

The Royal  
Scottish Country  
Dance Society  
Bulletin.

No. 31.

OCTOBER 1953.





[Photo by courtesy of THE BULLETIN

Her Majesty The Queen with Dancers of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society  
(Edinburgh Branch) at Holyroodhouse, 1952



# The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Bulletin

No. 31.

October 1953

## Annual Report

HER Majesty Queen Elizabeth graciously bestowed her patronage on the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society in 1952. The Society has therefore felt itself very closely linked to the ceremonies, the pageantry and the pleasures of this 1953 Coronation Year, and would like to pay tribute to a gracious and much loved young Queen who had dedicated herself to the service of her people. From Scotland and further afield have come reports that Scottish country dances have been the highlight of many a Coronation Festival, culminating in a display at the International Rugby Ground, Murrayfield, Edinburgh, during the Coronation State Visit attended by Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh. Many of our members and dancers from all over Scotland had the pleasure of seeing Miss Jean Milligan, co-founder of the Society and its present Chairman, being presented to the Queen and to the Duke. As Miss Milligan made her curtsey with dignity and elegance, all had a feeling of pride in this recognition of the achievements of the R.S.C.D.S. in which our Chairman has played so notable a part. It was a thrilling sight to see the dancers circle the arena, take up their positions, bow to the Queen and then sweep in to the gaiety of the Scottish steps. It was a high standard of dancing as befitted the occasion and it was obvious to all that good technique had not only resulted in a pleasing uniformity but had helped the vital spirit of the dance, so evident in happiness of expression and ease of movement.

It has been said that "felicity consisteth in prospering, not in having prospered," and certainly the Society should feel pride and happiness in its continuous progress. Last year it would seem that the peak figure of membership had been reached, but this year it is even greater. With so much expansion and growth there are always dangers, but both the working committees and a keen membership do their best to combat them. It is very gratifying that the Society has become a part of the national life, that its dances and music are more and more popularly appreciated and give so much pleasure when demonstrated not only in this country but also overseas.

The following notes will amplify the reports from Branches which give a good account of the year's work.

**EXAMINATIONS.**—During the year examinations for Teacher's Certificates were held in the following places:—Aberdeen; Dunfermline College of Physical Education, Aberdeen; Ayr; North-West Ayrshire; Anstey College of Physical Education, Birmingham; Dundee; Dunbartonshire West; Dunfermline; Edinburgh; Glasgow; Jordanhill Training College, Glasgow; Notre Dame R.C. Training College; Inverness; Lanarkshire; Lockerbie; London; Manchester; St. Andrews; Stirlingshire.

In the Preliminary Test there were 228 passes and 110 failures; 66 gained the Teachers' Certificate while 35 were unsuccessful.

**NEW BRANCHES AND AFFILIATED GROUPS.**—During the year Branches have been formed in Adelaide, Arbroath, Auchterarder, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Carnoustie, Duns and District, East Lothian, Friockheim, Gatehouse-of-Fleet, Hopeman, Whitehead (Co. Antrim), Wigtown. Affiliated groups now number 82, an increase of 12. An approximate estimate of the total membership of the Society is 16,780.

**INTERNATIONAL FOLK MUSIC COUNCIL CONFERENCE, BIARRITZ-PAMPLONA, 9th-15th July 1953.**—A team of ten dancers and a piper, accompanied by Miss Milligan who is the representative of the Society on the International Folk Music Council, took part in this Festival. An account of the visit is given in this Bulletin.



**NEW PUBLICATIONS.**—A book containing four Highland Solo Dances has been published. These dances were collected by Mrs Cramb and presented to the Society. The Coronation Book is an attractive collection of twelve traditional dances collected by Miss Milligan from old books and manuscripts. Much credit must be given to Miss Milligan for all this work of preparing the dances and selecting suitable tunes. The Publications Committee met to select the dances and to interpret the details of formations, etc., under Miss Milligan's guidance. Thanks are due to Miss Anderson for preparing the diagrams. The music has been arranged by Dr Herbert Wiseman.

**AUTUMN SCHOOL.**—A very successful Autumn School was held in Glasgow during the week-end of 31st October and 1st November 1952. Miss Milligan taught the classes held on Friday evening, while those on Saturday morning were taken by Branch teachers.

The Glasgow Branch very generously entertained the Representatives on the Executive Council to luncheon on Saturday. This was followed by the Annual General Meeting, after which a large company had tea. In the evening a Ball was held in the City Chambers where there was an attendance of over 600 members. The Executive Council take this opportunity of conveying their thanks and appreciation to Glasgow Branch for their hospitality during the week-end.

**SUMMER SCHOOL.**—The Summer School took place at University Hall, St. Andrews, from 20th July to 17th August. Numbers were as large as ever and many new members were present. The Executive Council again wish to thank Miss Milligan and her staff of Teachers and Pianists for their work during the Summer School.

## Branch Reports

**ABERDEEN.**—During the season our members have remained about the same as last year. We have now 715 ordinary members and 79 Life Members.

Six adult classes, one Certificate class and four children's classes were held and the Committee would like to thank all teachers and pianists for their work in connection with these classes.

At a Preliminary Teachers' Certificate Examination 14 candidates passed the test. The examiner expressed great satisfaction at such an excellent pass-list and the Committee feel that a special expression of thanks is due to Miss B. Anderson, the instructress.

Demonstrations were given in town and rural districts by two Branch teams, and many classes outwith the Society were taught by our members.

At the conclusion of the Festival of Sport in February, a mass display of country dancing was given by 9 mixed teams, representing various dancing groups in and around Aberdeen, during a broadcast by Jimmy Shand in the Music Hall. Hundreds of spectators were present in the gallery.

Two very popular Balls were held during the year in December and March.

In September 1952 the Branch was honoured by having Miss Lesley Martin invited to dance with the Scottish Team at Le Mans. Just recently a double honour has come to the Branch for Miss Martin and Mr Patterson have been asked to join the Scottish Team which is to dance at Biarritz and Pamplona in July 1953.

At the Scottish Country Dance Festival held in March for which there was the record entry of 132 teams, the R.S.C.D.S. was represented by four teams which all reached honours standard and three of them were the winners in their class.

On 1st June the R.S.C.D.S. gave a mass display of country dancing at Pittodrie during the evening, while on Friday, 5th June a Coronation Ball was held in Beach Ballroom when 516 dancers were present.

The Aberdeen Scottish Country Dance Club had another very successful session. The membership rose to 85 and visitors were made welcome any Saturday evening they cared to come along.



**ADELAIDE.**—This Branch has now completed its first year and is pleased to report that we have an enthusiastic and increased membership with a good percentage of male members joining. We have given two much appreciated demonstrations for charity in the past year, and in so doing have awakened the South Australians to the fact that Scottish Dancing is by no means confined to Highland dancing by children.

We have been invited to teach the newly formed South Australian Scottish Regiment, the 27th Battalion, Scottish country dancing and Mrs Goldie, with some of the more experienced members, has been doing good work teaching them four dances to perform at their Annual Ball in September. Other requests for teachers have been received and we hope that the people chosen by Mrs Goldie to assist with her teaching will soon obtain their local teaching certificates and be able to cope with the demand.

**AIRDRIE, COATBRIDGE and DISTRICT.**—Our Branch has, on the whole, had a very successful year. The classes were very well attended throughout the season.

We had our Branch Dance in November 1952, and at the close of the season, in March 1953, we had a very successful Branch Party. Both functions were very well attended and all participating had two really enjoyable evenings.

Miss Isobel Perman, who is the representative to the Executive Council, has worked very hard indeed during the season and she now has a demonstration team which has given many demonstrations all round the district. In addition, the Team entered for the Lanarkshire Music and Drama Festival in February last, and were awarded First Place. She also had a mixed team performing at Murrayfield on the occasion of the State Visit.

We intend having a beginners' class, an advanced class and a children's class next season and at present have all our arrangements well in hand. The beginner's class and the Children's class will be taken by Branch members who have gained their First Certificates.

We have had a most successful year both financially and otherwise and it certainly looks as if our Branch Membership will greatly increase during 1953-54.

**ANGUS.**—Once again this Branch has had a very successful year. The membership stands at 1121 and there are 8 Life Members. The membership is made up as follows:—Forfar, 333; Arbroath, 230; Montrose, 197; Brechin, 106; Carnoustie, 97; Friockheim, 90; Kirriemuir, 68

All centres ran Society Classes during the winter, taught by fully certificated teachers and these were well attended.

Most of the centres had demonstration teams, many of them consisting of equal numbers of men and women, and local charities were helped by displays given by these teams. The Branch as a whole also contributed to the Society's donation to the King George VI Memorial Fund.

Displays of Scottish Country Dancing were given in the various towns in connection with the local Coronation efforts and these proved very popular.

Children's classes were run by one or two of the centres and youth organisations had the help of Society teachers in the teaching of Scottish Country Dancing to their members.

At the invitation of the Edinburgh Branch three teams from Angus (Arbroath, Brechin and Friockheim) had the honour of dancing before Her Majesty The Queen at Murrayfield in connection with the State Visit to Edinburgh. The Angus Branch is greatly indebted to the Edinburgh Branch for allowing them to join the 600 dancers who gave such a wonderful display of Scottish Country Dancing on that never-to-be-forgotten day in June 1953.

**ANNAN.**—The membership of the Branch in this, its fifth year, is 154. The Branch ran four classes during the session, a Beginners, an Intermediate, an Advanced and a Demonstration class of ten sessions. Members of this last class gave demonstrations of



country dancing at a number of social functions. It was also from this class that a team was chosen to enter for the Dumfries Musical Festival. The team was placed third in its class and this was considered to be a very creditable first attempt. The success of the team was due in a very large measure to Miss Stafford's most efficient and inspiring teaching.

Mrs Murray, who has been a most enthusiastic President of the Branch, retired at the end of the session and Mr Beattie was elected President.

We are glad to welcome back as Vice-President, Mrs Walker, who was our first President.

In February the members enjoyed a delightful evening when Mrs Lesslie came to conduct a class. Mrs Lesslie gave some valuable instruction in technique, and because of her expert teaching the large class of some hundred members found they were able to learn and perform with ease the new dances she taught.

Monthly dances were held throughout the session. These were most enjoyable and well attended.

The Annual Highland Ball was held in March. The two hundred dancers attending the Ball included members from Dumfries, Carlisle, Kirkcudbright, Lockerbie, Ecclefechan and Moffat, and all enjoyed dancing to the music of Jimmy Shand and his Band.

At the request of the Riding of the Marches Committee, the Branch ran a Country Dance in Coronation Week.

The Branch is indebted to its teachers and pianists for their excellent work which has contributed so largely to the successful running of the classes.

**AYR.**—The membership of this Branch is now 413, including 18 Life Members.

An adjudication was held at the beginning of the winter and two teams were chosen. A team took part in a Radio Competition in Glasgow and took first place. They later appeared on T.V. which was a great achievement. The teams gave demonstrations at several dances and to various organisations during the winter, and at the Ayrshire Musical Festival the first team was successful in winning the Challenge Cup and later appeared at the final Festival Concert.

Seven Branch classes were run in the district during the winter, two of them for children.

Two dances were held by the Branch in the Heads of Ayr Hotel, and were most successful.

Four teams took part in the Display of Country Dancing before the Queen at Murrayfield in June.

The Branch looks forward to housing the Annual General Meeting and Autumn School in October this year.

**AYRSHIRE, North-West.**—With a membership of 558 we have had a very full and active winter.

Monthly dances continued to be held in the various areas, and these, together with the two Balls held in December and March, proved most successful and enjoyable. Our April dance was held for the benefit of the Royal National Lifeboat Society, and it was gratifying to see such a good attendance. After a lull in dancing, a very large number turned out to our Coronation Dance—one of the gayest of the season.

A Second Certificate Class was held, five members gaining full Certificates.

In January we were again favoured by a visit from Miss Milligan who, with her usual boundless energy, gave instruction to two well-attended classes.

A Mixed Team and a Ladies Team took part in the Ayrshire Festival, the Mixed Team being second and the Ladies Team first in their respective classes.

During Coronation Week teams took part in demonstrations in the various towns in the district, and four teams danced at Murrayfield on 27th June.



Our Children's Branch Class continues to flourish, membership now standing at 36. Their Session was brought to a close at the end of March by a most excellent Display given for the benefit of parents and friends, and according to the enthusiasm of the audience, this Class promises to be even larger next winter.

**BANFFSHIRE.**—The year 1952-53 has marked another phase in the activities of the Banffshire Branch of the Society. During the war and up to this year the Banffshire Education Authority encouraged Scottish Country Dancing in every way and included same in the curriculum for the evening classes, but this winter, on account of economy, this practice was discontinued by the Authority. This left the Branch to once again take the initiative and to run the classes on their own. It was very gratifying to know that with one or two exceptions all classes continued to function with the result that classes were held throughout Banffshire. All were well attended and very satisfactory, and the membership remained practically static. Once again the Branch was called upon to give many demonstrations which were of a high standard and well received. We look forward to another successful year. The members of the Branch were very pleased that the Members of the Society had elected their Secretary, Mr John H. Duncan, Chairman of the Finance Society, and they appreciate very much the honour conferred on him.

**BATH.**—The Branch has had a successful year with membership increasing in both elementary and advanced classes; these were held from September to June inclusive.

Miss Betty Brown continues to instruct and is untiring in her efforts to ensure a high standard. Under her guidance and by kindly making her studio available for practice, teams were trained and demonstrations given at dances and fêtes.

Two informal dances were held in addition to the Annual Ball at the Guildhall. This was well supported by visitors from Bristol.

**BELFAST.**—The year has been very successful for the Branch in every way and there has been a steady and satisfying increase in the membership. There are now three very flourishing and active classes in Belfast and one in Bangor as well as the Children's Class in Belfast. All these classes were well attended throughout the year and the Beginners' Class in Belfast and the new class in Bangor have been particularly enthusiastic and have made great progress.

In addition to these classes the Branch has provided teachers for the other Branches in Northern Ireland and for other classes organised by local groups who have not yet joined the Society.

At the end of February the Branch joined with the other Northern Ireland Branches of the Society and C.C.P.R. in holding a combined dance in the Town Hall, Ballymena, which was attended by well over three hundred dancers.

The Branch held two Week-end Schools at Cushendun in October and May; both of these were very well attended.

During the year the Branch Demonstration Team gave several displays including one at the European Pipe Bands Championships which were held in Belfast this year.

We were also very glad to be able to welcome the Scottish Country Dance Team led by Duncan McLeod which visited Northern Ireland during the Easter holidays when they took part in The Festival of International Dancing organised by C.C.P.R.

During the Coronation celebrations a hundred members of the Branch joined with the Whitehead Branch in open air dancing on the promenade at Whitehead when we were the guests of the Whitehead Branch. On this occasion and at the dance in Ballymena the music was provided by The Belfast Scottish Country Dance Players, a group of musicians which has been organised by two of the Branch pianists.

The strength of the Branch is now 183 Annual Members and 4 Life Members.



**BERWICK-UPON-TWEED.**—The Berwick-upon-Tweed Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society was formed in February 1953 and there are 105 members to date.

The Branch met fortnightly in the King's Arms Assembly Rooms, the teacher being Miss I. C. Price of the Central Council of Physical Recreation. Although the session was short, the members made rapid progress in a number of selected Scottish dances.

The Central Council of Physical Recreation in co-operation with the Branch held a successful week-end course in the Grammar School from 13th to 15th March, designed for members desirous of taking the Teachers' Certificate of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

The session terminated with a Country Dance Party on 1st May, when 100 members and friends spent a most enjoyable evening. A demonstration team from the Newcastle Branch kindly attended and entertained the company with many delightful dances.

**BIRMINGHAM.**—The total membership of the Branch is 68, 14 being Life Members. This is only a very small increase on last year, but we hope to have improved greatly on this by next year.

We have continued having socials each month, and these have been fairly well supported. A number of members enjoyed an Anglo-Scottish evening held in March with the Acocks Green Group of the English Folk Dance and Song Society.

The Demonstration Group have fulfilled further engagements and have been well received.

Some members have been fortunate in being able to attend the week-end schools which have been held at Lilleshall and Manchester during the year. At Manchester some of us met Miss Milligan for the first time. In the Autumn, Birmingham and Wolverhampton Branches in conjunction with the C.C.P.R. will be holding a week-end school at Lilleshall.

We shall be holding our Coronation Dance on 23rd October.

The Memorial Fund to Miss E. M. Campbell realised over £55 and we now have a portable gramophone and typewriter suitably inscribed as a lasting tribute to her memory.

Miss Langtree (Mrs Abbott) who has been such an able Secretary to the Branch has had to resign owing to the fact that she now has a small son who claims her attention. We are very much indebted to her for all the work she has done.

**BOSTON.**—The Branch has had another successful and mighty interesting year.

Classes met weekly, from September 1952 through June 1953 and were well attended. We averaged 34 active dancers.

We have 71 Society Members to date and expect more applications to join next season as a result of our demonstrations and parties.

We started our Season with an Introductory Party for Members and Guests and it was very successful, the result of which we acquired some new dancers.

Our Group participated in ten Demonstrations of which we received a fee for five. These included the Scottish Highland Games, outdoors, an annual affair; a Tartan Ball; Robert Burns Day Ball; the New England Folk Festival, an annual affair which we led followed by the Worcester Kiltie Band and which was the high light of the evening (we had thirteen couples on the floor dancing).

We have had eight executive committee meetings. Our Annual Meeting was held on 8th June.

We are looking forward to a decided increase in Society Membership as well as Class Membership, as we believe we are now established and well recognised.

**CAPE TOWN.**—Subscriptions for 1952-53 numbered sixty.

The classes, held in the Cape Town Training College, continued to be popular, but the numbers fell slightly.



Activities this year have been very varied and included participation in the Cape Town Highlanders' Tattoo, a visit to George, a children's class at Sherwood and a class at the Marion Institute. Two of our former members started some Scottish Country Dancing in George and sent an appeal for assistance; five ladies motored there one day, took a very successful class at night and returned somewhat wearily the next day. The children's class, begun last July, is now full and much enjoyed by all. The Marion Institute class meets one evening each month; though the standard of the coloured folk's dancing is not high, the enthusiasm makes up for that deficiency.

Our Christmas Dance was held in the Gordon's Institute and was a very happy affair. From its results a donation of five guineas was sent to the King George VI Memorial Fund.

**CARLISLE and BORDER.**—This Branch has completed its third year which has been a most successful and active one although membership remains at the low number of fifty-six.

Classes commenced on Wednesday, 17th September 1952, under the tuition of Mr J. Johnstone, which were very well attended throughout the whole of the season.

A few local demonstrations were given during the season, the highlight of which was the display given in the Memorial Hall, Longtown. A varied programme was arranged which was presented and introduced by our President, Miss D. L. Murray.

It is very pleasing to report that this Branch was successful in winning the Silver Cup presented by the Carlisle Highland Association at the Carlisle Musical Festival for the best all round performance in the Scottish Country Dance Section. In all, four teams were entered, and gained the following awards:—Ladies Team, First; Mixed Team, Second; Ladies Foursome Reel, Third; Mixed Foursome Reel, First.

A Week-end School was held on 13th and 14th February 1953, consisting of three classes, under the expert tuition of Miss Jean Milligan. It was indeed a social event which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Many new demonstration dances were taught which were a delight to both the dancer and the onlooker.

The Branch held six dances this year, four of which were run on the lines of a Social Evening. They were all highly successful both socially and financially. Our Annual Ball was again held in the County Hotel Ballroom on 15th April 1953; music was provided by Jimmy Shand and his Scottish Broadcasting Band. Approximately 200 members and friends attended some from as far as Edinburgh, Richmond, Moffat, Lockerbie, Ecclefechan, Dumfries, Annan, Gretna and Longtown. Mr and Mrs R. A. Leslie were the Guests of Honour, and the evening proved one of the most successful of the year.

Our season finished on the right note—with a Coronation Ball held in the Memorial Hall, Longtown. Members and friends who attended had a most enjoyable evening dancing to the music of Bobby MacLeod and his Scottish Broadcasting Band.

**CASTLE DOUGLAS.**—The membership for the year was ninety.

In December the Annual Highland Ball was held and was well attended, with visitors from neighbouring classes and Branches. During the evening two of our mixed teams gave displays which were greatly appreciated.

As usual teams were entered for the Newton Stewart and Dumfries Festivals and at both Festivals our teams gave creditable performances. The Branch were very pleased to receive the kind invitation from the Edinburgh Branch to send teams to Murrayfield to dance before the Queen and all who attended enjoyed a day to be remembered.

Again teams gave demonstrations at the Searchlight Tattoo at Lochside Park during Civic Week.

Throughout the season monthly Socials were held in Castle Douglas Primary School Hall and all were well attended.



**CLACKMANNANSHIRE.**—Present Membership of the Branch is 166 Ordinary plus 5 Life Members. A decrease of 6 since last session.

The Alloa Class reports a very successful season with numbers well maintained. Parties at Christmas and the end of the session were enjoyed by members and friends.

At the close of the Session the Dollar Class had a membership of 37. Many small functions were held and special mention is made by the Class Secretary of a big dance held in the Burnside Hall in aid of the local Coronation Fund, as a result of which £38 was handed over to the Coronation Committee.

Tillicoultry Class also reports a very successful Session. From the proceeds of a Dance held in Devonvale Hall £6 6s. was sent to the local Infectious Diseases Hospital Recreation Fund.

Donations from the Branch Funds include £8 8s. to the King George VI Memorial Fund and £5 to the Eventide Home, Inglewood, Alloa.

Teams from Alloa and Tillicoultry took part in a Mass Display of Country Dancing at Annfield, Stirling, on 8th May. We were very pleased to be represented by a team at Murrayfield on 27th June.

Two Coronation Dances were held in Alloa Town Hall during Coronation Week. The Annual Dance in December last was as usual well patronised.

**DUMFRIES.**—The 1952-53 session has again been most successful, the membership being maintained at last year's level. Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced Classes were held throughout the session. Two social evenings were held, one at Christmas and one at the end of the session, both of which were well attended by members.

A very enjoyable Highland Ball was held in February to the music of Tim Wright's Band and was attended by members from Annan, Lockerbie, Castle-Douglas, Shawhead and Moffat. A donation from the proceeds of the Ball was sent to the Lord Mayor's Flood Relief Fund.

During the session a donation was also given to the King George VI Memorial Fund. Five teams were entered for the Dumfriesshire Musical Festival and all gained good places.

The season concluded with a Scottish Country Dance held during the local Coronation and Guid Nychburris Week celebrations. Three demonstration dances were given and much appreciated by the large number of spectators, and dancers and spectators alike enjoyed a most colourful and happy evening.

**DUNBARTONSHIRE, WEST.**—At our opening committee meeting for 1952-53, we decided to hold a Beginner's Class and also a Certificate Class, if a sufficient number of members were interested. We had a very good response and commenced on 21st January with twenty-eight Beginners. We were fortunate in securing competent and enthusiastic teachers and pianists, and had a steady attendance until we finished on 25th March.

The Certificate Class commenced with thirteen entrants. Eleven entered for the Preliminary Examination and seven of these were fortunate in passing.

Miss Milligan was present at our January dance and taught two dances. We had a good turn out of members and friends, and had a very happy evening.

Our closing dance was held in April, and was well attended and very enjoyable. After it was over, we turned our attention to selecting the teams for Murrayfield. We were represented by two teams from various parts of the County, so arranging rehearsals and transport had its difficulties. We managed to surmount them however and had a wonderful visit to Edinburgh.

**DUNDEE.**—During the past year the Branch pursued its usual activities. The various classes have been well attended, and the enthusiasm for dancing is as keen as ever. Membership now stands at 732 including 78 Life Members. The Annual Ball held in February was a very happy and enjoyable event. Another successful dance was held



in March in aid of the Flood Distress Fund; the excellent sum of £92 was donated. Two dances were also held during Coronation Week. The Club, run in conjunction with the Branch, is now well established, and continues to give social happiness to many. Our demonstration teams have again been busy, and their delightful displays have brought many expressions of appreciation.

Certificate Classes were held during the season. At the examination five candidates gained the full certificate.

We are happy to report an interesting link which has been formed with the Barnagore Scottish Country Dance Club in Calcutta. A sum of money was sent from them to the Lord Provost of Dundee requesting that trees should be planted on their behalf in honour of the Coronation. Five members of our Branch were invited to perform this duty, and the trees were planted in one of the city Parks.

It was a great honour to be invited by the Edinburgh Branch to send four teams to dance at Murrayfield on the occasion of the Queen's visit.

**DUNFERMLINE.**—The membership this year stands at 225 ordinary members and 5 Life Members.

Again, during the session three classes have been held—Beginners, Intermediate, and Advanced.

Two successful dances were held during the winter, and again the monthly combined meeting of the classes proved popular.

In July two displays were given in Pittencrieff Park at the invitation of the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust. These were well received.

After the regular classes finished, a certificate class was formed and four members gained the Teacher's Certificate at an examination held on 4th July.

Two teams were very happy to take part in the display given before Her Majesty The Queen at Murrayfield.

We look forward with enthusiasm to the next session.

**DUNS.**—This Branch was formed on 24th March of this year when we were honoured by a visit from Miss Milligan. We have now over sixty members, and though we have had no social activities during the summer months we look forward to a very successful winter.

**EAST LOTHIAN.**—The membership of the Branch has grown steadily until it now exceeds 200, which is very good for the short time the Branch has been in existence, *i.e.*, from November 1952.

The first function held by the Branch was a dance in the Craig-en-gelt, Dunbar, when 128 members and 4 guests from the Edinburgh Branch attended. All who were present at this dance agreed that it was a most successful inauguration to the Branch's activities.

On 18th February Miss Jean Milligan honoured the Branch by coming to Haddington to take a class. Two of the Society's films were shown during the tea interval and the evening terminated with a short dance. 125 members attended this function. The two unpublished dances taught by Miss Milligan, "The Braes of Balquhiddy" and "Westering Home" were duplicated and circulated to all members of the Branch.

Two Spring classes were held under the auspices of the Branch, one in Prestonpans and one in Haddington.

The Branch was invited to send teams to participate in the mass demonstration in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen at Murrayfield on 27th June and three teams took part.

**EDINBURGH.**—The culmination of a very busy year was the Murrayfield display when 592 dancers from 22 Branches danced before Her Majesty the Queen. To all who took part in this corporate act of loyalty we send our grateful thanks. It was indeed



a great privilege for this Branch to be asked to stage such a display, and it was most heartening to us to receive such ready and complete co-operation from the Branches right from the beginning of the planning. It must have been a source of great satisfaction to all of us in the Society that the opportunity was afforded for Miss Milligan to be presented to Her Majesty.

Membership of the Branch now stands at 2009—a record figure. 1400 members attended one or more of the 27 Branch classes last session. There are now three clubs run for Branch members, and a fourth opens in October.

Forty-two demonstrations were given during the year by Branch teams, including visits to Hospitals and Old People's Homes, as well as Civic receptions and in Princes Street Gardens. A Branch team retained the Trophy won last year at the Musical Festival in May, beating our Perth friends by a very narrow margin.

The Autumn School at Black Barony continues to flourish, and Mrs May Brown and Mrs Hutchison were guest teachers at the very successful week-end last year.

A special committee has been set up to conduct research, and they have been hard at work already preparing the ground.

Three Balls will be run this Session—the Autumn Ball in December, the Ladies' Ball in January, and the Annual Ball in April.

**ECCLEFECHAN.**—This Branch has had a successful year. The classes, held weekly, were well attended. The annual Highland Ball was held in the Public Hall on 5th November. To it came members of the Annan, Lockerbie, Moffat and Dumfries branches. Our year finished with an informal dance.

Already we look forward to next session, preparations for which are well in hand.

**ELGIN.**—The year was largely one of experiment, with a Beginner's Class held on Monday evenings and an Advanced Class on Thursdays. Both classes were popular and well-attended, although there was some falling-off towards the end of the Easter term.

Two large Dances were held throughout the session, combined with a number of Social Evenings, all of which were much enjoyed.

A highlight of the year was the visit paid to the Branch by Miss Milligan in November of last year, when we had a most instructive, energetic, and enjoyable evening!

It gave much satisfaction within the Branch when we learned that our Chairman and principal instructress, Mrs West, had been elected to the Panel of Examiners.

**FORRES.**—The first session opened on 3rd October 1952 with a membership of sixty-seven. Well attended classes have been held on Friday evenings under the able tuition of Miss J. Banks. The Branch was honoured on 14th November by a visit from Miss Milligan.

The Spring Session began on 9th January 1953, with a Social Evening in aid of the King George VI Memorial Fund. £6, 14s. was contributed. Seventeen new members joined at this Session making the total number of members eighty-four.

Throughout both Sessions the Branch were fortunate to have the ever-ready services of their most able pianist, Miss Banks. On 27th March 1953, the Annual General Meeting followed by a Social Evening closed the activities of the Branch for the Winter of 1952-53.

**FORT WILLIAM.**—In addition to the weekly gatherings of the Branch, dancers from a number of classes in Lochaber area got together for several successful "Late Nights" during the season; such gatherings have now become a well established feature of country dancing in the district.

An innovation this year was a technique class in April taken, on four successive evenings, by Miss Jarvis of Stirling. The enthusiasm with which Miss Jarvis' instruction was received was well illustrated by the attendance, which was limited only by the capacity of the hall.



For the second year running a non-competitive Festival in the Town Hall, on two (very hot !) evenings in June, was run jointly by Nether Lochaber Branch and ourselves and attracted both the townsfolk and visitors to the district. Both Branches, and many classes from Kinlochleven to Corpach were represented by teams. Proceeds from this were sent to the Society's fund for sending teams abroad.

Two more of our members gained their Teacher' Certificates.

**GLASGOW.**—Membership rose steadily, breaking all previous records. 1299 members paid the Annual Subscription together with 7 new Life Members. Life Members number 85.

The members of the Branch greatly regretted Miss Milligan's decision to resign from her position of President and Chairman of the Branch, but were deeply gratified that she agreed to become its Honorary President.

During the season twenty Branch classes were held weekly and one special class for Team practice was taken during the summer months.

The Astoria Ballroom featured a regular Wednesday Scottish Country Dance Night under the guidance of a Certificated Teacher of the Branch.

During the summer, Tuesday evenings have been set aside at the Scottish Ice Rink for Scottish Country Dancing.

Innumerable new Clubs and Circles have been formed while those already well established have continued to flourish.

Numbers attending the Certificate Classes have been exceptionally high, while the attendance of men at all classes has greatly increased.

The highlight of the year was the Autumn Week-end of 31st October and 1st November, when Glasgow Branch, on the occasion of the Annual General Meeting of the R.S.C.D.S., was proud to have the privilege of welcoming members from far and near. To The Right Honourable The Lord Provost and to the City Fathers, our grateful thanks go out for their generosity and courtesy in permitting us to hold our Saturday evening dance in the beautiful Banqueting Hall of The City Chambers.

Shortly after, Branch members were grieved to hear that, because of serious illness, Miss Mary Findlay was unable to continue her work as Team Secretary and Branch Teacher. Her untimely death in July, after months of suffering, patiently and courageously borne, has brought sorrow to us all.

The season started in September with a competition in St. Andrew's Halls for adult Mixed Teams from Glasgow and the West of Scotland, under the auspices of *The Evening Citizen*, during the Television Week. On 24th September seven teams competed and were adjudicated by Mrs Hutcheson, Miss Jarvis and Miss Ross. On Saturday, 27th, the winners, Ayr Branch Team and the runners-up, Glasgow Branch Team were televised during a half-hour programme of the B.B.C.

Various Festivals have been held in connection with Community Centres and Youth Organisations and at these, Branch Adjudicators have officiated.

During the season Mixed Teams have danced in Broadcasting House on the occasion of Mr Kemlo Stephen's Broadcasts and have been watched by appreciative audiences.

Monthly dances, including Jordanhill Dance, were well supported, while the Couples' Ball in the Ballroom Suite, St. Andrew's Halls, was an outstanding success. The season finished with a most enjoyable Coronation Ball on 4th June in aid of The Thistle Foundation Fund.

A donation of £50 was sent to King George VI Memorial Fund and one of fifteen guineas to The National Flood Relief Fund.

Demonstrations by the Branch Teams have been numerous and have been greatly appreciated.

The inclusion of Mrs MacLeod, Miss Doris Robertson and Mr MacLeod in this year's "International" R.S.C.D.S. Team has again brought honour to the Branch.

To Edinburgh Branch we should like to say "Thank you!" for extending to us the invitation to send eight Mixed Teams to Murrayfield on Saturday, 27th June to



participate in the Scottish Country Dancing Display to be given before Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth. It is an honour we much appreciate!

A very successful year, under the guidance of Mr Duncan MacLeod, our Acting-Chairman, lies behind us and we look forward to another full year's programme.

**HAMILTON and CLYDESDALE.**—The Branch membership for the past year is 514, including 22 Life Members. The year has again been a pleasant and successful one.

An invitation was received from the Glasgow Branch to send a team to dance in St. Andrew's Halls on 24th September 1952, at the opening of the Television Exhibition, and Mrs Mackintosh presented a ladies team which very creditably represented the Branch.

The Allan Trophy was won this year by the Carluke Mixed Team, with a Carluke ladies team the runners-up.

The Branch was happy to send four teams to Murrayfield, on the Edinburgh Branch's invitation, to dance with other teams before Her Majesty the Queen on her State Visit to the capital in June, and many of our members joined in as spectators. All enjoyed a most memorable day.

**INVERNESS and DISTRICT.**—The membership of the Branch has increased considerably during the past year, and now stands at 378. Classes were run from early October until late March. These were well attended, and enthusiasm was kept going by the hard work put in by our instructors and pianists at these classes.

During a tour of some of the Northern Branches Miss Milligan paid a visit to Inverness on 10th November, and took a class in the Ballroom of the Caledonian Hotel which was filled to capacity. She taught some of the dances which have been published in pamphlet form recently, and her visit was very much appreciated.

Four dances were organised during the winter, but these were not so well attended as in the past—possibly due to the fact that many organisations in the area are now running Country Dances—and we hope to be able to organise some this year which will attract greater support.

Teams from the Branch entered for the County Music Festival on 23rd May. One Ladies' Team came second in their class, and one Mixed team came first in their class. Teams have also taken part in the Sports Week, which was held in Inverness in late June, and have appeared at several functions during the Summer.

A class for members wishing to take the first examination for a Certificate was started, and the examination was held in early March—the Examiners being Miss Milligan and Mrs West. Out of 13 candidates, 8 were successful, and we hope to run a class for the Final Examination this year.

**KILMARNOCK and DISTRICT.**—This Branch has had another very successful session. Membership is over 300. A new Beginner's Class was started and was very successful.

Three dances were held during the year and were most successful. Admission has mostly been restricted to Society members and quite a number of people were disappointed. A large number of spectators attended at all these functions. Films of the three dances which have been produced for the Society were shown to the members. Several demonstrations have been given at various functions during the year.

During the year Mrs Wilson, our Honorary Treasurer resigned, as she is now residing outwith Kilmarnock. Mrs Wilson has been Treasurer of this Branch since its inception in 1936 and has done much to help the Branch during these years, for which we are most grateful.

Already we are looking forward to next session, preparations for which are now well in hand.



**KIRKCALDY.**—Once again there has been an increase in members to the Society, in this, the twenty-fourth year of the Branch.

Membership stands at 364, of which 16 are Life Members.

Classes were well attended throughout. Four "Combined Nights" were held in all, and at the last, a collection of £8 was taken, which was sent to the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society.

Our annual dance was held in the Ice Rink in February. Owing to the larger floor space our members had the pleasure of welcoming, once again, dancers from the Branches of Dunfermline and Leven, and from the two Leslie Clubs. Nearly 500 spectators were present on this occasion.

Requests for demonstrations have been met by Branch teams.

Kirkcaldy Branch was very pleased to help Edinburgh Branch, by sending two mixed teams for the massed demonstration of Scottish Country Dancing before Her Majesty The Queen, at Murrayfield, on June 27th.

**KIRKCUDBRIGHT.**—During the session the Branch Class under the instruction of Mrs McKell proved very successful and popular, the membership of the Branch increasing to 81 members, including 2 Life Members.

A pleasant time was had by the Members at the Christmas Party.

The Annual Dance was held in February, when a large company of Members and Friends had a most enjoyable evening.

Social Evenings are held monthly, during the Summer, for members of the Class and friends.

**LANARK.**—The past session has been a most successful one and the membership of the Branch has increased to 103 plus 3 Life Members.

The monthly social evenings have maintained their attraction and in addition to our own members we have old friends of the Branch coming along on these evenings to renew their ties with our class.

A most successful Coronation Ball was held in February. £20 was made and £10 of this was donated to the King George VI Memorial Fund and £10 to the Flood Relief Fund. Acknowledgements were received from both these causes expressing their appreciation of our efforts.

The special class for mixed couples started during the previous session has once again proved exceedingly popular and representatives from this class have taken part in various demonstrations throughout the surrounding Districts.

**LEVEN.**—Another successful season has come to an end.

Classes were well attended throughout as were also the Balls held in December and March.

The demand for Demonstration Teams has been greater this year than ever before. We were proud to be able to send three teams to take part in the Mass Demonstration at Murrayfield during the State Visit to Scotland of Her Majesty The Queen.

**LIVERPOOL.**—The Branch membership continues to increase, this year we had 152 against 125 members last year; there was, of course, a small movement of members between branches and two emigrated to Canada.

Classes were bigger than ever this season, the enrolment for the beginners' class reached nearly 80. Since Miss Lyall joined us to share the teaching with Mrs Jones we have been able to start a technique class for the more advanced dancers and those wishing to take their certificate. The classes have proved exceedingly popular and on the last Wednesday of each month the classes are all combined, as we found last year mixing the advanced and beginners' classes had a beneficial effect and brings all our members together.

On 23rd February we showed the three films of Mrs McLeod, River Cree and the Rakes of Glasgow to a large gathering. The films from a demonstration point of view



and as a teaching medium caused such a discussion that we are hoping to run them again next session.

The social side—a very important one—has advanced another step by our holding a Branch dance at Bootle Town Hall in March last, at which we had members from Southport, Rochdale and Manchester Branches. Four members from over the border also attended, three from Glasgow (two of whom motored down especially for the dance) and one from Dundee. The attendance was not so big as we had hoped but the enthusiasm and enjoyment of those present augers well for our next effort which we hope to hold in November. Dances and parties held at Southport, Rochdale and Manchester were again supported by quite a few of our members.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 1st July the Committee was increased in size to eight members in addition to the Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and the Chairman, Mrs Jones. The men still number four but the women representatives have been increased by two to eight. One pleasing feature of the Annual General Meeting was that well over 60 members attended and after a cup of tea we had dancing for an hour or so.

**LOCKERBIE.**—There was a large membership for the year 1952-53, numbering 100. A Junior link numbering 20 was attached to the Branch.

The Annual Highland Ball took place in December and was attended by 220 dancers, including members from Carlisle, Annan, Moffat, Dumfries, Ecclefechan and Castle Douglas. The music on this occasion was supplied by Jimmy Shand and his Band. The Highland Ball has proved to be extremely successful and popular amongst all the Branches in the South of Scotland.

During February Miss Milligan conducted a tuition and certificate class. Two members of the Branch were successful in gaining certificates.

The Branch entered five teams for the Dumfriesshire Musical Festival. All teams were highly placed. The mixed team was successful in winning the Jean Mackintosh Memorial Trophy.

To conclude the season a dance was held in April, music was supplied by the Hartfell Dance Band, dancers were present from all the neighbouring Branches.

**LONDON.**—Unlike many Branches in Scotland, especially in the larger towns, London Branch finds itself almost the only promoter of dances devoted entirely to Country Dancing. Many of the numerous Scottish Societies in the South include Scottish dances in their social programmes, but no particularly high standard of dancing is attempted in the majority of these. A great deal of the activity of this Branch is therefore devoted to social dances quite separate from the classes, and the demand seems insatiable. Nearly 700 dancers (including some from Scotland) came for a dance with Jimmy Shand playing, and Adam Rennie's Band was imported for a Coronation Dance which attracted many dancers visiting London.

Members dances held approximately once a month, run to the capacity of the Hall,, and other dances in bigger halls, with non-members admitted, together with the Annual Ball, number two to three hundred.

Once again twelve classes have been run in association with the London County Council, and Miss Milligan visited many of these, and held a Certificate examination during her visit in the Spring. Very informal dances, with the programmes suited to the experiences of the dancers, have been held in connection with the classes.

The steady industry of providing demonstration teams reached a peak in Coronation Week, which included a brief television appearance. Circumstances range from the sumptuous ball to the church hall concert, but the appreciation of exiled Scot and Sassenach alike is universal.

Publication of our members' bulletin *The Reel*, has continued, and copies are sent to all Branch Secretaries. We shall be glad to welcome any visitors to London to our events, of which details are given in *The Reel*.



**LOSSIEMOUTH.**—We have had another successful year with a membership of 140. The interest and enthusiasm for Scottish Country Dancing continually grows. Throughout the season members travelled to attend various dances in the district held by other Branches. Many demonstrations have been given at local functions throughout the year.

The highlight of the season was Miss Milligan's visit in November. She taught several dances to a highly delighted class. Her personality and good humour made the evening seem all too short and we all look forward to her next visit to our Branch.

The Branch is much indebted to Mrs Anderson for her instructions and encouragement. Already we look forward to next season, preparations for which are now well in hand.

**MANCHESTER.**—The year has again been one of great activity.

There was an increase in membership, 299 compared with 281 last year. Classes were well attended. A Certificate Examination Class was again held, the examination resulting in all the four candidates being successful in obtaining the Full Certificate.

Our teams have been in great demand for demonstrations, and a team also went to the International Eisteddfod at Llangollen. An invitation was received by the Branch to visit Spain again for the International Festival, this time at Madrid, but too late for acceptance.

The first Annual Ball was held in the Longford Hall, in February 1953, and proved a great success. In addition, we held the usual Christmas and End-of-Season parties, and a joint party with the English Folk Song and Dance Society.

At Easter the Branch organised a very successful Week-End School at Hulme Hall, when Miss Milligan was the Principal, assisted by Mrs Lesslie of Edinburgh, Mrs Hutchison of Dundee, and Mr Robert Watson of Aberdeen, to whom great credit must go for an instructive and happy week-end. At the invitation of the Manchester University Scottish Country Dance Society, a wonderful party was held in the McDougall Centre on the Saturday evening, attended by 580, when Mr Watson gave a memorable display of Highland Dancing.

**MOFFAT.**—The past season has been a very happy and successful one. On 16th February we had the privilege of a visit from Miss Milligan, who taught the Branch as a whole and gave us an evening of interest and enjoyment. A demonstration was given in March when we were invited to take part in a Scots Night at the Moffat W.R.I. meeting. A party was held at Christmas and the closing meeting took the form of a social evening. The Annual Ball was held in the Town Hall on 13th March, when the Grand March was led by the guests of honour, Provost and Mrs Pringle and Major and Mrs Percy Hope Johnstone. During the year members travelled all over the county and beyond to attend dances organised by the neighbouring Branches, at Annan, Carlisle, Castle Douglas, Dumfries, Ecclefechan and Lockerbie.

**NAIRN.**—The Branch has enjoyed another session of dancing and classes are always well attended. Our dance held in November, to which neighbouring Branches were invited, was very successful.

Miss Milligan paid a very welcome visit to our class and her instruction was enjoyed by all members.

**NETHER LOCHABER.**—The Branch had a satisfactory year, with membership maintained. A dance held at New Year was a great success, dancers coming from Fort William, Inverlochy and Kinlochleven. A *thé dansant* held the same day for the 30 members of the two junior classes proved a new and cheerful innovation.

At the Festival held in Fort William in June, run by a joint Fort William/Nether Lochaber committee, the Branch had two adult teams, a mixed team (ages 13-15) and a girls' team (ages 8-12), the last-named dancing a spirited Petronella which got much applause.



Our annual summer Ceilidh and Dance was held in July and attracted a very large number of Scottish and English visitors who thoroughly appreciated the four teams' dances and who joined in afterwards in dancing Scottish Reform and Duke of Perth.

The Branch is particularly pleased with the progress of its two junior classes.

**NEWCASTLE and DISTRICT.**—There has been a considerable increase in the Branch membership this year and we now have 220 members and 11 Life Members.

Originally, two classes for beginners and two for intermediate dancers were arranged, but these were soon full to overflowing and a general class was started to avoid disappointing any would-be dancers.

Classes in Men's and Women's Highland Dancing were also provided.

A Children's class was commenced in October and although numbers were small, the enthusiasm is undoubtedly there to produce a new generation of Scottish dancers in this district.

Demands for demonstrations have come in from all districts, as far apart as Berwick and West Hartlepool. Ten demonstrations have been given during the winter and many more requests have been received for the summer months.

In September we were asked to provide a teacher for a private group meeting at Corbridge-on-Tyne. This class, although not part of our Branch, soon grew to 30 and of these, 12 have now become members of the R.S.C.D.S., and attended all our recent dances. This same teacher was eventually asked to start a Corbridge children's class which was also very successful.

The Branch held its first week-end course at Otterburn Hall in November and this was most enjoyable. Those who were able to attend had nothing but praise for the Hall, the teachers (Miss Allie Anderson and Miss Edwards), and the general atmosphere. The committee have decided to repeat the week-end this year and arrangements are now in progress.

Four informal dances were held during the season and the tickets for the Highland Ball in February were sold out long before the great night.

A new activity of the Branch was the formation of the "Dance Club," meeting fortnightly on Saturday evenings. It attained a membership of 35 and the average 24 attenders enjoyed some very happy evenings.

In view of the increasing demand, the committee are endeavouring to arrange further classes on Wednesdays to accommodate those who find Mondays and Tuesdays inconvenient.

**NEWTON STEWART.**—The membership of this Branch is steadily increasing and during the past year we were pleased to welcome some young members.

At the local Dancing Festival two second places were gained by a ladies' team and a mixed team in their respective classes. A very creditable demonstration of country dancing was given by a ladies' team at the local Coronation celebrations.

To conclude another successful year we held our Annual Ball on 12th February 1953, when we were joined by many friends from neighbouring classes.

**PEEBLES.**—The Branch has had a very successful year and was awarded first equal in the open class, all women's teams, at the Border Festival, Hawick, in May.

**PERTH and PERTHSHIRE.**—The membership of this Branch is 675 Ordinary Members and 54 Life Members, a fall in our members we are sorry to admit, due to the "Shire" not having come up to its usual numbers.

The year was uneventful, classes were held as usual, but apart from our children's classes, these were poorly attended.

Social dancing is still very popular in this district. The Perth Scottish Country Dance Club maintained a good membership (all are Society members) and enjoyed Dinner Dances at Christmas and again at the end of the season.



Our Demonstration Team gave various displays at functions, dances, rallies, etc., and were at the Hydro-Electric Board's Exhibition three evenings, giving a half hour's display each time in front of the Highland background which made the dancing most effective.

The Musical Festival was not so well attended, the entries being down, but the dancing was good and the standard was high. The two trophies, the Society Statuette and the Club Quaich, were both won by the St. Johnstoun Dancers under Mr Russell's guidance. Mrs Lesslie's adjudications were very much enjoyed by large audiences.

**PETERHEAD.**—This year the Branch had a membership of 104 Ordinary Members and 20 Life Members.

Three adult classes were held weekly, a beginners' class and two classes for more experienced dancers, but after Christmas the beginners were incorporated in the other classes. An innovation this session was a monthly social dancing evening which proved very popular. Adult and children's classes have been conducted by Branch members in the surrounding area.

The Branch owes a deep debt of gratitude to its teachers and pianists, all of whom have done so much to enthuse and stimulate their classes.

This year the Branch had seven entries at the Aberdeen and North Eastern Musical Festival, and all brought honour to the Branch by gaining two Honours Diplomas and five Certificates of Merit. Demonstrations have been given frequently throughout the season by mixed teams, and on Coronation Day a massed display interspersed with items by adult teams was arranged. Unfortunately however, the effect of this was spoiled by bad weather.

Last November we were delighted to have another visit from Miss Milligan, who taught several dances including "Bonnie Annie," and the "Braes of Balquhider," and enthused the members with the true spirit of our dancing.

Our Annual Ball was again most successful. Among the 180 dancers we were pleased to welcome friends from Aberdeen, Strichen, Fraserburgh, Inverurie, Baynalie, Lonmay, Banff and New Pitsligo. Our thanks are due to Miss Jean Sutherland and her Orchestra for their excellent music. Two enjoyable parties were held during the year and a number of our members have enjoyed dances at the Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen, Fraserburgh and Haddo House.

At an examination held in Aberdeen in March, one of our members gained his Full Certificate.

A team of A.T.C. Cadets is in training for a demonstration at Maidenhead, Berkshire, and Miss Collie and Miss Johnston have been invited to accompany the boys on their journey.

**PORTRUSH.**—The second season of this Branch has been most enjoyable; new members were welcomed and displays have been given at various functions during the winter. Practically all members travelled to Ballymena in February for the annual united dance there.

**RENFREWSHIRE WEST.**—The Branch has had a most successful season, about 100 new members joining the Society. Four weekly classes were held, all being well attended and popular. The ladies' advanced class had to be divided and other accommodation found. A request came from Kilmacolm to start a class there in connection with this Branch. After consideration it was decided to do so; this also has been most successful.

The Ball was not held this year but the classes had a dance in the home at the end of the season. It was found necessary to restrict the sale of tickets to class members only.

An Extraordinary General Meeting was held to consider the constitution and rules drawn up by the Committee and also to appoint the Auditors.



The Branch was honoured in being invited to send teams to Edinburgh to dance before Her Majesty The Queen in June.

**RICHMOND.**—The first year of the Branch has been very successful, our membership totalling 105, including 2 Life Members.

Two classes have been held throughout the winter and some of our members are working for their certificates in preparation for Miss Milligan's visit to the Branch in October.

Demonstration teams have been much in demand during the year and several Clubs and Societies in the surrounding districts have been visited. The first Annual Dance of the Branch was held in January and was so successful that it is hoped to plan the next one on a much more ambitious scale.

**ROCHDALE.**—1952-53 has been a very successful year. It commenced with a celebration dance to mark our Tenth Anniversary and continued in festive mood throughout the year. Many new members were enrolled, excellent attendance, even in the worst weather, was maintained, and enthusiastic support given to our own activities and to those organised by other neighbouring branches.

However, the peak of the year was our Coronation Ball held in Rochdale Town Hall on 2nd May, when Miss Milligan was our Guest of Honour. The beauty and dignity of this fine Town Hall made a marvellous setting for Scottish Country Dancing and the skirl of the pipes and the appropriate melodies arranged by our branch pianist all blended to make an evening of gaiety not easily forgotten. The Mayor and Mayoress and approximately 300 guests were present. Other than Branch members were guests from as far distant as Perth, Edinburgh, Hereford, Southport, Liverpool, Leeds and many from Manchester and district.

The Summer term classes are well attended and auger well for next year.

**SOUTHPORT.**—The membership of the Branch has again risen, being 81 this year against 70 in 1951-52. The season has been a successful one, attendance at classes, especially the Elementary, being maintained at a high percentage. The Education Committee classes taken by the teachers of the Branch in Preston, Crosby and Ormskirk have continued and members from each have attended our Branch parties.

Mrs Gudger's monthly visits to the more advanced class have provided their usual stimulating influence, and, as always, we are indebted to our pianist, Miss Elizabeth Peel.

Branch teams have given several demonstrations during the year, one being in Preston, at which the Mayor and Mayoress were present.

Three successful parties have been held and trips have been made to other gatherings outside the town, in the course of which social contact has been made with the Rochdale, Liverpool and Manchester Branches of the Society. We met Miss Milligan at the very successful week-end in Manchester just after Easter, and again at the Rochdale Branch's Coronation Ball in early May.

The Branch will be having members at St. Andrew's during most of the period of the Summer School.

Next season we expect to run our more advanced class for three hours instead of two, the first hour being for our most advanced dancers only, the other two of a more intermediate nature.

We expect to find this a helpful arrangement as we advance into our eighth year as a Branch.

**ST. ANDREWS.**—The St. Andrews Branch continues to flourish, the two highlights of the season being the marriages of our Teacher and Pianist, to both of whom we wish every happiness in the future. We are very glad to report that they are to continue with us next year.

Our membership this year has reached 275 which is very gratifying. Two dances were held this year, one on St. Andrew's Eve, the proceeds of which were given to the



Old People's Welfare Fund. A donation was also given to the King George VI Memorial Fund. Our Instructor, Mrs Caithness (Miss Grant) was once again chosen as a member of the Scottish Team to dance at the International Festival, and we congratulate her on this honour.

**STIRLINGSHIRE.**—Our membership is now well over 500 and interest and active participation in Scottish Country Dancing is increasing in our district. We have had a very full and exhilarating year, but to mar our general feeling of satisfaction there is one flaw, and that is that we have not to date been able to persuade more men to come and enjoy our classes and dances.

The Branch has held only one big dance this season because the only hall in Stirling or district large enough to accommodate 300 dancers was not available because of repairs, until early 1953. Most of our sixteen classes held Christmas dances or parties, however, and in March 1953, the Branch held a most enjoyable and successful dance in aid of Stirling's War Commemoration Fund. We were able to hand over to the Town Clerk a cheque for over £46.

Our mixed demonstration teams, trained by Miss C. D. Jarvis, have delighted audiences at social functions in Stirling and the surrounding countryside throughout the season, and one of these teams had the honour of dancing at Murrayfield in June before H.M. The Queen and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh. Our ladies' demonstration team, also Miss Jarvis' pupils, gained first place in their class (and the highest marks of any) at the Central Counties' Musical Festival held in Falkirk in May, when Miss Milligan was the Adjudicator.

We also had the pleasure of seeing Miss Milligan in Stirling later in May, when she examined candidates put forward by Miss Jarvis for the teaching certificate. The Branch can now boast of another six fully qualified teachers.

Nor is it only our "specialists" who have enjoyed the limelight. In May 272 members of the Branch gave a mass display, organised by Miss Jarvis, of Scottish Country Dancing at Annfield Stadium, Stirling. This event, a new venture for the Branch, was run under the aegis of the recently formed Stirling Civic Society and did much to quicken the public's interest in and appreciation of Scottish Country Dancing.

A most encouraging feature of our year's activities has been the success of projects (such as the Annfield Display and the appearance of one of our mixed demonstration teams at Hobbies Exhibition sponsored by the Rotary Club) undertaken in collaboration with other local bodies—and we have, too, enjoyed a very good "press."

Lieut.-Colonel Cosmo Edwards, C.I.E., Miss C. D. Jarvis and Miss J. C. Gairns Bowie will continue in office as our Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Honorary Treasurer, respectively, while Mr J. Adam will continue to represent the Branch on the Executive Council. Miss A. Murdison, Honorary Secretary, is resigning for business reasons and Mrs M. McLaren, Coneybrae, Bridge of Allan, has been appointed Interim Honorary Secretary.

**STIRLINGSHIRE, East.**—We have now 316 members of whom 10 are Life Members. During the past session eleven adult classes have been held and four children's classes. In addition to the nine end-of-term functions, a Members' Dance was held in February. All of these were well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. On 26th May, in Falkirk Ice Rink, 600 dancers took part in a "Coronation Dance" to the music of Bobby McLeod and his Band. The highlight of the evening was the excellent performance of dances by the team from the Edinburgh Branch.

Once again six teams were entered for the Central Counties' Musical Festival held in Falkirk in May. The outstanding results obtained reflected great credit on the teachers and pianists. Miss Milligan, who adjudicated in her usual genial manner, gave much helpful and instructive advice to all.

The Branch co-operated with Falkirk Town Council in running a very successful



evening in the Dollar Park. At intervals during the public dancing demonstrations were given by four teams representative of the various classes in our Branch.

We were honoured in being invited to send a team to the mass demonstration at Murrayfield before Her Majesty The Queen on 27th June.

It was agreed at the Annual General Meeting to send donations to the King George VI. Memorial Fund and to Headquarters to the former "Publicity Fund."

**STONEHAVEN.**—Classes for adults and children were well attended during the winter season. Demonstrations were given by members at social functions, also in conjunction with the C.C.P.R.

Fully certificated teachers of the Branch again taught at Rickarton and Inverbervie under the continuation class code.

Our Annual Ball was very well attended and during the winter our members were guests at different centres of dancing in the district.

**SYDNEY, N.S.W.**—The influx of new members and interested people led to the formation of two groups—an Elementary and an Intermediate.

It has been found advantageous, as the year progresses, to introduce an early session to the Elementary nights, in which newcomers are "walked through" the general movements until they are familiar with these movements and can take their place in the elementary class session.

The Intermediate group has had a period of intense activity in presenting demonstration nights, and introducing dancing to organisations, and helping in money-raising activities, as well as the New Year's Day Highland Gathering, and Balmoral Highland Gathering (N.S.W.) in September, and combined programmes with the Gaelic Choir with dances to "mouth music."

The imminence of the Royal Visit is partly responsible for the growing popularity of Scottish Country Dancing, and it is the aim of the Sydney Branch to ensure that the tradition and correctness of country dancing is maintained; emphasis is therefore laid on basic step work and faithful adherence to books of instruction.

The N.S.W. Department of Education has sent its representatives to learn correct stepping and performance of dances for teaching to the Schools in preparation for the Royal Visit. This follows several years of pressure-work from our Director to have the dances correctly performed in the Schools.

Three members—George Wells, Misses Dorothy Rosemond and Betty Vale—left in June for England for an unknown time, probably two to three years. It is their hope to attend the 1954 Summer School and obtain Teaching Certificates before returning to Australia. They will be a great loss to the Branch during their absence, as they are three of the original members of the Dance Circle formed before the war.

**WEST LOTHIAN.**—The Branch reports another very successful year. Membership has substantially increased. We now have 15 Life Members and 155 Ordinary Members. Classes were held as usual in Bathgate, Bo'ness, Broxburn, Linlithgow and Winchburgh. New classes were started in Uphall, Whitburn and Blackburn and give promise of further increase in Branch membership.

A mixed club has been formed in Armadale by the local enthusiasts there, thirty of whom have joined the Society.

The class organised by the staff of Bangour increases in popularity and Branch membership there is steadily increasing.

A very enjoyable dance was held in Bo'ness Town Hall in November, and two dances in Bangour. Music for these dances was supplied by members of Tim Wright's Orchestra.

Miss Margaret Moir has again been chosen as a member of the International Team.

**WHITEHEAD (Co. Antrim).**—This Coronation year proved a memorable one for the members of our Whitehead classes, as we were permitted to form a Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.



We have approximately 50 members at present, and there is a waiting list for the Autumn session.

We are very fortunate to have for a teacher, Miss Lottie Kane, who, by her unfailing good nature and really hard work, has made a success of the classes, so much so that a team of eight was asked to demonstrate at Ballycarry on Coronation night.

On several occasions we have received invitations from Ballycarry Women's Institute to give a display and dance and "a good time was had by all."

In connection with our Coronation Week Festivities in Whitehead, we had a Scottish Country Dance on the Promenade on Saturday, 6th June. Members of the Belfast and Bangor R.S.C.D. Classes chartered two buses and came to our aid, bringing their own Orchestra. Mr Patrick Fergusson was M.C. in his usual capable manner and about 150 dancers took part. Both dancers and spectators had a really enjoyable night and indeed it proved the highlight of the week.

**WIGTOWN.**—After a lapse of thirteen years, the above Branch was reformed, with a membership of 38.

Throughout the session the classes were well attended, and at the end a Guest Night was held, to which members' friends were invited. An Open Night was also held, which members of other Branches attended. Both evenings were greatly enjoyed.

A team was entered at the Galloway Musical Festival and was successful in obtaining first place in its section.

**WINCHESTER.**—This Branch concluded a successful second season with a dance after Easter; another enjoyable dance had been held before Christmas. During the season the welcome addition of 20 new members brought the total up to 51, and it is hoped that the membership figure will continue to increase next season. Two members are to represent the Branch at the Summer School in August.

**WOLVERHAMPTON.**—The past year has been unusually uneventful for our small Branch, and we have done very little dancing outside our own classes.

Some members have attended week-end schools in Scottish Country Dancing at Lilleshall Hall, and a memorable four-day school in Manchester. They have been surprised to find how much Scottish dancing is being done in the Midlands and have made agreeable contact with hitherto unknown groups. Now, in partnership with the Birmingham Branch we are looking forward to holding our own school at the end of November to which we hope to welcome many friends to enjoy the classes taken by Mrs Lesslie, Mrs Gudger and Miss N. Thomson.

## Affiliated Groups

**Amersham and District Scottish Association.**—Mr G. A. TODD, "Cornercroft," Devonshire Avenue, Amersham, Bucks.

**Altrincham Scottish Country Dancing Group.**—Miss J. D. CRAIG, Sunny Bank, Sandiway Road, Altrincham, Cheshire.

**Allan Dancers, Southend-on-Sea.**—Miss L. A. Newton, 2 Elm Close, Shoeburyness, Essex.

**Accra Garrison Country Dance Club.**—Captain T. JAGGER, A. & S. H., Record Office, Gold Coast Regiment, Accra, Gold Coast Colony.

**Bristol Caledonian Society.**—Miss W. MEASDY, Albion Chambers, Bristol.

**Birmingham and Midland Scottish Society (Young Scots Section).**—Mr DAVID HARLEY, 52 Hollie Lucas Road, Birmingham, 14.

**Burma Caledonian Society.**—Mr W. P. G. MACLACHLAN, c/o B.O.C. (B.T.) Ltd., 604 Merchant Street, Rangoon, Burma.



**Bournemouth and District Caledonian Society.**—Mr R. POULTNEY, "Dalziel," 51 Stokewood Road, Bournemouth.

**Bolton Caledonian Society.**—Mr R. McCANDLISH, 3 Spring Bank, Broadell Lane, Bolton, Lancs.

**Bridlington and District Caledonian Society.**—Mr A. B. MITCHELL, 17 Savage Road, Bridlington, Yorks.

**Basrah Caledonians.**—Mr D. MENZIES, P.O. Box No. 5, Basrah, Iraq.

**Carlisle Highland Association.**—Mr J. DALGLEISH, 73 Knowe Park Avenue, Stanwix, Carlisle.

**Caledonian Society of North Devon.**—Mr J. A. SIMPSON, 20 Cross Street, Barnstaple, Devon.

**Crosby Caledonian Society.**—Mr T. B. HALLEY, 30 South Parade, Great Crosby, Liverpool, 23.

**Cheadle Scottish Dance Group.**—Miss J. McLACHLAN, 3 Brookfield Crescent, Cheadle, Cheshire.

**Caledonian Society of Lincoln.**—Mr T. G. WISHART, 8 Outer Circle Drive, St. Giles, Lincoln.

**Caledonian Society of Hamburg (S.C.D. Section).**—Mr G. J. CHARLESTON, The Church of Scotland Centre, Hamburg, B.A.O.R. 3.

**Caledonians, The.**—Mr J. MCBAIN, 26 Bellevue Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, Canada.

**Caledonian Society of Switzerland Reel Club.**—Mrs A. P. WILSON, 3 Rue Henri Spiess, Malagnou, Geneva.

**Caledonian Society, Madras.**—Mr J. H. HENDRIE, c/o Parry & Co. Ltd., "Dare House," P.B. No. 12, Madras, India.

**Cambridge University Strathspey and Reel Club.**—Miss J. A. SMITH, Newnham College, Cambridge.

**Cardiff Technical College Student's Union Council S.C.D. Club.**—Miss E. DAVIS, The Technical College, Cathays Park, Cardiff.

**Combined Johannesburg Caledonian Societies.**—Mr J. H. McDONALD, 31 Bon Accord House, Harrison Street, Johannesburg.

**Dunedin Burns Club.**—Mr W. J. OLIVER, 2 Bellevue Street, Dunedin, N.W. 1, New Zealand.

**Epsom and District Caledonian Association.**—Mr R. A. Collet, Quarry House, Lynwood Road, Epsom.

**Eastbourne Scottish Country Dance Club.**—Miss M. D. ROBERTSON, 234 Victoria Drive, Eastbourne, Sussex.

**Farelf Scottish Country Dancers.**—Major A. Boyle, A. & S. H., "A" Branch, G.H.Q., Farelf, Singapore.

**Gaelic Society Dance Class.**—Mrs J. MCGREGOR, 150 Homewood Avenue, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

**Highlands Scottish Country Dance Club (Southern Rhodesia).**—Mr G. KEAY, P.O. Box 889, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.

**Hereford Scottish Country Dance Club.**—Mr S. L. BEAUMONT, 2 Offa Street, Hereford.

**Hastings Scottish Country Dance Club.**—Mr J. SETON, 309 S. Willowpark Road, Hastings, New Zealand.

**Harrogate St. Andrew's Society.**—Mr D. BOGLE, 18 Horlow Moor Drive, Harrogate.

**Hutt Valley Scottish Society.**—Mr A. E. MILNE, "Dundarg," 98 Cambridge Terrace, Lower Hutt, New Zealand.

**Harpenden Highland Games Society.**—Mr CALUM GILLIES, 43 Valley Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.

**Leamington and Warwick Caledonian Society.**—Mr W. J. INGLIS, 2 Avondale Road, Leamington Spa.

**Leicester Caledonian Society.**—Mr A. Forrest, 3 Kilworth Drive, Leicester.



- Leeds University Scottish Dance Society.**—Mr R. S. Neilson, Lyddon Hall, Virginia Road, Leeds, 2.
- Larkhill Garrison Officers' Club.**—Lt.-Col. E. H. Cox, M.C., R.A., School of Artillery, Larkhill, Wilts.
- Lusaka Scottish Country Dance Club.**—Mrs I. Halder, Box 62, Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia.
- Leeds Scottish Country Dance Club.**—Miss C. RILEY, 75 Alma Road, Leeds, 6.
- Lymm Country Dance Club.**—Mr W. D. KIRKPATRICK, 3 Crouchly Lane, Lymm, Cheshire.
- Melbourne Reel Club.**—Mr O. C. S. SMITH, 48 Moonee Street, Ascot Vale, Victoria, Australia.
- Malvern Scots Club.**—Mr A. S. YOUNG, 2 Combermere, 25 Avenue Road, Malvern, Worcs.
- Moor Allerton Memorial Hall (S.C.D. Group).**—Mr W. S. CROCKET, Stonegate Road, Moortown, Leeds.
- Manx Folk Dance Society.**—Miss C. M. GRIFFITHS, 7 Belgravia Road, Onchan, Isle of Man.
- Market Harborough Scottish Dancing Society.**—Mr C. MONK, Mayfield, 4 Gores Lane, Market Harborough, Leics.
- Nottingham Scottish Country Dance Club.**—Miss E. WYCHE, 30 Colville Street, Nottingham.
- Newport (Mon.) and District Caledonian Society.**—Mrs C. E. MORRISON, 12 Alway Crescent, Newport, Mon.
- Paton & Baldwins Reel Club.**—Miss M. GOLDSBROUGH, Paton & Baldwins Ltd., Personnel Department, Darlington.
- Prince Charles Scottish Country Dance Club of Vancouver.**—Mr W. KERR, 4258 Ontario Street, Vancouver, B.C.
- Pietermaritzburg Caledonian Society.**—Mrs M. NEASHAM, 2 Jesmond Road, Pietermaritzburg, Natal.
- R.A.F. Officers' Scottish Country Dance Society, Changi, Singapore.**—Mr D. BEAUMONT, Secretarial III, R.A.F. Station, Changi, Singapore.
- Rugby Scottish Society.**—Mrs R. W. T. COLEMAN, 18 Vicarage Road, Rugby.
- Richmond Caledonian Society.**—Mr J. T. SMALL, 232 Beechcroft Road, London, S.W.17.
- Royal Naval College, Dartmouth (Highland Dancing Society).**—THE SECRETARY, Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.
- R.A.F. Officers' S.C.D. Society of Seleter, Singapore.**—F./Lt. A. V. J. HICKS, Officers' Mess, R.A.F. Base, Seleter, Singapore, 28.
- Romford Scottish Association.**—Mr J. T. STRACHAN, 20 Carlisle Road, Romford, Essex.
- Reel and Strathspey Club of San Francisco.**—Mr J. W. BIGGAR, 400 Page Street, Apt. 106, San Francisco 2, California.
- Southampton Scottish Association.**—Mrs A. YEOMAN, 237A Vale Drive, Midanbury, Southampton.
- St. Andrew's Society of Otago.**—Miss E. WILSON, 828 Cumberland Street, Dunedin, New Zealand.
- Scots Society of St. Andrew, Slough.**—Miss G. M. MACLEAN, 105 Welling Street, Slough.
- Scots Society of St. Andrew, Bedford.**—Mr W. G. MENNIE, 14 Fosterhill Road, Bedford.
- St. Andrew's Scottish Dancing Society, Reading.**—Mr G. BROWN, 163 King's Road, Reading.
- Stratford-on-Avon Caledonian Society.**—Mrs E. M. SOMERVILLE, 97 Albany Road, Stratford-on-Avon.
- Scottish Country Dance Association, Bombay.**—Mr J. C. WILLIAMSON, Messrs W. Jacks & Co. Ltd., Hamilton House, Ballard Estate. P.O. Box 335, Bombay, 1.



**Scottish Country Dance Club of Sandakan.**—Mr J. M. DEAN, Box 169, Sandakan Colony, North Borneo.

**Scottish Country Dance Group of Philadelphia.**—Miss E. CRICHTON, 225 North 63rd Street, Philadelphia, 39, U.S.A.

**South East Essex Scottish Society Reel Club.**—Mr J. MATHIESON, 115 Western Road, Leigh-on-Sea.

**Scottish Country Dance Association of East Africa.**—Mr W. G. N. STIRLING, Box 6083, Nairobi, Kenya.

**St. Andrew's Society of Masterton.**—THE SECRETARY, St. Andrew's Society of Masterton, New Zealand.

**Scottish Reel and Country Dancing (Selangor) Society.**—Mrs A. KIRKPATRICK, P.O. Box 702, Kuala Lumpur, Malaya.

**South of Manchester Folk Dance Centre.**—Mr H. R. BALDREY, 505 Wilbraham Road, Manchester, 21.

**St. Andrew's S.C.D. Society, Calcutta.**—Mr S. GOLD, c/o Messrs Bird & Co. Ltd., (Mills Department), Chartered Bank Buildings, Calcutta.

**Scottish Country Dance Society of British Columbia.**—Mrs J. FORBES, 3527 Wellington Street, Vancouver, 16, B.C.

**Singapore St. Andrew's Society.**—Mr J. L. PATTISON, c/o The Singapore Traction Co. Ltd., P.O. Box 841, Mackenzie Road, Singapore.

**St. Andrew Scottish Country Dance Class, Portsmouth.**—Mr A. MUNRO, "Canmohr," Grant Road, Farlington, Portsmouth.

**Scottish Dance Party.**—Mrs M. ROBERTS, 24 Holmfield Avenue, Manchester, 9.

**Scottish Country Dance Group of Hamilton.**—Mrs R. BURK, 34 Senator Avenue, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

**Scottish Association for Wallington, Carshalton and District.**—Miss G. D. INGLIS, 43 Blenheim Gardens, Wallington, Surrey.

**Scarborough Caledonian Society.**—Mr S. MCINTOSH, 24 West Street, Scarborough, Yorks.

**Scottish Country Dance Class, Kuwait.**—Mrs K. DUVALL, Kuwait Oil Co. Ltd., Ahmadi, Kuwait, Persian Gulf.

**St. Andrew's Scottish Country Dance Society, Swansea.**—Mr T. R. LLEWELLYN, 23 King's Road, Mumbles, Swansea.

**Scottish Country Dance Club, East London.**—Miss Y. J. BAIN, 12 Butler Road, Highgate, East London, S. Africa.

**Scots Society of St. Andrew, Norwich.**—Mr A. M. SWAN, 41 Catton Grove Road, Norwich.

**Torquay and District Scottish Society.**—Mrs E. PORRITT, Riversdale, Kent's Road, Torquay, Devon.

**Victoria Police Highland Pipe Band (S.C.D. Classes).**—Mr C. H. ANDERSON, Police Headquarters, Russell Street, Melbourne, C.I, Victoria, Australia.

**Wellington Association of Scots Societies.**—Mr H. SMITH, P.O. Box 1936, Wellington, C.I, New Zealand.

**Wairoa Scottish Society.**—Mr C. A. BOWMAN, Rehutai R.D.7, Dargaville, Northland, New Zealand

**Weston-Super-Mare Strathspey and Reel Club.**—

**Wallaceville Laboratory Scottish Country Dance Club.**—Mr D. C. DODD, c/o Wallaceville Animal Research Station, Private Bag, Wellington, New Zealand.

**Wellington and District Caledonian Society.**—Mr D. MITCHELL, 34 Madeley Road, Ironbridge, Shropshire.



## Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 1st November 1952

THE Twenty-third Annual General Meeting of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society was held on Saturday, 1st November 1952, at 2.30 p.m., in the McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow.

PRESENT.—Lord James Stewart Murray (Duke of Atholl) presided, and there was approximately an attendance of 450 members of whom 80 were delegates representing Branches.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS.—Lord James Stewart Murray in his address reminded the members that this meeting was of special significance being the first to be held under the new title of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. He knew how greatly the members appreciated the honour conferred on the Society by his Late Majesty. Lord James said that it was hoped that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth would be pleased to grant the Society's request of giving it her patronage, and he thought that this might be possible because the work of the Society was not confined to Scotland but had spread its influence to the Dominions, America and many other places. The President said that it would seem that almost by accident the Society had produced in Scottish country dancing an antidote to that dangerous boredom to be seen amongst so many of our workers, caused by the technique of mass production and the deadening effect of a rather top-heavy bureaucracy. That in itself was an important contribution to the welfare of the community.

Lord James continued his remarks by mentioning that the Society now had 62 Branches with an approximate membership of 14,500. He said that on looking through the Branch reports he was struck by the fact that Miss Milligan seemed to have solved the secret of perpetual motion, and that he would not be surprised if by next year there were letters of thanks to Miss Milligan from such places as Singapore and The Bund, Shanghai!

In conclusion Lord James thanked the members of the various Committees for their work during the year, and also all who worked behind the scenes including the Secretaries of Branches.

MINUTES.—The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 3rd November 1951 (circulated in the *Bulletin*) were approved and signed.

MINUTES.—The Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 22nd March 1951 (circulated in the *Bulletin*) were approved and signed.

ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT.—The Annual Report, which was published in the *Bulletin*, was adopted having been proposed by Mr Sharpe (Dundee) and seconded by Miss Anderson (Edinburgh).

ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL REPORT.—The Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet, circulated to members, were presented by Mr Duncan (Banff), a member of the Finance Committee. He said that in the accounts for 1951/52 certain changes had been made with the object of making them simple and concise. Comparative figures for the previous year had been added. The Revenue Account showed that the Society had had a good year and in spite of increased expenditure the surplus had been maintained. Membership had increased; administrative expenses were higher largely because a full-time clerical assistant had been appointed. The *Bulletin* had been exceptionally expensive but fortunately owing to the fall in the price of paper the 1952 *Bulletin* would be nearly £100 cheaper. Included in the expenditure was the cost of revising the Constitution, which had cost £396, 12s. 6d. to print in draft and in its final form. The Society's



thanks were due to its legal adviser for his expert help and advice, and for his modest fee of £55.

The Publications Account, which was shown separately, showed that purchases at £3471 had doubled the previous year's figure; in addition to the normal publication for members several books had to be reprinted and at the date of the Balance Sheet there was a further liability for publications in the hands of the printers totalling £2038. For this reason the Society had made no additional investments, apart from placing £1000 in a Bank Savings Account.

Mr Duncan then drew attention to the 1952-53 estimates which were presented for the first time, and referred to the fact that £300 reserved to meet the cost of the new Constitution would not now be required.

Mr McKell (Kirkcudbright) moved the adoption of the Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet, and Mr Aitkenhead (North-West Ayrshire) seconded the motion, which was carried.

RE-APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR.—Mr Adam (Stirlingshire) proposed the re-appointment of Mr Norman McKinnon, C.A., of Messrs Hyslop, Lyle and McKinnon, C.A., Ayr, as Auditor. This was seconded by Mr Clement (Perth) and unanimously adopted by the meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS, 1952-53.—Miss Milligan proposed the confirmation of the appointment of Lord James Stewart Murray (Duke of Atholl) as President of the Society, and of Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich as Hon. Vice-President. She paid tribute to the help Lord James had given to the Society and to Mrs Stewart for her inspiration in the beginning of the Society. Mrs Brown seconded the proposal which was approved by the meeting.

CHAIRMAN.—Only one nomination was received for the office of Chairman; Miss Milligan was therefore elected.

VICE-CHAIRMAN.—No nominations having been received for the office of Vice-Chairman, Mrs Brown, the present Vice-Chairman, was re-elected by the delegates.

There were eleven nominations for the six vacancies on the Executive Council. On a vote being taken the following members were elected:—Mrs Gudger (Rochdale), Mrs Hutchison (Dundee), Miss MacLagan (Perth), Mr Macleod (Glasgow), Mr Murray (Inverness), Mr Robertson (Angus).

DONATION TO KING GEORGE VI NATIONAL MEMORIAL FUND.—Permission having been obtained by the Chairman to discuss a matter which was not on the Agenda, a recommendation was put forward on behalf of the Management Committee that a first donation of £50 be sent from the Society to the King George VI National Memorial Fund, and that Branches should be invited to send in further contributions to the fund by the end of January.

The meeting unanimously approved the recommendation after a motion was moved by Mr McKell (Kirkcudbright) that the amount donated by the Society should be £250.

#### RESOLUTIONS FROM BRANCHES:—

(1) *Clackmannanshire and Lockerbie Branches*.—Mrs Hill (Clackmannanshire) proposed that the four weeks of the Summer School be divided into

- (a) one fortnightly course and two courses of one week each, or
- (b) four courses of one week each.

Mrs Murray (Lockerbie) seconded the resolution. Mr McKell (Kirkcudbright) moved an amendment recommending that in future, while consideration should be given to one week applicants, the arrangements should remain as at present and there should



be no definite ruling as to the length of the courses. Mr Macleod (Glasgow) seconded the amendment. On a vote being taken the amendment was carried.

(2) *Edinburgh Branch*.—Dr Thompson (Edinburgh) moved the resolution, seconded by Miss Edwards (Edinburgh).

“That this meeting, *i.e.*, the Annual General Meeting of the Parent Body, views with concern the amount of work and expense involved in the distribution by Branches of Head Office circulars, and considers that these duties should not be carried out by a Branch on its present proportion of the annual subscription.”

Mr Adam (Stirlingshire) put forward an amendment that the matter be directed back to the Executive Council for full discussion. This amendment was seconded by Mr Macleod (Glasgow). On a vote being taken the resolution was carried.

Mr Gray (Edinburgh) proposed :—

“That the proportion of the annual subscription to be retained by Branches shall be increased from 10 per cent. to 20 per cent.”

Miss Anderson seconded the motion.

An amendment was tabled by Mr McKell (Kirkcudbright), and seconded by Mr Robertson (Angus).

“That if Branches found that undue expenses were incurred through postage of Head Office circulars a claim for re-imbusement should be made by the Branch to the Executive Council.”

On a vote being taken the amendment was carried.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1953.—The President announced that the Executive Council had accepted with pleasure an invitation from Ayr Branch to hold the Annual General Meeting in 1953 in Ayr.

VOTE OF THANKS.—Mr Gray (Edinburgh) proposed a vote of thanks to Lord James Stewart Murray for presiding at the meeting, to the Glasgow Branch for the hospitality shown to the Society and for the successful arrangements for the Autumn School.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

---

## International Folk Music Council Festival, Biarritz-Pamplona 9th - 15th July 1953

VICTORIA Station on the morning of 8th July was the first scene of our journey, and excitement and anticipation were evident on the faces of everyone we met on the platform. Among the throng were the dancers from Northern Ireland and England, and we were happy to see the kent faces of friends we had met during previous trips. We travelled together across France, and early next morning arrived in Biarritz. The station there was gaily bedecked with flowers, mainly huge hydrangea, and, under banners of welcome, the Festival Committee met and escorted us to our various hotels. The Scottish contingent was accommodated in Hotel St. Julien where Madame greeted us most cordially. We were soon sitting down to a most welcome meal; most of our meals at Hotel St. Julien were taken in the garden under the shelter of a magnificent leafy bower which was lit by electric light in the evening and looked like a corner of fairy-land.

It is impossible to include all the activities of the Festival in this short article, or to describe our feeling during the excitement and bustle of the next week. We can



only hope to mention here the main engagements, but we ourselves will always carry with us the memory of a glorious trip.

During our first day in Biarritz we were told details of the tour, and we attended a reception held on the roof-top of the Grand Casino. The teams from twenty-five countries, all in their gay and varied costumes, presented a colourful spectacle in the brilliant sunshine, and the wonderful view of huge breakers on the beach below with the towering Pyrenees in the distance made a picture we shall always remember.

At 7.30 next morning we started our journey to Pamplona. We travelled by bus through the Pyrenees, and the beauty of the mountain scenery with valleys, streams and forests was quite beyond description. We found crowds everywhere in Pamplona, in the streets, on the balconies and the roof-tops. As the dancers formed a long procession the excited throng cheered hilariously giving us a welcome which we will never forget. We were led to the old town square where, to our amazement, we were met by enormous dancing images. Bands played, people cheered and danced, and we felt as if we had stepped into a story-book world. In all this babble of sound the skirl of the pipes roused wild enthusiasm! With the shoving and jostling of the good humoured crowd the women of our team had rather an alarming experience when they found themselves separated from the rest of the dancers. Eventually, however, after much Spanish-English-French conversation they managed to make their way to the beautiful convent where they were accommodated. The men were given hospitality in a nearby monastery.

The first night of our stay in Pamplona we were taken to see the great Festival bull-fight in the *Corrida de Toros*. The vast arena was packed with an almost hysterical crowd which showed approval of the matadors' prowess by cheering and waving white handkerchiefs, or disapproval by a continuous rhythm of three hand-claps. We felt that only Spanish people brought up to bull-fighting could enjoy this sport; the performance, although very skilful, did not appeal to us at all. The bull-fight over, all the dancers gathered in the arena, and from there we marched through packed streets carrying flaming torches high above our heads. How proud we were to carry our St. Andrew's flag and to hear *Escocia* being welcomed so loudly and continuously along the route! The procession wound its way back to the arena, and there under a starlit sky we danced in the first gala performance of the Festival. The stands were overflowing with people and the exuberance of the audience gave us a great feeling of exhilaration. During the interval we saw a most spectacular display of fireworks.

Next day we were entertained by the Ballet Basque who performed a number of traditional dances, and by a mixed Basque choir singing their national songs. It was a delightful entertainment, many of the airs reminding us of Hebridean melodies. Later that day we were asked to dance by the Spanish Newsreel Film Company; we chose an *Eightsome Reel* which we danced in a beautiful ornamental garden. The heat was so intense that we were all presented with little fans and plied with numerous glasses of coffee. In the evening we watched the second Festival performance in which groups who had not danced the previous night took part.

We were back at the bullring by 7 o'clock the following morning, but we were told that this time the bulls were to be the masters. By battling our way into the arena we managed to get seats and waited expectantly to see what was to happen. Suddenly a cannon was fired, the arena doors were thrown open and into the ring rushed hundreds of youths followed by six bulls with padded horns. To our horror we saw the youths goad and tease the bulls who tossed them high in the air if they were not sufficiently agile to escape. This was our last memory of Pamplona. A little while later we were in the bus and speeding over the mountains back to the peaceful beauty of Biarritz.

We had all hoped to see *Pelota*, the national game of the Basque country, and we were not disappointed for we were invited to watch a championship game on our return to Biarritz. The skill and agility of the players impressed us all tremendously.



We had many other interesting engagements during the remainder of our stay. Once more we danced before the film cameras, but fortunately the weather was not so hot as in Pamplona, and we all enjoyed the performance in the open air. As always when we danced, the skirl of the pipes and the swirl of white dresses and kilts attracted interested spectators. At night all the teams danced in the Plaza Berri where there was a large enthusiastic audience, and the programme lasted till well after midnight.

A highlight of our trip was the visit we made to the home of Louise, Duchess of Argyll. The Duchess graciously received us in her beautiful villa, and we were led to the loggia where we were given a real Highland welcome. There were a number of titled guests present, and we were delighted when we were asked to dance for them. We began with The Reel of the 51st Division as our hostess had given great assistance to the Highland Division during their imprisonment in Germany. It was truly a gathering of the clans abroad and we all had a very happy time. Collin, the Duchess' younger son, was thrilled to wear his Campbell kilt and was most excited to be surrounded by Scotsmen in similar dress.

One of the most amusing incidents of the trip occurred in the Grand Casino, Biarritz, when the heavy cord and tassels of our flag wound round a wire stretched high immediately in front of the stage. Much to the delight and amusement of the audience all efforts to disentangle the flag were of no avail, and eventually we had to pull it, still attached, to the side of the stage to enable the audience to see the team. It was taken down later with the aid of a ladder. Although our entry had been thus hilariously interrupted our performance was greatly appreciated, and we were called back to dance the Eightsome Reel.

On Bastille Day, 14th July, there was a grand procession of all the teams to the Biarritz War Memorial, beautifully situated amid the feathery fern trees which grew in abundance all around. When the teams assembled, a minute's silence was observed and then a member of each team laid a sheaf of flowers on the Memorial. The procession marched back through the town and we finished with an impromptu dance. One of our outdoor performances was given in the Sports Park on a glorious afternoon. This was followed in the evening by a torch-light procession through the town and a fireworks display at the Grande Plage, where the wonderful colours of the rockets and set pieces were reflected in the sea. As the last glittering rainbow of stars fell we felt rather sad; our exciting and breath-taking week was over, but what memories we all have of Le Festival Folklorique 1953 !

---

## The Summer School of 1953

IF, apart from "dancing," a keynote or theme for the Summer Schools of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society was asked—at once one could reply "Happiness and Friendliness." This must not in any way be confused with that curious form of forced gaiety and pseudo-familiarity that is liable to be met with in certain gatherings-together of human kind: far from it—here is found a spontaneous surge of well-being and good company engendered by the happy zeal and common love for the National Dance that have brought together from all over Scotland and from beyond her borders, people from all sections of life, professions and society—to teach and to be taught.

Many cultural bodies hold Summer Schools—but assuredly—nowhere else can the uniqueness of our own be found. We are no exclusive gathering of freakish souls reverently searching with earnest mien to revive and perpetuate some curious antique cult—here



is a school of normal folk whose enthusiasm for their living tradition of dancing is great with a healthy exuberance knowing no age barrier.

The first thing apparent to anyone attending the course is the generous "almost informality" of it all: here is no ultra-filtered, over-pigeon-holed bureaucratic system garnished with "dents" and garlanded with red tape. Instead, in spite of its ever-growing popularity and subsequent increased numbers, a quiet and responsible administration of friendly efficiency is maintained—on the part of those who teach: with a confident enthusiasm that is infectious on their classes—on the part of the organising staff: ever-considerate, although frequently sore-trying, in directing enquiries and questions no matter how necessary or trivial with a benign serenity. It is all a masterpiece of production: the art that hides art. This must give the highest satisfaction to that noble vanguard of brave, farseeing ladies who, somewhat tentatively, twenty-two years ago started the campaign of the Summer School. To-day this ever-popular School maintains its high standards with a confident assurance matured in experience and mellowed with the affection of its students both old and new: only thus could be born the keynote and theme—Happiness and Friendliness.

This year's School was a pleasant metange of "old boys" and freshmen—of dancers elementary and experienced from all over Britain. The days rushed by absurdly quickly as ordered life always does, and one gasped to realise that the fortnight really had passed. The weather was kind—especially during the second fortnight so St. Andrews against a sky worthy of the Mediterranean and dominating a sparkling sea radiated in the clear light with its ancient graciousness.

During the School a number of lectures were given: in the first week Miss Milligan gave an excellent and comprehensive talk to the School which was much appreciated while on another occasion Mr Murray spoke on "The purpose of Demonstration." Dr Mearns who is the Medical Advisor to the Scottish Council of Health Education spoke on the subject of "Health Steps." This subject, sounding basically prosaic, was used as an innemonic and scintillated with his candid comment, caustic wit and brilliant delivery. The large audience sat for nigh an hour entranced in his spell and greedily wished for more.

In the last week a lecture on *Piurt-a-beul* (Mouth-Music) was given by Iain Robertson who to an equally-large audience passed on some of his knowledge of the ancient music of Scotland. The focal point of the talk was the *Piurt-a-beul* for dancing—and before the end of the hour the large "choir" present, with the aid of sheets of phoneticised Gaelic were making a hearty and commendable success of "*Brochan Lan*" "*Saun an Ile*," "*Ubhi Abhi*," and "*Bodachan a mhirein*." Apart from the actual content of these lectures, one of the most greatly enjoyed features was the lack of the cold impersonality of the college rostrum and even in such a thing as a "lecture," there was apparent the social aspect of the friendly "talk with" rather than the "talk to" the audience to whom the speakers were already well known.

The staff of instructors and instructresses is to be commended—when one hears explained dances of the most complex form in the most lucid manner, one realises that such ease and clarity is born only of preparation and experience. So many people are apt to take such things so much for granted—until they have to do it themselves. In spite of their relentless standards and exacting demands, the Technique and Highland Classes are fuller than ever. The Men's Highland rose to a new high register of fifty-six—some were already well on the way to being "Highland Faeries," many still were keen kangaroos, and some few—enthusiastic elephants—but under that terpsichorean wizard Mr Watson in a fantastically short time the entire company were performing the most surprising feats in the art of Highland Dancing—and before the end the Highland Faeries became more ethereal, the Kangaroos more elevated and the elephants more elated.

Social Dancing in the evening was its usual great success—although a somewhat



crowded one. This year's course had a record number of non-residents and these had to be "rationed" as on what evenings they might dance. In spite of this evening dancing was over-full—but this only added to the "house-party" atmosphere already famous, and when the famous Milligan "Clear the Floor, please" call came—one wondered what new "surprise" was in store. Between the dances there was Highland Solo Dancing by Bobby Watson and Jack Johnson, Manx Dancing by Stephen Newbold, and Irish Dancing by Brian Lilley—and Gaelic and Scottish Singing by Iain Robertson—and all the people present. Teams of dancers performed some of the new dances also; behind many a pleasant smile was a mind petrified with fear. It is bad enough performing a dance, no matter how well known, to a company of experts—most of whom are known to the performer—but—to perform a new dance, presented for the first time in the morning and digested for about ten minutes before the performance is something akin to "trial by ordeal" or a labour of Hercules. However, the audiences greatly appreciated their work—as did the dancers and spectators in the Younger Hall at the Weekly Dances organised by the Town and patronised by the Society and the Summer School. These dances, started as an attraction to visitors and holiday makers during the Year of the Festival of Britain, have been continued since and have become more and more popular. Our help in making these a success is greatly appreciated by the Town—as the Provost publicly stated in her presentation by Miss Milligan and Miss Hadden. It says a great deal for the prestige of the Summer School—for the behaviour of all the schools of the previous years that we are accepted into that "exclusive" family of the Town of St. Andrews—we are now a part of their tradition—we are welcomed in the shops and cafes—they express regret when we leave—we are granted the privilege of their Academic Residences. It is therefore up to us—whether old or young—whether "initiated" or "neephyte" to see that we do nothing in any way to offend the residents or to undo any of the building up of this great prestige.

When there is a new Book to be presented—there is always much excitement and conjecture as to its content. The new Book, No. 17, is no anti-climax it is a symposium of choice "danceable" dances with a mood and aura of courtly dignity and easy grace. Perhaps the favourites were Miss Lucy Campbell and—that dance of enchantment and poise—The Gentle Shepherd. Alan Ramsay himself could not have wished a more entrancing dance expression of his delicate pastorelle. That which goes complementary to the new Book is their presentation for the first time—by Miss Milligan—into them, the new born of the Society, and into her enormous class she instils and inspires her loving care for, and her unending enthusiasm, keenness and affection. It is no wonder that throughout Scotland she is beloved to those who know her and a legend to those who do not. Her standards are high, she gives much to and expects much of her "family"—she is a great soul, and one unique. She is the cornerstone of the Summer Schools—over them as directress, she reigns with a gentle severity and loving ruthlessness.

For the Summer School we are grateful to many people—and many thank yous have been said. Not the least on the last Sunday was the full-throated thanksgiving of many voices singing in that Ballroom—usually for us a sparkle with Reels and Strathspeys—the other music that has made our Nation great—the hymns and the psalms—"Wiltshire," "Crimond," and the Majestic Doxology.

### SUMMER SCHOOL, 1954

All members must apply to the Secretary, Thornhill, Cairnmuir Road, Edinburgh, 12, by 31st January 1954, for Summer School application forms, which will be sent in March.

Please state whether Resident or Non-Resident form is required.



### CORONATION BOOK

The Battle of Prestonpans was fought on 21st September 1745, and was therefore probably the reason for the dance "The 21st of September." The Allemande right and left is meant (it is suggested) to portray the scattering of the English army. The tune Johnny Cope would therefore be a very suitable alternative.

### CONSTITUTION AND RULES

Copies of the Constitution and Rules booklet can be obtained from the Secretary, price 6d. each.

### TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE ROYAL 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/-.

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

*Interim Treasurer*—Miss D. M. VAUGHAN, F.C.A., 108 Hanover Street, Edinburgh, 2.

Will members please note that the end of the Financial year is now 30th June.



**GRAMOPHONE RECORDS OF SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCES**

*can always be procured from . . .*

**RAE, MACINTOSH**  
AND COMPANY LIMITED

**39 George Street • Edinburgh, 2**

WE MAIL RECORDS CAREFULLY PACKED  
TO ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD AND ALL  
ENQUIRIES RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION.

A FULL AND COMPREHENSIVE STOCK OF  
RECORDS IS ALWAYS CARRIED AND LISTS  
WILL BE SENT ON RECEIPT OF A POSTCARD.

WE PUBLISH *the following*  
*New Dances at 2/- each*  
*(Postage Extra)*

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF EDINBURGH  
PRINCE CHARLES OF EDINBURGH  
THE ANGUS REEL  
PRINCESS MARGARET'S STRATHSPEY  
FAIR MAID OF PERTH  
MACPHERSONS OF EDINBURGH  
THE ROBERTSON RANT  
MEN OF ANGUS  
LORD STORMONT REEL

*All with music and instructions.*

SCOTTISH WALTZ by *John Robertson*  
*as played on H.M.V.B. 9752.*

FOUR SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCES  
by *Cecilia Barkla*

OFFICIAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE BOOKS are always available from our Music Department.





# of Perth **Norwell's**

## HAND SEWN SCOTTISH FLING SANDALS

CHILDS Sizes 7 - 10, 25/- BOYS & GIRLS Sizes 11 - 2, 27/6

WOMENS Sizes 3 - 8, 32/6 MENS Sizes 6 - 11, 35/-

*Stocks carried in Black only. Extremely light and flexible.*

Made in Full Sizes only, and Narrow, Medium and Wide fittings.

## MACHINE SEWN SANDALS

(Same model as illustration)

7-10, 16/6 11-2, 18/6 3-8, 21/- 6-11, 22/6

Made in Medium fitting only.

*These can be made in  
all colours in 14 days*



## Norwell's Perth Footwear Ltd.

145 SOUTH STREET, PERTH

TRUST THE MAN BEHIND THE BOOT

## TARTAN SKIRTS THE IDEAL GARMENT FOR SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

- Available in over 250 tartans. Patterns, style book, and measurement form gladly sent.
- We also stock sashes, sash brooches, dancing pumps, etc.
- Gents' full Highland Day and Evening Wear, kilts, hose, kilt jackets, doublets, sporrans, skean dubhs, etc.
- Also in stock, a large selection of children's kilts, tartan rugs, scarves, ties, clan crests, etc.

---

## J. MORRISON

HIGHLAND OUTFITTERS

Dept. S.C., 461 Lawnmarket, Edinburgh. (Cen. 7041)