

**The Royal  
Scottish Country  
Dance Society  
Bulletin.**

No. 33.

OCTOBER 1955.



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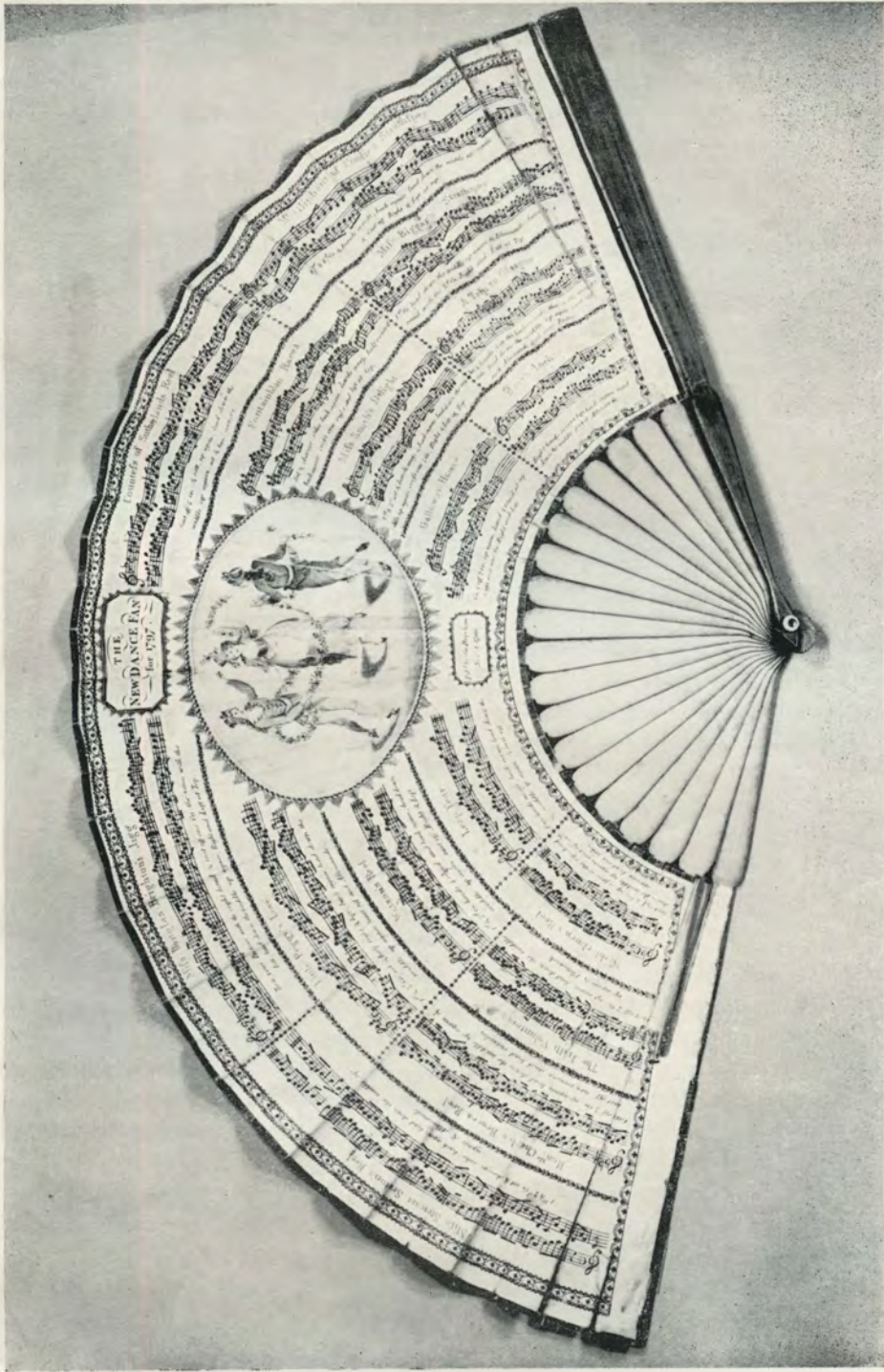
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# The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Bulletin

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## Annual Report

IT is interesting to look back at some of the milestones that have marked progress and given distinction to the Society. In 1951 His Majesty King George VI gave his gracious permission that the word "Royal" should be used in the title. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in 1952 bestowed her patronage on the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society; and now in 1955 an ambition of long standing has been realised. The Society has acquired suitable premises for its Headquarters in 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, within a few minutes' walking distance from the west end of Princes Street. This action was taken as a result of considered thought by all those who serve the interests of the Society. It was felt that the setting up of a Headquarters was an investment that was necessary, desirable and justifiable.

From district, national and international reports, the popularity and practice of Scottish dances are still assured. They continue to give pleasure and entertainment to many thousands of people. They are an excellent basis of training for the young, and the fact that they have at their roots many elements of our Scottish history and custom make them doubly interesting and significant. Scottish dances with their lovely tunes now seem fairly established as part of our national life. They certainly seem to have met the demands of the present, while transmitting some of the values of the past. Therein, perhaps, lies the secret of their success.

Over the years teams from Scotland have brought the music of the pipes and the dances of their own land to Italy, France, Holland, Spain and Norway. Teams from all over the continent have demonstrated with them, and through a common love of dance and music, friendships have been formed, and—although perhaps only in a small way—international understanding has been increased.

Our co-founders, Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich and Miss Jean Milligan, who were inspired to take up the challenge of reviving Scottish Country Dancing, are to be congratulated on the response from the community, signifying as it does that all sections of society have been affected. Achievements have outpaced early hopes. It is always salutary, however, to take stock so that a diagnosis of the over-all position in 1954-55 comes from an examination of its details. It is true that in some districts the numbers attending classes have decreased and that at a few Festivals the entries have not been so large. There is, however, still growth and expansion, so that the membership of the Society is being maintained.

The Society has now increasing responsibilities, but sustained by the interest it has been capable of creating, it looks forward to stabilising its position and to a continual development.

The following details will be of general interest to members.



**AUTUMN GENERAL MEETING AND AUTUMN SCHOOL.** The Annual General Meeting was held on 30th October 1954, in Aberdeen. At the invitation of Aberdeen, Branch representatives of the Executive Council were entertained to luncheon, and hospitality was given to visiting members at tea after the Annual General Meeting. A very successful Ball and Dance were held. The Executive Council would like to express appreciation of all the hard work which is entailed by a Branch which acts as host on such occasions.

**NATIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS TEAM, BERGEN, 1955.** The following members took part in the Bergen Festival from 5th to 9th July:—

Miss D. Robertson (Glasgow)	Mr L. Cumming (Edinburgh)
Miss S. Cameron (Edinburgh)	Mr K. Connolly (Edinburgh)
Miss M. Storrar (Edinburgh)	Mr W. Hamilton (Glasgow)
Miss D. McCartney (Castle Douglas)	Mr J. Johnstone (Dumfries)
Miss A. Mann (Dundee)	Mr I. Robertson (Edinburgh)

Piper—Mr Clement (Perth).

An account of the visit will be given later in the *Bulletin*.

**EXAMINATIONS.** During the year examinations have been held in the following centres:—Aberdeen, Ayr, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Belfast, Birmingham, Carlisle, Castle Douglas, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Kirkcaldy, London, Manchester, Moffat, Newcastle, West Renfrewshire. Examinations were also held in Anstey College of Physical Education, Birmingham; Dunfermline College of Physical Education, Aberdeen; Jordanhill Training College, Glasgow; Notre Dame R.C. Training College, Glasgow; Scottish School of Physical Education, Glasgow.

In the Preliminary Test there were 293 passes and 92 failures; in the Teacher's Certificate Examination there were 108 passes and 22 failures.

**NEW PUBLICATION.** A collection of twelve traditional dances has been prepared, and will be published in the autumn. Most of the work has been done by Miss Milligan, who found the dances and the music in old manuscripts; Dr Herbert Wiseman has arranged the tunes. Members will receive a copy of Book 18 after publication and on payment of current subscription.

**MEMBERSHIP.** Membership of the Society now stands at approximately 16,000 members, 78 Branches and 108 Affiliated Groups.

**SUMMER SCHOOL.** The Summer School was held in the University Hall, St. Andrews, from 25th July until 22nd August. Bookings have been greater than ever and applications still exceed the available accommodation.

The Executive Council welcome this opportunity of paying tribute to the work of Miss Milligan and her staff of teachers and pianists.



## Branch Reports

**ABERDEEN.** Secretary, Miss A. O. Cumming, 19 Mile End Avenue, Aberdeen.—During the season 1954-55 our membership remained almost the same as last year. 686 members paid ordinary subscriptions while 16 joined as Life Members, bringing our total of Life Members up to 99.

In July 1954 the Branch suffered a great loss by the death of Sir George Ogilvie Forbes of Boyndlie. His bright and genial personality will be greatly missed in the wide circle of friends he enjoyed and also in the many Societies in which he took a very lively interest.

At an Examination for the Preliminary Teachers' Certificate held in March 1955 six candidates were successful; in connection with this we are indebted to Miss Wallace, who put so much time and thought into the training of the class.

Many displays have been given by our members in and out of town, while many classes outside the Society were taught by our Certificated Teachers.

The highlight of the year was the Autumn Week-end of 29th and 30th October 1954, when Aberdeen Branch, on the occasion of the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, was proud to have the privilege of welcoming members of Branches from all parts of Great Britain and Ireland. A special word of praise was due to the Aberdeen Links and Parks Committee for the beautiful floral decorations provided.

As in former years the Branch provided the Adjudicators for the Senior Youth Club's Scottish Country Dance Competition. The winner in the girls' section was Holburn Street and in the Mixed Section, Torry.

At the Scottish Country Dance Festival held in March 1955, at which 119 teams competed, the Aberdeen Branch was represented by 11 teams, all of which gave displays of a very high standard. Two of the teams won the trophies in the Women's Open and Mixed Open Classes.

The Aberdeen Scottish Country Dance Club, now four years old, attracted a larger number of visitors than previously, which meant that the Club was becoming known to a wider public.

**ADELAIDE.** Secretary, Mrs Rattray, 29 Stanley Road, Blair Athol, Adelaide, Australia.—This Branch is glad to report a third very successful season with a good increase in membership. We have now thoroughly established Scottish Country Dancing in this city, where it was very little known before.

Our weekly classes are held from March to December, these being the cooler months here, and about 70 keen dancers attend each week. We have continued our monthly dances this season, which are appreciated by our more experienced dancers.

**AIRDRIE, COATBRIDGE and DISTRICT.**—Secretary, Miss E. Provan, 166 Aitchison Street, Airdrie.—The membership of this Branch at present is 161.

The Branch had three classes during 1954-55—one for advanced dancers, one for beginners and intermediates, and one for juveniles.

On 26th January 1955, the Annual Dance of the Branch was held in the Sir John Wilson Town Hall, Airdrie, and all members present had a most enjoyable evening.

On 1st April 1955, Miss Allie Anderson visited Airdrie Lesser Hall, and the evening proved most beneficial to the members present; and on 13th April 1955 the children from the juvenile class (whose ages ranged from 6 to 12), gave a wonderful display of dancing.

Our grateful thanks are due to the teachers and pianists, on whom we so greatly depend.

**ANNAN.** Secretary, Miss B. M. Calver, 90 High Street, Annan.—Membership of the Branch fell from 154 last year to 130 this year. In spite of this falling off in numbers, classes and social evenings were well attended.

The Branch ran three classes during the session, a beginners', an intermediate and



an advanced class. We are indebted to the Education Committee for granting the use of a school hall for these classes. A fourth class for experienced dancers and demonstration work was formed in December for a session of ten lessons. The members of this class gave a display at the end of the session which was greatly enjoyed by an appreciative audience. This class also provided teams for demonstrating at guilds and clubs in the district.

Monthly dances were held during the session, a Christmas Dance, and the Highland Ball on Friday, 4th March. The Ball was well attended by our own and members from neighbouring Branches. The music was by Jimmy Shand and his Band.

In March the Branch held a Week-end School conducted by Mrs Lesslie.

The Branch regrets losing its very enthusiastic President, Mr Neil Beattie, who is leaving the district. We would here like to express our thanks to our teachers and pianists for their splendid work during the session.

**ARBROATH.** Secretary, Mrs E. A. Robertson, J.P., 34 Viewfield Road, Arbroath.—The Branch has had a most enjoyable year and all the classes were well supported.

All the centres at Arbroath, Brechin, Montrose and Kirriemuir had most successful classes and the standard of dancing was well maintained.

Dances were run at all the centres and many visitors from neighbouring Branches were made welcome.

Demonstration teams gave help in entertaining old people and at other local gatherings.

Teachers belonging to the Branch gave voluntary service in running children's classes and in teaching Scottish Country Dancing to youth organisations.

**AUCHTERARDER.** Secretary, Mrs H. C. Hunter, 36 Queen's Terrace, Auchterarder.—Our second year as a Branch of the R.S.C.D.S. also marks our twenty-first year as a Scottish Country Dance Class and a most enjoyable party was held in March to celebrate our majority. The weekly club, under the instruction of Miss C. R. Duff, President of the Branch, goes on from strength to strength. Membership of the Branch now stands at 74 ordinary members and 4 Life Members (3 having been transferred from Perth Branch), of whom 75 are members of the Club.

During the year we have held two big dances in the Aytoun Hall, when we had excellent support from neighbouring classes.

**AYR.** Secretary, Miss J. Matheson, 48 Westwood Avenue, Mainholm, Ayr.—Although there was a slight decrease in membership classes had been well attended. Three general classes, two couples classes and four children's classes were held in Ayr and Troon.

The Annual General Ball was again held in Butlin's, Heads of Ayr Hotel, and was most successful.

The Branch teams were very much in demand during the past winter and had given sixteen demonstrations in all.

Plans for the coming session were well in hand.

**AYRSHIRE, North-West.** Secretary, Miss A. P. N. Stevenson, 192 High Road, Saltcoats.—This Branch has finished another successful year with a membership of 500.

Monthly dances were held in the various districts of the Branch; Christmas and Easter Balls and the Summer Dance were held in Ardrossan, all of which were well attended.

Early this year a series of Technique Classes were held, instructed by Miss Doris Robertson, Glasgow, and Mr A. Aitkenhead, our Honorary President. Miss Robertson's session in general rhythm and mobility exercises was greatly appreciated by a large class.

A Ladies Team and a Mixed Team were entered for the Ayrshire Music Festival; both teams gained second places.

Demonstrations given by a Mixed Team at an old people's concert were enthusiastically received, especially "The Lads of Saltcoats," a dance written in 1760 and discovered in the files of a local newspaper.

The Children's Class continues to be popular, with a membership in the region of 50.



**BANFFSHIRE.** Secretary, Vacant.—All classes held in Banffshire during the session 1954-55 were most successful, and the membership, although slightly down on the previous year, is still quite good. One class which deserves special mention is the one at Ladysbridge Mental Hospital. This was in the capable hands of Miss W. Crawford, Banff, and turned out to be most beneficial to the patients attending the class. Great credit is due to Miss Crawford for the success of this venture.

An excellent Children's Class was again held in Buckie and it is hoped that these children will in years to come carry on the good work for future generations.

The Branch has this year suffered a great double loss by the deaths within a month of each other of Mr John H. Duncan, Hon. Secretary, and Mr James Mair, Hon. Treasurer. Both these gentlemen have carried out the duties of Secretary and Treasurer ever since the Branch was formed in 1922, and Mr Duncan was also the Society's first Finance Committee Chairman. Their loss will be felt by all Scottish Country Dance lovers in the north.

**BATH.** Secretary, Mr A. Smith, "Hawkeswell Villa," Bristol Road, Keynsham, near Bristol.—An increase in membership has marked another successful year. Interest is maintained in the classes conducted by Miss Betty Brown, and the attendances at the Annual Ball and two informal dances have been most encouraging.

**BELFAST.** Secretary, Mr P. Fergusson, 434 Lisburn Road, Belfast.—The membership of the Branch is now 5 Life Members and 260 ordinary members.

There has been a good attendance at the classes each week in Belfast, Ballymena and Bangor, and the Certificate Class resulted in a further five members of the Branch gaining the Full Certificate at the Examination conducted by Miss Milligan in March.

For our two Week-end Schools we were fortunate in having Mrs McKell and Mrs Gudger as teachers. Both schools were very well attended and very much enjoyed.

In March the three Northern Ireland Branches combined to hold the Fourth Annual Scottish Country Dance in the Town Hall, Ballymena, and there was a record attendance.

The Belfast Branch has held dances in Bangor, Belfast and Portstewart, and there have been many informal parties and visits between the various classes.

**BERWICK-UPON-TWEED.** Secretary, Mr R. B. Davison, 9 Billendean Terrace, Spittal, Berwick-upon-Tweed.—The membership of the Branch during the past season has been 79, and our teachers have been Miss Jean Lough and Mr Robbie Redfearn.

Classes were held fortnightly in the ballroom of the King's Arms Hotel, the management of which have been most co-operative. Although still short of men in the Branch, a few have joined during the year and we hope for a future increase.

Throughout the season a juvenile class of 36 has met each week, the teacher being Miss Jean Lough.

The Branch have again been fortunate with the expert services of Mrs Jess Peters as pianist.

For the second year in succession the Branch took part with mixed demonstration teams and a team of juveniles, in a "Spotlight on Sport" show in the town, organised by the Central Council of Physical Recreation, when the hall was filled to capacity.

Two special balls have been held and were well supported by our members and those of the Duns and District and other Branches. On each occasion the demand for tickets far exceeded the supply.

By special request, a demonstration team is also to visit the village of Rennington, near Alnwick, Northumberland, on 18th June 1955.

Several members attended week-end courses at Otterburn and Durham, organised by the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Branch and the C.C.P.R. respectively, and made many friendships, as well as thoroughly enjoying the dancing.

A Teachers' Certificate Class was arranged by the Branch, twelve, including six members of the neighbouring Branch, being presented by Miss I. C. Price, of the C.C.P.R., for examination by Miss Milligan on 26th May 1955.



**BIRMINGHAM.** Secretary, Miss M. E. Jenkins, 101 Westfield Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, 14.—We have had a very enjoyable year, and our membership is 123, of whom 17 are Life Members.

Again in partnership with the Wolverhampton Branch we held a very successful week-end school at Lilleshall in the autumn. The highlight of the season was the four-day Easter school which was held at the County of Stafford Training College, Nelson Hall, near Stafford. Miss Milligan was the Principal, assisted by Mrs Gudger, Rochdale, and Mr Robert Watson, Aberdeen, for Highland Dancing. The course was greatly enjoyed by all who attended it. Its success was enhanced by the welcome that we received from the Domestic Bursar and her Staff at Nelson Hall. Although this school was a financial loss, we think that it was very worth while.

The dance held in the autumn was very enjoyable, when we again danced to the band of the Birmingham Scottish Country Dance Players, to whom credit must go for the way that they have adapted themselves to us.

With the exception of the summer term, socials have been held approximately once a month, and have been fairly well supported. A new venture this season was the children's social, when about fifty children attended.

Requests for demonstrations have been met by the Branch team. Our very sincere thanks go to Miss H. G. Jones for all her help so readily given in the coaching of this team, especially as she has to make the journey into Birmingham. We are grateful for the help and advice she has given in our other activities.

Two of our members have gained the full Teacher's Certificate and four the Preliminary Certificate.

**BLAIR ATHOLL.** Secretary, Mr J. R. Murdoch, 21 Invertilt Road, Blair Atholl.—Although there has been a slight decrease in membership the Branch can report a very successful year. We now have 31 members but it is hoped that several of the young people, at present under membership age, who come along to our classes, will shortly be eligible for membership. Despite a rather severe winter classes were very well attended.

A highlight of the year was the dance arranged by the Branch for the Scouts attending the bi-annual International Jamborette in Blair Atholl. A large number attended from the camp and a happy feature was the obvious enjoyment of the foreign Scouts and the willingness with which they took part in the proceedings. Perhaps the dancing may not have been of the highest standard but the happy and carefree atmosphere which prevailed during the evening made it a most memorable occasion. Two demonstrations were given by club members.

Another happy evening during the year was our annual dance held in the tartan-draped village hall. This was also very successful and was well supported by neighbouring clubs.

**BOSTON.** Secretary, Mrs A. Smith, 55 Pond Street, Winchester, Mass, U.S.A.—We have had an active and varied year, beginning with our first Scottish Country Dance week-end last July at Plymouth, Mass. This was such an overwhelming success that we are planning on a total of 130 dancers for this year's week-end. Our teachers will include Miss M. Lillian Ross, and Mrs McNab from Vancouver.

Classes met weekly, beginning in September, and due to Miss Ross's visit will continue through July, instead of stopping at the end of June as is customary. Class attendance has increased to an average of 36, and Society members from 79 to 106.

We have participated in fourteen demonstrations, including two on Television. Some of the others were the Tricentennial Celebration at Somersworth, New Hampshire; Clan Sutherland Highland Games; Brockton Fair; Clan Sutherland Tartan Ball; two at Wellesley College; University of Massachusetts Folk Festival; Eleventh Annual New England Folk Festival; and our annual week-end workshop in New York City.

Miss Ross expects to be with us for several months. We are eagerly anticipating her visit, and hope that while she is here some of our group will pass part of the requirements of the Teacher's Certificate.



**CAPETOWN.** Secretary, Mr R. Brown, Sherwood, Canigou Avenue, Rondebosch, Capetown.—The popularity of Scottish Country Dancing at the classes in Capetown was still on the wane during the 1954-55 season, as is borne out by the fact that there were usually only enough to form two sets.

Our membership dropped slightly to 53, although several regular attenders of the classes could not be persuaded to join the Society.

A beginners' class was held for the major part of the season at Sherwood, but the numbers were not sufficient to warrant the hire of a hall as for the Thursday advanced class.

Great efforts were made this year to foster the interests of Scottish Country Dancing, and in particular we tried to arrange fairly frequent meetings with other bodies of Scottish Country Dancers such as the Scottish Country Dance Section of the Caledonian Society and the Simonstown Reels Club. The response to our efforts was disappointing, but we like to look back on our annual Ball at Hallowe'en and our outdoor Christmas Party held in the lovely garden of Mr and Mrs J. Hunter, both functions which were extreme successes and greatly enjoyed by all. An outstanding feature on both these occasions was the lovely programmes each individually painted and illustrated with amusing caricatures by Mr Charles Earle—sure souvenirs to mark two happy times.

A new plan was tried out this season. In view of the summer heat it was decided to close all activities for five months, also with the view that people may prefer a break and be able to enter the winter with a fresh approach.

It is thought that South Africa would hardly be the place to find any information leading to origins and tunes of Scottish Country Dances. The Questionnaires that were sent out, however, were circulated to all the likely places, but nothing new was forthcoming.

Four adult displays and one children's display were given altogether. The outstanding adult one was at the Western Province Agricultural Society's Annual Show, and the dances were staged in conjunction with the Scottish Country Dance Section of the Caledonian Society. Their Pipe Band lead the dancers on to the field, and this performance was to have been done a second evening, but was washed out by rain. The children gave their display at the Westerford Secondary School to encourage more children to take up this pleasant pastime.

Finally, we welcomed to our Club Miss May Gibson, a qualified teacher from Scotland who has been asked by the Committee to help with the tuition of the Thursday Class, which she is now doing.

**CARLISLE and BORDER.** Secretary, Miss M. Brander, 300 Warwick Road, Carlisle.—This Branch again had a successful year—its fifth. Membership at the end of the year consisted of 6 Life Members and 122 Branch members, which is an increase of 20 over the previous year.

A most instructive Week-end School was held on 18th and 19th February, under the very able tuition of Miss Milligan. The attendance was 213 for the three sessions, which included a number of friends from neighbouring Branches and Societies.

Several social evenings and three dances were held during the year and proved popular and successful. The dances were in Carlisle, Longtown and Langholm.

Numerous displays were given at various local functions and great interest and appreciation were shown by spectators.

The Branch entered teams for both the Carlisle and Dumfries Music Festivals and gave very creditable performances.

The Annual Ball was held in Carlisle on 22nd March, with an attendance of 195. The guests of honour were Mr and Mrs J. Bagguley, from Sheffield, both of whom have been for several years keen and enthusiastic members of the Branch. Music was provided by Tim Wright's Band.

Enthusiasm for Scottish Country Dancing shows no sign of waning in Carlisle and the Border Districts, and another successful and full programme is expected for 1955-56.



**CARNOUSTIE.** Secretary, Mrs A. McDougall, Kyra Bank, 84 Kinloch Street, Carnoustie.—The membership during the past year has dropped to 77, including 1 Life Member.

The adult class was instructed by Miss Joan Walker. Two juvenile classes were run, both taught by fully qualified teachers.

The Annual Dance was held in December and was well attended.

**CASTLE DOUGLAS and DISTRICT.** Secretary, Miss E. Craik, 23 Academy Street, Castle Douglas.—Membership 75, including 6 Life Members. Although the membership showed a slight drop this session it was a very successful and happy one.

Weekly classes were held for both the adult group and the Junior Link. These two classes were well attended and owing to the hard work of our teachers and pianists the Branch again won trophies at the Newton Stewart and Dumfries Festival.

Demonstrations were given throughout the district by mixed teams and the Branch has again been invited to take part in the local Civic Week Celebrations to be held from 10th to 16th July.

Miss Jean Milligan was examiner at the Preliminary Certificate Class held in May, in which there were nine passes out of a class of eleven candidates.

The Highland Ball was held in November and was very successful; we welcomed friends and members of other Branches. Our members visited neighbouring Branches and enjoyed their various dances.

Our thanks are due to the Education Committee for again granting us the use of the school gymnasium for our classes.

**CLACKMANNANSHIRE.** Secretary, Miss R. Gillies, 8 Queen Street, Alloa.—Membership for the past year has been 148, including 5 Life Members. While 20 new members joined the Branch, 50 did not renew their membership, thus making a decrease of 30 from last year.

The Annual Dance of the County Branch held on 21st October 1954 in Devonvale Hall, Tillicoultry, was very successful and enjoyable. As a result we were able to send a donation of £4 to Orchard House, Stirling—a gift which was duly appreciated.

A letter from a former Branch member, now resident abroad, recounts her first evening at a Scottish Country Dance class—how she met dancers from all parts of Scotland and her pleasure at meeting two ladies from the "Wee County," who have now become Scottish Country Dancing enthusiasts in the land of their adoption.

Alloa class gives an excellent report numerically and financially. Two end-of-term parties were well attended and enjoyed.

Tillicoultry reports a presentation to their former pianist on leaving the district and a welcome to her successor.

The Dollar class held three very successful dances during the course of their session from October to March. One of these was in aid of the Association of Boys' Clubs, which profited by the handsome sum of £19, 5s. 5d.

**DUMFRIES.** Secretary, Mrs J. H. Henderson, Braeside, Moffat Road, Dumfries.—The Branch has had another successful year. Although there has been another slight drop in membership, our four social evenings and the Guid Nychburris Ball were all well attended and much enjoyed.

Teams were successfully entered for the Carlisle Music Festival, where the mixed foursome team won a cup for the best over-all performance, and for the Dumfriesshire Music Festival, where the mixed team won a trophy. Mr Johnstone was selected to go to Norway with the Scottish team.

**DUNDEE.** Secretary, Miss H. F. Crighton, 317 Blackness Road, Dundee.—The Branch has had a satisfactory year, although there has been a slight drop in membership. We now stand at 619; this includes 82 Life Members.

Classes were well attended and greatly enjoyed. Thirty-three demonstrations were given during the year by Branch teams. These were all greatly appreciated, particularly the visits to hospitals and the rural areas. The Club run in conjunction with the Branch continues to be very popular; the membership is still capacity, with a waiting list for entry.



The Annual Ball was a very happy function, where representatives from all the classes had the opportunity of meeting one another.

We were delighted that one of our members, Miss Alice Mann, was invited to join the International Team during their visit to Bergen.

It gives us great pleasure to welcome Lord Provost William Hughes as the new Hon. President of the Branch.

**DUNFERMLINE.** Interim Secretary, Mrs J. A. Couper, 87A Brucefield Avenue, Dunfermline.—The membership of 115, including 5 Life Members, shows a decrease from last year. The session started with the usual three classes—Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced—but attendances at the Intermediate Class did not merit its continuance after Christmas, so during the second half of the session only two classes were held. The members of the Advanced Class were fortunate to have as their teacher Mr A. Leslie Cumming, who also instituted a technique class which met for half an hour at the close of the Advanced Class each week. This was much appreciated and teams from this group gave demonstrations at the request of various local organisations, and to hospital patients, as well as a display in Pittencrieff Park, sponsored by the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust.

During the session three dances were held—a Highland Ball, a Christmas Dance and a Closing Dance—as well as three informal Guest Nights, all of which were much enjoyed. To each of these functions we were pleased to welcome members of other Branches and of the various Country Dance classes in the district.

**DUNS and DISTRICT.** Secretary, Miss M. A. Rae, Penrhyl, St. Abbs.—Our membership now stands at 203, which includes 10 Life Members. Apart from the usual social events run each month throughout the area we had our Annual Ball in Duns, when we had the pleasure of a visit by a demonstration team from Edinburgh.

Our first Residential Course, held in magnificent weather at Coldingham, St. Abbs, on the Berwickshire coast, during Whit week-end, proved a most enjoyable and successful venture. The course, which included two social dances held in Ayton, the nearest hall of adequate size, enabled our Branch members to make the acquaintance of our resident guests from many parts of southern Scotland and the north of England. We were specially pleased to have Miss Milligan, Mrs Hutchison and Miss McArthur as visiting teachers. In view of the enthusiastic response that our week-end received it is most probable that the venture will be repeated at the same date, the last week-end in May, and in the same locality next spring.

**EAST LOTHIAN.** Secretary, Miss J. Storie, 14 Hawthornbank Road, Haddington.—The membership of the Branch is 151, and although this is a slight decrease from last year, there is no lack of enthusiasm among the members. This was clearly shown by the attendances at the various dances which were held in alternate months in different parts of the county and greatly enjoyed by all present.

During the season, classes were taken by Mrs Lesslie and Mrs Hutchison. These were well attended and much appreciated.

The sale of copies of the Branch's own Dance, "Haddington Assembly," has continued to help the Branch funds, and it is gratifying to note that requests have been received for copies from various places throughout Britain. The dance was devised by Mrs J. Henderson, North Berwick, and is on sale to members of the Society at 6d. per copy.

**EAST SURREY, WEST KENT.** Secretary, Miss B. Ockelford, Coppice Lea, Birchwood Lane, Chaldon, Surrey.—The Branch has had quite a successful year. Membership still keeps up—with 127 ordinary members, 7 Life Members and 6 junior members. One of our first junior members has now become a member of the Society.

All classes have been well attended, but unfortunately two classes, one at Reigate and one at Croydon, had to close down in the second term, owing to insufficient numbers.

Two successful large dances were held at the Croydon Baths Hall; at the first of these



we were all delighted to be able to welcome our Branch President as an interested spectator. Other dances were held at the Pembroke Hall, Croydon.

The highlight of the season's activities was the one-day school held in February, where dancers came from as far afield as Torquay, Canterbury, Brighton, Suffolk and Essex to enjoy the expert tuition of Miss Milligan and Mrs West. The benefit derived from their instruction will be experienced for a long time.

Demonstrations have been in demand at various functions during the year, and teams for these occasions have been selected from the Advanced Technique class.

The heavy programme which has been carried out through the year entailed a great deal of responsibility and a large amount of work and the success of this programme was largely credited to all those who helped the committee by selling tickets for dances, helping with the refreshments and acting as M.C.s, not forgetting the excellent bands and the untiring services of our pianists and teachers.

**ECCLEFECHAN.** Secretary, Miss M. Armstrong, Post Office House, Ecclefechan.—The Ecclefechan Branch of the Scottish Country Dance Society although diminished in numbers has had an enjoyable and successful season. The Annual Highland Ball held in January was enjoyed by Branch members and guests from Annan, Carlisle, Moffat, Dumfries and Lockerbie Branches. Members of the Branch attended the week-end classes held by Miss Milligan at Lockerbie and Carlisle.

**EDINBURGH.** Secretary, Mr T. J. King, Commercial Bank of Scotland, 13 Drumsheugh Place, Edinburgh.—The past year showed no slackening in the tempo of affairs, even if numbers were slightly down. Thirty classes were run in autumn and spring and three in the summer term.

Demonstrations were, if anything, more numerous. Our own "fringe" contribution to the Edinburgh Festival, "An Edinburgh Fancy," proved an expensive production, but was voted well worth while by a special meeting called to consider its future, and it will be staged again in August and September. By the time that this appears in print, we hope that many of you will have seen and enjoyed it.

We are host Branch to the Annual General Meeting this year, and the Corporation have done us the honour of a Civic Reception to Branch representatives on the Friday evening. Dances on Friday and Saturday evenings, and a St. Andrew's Night concert on Saturday evening will, we hope, prove attractive to our friends from outwith Edinburgh.

We were very proud to supply no less than five members of the International Team who visited Bergen in June.

During the Royal Visit to the city in July, the Branch was honoured by a request to provide a team to dance in the forecourt of Holyroodhouse. The dancing, and the presentation of the dancers to H.M. The Queen and to the Duke of Edinburgh, were televised.

Our Week-end School at Black Barony last October was a most successful and happy occasion, but owing to the Annual General Meeting and Autumn School being held in Edinburgh in November, it will not be repeated this year.

A most interesting and instructive course for pianists was held, under the tutelage of Miss Nan Main, who captivated her audience and sent them away with much to ponder over.

**ELGIN.** Secretary, Mr P. J. Scott, 82 High Street, Elgin.—The Branch had another successful season, and the classes which were held on Thursday evenings throughout the session were well attended. The total strength of the Branch has shown some decrease, but many new members came along during the year, and it was a pleasing feature to see more and more male members attending, including a number of young Servicemen in the district. Mrs West continued as principal instructor, and she was ably assisted by Mr Bob Halley, and on occasion, also, by Miss Helen Fraser. Social evenings were held every fourth week, and they continued to be very popular. The Annual Dance, which was held in the Drill Hall, Elgin, on 30th December, was enjoyed by a large body of dancers, and despite bad roads and poor weather conditions, parties came from many outlying districts.



**FORFAR.** Secretary, Mrs D. Piggott, 3 Langlands Road, Forfar.—The three general classes continue to be well supported, although attendance fell off somewhat after the New Year, due to the unprecedented stormy weather and to the illness it brought in its train.

Three beginners' classes were held prior to the commencement of the general classes.

An Autumn Dance was held in September and the Annual Ball in February. Over 200 were present at the latter, including members from Brechin, Montrose, Kirriemuir and Letham Centres—Friockheim Branch—Kirriemuir and Hillside S.C.D. Clubs.

**FORRES.** Secretary, Mr Ian J. Fleming, St. Catherine's, Forres.—Though our Branch is a small one, with a membership of only 53, we have had a very satisfactory and enjoyable session, during which classes have been held on Friday evenings.

A very successful New Year Dance was held followed by another in March. At both these dances we were glad to have with us a number of the members from other Branches in Moray and Nairn.

The Branch is indeed fortunate in having Miss Janet Banks as instructor and her sister Miss I. M. Banks as pianist.

**FRIOCKHEIM.** Secretary, Dr M. McLellan, Eastgate House, Friockheim, Angus.—There was a decrease in the membership of the Branch during the winter session. This was mainly due to the inclement weather and to the fact that the Friockheim Centre lost the use of their hall for a period of three months. The membership rose to 124 during the following session and it is hoped to reach our normal figures again next year. In addition to the Branch classes, children's classes were run in Friockheim with a membership of 90.

The senior and junior teams demonstrated at the Angus Show and many other demonstrations were given throughout the year, in aid of charities.

The junior team, in conjunction with the Scottish Junior Singers, took part in a combined concert entitled "Music and Dancing for Youth," at the Pitlochry Festival Theatre, in July.

**GATEHOUSE OF FLEET.** Secretary, Miss M. Murray, 10 Digby Street, Gatehouse of Fleet.—A weekly class was held during the winter. Numbers remained much the same as last year, and all shared great enthusiasm not only in the class, but by attending dances given by neighbouring Branches.

Several teams competed in the Newton Stewart Festival with success in various sections.

The Branch again had a party at Christmas and a dance in March, and has just held another large dance at one of the local hotels which has recently built on a new ballroom, and 170 keen Scottish Country dancers spent an enjoyable evening.

**GLASGOW.** Secretary, Miss M. W. Kenyon, 11 Bulloch Avenue, Giffnock, Glasgow.—1,272 annual subscriptions were paid: 8 became Life Members, making a total of 100 Life Members.

Twenty classes, including three certificate classes, were held weekly. In addition a team practice class was held weekly from April to June.

Many candidates from Branch classes as well as from Notre Dame and Jordanhill Training Colleges gained Preliminary and Teacher's Certificates.

Monthly dances were well attended, while Jordanhill Dance and the Annual Ball were, as usual, very successful.

A new venture, a Week-end Course in the Palace of Art on Friday, 26th, and Saturday, 27th November, proved so popular that the Branch is arranging another for 11th and 12th November this year.

In November last the teachers were—Mrs Cramb, Aberdeen; Miss Jarvis, Stirling; Miss Doris Robertson, S.C.P.R.; and Mr Murray, Inverness, all of whom gave excellent service.



The Branch's demonstration teams have had a very busy and highly satisfactory season.

It was with sincere feelings of regret that Miss Ross's resignation, after twenty-nine years as Hon. Treasurer, was received. On behalf of the Branch, Mr R. Percy Thomson, its original Hon. Secretary, expressed the members' appreciation of and thanks for, her faithful guardianship of its finances, and handed over on their behalf a token of their esteem, expressing the hope that she would enjoy her sojourn in America during the next few months and continue to take an active interest in the work of the Branch on her return.

**HAMILTON and CLYDESDALE.** Secretary, Miss M. A. Lyon, 4 South Park Road, Hamilton.—In spite of a drop in the numbers attending the classes, the year on the whole has been most satisfactory and most enjoyable. A ball was held in November, and several parties took place throughout the winter.

The Allan Trophy was won this year by the Carluke Ladies' Team, trained by Mrs Baird.

**HAMILTON (ONTARIO).** Secretary, Mrs R. Burke, R.R. 1, Ancaster, Ontario.—The membership of the Branch is now 71 Active Members with 1 Honorary Life Member, this latter being our active Treasurer, Mr Hugh McKellar, who still dances, and attends the classes regularly to collect the fees, etc.

The first year of activities as a Branch, and our fourth since the foundation of the group, has just concluded. At the Annual Meeting in April, the new Constitution and By-laws for the Branch were adopted. The weekly instruction classes were held as usual from September to May, and in her report to the General Meeting our teacher, Miss Jean Matheson, declared her satisfaction with the progress and improvement in the dancing technique. Four members tried the test for senior standing in the group, all of them passing, which now makes a total of twelve seniors.

Several Guest Nights, to which were invited members' friends and members of the Toronto Scottish Country Dance Groups, proved to be the highlights of the informal social side of our activities. Last summer, about twenty of our members journeyed to Plymouth, Massachusetts, U.S.A., to join with the Boston Branch in a long week-end of instruction and dancing under the direction of Miss Jeanie Carmichael, formerly of Edinburgh. It is proposed to repeat the journey and the experience again in July 1955.

Demonstration teams have attended several important functions and have received acclaim for their performances. Among these were the Zorra Highland Games, the Order of Scottish Clans Ball in Buffalo, N.Y., and the formal "Conversat" of the Ontario College of Agriculture at Guelph, Ontario, where the decorations and the theme were based on the musical play "Brigadoon."

A very important function recently attended was the "Pageant of the Nations," held during Citizenship Week, which displayed the national dances of all the ethnic groups comprising our New Canadians, as well as those of British and original North American Indian stock. A personal letter of thanks from the Hon. J. W. Pickersgill, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, was received for the dance display given by our team. An invitation has also been extended for our group to be represented at next year's celebration.

The season closed with the Annual Dinner and Ball, which was a tremendous success in every way.

Plans for next season call for the formation of an advanced group and also the starting of a new beginners' group in another part of the city.

**INVERNESS and DISTRICT.** Secretary, Mr H. G. Draper, The Cottage, Lochardil, Inverness.—The past year has shown a small reduction in numbers, but nevertheless was a most enjoyable and successful season. Three classes per week, including one advanced class, were run and were generally well supported.

Social functions were successful, and several demonstrations were given by teams from the Branch.



**KILMARNOCK and DISTRICT.** Secretary, Miss A. Allan, 41 Irvine Road, Kilmarnock.—While there were no highlights in this Branch during the year, everything seemed to move steadily on. Our numbers were not so great after Christmas owing to illness. We had three large dances during the season, one in October, one in March and one in May. The May dance proved the most popular, and we had a big demand for tickets. Ian Powrie's Band played for this dance. Our classes begin again in October.

**KIRKCALDY.** Secretary, Miss N. J. Arnott, Lakeside, 50 Boglily Road, Kirkcaldy.—This is the twenty-fifth year of the Branch. Membership stands at 320, including 21 Life Members.

Six classes and a technique class were run during the season. Three "Combined Nights" again were held, but these were not well attended. From the last, a collection was made and sent to the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society.

Branch teams have given demonstrations at various functions.

The Chairman of the Fife Area, Scottish Industrial Sports Association, and a member of the Branch, was responsible for the appearance along with Barry, Ostlere and Shepherd's Band, at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, during the Scottish Industries Exhibition. Both had an enthusiastic reception.

Our Annual Dance on 25th February was made the occasion for celebrating the twenty-fifth year of the Branch. A beautiful birthday cake, with twenty-five candles, was cut by Past President Miss Kay, one of the oldest members. Members of the technique class gave demonstrations. Dancers voted this evening one of the best, and each one went home happy with a beautiful souvenir programme.

**KIRKCUDBRIGHT.** Secretary, Miss H. Dalrymple, 20 Mersecroft, Kirkcudbright.—A successful winter session was held under the instruction of Mr Jackie Johnstone, Dumfries, the membership of the Branch being 71, including 2 Life Members.

Members enjoyed a Christmas Party, and an occasional social evening was held during the winter, when friends were invited.

A large company attended the Annual Dance which was held in February, and social evenings were held once a month during April, May and June.

**LANARK.** Secretary, Mrs Cairns, 17 Ladyacre Road, Lanark.—The past session has again been most successful and enjoyable, despite a slight decrease in membership, which is accounted for by the outlying classes finding difficulty in getting teachers.

The monthly social evenings have continued and proved extremely popular.

The Annual Ball held in January was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all the dancers.

The children's class continues to be well attended and at the close of the session an evening for parents and children proved a very successful combination, with the children showing a very high standard.

**LEVEN.** Secretary, Miss S. Clark, 2 Omar Crescent, Buckhaven.—As membership had dropped only one weekly class was required for the session.

Branch members have given several demonstrations at local functions, and all were much appreciated.

At two social dances we had the pleasure of welcoming dancers from neighbouring Branches and Clubs.

**LIVERPOOL.** Secretary, Mr J. Anderson, 124 Kings Drive, Woolton, Liverpool.—Our membership increased slightly this year to 140, being 5 up on last year, with a consequent larger enrolment for the first session. This unfortunately fell away after the Christmas recess, but the numbers attending summer session, which we re-introduced this year, only dropped slightly, which we normally expect owing to outside interests. As usual, we ran this summer session as a general class for all members, and it proved very successful in bringing on our beginners.

Although our dance this year was a financial failure, due to a clash of dates with two other events, it was voted a very successful evening by all the members who attended.



Even with the loss on the dance we finished up the year in practically the same financial position as we did last year.

We unfortunately lost two of our teachers by resignation in Mrs Jones, who was President and a Co-Founder of the Branch, and Miss Lyall, both of whom received a presentation in appreciation of their good work for the Branch. Miss Lyall's present was also in the nature of a wedding gift, as she is being married in August.

**LOCKERBIE.** Secretary, Mrs A. A. Varrie, 24 Townhead Street, Lockerbie.—This year the total membership of the Branch numbered 78, including 12 junior members. The season was again a successful one.

The Annual Highland Ball took place in the Town Hall in December and was attended by members from many Branches in the south of Scotland and north of England. The music on this occasion was supplied by the Hartfell Dance Band from Moffat. The Ball again proved a great success.

During the season we had the privilege of a visit from Miss Milligan, who taught the Branch on this occasion.

The Branch has supplied teams on several occasions to dance for various local branches of the W.R.I., also a Church social and at the crowning of the Lockerbie Gala Queen.

At the close of the season a dance was held, and again many members were present from neighbouring Branches.

**LONDON.** Secretary, Mr Robert Ferguson, 6 Claire Court, Shoot-up-Hill, London, N.W.2.—This year has shown a slight falling off in numbers, but there is nothing lacking in enthusiasm of the remaining members. In particular it is pleasing to record that a high proportion of candidates for the Society's certificates has been successful in the examinations conducted by Miss Milligan, and Miss Frances Stamp must take credit for training them so thoroughly.

Other classes and dances have been on about the same scale as previously, and the experiment of bringing bands from Scotland for the bigger dances will be repeated.

The Branch's first week-end school was held at Whitsun, in the C.C.P.R. premises at Bisham Abbey. This is a delightful old building on the banks of the upper Thames, and a most successful and enjoyable time was had by all. Despite the rail strike, Mrs Gudger came from Manchester to be the principal teacher for the week-end, and her fresh approach was very stimulating.

Once again members visiting London are invited to contact us and to join in during their stay here.

**MANCHESTER.** Secretary, Mrs E. Bennett, 78 Boundary Road, Cheadle, Cheshire.—Classes were again well attended. Three candidates were successful in gaining the Preliminary Certificate and four the full Certificate, when Miss Milligan took the Teaching Certificate examination.

The Branch received many invitations for demonstrations, and our team took part in the International Festival in San Sebastian in Spain and gained a Premier Award.

The opening season party, the Christmas party and the end-of-season party were all most enjoyable. The latter was a joint effort with the Manchester University Scottish Country Dance Club, when we welcomed friends from other Branches and Scottish Societies in the district. Our third Annual Ball was held in February, and we were privileged to have as guests of honour the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Manchester.

Arrangements are now well in hand to hold a week-end school in Manchester during the week-end following Easter 1956.

**MOFFAT.** Miss E. N. Shaw, Glen Annan, Moffat, Dumfriesshire.—Membership of the Branch has remained steady during the past year, and weekly classes have been well attended. Parties were held to mark the end of Christmas and Easter terms, and the Annual Ball took place in the Town Hall in March.



Our members are enthusiastic supporters of balls and dances organised by the neighbouring Branches, and have travelled to Annan, Carlisle, Dumfries, Ecclefechan and Lockerbie to attend functions run by them.

**NAIRN.** Secretary, Miss Frances Fraser, 2 Caledonian Street, Nairn.—This class had a very successful session. 82 members enrolled—our biggest number for a few years.

Several of the members attended the Annual General Meeting and Dance in Aberdeen on Saturday, 30th October 1954. The outing was very much enjoyed.

The Branch held a dance in the Tradespark Hall in November and during the session some of the members attended other Branch dances—all of which were enjoyed.

We are much indebted to Mrs Anderson and Mrs Borwick, our teacher and pianist, for their unfailing attention, especially to Mrs Anderson, who has to travel from Lossiemouth to take the class.

**NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE and DISTRICT.** Secretary, Miss D. M. Davison, 37 Park Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.—Continued progress has been made during the past twelve months and our numbers have increased from 261 to 301. Eleven classes were held, including one for children, and two classes were extended to the end of June. Attendance at all classes has been good and well maintained.

Five Preliminary and three full Teacher's Certificates were gained and about 15 candidates are expected to take part in the examination to be held in April.

Miss Anderson and Miss Edwards were guest teachers at a successful week-end course at Otterburn Hall in November.

Four informal dances have been held and also a most enjoyable Highland Ball. The Dance Club had a successful season with full membership and many visitors.

The season culminated in a Scottish Country Dance Festival, arranged in conjunction with the Central Council of Physical Research. Fifty-two teams took part and over 400 people joined in the general dancing in the evening. Teams came from as far away as Berwick, Darlington and Richmond. A great improvement was evident in the standard of dancing generally.

**NEWTON STEWART.** Secretary, Mrs J. NIMMO, 9 McGregor Drive, Minnigaff, Newton Stewart.—Membership for the past year was 46, including 4 Life Members. This was a slight decrease from the previous year.

The weekly class held in the McMillan Hall was well attended and the enthusiasm of former years was not lacking. Many visitors attended the classes and passed a pleasant evening dancing with class members.

The Annual Ball was held in February, when we welcomed many visitors from neighbouring classes. The music was provided by Jimmy Wilson and his Band, who in no small way helped to make the function a great success.

We are looking forward to our new session which starts in October, and hope to welcome all our present members and many new ones.

**PEEBLES.** Secretary, Miss J. Eaglesham, 26 Kirkland Street, Peebles.—The Branch reports another successful year. A team of dancers gave a display at the Peebles Shopkeepers' and Merchants' Association Annual Exhibition. In December the Branch was delighted to have a visit from Mrs Lesslie.

**PERTH and PERTSHIRE.**—Secretary, Miss C. McFeat, Comely Bank House, Perth.—This Branch has had an uneventful year. The membership has dropped, due to "Perthshire" members not coming forward in the usual numbers. The "Perth" section is practically the same as last year.

Classes were restricted and a better financial state was the result. Children's classes, as usual, were well attended.



# The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

## BALANCE SHEET and RELATIVE ACCOUNTS

as at 30th June 1955.



1954

## LIABILITIES

CAPITAL ACCOUNT				
£12,100	Balance as at 1st July 1954 . . . . .	£12,100	4	10
	Amount transferred from Headquarters Fund . . . . .	2,030	0	0
	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year . . . . .	527	1	11
1,027	SUMMER SCHOOL, 1955—FEES PAID IN ADVANCE . . . . .		14,657	6
232	SUNDRY CREDITORS AND CREDIT BALANCES . . . . .		1,253	0
800	RESERVE FOR REPLACEMENT OF PUBLICATIONS . . . . .		380	9
125	RESERVE FOR PRODUCTION OF FILMS . . . . .		1,200	0
1,530	HEADQUARTERS FUND		625	0
	Balance as at 1st July 1954 . . . . .	£1,530	0	0
	Allocation from Revenue Account . . . . .	500	0	0
		£2,030	0	0
	Less: Amount utilised in purchase of heritable property transferred to Capital Account . . . . .	2,030	0	0

£15,814£18,115 16 4

23 BARNS STREET, AYR, 20th September 1955.—I have audited the books and accounts have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of my knowledge and belief are true and correct. The foregoing Balance Sheet and Revenue Account, which are in agreement with the accounts, give a true and fair view of the state of the Society's affairs as at the 31st July 1955.

## REVENUE ACCOUNT for the YEAR

1953-54	To ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES			
	Salaries of Administrative and Clerical Staff . . . . .	£1,175	0	11
	Travelling Expenses and Cost of Committee Meetings . . . . .	262	19	7
	Printing and Stationery . . . . .	256	6	1
	Postages and Telephone . . . . .	102	16	9
	Audit Fee . . . . .	21	15	0
	Office Accommodation . . . . .	88	13	2
	Miscellaneous Expenses . . . . .	44	3	3
£1,950				
487	To BULLETIN . . . . .		1,951	14
398	„ EXAMINATION EXPENSES . . . . .		480	12
3,001	„ SUMMER AND AUTUMN SCHOOLS . . . . .		412	9
133	„ GRANTS . . . . .		3,738	19
291	„ EXPENSES OF DEMONSTRATION TEAMS . . . . .		40	0
109	„ HONORARIUM . . . . .		403	7
601	„ SUBSCRIPTION COPIES OF PUBLICATIONS . . . . .		50	0
15	„ DEPRECIATION OF OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT . . . . .		554	6
—	„ BALANCE BEING EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE CARRIED DOWN		31	15
			1,927	1
			£9,590	8
400	„ RESERVE FOR REPLACEMENT OF PUBLICATIONS . . . . .		400	0
125	„ RESERVE FOR FILM PRODUCTIONS . . . . .		500	0
1,500	„ ALLOCATION TO HEADQUARTERS FUND . . . . .		500	0
1,031	„ BALANCE CARRIED TO BALANCE SHEET . . . . .		527	1
£10,041			£1,927	1

## PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT for the YEAR

£4,543	To STOCK IN HAND AT 1ST JULY 1954 . . . . .	£4,543	0	0
1,368	„ PURCHASES . . . . .	1,008	5	9
1,354	„ SURPLUS TRANSFERRED TO REVENUE ACCOUNT . . . . .		678	18
£7,205		£6,221	3	10



as at 30th JUNE 1955

1954		ASSETS	
	HEADQUARTERS		
	12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh (at cost)		£4,130 10 0
£136	OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT		
	As valued at 30th June 1954	£136 5 3	
	Additions	181 13 1	
		<hr/>	
	Less: Depreciation	£317 18 4	
		31 15 10	
		<hr/>	286 2 6
4,534	MUSIC, BOOKS AND LEAFLETS		
	At cost as certified by Treasurer		4,339 0 0
4,875	INVESTMENTS AT COST		
	2½% Defence Bonds	£500 0 0	
	3% Defence Bonds	1,000 0 0	
	National Savings Certificates	375 0 0	
	Scottish Amicable Building Society	3,500 0 0	
	Post Office Savings Bank	200 0 0	
	Dunfermline Building Society	800 0 0	
	Edinburgh Trustee Savings Bank	1,500 0 0	
		<hr/>	7,875 0 0
588	SUNDRY DEBTORS AND PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE		204 3 0
5,681	CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND		
	In British Linen Bank Current Account	£1,230 9 3	
	In Hands of Secretary and Treasurer	44 11 7	
		<hr/>	1,281 0 10
			<hr/>
	<u>£15,814</u>		<u>£18,115 16 4</u>

of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society for the year ended 30th June 1955, and in my belief were necessary for the purposes of my audit.

The books of account, give in my opinion and to the best of my information and according to the facts at 30th June 1955.

(Sgd.) NORMAN MacKINNON, C.A., Auditor.

### YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 1955

1953-54	BY SUBSCRIPTIONS		
	Received from Branches	£3,313 9 1	
£4,160	Paid Direct	232 3 6	
		<hr/>	£3,545 12 7
78	„ AFFILIATION FEES		91 7 0
56	„ DONATIONS FROM DEMONSTRATION TEAMS		4 12 0
	„ FEES FROM STUDENTS		
	Summer and Autumn Schools	£4,141 19 6	
3,634	Examinations	255 0 0	
		<hr/>	4,396 19 6
109	„ INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS		180 16 11
	„ ROYALTIES		
	Books 1-5 and Pocket Edition 1-3	£151 4 1	
	Broadcasting Fees	40 5 6	
650	Gramophone	500 12 5	
		<hr/>	692 2 0
1,354	„ SURPLUS ON SALE OF PUBLICATIONS		678 18 1
			<hr/>
			<u>£9,590 8 1</u>
	„ BALANCE CARRIED DOWN		£1,927 1 11
			<hr/>
	<u>£10,041</u>		<u>£1,927 1 11</u>

### THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 1955

£2,070	BY SALES		1,327 17 0
601	„ SUBSCRIPTION COPIES (AT COST)		554 6 10
4,534	„ STOCK IN HAND AT 30th JUNE 1955		4,339 0 0
			<hr/>
			£6,221 3 10
	<u>£7,205</u>		<u>£6,221 3 10</u>



## ESTIMATE of INCOME and EXPENDITURE for the YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 1956

### INCOME

Subscriptions . . . . .	£3,500
Affiliation Fees . . . . .	90
Royalties . . . . .	650
Investment Income . . . . .	150
FEES :	
Schools and Courses . . . . .	4,000
Examinations . . . . .	230
Surplus on Sale of Publications . . . . .	850
	<u>£9,470</u>

### EXPENDITURE

Staff Salaries . . . . .	£1,225
Cost of Meetings and Travelling Expenses . . . . .	275
Printing and Stationery . . . . .	300
Postages and Telephone . . . . .	150
OFFICE ACCOMMODATION :	
Rates and Feu Duty . . . . .	£85
Caretaker's Wages . . . . .	80
Light and Heat . . . . .	95
	260
Audit Fee . . . . .	21
Insurance . . . . .	30
Miscellaneous Expenses . . . . .	49
	<u>£2,310</u>
Bulletin . . . . .	495
Examination Expenses . . . . .	425
Summer and Autumn Schools . . . . .	4,000
Expenses of Demonstration Teams Abroad . . . . .	350
Grants . . . . .	150
Honorarium . . . . .	50
Subscription Copies of Publications . . . . .	600
	<u>£8,380</u>
RESERVES :	
For Reprinting Publications . . . . .	400
Pensions Fund . . . . .	100
Surplus to meet Contingencies . . . . .	590
	<u>£9,470</u>



The Country Dance sections of the Musical Festival were supported enthusiastically and the Trophy was won by the St. Johnstoun Dancers—adjudicator, Mrs Lesslie.

Dinner dances and a dance in the City Halls, Perth, were well attended and much enjoyed by Perth members along with a few members from outlying districts.

We have lost our pianist, Mrs Gowans, who has played for us with much acceptance. She has gone south—we hope she will not be lost to our movement.

**PETERHEAD.** Secretary, Mrs J. S. Carnegie, 44 Cairntrodlie, Peterhead.—The Branch has a membership of 135, Life Members being 27, ordinary members 108.

Three adult classes were held weekly, a beginners' class, and two classes for more experienced dancers. A very successful summer class was held. Branch members conducted several classes in the surrounding area. To our teachers and pianists we owe a deep debt of gratitude.

This year the Branch had three entries at the Aberdeen and North-East of Scotland Music Festival, and all gained certificates of merit. Mixed teams demonstrated at galas and other social functions during the year.

Two successful parties were held during the year, and Branch members have enjoyed dances at Aberdeen, Fraserburgh and Haddo House.

We had a successful dance in April; among the 100 dancers we were pleased to welcome Dr Forbes Sempill, Chairman of the Aberdeen Branch, and friends from Fraserburgh, Banff, Alford, Boyndlie, New Pitsligo and Ellon, and Miss Jean Anderson, one of our Life Members, who has recently gone to Broughty Ferry.

**PORTRUSH.** Secretary, Miss L. Faulkner, Kantara Hotel, Portrush.—The Branch continues with weekly classes; new members were welcomed and demonstrations have been given in several nearby towns.

Miss Milligan paid us a visit in March and was welcomed by practically a full membership.

**RENFREWSHIRE WEST.** Secretary, Mr Duncan Cook, 13 William Street, Greenock.—The number of members remained the same as last year, but two new classes were started, one for children and one a certificate class, while one of the other classes had to be divided into two because of the large number attending. A ball was held on 4th November 1954 in the new Palladium ballroom in Greenock, and over 300 members and their friends attended.

**RICHMOND.** Secretary, Mr A. Murray Stephen, 11 Westfields, Richmond, Yorkshire.—Membership still continues to grow and now stands at 145, which includes 5 Life Members. The number of Associates has also increased to 22 and one can add to the list of potential members the 38 children who attended the junior class started this season.

An increased number of demonstrations has been given and our performances at the Leeds and Newcastle Festivals have been most encouraging. Attendances at classes and socials have maintained a high standard despite the ample supplies of snow, ice and fog during the winter. Jimmy Shand again played to a full house at our Annual Ball, which was even more successful than last year. We have been well represented at Carlisle and Newcastle balls as well as other dances in the area.

In her first visit to the Branch Mrs Gudger made many friends and her technique class was much enjoyed by all. Courses at Otterburn and Durham were attended by some of our members, as well as St. Andrews, and it is pleasing to note the increased interest being taken in these courses.

**ROCHDALE.** Secretary, Miss Waddell, 8 Hopwood Avenue, Heywood, Lancs.—The Branch has progressed in its usual enthusiastic way, giving demonstrations to help local efforts and joining in social events of its own and of neighbouring Branches.

Members have attended week-end courses at Lilleshall, Stafford, Durham and St. Abbs, and the Summer School at St. Andrews.



Though we have had no spectacular events this year, we have the satisfaction of seeing the results of past efforts, inasmuch as from this Branch have gone out, in increasing numbers, efficient teachers who are now carrying on the good work in other districts.

It is pleasing to record that we still have a good proportion of founder members, and also promising young entrants.

**ST. ANDREWS.** Secretary, Mrs C. Thorpe Davie, 5 North Street, St. Andrews.—1954-55 has been an uneventful year compared with 1953-54.

We welcomed two new instructors and a new pianist, and had a very enjoyable year.

The President and one member of Committee represented the Branch at the Society's Annual General Meeting. A very happy and successful St. Andrew's Day Dance was held on 30th November, and the session closed with a most enjoyable social evening.

Members of the Branch gave a demonstration to delegates attending a British Council Conference in the town at Easter. We now look forward to the very enjoyable dances held during Summer School, and particularly to the demonstrations given by those attending the School.

**ST. HELENS.** Secretary, Mr R. Kay, 12 Hamilton Road, Windle, St. Helens, Lancs.—This Branch has had a succession of ups and downs during its first year owing to difficulties of obtaining suitable hall accommodation, etc., but these have been surmounted and confidence is felt that the new session will bring more success and an increased membership.

**SOUTHPORT.** Secretary, Dr C. Robertson Wilson, Struan, 24 Carlisle Road, Birkdale, Southport.—The Branch has now completed its ninth season and it can be said to have been a successful one. The membership at 93 is pretty steady.

Classes have remained as of recent years: Elementary on Tuesday evenings; Advanced and Intermediate on Thursday evenings.

This season a new class at Formby has been taken by one of our teachers. With this addition we now have five daughter classes—Ormskirk, Crosby, Formby and Preston (2). We have had these represented at all the three parties we have organised.

Mrs Gudger continued her monthly visits, which have been keenly looked forward to, and we also remain indebted to Miss Elizabeth Peel, our pianist since the Branch started.

Our demonstrations have been rather fewer this year, but where we have gone we have been very cordially received.

**STIRLINGSHIRE.** Secretary, Mrs M. W. MacLaren, Coneybrae, Bridge of Allan.—The membership is 352, being 334 plus 18 Life Members. Though the membership has decreased somewhat, the Branch has had quite a good year.

A very enjoyable members' dance was held before Christmas in the Albert Hall. Many teachers in the district availed themselves of the opportunity of a refresher course conducted by Miss Jarvis before the commencement of classes.

The demonstration team had the honour of representing the Society at the English Folk Dance Society's Festival held at Birmingham this year, and in spite of difficulties caused by the rail strike, the team had a very enjoyable and worthwhile experience.

**STIRLINGSHIRE EAST.** Secretary, Miss Martin, 20 Gartcows Road, Falkirk.—We have now 362 members and 10 Life Members.

Twelve adult classes and five classes for young folks were held during the session. At the end of each term dances were held in Mathieson's Rooms. The members' dance, held in February, proved to be a very successful function.

At a week-end school held on 12th and 13th November, the Branch was honoured by a visit from Miss Milligan. In her usual genial and forthright manner she conducted classes on Friday evening in Mathieson's Rooms and on Saturday afternoon in Falkirk Town Hall.



Three adult teams and three children's teams were entered for the Central Counties Musical Festival, held this year in Falkirk. All teams acquitted themselves creditably. Two teams in the 9-12 years group gained First and Second place respectively in their section.

Our teams once again gave demonstrations at various functions. Under the auspices of the Town Council an enjoyable evening was spent in the Dollar Park in June to the music of George McAlpine and his Band. Public dancing was interspersed with demonstrations by teams of adults and young folks.

**STOCKPORT.** Secretary, Mr F. Robinson, 88 Buckingham Road, Heaton Moor, Stockport.—We have had another successful season, although there was a slight falling-off in the number of members attending the various classes, i.e., Primary (aged 5-14); Beginners' (aged over 14); Intermediate and Advanced. We are hoping that next season will more than off set this small reduction in attendances.

The parties were well attended and much enjoyed.

**STONEHAVEN.** Secretary, Mrs R. Turley, Sunnynook, Stonehaven.—During the past year the Branch has pursued its usual activities.

The children's class is the most popular. We had a parents' night and the children gave a delightful demonstration of most dances taught throughout the session.

Monthly dances were held throughout the season in the adults' class, where each member could invite a friend. These were most enjoyable and well attended. One informal dance was held during Christmas and the Annual Ball in March. These were both well supported by members and guests from surrounding Branches. The Branch is indebted to its teachers and pianist for their excellent work, which has contributed so largely in the successful running of the classes.

**SYDNEY.** Secretary, Miss M. V. Willis, 209 Wingello House, Angel Place, Sydney.—Full membership at 30th June is 109, which covers 3 Life Members and 6 in "suspense," either overseas or interstate.

Numbers at classes are swelled by those whose professions, such as nursing, etc., prevent regular attendance and who come when they can, transients—visitors from interstate and lads from ships in port, or people passing through.

Growing pains made necessary the acquisition of a second hall at the beginning of 1955, and the division of members into three groups, classified by us as Intermediate, Elementary and Preliminary, and these classes meet once a fortnight; the fifth Monday, when occurring, being used for a social "get-together," to bring all members together, with a programme planned to take in all sections, and promote the feeling amongst all of belonging to a Society.

The highlight of Sydney's year was undoubtedly the presentation at the Clan Macleod Garden Party in October of a dance, composed by our Director, Mrs H. V. S. London, in honour of Dame Flora Macleod, as well as other Scottish country dances. The dance is a Strathspey, primarily designed to honour the women of Scotland, and presents the dispersal of the Clans abroad, taking with them the songs, dances and stories; then the setting out of the Clan Chief to visit her Clansmen all over the world and finding in Australia not just a Clansmen's welcome, but a truly Scottish welcome, without barrier of class or clan. The Newsreel men filmed part of the dance, and the films were subsequently shown in city and suburbs; also a fair amount of newspaper publicity was received.

Any who may have listened to the St. Andrew's Day programme by the B.B.C. heard the "background music and sound of feet," specially recorded by the A.B.C. for "effect" with the Intermediate Class! Mrs London was one of the speakers in the session.

Quite a long and almost formidable list of demonstrations for charities and special functions was presented, creating very keen interest, often resulting in new members coming along.



## Affiliated Groups

**Accra Garrison Country Dance Club.**—Captain T. JAGGER, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Record Office, Gold Coast Regiment, Accra, Gold Coast Colony.

**Allan Dancers, Southend-on-Sea.**—Mrs. K. JUDKINS, 62 Avenue Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex.

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

**Amersham and District Scottish Association.**—Mr H. G. KEITH, "Chantry," Freedom Lane, Amersham, Bucks.

**Association of Wellington, Hawkes Bay and Districts Scottish Country Dance Clubs.**—Miss S. J. CHILDS, 39 Hobson Street, Wellington, New Zealand.

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

**Birmingham and Midland Scottish Society.**—Mr W. S. WILSON, 70 Newbridge Road, Birmingham, 13.

**Bournemouth Caledonian Society.**—Mr T. P. SAUNDERSON, 2 Grand Avenue Chambers, Grand Avenue, Bournemouth.

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

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

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

**Caledonian Society of France.**—Mr D. L. BURNS, 47 Avenue de l'Opera, Paris, 2.

**Caledonian Society of the Gold Coast.**—Miss E. M. MACDOUGALL, P.O. Box 205, Accra, Gold Coast.

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

**Caledonian Society of Lincoln.**—Mrs J. C. CHIDGEY, 13 Western Avenue, Lincoln.

**Caledonian Society, Madras.**—Mr D. Nicholson, c/o The General Electric Company of India Ltd., Mount Road, Madras.

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

**Caledonian Society of Sheffield (S.C.D. Class.)**—Mr P. M. BENZIES, 98 Brents Road, Sheffield, 11.

**Cambridge University Strathspey and Reel Club.**—Mr N. BOASE, Trinity College, Cambridge.

**Cardiff Technical College Students' Union Council, S.D.C. Club.**—THE PRINCIPAL, The Technical College, Cathays Park, Cardiff.

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

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

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

**Crosby Caledonian Society.**—Mr D. E. PHILLIPS, 23 Elmwood Avenue, Great Crosby, Liverpool, 23.

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

**Dunedin Scottish Country Dance Society.**—Miss L. M. NEILSON, St. Helen's House, 9 Regent Road, Dunedin, New Zealand.



- Eastbourne Scottish Country Dance Club.**—Mrs M. C. MILNE, Park View Hotel, Wilmington Gardens, Eastbourne.
- East London Caledonian Society's Scottish Country Dance Club.**—Mrs E. D. NIMMO, "Langside," Abbotsford, East London, South Africa.
- Entebbe Scottish Country Dance Group.**—Dr W. H. R. LUMSDEN, Virus Research Institute, East African High Commission, P.O. Box No. 49, Entebbe, Uganda.
- Epsom and District Caledonian Association.**—Mr E. F. MILNE, 39 West Drive, Cheam, Surrey.
- First St. Andrew's Scottish Cultural Group, The.**—Mrs A. H. MIDDLETON, 175 Albert Street, London, Ontario, Canada.
- Gaelic Society Dance Class, The.**—Mrs J. MCGREGOR, 150 Homewood Avenue, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.
- Gambia Caledonian Society, The.**—Mrs M. I. FORREST, c/o The Education Department, Bathurst, Gambia, West Africa.
- Hamilton Scottish Country Dance Society.**—Mr A. K. MCAUSLAND, 148 Victoria Street, Hamilton, New Zealand.
- Harrogate St. Andrew's Society.**—Mr D. BOGLE, 18 Horlow Moor Drive, Harrogate.
- Hastings Scottish Country Dance Club.**—Mr J. SETON, 309 South Willowpark Road, Hastings, New Zealand.
- Hayling Island Scottish Country Dance Circle.**—Wing-Commander J. STEVENSON, Westfield, Hollow Lane, Hayling Island, Hampshire.
- Hereford Scottish Country Dance Club.**—Mr H. D. JAMES, 245 Ross Road, Hereford.
- Hertfordshire Highland Games Society.**—Mr A. MACRAE, 47 Selvage Lane, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.
- Highlands Scottish Country Dance Club (Southern Rhodesia).**—Mr G. KEAY, P.O. Box 889, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.
- Hutt Valley Scottish Society.**—Mr A. E. MILNE, Dundarg, 98 Cambridge Terrace, Lower Hutt, New Zealand.
- Kowloon Reel Club.**—Mrs I. CHAMBERLAIN, 4 Heathfield, Dunbar Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong.
- Larkhill Garrison Officers' Club.**—THE SECRETARY, L.G. Officers' Club, c/o School of Artillery, Larkhill, Wilts.
- Leamington and Warwick Caledonian Society.**—Mr W. J. INGLIS, 2 Avondale Road, Leamington Spa.
- Leeds Scottish Country Dance Club, The.**—Mr J. BURTON, 4 Gilpin View, Leeds, 12.
- Leeds University Scottish Country Dance Society.**—THE HON. SECRETARY, University Union, University Road, Leeds, 2.
- Lusaka Scottish Country Dance Club.**—THE SECRETARY, Lusaka S.C.D. Club, c/o Road Traffic Commissioner's Office, P.O. Box 208, Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia.
- Lymm Country Dance Club.**—Mr W. D. KIRKPATRICK, 3 Crouchly Lane, Lymm, Cheshire.
- Maidenhead Scottish Country Dance Class.**—Miss G. NIXON, Camley Cottage, 1 Camley Gardens, Maidenhead, Berks.
- Malvern Scots Club.**—Mrs M. GENT, 194 West Malvern Road, West Malvern, Worcs.
- Mansfield Highland and Scottish Country Dance Club.**—Mr J. STEVENSON, 10 Stacey Road, Mansfield, Notts.
- Manx Fold Dance Society, The.**—Miss C. M. GRIFFITHS, 7 Belgravia Road, Onchan, Isle of Man.
- Market Harborough Scottish Country Dancing Society, The.**—Miss J. S. STEWART, 6 Glebe Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire.
- Moor Allerton Memorial Hall Scottish Country Dance Group.**—Mr W. S. CROCKET, 12 Moorlands Crescent, Leeds, 7.



## Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 30th October 1954

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Saturday, 30th October 1954, at 2.30 p.m., in the Music Hall, Aberdeen.

PRESENT. In the absence of the President, The Duke of Atholl, Miss J. C. Milligan, Chairman of the Executive Council, presided, and there was an approximate attendance of 500 members, of whom 91 were delegates.

Before the meeting started messages were read by the Secretary from Her Majesty The Queen, The Duke of Atholl, and Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS. Miss Milligan, in her Chairman's address, began by congratulating the Society on the excellent Annual Report, a satisfactory year with increased membership, new Branches and Affiliations, a packed successful Summer School and a sound financial position. Thanks were due to all those who had contributed through the year by giving of their time and talent to demonstrations and a special mention must be made of "An Edinburgh Fancy," which was produced by Edinburgh Branch and was a first-class performance, full of interest to all. In her opinion it merited a wider publicity.

Miss Milligan went on to say that the increase in affiliations overseas showed how important propaganda was; this was the real object in the minds of the founders of the Society and had been loyally backed up by the original Branches. She wondered if such loyalty to the original objects of the Society still existed. Did the Branches fully realise their indebtedness to the central body? Did they realise that without it they could not exist? Did they recognise the central body as their Alma Mater? It was feared that some were getting a little commercialised, thinking of what they could get rather than what they could give. Were they giving all the help they should to struggling bodies at home and abroad? The Secretary had received a letter from Lady Elgin telling her of a group in Nova Scotia and another in Prince Edward Island, who were very interested in Scottish Country dancing but had no means of getting a teacher. It had been suggested that the Society might consider sending out a copy of the films so that the dancing could be started on the right lines.

Miss Milligan in ending her remarks said she realised that many of those at the meeting did not need to have these points outlined but they too could think more of how to help—they were the leaven and a little leaven leavened the lump.

The Chairman again said how she welcomed everyone to the meeting, which she felt was like a family gathering, and where could they gather better than at Aberdeen where they always received such a warm and affectionate welcome.

MINUTES. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 31st October 1953, having been circulated in the *Bulletin*, were approved and signed.

ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT. The adoption of the Annual Report, circulated in the *Bulletin*, was proposed by Mr Robertson, Arbroath, seconded by Miss Arnott, Kirkcaldy, and approved by the meeting.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS. In the absence of the Convener of the Finance Committee, the Accounts, also circulated in the *Bulletin*, were presented by Mr Hardie.

Turning first to the Revenue Account, Mr Hardie pointed out that subscription income had risen by £300, and affiliation fees by £12; one new Branch had been formed, and 12 groups affiliated during the year.

Donations appeared lower, but this was because in the previous year, the Branches had contributed £375 to the George VI Memorial Fund.

The surplus from the Summer and Autumn Schools was £421, a figure that, it was anticipated, would not recur, owing to the rise in costs and in particular the charge for residence, which was going up.

Royalties showed an increase of £50, and the surplus on publications was £1,353, as compared with £815 in 1952-53, and £1,155 in 1951-52.



On the expenditure side, administrative expenses had risen by £100: the *Bulletin*, owing to its increase in size, had cost £487, examinations had not been so expensive, and among Honorarium and Gifts was the £50 given to the retiring Treasurer, Miss McLellan, and £9 to Miss Todd, Miss Hadden's assistant, who had left to get married.

£15 had been written off furniture and equipment, and £400 had been set aside to meet the cost of re-printing the Society's publication, a heavy item of expenditure, which occurred every four or five years; £125 for film production and £1,500 towards the cost of acquiring and furnishing a central Headquarters in Edinburgh. After meeting normal expenses and making these reserves, there was a surplus income of £1,030, which had been added to the Capital Account.

Turning next to the Balance Sheet, Mr Hardie stated that furniture and office equipment had been depreciated by 10 per cent, that music books and leaflets certified by the Treasurer stood at £4,534, about the same figure as in the previous year, and investments had been increased by a further purchase of £1,500 in Building Society Shares. Cash at bank and in hand at £5,680 was high, but since the end of the year, £1,000 from the Savings Account had been invested in Building Society Shares, and the Publications Reserve of £800, and the Headquarters Fund of £1,530 had also been separately invested in the Dunfermline Building Society. Thanks were due to the Glasgow Branch, who had contributed £30 to the Headquarters Fund.

Finally, in early August, the expenses of the Summer School, which totalled over £3,000, had been paid.

Mr Hardie then invited questions, and after Mr Gray had commented on the large cash balance at 30th June, and the opening of the Headquarters Fund, Mr Hardie then presented the Estimates for 1954-55, which he stated had been based on the 1953-54 figures.

Mr Davison, Berwick-upon-Tweed, proposed, and Mr Stephen, Richmond, seconded the adoption of the accounts and estimates, which were carried unanimously by the meeting.

**REPORT OF RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING.** Mr J. B. Frizell reported, as convener, on the work of a Committee set up by the Edinburgh Branch with the approval and co-operation of the National Council of the Society to inquire into the origins and history of Scottish Country Dancing.

He said that the first phase of the Society's work in the revival and teaching of Scottish Country Dances had been consolidated: the Society had now been challenged to trace their ancestry and the influences which had affected their development down the centuries before memories faded and the facts were lost for ever.

The Society was indebted to many agencies for the distribution in all parts of the world of a preliminary questionnaire. A special word of thanks was due to the Scottish Tourist Board.

Although research was necessarily a long and patient process there had already been an encouraging response. Mr Frizell quoted from documents of different classes in (1) family papers; (2) excerpts from newspapers; and (3) songs and ballads, which contained much that was constructive and even amusing in the glimpse of the social conditions of the times. He drew particular attention to material which was available in America and an offer of help from the Folk Lore section of the Library of Congress.

He felt certain that if every member of the Society helped, the harvest would be a rich one and would serve to establish Scottish Country Dances as a part of the very history and living spirit of Scotland and as something which, if cultivated, would help to keep us the nation that we are and enable us to give something of beauty to a world anxious for solace and refreshment.

The Chairman expressed the thanks of the meeting and commended this important matter of research to the earnest attention of the Branches.

**APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR.** The confirmation of the re-appointment of the Auditor, Mr Norman MacKinnon, C.A., of Hyslop, Lyle and MacKinnon, Ayr, was moved by Mr McKell, Kirkcudbright, seconded by Mr Patterson, Aberdeen, and approved by the meeting.



**ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.** Miss Milligan proposed the appointment of The Duke of Atholl as President of the Society, and of the Countess of Elgin, the Countess of Galloway, the Duke of Hamilton, Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich, and Vice-Admiral the Mackintosh of Mackintosh as Honorary Vice-Presidents. Mrs Christie, Newton Stewart, seconded the proposals, which were approved by the meeting.

**CHAIRMAN and VICE-CHAIRMAN.** One nomination was received for the offices of Chairman and Vice-Chairman; Miss Milligan was therefore elected as Chairman, and Mrs Lesslie as Vice-Chairman.

**SIX ELECTED MEMBERS.** The following were elected by vote:—Miss A. Anderson (Edinburgh), Miss Browne (Aberdeen), Mrs Gudger (Stalybridge), Mrs Hutchison (Dundee), Mr Macleod (Glasgow), Mr Murray (Inverness).

**RESOLUTION FROM GLASGOW BRANCH:—**

- (a) "That the ban on affiliation of Clubs, Associations, etc., within Scotland be removed."
- (b) "That affiliation be granted whether there is a Branch in the area or not, provided a reasonable proportion of the members of bodies seeking affiliation be individual members of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society."
- (c) "That paragraph (b) apply not only in Scotland but throughout Great Britain."

Miss F. H. Adams, Glasgow, moved the resolution, which was seconded by Miss Kenyon, Glasgow. Speeches in favour and against the resolution were made and finally a direct negative was moved by Mr Robertson, Arbroath, and seconded by Mr Gilmour, Ayr. On a vote being taken the negative to the resolution was carried.

On a suggestion by Mr L. G. Gray, Edinburgh, the Chairman agreed to have the matter of affiliation discussed at a meeting of the Executive Council.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1955.** The Chairman announced that the Executive Council had accepted an invitation from Edinburgh Branch to hold the Annual General Meeting in Edinburgh on 26th November 1955.

**VOTE OF THANKS.** Mr L. G. Gray proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding at the meeting and to Aberdeen Branch for their hospitality during a most enjoyable week-end.

## The Bergen Festival, 1955

NOW well acquaint with Mediterranean heat and the suns of the south, the International Team was about to make its debut in Scandinavia. Many questions were in the minds of its members—Would it be cold in Norway? Should we take umbrellas?—and (as there were both rail and dock strikes) would we all manage to get to Newcastle? and (having got there) would we get away at all? However, the gods were on our side: we all arrived and Miss Milligan safely counted her chickens; the usual efficiency of Miss Hadden's arrangements ran as if on ivory pulleys; and thus, under leaden skies in a chill wind, the luxurious *Leda*, slightly over the appointed hour, left the Tyne Commission Quay with its full quota of passengers, *en route* for the enchanted land of Norway, to the Bergen Festival.

The Bergen Festival is a famous northern festival much akin to our own one of Edinburgh; it is on a smaller scale but of just as high a standard. After all what could one



ask for more than Agnes Gullestad (the Norwegian Sarah Bernhardt), Elizabeth Schwartzkopf, Sir Thomas Beecham, Jean Milligan and the International Team of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society?

Bergen is a beautiful city of ancient foundation—the old part borders the miles of quays of the splendid natural harbours; there, one walked on stones centuries old and looked on buildings of time-mellowed wood. The city centre is new; a fire at the beginning of the century wiped out the ancient wooden buildings and so to-day one walks through spacious squares and noble avenues of superb architecture designed with that magnificent taste and discrimination characteristic of Scandinavia. To make these even more splendid, they are annually bedecked for the Festival with bunting and the flags and banners of the nations taking part.

Bergen is proud of being Norwegian and very proud of being Bergen; just as an Englishman is liable to go out of his way to assert a Scottish ancestry, so a Norwegian is eager to prove a Bergen root. Besides a National anthem, they have a City Anthem which they sing with a fiery pride. We had much in common, they even roll their "Rs" in their form of the language. She is surrounded by seven majestic mountains and guarded on the crest of the nearest by Floien, a charming oasis on the visual summit from which one can walk from the treeline to the snows of the higher lands behind. Here are situated a restaurant and halls which light up like a galaxy of constellations at night. There are rolling terraces from which one seems to see a panorama of the world. At the cliff edge one is kept from falling into the picturesque abyss by a low stone wall crowned with a wrought-iron balustrade designed as a music clef bearing the notation of the first line of the Bergen City Anthem. One gasps as one views Bergen old, Bergen new and the Bergen of the future creeping over the Isthmus and Peninsula down to the fiord banks. What a setting for any Festival! Thither in perfect weather on mirror-calm aquamarine waters glided the *Leda* on the evening of the 2nd of June. We had arrived!

We were received by a delegation from the Festival, interviewed and photographed then taken to the Hotel Victoria where we were to stay, and then to the Festival Club, where we were to spend most of our waking hours when we were not dancing. This beautiful building was just completed when Norway entered the war and was taken over as the Gestapo Headquarters. When the Germans were expelled, it was re-modelled and now contains reception suites on the upper floors, restaurants on the lower and an enquiry bureau and concert halls on the ground floor. Outside in the grounds was a well-designed beer-garden which served, besides beer, tea and coffee, a splendid orange-juice which became a part of our staple diet. We had our meals in the magnificent Chianti Restaurant—all beautifully decorated in cane in the contemporary manner—where we ate a varied and succulent diet.

Our first evening set us a high standard of the friendliness that we were to know all during our time there. It was then we met our indispensable shadow, Baard Saeverud, a law student and nephew of the famous Norwegian contemporary composer, Harold Saeverud. He, along with other kind hosts, arranged for our watching a torchlight procession of the students—a homage in honour of the eightieth birthday of the actress Agnes Gullestad, then playing in "Anna Pettersdotter" in the theatre beside the Festival Club in her native city. (This famous Norwegian play was translated by Masefield into English, called "The Witch" and played in the West End some years ago.) The procession had to be late, because it never gets any darker in Norway than our twilight at this time of year, and so at last we saw the colourful sight. There the students do not wear gowns but large cloth caps (red for the University and blue for the Technical College; on graduation they burn these ceremonially and wear the sombre black of the years of discretion). They all appeared singing with the flickering torches along the avenues, and crowded on the terraces before the theatre, and there on a balcony against a dimming sky, lit by spotlight and torch-glimmer, appeared Agnes Gullestad to receive their ovation. It was a happy, nostalgic and picturesque scene which seemed to set the mood and note for the rest of our sojourn.



Heaven seems to smile upon the Bergen Festival, for no matter how bad the weather is during the rest of the year it is always sunny for it. So, in such circumstances it was more than a pleasure to perform in the open-air theatre of the lovely leafy undulating Nygards Park, with its pools, fountains and statues. We did, by special request, one programme on our own, but the others were shared with other artists—with Laurence Winters, the splendid coloured baritone from the Metropolitan, New York; with Rolf Kirknag, Norway's "Wilfred Pickles"; and with a Norwegian Folk Dance Group, who staged a traditional wedding with its songs, dances and characteristic customs. It was delightful to watch the serene easy ankle movement of these simple peasant dances. The bride was magnificently arrayed in a costume mainly of black and red: she wore no veil, but instead a high crown from which hangs all her jewellery (and any belonging to her husband, too). On her breast she wears the traditional elaborate brooch on which glitter suspended shimmering inverted domes called "leaves." These brooches are identical with those seen in Arabia and Persia. In ancient days the kings of Arabia had a Norwegian bodyguard! Their music, dances and songs made a fine contrast with ours. These park performances always finished with the spectacle of the "Dancing Waters"—an ingenious and beautiful arrangement of fountains and coloured lights that swirled, rose and fell in an almost miraculous manner to the mood and rhythms of recordings of classical music.

As we became known, so our popularity grew. Many of the audience met us in the Great Square and walked up behind our procession as we marched to the park behind the piper, the flag proudly tossing in Norwegian winds. A policeman went ahead to stop the traffic and the windows filled with waving people as we passed. Our first performance started with a crowd of 5,000 and our last finished with 30,000; they covered the terraces and slopes anywhere in the visual line; they were up trees, and the park rangers kept roping back branches so that more could see. It was thrilling to perform to such a vastness of people—a sea of faces. In Norway it is the custom to present bouquets of flowers to ladies and a garland of leaves to gentlemen to show any appreciation of the performance; however, in this open-air theatre it is forbidden to do so. However, during our last performance, just before dancing our farewell "Rouken Glen," our indispensable Baard came on to the platform with a vast bouquet in the Norwegian colours—red carnations and white gladioli tied with a broad red and white ribbon, and tucked underneath, for Britain and remembrance, a border of blue forget-me-nots. He announced to the silent and expectant crowd—and to us—that he was *not* going to break the rule—that this bouquet was *not* for us—but for the *Magna Dea ex Machina* who had guided, advised and produced all our success—Miss Jean Milligan. There was tumultuous applause. Miss Milligan stepped up and graciously and gracefully received their honour.

In dead silence we danced our last dance, and as we vanished into the verdant wings the flag dipped, and preceded by the triumphant pipes, Scotland publicly said farewell—in a storm of clapping.

Successful and satisfying as our public performances were, perhaps those we enjoyed most were the private ones. We gave a special late-evening performance for the Heads and Administrators who were not able to attend the others. The parties given in our honour were a great joy; and there, even more we were able to realise our close affinity with the Norwegians—in temperament and attitude to life. Their Royal Family and ours are related and closely allied—indeed, to quote from a letter since received concerning our Patron's visit—"She smiled her way into every Norwegian heart. You can count on Norway as part of the Empire now!" And so we also felt closely allied. This Festival is dedicated to Edvard Grieg—and Scotland gave him to them—for it was from Scotland that his grandparents sailed to become Norwegian citizens and change the name to "Grieg" from "Greig."

One of the features of the Festival is the Grieg Recital. A different one is given on



regular days in the perfection of his house and its setting at Troldhagen, about ten miles from Bergen. His house remains as he lived in it and, on his piano, national artists play and on it others are accompanied as they sing to a crowded house, and out into the gardens by amplification. It was there we listened enrapt as we lay in the scented shade of the conifers looking over fiords and lochs and hills. The charming songstress came out bearing her bouquets—one of the flowers and the other of the leaves of the trees of the grounds—and, spotlighted by sunbeams she sang for us. Down by the loch edge sits the composer's hut as if he had just left; there he was never disturbed, and still on his desk lies the plea to any thief—"Dear thieves, take what you will of mine—but leave my music—it belongs to Norway." Set in a crag over a hill well up beyond the reach of ordinary man is his tomb—there he sleeps beside his beloved wife Nina as he wished to—in the spot he chose where the last ray of the setting sun touches the crag.

One evening we were entertained by the Norwegian Folk Dancers, and danced one another's dances; and on another we were received by those Heads of the Festival who were members of the Hanseatic League in the ancient halls in the port area.

The Hanseatic League is a sort of ancient Mercantile Freemasonry; and under beams and wooden walls, oozing tradition and ceremonial, we ate sausages and drank beer. The ancient relics looked upon us: the long "kist" with the statutory Lutheran Prayer Book which must never be moved; the black list surmounted by the head and shoulders of an admonishing monk, where were inscribed the names of members doing unworthy deeds—and many were the good deeds they had to do to redeem themselves; the stick and whip to keep the juniors in place; and the triple canopied thrones, the tallest in the middle for the President, the right for the Director and the third (occupied by Miss Milligan) for the Beer Buyer!

Too soon the last day came, and before we left, the Restaurant set a magnificent feast for us on a table worthy of a Royal Palace—a mighty candelabrum presided monumentally over a board set with special porcelain and bedecked with trailing greenery and flowers and the flags of our countries. The meal, of our favourite dishes, was a gastronomic rhapsody. Our last party will always be remembered; we went up to the roof to watch the finale, the fireworks, and came down to another ceremony. Our friend Baard and his charming cousin, Berrit, the Secretary of the Festival, entered—he as the *Law of Norway* attendant on her as *Norway*. There on a cushion lay broad scarlet ribbons and the gold insignia of the Festival, such as worn only by the V.I.P.s. Each one of us, starting with Miss Milligan, was summoned and given the Order and Accolade of the "Seven Mountains of Bergen," and commanded to return at the soonest possible moment on the least possible excuse—a charming tribute. Then followed the singing other favourites, "Away up in Clachan" and "Loch Lomond," and the dancing—and one of the kindest speeches we had heard: "These late parties that we had had, deliberately had been given in what had been used as the Torture Room during the unhappy Gestapo days—we, with our happiness and joy of life had most certainly now completely exorcised all unhappy associations that the room once held." So we went out into the street early in the morning and in the bandstand of the Square we sang with great sorrow and fervour "Good-night Ladies"—many times (for there were many ladies) under an (almost) midnight sun.

When we went to our good ship *Venus* we were honoured in having a large deputation of many friends from all ranks to bid us farewell—from the celebrated and handsome Director, Frank Falch, down to the faithful little gamins who used to follow us around. We danced and sang on deck together, and sadly they went ashore when the hooter sounded. As the ropes rumbled, we sang "We're no awa' tae bide awa'"; the ship cast off from the quay and the pipes took up the tune. The melody echoed over the dark limpid waters and up to Floien, now glittering like a diadem on the brow of the highest of the seven mountains—the town lights twinkled and a serene moon smiled; on the extreme edge of the furthest pier stood a little boy waving—waving—the idyll was over.



## The Summer School of 1955

WHEN Miss Milligan pronounced this "One of the happiest of our many happy Schools." we were all in complete agreement, and King Sol, peeping through the windows of St. Regulus College, beamed with delight, knowing that he had played a big part in this satisfactory state of affairs. "St. Andrews weather" is indeed high praise, but seldom does it continue throughout all four weeks of our Course, so 1955 will long be remembered by all those who this year had the privilege of membership of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society's Summer School.

Other factors besides the weather combined to make this Course memorable. The welcome extended by Miss Milligan and her staff changed us from separate members of a school into members of a big family drawn from places as widely apart as Uganda and U.S.A., New Zealand, Denmark, Holland and Italy.

And what is the menu offered to this eager family? A real feast of music, dancing and interesting talks, all prepared and "served" by experts, so that no one goes empty away.

In one hall an enormous class under Miss Milligan's tuition is introduced to Book 18, and finds delight in its "new" formations and inspiring tunes.

The men of the Course are again very fortunate in having, as instructors in Highland Dancing, Mr Watson of Aberdeen and Mr Johnstone of Kirkcudbright. The very fine demonstrations given by this class and by their teachers are one of the delights of the Summer School, which give intense pleasure to all.

Elsewhere technique classes and certificate classes have their own enthusiastic teachers and interested students, while classes for "Dances difficult to teach" have the difficulties smoothed away by expert teaching, and endless patience on the part of the teachers.

After a busy morning people are glad to relax, but at 5 p.m. all are brisk and eager for the afternoon session. This is the time for talks by musicians who have specialised in some particular branch of their art. A pianist brings the piano to life as her fingers twinkle on the keyboard illustrating suitability of tune, rhythm and climax in their most artistic form. A fine exponent of "Puirt a Beul" makes us imagine we "have the Gaelic" as we all join happily in "Bodachan a Mhirein."

On certain afternoons we indulge in Old Time Dancing, or in Irish Folk Dancing, both of which are greatly enjoyed, but the special afternoon thrill occurred when aerial photographs of Scottish Country Dancing were taken by the oft-quoted "man in the plane." History was certainly made as the helicopter hovered, poised and finally "bowed" to Miss Milligan, who curtseyed in return.

The evening sessions bring all members together to join in the well-planned programmes, and this year we were delighted to welcome a fiddler who occasionally joined in our excellent music. The evening demonstrations gave tremendous pleasure. It was real joy to see teams perform so beautifully dances which had been taught only that morning. Here too we saw men's solo dances of Scotland, Isle of Man and Northern Ireland, in which the combination of grace and precision produced some perfect performances.

One of the loveliest demonstrations was of an old Scottish dance, "The Graces," collected in Peterhead by Mrs Cramb, and danced so beautifully by groups of three ladies. Now, more fully than ever before, do we realise how close is the connection between Ballet and Scottish dancing.

Mr Iain Robertson was greatly missed on several Sunday evenings, as his Community Hymn Singing has become a highly valued feature of the Summer School, but Miss Milligan, in her own inimitable way, took us to Norway with the team. The efficacy of blotting-paper and newspaper in preventing travel-sickness was proved beyond doubt! The welcome given by the Norwegians makes every team-member eager to return to Norway. But what, I wonder, is the full significance of "We never really saw darkness!" Can it be explained by "Land of the Midnight Sun?" I hardly think so!



Gala nights in Younger Hall, parties in St. Regulus and Wardlaw, visits to the Fair and to the Byre Theatre make our Summer School seem all too short. With real regret we recognise that "breaking-up" day is approaching, and, though we cannot yet fully assess the benefits we have derived, we realise that our enthusiasm has been re-kindled, our loyalty to the R.S.C.D.S. intensified, and our resolve, to preserve and hand on in their purest form the traditional music and dances of Scotland, has been strengthened through the teaching, demonstration and practice of Scottish Country Dancing in the stately precincts of St. Andrews.

As we say "Au Revoir" let us add a very sincere "Thank you" to those who made such excellent arrangements for our classes and our comfort.

## News from Overseas

DURING the past year, interesting reports of Scottish Country Dancing from groups overseas have been received and it is felt that members will like to know something of the work which is going on quietly and unobtrusively all the time. Unfortunately, lack of space prohibits reports from all such groups, but from time to time it is hoped to publish items of particular interest.

From **New Zealand** come most stimulating accounts of the progress of Scottish Country Dancing. Such is the enthusiasm that members of the Scottish Country Dance Section of Dunedin Burns Club think nothing of travelling 100 miles and back to initiate and establish Clubs in the country. One very good feature is the training of junior members who are representative of various colleges and who will be ready in time to play their part. Demonstrations are held before large audiences and at several there were 300 dancers and an attendance of over 40,000. We have had also reports of excellent broadcasts from Hamilton by the New Zealand Broadcasting Service. Any Scottish or English member who has the full certificate of the Society and who is contemplating a visit to New Zealand will be given a warm welcome.

From **Korea** comes a most fascinating account of Scottish Country Dancing in Hiroshima, associated at once in one's mind as the place where the first atom bomb was dropped. One of our members, Sergeant Barrie, whose army service has taken him to many parts of the world, writes of no less than three groups of people who have been taught by him and who are greatly enjoying our Scottish Dances. After only three weeks with one group of teachers, who are members of a Folk Dance Society, he was invited to a folk dancing festival where he saw ten sets dancing Monymusk, and the Eightsome Reel, both having been translated into Japanese. Altogether over forty Scottish Country Dances have been taught and the work still goes on.

From **Lusaka**, Northern Rhodesia, we hear of Scottish Country Dancing at the Caledonian Games held at Chingola in the Copperbelt, while at **Kuala Lumpur**, Malaya, a Gurkha regiment performed several Scottish Country Dances as well as a Thirty-two-some Reel. From **Saskatoon**, Canada, news comes of a small group who are keeping alive the traditional dances of Scotland and who have given twelve public demonstrations.

**Washington, D.C.**, Scottish Country Dance Group is very keen, and it is again emphasised that visitors to this city who are fully certificated members of the R.S.C.D.S. will be given a warm welcome. The teaching of the various classes is being done by enthusiastic members who take every opportunity of increasing their knowledge so that a high standard may be maintained.

An enthusiastic group of Scots and others dance in **Valparaiso**, Chile, in connection with the St. Andrew's Society there, and they are now practising for the Caledonian Ball, which is the highlight of their season.

It is hoped that these few items will be taken as representative of many more countries where good work is being done.



### HIRE OF FILMS

Branches may hire films made for the Society (Rakes of Glasgow ; River Cree ; Mrs McLeod of Raasay) free of charge, for showing to members, but application must be made through the Secretary, 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, 3. Particulars of films and loop films may be obtained from the Scottish Film Council, 16-17 Woodside Terrace, Glasgow, C.3.

### CERTIFICATED TEACHERS

Will members holding a Society certificate and who are going overseas, please send name and address to the Secretary, so that she can put them into touch with Branches or Clubs where teaching help is required.

### SUMMER SCHOOL, 1956

All members must apply to the Secretary, 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, 3, by 31st January 1956, for Summer School application forms, which will be sent out in March. The approximate dates of the School are 16th July to 13th August. Non-Residents must apply as well as Residents.

### 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, 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, 3.

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



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