

The Royal
Scottish Country
Dance Society
Bulletin.

No. 32.

OCTOBER 1954.

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Bulletin

No. 32.

October 1954

Annual Report

IN the first year in the reign of our Patron, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, Scottish Country Dancing has shown itself to be well established in the national life. From Highland Balls on a grand scale to dances in small villages it is clear that more and more people know a greater variety of dances and are able to perform them with reasonable skill and certainly with a good spirit of enjoyment. It would be difficult to imagine now that our Scottish dances with their lovely tunes would ever die out and if this assumption be true, the Society has realised one of its main aims. Assuredly the pioneers have had some of their strongest hopes fulfilled and the fact that there have been so few set-backs show that their mission was worth while. Certainly it has evoked an answering response and effort from a steadily growing and widely scattered membership. And how necessary it is to have Societies to restore and safeguard the arts in this industrial and atomic age. Attention nowadays is frequently drawn to the existence of cumulative strain not only in industry but in the household and to the unsatisfactory use of leisure with its consequent boredom. In these problems the Society considers that it has an important part to play by providing a healthy hobby with action and companionship, as well as a cultural interest. In this connection the training of the Society's teachers is all important. The appropriate committees have given and continue to give a great deal of thought to the best methods of training in order to ensure that teachers have not only the necessary knowledge but skill in putting it across in ways that are acceptable to all kinds of classes and that are in harmony with the stimulus and spirit of the reels, jigs and strathspeys.

The reports from the Branches unite to give a comprehensive picture of the work. The Executive Council however, would like to record items of special interest which have taken place during the year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND AUTUMN SCHOOL. At the invitation of Ayr Branch the Annual General Meeting was held in Ayr on 31st October 1953. During the week-end two Balls were held and classes were taught by Miss Milligan as well as by teachers of the Branch. The Executive Council were generously entertained to lunch by Ayr, North-West Ayrshire and Kilmarnock Branches.

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS. The Executive Council is pleased to announce that invitations to be Hon. Vice-Presidents of the Society have been accepted by Her Grace The Countess of Elgin, Her Grace The Countess of Galloway, His Grace The Duke of Hamilton, and Admiral The Mackintosh of Mackintosh.

Sir George Ogilvie Forbes died very soon after becoming one of the Society's Honorary Vice-Presidents. His death will be deeply regretted.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE. Many strange and romantic theories have been woven round some of the dances but factual evidence in support of them is hard to find. For various historical reasons very little is known about the origin of the dances collected by the Society and so, in order to stimulate further interest in this part of the work and to add to what is already known, a Research Committee has been formed by the Edinburgh Branch with the approval of the Executive Council. A questionnaire has now been published and widely distributed. It has received good press and B.B.C. publicity

and already replies to the questions have been coming in. An energetic start has been made and it will be interesting to receive further reports.

NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION TEAMS, 1954-56. On 30th January selected members from 28 Branches in Scotland and England danced in Edinburgh before a Selection Committee. The following were chosen to represent the Society for the next two years.

Miss D. McCartney (Castle Douglas)	Mr K. Connolly (Edinburgh)
Mrs D. McLeod (Glasgow)	Mr H. Glen (Edinburgh)
Miss D. Robertson (Glasgow)	Mr W. Hamilton (Edinburgh)
Miss M. Storrar (Edinburgh)	Mr W. Murray (Inverness)
Miss J. Yeats (Aberdeen)	Mr I. Robertson (Edinburgh)

RESERVES

Miss M. Buchanan (Aberdeen)	Mr A. L. Cumming (Dundee)
Miss S. Cameron (Edinburgh)	Mr J. Flint (Edinburgh)
Miss E. Goodall (Perth)	Mr W. Y. Forrester (Dundee)
Miss A. Mann (Dundee)	Mr J. Johnstone (Dumfries)
Miss A. Stephen (Perth)	Mr D. McLeod (Glasgow)

Mr W. Clement (Perth) was appointed piper to the team.

Members of the selected teams have taken part in Folk Dance Festivals in Birmingham, Nice and Pescara. A short report of these demonstrations is included in the *Bulletin*.

EXAMINATIONS. During the year examinations have been held in the following places:—Aberdeen, Ayrshire, Belfast, Dunfermline, Duns, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, London, Moffat, Newcastle, Peterhead, Richmond, Rochdale, St. Andrews, Stirlingshire. Examinations were also held in Anstey College of Physical Education, Birmingham; Dunfermline College of Physical Education, Aberdeen; Jordanhill Training College, Glasgow; Scottish School of Physical Education, Glasgow; Notre Dame R.C. Training College, Glasgow.

In the Preliminary Test there were 297 passes and 76 failures; in the Teachers' Certificate Examination there were 106 passes and 26 failures.

NEW PUBLICATION. A collection of traditional Scottish Country Dance tunes to be used as alternative tunes for Dances in Books 8-14 has been published and is called "Scottish Country Dance Music." The collection has been made for the Society by Mrs Winifred Bird Matthew of Dundee.

MEMBERSHIP. There are now approximately 17,000 Members, 75 Branches and 96 Affiliated Groups. During the year 1 new Branch has been formed and 12 Affiliated Groups have been accepted into membership.

SUMMER SCHOOL. The Summer School was held in University Hall, St. Andrews, from 19th July to 16th August. To meet the growing demands accommodation was also provided at two other University Residences, St. Regulus and Hepburn Halls. An average of 160 members were in residence each week while approximately 120 non-residents attended the classes during the four weeks.

The Executive Council take this opportunity to extend their sincere thanks to 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 our membership remained almost the same as last year. We have now 720 ordinary members and 85 Life Members.

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

At a Teachers' Certificate Examination 11 candidates passed the test. Miss Milligan was well pleased with the standard of the work, which reflected great credit on Miss B. Anderson, the instructress.

Many displays have been given by our members in and out of town and some even danced in Biarritz, Caen and Paris. Many classes outwith the Society have been taught by our members.

Two very popular Balls were held in December and March.

The Branch has been honoured by having Miss Yeats chosen to dance in the Scottish Team at the International Dance Festival at Nice in July. Another of our members, Miss Buchanan, was chosen for the reserve team.

At the Scottish Country Dance Festival held in March 1954, at which there was the record entry of 134 teams, two of the R.S.C.D.S. teams won the awards in the Women's Open and Mixed Open Classes.

In November we had a visit from Miss Milligan when she managed to go over practically the whole of the Coronation Book.

The Aberdeen Scottish Country Dance Club, now three years old had another very successful season in their new accommodation in Cowdray Club, Fonthill Road, Aberdeen.

It was with regret that our Committee accepted the resignation of our Hon. Treasurer, Miss D. Slater, on medical grounds. She has been one of our most active and faithful members for about twenty-five years and the Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her many and varied services to the Branch.

ADELAIDE. Secretary, Mrs S. Rattray, 29 Stanley Avenue, Blair Athol, Adelaide, South Australia.—This Branch is pleased to report a second successful year and we feel we are in great part responsible for the rapid growth in the interest in Scottish Country Dancing in South Australia. Although our membership has not greatly increased, the demonstrations which we have performed and the enthusiasm of our members have spread correct dancing to many groups with whom we could not cope at our weekly class where Mrs Goldie does such good work.

We have also been encouraged by the issue of a few Australian pressings of Jimmy Shand's records, as formerly we had to procure them from Scotland, a lengthy and costly business, there being no bands here capable of playing at correct tempo.

This year we started a monthly dance in the city to give our older members a chance to use their dancing knowledge and these have proved a great success, and we hope to have even more of our members able to attend these dances by the end of this season.

AIRDRIE, COATBRIDGE and DISTRICT. Secretary, Mrs E. Andrews, 41 Glebe Crescent, Airdrie.—Once again this Branch has had a very successful year. Its membership, at present, is 181.

The Branch ran three classes during 1953-54—one for juveniles, one for beginners and one for advanced dancers. All three classes were exceptionally well attended. In the juvenile class alone we had over one hundred members.

In February of this year, Miss Isobel Perman's Demonstration Team gained a Certificate of Merit at the Lanarkshire Music and Drama Festival. The team performed at many social functions in the district and were very well received wherever they went.

In October 1953, the Branch Dance was held in Sir John Wilson Town Hall, Airdrie, and there, members had a most enjoyable evening dancing to Annie Shand Scott and her Band.

The Branch class held a party at the end of the season and once again proved a great success.

It can be said that the success of the Branch Classes is largely due to the teachers and pianist who have given themselves whole-heartedly to the running of the classes and all of our Branch members are greatly indebted to them.

ANNAN. Secretary, Miss B. M. Calver, 90 High Street, Annan.—The membership of the Branch in this its sixth year is 153. Under the leadership of our very enthusiastic President, Mr Neil Beattie, the Branch has had a busy and successful year. Three classes, a beginners' class, an intermediate class and an advanced class were held during the session. After Christmas a fourth class for more advanced dancing was formed. At the end of the session the members of this class gave a display of country dancing to a large and appreciative audience.

During the session the Branch was invited to give demonstrations to various clubs and guilds. Two teams, a women's team and a mixed team were entered for the Dumfries Musical Festival and both were well placed in their class. In January Mrs Lesslie paid a very welcome visit to the Branch and all in her very large class enjoyed a delightful and instructive evening.

Our Annual Highland Ball was held in February when some 230 dancers danced to the music of Jimmy Shand and his Band.

During the session monthly dances, and in December a Christmas Dance, were held.

Our grateful thanks are due to our teachers and pianists on whom so much of the success of our activities depends. A special word of thanks being due to Miss Stafford for her work in training demonstration and festival teams.

ARBROATH. Secretary, Mrs E. A. Robertson, J.P., 34 Viewfield Road, Arbroath.—This Branch has had a very successful year, although there has been a slight drop in membership. At present there are 7 Life Members and 472 ordinary members.

Classes were taught throughout the winter at all the centres—Arbroath, Brechin, Montrose and Kirriemuir and each centre was responsible for its own social functions and demonstration teams.

Children's classes were run by several of the centres, and once again Society Teachers gave voluntary help to youth organisations in teaching Scottish Country Dancing.

AUCHTERARDER. Secretary, Mrs H. Hunter, 36 Queen's Terrace, Auchterarder.—Our first year as a Branch has been a happy one, marred only by the untimely death of our esteemed and capable secretary, Miss J. E. Bayne. Our main activity has been the weekly R.S.C.D. Club at Ruthven Towers Hotel, which continues from strength to strength. Membership of the Branch is 68 ordinary members and 1 Life Member, practically all of these being members of the Club. During the year we have had two big dances in the Aytoun Hall, when we had splendid support from the neighbouring clubs.

AYR. Secretary, Miss Jean Matheson, 48 Westwood Avenue, Mainholm, Ayr.—The membership of this Branch is now 416, a slight increase on last year.

The highlight of the year was the Autumn School, an event to which we had been looking forward for some time.

We were proud to have the honour of housing the Annual General Meeting and Autumn School and of welcoming members from Branches, from all parts of Great Britain and Ireland. The accommodation in suitable halls was rather a problem, but we did everything possible for the pleasure and convenience of our guests and hope that they enjoyed their visit to Ayr, as much as we enjoyed having them.

Six Branch classes were held in Ayr during the winter, and two in Troon.

At the beginning of the season, Mr and Mrs McLeod very kindly came from Glasgow

to adjudicate the entry for the Demonstration Team. Several demonstrations were given during the winter at dances in the district and were very much enjoyed by the spectators. The team again won the Challenge Cup at the Ayrshire Musical Festival.

Our Annual Ball which was held at Heads of Ayr Hotel, was rather a special one being the twenty-first Anniversary of the founding of the Branch. We issued invitations to the various classes in the County as we were anxious that they should all join in our celebrations. The result (480 dancers) was rather overwhelming, but no one seemed to mind. Some open-air dances will be held in the parks during the summer.

AYRSHIRE, North-West. Secretary, Miss A. P. N. Stevenson, 192 High Road, Saltcoats.—This Branch has finished another successful year with a membership of 526.

In the various districts the monthly dances still proved very popular; in addition to these, Christmas and Easter Balls, and in June a Summer Dance, all of which were well attended and were most enjoyable.

Miss Milligan again visited us in January and instructed classes on the dances from Book 17.

An audition was held in January when a Ladies Team and a Mixed Team were selected for the Ayrshire Festivals. These teams each gained second place in their respective classes.

The Children's Branch Class continues to be very popular, the membership rose to 50. The session ended with an excellent display by the children for the benefit of a large audience of parents and friends.

At our Annual General Meeting, Mr Alastair Aitkenhead, our Founder Chairman, resigned, as he will be leaving the district. By a popular vote he was made our first Honorary President.

BATH. Secretary, Mr A. Smith, Greenlawn, Homefield, Saltford, Nr. Bristol.—Another successful year has to be reported with a further slight increase in membership.

Members and their friends in some cases are coming considerable distances to attend the classes and the three dances held each season. The classes run from September to June inclusive.

The standard of dancing has been commented upon favourably by visitors. Due credit for this must be given to Miss Betty Brown, who not only has charge of the Branch classes but is tireless in her efforts to encourage and help members of the demonstration teams by providing studio space and much valued additional instruction.

BELFAST. Secretary, Mr P. I. M. Ferguson, 434 Lisburn Road, Belfast.—The Belfast Branch has had a busy and pleasant year and the membership is still increasing. In addition to the three regular classes in Belfast and the very enthusiastic class in Bangor, a Certificate Class was held this year. The six candidates from the Belfast Branch together with one from the Portrush Branch who presented themselves for the Preliminary Examination were all successful. The Children's Class is also flourishing and is now beginning to send members into the Branch.

This year the Branch had the honour of a visit from Miss Milligan who came over to conduct the Certificate Examination. In addition to holding the examination, Miss Milligan taught three large and enthusiastic classes which did much to stimulate the enthusiasm of the members.

The Branch was also fortunate in having Mrs Gudger as the teacher at both the Autumn Week-end School in Cushendun and at the Spring Week-end School at Portstewart. The Branch was very glad to be joined at Portstewart by the Committee of the Portrush Branch. It was regretted that it was not possible to invite all the members of the Portrush Branch to attend but the size of the room where the dancing took place limited the numbers to seventy-two.

The Branch held a dance in the Floral Hall, Belfast, in October and joined the other North of Ireland Branches in the Scottish Country Dance in the Town Hall, Ballymena, at the end of February.

Demonstration teams and teachers have been sent out to many groups who have expressed an interest in Scottish Country Dancing, and teachers have been supplied to several classes outside Belfast.

BIRMINGHAM. Secretary, Miss M. Jenkins, 101 Westfield Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham.—This Branch can report a successful year with an increase in membership, making the total 100 of which 15 are Life Members.

The Coronation Ball held last autumn and the dance in the spring were well attended, both being very happy evenings.

Last November in partnership with the Wolverhampton Branch we held a week-end school at Lilleshall, when Mrs Lesslie, Mrs Gudger and Miss Thomson gave us a very instructive week-end. This school proved such an enjoyable venture that we are hoping to make it an annual event. It was very disappointing to us to have to refuse applicants on account of limited accommodation.

We have again held socials on Saturdays evenings, approximately once a month and these have been well supported.

Three of our members have taken the Preliminary Teachers' Certificate Examination and have been successful.

BOSTON. Secretary, Mrs A. Smith, 55 Pond Street, Winchester, Mass.—The Branch has had a very busy and exceptionally interesting and profitable season.

Classes met weekly from September 1953 through June 1954 and plans are being made to meet occasionally through July and August, and outdoors if possible. Classes were well attended.

We have 79 Society Members ; we have no Life Members yet.

We have participated in thirteen demonstrations, the Scottish Highland Games (an annual affair) ; Clan McIntosh Annual Dinner Meeting ; joint party with the English Country Dance Society group ; tenth Annual new England Folk Festival ; two Folk Group Workshops, New York State (demonstration and teaching Scottish Country dancing) ; Boy Scout benefit ; Ireland Outdoors (Irish and Canadian Scottish Games) ; Boston Art Festival ; two United Nations Meetings ; Bon Accord (Scottish Lodge Annual Dinner Meeting).

We are planning our first week-end of Scottish Country Dancing to be held on 23rd 24th and 25th July 1954 at Plymouth, Mass. The camp accommodates 120 dancers and we are confident of meeting this number. We have received registrations from 25 from Ontario, Canada.

We have also got together a group to meet regularly to learn to sing and play Scottish Folk Songs to be part of our week-end activities. We believe this added attraction will help to increase our membership. At present our numbers of males and females are fairly even.

BLAIR ATHOLL. Secretary, Mr W. J. Phillips, c/o Walton, Balanloan Home Farm, Blair Atholl.—The Branch enjoyed quite a successful winter season, there being thirty-three members.

The Dancing Class was very well attended and an encouraging feature was the increase in the number of young people under membership age who came along.

During the session, several socials were held and these were attended by dancers from a wide area.

The Annual Scottish Country Dancing Rally was a huge success ; it was held in the Drill Hall, Blair Atholl, and Adam Rennie's Broadcasting Band provided the music.

Blair Atholl was well represented at most of the Country Dance Rallies in the area, even though invitations were rather numerous and close-running at times.

A forthcoming attraction, and one which is much looked forward to, is a Scottish Country Dance in July (1954), which is staged for the benefit of the Boy Scouts who will converge on Blair Atholl from all corners of the world to attend their bi-annual Jamboree ;

for the overseas Scouts particularly, a demonstration of two dances by Club members, is planned.

CAPE TOWN. Secretary, Mr E. C. Robertson, Sherwood, Canigou Avenue, Rondebosch, Cape Town.—The year for this Branch has been comparatively quiet, apart from a very enjoyable Coronation Dance held on 4th June, and a Christmas Dance which was attended by members of the Simon's Town Reels Club, the Caledonian Society and representatives of the English Country Dance Society, who joined us in making a very successful evening, in spite of it being one of the hottest days of the year.

As regards the evening classes we held two classes each week during the first half of the year, but the turn-out caused us to hold one class per week for the second half of the year.

There have been no events in Cape Town to create an extra interest in Scottish Country Dancing, and therefore the year's classes just paid their way. Now we are pleased to report that a beginner's class has again been started, and the number of newcomers is increasing at a rate which appears to be related to the approach of the Cape winter.

We are very pleased to see that two of our members visiting Scotland are endeavouring to attend the 1954 Summer School at St. Andrews.

Our subscriptions for the 1953-54 season numbered 59, and the class attendances averaged 35 persons per evening.

CARLISLE and BORDER. Secretary, Major J. Riddell, R.A., Durranhill Camp, Carlisle.—This Branch has completed its fourth year which has been one of the most successful, with a membership of 108.

Classes commenced on Wednesday, 23rd September, 1953 under the tuition of Mr J. Johnstone, approximately 170 names appeared on the register and the class membership averaged 70 dancers, throughout the whole of the season. This year we ventured out and started a children's dancing class which is becoming very popular.

Displays have played a big part in our Social Programme this past season. At least ten of our displays have been given locally at Church Functions, Garden Fetes, W.R.I. Meetings and Sports Days. Wherever our display teams have appeared the audiences have shown great appreciation and a love for Scottish Country Dancing.

The Branch entered teams for both Carlisle and Dumfries Musical Festivals and gave very creditable programmes.

A week-end school of Scottish Country Dancing was held on 19th and 20th February consisting of three two-hourly classes, under the expert tuition of Mrs F. D. Lesslie. Deep appreciation of Mrs Lesslie's teaching was expressed by many who attended, it was indeed a social and cultural week-end.

At least six Social Evenings have been held which are still proving a great attraction to many members and friends.

The highlight of the season was our Annual Ball held on 7th April 1954, music was provided by Jimmy Shand and his Scottish Country Dance Band. We were honoured this year to have as our guests of honour Sir Robert Chance, Lord Lieutenant of Cumberland, and Lady Chance. The Ball was a great success and approximately 200 members and friends were present from as far as London, Richmond, Dundee, Castle Douglas, Lockerbie, Dumfries, Annan, Moffat, Ecclefechan, Langholm, Greta and Longtown.

CARNOUSTIE. Secretary, Mr W. Black, 3 Panmure Terrace, Muirdrum, Carnoustie.—The Branch was formed in June 1953 and had a very successful first year. Membership of 92 included 1 Life Member. The adult class was instructed by Mr D. Gorrie. Children's classes were very well attended, and a display in aid of the Y.M.C.A. was given in April. Members of neighbouring Branches attended the Annual Dance in December when music was supplied by Adam Rennie and his Scottish Country Dance Quartet.

CASTLE DOUGLAS. Secretary, Mr C. F. Craigie, Schoolhouse, Crossmichael, Castle Douglas.—This session has been a most successful and happy one, and enthusiasm is as great as ever. Membership of 98, including 4 Life Members, showed a slight increase on last year.

During the season the Branch held weekly adult classes. These were well attended, resulting in a higher standard of dancing; the Branch pianists contributing in no small way to the success and enjoyment of these classes.

A newly formed Junior Group (ages 12-16) had an enrolment of 103 which augurs well for the future strength of the Branch. A pleasing feature was the number of boys attending.

The Branch had the honour of having one of its members—Miss Doris McCartney,—chosen as a member of the Scottish Team.

A successful and enjoyable Ball, at which members were joined by dancers from neighbouring Branches and classes were held in November. During the season members were happy to accept invitations to dances held by neighbouring Branches.

In February we were delighted to have a visit from Miss Milligan, who, conducting two special coaching classes, taught several dances from Book 17. She enthused the members with her personality and with the spirit of Scottish Country Dancing. In conjunction with this visit, a dance, held in the Town Hall was very well attended by dancers from a wide area—Miss Milligan acted as M.C. for several of the dances.

Teams competing at Newton Stewart and Dumfries Festivals won several trophies.

Demonstrations were given throughout the district by mixed teams and these were always enthusiastically received.

The Branch owes a debt of gratitude to teachers, pianists and members of Festival and demonstration teams. We are indebted, also, to the Education Committee for granting the use of the school gymnasium on all occasions.

CLACKMANNANSHIRE. Secretary, Miss R. Gillies, 8 Queen Street, Alloa.—The membership of this Branch is now 178, including 5 Life Members—an increase of 7.

Branch classes were held in Dollar, Tillicoultry and Alloa, and each class reports a successful year.

The Branch Annual Dance was held on 4th December and although the attendance was smaller than expected a very happy evening was spent by those present.

The Scottish Country Dancing Section of the Central Counties Musical Festival was held in Alloa Town Hall in May. Several junior teams were entered by local teachers and these gave creditable performances.

At present the country members are busy practising dances and preparing costumes for the Historical Pageant to be held in Alloa on 8th, 9th and 10th July to celebrate the Centenary of the Burgh.

Dollar.—The class held two terms during the winter, the second being extended for two weeks at the expressed desire of the members. Attendance rose to fifty but owing to illness dropped during the second term. Dances were held at the end of each term—at Christmas in the Burnside Hall and in April in the Castle Campbell Hotel.

Tillicoultry.—The class membership at the commencement of the season showed an increase and we were very pleased to welcome new members; most of whom remained with us during the spring session despite falling-off in membership.

Our social activities have been more or less non-existent and apart from our Christmas and closing parties, which were both well attended and much enjoyed, attendance at all functions has been rather poor.

Alloa.—This class had a very successful season, with an increase in members.

Two parties were held during the session, friends were invited to both functions and the visitors voted them the happiest parties in the district.

DUMFRIES. Secretary, Miss E. M. Erskine, 117 Lockerbie Road, Dumfries.—This Branch has had another successful year. Although there has been a slight drop in

membership, two social evenings, the Highland Ball in February and the Guid Nychburris Country Dance in June, were all well attended and much enjoyed. During the year a Rose Bowl was presented for competition in the Women's Open Class for Scottish Country Dancing at Dumfriesshire Musical Festival. Five teams were entered for this Festival and gained two Firsts, one First (equal), a Second and a Third in their respective classes. Three teams were entered for Carlisle Musical Festival and gained First, Second and Third place respectively. Mr Johnstone has been selected as a member of the reserve team to represent the Society. Membership of the Branch is 205.

DUNBARTONSHIRE, WEST. Secretary, Mrs J. A. Howieson, 27 Craigendoran Avenue, Helensburgh.—The Branch has had a very successful winter. Monthly dances have been held at various centres throughout the district, including Clynder, Garelochhead, Rhu and Helensburgh. These dances have been well attended and have provided opportunities for members from one part of the district to meet their fellow members who perhaps live some little distance away.

We are looking forward to a visit from Miss Milligan in September next, when she has kindly agreed to come and take a class.

DUNDEE. Secretary, Miss H. F. Crighton, 317 Blackness Road, Dundee.—The Branch has had a satisfactory year. The classes were all well attended. One heartening feature was a big increase in the numbers in the junior section, with a large number of boys coming forward. Membership now stands at 798 including 81 Life Members. Twenty-two demonstrations were given during the season by Branch teams; and their delightful displays have been greatly appreciated. The Club in conjunction with the Branch is already well established, and provides weekly social dancing for members. Social dances in connection with the classes and club were greatly enjoyed.

We were pleased to have three of our members included in the reserve International Team.

DUNFERMLINE. Secretary, Miss C. Robertson, 36 North Street, Lochgelly, Fife.—During 1953-54 total membership was 187, including 5 Life Members; and, despite the slight increase in numbers, the session was one of enjoyable activity.

Weekly instruction was given to three classes—Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced.

The Christmas Dance and the closing party were, as usual, given enthusiastic support, and numbers were limited to ensure maximum enjoyment for the dancers. To the former, we were happy to welcome representatives from Kirkcaldy and Leven Branches, the end-of-term dance being for class members and friends.

The informal Guest Nights, to which members of local Scottish Country Dancing Clubs were invited, proved extremely popular.

Efforts to maintain and develop public interest in the aims and activities of the R.S.C.D.S. met with an encouraging response. Several Clubs and Groups in the district have Scottish Country Dancing classes which are instructed by Certificated Branch Members. The demonstration teams entertained old folks and visited hospital patients. In addition, displays were given at the Dunfermline Retail Traders' Exhibition, and at the Open-Air Entertainments in Pittencrieff Park sponsored by the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust.

DUNS and DISTRICT. Secretary, Miss M. A. Rae, Penrhyll, St. Abbs.—Our first complete year has proved quite successful. Membership has grown steadily and on 31st March stood at 123 ordinary members and 9 Life Members. A highlight of the year was the visit from Miss Milligan when we all spent a most energetic and enjoyable evening. In order to bring our members together, since our district is so scattered, dances were held monthly in Eyemouth, St. Abbs, Chirnside, Duns, Lauder, and Earlston. The Open-Air Dance at Longformacus was very popular and drew a large crowd of dancers and spectators.

An examination class resulted in 7 out of the 10 candidates gaining the Preliminary Certificate.

EAST LOTHIAN. Secretary, Miss J. J. Storie, 14 Hawthornbank Road, Haddington.—

The membership of the Branch is 185 which is a slight decrease from last year, probably due to the fact that there is also functioning a Haddington Scottish Country Dance Club. In spite of this, it is encouraging that the number has shown only a slight decrease.

During the season, classes were taken by Mrs Hutchison, Mrs Lesslie and Miss Allie Anderson and these were greatly appreciated.

On alternate months, dances were held in different parts of the county.

A point worthy of note has been the successful sale of a leaflet of what we term "our own Dance," namely, "Haddington Assembly," which has been devised by Mrs J. Henderson, North Berwick, one of our leading teachers in the county. This leaflet, complete with music, has been on sale to Society members at a cost of sixpence and has helped the Branch funds.

EAST SURREY, WEST KENT. Secretary, Miss T. Ockenden, 39 Gladstone Road, Croydon, Surrey.—We started off on 9th December 1953 with 86 to 90 members, and now we can very proudly say that we are beginning a new season with 143 members, 5 of these being Life Members and 7 junior members.

Classes were held in Croydon, West Wickham, Sanderstead and South Norwood; next season we hope to extend further into Surrey, by starting classes in Redhill and Reigate.

During the past year we have given three demonstrations and have already a number of invitations for next season.

Social dances in connection with the classes have been extremely well attended and together with the large dances have been most enjoyable and successful. Music for the large dances was provided by Mr Skinner and his Band. Credit is also due to our excellent pianists who played throughout the year at our classes and socials.

ECCLEFECHAN. Secretary, Miss M. R. Armstrong, Post Office House, Ecclefechan.—Although reduced in numbers this Branch has had a successful season. The Annual Highland Ball and parties at Christmas and the end of season were much enjoyed by both members and dancers from neighbouring Branches. Classes were held each fortnight and were well attended.

EDINBURGH. Secretary, Mr T. J. King, Commercial Bank of Scotland Ltd., 13 Drumsheugh Place, Edinburgh, 3.—The past year has been one of almost ceaseless activity, with 26 classes, attended by 1,287 dancers, being run by the Branch. One innovation, which proved very popular, was a class for teachers holding the full certificate.

The usual week-end School was held at Black Barony and a suggestion made at the School, that a week-end course for Pianists, followed by an audition, be held was adopted, and several excellent pianists have been brought to our notice in this way.

The 1953 Autumn Ball was again a success and this year will be held on 3rd November. The Ladies' Ball and the Annual Ball, which was attended by Lord James Stewart Murray, the Duke of Atholl, were also most enjoyable.

We were delighted that five members of the Branch were selected for the International Team for Nice, and two members won a place in the Reserve Team.

The Research Committee is hard at work and they are busy on the world-wide distribution of the Questionnaire which they have prepared. One of their suggestions to the Executive has resulted in the Branch staging, during the Edinburgh Festival of Music and Drama, "An Edinburgh Fancy," in which certain eighteenth century dances will be danced in period costume.

The Branch has been honoured by an invitation from the Festival Society to take part in the Scottish Concert in the Assembly Hall during the third week of the Festival.

FORFAR. Secretary, Mrs D. Piggott, 3 Langlands Road, Forfar.—The membership is 267 with 3 Life Members.

The Branch sponsored three general classes during the season including three preliminary classes for beginners. All classes were well attended.

The Branch held their Annual Dance in February. Visitors attended from Brechin Letham Centres and Friockheim and Carnoustie Branches. Their presence was very much appreciated by the Branch. During the season members from Forfar Branch attended dances at Brechin, Kirriemuir, and Arbroath and Letham Centres, Carnoustie Branch and Kirriemuir S.C.D. Club.

The highlight of our season was a visit of the Chairman and co-Founder of the R.S.C.D.S., Miss Jean Milligan. We were fortunate in having the services of Miss McLaughlan at the piano and all spent a most enjoyable and enlightening evening.

As is the usual custom classes held parties at Christmas and one to finish the season.

FORRES. Secretary, Miss A. Bremner, Auchoillie, Forres.—This Branch, now in its fifth year, continues to flourish, although there has been no appreciable increase in membership.

The session terminated on 2nd April with a most successful Social Evening. All members are looking forward to the coming session, which begins in October, with marked enthusiasm.

FRIOCKHEIM. Secretary, Dr M. McLellan, Eastgate House, Friockheim, Angus.—Our new Branch had a very successful first year with a membership of 168. A new Centre has been formed in Letham and we are very pleased to welcome these new friends to our Branch.

During the year both senior and junior teams gave a large number of demonstrations in aid of various charities.

An Open Night was held in aid of the Arbroath Lifeboat Disaster Fund. We were pleased to be able to give a donation of £18 to this deserving cause.

Both senior and junior teams took part with success in several festivals, the most notable performances being given by the junior team which won the under 16 Rural Event at Arbroath Festival for the fourth consecutive year with a mark of 90 per cent, and retained the Mrs Cox Cup at Aberdeen Festival with 93 per cent, the highest mark awarded at the festival.

Teams also took part in B.B.C. Broadcasts with Lindsay Ross's Band, which plays for the Branch.

The Branch was very honoured when Miss Milligan paid us a visit in the spring. During the course of one evening she took classes for both seniors and juniors. On another evening, Miss Milligan was entertained by a display given by teams from the Friockheim Centre. At this display, the dance "Friockheim" was performed by eight boys, for the first time in Scotland, in honour of Miss Milligan. This dance had been composed in Lubeck, early last century, by emigrants from Friockheim. Descendants of these people had taken the dance to Canada, where it was re-discovered by Mrs MacNab, who kindly forwarded us the notes on the dance.

GATEHOUSE OF FLEET. Secretary, Miss A. Corrie, 28 Riverbank, Gatehouse of Fleet.—Although there has been a Scottish Country Dancing Class in Gatehouse for a few years, this was the first season as a Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

Mr Little came from Castle Douglas on Monday nights throughout the winter to take the class, and much enthusiasm was shown by him and by the sixty members of the class.

Several teams competed in the festival at Newton Stewart in March with success in their various sections.

The Branch held a party at Christmas, and a social at the end of the season, to which members of nearby Branches were invited. In April, the teams which had competed at the festival, and others from Castle Douglas and Newton Stewart gave a display in Gatehouse which was much enjoyed by a large and interested audience.

During the winter several members went to dances given by Castle Douglas, Newton Stewart, Kirkcudbright and Dalbeattie, and in March, through the kindness of the

Castle Douglas Branch, a few members attended a class held there by Miss Milligan which was most helpful and interesting.

GLASGOW. Secretary, Miss M. W. Kenyon, 11 Bulloch Avenue, Giffnock, Glasgow.—Membership, including 12 new Life Members, reached the record number of 1,497.

In addition to the established classes, a very successful fortnightly team practice class was held.

Mixed teams attended during the B.B.C. Scottish Country Dance Broadcasts and were enthusiastically applauded.

These teams gave more than forty demonstrations in and around the city, while on 31st December they featured in the Hogmanay Television Show in Old Govan Town Hall.

On 27th June, by kind invitation of Edinburgh Branch, eight mixed teams were privileged to take part in the massed Scottish Country Dancing Display at Murrayfield before Her Majesty The Queen. The excellence of the arrangements, the kindness and hospitality of Edinburgh Branch and the thrill of the dancing itself, made the occasion one that will never be forgotten by those who participated.

Branch candidates were again successful in both the Preliminary and Teachers' Certificate examinations.

The monthly dances were very well attended while the "Jordanhill" Dance on Saturday, 8th May, proved its usual outstanding success. The Annual Ball in December was more popular than ever and many were unable to obtain tickets.

Community Festivals were held in Househillwood and Knightswood; the Scottish Country Dancing was adjudicated by members of the Branch.

Mrs MacLeod and Miss Doris Robertson were again chosen as members of the International Team while Mr MacLeod was selected as first reserve, as well as Piper to accompany the team.

A donation of £50 was sent to Headquarters, £30 towards the R.S.C.D.S. Building Fund, the other £20 towards the expenses of the International Team. Another donation that of £21, was sent to the Thistle Foundation, from the proceeds of the special Coronation Ball.

HAMILTON and CLYDESDALE. Secretary, Mrs A. C. F. Rankin, Avoncroft, 7 Miller Street, Hamilton.—In spite of rising costs and subsequent losses the year has been a pleasant one throughout the Branch and the dancing has kept up to the usual high standard.

New classes were started and though some of them were small they lacked nothing in enjoyment and enthusiasm. The membership for the year is 426 Ordinary Members and 21 Life Members.

INVERNESS and DISTRICT. Secretary, Mr H. G. Draper, The Cottage, Lochardil, Inverness.—The Branch had has a most successful year. The membership now stands at 246 including 6 Life Members. Five classes were run during the year and, in addition, a class for the instructor's final certificate was held. At an examination (conducted by Miss Milligan and Mrs West) six members were successful in obtaining the Final Certificate.

Six social functions were held during the year and all were well supported.

KILMARNOCK and DISTRICT. Secretary, Miss A. Allan, 41 Irvine Road, Kilmarnock.—This has been a most successful winter. The number of members at classes are smaller, but classes in the district have kept our membership up to 370.

During the winter we had three big dances and on each occasion the demand for tickets exceeded the number for sale. Jimmy Shand's Band played for a dance in May and we had a most successful night with over 500 spectators.

KIRKCALDY. Secretary, Miss N. J. Arnott, Lakeside, 50 Boglily Road, Kirkcaldy.—This Branch is now in its twenty-fifth year. Membership stands at 355, including 17 Life Members.

Classes were well attended at the beginning of the season but numbers dropped for the second half.

A Technique Class, taken by Miss Arnott, was formed, and proved to be popular. This was the means of starting a Preliminary Certificate Class, the results of which were satisfactory.

A dance in aid of the Royal College of Nursing Educational Fund Appeal was held in October. The Annual Dance was held in the Ice Rink in February, when the Branch was able to welcome members from Dunfermline and Leven.

Three "Combined Nights" were held in all with a three-piece band in attendance. From the last, a collection was taken for the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society.

Requests for demonstrations have been met by Branch teams, including one in the Adam Smith Hall during Kirkcaldy Traders' Exhibition. Arrangements are in hand for a demonstration to be given during the Scottish Industries Fair in Glasgow.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT. Secretary, Miss J. Garmory, 23 High Street, Kirkcudbright.—This has been for the most part like former years. 72 members, 2 of them Life Members, and all of them members of the weekly class held on Monday evenings at Mayfield Private Hotel. Christmas Social and Annual Dance were held and a Social Evening each month during the summer. We were as usual pleased to welcome members of neighbouring Branches and classes at these functions. The highlight of our year was the Highland Ball held in Kirkcudbright under the auspices of the Stewartry Country Dance Association. The Branch undertook the decoration of the hall and we felt that our efforts contributed to the success of the evening.

LANARK. Secretary, Mrs Cairns, 17 Ladyacre Road, Lanark.—The past session has again been a most successful one and the number of members attending the actual Branch Class has increased tremendously. Unfortunately, owing to the lack of teachers in the outlying districts two classes have had to be suspended and this fact has caused our membership to be slightly less than in previous years. Our numbers for this session are—81 members and 5 Life Members.

Our monthly social evenings have continued to attract old friends of the Branch and to bring new members from the various classes attached to the Branch.

During the session our chairman ran a very successful dance in aid of the Old Age Pensioners in the district and the proceeds were very much appreciated by the old people.

LEVEN. Secretary, Miss C. I. Mowat, Pilmuir, Hawthorn Street, Leven.—Membership for the year 1953-54 was 128. This included 5 Life Members.

As in previous years two classes were held. On several occasions visitors, hearing the music, looked in at the class and also joined in the dancing.

Members of the Branch have given demonstrations at local gatherings.

At the two social dances neighbouring clubs were well represented.

LIVERPOOL. Secretary, Mr W. F. M. Stenhouse, 38 Armscot Close, Liverpool, 19.—Last session showed a small drop in membership from 152 to 134, but enrolment for the classes was only very slightly lower than the previous session. Classes were fairly well attended, except towards the end of the spring session, when we had a falling-off, and as a result we did not run a summer class. This unfortunately disappointed a few people.

Owing to family reasons, Mrs Jones was unable to be with us until after the New Year, when we were glad to welcome her back for the advanced class. The intermediate and beginners' classes respectively were taken by Miss Lyall and Mr and Mrs Prestwich, who have passed their preliminary test for the certificate.

Two dances were held this year, one in each term, and for the second one we tried to lower the cost by doing our own catering. An unexpected snag was someone to make the tea in large quantities. This was quietly solved by one young man finding how the geyser worked and in making tea to suit all tastes. The dances were very successful, and again we had the willing support of our sister Branches.

The Annual General Meeting was well attended; the Committee is unchanged from last year. The short social and dance which followed was considered a great success.

Altogether we can claim to have had a most successful session from the financial as well as social and class standpoints.

LOCKERBIE. Secretary, Mrs Alice Varrie, 51 Kintail Park, Lockerbie.—The Branch membership for the past year was 88 with a Junior Link numbering 11 attached to the Branch. The classes, held weekly, were well attended.

The Annual Highland Ball took place in December and was again very successful. Members were present from many neighbouring Branches, and the music was provided by Jimmy Shand and his Band.

Three teams were entered by the Branch for the Dumfriesshire Musical Festival, all being very highly placed.

At the close of the season a dance was held in April, the music, on this occasion, supplied by the Hartfell Dance Band. Again dancers were present from the neighbouring Branches.

LONDON. Secretary, Mr R. S. Ferguson, "Langside," 83 Bushey Way, Beckenham, Kent.—London still finds itself a large Branch, in spite of the formation of the new East Surrey-West Kent Branch nearby, and there are over 1000 members including 88 Life Members. Classes and dances have been run to satisfy the still-growing demand for Scottish Country Dancing, and teachers have been recommended for other bodies wishing to organise their own classes.

Once again the London County Council have co-operated in providing accommodation for the classes, which included, before Christmas, a certificate class. Seven candidates were successful in an examination conducted by Miss Milligan.

For the first time since the War, London dancers have been to the Continent to show Scottish dancing, in this case at the tenth anniversary of the landings in Normandy. Here they took part in a folk dance festival with groups of dancers from all over France. At home the steady demand for demonstrations has also been met.

The first dance to be held outside Central London was found to be very popular. Held in June at a hotel on an island in the Thames near Hampton Court, it provided members with the opportunity of spending the afternoon on the river before coming to the dance in the evening. In addition, the usual winter programme of dances has been organised, including limited dances for members and larger ones, without membership limit, which attract dancers from quite a wide area.

We should be very glad to see members who may be in London for a short time; details of our activities are given in *The Reel* which is sent to all Branch Secretaries.

MANCHESTER. Secretary, Mrs E. A. Bennett, 78 Boundary Road, Cheadle, Cheshire.—We have had a most enjoyable year. Although there has been a decrease in members, 221 and 3 new Life Members, compared with 291 last year, classes have been well attended many people coming regularly although not actually joining the Society. Classes were arranged on similar lines to last year, with the addition of a Highland class. In the Certificate Examination three or four candidates were successful in gaining the Preliminary Certificate.

The Branch has received many invitations for demonstrations, and our teams have undertaken 34 this year. An invitation has also been accepted to send a team to San Sebastian in September, to take part in the International Festival of Folk Dancing.

The second Annual Ball proved a great success, as did our Christmas and end-of-season parties. We again held a most enjoyable joint party with the English Folk Dance and Song Society and the Gaelic League in May.

Members visited neighbouring Branches at Stockport and Rochdale, and enjoyed the hospitality of the Scottish Country Dancing Group at Darwen. A very pleasant day was spent at the Festival of Scottish Country Dancing at Beckett's Park Training College, Leeds, in July, when our team gave an individual team display, and also took part in the Mass Displays on the lawn during the afternoon. It was good to note the high standard of dancing at such a large gathering.

MOFFAT. Secretary, Miss E. N. A. Shaw, Glen Annan, Moffat.—We have had another successful season, with membership showing an increase. Classes have been very well attended.

Our Christmas Party took the form of a Members' Dance in the Town Hall, while the session finished with a similar dance. At our Annual Ball in March, our guest of honour was Major Niall Macpherson, Member of Parliament for Dumfriesshire, along with Provost and Mrs Pringle, and Major and Mrs Hope Johnstone.

Throughout the year members of our Branch have supported Balls and dances organised by the neighbouring Branches of Annan, Carlisle, Ecclefechan, Dumfries and Lockerbie.

We look forward confidently to the 1954-55 season.

NAIRN. Secretary, Miss F. Fraser, 2 Highland Cottages, Lodgehill Road, Nairn.—This class finished up on 30th March after a very successful year, although we have not had so many members this year.

We visited many of the surrounding Branches and enjoyed our evenings very much.

The highlight of our season was the Annual Dance. This was held in the Tradespark and Delnies Hall, and was a great success. It was attended by the surrounding Branches and enjoyed by all.

We are much indebted to Mrs Grace Anderson, our teacher, for her unflinching attention to this class. Travelling from Lossiemouth to Nairn every week, no matter what the weather is like, she is always there to greet us with a cheery word. Her instruction and patience is appreciated by all.

NEWCASTLE and DISTRICT. Secretary, Miss D. M. Davison, 37 Park Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle.—We are happy to report a very successful season. Membership increased only slightly, but enthusiasm was high. Despite an increased number of classes, these were soon filled and an additional class was formed, making nine classes compared with five during the previous season. Attendances have been good, and since Christmas most classes have been busy training teams for the Festival of Scottish Country Dancing held by the C.C.P.R. in Newcastle.

Four informal dances and a Highland Ball were held. These were most enjoyable and our only regret is that the demand for tickets exceeded the supply and some of our members were disappointed.

Many more members attended the week-end course at Otterburn Hall during November and all had high praise for Miss Anderson and Miss Edwards and the arrangements generally. We are looking forward to a repeat performance in November this year.

Membership of the Dance Club also increased to 47, with an average attendance of 26, plus visitors.

NEWTON STEWART. Secretary, Mrs J. Nimmo, Woodrow Bank, Creebridge, Newton Stewart.—This year has seen us celebrating our twenty-first anniversary, the Branch having been formed on 3rd December 1932.

The most outstanding event was our twenty-first Birthday Party, at which we had as our guest of honour, Lady Galloway, an Hon. Vice-President of the Society. It is interesting to note Lady Galloway was Hon. President of this Branch when it was first formed. Later in the evening we held our Annual Ball when Lady Galloway again favoured us with her presence. Many friends from neighbouring classes joined us in our celebrations and many more sent good wishes and congratulations. Due appreciation of her services during the lifetime of the Branch was given to our instructor, Miss Erskine.

The juvenile class, run by our fully certificated members, is making good progress, and many teams were entered for the Annual Festival.

In the adult section of the Festival our ladies' team had the honour of obtaining First place in their class.

PEEBLES. Secretary, Miss J. M. Eaglesham, 26 Kirkland Street, Peebles.—This Branch had another successful year with a slight increase in membership over last year.

PERTH and PERTSHIRE. Secretary, Miss C. A. McFeat, Comely Bank House, Perth.—The Branch has a membership of 634—Life Members being 58 and ordinary members 576.

The usual classes were held but were not too well supported. The children's classes were well attended and this is encouraging for the future.

The Musical Festival was well supported during the Country Dance sessions and Mrs Lesslie adjudicated before large audiences with much acceptance. The Society Statuette was won by the Greenfield Dancers, Dundee, and the Club Quaich by the Perth St. Johnstoun Group.

The demonstration team have not given any displays but are still available if required.

The Perth St. Johnstoun Group under Mr Russell won the Cup at the Edinburgh (Competitive) Musical Festival.

Only one Branch member was selected as a Reserve for the International Team.

The Perth Scottish Country Dance Club, whose members are all Society members, had another successful year and enjoyed social dancing to Mrs Gowans and her Orchestra.

Dinner Dances were held at Christmas and Easter. The membership of the Club being still well maintained.

PETERHEAD. Secretary, Mrs M. Carnegie, 44 Cairntrodlee, Peterhead.—This year we report an increase in the membership of the Branch, having 121 ordinary members and 23 Life Members.

Three adult classes were held weekly, a beginners' class and two classes for more experienced dancers. An innovation this season was a very successful summer term class, conducted by the Branch teachers in town. To our teachers and pianists we owe a deep debt of gratitude.

A certificate class was conducted by Miss Collie and at an examination held in June; with Miss Milligan as examiner, six candidates were successful in gaining the Preliminary Teacher's Certificate. Adult and children's classes have been conducted by Branch members in the surrounding area.

This year the Branch had four entries at the Aberdeen and North Eastern Musical Festival, and all gained Certificates of Merit. Mixed teams have demonstrated at galas and other social functions during the year.

Several members spent very profitable evenings in Aberdeen when Miss Milligan taught dances from Book 17.

Our Annual Ball was again most successful. Among the 150 dancers we were delighted to welcome Sir George Ogilvie-Forbes of Boyndlie, Hon. Vice-President of the Society, Dr Forbes Sempill, Chairman of the Aberdeen Branch, and friends from Aberdeen, Fraserburgh, Alford, Maud, Stuartfield, Banff, Boyndlie, Lonmay and New Pitsligo. Our thanks are due to Miss Jean Sutherland and her Orchestra for their excellent music. Two enjoyable parties were held during the year and a number of our members have enjoyed dances at Aberdeen, Fraserburgh, Lonmay and Haddo House.

PORTRUSH. Secretary, Miss L. Faulkner, Kantara Hotel, Portrush.—The Portrush Branch had another enjoyable season. New members were welcomed and demonstrations were given by the team at various functions in the district. An "Open Night" was held in March at nearby Portstewart where many people saw Scottish Country Dancing for the first time and have already asked to be included in next year's classes.

RENFREWSHIRE WEST. Secretary, Mr D. Cook, 13 William Street, Greenock.—While there were no highlights in the Branch activities during the season steady progress was made with an additional ladies' class and a slight increase in membership. There is no local hall big enough to hold all the members and so there was no Annual Ball but this will be remedied next year with the opening of a very large Dance Hall in Greenock. Most of the classes held dances and these were all successful; so much so that there were some repeat performances.

RICHMOND. Secretary, Mr A. M. Stephen, 11 Westfields, Richmond, Yorks.—During the past year membership has increased and now stands at 126 including 3 Life Members,

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

BALANCE SHEET and RELATIVE ACCOUNTS

as at 30th June 1954.

ESTIMATE of INCOME and EXPENDITURE for the YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 1955

INCOME

Subscriptions	£4,000
Affiliation Fees	75
Royalties	600
Investment Income	115
FEEES :	
School and Courses	3,000
Examinations	200
Surplus on Sale of Publications	1,000
	<u>£8,990</u>

EXPENDITURE

Salaries of Administrative and Clerical Staff	£1,200
Cost of Meetings and Travelling Expenses	350
Printing and Stationery	300
Postages and Telephone	150
Office Accommodation	55
Audit Fee	21
Miscellaneous Expenses	49
	<u>2,125</u>
Bulletin	495
Examination Expenses	400
Summer and Autumn Schools	3,000
Expenses of Demonstration Teams Abroad	450
Grants	150
Honorarium	75
Subscription Copies of Publications	650
	<u>7,345</u>
RESERVES :	
For Reprinting of Publications	400
Allocation to Headquarters Fund	500
Surplus to meet Contingencies	745
	<u>£8,990</u>

in addition to which we have 13 associates. Two classes were again held throughout the winter and improved attendances showed their popularity in the district. Performances by the demonstration teams were given to many interested groups and societies who are making greater calls than ever on our resources, but are most appreciative of the results.

In October Miss Milligan paid her first visit to the Branch and commented very favourably on the spirit and performance shown. Then and at Newcastle in the spring she held examinations in which three Preliminary and four Teachers' Certificates were obtained by our members.

Excellent criticisms were received by both teams performing in our first festival appearance at Newcastle.

An increased number of social dances were all successful but the event of the year was undoubtedly our Annual Ball, held in Darlington, when 400 members and friends danced to the music of Jimmy Shand.

ROCHDALE. Secretary, Miss I. Waddell, 8 Hopwood Avenue, Heywood.—Enthusiastic regular attendance from the beginning of September to the end of July continued, good membership and an abundance of activity would appear to be the main features of the year.

Requests for demonstrations have been met—the invitations from Scarborough and Bridlington being the highlights for the ladies' team. Members have attended the excellent courses held at Lilleshall Hall and St. Hild's College, Durham, and the Branch is being represented at the Leeds Rally.

Rochdale was an examination centre in May this year with candidates, in addition to our own, from Manchester and Southport Branches. We were honoured in having Miss Milligan for the special week-end. Four candidates gained full Certificate and nine passed the preliminary test. On the Friday evening Miss Milligan taught dances from the Coronation Book to a class of delighted Rochdale members, and at the conclusion of the course parties from Cheade, Sale, Preston, Southport and Liverpool joined us in a most enjoyable dance.

SOUTHPORT. Secretary, Dr C. Robertson Wilson, "Struan," 24 Carlisle Road, Birkdale.—The Branch is again able to report a small increase in membership—from 83 to 94. The year can be accounted a successful one.

Classes are run in co-operation with the Southport Education Committee. During the winter months a Beginners and Elementary class has been run on Tuesday evenings. On Thursday evenings this season we have had a three hour class, the first hour being for Advanced dancers only, the remainder an Intermediate class. During the summer we have run on Thursday evenings only; the Advanced hour, and two hours of a combined Elementary and Intermediate class. Attendances have been on the whole satisfactory, though January and February saw a thin period due to prevalent sickness.

In the course of the year two of our teachers having Part One of the Certificate have been successful in gaining the full Certificate. Teachers of the Branch have taken classes under the Lancashire Education Committee in Ormskirk and Crosby. In Preston this past winter there have been two Education Committee classes instead of one. Both have been conducted by Southport Branch teachers.

Three successful parties have been held at which members of our outside classes have been present. Branch members have also attended Liverpool and Rochdale Branch parties. At the last named those attending met Miss Milligan.

Demonstrations have been fewer this year but have included one in the Palace Hotel Ballroom before a conference of the Soroptomist Clubs of the north western area of England—an audience of upwards of 300. We again owe thanks to Mrs Gudger for her monthly visits, to which we look forward; to Miss Elizabeth Peel, Branch pianist from our first meeting; and to the Southport Education Authority, mentioning particularly the Principal of the Technical College.

We go confidently forward into our ninth year, hoping to touch the hundred mark in our membership.

Affiliated Groups

- Amersham and District Scottish Association.**—Mr G. A. TODD, " Cornercroft," Devonshire Avenue, Amersham, Bucks.
- Altrincham Scottish Country Dancing Group.**—Miss J. D. CRAIG, Sunny Bank, Sandiway Road, Altrincham, Cheshire.
- Allan Dancers, Southend-on-Sea.**—Mrs K. JUDKINS, 62 Avenue Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex.
- Accra Garrison Country Dance Club.**—Captain T. JAGGER, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, Record Office, Gold Coast Regiment, Accra, Gold Coast Colony.
- Association of Wellington, Hawkes Bay and Districts Scottish Country Dance Clubs.**—Miss S. J. CHILDS, 39 Hobson Street, Wellington, New Zealand.
- Bristol Caledonian Society.**—Miss W. MEASDY, Albion Chambers, Bristol.
- Birmingham and Midland Scottish Society.**—Mr W. S. WELSON, 70 Newbridge Road, Birmingham, 13.
- Burma Caledonian Society.**—Mr W. P. G. MACLACHLAN, c/o B.O.C. (B.T.) Ltd., 604 Merchant Street, Rangoon, Burma.
- Bournemouth and District Caledonian Society.**—Mr T. P. SAUNDERSON, 41 Christchurch Road, Bournemouth.
- Bolton Caledonian Society.**—Mr R. McCANDLISH, 3 Spring Bank, Broadell Lane, Bolton, Lancs.
- Bridlington and District Caledonian Society.**—Mr A. B. MITCHELL, 17 Savage Road, Bridlington, Yorks.
- Basrah Caledonians.**—Mr D. MENZIES, P.O. Box No. 5, Basrah, Iraq.
- Carlisle Highland Association.**—Mr J. DALGLEISH, 73 Knowe Park Avenue, Stanwix, Carlisle.
- Caledonian Society of North Devon.**—Mr J. A. SIMPSON, 20 Cross Street, Barnstaple, Devon.
- Crosby Caledonian Society.**—Mr D. E. PHILLIPS, 23 Elmwood Avenue, Great Crosby, Liverpool, 23.
- Cheadle Scottish Dance Group.**—Miss J. McLACHLAN, 3 Brookfield Crescent, Cheadle, Cheshire.
- Caledonian Society of Lincoln.**—Mrs J. C. CHIDGEY, 13 Western Avenue, Lincoln.
- Caledonian Society of Hamburg (S.C.D. Section).**—Mr G. J. CHARLESTON, The Church of Scotland Centre, Hamburg, B.A.O.R. 3.
- Caledonians, The.**—Mr J. MCBAIN, 26 Bellevue Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, Canada.
- Caledonian Society of Switzerland Reel Club, The.**—Mrs A. P. WILSON, 3 Rue Henri Speiss, Malagnou, Geneva.
- Caledonian Society, Madras.**—Mr R. J. MACRAE, c/o The Chartered Bank of India, Australia & China Ltd., P.O. Box 53, Madras, India.
- Cambridge University Strathspey and Reel Club.**—Miss J. A. SMITH, Newnham College, Cambridge.
- Cardiff Technical College Students' Union Council, S.D.C. Club.**—Miss E. DAVIES, The Technical College, Cathays Park, Cardiff.
- Combined Johannesburg Caledonian Societies.**—Mr J. H. McDONALD, 31 Bon Accord House, Harrison Street, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Caledonian Society of Sheffield (S.C.D. Class).**—Mr P. M. BENZIES, 98 Brents Road, Sheffield, 11.
- Dunedin Burns Club.**—Mr W. J. OLIVER, 2 Bellevue Street, Dunedin, N.W.I., New Zealand.
- Epsom and District Caledonian Association.**—Mr R. A. COLLET, Quarry House, Lynwood Road, Epsom.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR. The confirmation of the appointment of the Auditor, Mr Norman MacKinnon, C.A., was moved by Mr Kennedy Smith, Ayr, seconded by Miss Richardson, Clackmannanshire, and unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER. Mr Duncan, Banffshire, proposed the recommendation from the Executive Council that Miss D. M. Vaughan, F.C.A., should be appointed as permanent Treasurer of the Society. Mr Robertson, Arbroath, seconded the motion which was carried by the meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS. Mr Gray, Edinburgh, moved the re-appointment of Major The Lord James Stewart Murray, Duke of Atholl, as President of the Society, and Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloch, as Hon. Vice-President. The motion was seconded by Miss Milligan and adopted unanimously.

CHAIRMAN. As only one nomination had been received for this office, Miss J. C. Milligan retained the position of Chairman of the Executive Council.

Three nominations were received for the office of Vice-Chairman, and ten nominations for the six vacancies on the Executive Council. The following were elected :—

VICE-CHAIRMAN. Mrs M. K. Brown.

SIX ELECTED MEMBERS. Miss A. Anderson, Miss B. Anderson, Mrs Gudger, Mrs Hutchison, Mr Macleod, Mr Murray.

RESOLUTIONS FROM BRANCHES :—

London and West Renfrewshire Branches.—"That the proportion of subscriptions retained by Branches be increased from 10 per cent to 20 per cent."

Mr Ferguson, London, proposed the resolution, seconded by Mr Finney, West Renfrewshire.

Mr McKell, Kirkcudbright, moved a direct negative to the resolution to the effect that the percentage of the subscription retained by Branches be maintained at 10 per cent. This was seconded by Mr Aitkenhead, North West Ayrshire.

On a vote being taken the direct negative to the resolution was carried.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1954. The Chairman announced that invitations had been received from Aberdeen and Edinburgh Branches, but that these had not yet been considered by the Executive Council. The meeting was asked to decide whether this matter should be dealt with at the Annual General Meeting or at the next meeting of the Executive Council, and it was agreed to remit it to the Executive Council.

After the business of the meeting was ended the Chairman called upon Miss Milligan to speak on Miss McLellan's retirement. Miss Milligan paid tribute to Miss McLellan's faithful service as Treasurer for eleven years, and expressed the gratitude of the Society for all the work she had done towards establishing the finances of the Society on a sound basis. Miss Milligan then handed Miss McLellan a cheque and a bound edition of the pocket editions.

Miss McLellan expressed her thanks to the Society and spoke of her happiness in her work as Treasurer. She said that her interest in the Society would still continue, and that she now hoped to have time for active participation in the dancing.

VOTE OF THANKS. Mr Sharpe, Dundee, proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding at the meeting and to the Ayr, North West Ayrshire and Kilmarnock Branches for their hospitality and arrangements for the Autumn School.

A Visit to Coll

THE call from Coll, for a special week of Scottish Country Dancing, came in the autumn of 1952, but it was April before we set out on what was for us our first venture to the Western Isles, sixteen miles long by four broad, Coll has many beautiful sandy bays, and some very fine farming land. Unfortunately, all told, the inhabitants number less than 200. With this dearth of man-power the land workers do not cease till darkness falls, and it was towards 8 o'clock when we made our way from the hotel in Arinagour to the W.R.I. Hall. We were pleasantly surprised to see so many of these people who had come many miles from all corners of the Isle, by foot and cycle, over dark, exposed rain and wind swept roads for a night with Scottish Country Dances. But when this feat was repeated another six nights running our admiration knew no bounds. The gramophone was used for dancing. They kept more or less to the round dances—Eightsome Reel, Petronella, etc., and were really most anxious to have more knowledge and to know as many dances as possible. I was very relieved to find that a good friend had kindly lent his piano (such a nice one too) for the week. It made all the difference, and let us have the signature tunes for the dances. They were wonderfully quick in learning new formations, but rhythm and phrasing came more slowly, and we were just beginning to get into the swing of things, when our week was up, and it was our final party night. They danced through quite a long programme with, if not perfection, then certainly with zest and enjoyment to themselves, and much entertainment to their friends. Here I may say Hamilton House was the dance of the week. On our second visit this year we returned as it were to old friends. There at the ferry was the kind donor of the piano, and he eased my mind at once by telling me his piano was already in the hall. Again it was around 8 o'clock before we could begin. The members wisely had put most of their winter practice on the dances of which they were surest and I was amazed at the improvement in their dancing, and had only to watch the ease with which they could now swing into the rhythm, to know that my first visit had been well worth while. Of course, those remarks apply only to the class as a whole, not individually. For there were those who still required a little more time to find their dancing feet, and also we had welcomed some new beginner members. Here was the opportunity for the male advanced members of the first class to guide and lend a helping hand to those still learning, and the way in which I saw them doing just that left me in no doubt that Scottish Country Dancing would continue to progress at Coll.

The dance for the second week was easily the Duke of Perth, and the best laugh of the week was surely given by Mr Ferguson, one of our older members. One night, the unusual happened and we had two extra men. In this dilemma Mr Ferguson gallantly volunteered to be the lady. Unexpectedly on the chord he made such an alarmingly deep and tottering curtsey that we were all convulsed. But he was game and at the finish, with his kilt nicely held, produced an almost stately curtsey.

Our grateful thanks are due to all the people who gave us hospitality and so much kindness and helped to make our visit such a success.

International Team Visit to Birmingham

In June a team was invited to dance at the Folk Dance Festival organised by the English Folk Dance Society in Birmingham. This was our third invitation—we were there in 1951 and 1952—and I think we are now a necessary item on the programme. Four performances were given to packed houses, and the country dances, and the Highland solos danced by Jackie Johnston, were very well received. Hospitality was given by members of the English Folk Dance Society, and the two days spent there were very busy and very happy ones.

The Summer School of 1954

It has been said that St. Andrews is the Mecca for golfers the world o'er, but a very close rival to the enthusiasts of this ancient and noble game are the keen body of Scottish Country Dancers, who yearly descend upon this memorable city to partake in the ever increasingly popular course organised by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. It has even been known to combine these two important activities with equal fervour and amazing results. This year our popularity even spread to the stage of the local theatre, a sure sign of our ever growing fame.

The numerous "sure-footed" participants, whose hearts and feet beat whole-heartedly to the mere mention of St. Andrews, once again this year directed their steps to the city.

We were welcomed by none other than Miss Milligan herself, looking as well as ever and smiling affectionately upon well kent faces and new acquaintances. As "Cheerfulness abounds with Industry" it was not long before we found ourselves well and truly in the midst of the many and varied classes we had come to attend. The Fully Certificated and Advanced classes were large, and how delighted we were to be introduced to three more of Mrs McNab's delightful dances, namely, "The Duke of Gordon's Welcome to Aberdeen"—"The Earl of Errol" and the third "Jeannie o' the Witchin' E'e," a charming, progressive dance undoubtedly to become the favourite in the ballroom this season and dedicated to Miss Milligan herself. These dances were performed at intervals at the Course and during the last week of our stay. Mrs McNab, recently arrived by air from Canada, honoured us by her presence in the audience. Apart from the team demonstrations, both at the Younger Hall and at the social evenings in the University Hall Ballroom, Bobby Watson and Jackie Johnstone enthralled us with their Highland dancing solos. We were indeed most fortunate to have them with us, and watching these men dancing the most intricate steps with absolute ease, we can only repeat the worthy praise which these excellent performers so justly deserve.

Brian Lilley and Stephen Newbold who presented us with Irish and Manx dances respectively gave us another opportunity to observe some gems of national dances as executed by experts.

Iain Robertson's Scottish songs stirred many a loyal heart and expressed the sentiments felt by a large proportion of the informal gathering.

This wonderful "holiday" depends so much upon the continued support of our pianists and we thank them sincerely for their musical contribution to the Summer School. Nan Main in her lecture certainly made us realise how much we value the skill of the "nimble" hands on the keyboards. In this same lecture we were introduced to some very interesting alternative tunes to the more popular dances, and incidentally how to avoid the "Barn Dance" rhythms, so often encountered at local village "hops," thus wrecking the whole spirit of the dance.

Mr Frizell, Director of Education for Edinburgh, gave us an interesting account of his experiences with Country Dancing groups in Canada and U.S.A., whereas Dr Mearns, in his usual pleasant manner directed our thoughts through different channels. His amusing and original approach to the subject of health was inspiring and comforting and at the close of his short talk, all were positively convinced that the exercise involved in Scottish Country Dancing resulted in perfect specimens of healthy humanity. Undoubtedly the "auld heilander himsel'" when lying on his death-bed, and overhearing his relatives sordid discussion concerning the cost of his burial, must have had a momentary vision of his dancing youth when he uttered his famous last words "Gie me owre my trews an' I'll gang down mysel'!"

The Old Time and Irish Dancing sessions were once more a great attraction, and it was not long before our ears became attuned to such phrases as—"chasse to the right" and the more complicated—"rise and grind!"

H.M.V. Gramophone Records

The following records will be withdrawn from the H.M.V. list in January 1955. Members are recommended to purchase these while they are still available in the shops.

- HMV C 4139 THE GATES OF EDINBURGH.
THE THEEKIT HOOSE.
Tim Wright and his Band.
- HMV C 4140 CAMPBELL'S FROLIC.
MIDDLING THANK YOU.
Tim Wright and his Band.
- HMV C 4146 A CAMP OF PLEASURE.
LORD ROSSLYN'S FANCY.
Tim Wright and his Band.
- HMV B 9727 Mrs McLEOD OF RAASAY.
RAKES OF GLASGOW.
Scottish Country Dance Players; cond. J. Robertson.
- HMV B 9728 THE WHITE COCKADE.
GLASGOW FLOURISH.
Scottish Country Dance Players, cond. J. Robertson.
- HMV B 9730 NEW RIGGED SHIP.
JIMMY'S FANCY.
Scottish Country Dance Players, cond. J. Robertson.
- HMV B 9731 LINTON PLOUGHMAN.
HAUGHS O' CROMDALE.
Scottish Country Dance Players, cond. J. Robertson.
- HMV B 9732 JENNY'S BAWBEE.
LADY MARY DOUGLAS.
Scottish Country Dance Players, cond. J. Robertson.
- HMV B 9733 THE BOTTOM OF THE PUNCH BOWL.
GRANT'S REEL.
Scottish Country Dance Players, cond. J. Robertson.
- HMV B 9734 LADIES' FANCY.
SHE'S OWER YOUNG TO MARRY YET.
Scottish Country Dance Players, cond. J. Robertson.
- HMV B 9735 THE FLOWERS OF EDINBURGH.
INCH OF PERTH.
Scottish Country Dance Players, cond. J. Robertson.
- HMV B 10193 MY MITHER'S COMING IN.
I'LL GANG NA MAIR TAE YON TOON.
Scottish Country Dance Players, cond. J. Robertson.

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, Thornhill, Cairnmuir Road, Edinburgh, 12. 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, 1955

All members must apply to the Secretary, Thornhill, Cairnmuir Road, Edinburgh, 12, by 31st January 1955, for Summer School application forms, which will be sent out in March. The approximate dates of the School are 25th July to 22nd August. Non-Residents must apply as well as Residents.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please note that Miss J. C. Milligan's address is now 35 Saltoun Street, Glasgow, C.2.

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Annual Subscription - - - - -	5/-
Life Membership Subscription - - - - -	£3, 3/- or
£2, 10/- to those who have paid their annual subscription for four years.	

Those who have paid their annual subscription for ten years may become Life Members on payment of £1, 10/-.

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

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

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

GRAMOPHONE RECORDS OF SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCES

can always be procured from . . .

RAE, MACINTOSH
AND COMPANY LIMITED

39 George Street • Edinburgh, 2

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

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

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

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

All with music and Instructions.

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

MRS. MCNAIR SNADDEN'S REEL
by John Robertson

FOUR SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCES
by Cecilia Barkla

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



No^of Perth 11¹ Norwell's

HAND SEWN SCOTTISH FLING SANDALS

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

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

Stocks carried in Black only. Extremely light and flexible.

Made in Full Sizes only. Mens—Medium and Wide, Womens—Narrow,
Medium and Wide, Boys—Narrow and Medium fitting.

MACHINE SEWN SANDALS

(Same model as illustration)

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

Made in Medium fitting only.

The Hand-sewn Sandals can be made in all colours in 14 days.



Norwell's Perth Footwear Ltd.

145 SOUTH STREET, PERTH

TRUST THE MAN BEHIND THE BOOT

TARTAN SKIRTS THE IDEAL GARMENT FOR SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

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



J. MORRISON

HIGHLAND OUTFITTERS

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