October. A demonstration was given at the Ideal Home Exhibition at Olympia in April, in connection with the National Fitness Council's campaign. This was enthusiastically received by a large crowd, and afterwards there were several enquiries by what is hoped are potential members. A short informal demonstration by a mixed team was also given at the London Highland Club in June.

Four dances have been arranged for the coming winter at Queensberry Hall, South Kensington, on 29th October, 3rd December, 11th February, and 25th March. Any visiting member from Scotland or elsewhere, who happens to be in London on these dates will be welcomed.

General and advanced classes on Mondays and Fridays will continue until Easter, and a certificate class is also being formed. More certificated

teachers are badly needed, and Miss Milligan has promised to hold an examination here in the New Year if a sufficient number of people present themselves.

MANCHESTER (formed 1935), 105 members. Favourable progress has been made during the year, and the membership has increased in spite of a loss of 32 members from the previous year.

The season opened on 21st September with the Annual General Meeting, at which Dr MacInnes presided. Mr Maxwell's resignation as President was received with regret. Dr MacInnes was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy. The Branch has been most fortunate in having as its Presidents men who, though extremely busy in their own work, have taken such an active interest in its welfare.

During the winter advanced and intermediate classes were held on alternate Wednesdays in West Didsbury, and on Tuesdays in town an elementary and a general class were run. Attendances were more regular than in previous years, but the average attendance is only 17, so the costs are very high.

Once again a general class was held between Easter and Whitsun, but the attendances were small, partly due (1) to the later Easter, (2) to members assisting in the Centenary Pageant rehearsals, and (3) to the Certificate Class running during the same period.

The Certificate Class attracted 16 members.

In February, in response to requests, a class was started at Mile End, Stockport, and a class at Altrincham is under consideration.

The opening social followed the Annual General Meeting, and, as in previous years, this was found to be a good recruiting ground. At the second social in January an entertaining address entitled "Magic, Gesture, and the Dance," was delivered by Dr Murphy. A third social took place in April. All of these were held in the Grand Hotel. They were very enjoyable and added a little to the Branch funds.

Members of the English Folk Dance Society were guests at a joint meeting in February. The programme consisted of alternate English and Scottish dances of a fairly simple nature, and dances were demonstrated by both Societies. The Branch was able to put on a mixed team to dance "The Duke is Welcome" and "Montgomery's Rant." This was a jolly evening, and although a loss was registered the function will be repeated.

Twice during the winter the Branch supplied a teacher for the weekly meeting of the Physical Training Association (elementary teachers), and the Salford Physical Training Association continued its weekly classes throughout the winter under the instruction of a Branch teacher.

The first examination for teacher's certificate, under the auspices of the Branch, was held on 18th June, when Miss Milligan examined twelve candidates, of whom eight were successful.

Following the examination there was a Branch party, at which members were delighted to meet Miss Milligan.

The accounts continue to balance on the right side of the ledger, but this would be impossible if teachers and pianists received their full fees.

The Branch and its work are becoming better known, but it may be difficult to maintain the membership at the present high figure where so many transfers are continually taking place.

NEWTON STEWART (formed 1932). Membership of the Society has fallen off somewhat this season, through illness or absence from home of members. We hope to make up our numbers in the coming season.

Classes were held twice weekly from October, ending the season with a very successful open night in March.

It was attended by members of Wigtown, Creetown, Glen Kens, and Gatehouse classes.

The Country Dance Festival was most interesting, the junior teams especially showing a great advance, some of the teams from the country districts came long distances.

Great interest was shown in the dancing of the Foursome Reel by Kirkcudbright and Newton Stewart mixed teams. After the competition both teams were asked to repeat their performance.

A mixed team has been asked to dance at the Empire Exhibition in September.

Classes will start in October.

PERTH and PERTHSHIRE (formed 1925). 119 members and 12 Life Members. Perth Branch report that three classes were held during the autumn and spring, to suit the varying degrees of proficiency of dancers. Many new dancers attended these classes. Social dancing was held weekly, and increasing numbers demonstrated how much it was appreciated.

The dancing at the Musical Festival was again of a high standard. Three teams from the Queen Victoria School won Honours Certificates, which is a record at this Festival. The Silver Quaich was won by 7th Perth Company Girl Guides, who also reached honours rank, this being attained by Arbroath Centre, who won the Statuette presented by Perth Branch.

A Festival Team of Rangers and Rovers from the Branch, danced during the Society's week in June at the Empire Exhibition. Rain at one point interrupted their performance but not their enthusiasm. They very much appreciated arrangements made for them, and thoroughly enjoyed their experience.

Large classes were held during the winter at Aberfeldy, Camserney, Grandtully, Pitlochry, Ballinluig, Meigle, Coupar-Angus, Crieff, and at other centres, interest being well maintained all over the county.

RENFREWSHIRE (formed 1925). The classes held during the winter at Greenock and Kilmacolm were very well attended. Kilmacolm started with a class of 12, now they have over 30, several men being members. We are sorry to have lost the support of one or two of our older members through leaving the town. Several new members have joined the Society, making the numbers much the same as last year. The Branch gave their usual support to the Renfrewshire Musical Festival in the Scottish Country Dance section, this being much appreciated by the Festival Committee.

Our Annual Dances proved most successful. Three teams from here are taking part in the Scottish Dancing at the Exhibition, and a team of children have been asked to demonstrate at a Fête at Skelmorlie.

At our Annual General Meeting held on the 20th May, the Chairman presided over a gathering of about 50 members and friends. After the meeting we had tea and a dance, which brought our season to a close.

STIRLINGSHIRE (formed 1927). The Branch had a successful season from October to March. Five classes were held weekly in Stirling, and our Certificated Teachers took classes in Alloa, Arnprior, Bridge of Allan, Causewayhead, Denny, Plean, and Tillicoultry.

A Ball was held on 10th December, which, in spite of the inclemency of the weather—a severe blizzard was raging—over 200 members and their friends

took part. The splendid success of the dance was greatly due to the kindness of the "Stirlingshire Strathspey and Reel Society Orchestra," who played that evening.

At the Midland Counties' Musical Festival, Stirling Country Dance Class Team again won the Society's Silver Cup, while St Ninian's Junior Mixed Class took first place in their Class.

On 21st June the Branch sent Teams to give a demonstration at the Empire Exhibition, the following Teams took part:—Girls' Team at 3 p.m., Junior Mixed Team at 4 and 5 p.m., and Selected Member's Team 6 till 9 p.m.

Sixteen members of the Stirlingshire Strathspey and Reel Orchestra most kindly accompanied the Teams to the Exhibition, and played for them, which made the demonstration a successful one, the excellent and cheery playing of the Orchestra drawing a big crowd. There are 125 members this year, and the financial state of the Branch is satisfactory.

EAST STIRLINGSHIRE (formed 1932). This Branch had another successful winter session. Although the membership number dropped from 47 to 41 the numbers attending the three classes in Falkirk were well maintained.

The session opened with a Social Evening, and a very successful closing dance was held on the 1st April, representatives from neighbouring Branches attending.

Three Teams were entered for the Central Counties' Musical Festival held in Falkirk this year, one of which was successful in gaining a First Class (Honours) Certificate.

Mrs J. Grant, The Glen, Laurieston, Falkirk, has again consented to represent this Branch on the Executive Council.

WEST LOTHIAN (formed Nov. 1936), membership 41. Throughout the winter Branch classes were carried on in Broxburn (October-March), Bathgate (October-December), and Linlithgow (October-December). Bo'ness Country Dance Class has this year become affiliated to the Society. In connection with each of the classes a very successful Dance was held during the winter.

The Branch Council has arranged to hold a Festival of Scottish Country Dancing on 19th November, 1938, with Miss Milligan as adjudicator. This Festival should do much to stimulate the County's already increasing interest in Scottish Country Dancing.

This year has been one of progress for the Branch, and the financial position is very satisfactory.

WIGTOWN BRANCH (formed 1934). This Branch has had a successful Session—Classes being taken by Miss Erskine, with Miss McRobert as pianist—the numbers averaged 25, nine of whom became members of the Branch. The Committee and members are most grateful to their President, Mrs Lilico, for the very enjoyable evening they spent at the Dance on 1st March, 1938. A successful Open Night was held on 8th March 1938. A Team was entered at the Country Dancing Festival at Newton Stewart in April, where they gained first prize in their Section.

Affiliated Societies

COLCHESTER AND DISTRICT CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION.

Three dancing classes were held before Christmas. Miss Martin came from London to instruct us. After the last class dancing was continued until 12 o'clock. Eight members of the class (the four men in kilts) did two demonstration dances at the "Lasses Night" function, which was attended by about three hundred people. This proved a popular item on the programme. It is hoped to continue the classes again this winter.

DUNDEE HIGHLAND SOCIETY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLASS, formed October 1935 with membership of about 80. Since then membership has grown to about 130. Two classes are now held, a beginners and an advanced. Special mention must be made of the large number of gentlemen who attend the classes, most of them being attired in Highland Dress. They make a striking picture when dances such as Glasgow Highlanders, Dundee Reel and Broon's Reel are being danced. The classes are very dignified, and the pupils are very fortunate in their teachers.

Miss M. M. Dow, the well-known Scottish Country Dance Teacher, has been with the class since its formation, and the last two years she has ably instructed the senior class. Miss Dow deserves great credit for her work, and as she teaches from all of the Scottish Country Dance Collection, the senior class has a wide knowledge of the dances.

Mr Douglas Henderson is teacher to the beginners' class, Mr Henderson teaches in the Highland Dress. The class are very fortunate in their teacher. Mr Henderson is himself a splendid dancer, and has a wide knowledge of the Scottish Country Dancing. Mr Henderson is responsible for the large number of gentlemen joining the class.

The pianists to the class are perfect, and their beautiful playing helps the dancers considerably. Mrs Bird Matthew has been pianist since the classes started, and Miss F. G. Latto has taken over the playing at the Beginners' Class.

A Highland Ball is held annually under the auspices of the Dundee Highland Society, where mostly Scottish Country Dances form the background of the programme; all members of the Dance Class attending the Ball. At the closing of the classes a Dance is held to which other Branches in Dundee and district are invited to attend, only Scottish Country Dances are allowed. This Dance is a huge attraction, and is proof of the splendid work that is being done for Scottish Country Dancing. In Dundee great demand is made for Scottish Country Dancing, and we look forward to our new session with much delight. Our classes were so keen on their dancing that another six lessons were given extra, after the official closing of the session, this extra half session being well attended.

FORT WILLIAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB. Season 1937-8 was most successful with attendances usually over fifty every Monday during the winter. Most of the success of this Branch is due to the capabilities and enterprise of the Master of Ceremonies, Mr J. M'Bean—the founder of the Branch—and to the efficient instructress, Mrs Stewart, who had rather an arduous task with such a large class. The support given by the members showed that they fully appreciated their services.

Thanks are also due to the Secretary, Miss Templeton, who has now taken over the Stage House Hotel, Glenfinnan, and to Messrs D. W. Cameron and H. M'Kelvie, who have supplied the music since the inception of the Branch.

Many new (or old) dances were gone through this winter, and each evening usually finished up with a short but hilarious "Paul Jones," of modern ballroom and country dances—Waltz Country Dance, Valetta, St Bernards, Fox Trots, One Steps, Waltzes, Highland Schottische, etc., which served to loosen the limbs of the members, and created a cheery atmosphere, besides lending a touch of variety, without which things tend to go stale.

A closing dance was held in March, when over 80 members, ex-members and friends had an enjoyable evening, during which the instructress was presented with a handsome gift.

THE HARTLEPOOLS BURNS CLUB held nine Dance classes during the season from October to April, the average attendance being about 50. An extension in time of half an hour was arranged, without increasing the charge to dancers, which was greatly appreciated, and allowed a much fuller programme to be carried through.

The Sixteen-some Reel was tried out with success, and the Nine-some Reel and Strip the Willow are firmly established favourites.

The final class was celebrated by a "late night," at which supper was provided, the whole programme being thoroughly enjoyed.

THE ILFORD SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION REEL AND SOCIAL CLUB, The 1937-38 season of The Ilford Scottish Association Reel and Social Club, which meets every Tuesday during the winter months, has been a very successful one. The present membership is 50, with an average attendance of 40. In particular, the special monthly dances, when the members are joined by many visitors, have been most successful, and have been enjoyed by the visitors as well as the Club members. We are looking forward to an enjoyable and successful 1938-39 Season.

LEICESTER SCOTTISH DANCE SOCIETY, 1937-38. The most successful year's work in the history of the Society was concluded in March.

Meetings were held weekly throughout the winter, and the attendance exceeded all expectations, reaching on special evenings to upwards of 120.

The evenings start with instruction in Scottish Dancing, 7 till 8.45 p.m., refreshments, more dancing, both Scottish and English, interspersed with entertainment items till 10.30 p.m. Although expenses are about 25/- weekly, the evenings have been a financial success.

We are now able to send out Teams when requested. An enjoyable evening was spent with the Newark Scottish Society, where certain members are trying, under difficulties, to make Scottish Dancing more popular.

The English Folk Dance and Song Society have exchanged visits with us, and there are prospects of many recruits from their ranks to Scottish Country Dancing.

Such keenness was shown, especially by the children, that nine or ten meetings were held out-of-doors during the summer.

A children's Team gave a display at a garden fête in aid of the funds of the local Presbyterian Church.

At the Annual Festival of the Leicestershire and Rutland English Folk Dance Society in July, we gave a display of Scottish Dancing. At this festival a display of Spanish Folk Dancing was given by Basque refugee children.

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD CALEDONIAN ASSOCIATION. The Committee of this Association are preparing for a busy winter session. Apart from the usual musical programmes, three lantern lectures have

been arranged. The Rev. Ernest Hamson will speak about "Brittany—its history, humour and folk-lore;" an old friend, Mr Hawley, will take his audience on a trip to the Isle of Wight, and in order that the members may be made acquainted with an aspect of business which plays such an important part in influencing their domestic and other purchases, there is to be something of an innovation in an intensely interesting lecture by Mr E. Wheatley Jones, A.R.Hist.S., entitled "The romance of advertising from the birth of history to the present day."

For the Annual Concert which will be held in the Albert Hall, Manchester, on 23rd November, a number of artistes of high repute have been engaged. This gives promise of being a very successful venture.

On the Sunday following the Concert there is the Annual Caledonian Service. This year the Chaplain, Rev. A. A. Meek, has consented to conduct the service from his own pulpit at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Heaton Chapel.

The Burns' Anniversary Dinner on 25th January, 1939, is to many of our countrymen the outstanding event of the year. On this occasion "The Immortal Memory" is in the capable hands of Mr David Kirkwood, M.P. for Dumbarton, who can be relied upon to do justice to his subject.

Finally, new members will be assured of a welcome, and a hearty invitation to the meetings of the Association is extended to friends of members, and all others interested in Scottish affairs.

THE NOTTINGHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB.

During the session 1937 to 1938, two terms of ten classes each have been held under the tuition of Miss K. R. Frank. Two parties have been held during the year, one for children on 4th December, 1937, and one for members of the Club and their friends on 15th January, 1938. The children's party was particularly successful, and was attended by 219 children. The profit made was a considerable help to the funds of the Club.

Unfortunately, the membership of the Club has decreased considerably during the year. There have been eight new members this year. At present the total membership is 35, of which 23 have attended the classes as full-time dancers.

During June two demonstrations of Scottish Country Dancing were given by a small Team of Club members at two local functions, in the hope of obtaining new members.

RICHMOND CALEDONIAN SOCIETY, formed eighteen months ago, already boasts a membership of 250. The objects of the Society are social, benevolent, and traditional, and a programme similar to the previous one, embodying the usual features, has been drawn up for the coming winter.

If the results of last season can be taken as an indication of the future, the success of the Society is assured—each function having been well patronised and thoroughly enjoyed.

Richmond has many distinguished associations with Scotland, and it is interesting to note that the proclamation of the wedding of Henry VII.'s daughter with James IV. of Scotland was made in Richmond Palace. In 1603 Queen Elizabeth died in the Palace, and from there the news was sent, by courier, post-haste to James VI., later James I. of England.

To commemorate this event, which is unique to Richmond, the Society held a "Union of the Crowns" Dinner and Dance. This function proved to

be an unqualified success. The principal guest of the evening was Lord Alness, P.C., and he was supported by Major G. S. Harvie Watt, M.P. for Richmond, the Mayor of Richmond, Sir Findlater Stewart, and others.

The Society's greatest attraction has been the weekly dancing classes, and much praise is due to the members of the Dance Committee for the high standard attained under their tuition.

The Caledonian Ball, held in December, was a huge success. This being a charity event, handsome donations were handed over to the Royal Caledonian School, Bushey, and Richmond Royal Hospital—the balance held over forming the nucleus for a Benevolent Fund in the Society.

Apart from several informal dances, whist drives and lectures, the syllabus included a Hallowe'en Party, Church service in commemoration of St Andrew, Burns' Supper, and Children's Party.

ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY OF OTAGO—NEW ZEALAND. This Society has again had a successful session. Each month Scottish Country Dances are practised, and are much enjoyed. The Literary and Dramatic Sections are going ahead, several playettes are being practiced to be performed at the Monthly Socials. Interesting lectures on Scottish subjects have been given by the Rev. Hugh Graham, and another enthusiastic lecturer is Dr Hunter. Dr Hunter was born in Brisbane, his parents being Scottish. We discover that here in Dunedin the families of the Pioneers are more enthusiastic about Home, and all that it means, than many who have lately come to this country.

The Executive Council wish to extend their best wishes to the Scottish Country Dance Society.

Scottish Country Dance Summer School

St Andrews, 1st - 15th August 1938

Another Summer School at an end, and we look back on two weeks crowded with work and entertainment.

It would not be a school worthy of the name, if the work did not take first place, and it was real hard work at times.

The classes were full to overflowing. A new Book is a thrill and at Miss Milligan's morning class, the lessons on Book XII, had the excitement and pleasure that thrills always have. It is well to know that about half of the dances are easy and very suited to the ballroom. The others are more difficult, but I am sure we shall enjoy them all when we and they become better acquainted.

Other classes were in full swing; classes for beginners, classes for advanced students, and classes for those wishing to take the Teacher's Certificate. The Tests on both Saturdays were the culminating point, and in nearly every case, crowned effort with success.

Mr Reid again held his popular Reel Class attended by enthusiastic dancers, when many old favourite steps were rehearsed and new ones learned.

The evening social Dances in the Hall were delightful, whether we danced ourselves or watched the new dances being demonstrated.

The bedroom parties were the greatest fun, when you had the good

fortune to be an invited guest, and when not, you wondered how people could make so merry at the end of a strenuous day.

There was nothing humdrum about the weather, and we sampled all kinds. Lovely days of warmth and sunshine when we lazed in the garden, bathed, golfed or drove round the Fife coast and explored the country. Other days when the mist enshrouded us; then the day of thunder and lightning with the rain coming down as it had not come down in St Andrews in living memory.

The parking of the cars this year, in the drive of the Hall, was a successful innovation. The team work was excellent. Each "Machine without Horses"* stood, with perfect deportment, in her allotted place. In fancy we saw them bow and curtsey and set to partners.

We give our warmest thanks to all those who worked for our instruction and comfort, both before the School opened, and while it was going on. In truth they were days of crowded activity, with the happiness of them coming uppermost, and crowding out all other memories.

J. L. W.

* Dance in Book XII.

The Empire Exhibition Demonstrations

Demonstrations of Scottish Country Dancing by respective teams of men and women, women, and children were an attractive feature at the National Fitness Council Arena of the Empire Exhibition, Bellahouston Park, Glasgow. The semi-circular stage with its pool in front made an ideal setting for a sunny day, while the mirrored background played its part in the floodlit performances of the darker autumn evenings.

On the whole our teams were fortunate, the most unlucky, from the weather point of view, being those from Perth and Hamilton in June and from Newton Stewart and Glasgow in September. More indoor performances were given in September than in June.

It seemed a pity that no adequate provision had been made for indoor displays. Still, wet or fine, our displays were all given—outside if at all possible, inside under rather trying conditions if the weather proved too unkind. It will no doubt surprise those who danced inside the pavilion to know that as many as 410 were able to watch the performance.

Performances were given each day from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. for the first fifteen minutes of each hour and sometimes, when there was the demand, extra performances were given.

In June from Monday, 20th, to Saturday, 25th, teams took part as follows:—

- Monday— Holmscroft Team (Mixed) from Renfrewshire Branch.
Glasgow Scottish Country Dance Team (Mixed).
- Tuesday— St Ninian's School F.P.s and Teams from Stirling High School
for Girls from Stirlingshire Branch.
Glasgow Scottish Country Dance Team (Mixed),
- Wednesday— Angus Teams of Men and Women, and Women.
Shields Road School Team (Mixed), Glasgow.
Scottish Country Dance Team (Mixed), Glasgow.

- Thursday— Team from Perth (Mixed).
 Women's Teams from Hamilton Branch.
- Friday— The Dancers of Don.
 Edinburgh S.C.D.S. Team (Mixed).
- Saturday— Teams of Women and Mixed Teams from Aberdeen and
 Dundee.

As will be seen teams of men and women took part at some of the performances each day. In all 202 passes were issued for the dancers during the week. This, of course, is a little short of the actual number of performers as many Glasgow performers did not require passes.

Two Special Performances were given in June—one on Wednesday, 22nd June, at 11 a.m., by a Glasgow Women's Team to the ladies attending the Engineering Conference, and the other on the forenoon of Friday, 24th June, by a Glasgow Scottish Country Dance Team of Men and Women to the Duke and Duchess of Kent on the occasion of their visit to the National Fitness Council Pavilion. Both demonstrations were by special request and were arranged by Miss Milligan.

The official figures of those who attended the displays were as follows:—

Monday—1570	Tuesday—1900	Wednesday—2900	} Total—14,970
Thursday—800	Friday—4300	Saturday—3500	

In this connection it should be noted that Thursday was a day of unceasing rain and that on Wednesday and Friday special performances were given. The number given is the estimated number of those who remained throughout the performances, but does not include those who watched for a time and then passed on.

For our September week we had to make many re-arrangements as we were asked to give up Friday, 16th September, and part of our time on Saturday, 17th September, to the Boys' Brigade. In all cases the teams concerned were most helpful and considerate.

Again the teams were representative, being as follows:—

- Monday— Dalbeth Girls' Team, Glasgow.
 Glasgow Scottish Country Dance Team (Mixed).
 Hamilton Branch (Mixed Team).
- Tuesday— Children's Team from Craigneuk Public School, Wishaw.
 Teams from No. 9 Glasgow Guildry Company.
 Glasgow Scottish Country Dance Team (Mixed).
- Wednesday— Mixed Team from Greenock—Renfrewshire Branch.
 Teams from East Stirlingshire.
 Shields Road School Former Pupils' Team (Mixed).
- Thursday— Children's Team from Harmony Row Public School, Glasgow.
 Women's Team from Edinburgh Branch.
 Mixed Team from Glasgow Branch.
- Saturday— Mixed Team from Shields Road Public School, Glasgow.
 Mixed team from Newton Stewart.

The number of people who watched these September demonstrations was 12,400.

From the innumerable enquiries and the hundreds of leaflets taken away from the Pavilion by people to whom our Scottish Country Dancing was utterly unknown it is evident that valuable propaganda work has been done. The actual results, in some degree, may be seen when classes resume.

Meantime the public have realised that these are truly social dances, as, by special request from the audience on the evening of 12th September, members of the audience were allowed to take part. Thus we had the unexpected spectacle of Petronella, The Eightsome Reel and The Dashing White Sergeant being danced on a crowded platform as well as on the grass in front of the Pavilion. Members of the team partnered people from the audience.

This experiment was continued during the remaining evening performances. Enthusiastic dancers took part whenever weather permitted, and we actually saw eight sets dance The Dashing White Sergeant and The Eightsome Reel in the limited platform space of 26 by 44 feet.

From May onwards, several demonstrations were given in An Clachan by the Glasgow Scottish Country Dance Team, under the direction of Miss Milligan. Sometimes these were formal demonstrations but at other times were the prelude to an evening's social dancing of Scottish Country Dances. In June, a Renfrewshire team, under the direction of Miss Sime, and in July, a Glasgow team, under the direction of Miss Ross, also played their part.

Nor must another demonstration be forgotten—that given to Members of The Press Club in June at a social function, where, by special request, the Eightsome Reel and other Scottish Country Dances were shown by the Glasgow Scottish Country Dance Team of men and women.

The Empire Exhibition is nearing its close, but there are still a few Scottish Country Dance demonstrations to be given by teams selected by the Officer in Charge of the National Fitness Council Arena—Lt.-Col. G. de C. E. Findlay, V.C., M.C. Meantime much credit and many thanks are due to those responsible for the excellence of the teams and for the thoroughness and punctuality with which the demonstrations were carried out.

So we leave the Empire Exhibition.

M. W. KENYON.

Apology.

The Secretary regrets that she inserted a picture in the front page of the March "Bulletin," the copyright of which belongs to Mrs Maclachlan, 89 Queen's Court, London, W.1, without permission having been given. Mrs Brown takes this opportunity of apologising to Mrs Maclachlan.

Notices.

There are still six copies available of the bound edition of Books 1—8, price £1, 1/- These may be had from the Secretary.

* * *

Will Members please note that the Annual Subscription for 1938-39 is now due.

* * *

In the dance "The Lady's Breist Knot," in Book X., the time should be Strathspey, not Reel.

It was on a visit to the Highlands that James Hogg acquired the materials for his famous "Maclean's Welcome," now better known as "Come o'er the stream, Charlie." He says: "I versified this song at Meggernie Castle, in Glen Lyon, Perthshire, from a scrap of prose, said to be a translation, verbatim, of a Gaelic song, and to a Gaelic air sung by one of the sweetest singers and most accomplished angelic beings of the human race."

Certainly the lilt of the song, as well as the sentiment is Gaelic. Hogg has preserved the very spirit of it in his version:

Come o'er the stream, Charlie, dear Charlie, brave Charlie,
Come o'er the stream, Charlie, and dine with Maclean ;
And though you be weary we'll make your heart cheery
And welcome our Charlie and his loyal train.

We'll bring down the red deer, we'll bring down the black steer,
The lamb from the breckan and doe from the glen ;
The salt sea we'll harry and bring to our Charlie
The cream from the bothy and curd from the pen.

And you shall drink freely the dews of Glen Sheerly,
That stream in the starlight when kings dianna ken,
And deep be your meed of the wine that is red,
To drink to your sire and his friend, the Maclean.

O'er heath-bells shall trace you the maids to embrace you
And deck your blue bonnet with flowers of the brae,
And the loveliest Mari in all Glen M'Quarry
Shall lie in your bosom till break of the day.

If aught will invite you or more will delight you,
'Tis ready, a troop of your own Highland men
Shall range on the heather with bonnet and feather,
Strong arms and broad claymores three hundred and ten.

The song was first printed in Hogg's "Jacobite Relics," in 1821, while the air appeared under another title in Captain Simon Fraser's "The Airs and Melodies peculiar to the Highlands of Scotland and the Isles," five years earlier. In combination they have never waned in popularity since. S.

From the Bulletin.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
AUTUMN SCHOOL

AN AUTUMN SCHOOL will be held in EDINBURGH, on Friday, 4th, and Saturday, 5th November 1938.

Classes will be held in the British Medical Association Hall, 7 Drumsheugh Gardens, as follows :—

FRIDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER — 5 — 6.30 p.m. Certificate Class (Certificates 1 and 2).

8 —10 p.m. Book 12. (Miss Milligan).

SATURDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER—10 —11.30 a.m. Certificate Class (Certificates 1 and 2).

11.30—12.30 a.m. General Class.

The Examination for Teacher's Certificate will take place in the Plaza, Morningside Road, on Saturday, at 4.30 p.m.

Members wishing to enter for the Teacher's Certificate are asked to send their names to the Secretary, Mrs M. K. Brown, Thornhill, Cairnmuir Road, Edinburgh, 12, by 31st October.

FEES ;—10/- for the Course or 2/- per Class. Friday—8 to 10 p.m. 3/-

<u>HOTELS</u> :—North British Station Hotel	Bed and Breakfast,	12/6
Palace Hotel, Princes Street, ...	" "	8/6
Cranston's Old Waverley Hotel	" "	8/6
St Alban's Hotel, 9 Rutland Square ...	" "	7/6

After the Annual General Meeting, the Edinburgh Branch invite all visiting members to a THÉ DANSANT, in the Plaza, Morningside Road.

Please apply for your ticket to the Edinburgh Branch Secretary, Miss Martin Stewart, 22 Stafford Street, before Monday, 31st October.

If possible, please send a post-card beforehand to the Secretary, Thornhill, Cairnmuir Road, Edinburgh, 12, if you intend to be present at the Autumn School.

Fill in slip and hand to Secretary on arrival with correct fee.

Name

Home Address

Branch

Attending whole time

or Classes on

