

The Scottish Country Dance Society Bulletin

No. 23.

November 1945

Annual Report

THE Council has much pleasure in presenting its Twenty-second Annual Report, and in stating that the Society has maintained and even increased its individual membership, while adding one new Branch and several Affiliated Societies.

Now that the war is over, Branches all over the country hope to increase their activities and start classes as the accommodation problem becomes easier. There is no doubt that Scottish Country Dancing is extremely popular, and judging by the number of inquiries received as to how to start classes in Youth Clubs, etc., the demand for teaching is very real.

Members will be pleased to receive as their subscription copy the new Victory Book, which contains some very interesting dances; the music has been arranged by Mr Herbert Wiseman.

Examinations for Teachers' Certificates were held during the past year at the following centres:—

Aberdeen.
Dunfermline Physical Training College.
Glasgow.
Jordanhill Training College.
Rochdale.
St Andrews.
Wishaw.

111 candidates passed in Certificate I; 60 passed in Certificate II; and there were 29 failures.

A week-end course in Scottish Country Dancing was held in January in Moray House Training College, when about 150 members from many parts of Scotland, and a few from England, attended classes.

Demonstrations of Scottish Country Dancing were given in May to interested audiences at the Iona Community House, Glasgow. After the demonstrations were over, members of the audience joined up with members of the teams and danced together. This created great interest, and there were many inquiries at the end of each evening as to how to become a member of the Scottish Country Dance Society and join a class.

In co-operation with the Central Council of Physical Recreation, Eightsome Reels were danced by teams from Edinburgh and Glasgow at a Gymkhana arranged by the Amateur Athletic Association in Edinburgh in July, where an audience of 10,000 were assembled.

As in former years, Scottish Country Dancing featured in Musical Festivals, and entries this year were larger than ever.

The Summer School was held in University Hall, St Andrews, for the first time since 1939, and the number of applications received was more than double the accommodation available. With regret, many members had to be refused. The Society is greatly indebted to Miss Milligan and her staff for their work at the Summer School Classes.

Subscriptions for the current year are due, and should be paid to the Treasurer. Members sending their subscriptions direct are asked to state which Dance Book they wish to receive. Books 1—12 and "Twenty-four Favourite Scottish Country Dances" and the new Victory Book are available, also Pocket Editions 1, 2 and 3; 7, 8 and 9; 10, 11 and 12,

St. Andrews, 1945

The Scottish Country Dance Society's Summer School this year, the first since the outbreak of war, was memorable for several reasons. The European War having recently ended, and with things going so well for us in the Pacific and the end in sight, we were all lighthearted; and last, but not least, we had the most perfect weather we have ever experienced in St Andrews. Everything seemed to conspire to make the School a great success. Many of us having booked our rooms immediately on receiving our notice, had been eagerly looking forward to 30th July, wondering if our friends would turn up, and what changes we should find. Happily, St Andrews had changed little, the ravages of war hardly having touched the town.

The School was the largest ever held, and to accommodate the increased numbers several rooms were shared by friends, but there was no overcrowding, except perhaps in the social dancing each night. The Hall arrangements were, as usual, admirable. The Secretary, with her uncanny intuition, had put us all just where we wished to be, groups of friends being in adjacent rooms, greatly facilitating the enjoyable evening parties which got later as the end of the Course drew near.

I think some of the older members must have wondered if after a lapse of six years their legs would stand up to several hours of dancing daily, but the time-table was so well arranged that nobody was tempted to do too much. The largest classes, of course, were the advanced class taken by Miss Milligan in the University Gymnasium, and the one following it, which was taken by Miss A. Anderson. Certificate and other Classes were held in the University Hall. One innovation this year was the introduction of Irish, American Square, and Old Time Dances, which were taught after tea, and very much enjoyed.

The standard of Scottish Dancing during the first week was low, but during the second week, when the new dances were more familiar, there was a vast improvement in technique, and I think it is true to say that the demonstrations given by teams representing the districts of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, the Midlands of Scotland and the Sassenachs, were up to standard.

Our thanks are due to the Warden and Housekeeper of University Hall and their staff, who made us so very happy and comfortable. We all marvelled at the excellent food, which seemed to us to be equal to that of pre-war days, and we all so much appreciated the cheerful and willing service of those who looked after us at meals. Lastly, we must thank Miss Milligan for her indefatigable work, both before and during the Summer School, and for her inspiring teaching, and her staff of teachers, who did so much to help us all and make the Course the tremendous success it undoubtedly was.

We all remember with gratitude the delightful time we had, and look forward to next August, when I hope we shall again have the full fortnight at St Andrews.

A SASSENACH.

The Office-bearers and six Elected Members to the Executive Council for 1945-46 are as follows:—

Chairman—Miss JEAN MILLIGAN.

Vice-Chairman—Mrs HAMILTON-MEIKLE.

Miss BARROW.

Miss DOW.

Mr DRUMMOND.

Miss KIRK.

Mrs LESSLIE.

Dr E. FORBES-SEMPILL.

Branch Reports

ABERDEEN.—During the past year, the Aberdeen Branch membership has risen to 160, 26 of these being Life Members.

Two Certificate Classes were held during the season, and four full Certificates and seventeen First Certificates were gained.

Other successful classes were held—one for beginners and intermediate pupils, the other for experienced dancers.

Scottish Country Dance Classes taught by our members were held at Kirkwall, Ellon, Portlethen and Woodend Hospital, while the Dancers of Don, all Branch members, gave many demonstrations throughout the country in aid of charity.

PETERHEAD.—Peterhead again had a most successful season. One adult and two children's classes were exceedingly well attended.

ANGUS BRANCH has a membership of eighty-seven this year. Weekly classes were held in the winter, at which very large attendances were the rule. The Arbroath Centre had two big dances during the session, one in aid of the Red Cross Prisoners of War Fund and one in aid of the local Welcome Home Fund. In July the Centre conducted Open Air Dancing in connection with the "Holidays at Home" movement, and from all these efforts over £65 was raised for the two Funds.

Demonstrations of Scottish Country Dances were again given to W.R.I.s and Women's Guilds.

NORTH AYRSHIRE.—This Branch resumed its classes in October, and hope to have a beginners' class, followed by an advanced one. The children's classes will also begin in October. We hope to have a Victory Ball early in the season.

DUNDEE.—This Branch has had a very successful year. Weekly meetings were held, and the increase in numbers showed a keen interest in Scottish Country Dancing. A very enjoyable Dance was held in December, and the proceeds donated to St Dunstan's Hospital for blinded Service men.

We regret to intimate the resignation of our President, MacGillivray of MacGillivray, but we are fortunate in obtaining the services of Dr J. B. Salmond, a well-known journalist and an accepted authority on all Scottish affairs. The issue of the new Victory Book is eagerly anticipated for commencing another year of activity under happier conditions.

EDINBURGH.—Membership has increased to nearly 200, and classes were well attended last session. Several dances were held, and altogether the sum of £226, 6s. 2d. has been handed over to the Red Cross.

Demonstrations by a mixed team were given at Colonial House, where the students joined in with great gusto, and the American Red Cross Club. The Americans had been "taught" an Eightsome Reel by well-meaning visitors, but they said it was quite different from the one demonstrated! They hadn't even realised that it was a square dance!

EAST STIRLINGSHIRE.—Last winter our Branch had a very successful session. The increase in membership led to the formation of another class.

In September, Mrs McDonald, who had been instructress to the Branch since its inception, left the district. A gift from the members was handed over to her by Mr L. A. B. Rae, President, at a social gathering.

A team was entered for the Central Counties Musical Festival held in Falkirk, and was successful in gaining a First Class (Honours) Certificate.

The closing Dances held at the end of each term proved to be most enjoyable functions.

FORT-WILLIAM.—This Branch reports on a very successful session, with a membership of fifty-nine who attended the classes regularly, and who are all enthusiastic. Miss Macpherson, who instructs the class, gained her Teacher's Certificate at the Summer School. The Branch is fortunate in having an accomplished pianist who gives her services most willingly. Prospects for next session seem very bright.

Statement of Receipts and Payments

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand at 30th September 1944 - - - - - £878 17 3

SUBSCRIPTIONS—

Received from Branches - - - - - £280 19 0
 Paid direct to Headquarters - - - - - 72 15 0
353 14 0

Sale of Dance Books and Leaflets - - - - - 181 15 3

Royalties and Broadcasting Fees - - - - - 12 6 6

Donations - - - - - 25 0 0

Rebate on Insurances - - - - - 2 4 0

SURPLUS—

Week-end Course - - - - - £30 19 0
 Summer School - - - - - 95 18 0
126 17 0

INTEREST—

County Council of Lanark - - - - - £3 2 6
 Savings Account - - - - - 3 2 4
6 4 10

£1586 18 10

The following articles are the property of the Society:—3 Typewriters, 2 Portable Gramophones, 1 Writing Desk, Music Cabinet, Filing Cabinet, 2 Chests of Drawers, and Sundry Books of Music.

for year ended 30th September 1945

PAYMENTS.

Printing of Bulletin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£20	18	9
Cost of S.C.D. Books, 1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	10	11
Printing and Stationery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	1	2
Travelling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34	18	3
Postages and Telephones	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	12	3
Insurances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	3	6
Auditor's Fee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	0
Examination Fees and Organising Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	12	3
Secretary's Salary, Bonus and Office Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	206	5	0
Treasurer's Salary and Bonus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83	6	8
A ranging Music for New Dance Book	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	0	0

BALANCE—

County Council of Lanark Bond	-	-	-	-	-	£250	0	0									
Government Loan (free of Interest)	-	-	-	-	-	250	0	0									
British Linen Bank—Savings Account	-	-	-	-	-	400	0	0									
Do. do. Current Account	-	-	-	-	-	207	6	6									
Petty Cash in hands of Secretary and Treasurer	-	-	-	-	-	6	0	7									
													1113	7	1		
															£1586	18	10

23 BARNES STREET, AYR, 20th October 1945.—I have examined the foregoing Statement with the Books, Accounts and Vouchers relating thereto, and certify them to be correct.

NORMAN MACKINNON, C.A., Auditor.

GLASGOW.—During the session 1944-1945 there was an encouraging increase of 103 in the ordinary membership, bringing the number to 257 in addition to 36 Life Members.

Classes, attended by Members and non-Members, established a record.

In spite of difficulties of transport, dim-out, etc., five classes were held weekly, one being a Certificate Class.

As a result of the financial success of the classes, the Branch has had the pleasure of forwarding £20 to the General Treasurer.

Men students from Jordanhill Training Centre, in addition to several Branch members, gained the Teacher's Certificate.

The Youth Clubs organized by the Glasgow Education Committee included Scottish Country Dancing in their activities, while as usual it featured in the work of the Girls' Guildry, Boys' Brigade, G.T.C., etc., as well as in local competitions and Musical Festivals.

There have been many requests for demonstrations, several of which have been given by mixed teams at Iona House, Jordanhill, Gala Day, etc.,

Miss Milligan's "Circles" and many private clubs continued to hold their Scottish Country Dance evenings.

The Kelvin Club's interest in Scottish Country Dancing was as great as ever, and during the winter months two very successful Social Evenings were held jointly by the Club and the Branch. Other meetings of a similar nature are planned for this year, while the Branch hopes to hold a Dance on a larger scale in the near future.

Several dances sponsored by Highland Clubs, etc., were held in St Andrew's Halls and the Highlanders' Institute, and to these members of the Branch were invited.

Meantime Glasgow members look forward to welcoming their friends at the Autumn Meeting.

HAMILTON.—The Hamilton class has continued with keen enthusiasm in spite of a rather small class. A monthly social evening was held, and friends attended from the Carluke, Larkhall, Lesmahagow, and Strathaven areas.

In appreciation of their indebtedness to Mr and Mrs Rankin, who have given their services free as pianist and teacher for the past three years, the Branch have made them Life Members of the Society.

The sum of £5 was donated to the Thistle Foundation Fund in memory of a member of the Committee who made the supreme sacrifice. Much regret is felt by the Branch at the loss sustained through the death of Miss A. Hamilton Harley, who has been a most efficient Treasurer and Secretary to the Branch since it was formed in 1934.

Though the class has been small during the war years, we hope to have many of our old friends back again this winter.

CARLUKE.—This section of the Hamilton Branch has survived the war with over thirty members attending its weekly meetings. Interest was maintained all along, and the preliminary classes, which Miss Marshall, the Secretary, holds for initial training, have brought forward ten recruits. A successful session is looked forward to.

The Education Authority have been requested to start classes of Scottish Country Dancing in Carluke, and before setting aside an evening consulted this Branch in order that there might be no overlapping.

It is pleasant to record that the Carluke Section were able to give over £90 to local authorities from surplus of dances and social evenings held during the war years.

KIRKCALDY.—During the winter and spring the Branch became more active than it had been during the main war years. Attendance at the class became more regular and the number of dancers increased.

Besides our usual Branch class help was given with (1) a class for Old Time Dancing; and (2) a class for just Scottish Country Dancing. The former was attended by about fifty couples, of varying ages from the twenties onwards, who could dance Lancers and Quadrilles, but who were pleased to renew their acquaintance with some country dances and to learn others. The latter was attended by the personnel of a Coastal Command Station who had begun the class to help relieve the monotony of the daily round and who

became very enthusiastic, especially about the Eightsome Reel and the Foursome Reel.

At the end of the session a party was held, the proceeds of which were given to the funds of the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society.

We have now twenty-eight members and seven Life Members, and are hoping that the number may increase this year.

LONDON.—Fortnightly Saturday afternoon social dances, at which new dances were taught, were again held, in the Y.W.C.A. Central Club, throughout the winter. The attendance before the New Year was very satisfactory, but there was a falling off later, which was understandable, and not due to lack of enthusiasm.

The season was concluded in April with a dance in aid of Prisoners of War. Although the attendance was smaller than had been hoped for, a sum of 21 guineas was raised, thanks in part to donations from members and their friends. Miss Kaye at the piano, and Mr Mackenzie with his pipes, gave their services, and, as it was felt that at last London's ordeal was over, the dance was much enjoyed.

Mrs Sandison's class at a London County Council evening Institute was well attended, and this class is again on the syllabus for next year.

In January, a team under Mrs Sandison gave a demonstration to some 250 members and friends of the Guildford Teachers Folk Dance Club, and she also took a class at the Ilford and District Gymnastic Teachers Association.

In February Miss MacLennan was invited to attend a meeting of the Essex Teachers Association at Chelmsford, when she took a very enthusiastic class in Scottish Country Dancing. This was followed by a similar invitation from the Gray's Branch of the Association, when an even larger and more enthusiastic group were given instruction.

Now that peace has come the Branch has every confidence in the future, but it is with regret that they have to leave the Y.W.C.A. Central Club, who now require their rooms for their own peace-time activities.

MANCHESTER.—The Manchester Branch has now completed ten years of activity—the Committee is grateful to those who have made it possible to carry on without a break during the six war years. With the passing of war the Branch looks forward to greater prosperity. During the session 1944-45, besides classes on alternate Saturday afternoons, several parties were held and a One Day School took place in June, which was conducted by Miss Maxwell, from the Glasgow Branch.

Members demonstrated Scottish Country Dances at the British Isles Party arranged by the English Folk Dance and Song Society in Manchester. The Heaton Moor Group has continued to meet regularly and enthusiastically, and the members have become Branch members.

RENFREWSHIRE.—The membership shows a slight increase this year.

A weekly class was held throughout the winter, the first part of the evening being devoted to the teaching of beginners. Both classes were very well attended.

At the end of each session a social evening was held for members and their friends, this being most successful and enjoyable. Useful amounts were again raised for various charities.

STIRLINGSHIRE.—This Branch held a Social Dance once a month during last winter in place of a weekly class. The attendance was excellent, and they proved a great success.

Our two certificated teachers, Miss Morrison and Miss Kemp Smith, ran the Socials, and at each one a new dance was taught. Classes were held at St Ninian's and Gargunnoch, and a children's class in Stirling. This season we hope to start an advanced class in Stirling.

WEST LOTHIAN.—Branch membership continues as previous year. Classes were held in Linlithgow and Bo'ness. Bo'ness class has been able to continue during war years. Each class held a successful dance at the close of the session, funds being given, as usual, to War Relief.

Classes resume in October, and give promise of increased attendance.

COUNTRY DANCING IN THE MIDDLE EAST

In a previous letter to the Society I mentioned a Scottish Country Dance Class that I was running for the nursing officers in a military hospital in Palestine. Shortly after this I was posted to another military hospital, this time in Egypt. About three months after I arrived there I found out that there were a few Scots Sisters in the unit, and on speaking to them, arranged to start a Scottish Country Dance Class. I had a notice published to this effect, and I was rather surprised when on the first evening I had, besides the Nursing Sisters, four men of the unit *and* about six Palestinian A.T.S. girls. These girls picked up the steps, figures and dances very quickly. The class ran very well for a few months, and then the Army decided that I had been abroad long enough, and I was sent home!! Before I left one of the A.T.S. girls, a trained stage dancer, said that she would carry on if I could send her some music, etc. When I arrived in this country I sent off some of "The Books" to her, and so far as I can gather from her reply the Country Dance Class is still going strong.

J. H. STIRLING, Sergt., R.A.M.C.

FROM CORRESPONDENCE

In an American novel written by an American lady (Anita Pettibone) about settlers in a small township in one of the Western States, there is a reference to the people dancing "Monymusk" and "Soldier's Joy." My brother is a friend of the author, and when I told him these dances were Scottish Country Dances he inquired of her how they came to be danced in the States somewhere in the sixties of last century. This is the reply:—" 'Monymusk' was brought West by settlers in the old colonial days. 'Soldier's Joy' was introduced by the Hudson Bay Company people, who were, of course, mostly Scotsmen. A Scotsman who came to the coast with the Lewis-Clark Expedition taught the Western American Indians to dance. Prior to that date the Indian tribes west of the Rockies had no dancing."

ELIZABETH W. TOD.

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP TO SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.

Annual Subscription - - - - - 5/-

Life Membership Subscription - - - - - £3, 3/- *or*

£2, 10/- to those who have paid their annual subscription for four years.

Those who have paid their annual subscription for ten years may become

Life Members on payment of £1, 10/-.

Branch Treasurers may have official receipt books on application to Miss McLellan.

Secretary—Miss HADDEN, Thornhill, Cairnmuir Road, Edinburgh, 12.

Treasurer—Miss J. W. McLELLAN, Parkend, Galston, Ayrshire.