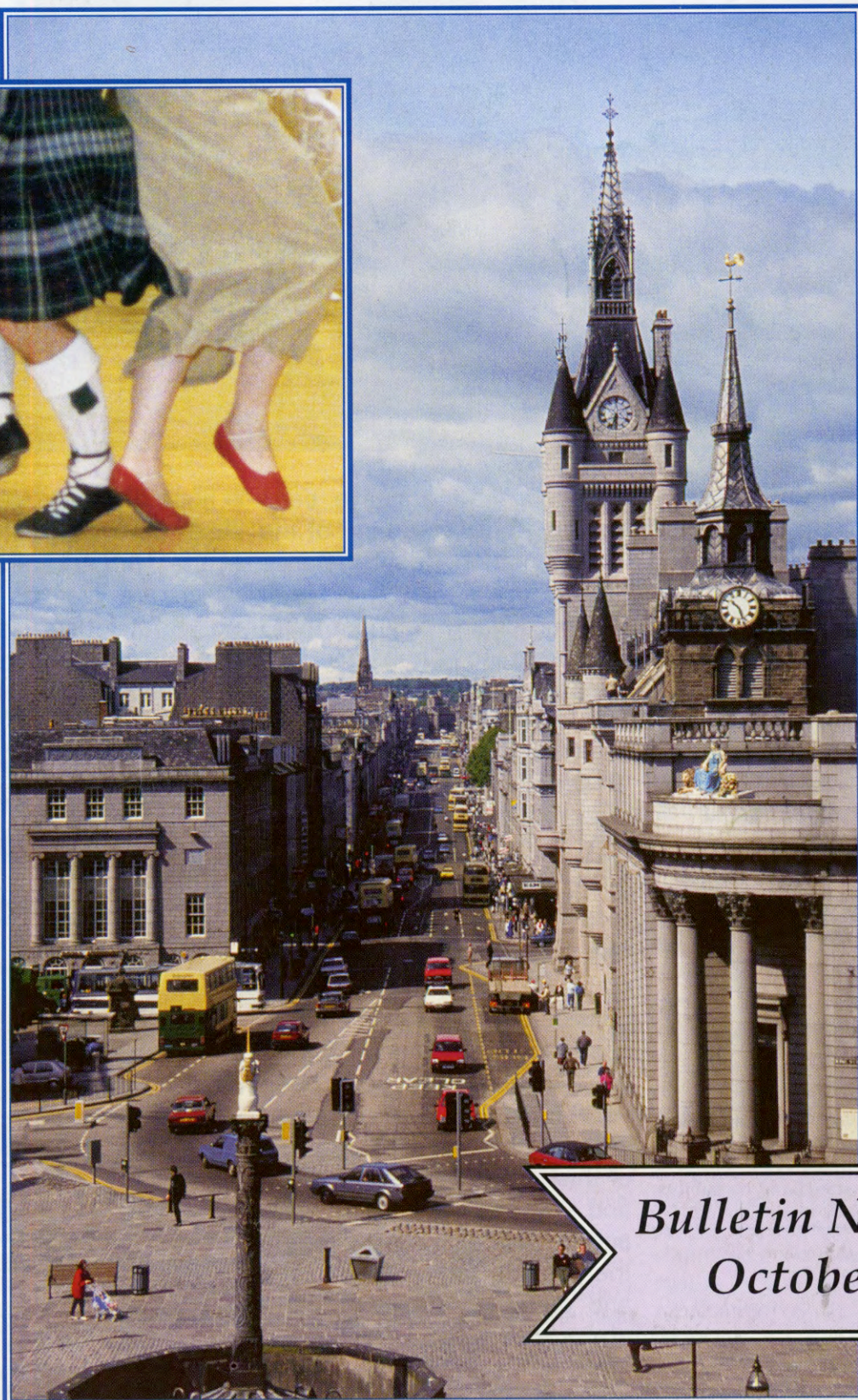

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

1923 - 1998
RSCDS
75 Years



*Bulletin Number 75
October 1997*

City of Aberdeen - Venue of 1997 Annual General Meeting



Office Bearers

Patron:

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

President:

The Earl of Mansfield

Honorary Vice-Presidents:

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

Chairman:

Mr Bill Clement

Vice-Chairman:

Mrs Linda Gaul

Director of Administration/

Secretary:

Gill Parker

Treasurer:

Mrs Marilyn Jeffcoat

Editor:

Gill Parker

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President's Introduction

by the Earl of Mansfield

The Earl of Mansfield, was first elected President of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society in November 1977.



I am delighted to have been able to act as President of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society for the past 20 years. It was particularly poignant that I was able to Chair my first Annual General Meeting as President of the Society in 1978 at Jordanhill College, Glasgow, and that the Society is to return to Glasgow for the AGM in 1998, to celebrate its 75th Anniversary.

The Society is to be commended on its considerable achievements in ensuring that Scottish Country dancing standards have been established and maintained around the world. A great deal of this is due to the dedication and effort of so many dancers and helpers who have ensured that the Society is recognised and promoted wherever there are people interested in dancing.

I hope that all members will take the opportunity of joining in the 75th Anniversary events which are planned worldwide, so that Scottish country dancers can be united in a year of celebration throughout 1998.

The Earl of Mansfield, D.L., J.P.

Deadline for Next Issue

Deadline for submission of articles

All articles, letters, advertisements, etc. must be submitted before 30th May. The Editor reserves the right to edit articles subject to space.

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Chairman's Foreword



Members who have had the privilege of knowing Dr Jean C. Milligan will recall how frequently she referred to "The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society's International Family". Miss Milligan was largely responsible for fostering this special family relationship, travelling widely throughout the world, teaching, examining and meeting many dancers.

In most ordinary families, the parents are legally responsible for nurturing their offspring in their formative years. Later, however, when children have come of age and are financially independent, this does not usually mean the end of the close family link. The family home is always open to them to return at any time, in particular on special occasions and anniversaries, similarly with the Society's International Family.

The new Charity regulations in the UK mean that we can no longer be legally responsible for the local associations, since they must now stand on their own and be autonomous. This should not,

however, end the close family ties which were there previously and the members should continue to regard Headquarters at 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh as the family home.

In 1998, the local associations will have the opportunity to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the RSCDS, and I hope that every local association and Affiliated Group take the opportunity to celebrate this anniversary and in so doing remember the debt we owe to our co-founders Miss Milligan and Mrs Stewart.

The Society today operates through the Executive Council to which every Local Association has the opportunity to send a representative. It is at the Executive Council meetings that the work of committees is scrutinised, and local associations through their representatives can express their opinions. I commend every Local Association to ensure that they have a representative at the Executive Council.

Bill Clement
CHAIRMAN

I do hope that you will enjoy reading this first edition of the new-look RSCDS Bulletin.

This is the seventy-fifth issue of a Bulletin which was first published and sent to all members in 1932 (see page 13). Throughout this period the Society has tried to adapt the style and content to ensure that all members can benefit from the publication. This is a continuing project and it is hoped that the new format will allow greater scope to develop the contents so that more general interest articles can be included, and other items which you, as a member, will appreciate.

In future the Directory of Local Association and Affiliated Group Secretaries will be issued, as a separate booklet, to all members on a biennial basis (every second year).

The Society is an ever evolving organisation, adapting to the pressures and influences of today. It is however interesting to note that these same influences were foremost in the Society in the 1930's. In the 1931/2 Annual Report it is stated:

"The membership during the last year has not increased so much as in previous years, which may be partly owing to the difficulties of the times and partly because Scottish country dancing has now, in many places, become so much a part of the life of the people that it no longer calls for special nurturing by the Society."

While we have achieved a great deal over the past 74 years, we must continue to nurture Scottish country dancing, and to strive to fulfill the Society aims.

It is true that in Scotland, Scottish country dancing is now a popular pastime, enjoyed by many people. However, we must not become complacent – there is still considerable work to be done.

Gill Parker

This year has continued to herald changes within the Society. As you will have read in the January Newsbrief, our new Chairman (Bill Clement), Vice Chairman (Linda Gaul), and Hon. Vice President (The Earl of Elgin) were elected at the 1996 AGM. The Secretary, Gill Parker, has also been appointed Director of Administration within the Society.

We have also been saddened by the deaths of many respected and admired friends, including Miss Florence Adams, (Hon. Vice President), Miss Katherine McLauchlan and Mr J. Atkinson (see pages 22–24)

The Executive Council has been considering changes to its structure, and held a Special meeting in May in order to fully discuss the matter. While no formal decision has yet been taken it is hoped this might be considered at their next meeting.

The Bulletin has been revamped with a new look format and the new Directory of Local Association and Affiliated Group Secretaries has been established.

But 1997 has been a year in which the Society has been preparing for the future. We are looking forward with enthusiasm to the celebrations which are planned for the Society's 75th year (see page 16) and also to the year 2000. Both of which will see a gathering of friends within the "RSCDS family".

As well as all these new projects the Society continues to carry out its traditional activities. Several courses (funded by the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund) were held, which provided training for accordionists, pianists and also for potential tutors (see pages 19–20).

We are continuing to make every effort to communicate fully with all our members. The RSCDS Newsbrief was issued to all branches and affiliated groups in January, and we very much hope to expand the scope and frequency of the Newsbrief in future issues.

Director of Administration

Your new Director of Administration, Gill Parker, will continue to hold the title Secretary within the Society, and will carry out all the duties previously associated with that office. The new title will be used predominately to ensure that outside bodies can more fully appreciate the position.

Gill, who was married in May, sends her thanks to all in the Society for their kind wishes, and their generosity.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held in The Northern College, Dundee,
on Saturday 2 November 1996, at 1.00 pm

Present

Office Holders: Mr G. Lawson (Chairman), Mr W. Clement (Vice Chairman), Lt. Col. (Retd.) M. Gibson (Hon. Vice President), Mr R. Turnbull (Finance Convener), Mrs M. A. Jeffcoat (Treasurer), and Miss G. S. Parker (Secretary).

Past Chairmen: Mr A. Aitkenhead, Dr A. MacFadyen, Miss A. W. Miller, and Mr J. B. C. Brown.

202 Delegates and 134 observers were in attendance at the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were received from The Earl of Mansfield, Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel, The Honorable Peregrine Moncrieffe of Moncrieffe, Mrs Margaret Parker, Mr James Taylor, and four delegates.

The Chairman introduced The Lord Provost and Honorary President of RSCDS Dundee, Mr Mervin Roth and his wife, and opened the sixty seventh Annual General Meeting of the Society.

Welcome

The Lord Provost welcomed the members and delegates to Dundee, City of Discovery. He recognised the great deal of hard work that had been undertaken by the Society in assuring the heritage and culture of Scottish Country Dancing, and in this respect Scotland could be well assured that this aspect of its heritage was in good hands.

While Dundee was extremely proud of its heritage, it could not live in the past, and must build on its considerable successes to ensure further successes in the future. The same must be said of the Society.

Mr Roth was delighted to welcome delegates from USA, Australia, South Africa and from all over the United Kingdom, and he looked forward to the next time that the Society might return to Dundee (for the fifth time).

Chairman's Address

The Chairman welcomed all those attending the meeting especially those attending for the first time, whether as a representative or observer. He also particularly welcomed those members who were to receive the Society's award of the Scroll.

"This will be the last time that I will be able to speak to you as Chairman of our Society. During the past two years I have represented the Executive Council on many happy occasions and these have given me the opportunity to meet with many people from all around the world, and I can only hope that I have been a good ambassador for the Society. Just as our Society moves on, so does life and there have sadly been occasions when I have represented the Society in a less happy situation.

Being Chairman has other responsibilities and I wish to thank my Vice Chairman and Conveners of both Standing and Sub-Committees for their support and enthusiasm. I must also mention that with the limited resources available and with the added burden of change the enthusiasm of our Secretary and loyalty of her staff must be commended. Their dedication is to the benefit of all members.

I still hear a great deal about communication, and appreciate that members want to know about the Society. To this end I urge Secretaries and Editors to make space to explain the democratic nature of our organisation, and to pass on to members the information provided by Headquarters, through the committee reports, and minutes.

Members, ask your Secretaries and so appreciate more fully what is happening. No decision of policy can be made outwith Committee. I must also say that I hear of breakdowns in communications on a one to one

basis. With the limited resources and the frustrations of new technology along with the increased work load, the Secretariat can only be supported in what they are doing.

For the future, I would also ask everyone to be patient. There has been a great deal of turmoil during the past two years and I would like to think that we could now take time to take stock before moving on. The year 2000 is still three years ahead, but before that is 1998 - Let us think of celebration."

Award of Society Scroll

Lt. Col. Muriel Gibson, Hon. Vice President of the Society joined the Chairman to make the presentation of the Society Scrolls.

The following recipients were presented with the scroll of honour in recognition of their outstanding service to the Society.

Mr Harold and Mrs Sheila Barnes (Somerset), Mr David Brandon (Los Angeles), Mr Leslie Cumming (Melbourne & District), and Dr Alastair MacFadyen (Glasgow) (See photo in Jan 1997 Newsbrief).

Unfortunately Mr Kevin Connolly (Formerly of Canberra & District, and now with Mornington Peninsula) was unable to attend the Meeting, however a presentation was made by his local association.



Kevin Connolly being presented with the Society Scroll by Mornington Peninsula Secretary, Jenny Weeks.

Message from The Patron

The following message was received from Buckingham Palace.

"Your letter, together with the subscription copy and cassette were sent to your Patron at Balmoral. Her Majesty has asked me to say that she was most pleased to receive these, as well as your kind message of loyal greetings.

This letter comes to you then, with the Queen's thanks and best wishes to you all at the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society."

Minutes of Meeting of 4 November 1995

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were approved.

Minutes of The Extraordinary Meeting of 11 May 1996

The Minutes of the EGM were approved. Although it was noted that there was a typographical error on page 12 of Bulletin 74 which should read "Model Constitution" and not "Model Association".

Appointment of Office Bearers

Honorary President:

The Earl of Mansfield was unanimously confirmed as Honorary President of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

Hon. Vice-Presidents:

It was unanimously agreed that the following Vice Presidents of the Society would be re-appointed: Miss Florence Adams, Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel, Lt. Col. Muriel Gibson, and The Hon. Peregrine Moncrieffe of Moncrieffe.

In addition it was unanimously agreed to appoint The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine as an additional Honorary Vice President of the Society.

The Annual Report

Miss Parker gave the following report:

"We have experienced a particularly busy, and I believe successful, past twelve months, with over 35 committee meetings, a Special Executive Council meeting and an Extraordinary General Meeting having taken place since I last gave the annual report.

The Society has just recently successfully negotiated with the Charity Commission, to ensure that they have agreed to adopt a standard constitution for RSCDS local associations in England and Wales, thus allowing a smoother

and easier application process for charitable status. In addition 25 local associations in Scotland have now achieved recognition by the Inland Revenue as Scottish Charities.

Last year, I stated that I hoped to improve communication links, between the Society and the Branches, and also with the membership at large. While this cannot be fully achieved in one year alone, there are many measures which have already been implemented which, I believe, will assist with this.

The first issue of the RSCDS Newsbrief was distributed this year, and I am pleased to say that this is to be a continuing project to be issued on an annual basis via the local associations. The Bulletin is going through an evolution, and I do hope that this interim edition will give you an insight into some of the changes, and improvements that are proposed, and that it might go some way towards improving links with the membership.

We are enthusiastically moving towards our 75th anniversary and the millennium, and have this year set up a new fund.

The 1998 Contingency Fund will, we hope, go towards helping branches to celebrate this special occasion. I hope that you will encourage members and your branches to contribute.

A range of material has been produced over the past months in order to assist both the local associations and the Society itself to improve communication with the media; to work towards increasing membership; and also to raise positive awareness of both Scottish Country Dancing and the Society. This will become more apparent when the marketing guide is released and we can see how the suggestions might be implemented in this new phase of activity leading to our special anniversary and the millennium."

Miss Parker announced that two new CD compilations had just been released in addition to the three cassettes, subscription publication, and accompanying video and cassette which were released earlier this year. Preparations for a variety of examinations, both overseas and at home, which will include examination tours to Australia, Japan; North America, and to Germany were also underway.

The Summer School Committee had taken the opportunity of canvassing

comments from participants, with over 500 responses. These had been carefully considered and evaluated, and had been discussed with the University. It was hoped that many improvements could be made for next year.

She continued "The General Purposes Committee were delighted to approve funding from the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund for the Teaching tour of Southern Africa which took place this year, and for the extremely successful Tutors, Potential Tutors and Musicians courses which are to be held again in 1997. Much work has also been involved in considering the work carried out by the various sub-committees including the 75th anniversary, the public relations, constitution, YSDA and tattoo sub-committees."

All this had, she said, "been administered and supported through the Head office and is in addition to the computerisation programme started at the end of last year, and the day-to-day activities involved in running a world-wide organisation."

She concluded by thanking all the office staff for their dedication throughout a difficult year with pressures and stresses far beyond those previously anticipated. Finally she thanked the Chairman, George Lawson, for his continued support and assistance.

The annual report was formally adopted.

Annual Accounts

Mr Turnbull, Finance Convener presented the Annual Accounts and gave the following report:

"As the Secretary announced in the Bulletin, the Society has been moving at a tremendous pace and many changes are either currently underway or are in the pipeline, my problem is of course that these changes have to be paid for and serviced by staff at Head Office, although the present staffing level has remained unaltered since 1983.

Our members expect more and more, and we have to do what we can to provide as many services as possible, this we strive to do and financially we try to work within our income, but this is not always possible. In the past reserves have been put away for a rainy day. I think it is reasonable to say that the additional expenses incurred as a result of the problems arising from the charities legislation are abnormal, and we have been forced to dip slightly into capital

to contribute towards this particular rainy day.

Last year, I presented a budget which showed a substantial deficit although I stated that this was based on what the Finance Committee considered a realistic statement of the position. The Committee has sought to improve income and reduce costs wherever possible and we continue to look for improvements. The actual deficit for the year is very much less than that shown in the budgets and is an improvement over the results for the year to 30 June 1995.

The accounts have this year been prepared in accordance with the new regulations which are in force and I would like to thank the Treasurer and her staff for these accounts which combine the specific information required by the Charity Regulations and also additional information, on similar lines to that previously presented, to give you, the members, as much information as possible."

Mr Turnbull went on to explain the accounts in detail, covering the Income and Expenditure Account, Statement of Financial Affairs, and Balance Sheet for the General Fund and the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund, and concluded by thanking all those who had helped during the course of the last year. He was grateful for the contributions of the members of the Finance Committee, not least in attending Finance meetings which now appeared to take up most of the day.

He also thanked the Chairman and Vice Chairman who, he said, "had always been on hand when needed", the Treasurer and her staff, and all at Head Office. As previously mentioned their work load had increased enormously and "only those who have a lot to do with the running of the Society appreciated by quite how much."

The Society's accounts were formally adopted and thanks were also given to Mr Turnbull for a most informative presentation of the accounts.

Appointment of Auditor

Mr Humphrey Holmes was unanimously appointed Auditor.

Constitution

1. In proposing the motion Mrs C. Munro (Perth & Perthshire) reminded the delegates that the Society operated a fully democratic process of representation whereby each local association was entitled to

appoint a represent on the Executive Council – the decision making body from which the appointments to committee were chosen.

It was necessary for the standing committees to report their recommendations back to the Executive Council in order that formal ratification could take place. This required the Executive Council members to be kept fully informed. For the past year a trial had been undertaken whereby the Executive had agreed to receive a report which clearly set out the recommendations of the Committee. This trial had expired and the Executive Council fully supported the motion. Mrs I. Paterson (TAC) seconded the following proposal.

The current wording of clause Executive Council V1(2) (f) to be deleted and replaced with the following:

"(i) Minutes of all meetings of the Executive Council or of any Committee formed by it, as hereafter mentioned, shall be recorded by the Secretary.

(ii) Each Minute shall be held as being a correct record of the proceedings of the Committee unless challenged by a member of the Committee who was present at the meeting to which such Minute refers. In such an eventuality the members of such Committee present shall determine the accuracy or otherwise of such Minute by a majority. Copies of the Minutes of Meetings of Committees shall be signed by the respective Conveners.

(iii) Reports covering the main business of the Meetings of Committees and clearly stating their recommendations shall be prepared from the Committee minutes, signed by the respective Conveners, and shall be submitted to the next ordinary meeting of the Council for ratification.

(iv) Minutes of meetings of the Executive Council shall be submitted for confirmation at the next ordinary meeting of the Council and on being confirmed shall be signed by the Chairman."

The motion was carried by a majority with 20 abstentions and 21 delegates voting against the motion.

2. Mrs B. Russell-Smith (Cheltenham Branch and Mr E. McCall (Rochdale) proposed and seconded the following motion:

"This meeting notes with disquiet the financial losses incurred by HQ and the increases in capitation fees passed on to Society members.

HQ is therefore instructed to observe strict economy in future and to cut its coat according to its cloth"

Following discussion the motion was overwhelmingly rejected.

Announcement of Elections

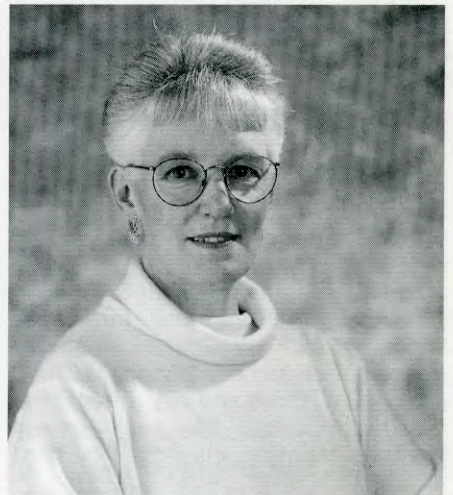
Members of the Executive Council (1996/7)

Five nominations having been received, the following members were elected to the Executive Council.

Miss Irene Bennett (St Andrews), Mrs Norah Dunn (Helensburgh & District), Mr Jim Healy (Perth & Perthshire), Dr Alastair MacFadyen (Glasgow), and Mrs Margaret Ross (Forres).

Vice Chairman

There being three nominations to the post of Vice Chairman of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Mrs Linda Gaul (Perth & Perthshire) was duly elected to the position by a majority of votes.



Linda Gaul, Vice-Chairman

Society Chairman

Mr Bill Clement was unanimously appointed Chairman of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

The official chain of office (the original pendant of which was presented to the Society by Dundee in 1955) was presented to Mr Clement.

Chairman's Introductory Speech

by Bill Clement

My thanks go to all those present and the many throughout the Society who have supported my appointment today, particularly

Dumfries and Northern Virginia Branches.

Many will recall hearing Miss Milligan say during her talks at Summer School that the Society was formed to bring all Scotland dancing together. Alas we have not yet achieved this. Hopefully we might still make progress in this direction by working with other organisations such as Community Dance Scotland, The Scottish Traditions of Dance Trust, and the Sports/Arts Councils.

My sincere thanks go to George Lawson who has guided me so well throughout the past two years. I watched and admired George help the Society through two difficult years, with a quiet but determined attitude. Never flustered and always ready to consider all options. Your work load was considerable. George, thank you for all you have done for the Society.

The past Chairman's badge was presented to Mr Lawson.

Vote of Thanks

Mr Andrew Gillies in proposing the vote of thanks, was, he said, "particularly proud to have been asked to speak here in Dundee, as he had spent much of his childhood in Broughty Ferry."

He thanked the organising committee for the tremendous organisation, the stewards, MCs, those who had provided the signs which had so easily guided the delegates around the campus. He wished Mr James Senior a speedy recovery, and thanked the other sponsors, the City Council and Lord Provost, Cairnamore Winery, Scottish Enterprise Trust and all the staff at Northern College. The teachers and pianists at the classes deserved

thanks for a particularly enjoyable morning, and of course the two bands, and the pipers for all their excellent work. Finally he thanked the Chairman for his competent and steady chairmanship of the meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting by reminding delegates that the next Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on 1 November, 1997, in Aberdeen, and that he looked forward to welcoming them all to that meeting.

ANNUAL REPORT

Membership

As we do not have the full membership figures in, our estimate of the total Society membership has had to include figures based on previous years submissions. From this, however, it would appear that the membership is approximately 23,754. Our thanks to all those secretaries that were able to submit their returns before the publication deadline. (As several branch secretaries did not submit their membership figures we were unable to include this information in last year's Bulletin. In an attempt to keep our members informed we have included the information which is available at the time of going to press this year in the Directory of Secretaries.)

Branches

Our very best wishes go out to all local associations who celebrated anniversaries throughout the year.

Several have reached special anniversaries this year and details are included on pages 10-11.

We are delighted to welcome two new local associations to the Society.

For further details see page 10.

RSCDS New Jersey Branch

RSCDS Tokai Branch

Our thanks go to all Branch Secretaries, Treasurers and Office Bearers whose dedication make the RSCDS the organisation that it is!

Affiliated Groups

We are delighted to welcome six new Affiliated Groups to the Society. They are:

Rancho Bernardo Community
Presbyterian Church Scottish
Country Dancers, California

Luckenbooth Circle, Bury St.
Edmonds

Scottish Dance Group of Monaco

Circolo Pisano della Società di
Danza, Italy

Ohimayadai Scottish Country
Dance Club, Japan

Headquarters

Despite another hectic year, we are again grateful to the Secretary, Gill Parker, and her staff, June Dick, Eileen Watt and Claire Marcussen, for all their enthusiasm and assistance throughout. Marilyn

Forthcoming Courses

It has been agreed that subject to sufficient numbers applying, the following courses will be run on an annual basis.

POTENTIAL TUTORS COURSE

21 FEBRUARY 1998

Tutor: 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

28 MARCH 1998

Tutor: Lesley Martin

For tutors with experience in presenting candidates for examination. (Applications from non-examiners will be given priority.)

MUSICIANS COURSE

17/19 APRIL 1998

Course Director: Jennifer Wilson

It is expected that all applicants will be competent musicians who wish to learn about playing for Scottish Country Dancers.

Application forms for the above are available from your Branch Secretary or Headquarters and should be returned to

12 Coates Crescent before 30th December 1997.

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

Jeffcoat, Society Treasurer, has assisted the Finance Convenor and committee with the Society's finances throughout the year, and of course our thanks go to the myriad of other people who assist in the administration of the Society throughout the year.

At the time of going to press, we have four full-time members of staff but hope to appoint a full-time office junior to replace Mrs Doreen Kelly, our former part-time office assistant.

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: Mr W. Clement (Convener, Chairman), Mrs L. Gaul (Vice-Chairman), Mr G. Lawson (Imm. Past Chairman), Mr R. Turnbull (Finance Convenor), Mrs H. Hall, Mr J. T. Healy, Dr A. MacFadyen, Mrs A. Murphy, Mrs I. Rae, Dr J. A. Reinstein, Mr A. Smart, Mrs A. Traill, Mrs R. Wilton, Mrs M. A. Jeffcoat (Treasurer).

The committee have again considered a wide range of matters, and was delighted to welcome two new local associations, and six new affiliated groups to the Society.

Following discussion at the Executive Council, the committee was asked to present proposals for a major review of the Executive Council. It was also agreed that the Society would need to urgently consider the efficacy of having over 120 Trustees.

This resulted in three discussion papers being presented to a Special Executive Council Meeting. In addition a recommendation was presented to the Executive Council regarding the Trustees.

The status of Teachers Associations was also discussed, along with the affiliated groups. No change was considered necessary, although it was noted that the Australian Teachers' Association was substantially different in structure to that of the Teachers Association Canada.

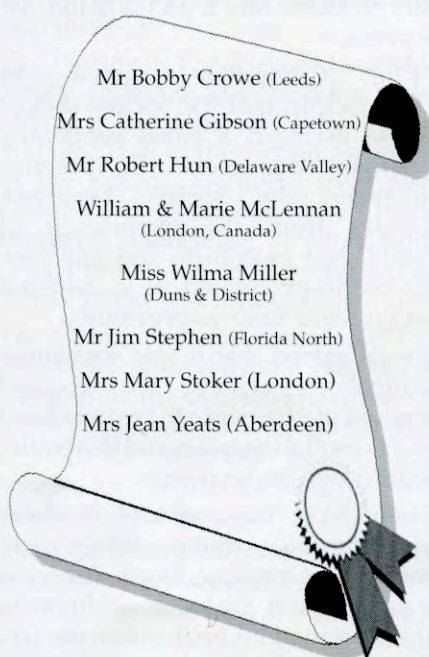
The Committee is also responsible for administering the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund. Several projects were funded this year, including the video of the manual, a potential tutors

course, musicians course, and reduced fees for under 21s attending Summer School.

Following questions at the Society's Open Forum it was agreed by the Committee that discussion groups should be established during the AGM weekend. Topics would be submitted in advance, and the groups would be facilitated by someone with appropriate skills.

Supporting documentation could also in future be made available by Local Associations wishing to put forward a motion, and would be distributed with the agenda.

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



In addition to its own work, the Committee has established several sub-committees.

Constitution Sub-Committee

This sub-committee, through the convener, continues to assist Local Associations proposing amendments to their constitutions.

The sub-committee continues to consider where amendments might be made to the Society Constitution.

In addition the sub-committee are continuing to discuss how the Society constitution might be amended to allow the Head Office members who do not currently have representation at the AGM, might be granted a means to appoint delegates.

AGM Sub-Committee

This sub-committee is entrusted with ensuring that all items included on the

AGM agenda are correctly constituted. They usually meet once a year.

Tattoo Sub-Committee

The Executive Council established this sub-committee in 1993 following concerns raised at the content and style of Scottish Country Dancing contained within the Edinburgh Tattoo.

It continues to correspond with the Producer of the Tattoo (Brigadier Jameson) and to make suggestions of suitable dances. Many of the suggestions were included in the 1996 Tattoo although Brigadier Jameson had decided not to have SCD in 1997.

The sub-committee will continue to correspond and meet with the Brigadier to ensure that the Society is consulted in future.

YSDA Sub-Committee

The Young Scottish Dancers Association is wholly funded through the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund. For the past four years they have produced a membership pack which is designed for teachers of young children. This year the sub-committee have been working towards "Dance Scottish in Schools" which is to be the Project for the 75th Anniversary and which it is hoped will include as many schools as possible. (See page 21).

Public Relations and 75th Anniversary Sub-Committees

The question of marketing the society has been the subject of some debate. This sub-committee has been working towards producing a marketing guide for local associations.

It is hoped that this will assist local associations to assess where they might target new members and to help guide them in ways in which they might promote SCD in their area.

In regard to the 75th anniversary, several commemorative items were evaluated and a small number of items will be stocked. (See page 15).

Finance Committee

Functions: to deal with the financial business of the Society and make recommendations thereon to the Executive Council.

Members: Mr R. Turnbull (Convener), Mr W. Clement (Chairman), Mrs L. Gaul (Vice-Chairman), Mr G. Lawson (Imm. Past Chairman), Mr J. Douglas, Mr A. Gray, Mr A. Mair, Mr D. Ross,

Miss M. Ross, Mr D. Watson, Mrs M. A. Jeffcoat (Treasurer).

It was noted that the Head Office were now experiencing problems with the computer system. This had been caused by a variety of factors, and it was agreed that, subject to a budget, additional equipment, an upgraded network, cabling, and upgraded backup system would be purchased. In addition consideration would be given to the establishment of a Web-Page and possible E-Mail facilities.

It was noted that expenses claims were part of the cost of running an organisation such as the society. However, in future all claims for travel by rail or air must be accompanied by a receipt. The overnight allowance will be increased. Grants were given to two local associations to assist with examination classes.

It was agreed that a discounted advertising rate in the Bulletin would be offered to all local associations and that SCD bands would be offered special lineage advertisement rates.

In order to assist the local associations, proforma accounts forms were issued showing the required layout in England/Wales and Scotland. This was to conform with the Charities regulations, which required that the format of the accounts be in a particular manner.

Further accessory items were considered. Funding was approved for two CDs to be produced to accompany the Harper Collins' publication "Pocket Reference to Scottish Country Dancing".

The Committee noted that a donation of over £250 as a one-off gift by a person paying UK tax may be given under "Gift Aid". This allowed the Society to reclaim Income Tax on the donation. Gift Aid forms were available on application. Miss Katherine McLauchlan, a long-standing member, pianist and representative of RSCDS New Zealand Branch, had sadly passed away. The Committee were extremely grateful for the generosity of her donation to the society.

The Committee also considered more economical means for the office to reproduce the large numbers of papers required by the Society. The photocopier was experiencing many problems, and the committee was investigating other alternatives.

Following correspondence from overseas, the matter of establishing a

separate subscription rate for overseas members was considered. It was agreed that this would be inappropriate.

Examinations Committee

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: Miss L. Martin (Convener), Mr W. Clement (Chairman), Mrs L. Gaul (Vice-Chairman), Mr G. Lawson (Imm. Past Chairman), Mrs. B. Burnell, Mrs N. Dunn, Mrs E. McCausland, Mr S. Wilkie.

The Committee agreed, in principle, that the Society should try to establish a panel containing younger examiners. In practice however, the Society benefited greatly from the experience of established examiners and any new appointments would be considered on the same basis as previously.

It was agreed that it was sometimes difficult to achieve the required amount of experience to be considered as a Potential examiner and this matter will be kept under review.

There have been several overseas examination tours this year, including Germany, North America, Australia and Japan, in addition to the examinations held within the UK. Plans are also underway for the forthcoming New Zealand and South Africa Tours in 1998.

In order to provide better information to candidates sitting the examinations, it was agreed to trial a new style marking sheet. This would be assessed by the examiners and retained at Head Office.

The International Dance Teachers Association, currently runs examinations for children. Many Society members acted as examiners for the tests. It was noted that the syllabus was now out-of-date and a revised version was being considered. Further consideration was to be given to a practical examiners course, however with the other activities due to take place in 1998 it was unlikely that the course could be held until 1999.

A core programme for use by local associations wishing to run their own Tutors courses is under consideration and will be made available in due course.

Publications & Research Committee

Functions: to arrange for the publication of such instructional literature and other relevant material as they may deem to be in the interests of the Society, subject to the approval of the estimated expenditure by the Finance Committee and to the approval of the Executive Committee.

Members: Miss I. Bennett (Convener), Mr W. Clement (Chairman), Mrs L. Gaul (Vice-Chairman), Mr G. Lawson (Imm. Past Chairman), Mr A. MacPherson, Mr P. Knight, Ms. R. Scott-Huxley, Miss C. Traynor, Mr J. Drewry.

The committee has continued to progress in it's aims to ensure that recordings are made of all of the Society's publications. This year has seen two further recordings (Books 21 and 22) and a further two (Books 23 and 24) are planned for release in 1998.

This past year has seen tremendous sales world-wide, of the Harper Collins Pocket Reference to Scottish Country Dancing. As the book was compiled in association with the Society, it has been agreed to produce recordings on CD to accompany the book.

Further production problems have been encountered with the filming of the long-awaited video to accompany the manual, and sections of the video have had to be re-shot. This project is however now in final editing, and it is hoped that it will be released shortly. A considerable amount of work has been put into this project from both the dancers and the production team, and it was agreed that the quality of the final product should reflect this dedication.

Although this year would normally have been a "fallow year", the committee agreed to issue a leaflet with music. The subscription copy for 1997 is therefore a leaflet of four modern devised dances which were chosen from a selection submitted by Scottish Local Associations. However, there will be no recording or video to accompany this leaflet.

In order to assist dancers, all previous leaflets have now been sequentially numbered and the 1997 leaflet will be Leaflet 32.

Plans are of course underway for the 75th anniversary commemorations. As part of this, the publications committee have considered the

format of the commemorative booklet, which will form the subscription copy for 1998. The booklet will incorporate a history of the Society reflecting the world-wide nature of its activities, and four simple traditional dances, as they might be interpreted today.

The Committee have been considering the whole future of the subscription copy system. It is recognised that there are several different categories of members each with their own diverse needs.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to find dances which are suitable for publication by the Society and therefore it has been agreed that the Society should review the subscription system.

The Society will cease to issue a subscription book of dance instructions with music on an annual basis.

Instead the Newsbrief will be expanded to include commissioned articles, and issued twice per year to each member (through the Branch network).

The Bulletin will continue to be issued on an annual basis thereby giving the members publications three times per year.

Should a dance be considered appropriate for publication this could be issued as a leaflet in the Newsbrief.

The above proposals will not come into effect until 1999.

In order that the Society can better service its members needs, it has been agreed that in future, the Society will distribute non-society items along with its own items. A full list of the items available will be included with the Society's own publications list. Society members continue to be offered Society videos publications, and recordings, at a 15% discount from the retail price. Certain sale items are also available and all LPs (while stocks last) are on sale at £1 each (plus p+p).

As several publications now require reordering, the committee are starting a major assignment to review the older publications to ensure that they correspond with the standard terminology in use today.

As the committee made use of a glossary of terminology it was agreed that a booklet, containing the standard terms used, would be made available, for purchase, to the members.

Summer School Committee

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

Members: Mrs M. MacRae (Summer School Director), Mr W. Clement (Chairman), Mrs L. Gaul (Vice-Chairman), Mr G. Lawson (Imm. Past Chairman), Miss E. Ferguson, Miss F. Golding, Mr J. Rae, Mrs D. Scott.

The Committee have again agreed the extensive arrangements for the Summer School. Consideration has been given to the addition of a music course/training for students attending the School, and it was agreed to offer this to students as a trial this year.

The President, The Earl of Mansfield, kindly agreed to join the school and attended the demonstrations at the Younger Hall in the second fortnight of the School. Members were also pleased to welcome The Hon. Peregrine Moncreiffe of Moncreiffe (Vice-President of the Society) to the School in the first fortnight.

The Committee also considered the possibility of establishing classes for children at the School. However, as there were considerable criteria and regulations involved in running courses for children it was agreed not to take this further.

The 1998 School will of course reflect the celebrations around the world for the 75th Anniversary. It was agreed that the two rallies being held in Perth and Dundee would form an optional part of the School's activities.



Summer School

19 July - 16 August 1998

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

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

Accommodation is in single study bedrooms in the University Halls, and a small number of twin rooms are also available. 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 be sent out, as soon as possible and should be returned no later than **1st March 1998**.

Those hoping to enrol for an examination class should also request a syllabus and application form for candidate training.

We accept payment by cheque or *Visa, Access, Mastercard, Eurocard, Delta and JCB credit cards*

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

Anniversary Reports

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society is proud to recognise that the following RSCDS branches have celebrated particular anniversaries as local associations of members of the Society this year.

25th – Bedford, Burlington (Ontario)
50th – Dumfries, Dunfermline, Peterhead
60th – Kirkcaldy, St. Andrews
70th – Clackmannanshire, Stirling

In addition, we were pleased to recognise two new local associations of the Society, RSCDS New Jersey Branch and RSCDS Tokai Branch.



RSCDS Toronto Branch

40th Anniversary Tartan Ball, 22nd February, 1997

*D. Grant, A. Collins, G. Hamilton, I. Macfarlane (Guest of Honour), J. Kynoch, R. Wood
D. Pogson, F. M. Gray, D. Smith (Chairman), E. M. Goodfellow,, G. Conolly*

New Jersey

While the RSCDS is celebrating its 75th Anniversary, the New Jersey branch will be celebrating its first. So far, we have about 45 members, and it seems like every week we see new faces. A group of six dedicated teachers regularly provide four classes in various parts of the state. We sponsor classes for all dancers, including the many enthusiastic beginners. This year we will host a dance picnic at The Alpine Boat Basin in September, a ball designed primarily for new dancers (the "Rerr Terr") in the spring, and a variety of less formal "party nights" with live music. We look forward to having a wonderful year.

Tokai

The Scottish Bluebells were reborn as RSCDS Tokai Branch in May. We are delighted with this new status and wish to thank Scottish dancing friends for their encouragement. We celebrated our birth as the newest RSCDS branch with a "Bluebell Ball" on 30th May at which more than a hundred dancers assembled.

We had a busy first year with Beginners classes from June to October, we hosted part of the RSCDS examination tour to Japan in July, and in October we will host "A SCD Tour of Japan" by RSCDS Honolulu Branch and a SCD competition at the Tokyo Highland Games. Our future plans include a "Bluebell Training Camp" in November, an Xmas Bluebell Ball in December to celebrate a special year of our birth, a "New Year Bluebell Ball" in January, a Spring "Training Camp" in February, a "Golden Week Training Camp" in May, and demonstrations throughout the year.



Bedford

The Bedford Branch was founded by the late Harold Barnes and his wife Sheila after several years of sterling work bringing Scottish Country Dancing to Bedfordshire. Since its foundation, the branch has been running five or six classes weekly round the region and has just started another this year. The demonstration team show off Scottish dancing at a range of functions in the area and is much appreciated. The anniversary was celebrated at our annual Ball in June with the formal cutting of an anniversary cake by Sheila Barnes and Angus Boyd (our first chairman after Harold left the area). It was a memorable evening with Angus recalling the past and proposing the toast to the Branch. We are looking forward to the next 25 years with enthusiasm and the hope that the age range of our dancers will expand in both directions from its current level of early 20's to mid 80's.



Mrs Sheila Barnes and Mr Angus Boyd cutting the cake (1997)

Burlington (Ontario)

We are delighted to take this opportunity recognise that 1997 was the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Burlington Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. As part of the celebrations we had a 25th Annual Dance with a special program and decorative theme. The branch has had a particularly lively year enjoying a "Rabbie Burns" night, Jean Hamilton as guest teacher in February, and kicked up our heels at a Cheese & Wine with a super programme of SCD. We have seen consistent weekly attendance at classes, along with other fund-raising events.

Dumfries

The Local Association was formed on 23 September 1947. We have over many years sent our Demonstration Teams to dance abroad, and have both given and received a great deal of pleasure from these invitations.

To mark the occasion of our 50th Anniversary the Local Association held a Golden Jubilee Ball on Friday 19 September, 1997. This was a redoubtable success and a fitting end to our anniversary year.



Seated (l to r): Mrs M Dickson (Secretary), Mrs J Johnstone (Chairman), Miss B Ferguson (Treasurer) and committee members

Dunfermline

The Fife Branch of the Society was established in 1929 and later became known as three individual branches. These are Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy and St. Andrews. Therefore although Dunfermline Branch became a branch in its own right in 1937, and therefore had the sixtieth anniversary formation in 1997, the branch continues to celebrate its original formation, and is looking forward to their 70th anniversary in 1999!

Peterhead

The members of RSCDS Peterhead Branch were pleased to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its status as a branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society during 1997.

Kirkcaldy

The RSCDS Fife Branch was established in 1929, and later became Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy and St. Andrews Branches. Both Kirkcaldy and St. Andrews gained approval to form their own local associations in November 1937.

St. Andrews

This year we celebrate the 60th anniversary of RSCDS St. Andrews Branch. We held in a dinner in St. Andrews on Sunday 26th October, an evening which we were delighted that so many past and present members could attend. Our Anniversary Ball takes place on Friday 28th November in the Younger Hall, St. Andrews, to the music of Colin Dewar and his Band.

Clackmannanshire

RSCDS Clackmannanshire Branch celebrated its 70th anniversary with a dinner dance complete with birthday cake. Messages of good wishes were received from our Society and the Chairman Bill Clement. Members 'old' and new, friends from near and far, enjoyed an evening of good music, good dancing and good company. All the ingredients which have enabled our local association to flourish in the past, and will, I am sure, enable it to flourish in the future.



The Chairman, Catriona Fleming, and committee members (l to r) Mrs Iris Sutherland, Mrs Elsa Connacher, Catriona Fleming (Chairman), Mrs Charlotte Clarke, Mrs Wendy Cherritt

Stirling

Founded in April 1927, RSCDS Stirling Branch is one of the oldest in the Society. 76 members attended four classes and both Miss Milligan and Mrs Stewart visited during the first year. The first Certificate candidates, in 1928, received them from Miss Milligan. The Branch fields a top-class demonstration team, promotes teaching events for dancers, teachers, tutors and musicians as well as organising a varied programme of functions which attract participants from across Scotland. Scottish Country Dancing is definitely alive and well in Stirling and looks set for a bright future in the next millennium.

DAY/WEEKEND SCHOOLS

<i>BRANCH</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>BRANCH</i>	<i>DATE</i>
1997			
Northern Virginia	31 Oct-2 Nov	West Lothian	21 Mar
Kingston, Ontario	7-9 Nov	Bath	28 Mar
St. Johns, Newfoundland	7-9 Nov	Richmond	28 Mar
Bristol	8 Nov	Hamilton, Ontario	Apr
Hamilton & Clydesdale	8 Nov	London	3-5 Apr
Croydon & District	8-10 Nov	Cheshire	25 Apr
Carlisle & Border	21-23 Nov	Winchester	25 Apr
North Ayrshire	28 Nov	Mornington Peninsula	May
Hamilton, Ontario	Dec	Pietermaritzburg	May
1998		East Lothian	1-3 May
Falkirk	16-18 Jan	Isle of Islay	1-2 May
Vancouver	Feb	Portrush	1-2 May
Ottawa	Feb	Tokai	1-5 May
York & North Humberside	6-8 Feb	Duns & District	15-17 May
Carlisle & Border	7 Feb	Isle of Skye	15-16 May
Cheltenham	7-8 Feb	New York	15-17 May
Hawaii	13-15 Feb	Berks/Hants/Surrey Border	16 May
Tokyo	14-15 Feb	Chicago	29-31 May
Nova Scotia	15 Feb	Delft	29 May-1 Jun
Oxfordshire	21 Feb	Hunter Valley	30 May
Perth & Perthshire	21 Feb	Hamilton, Ontario	Jun
Atlanta	27 Feb-1 Mar	Montreal	Jun
London, Ontario	28 Feb	Sacramento	27 Jun
Portland, Oregon	Mar	Boston	10-18 Jul
Orlando	Mar	Johannesburg	28-30 Aug
Liverpool	7 Mar	Lochaber	5 Sept
Los Angeles	7 Mar	Seattle	11-13 Sept
Somerset	7 Mar	Inverness	19 Sept
Cincinnati	13-15 Mar	Buffalo, New York	26 Sept
Lorn, Argyll	13-14 Mar	Manchester	26 Sept
Berks/Hants/Surrey Border	14 Mar	Glasgow	Oct
Leicester	14 Mar	Northern Territory	Oct
Newcastle-upon-Tyne	14 Mar	Sheffield	Oct
Edinburgh	21 Mar	South Argyll	Oct
Royal Tunbridge Wells	21 Mar	Cheshire	10 Oct
		London	10 Oct
		Atlanta	16 Oct
		Hague & District	14-15 Nov

Then and Now

The following excerpts are from the Annual Report 1931-32 contained within Bulletin No. 2 which was issued in 1932.

"The Sixth Annual Summer School was held this year in Edinburgh, and was attended by about 90 residents and 20 to 30 daily members. A Dance was held on one evening in the Music Hall. One hundred and forty tickets were sold to spectators, most of whom joined in the dancing. Excellent music was supplied by Mr Reid and his band, and it was felt that the dance was successful in making the work of the SCDS better known."

The 1996 Summer School attracted over 900 students attending the school for either one or two week stays. We are restricted to 289 resident students each week with many others choosing to attend on a non-resident basis.

The School now extends to one month's duration and regularly has students attending from around the globe. Classes are of course available for all levels of ability from elementary through to examination classes for both Preliminary Test and full Teacher's Certificate.

"A new venture during the year was the first issue of the SCDS

Bulletin. This will be published and sent to members bi-annually. It is hoped to incorporate with future numbers repetitions of the most popular dances."

The 1997 Bulletin is the seventy fifth issue of this publication and is issued on an annual basis. This year the format has been adapted to allow the material to be expanded and to allow greater freedom to incorporate articles and photographs of interest.

Recently the Society has also begun to produce an annual "Newsbrief" in order to keep the members more fully informed of Society policy, decisions etc.

"Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to accept from the Society copies of Books 1 to 7. These have been bound together in one volume. On receiving this book, the Lady-in-Waiting wrote that the Queen desired her to convey Her Majesty's warm thanks for this charming gift, which makes such an interesting and valuable addition to Her Majesty's collection of books relating to Scotland."

Her Royal Highness The Princess Elizabeth became Patron of the Society in 1946, and in 1951 His Majesty King

George VI gave permission for the Society to become known as the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

In 1952 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II graciously granted her Patronage to the Society, and continues to send us greetings each year at our Annual General Meeting.

"Notes on New Book Book 8 is now issued and brings the number of dances published by the SCDS to 96. Few people would have thought this possible when the Society was formed nine years ago. Most of those who were interested said that two, or at most three books, would hold all the available dances. It is surprising what a variety has been obtained"

The Society has 39 numbered books with music, 32 leaflets, 9 compilation books, a set of pocket editions, and the Manual of Scottish Country Dancing all currently available. In addition we have made recordings of Books 1-22 (23 and 24 currently in production) and 27-39, with several other recordings also available. It is expected that a recording will be available of all the numbered books before the year 2000.

Several videos have also been produced along with 7 compilation CDs.



Autumn School, Dunfermline 1933.

left to right (front): Miss Forgan (Secretary 1933-35), Mrs Y Stewart (Co-founder and Secretary 1924-32), The Countess of Elgin (President 1957-64), Mr J H Low (Chairman 1930-33).

left to right (back): Miss Drummond, Mr R T Terris (Treasurer), Major Lord James Stewart-Murray (Chairman 1924-27; 1933-36 and President 1945-56), Mrs Anstruther-Gray, Miss J Milligan (Co-founder and Chairman 1945-47, 1951-54, 1958-60).

A Day in the life of ... Head Office

Having fought through the Edinburgh traffic, it is always a good start to the day to be greeted with a cheerful "Good morning" and the ever present cup of caffeine.

The day begins with the mail – a mixture of orders, application forms, requests for information, queries, contracts, licences etc. The subject matter ranges from insurance, to examinations, including constitutions, invoices and various other matters as well. Queries come in all shapes and forms, requiring a quick response, or more often consultation with the Chairman, Treasurer, or one of the Conveners.

Correspondence is the lifeblood of any organisation and particularly so a membership

30 weekend meetings took place in 1996 with a further 6 evening meetings.

organisation. Therefore, a great deal of time is spent communicating with members and local associations/affiliated groups to ensure that suggestions are duly considered.

The Society has recently made great efforts to improve our communication with those interested in the Society, and this of course means that they in turn now communicate freely with Head Office on a wide range of issues.

After a discussion with the printers about the latest publication, recent problems with distribution, quality of the proofs and the lengthy deadlines, it is good to be interrupted by a visitor.

Head Office is conveniently located in the centre of Edinburgh, and it is rare that there is not at least one visitor in the

building. Many members take the opportunity to come and meet the staff, see the building and to view any new items for sale.

Regrettably problems with the latest recording contract beckon with a telephone call from the band leader. Last minute changes also mean that the correct paperwork must be completed so that the MCPS licence can be received before the CD is released.

The Chairman arrives on his weekly visit checking up on correspondence, and being briefed on the meeting for the weekend ahead.

As the Society has more than twenty standing committee meetings a year, and an ever increasing number of sub-committee meetings; a significant portion of the week is spent preparing agendas and papers.

Acknowledging and responding to letters on behalf of the committee; and implementing their decisions is an ever increasing workload since almost all the committees meet over a full day. (30 weekend meetings took place in 1996 with a further 6 evening meetings, in addition to those held during office hours).

Our regular review of maintenance contracts on the burglar alarm, photocopier and other office machines, is undertaken to ensure that the Society costs are maintained at as low a level as possible. I'll just deal with that now, so that we will be able to assess them before they fall due next month. I must contact the insurance broker too!

A quick phone call to the video production company ensures that the cover on the new video is agreed so that our order can be delivered on time. A query on one of the quotations for the new accessories takes longer than expected.

The phones seem awfully quiet all of a sudden. I must just make a final phone call to the travels agents to ensure that the tickets for the examiners on the forthcoming tour will arrive for Monday. "I'm sorry we can't take your call right now but please leave your name and telephone number, and we will return your call tomorrow."

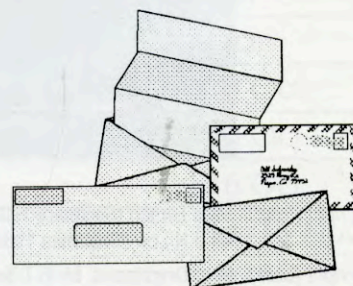
Another day over, so I'll have to leave it just now. I must fax New Zealand and Australia first thing too, because with the time difference they can get it mid evening, rather than 3am! (no-one likes a phone ringing in the middle of the night) Oh and the final itinerary must be confirmed with South Africa.

Another fight with the traffic on the way home gives me a chance to think ... "Never mind, it's only 9 months 'til Summer School!"

Only *nine months!* Have the bands been appointed? Has the university confirmed the room allocation yet? Are the police going to grant a licence to hold "dancing in the street" this year? Can the printers supply the application forms before the end of the year? Will it ...

... z z z z z z

The Society has recently made great efforts to improve communication with those interested in the Society, and this means that they now communicate freely with Head Office.



RSCDS Logo

The design for the logo to accompany the slogan "Let's Celebrate in '98" certainly appears to have caught the eye and stimulated interest if the many telephone calls, letters, articles and Internet discussion are anything to go by!

The Public Relations Sub-committee, responsible for its selection, have a very clear remit. Their job is to look at the Society's current operation and recommend strategies for reversing the ongoing decline in membership. The Society's high standards must be maintained and where possible its best features and unique character must be preserved and promoted. However, we look forward with an open minded approach.

We know that the present logo is much loved as, for many members, it expresses dignity, hints at Royal associations and provides a link with the past. The clever visual pun on ghillie shoes is enjoyed by those who are aware of it.

Unfortunately, to non-members, it does not immediately project feelings of warm welcome or suggest that Scottish Country Dancing is just as much fun as aerobics, line-dancing or Ceilidh clubs, and to us it is all that and more!

As the 1998 logo will, of course, only be used to accompany our Anniversary slogan, a more permanent design has to be chosen. There is no reason whatsoever why the original image cannot continue to

be used. We believe, however, that speaking to **potential** members is one of a logo's important functions. The superb "Crown of Shoes" design has served the Society well but is now in real danger of representing the past glories of an old fashioned organisation.

Members have an intense interest in the image which their Society projects. We would very much like to hear your ideas and see your designs. We will arrange for these to be disseminated as widely as possible.

We are also keen to hear how you feel the RSCDS should move forward into the Third Millennium. Please

submit your ideas on how we will fulfil our objectives in the 21st century to me at Coates Crescent, as soon as you can.

LINDA GAUL
Convenor,
Public Relations Sub-Committee

P.S. We are trying to think of a rather less dull name of the newly expanded "Newsbrief" soon to be issued to all members twice a year. Can you think of one, which is not already being used by a Local Association?



Let's celebrate in '98

75th Anniversary Commemorative Items

The Society has commissioned a small range of commemorative items, which will only be available during 1998. If you wish further details, or an order form, please either contact your Secretary or the Society Headquarters.

SWEATSHIRTS

70% Cotton 30% Polyester sweatshirts in Black, Bottle Green, Burgundy, Royal Blue and Navy screen printed with a choice of logo, size and position.

Available in three sizes:

Medium - 42" Large - 46" Extra Large - 48"

£14.75 each plus p+p

POLOSHIRTS

100% Cotton poloshirts in Bottle Green, Royal Blue, White and Burgundy, embroidered with the crown and anniversary dates on the left breast.

Available in three sizes:

Medium - 40" Large - 42" Extra Large - 44"

£14.95 each plus p+p

CRYSTAL

Quality crystal glasses and decanter, engraved with crown and dates logo and individually boxed.

Dram glass **£7.50** plus p+p

6 oz. Whisky Tumbler **£10.00** plus p+p

Mini Decanter **£14.50** plus p+p

MUGS

Attractive "Lismore" fine stoneware mugs, with "Dress Strathspey" tartan design. The design covers the outside of the mug, with the anniversary dates on the underside

£6.95 each plus p+p



75th ANNIVERSARY



In order to further emphasise the worldwide nature of the Society throughout the celebrations in 1998, it was agreed that a core five dances should be included at each of the rally events. A rally can take any form appropriate to the occasion, ie a dance, a ball, a festival, a children's event, etc.

The five core dance are:

Mrs Stewart's Jig • The Duke of Atholl's Reel • Miss Milligan's Strathspey • The Triumph • Sugar Candie

Anniversary Events Calendar

Listed below are details of the 75th anniversary events which were available at the time of going to press.

JANUARY

9th January - Helensburgh

A 75th rally hosted by RSCDS Helensburgh & District Branch will be held in Victoria Halls.

Contact: Mrs Alma Trail
(01436) 675633

FEBRUARY

14th February - Bournemouth

A dance will be held in the Bournemouth School for Girls.

Contact: Mrs Thelma Green
(01202) 673067

28th February - Atlanta

An event to be held in Unicoi State Park, Helen, Georgia with John Drwery as guest teacher. The branch will celebrate 75 years of dancing in the scenic North Georgia mountains.

Contact: Anne Wyatt
404 63606357

28th February - London

Twelve branches in the south east together with London Branch are combining to organise the opening rally in Watford Coliseum. They will also be holding a festival in Hove on 4th July, 1998.

Contact: Wendy Mumford
32 Winchester Road
Andover SP10 2EQ

MARCH

13th March - Inverness

All dancers are invited to attend the 75th anniversary rally in Inverness, dancing to David Cunningham's Band.

Contact: Irene Whyte
(01463) 235384

APRIL

April/May - Phoenix

An anniversary banquet and ball will be held in the elegant 1901 ballroom of the historic Hotel Saint Michael. Attend the weekend workshop or come for the evening.

Contact: Diane Lisonbee
602 834 4582

4th/5th April - Hawaii

Hawaii Branch dancers will perform at the annual Hawaii-Scottish Highland Festival when the RSCDS 75th anniversary will be explained.

Contact: Bruce McEwan
808 538 7707

4th/5th April - Lake Maggiore, Italy

Geneva, Lyon and Turin affiliated groups have jointly organised a ball to be held at the Lido Palace Hotel, Baveno, on the banks of Lake Maggiore (Italy).

Contact: Tess Edelmann
(011) 661 10 61

18th April - Doncaster

There is to be a grand ball to be held in The Dome, Doncaster. This event has been organised by RSCDS Doncaster, Leeds, Leicester, Nottingham, Retford & District, Sheffield, York & North Humberside Branches.

Contact: Mr A. R. Jamieson
(01427) 752501

18th April - Kirkcudbright

The Castle Douglas, Gatehouse of Fleet and Kirkcudbright Branches are to hold a joint 75th dance at Cochran Hall, Kirkcudbright.

Contact: Mrs D. E. Christie
(01557) 331108

24th April - Hamilton

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the RSCDS the Hamilton and Clydesdale Branch and the Lanark Branch have joined together and have organised a dance in Hamilton Town Hall. Music by Gordon Shand and his Band.

Contact: Marie Husbands
(01357) 520580

MAY

May - Manchester

Rochdale Branch will be supporting the event organised by RSCDS Manchester Branch.

1st/2nd May - Isle of Islay

A weekend school followed by two evenings of dancing will be held on the Isle of Islay. The Branch will make the 75th anniversary a feature of the above events. In addition it is planned that the core dances will be incorporated into school celebrations during November and March.

Contact: Gina McAuslan
(01496) 850558

16th May - Hexham North

Newcastle-upon-Tyne & District have organised a ball to be held at Hexham North. Dancing to the Sandy Nixon Band

Contact: Ms P. Quince
(01207) 542441

17th May - Pretoria, South Africa

RSCDS Pretoria Branch are hosting a 25th Anniversary Ball.

Contact: Anne Naylor

23rd May - Livingston

This event will take the form of a festival for both children and adults, bringing together all groups and classes to have a day of fun in Livingston.

Contact: Isobel Rae
(01506) 853765

30th May – Florida South

RSCDS Florida South Branch will be involved with the organising of an event. Details are not available at the time of going to press.

Contact: Helen Welch
954 771 6419

30th May – Oakland, California

RSCDS San Francisco Branch have organised a 75th Anniversary gala with musicians Alasdair Fraser and Muriel Johnstone. There will also be a concert. Festive but not formal attire.

Contact: Susan Langdon-Kass
415 333 9372
or Marianna Harvey
415 967 8475

31st May – Northern Territory

Northern Territory will hold a rally at the Water Gardens or Mindil Maket (tentatively).

Contact: Mrs Puka Henry
08 89279203

JUNE

June – Richmond

Richmond Branch hope to welcome dancers of all ages and abilities from all over the region to a day of "Dancing for All" in or near Richmond Castle in June 1998.

Contact: Branch Secretary

6th June – Blair Castle, Perth

RSCDS Hamilton (Ontario) are hosting a ball at Blair Castle, Perthshire, Scotland.

6th June – Long Sutton, Somerset

RSCDS Somerset Branch have organised an evening social dance to be held at Long Sutton, hopefully with outdoors dancing for all in the afternoon.

Contact: Sheila Barnes
(01458) 223596

27th June – Glasgow

Jubilee reunion – an afternoon of entertainment, tea, home-baking and friendly chat.

Contact: Miss C. Traynor
(01505) 873409

JULY

4th July – Brighton

Brighton Branch will hold a festival of Scottish Country Dancing on Hove Lawns in the afternoon followed by an evening dance in Hove Town Hall for adults and children.

Contact: Jimmie Hill
(01273) 775965

24th July – Perth

An opportunity for the RSCDS International Family to get together at Scone Palace, the home of our President, and dance in the beautiful grounds (weather permitting!).

Contact: Mrs Christine Munro
(01738) 628349

AUGUST

1st August

New York Branch will hold a benefit for UNICEF at UN General Assembly Lobby.

Contact: Branch Secretary

7th August – Dundee

Will dance to the Craig Owl Band at the Marryat Hall, Dundee from 7.30pm to 11pm.

Contact: Mrs Hazel Hall
(01882) 552239

8th August – Ribble Valley

Ribble Valley will hold a rally in the Civic Hall, Longridge.

Contact: A. Bainbridge
(01254) 704554

8th August – Cheshire

Cheshire Branch will hold a celebration at Reaseheath College.

Contact: Mrs P. A. Smith
(01270) 627315

SEPTEMBER

Johannesburg and Pretoria have organised a joint event to take place in September.

Contact: Branch Secretaries

11–13th September – Washington

Seattle Branch workshop at Fort Worden, Port Townsend, Washington

18th September – Glasgow

Celebration dance for Branch members and friends.

Contact: Christine Traynor
(01505) 873409

26th September – Southampton

Bournemouth Caledonian Society are to host the 1998 Southampton Highland Ball in the Southampton Guildhall to the music of Robert Baird's Band.

Contact: Mrs Susan Ayland
(01703) 454325 or
Mrs J. Webb (01703) 466715

OCTOBER

2nd October – Kilmarnock

Ayr, Kilmarnock and North Ayrshire have arranged a joint dance in the Grand Hall, Kilmarnock.

Contact: Ethel Carlyle
(01292) 313615

3rd October – Bristol

RSCDS Bristol extend an invitation to all dancers throughout the South West of England and further afield to an exhilarating evening in the City of Bristol Council House with the Craigellachie Band.

Contact: Fiona Grant
(0117) 924 3595

24th October – Cambridge

Cambridge & District will hold an evening dance. The venue is not yet known.

Contact: Mrs K. M. Gentles
(01480) 450497

NOVEMBER

6th–7th November – Glasgow

The Society's Annual General Meeting Ball and dance are to be hosted by RSCDS Glasgow Branch.

*14th & 15th November –
Hook of Holland*

The Hague & District will combine celebrations of its 40th anniversary and the Society's 75th anniversary at a weekend event at Hook of Holland, where they hope to meet many former members and old friends.

Contact: Hans Van Zon
00 31 70 3202352

DATES TO BE CONFIRMED

Contact local branch secretary for further information.

Manchester – RSCDS Wirral Branch are hoping to be involved with an event in the Manchester area. No dates or named event confirmed yet.

Aberdeen – RSCDS Peterhead Branch will be involved in an event to be hosted in Aberdeen, but have not yet decided on the format.

Contact: E. Downie
(01779) 479114

Stranraer – It is hoped that RSCDS Stranraer Branch can hold an open air dance, dates and place to be arranged.

Contact: Katherine Robertson
(01776) 703239

St. Andrews – No details were available at the time of going to press.

Contact: Jonathan Wilson
(01334) 475274



YOUNG SCOTTISH DANCERS ASSOCIATION (YSDA)

The Young Scottish Dancers Association continues to promote Scottish Country Dancing in schools and youth groups and is planning two major events to mark the beginning and the end of the Society's 75th Anniversary year.

In November 1997, as near St. Andrew's Day as possible, young dancers in the UK are being encouraged to take part in "*Let's Celebrate*" Days of Dance, festivals or small gatherings. There has been a good response from Local Associations and other groups who are already involved with young dancers and plans are well in hand for both small and large events.

Looking further ahead, we are planning to expand the project to include young dancers worldwide. In November 1998, again to coincide with St. Andrew's Day, there will be dancing around the world. A key event that year will be a "*Let's Celebrate*" dance for young people in the Younger Hall in St. Andrews. Space will be limited, so get the application for your young team in now!

At this special time we also wish to interest those who have had little or no opportunity to experience the joys of dancing and we would ask all Local Associations and Affiliated Groups throughout the world to get involved with as many schools and youth groups in their areas as possible. A suggested programme of dances and accompanying booklets and tapes are available from Headquarters. Please help!

Letter to the Editor

Examination Process in Australia

This is just to set the record straight and give credit where credit is due. Your recent "Newsbrief" states that the Examination Process in Australia was set up by Mr Connolly and Mr Cumming. This is quite inaccurate.

The first and subsequent examinations in Australia took place because of the untiring dedication of the late Mrs May Sinclair (Adelaide Br), the late Miss Muriel Hadden, the late Mrs Florence Lesslie and with the full support of the Chairman at that time, Miss Florence Adams. Examinations in N.S.W. and Melbourne were planned and timetabled before either of the two gentlemen knew that Mrs Lesslie was in New Zealand.

(Did you know that Mrs Lesslie had a fear of flying? When she was given permission to examine alone, she said before she left Scotland that she would try to overcome this fear, as in New Zealand this was one of the main forms of transport. After she came for her first visit she said that she had become "quite air-minded" and enjoyed it.)

(Editor - Mr Connolly and Mr Cumming were the first examiners to be appointed in Australasia, and after 1975 Mr Connolly and Mr Cumming were instrumental in the Australian examinations until recently.)

FUNDS

The Jean Milligan Memorial Fund

The fund, which was established in memory of the Society's co-founder, Miss Jean Milligan, has again benefitted from donations from a variety of sources. All donations are gratefully accepted, from individuals, local associations, affiliated groups, etc. As it is only the interest accruing from this fund which is used in grants for funding of projects, the greater the capital fund that can be accumulated, the more grants can be made available. The General Purposes Committee considers each application for funding carefully and they continue to ensure that the funds available are distributed to benefit a wide range of projects.

During the year grants were awarded for five scholarships to Summer School, as well as funding a reduction in Summer School fees for members under 21 years of age attending the School. In addition, funding was made available to cover the costs of the two musicians courses (piano and accordion), and the potential tutors course.

The Jean Milligan Fund also provides full funding for the Young Scottish Dancers Association (see page 21).

1998 Contingency Fund

The fund, which was established in 1996, has now benefitted from the proceeds of the four raffles held at the 1996 Summer School, and we are most grateful to all those who organised and contributed to the raffles.

Further Information

If you require any further information on either of the above funds, please contact the Secretary, Gill Parker, at 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh. Cheques should be made payable to the "RSCDS" although you should indicate clearly which fund you wish the donation to be put towards.

The Jean Milligan Memorial Fund

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND

Received from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Branch</i>	<i>Affil Group</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Total</i>
11/07/96	Sutton Coldfield Branch in memory of Barry Priddy	127		23	
27/07/96	Anonymous			4	
29/07/96	C. Fair			25	
29/07/96	Mr Toriyama			550	
02/08/96	Mrs Yasumuro				
24/09/96	RSCDS Hamilton, Ontario in memory of Dr Rob Smith	35			
02/10/96	RSCDS Johannesburg	93			
02/10/96	Frimley Green SCD Class		75		
29/10/96	Mr R. and Mrs L. Day			100	
11/03/96	Lafayette class of RSCDS San Francisco in memory of Walter McAdam		200		
	RSCDS Toronto Branch in memory of George Burnett	50			
	RSCDS East Angus in memory of Miss K. McLauchlin	25			
	Miss Jane Eyre for Advanced Dancing/Highland Club			93.48	
	Anonymous Donations			168	
				16.50	
				20	
				57.10	
		330	275	1057.08	£1662.08

1998 Fund

<i>Name</i>	<i>Branch</i>	<i>Affil Group</i>	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Total</i>
Raffle 1 1996 Summer School Raffle arranged by Dorothy Bell, Liz Farquhar, Barbara Peel and Ruby Wilkinson			235	
Raffle 2 1996 Summer School Raffle arranged by Mrs D. Bell, Mrs R. Wilkinson, Mr E. Wallace and Miss B. Peel			224.50	
Raffle 3 1996 Summer School Raffle arranged by Fran Smith Janet Johnston, John and Jan Douglas			280	
Raffle 4 1996 Summer School Raffle arranged by J. Johnstone, F. Smith, J. Burnett and J. Eyre			485.60	
RSCDS Hague & District Branch				63.50
				63.50
			1225.10	£1288.60

A Postcard from Australia

Elma See is a fully qualified teacher and examiner with the Society, and is a member of the RSCDS Hunter Valley Branch in Australia. The following is her account of her experiences over the past year with Scottish Country Dancing in Australia.

What a country! Vast differences in climate, enormous variations in topographical features and seemingly endless distances between centres of population. Teaching and dancing through most of the States and Territories during the last 12 months has made me even more aware of a fact I have known for 30 years! However, one thing has remained constant during my travels, that is the enjoyment shown by those participating in Scottish Country Dancing.



Not very elegant but great fun, children from Feru Bay Infants School practise for their Festival

First, a candidate training course of 10 days organised by the Australian Teachers Association. Two tutors and 22 candidates from all over Australia hard at it from early morning until evening before the final examination. There was still time for laughter at the end.

The the social event of the year! A Grand Ball in Parliament House! Nearly 500 dancers from all over the country queued to enter the Great Hall as male dancers have to divest themselves of skean dhus as they pass through the strict security. But, on to a wonderful evening to celebrate the anniversary of one of the groups in ACT. Certainly a superb spectacle.

From below freezing in Canberra one weekend, on to 33 degrees in Darwin the next! The dancers show amazing stamina as they danced their way through a Day School – the hall doors and windows wide open on both sides and the fans turning at maximum capacity. The next morning was “bliss” when the ladies made a first attempt at Ladies Highland, with the help of an air-conditioned studio. It was great to see this class followed with a session taking the ladies through the simpler dances.

Adelaide Branch hosted the Winter School in September, but the two day drive did not appeal to me, the three hour flight proved much more relaxing! Overseas and local teachers provided a wonderful week of dancing and enjoyment for dancers from all States. These Winter Schools provide one of the few opportunities for dancers from small or isolated groups to share their love of dancing with other dancers.

After each visit, it was back to “auld claes and pairritch”, but what better way to wear the clothes and sup the food than to be rewarded locally by young and older dancers loyally attending classes, participating in performances and enjoying the social interaction at many SCD events. What is it that is so infectious about SCD – the steps, the formations, the music? Perhaps music should be at the top of the list. When five and six year olds from a local infant school danced on to the stage at the area Dance Festival, they were the **only group** out of 25 who had the audience clapping along with them as they danced. They were the **only group** performing Scottish dance.

In Western Australia, Isobel Eaton is like the Pied Piper of Dance with youngsters from five and six years through to late teens dancing their hearts out at class, socials and demonstrations. One lucky group will be visiting Jakarta later in the year. Bon voyage!

The young do not have it all their own way! On a recent holiday in Tasmania I visited a group of “seniors”, 65–87 years, liltng their way happily through the simple dances chosen for them by their teacher Betty Laverty. She had to limit membership to 50 enrolments because of hall size limitation. During the hour long session **not one** sat down.



Cradle Mountain, Tasmania

Over the 12 months I think I've seen the whole “life cycle” of a Scottish Country dancer. The very young, boisterous, skipping, slipping 5 year old, lacking technique and polish, but still developing skills which will lead to “real dancing”. The teenager under peer pressure but being offered harder work, step dancing, demonstrations which they fit in around their studies. The adult dancer with varying degrees of skill. The “senior” never referred to as “old”, but still able to **be there** on time with a smile on their face.

Let's remember it's today's 5 and 6 year olds who will celebrate the next 75 years and do all we can to encourage them!

Elma See

OBITUARIES



FLORENCE HOPE ADAMS

(Died 3rd January 1997)

With the death of Florence Adams, the Society has lost one of its most loyal and devoted members. Miss Adams was an Honorary Vice-President of the Society and Honorary President of RSCDS Glasgow Branch.

Miss Adams was actively associated with our Society for almost 70 years. As a certificated teacher, examiner, adjudicator and hard-working committee member, she served the RSCDS loyally at both local and national levels. She often taught at the Summer School and was regularly invited to teach at Day and Weekend Schools north and south of the border.

A former Branch Chairman (1956–59) and Society Chairman (1964–67), her contribution as co-author of Miss Milligan's biography "Dance with your Soul" was invaluable. Appreciation of Miss Adams' service and dedication to the RSCDS was formally recognised in 1984 when she was awarded the Society Scroll and her appointment as Honorary Vice-President was first confirmed.

Despite advancing years, Miss Adams' interest in the RSCDS never diminished. She derived great pleasure from John Drewry's tribute to her in the dance "Miss Florence Adams". Her many friends and admirers enjoyed the opportunity in August 1991 of joining her at a dance arranged to celebrate her 90th birthday.

Miss Adams will be long remembered by many members throughout the Society. They are grateful for her inspiration and example and consider it a privilege to have been part of her life and to have been touched by her friendship.

Alastair MacFadyen

JAMES E. M. ATKINSON

(Died January 1997)

Mr Atkinson, the man who gave us "The Reel of the 51st Division", died at the age of 84 in January 1997. This was the first modern dance to be published by The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

In June 1940, he was serving with the Argyll &

Sutherland Highlanders, when the 51st Highland Division were surrounded and taken prisoner at St. Valery. Lt. Jim Atkinson's idea for the dance was later finalised with the help of Lt. Peter Oliver and other officers while prisoners of war in Germany. Mr Atkinson, a former Deputy Lieutenant of Clackmannanshire, lived to see a 30-minute documentary on the dance and its origin screened by BBC Scotland last November. Commenting on the film, he said there were three reasons why they danced – to keep warm, to keep fit and for fun.

A thanksgiving service was held in Alloa attended by many old soldiers and people from all walks of life, the Society was represented by the Chairman.

Bill Clement

HAROLD BARNES

(Died March 1997)

Harold worked tirelessly for over forty years at "spreading the gospel" of Scottish Country Dancing. He helped to establish not only RSCDS Somerset and Bedfordshire Branches but many other groups.

Harold and his wife Sheila were jointly awarded the Scroll of Honour in 1996, in recognition of their services to the Society. Harold was also involved with a variety of sports including badminton, water polo, fell walking, dancing and music. He had a fine tenor voice, took on the training for the Ten Tors Challenge and was Chairman of the Exmoor panel for the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

During the last few months he faced illness with his characteristic positive attitude and courage, carrying on the work of the local association as long as he was able. He was surrounded by his family throughout and this was a comfort to him. Although we will all miss him a great deal, we are confident of being able to continue based on his strong foundation. Our thoughts go to Sheila and we look forward to her continuing to play a very large part in the future of the local association.

Patrick Morland

MARION COOKE

(Died 1 June 1997)

Marion was Cape Town born and was a member of the RSCDS for 30 years, during which time she served on the Branch Committee and held the post of Treasurer for several years. She was a keen dancer and loyal supporter. She was delighted to be able to attend the Summer School in St. Andrews in 1984. Much of her life was devoted to nursing family members, her elder sister died of cancer in 1989 and Marion gave loving care to her frail mother who died in December 1996. She worked for a local Building Society from 1965 and was a keen worker for St. John's Ambulance. Throughout her life, she was a member of the Congregational Church and members of this Church supported and nursed her throughout

Obituaries

her increasing debility. It was a situation which called for new depths of compassion for all who cared for Marion.

Marion will be very much missed but not forgotten by all the Cape Town Clubs. She had many friends, and was loved by all who knew her. Farewell, Marion.

Pat Baxter

MRS MAURICE CRAMB An Appreciation

Mrs Maurice Cramb, Tibbie to her many friends, died quite suddenly on 26th June, 1996. Tibbie had been a member of the RSCDS for over 50 years and had served RSCDS Aberdeen Branch both as Chairman and latterly as Honorary Vice-President.

Mrs Cramb had a deep knowledge and love of Scottish Country Dancing, and was a beautiful and graceful dancer. She was instrumental in introducing Ladies' Step Dancing to the Society. Mrs Lorimer of Aberdeen, whose grandfather Frederick Hill, had collected and written down many dances in a notebook dated 1841 (which is now known as the Hill Manuscript), lent this notebook to Mrs Cramb. Tibbie painstakingly brought these dance to life, carefully choosing appropriate music. Three of these dances, "The Earl or Errol", "The King of Sweden" and "Scotch Measure" together with "Flora Macdonald's Fancy" were published by the Society in the 1950s, in the publication "Four Step Dances".

Tibbie was known as a scholarly researcher. She undertook extensive work both on dances and into Scottish dance music. She also composed several dances including "Honour the Piper", "Jimmy Shand's Highland Reel", "Miss Janet Laing" (her niece), and the "Misses Cramb of Linithgow" (her grand-daughters).

Tibbie was a real character with an endless fund of stories, she has a great humour, strong opinions, and was generous both with her talent and her time, particularly where dancing was concerned. During her lifetime, Tibbie gave much pleasure both as a demonstrator and teacher, and she was pleased to know that her step dancing had become popular worldwide.

Lena McFarlane

MISS ANNIE O CUMMING

(Died 9 November 1996)

RSCDS Aberdeen Branch were saddened to learn of the death of one of its Honorary Vice-Presidents, Miss Annie Ogilvie Cumming. "Annie O", as she was known, was a character who devoted a large part of her life to Scottish Country Dancing.

Miss Cumming was a disciplinarian and a determined and independent lady, qualities which were very much in evidence when she continued to walk to classes, distribute publications and collect

subscriptions despite increasing pain and infirmity. Yet, she was a caring and understanding person with a sense of humour.

After gaining her teacher's certificate she regularly trained successful teams for the country dance festival and was the driving force behind the Aberdeen and North East of Scotland Music Festival. In Aberdeen and its environs, her name was synonymous with Scottish Country Dancing. Miss Cumming's enthusiasm was long standing, she held the position of Secretary almost continuously from 1952-1987, and she was awarded the Society's Scroll in 1986.

RSCDS Aberdeen

BERYL "BIDDY" NANCY FAWDRY

The recent death of Beryl Fawdry, "Biddy" to her friends, has deprived Birmingham Branch of a most outstanding member, who served it for over 50 years. One of the founder members in 1946, Biddy became its first Chairman, 1952-55, and again between 1984-87. Over the years, she served as Secretary, General Administrator and teacher, and was an active member of the Branch demonstration team.

Her contribution to Scottish Country Dancing was recognised by the Society who awarded her the Scroll of Honour in 1990, and by the Branch, who made her Honorary Vice-President in 1994. Biddy had a love of dancing and sport in general, and she played hockey for both the University and the County. She was a fine Country and Highland dancer, and also enjoyed the wider field of dance.

The Branch has lost a lively and lovely person. Where there was Biddy, there was laughter.

Eric Forbes and Laurie Salley

HELEN GARDINER-JONES

(1909-1997)

Helen, who died aged 87, was distinguished both as a teacher of Scottish Country Dancing and for her contribution to the Society in the Midlands at Birmingham and Wolverhampton.

Born in Cirencester, she developed her interest in things Scottish both through her mother's family and with the Argyll & Sutherland Regiment. Whilst in Edinburgh she learned the Scottish Dance steps using kitchen chairs to make up a set. She also took up playing the clarsach. When she returned to England she maintained her interest in Scottish Country Dancing and joined the Society in 1929.

She gained her Teacher's Certificate in 1946 and taught firstly the Wolverhampton and then the Birmingham Branches. She regularly attended Summer School and the Society's AGM, and served as President of the Wolverhampton Branch, and Honorary Vice-President of Birmingham Branch. She was awarded the Society's Scroll in 1988, a fitting tribute to her work.

Tom McCann and Eric Forbes

Obituaries

JOY LITTLEWORT

(Died 17th May 1996)

Cape Town Branch lost a valued member when Joy died after a debilitating illness. She joined the Society in July 1961, and during the late '60s served on the branch committee and also acted as Secretary. She was always cheerful and full of common sense and good humour. She faced her illness with such courage and determination to get better, so that her loss seems all the more poignant.

She was always a keen sportswoman, playing hockey and cricket and reached Provincial standards in both. After retirement she took up croquet. Her sunny disposition and cheerful good humour were a tonic to all who came into contact with her, and her untimely death was a great shock. She is survived by her sisters Ann and Jill (Creese), and our best wishes go to them

Ann Littlewort

KATHERINE H MCLAUHLIN

(Died 25th January 1997)

The Society lost one of its most respected musicians when Miss Kitty McLauchlin, who had been ill for some time, died on 25th January at 86 years of age.

A native of Arbroath, she started to play the piano by ear by the age of five and before long began piano lessons. It was clear from an early age that she had an exceptional talent and after gaining her LRAM and ARCM she began teaching piano in 1935. Hundreds of pupils benefitted from her knowledge.

Kitty's interest in Scottish Country Dancing arose from her mother who taught dancing using Kerr's Collection Book before the Society was even formed.

Kitty played at Summer School in St. Andrews each year from 1932 to 1996 – an amazing record! She was much sought after as an accompanist for Scottish Country Dance events all over the country and further afield. In 1978 Kitty was guest pianist for the New Zealand Branch Summer School and returned there on a further three occasions. She also represented New Zealand Branch for many years.

Kitty was a long-standing member of RSCDS East Angus Branch, having been Chairman as recently as 1995, and willingly participated in all local events. Locally, Kitty played for the Round "O" Scottish Country Dance Club, which contributed greatly to years of enjoyable dancing.

Kitty, with her knowledge, enthusiasm and expertise will be sadly missed in the Society at local, national and international levels.

Mary Gardner

IAIN HARROW

Iain Harrow, who was taken ill at class on 11th February 1997 and died later that night, had been a member of the Forfar Branch since 1984, serving as a committee member and as Chairman.

He was the ideal class member; cheerful, competent, patient and always able to provide tactful and unobtrusive support for less confident dancers – if Iain was in your set, you knew you'd get through!

Iain was indefatigable in his attendance at dances from Aberdeen to St. Andrews, and keen to encourage others to travel. It was a tribute to his popularity that there was standing room only at his funeral, and he really is sadly missed by all his friends in the RSCDS

Maggie Bentley

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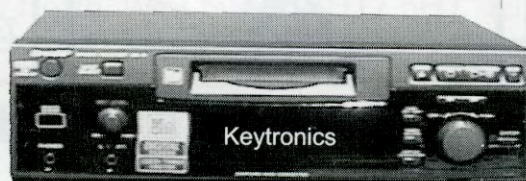
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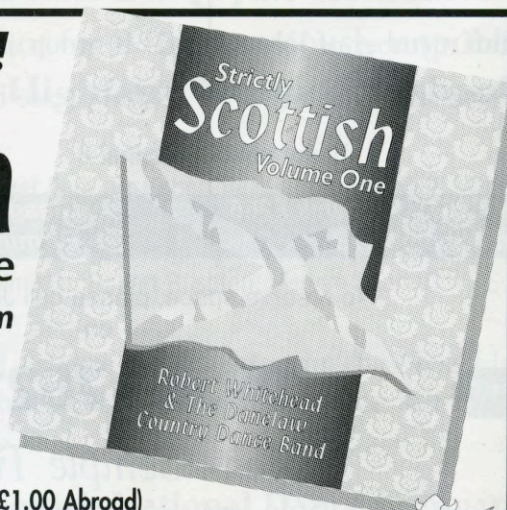
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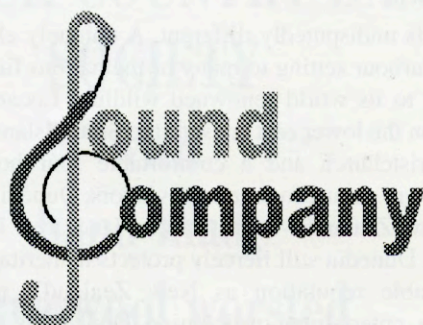
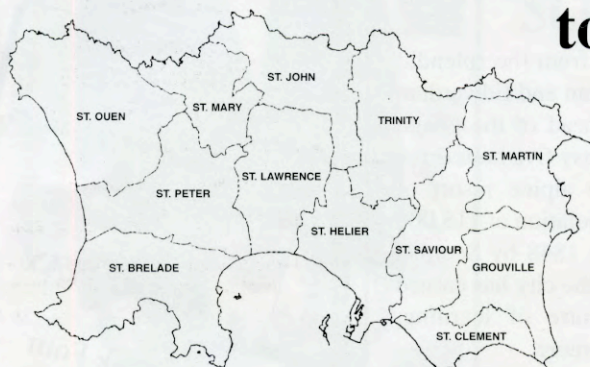
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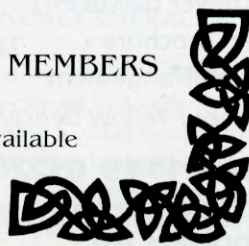
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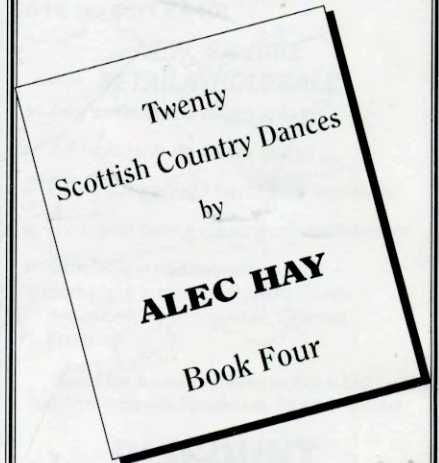
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