



# BULLETIN

Issue 82 November 2004



PROMOTING SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING AROUND THE WORLD

## Contents

Editorial .....	2
President's Message .....	3
RSCDS AGM Highlights .....	3
Management Board Report 2004 .....	4
Convenor's Report, General Purposes .....	5
Convenor's Report, Education & Training .....	5
Convenor's Report, Membership Services .....	6
Secretary's Report .....	7
Committee Membership 2003-04 .....	8
First Timers' Experiences of Summer School .....	9
Vote for Your Favourite Dance .....	10
The Great Debate .....	11
End of the Bulletin .....	11
Blue Peter .....	12
Mary Isdale MacNab .....	13-15
Spotlight on Branches .....	16-17
New Zealand Summer School .....	18
The Reel of the 51st Division .....	19-20
Letters to the Editor .....	21
RSCDS Central Germany Branch .....	22
Pinewoods .....	22
Branch Workshops .....	23
Medal Tests .....	24
Honoured in The Hague .....	24
Sir Jimmy Shand Sculpture Project .....	24
Donations and Scholarships .....	25
Obituaries .....	26-27
Advertisements .....	28-32

## Office Bearers

Patron	Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
President	The Earl of Mansfield
Honorary Vice Presidents	
	The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine
	Lt. Col. (Retd.) Muriel Gibson
	The Hon. Peregrine Moncrieffe of Moncrieffe
Chairman	Jean Martin
Chairman Elect	Stewart Adam
Secretary/Administrator	Elspeth Gray
Treasurer	Marilyn Jeffcoat
Editor	Elspeth Gray

## Website

The Society's website is at [www.rscds.org](http://www.rscds.org). To access the members' area, you need a username and password which you can get from your Branch secretary, or from HQ for Headquarters members.

## Deadline

The deadline for receipt of copy for the new magazine has not been set, but please submit any letters or articles of interest to The Editor as soon as possible. The Editor reserves the right to edit the articles subject to space. Contact Headquarters for information regarding advertising rates.

## End of an era?

This is the last edition of The Bulletin. But it is also the start of something new, as you will read elsewhere in these pages. It will be replaced by a new, twice-yearly magazine (you can take part in the competition to give the new publication a name on p.8). We have spent a lot of time discussing how we can make the magazine more interesting and attractive to members, as well as continuing those aspects that you seem to like. The magazine will be put together by an Editorial Board (responsible directly to the Management Board), comprising Jimmie Hill as Editor, Jean Martin, Andrew Kellett, Oluf Olufsen and myself. We are all very excited about this development, and look forward to creating a vibrant forum for members that will appeal to Scottish country dancers everywhere.



In this magazine, we have continued the theme of looking at Scottish country dancing in different parts of the world, as well as including articles on topics that we hope will be of interest. Once again, many thanks to Andrew Kellett for his help and support.

We hope you enjoy this last Bulletin, and look forward to welcoming you to its successor.

Elspeth Gray, Editor

## The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

### HEADQUARTERS

12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, Scotland EH3 7AF

Tel: +44 (0) 131 225 3854

Fax: +44 (0) 131 225 7783

e-mail: [info@rscds.org](mailto:info@rscds.org)

Website: [www.rscds.org](http://www.rscds.org)

Recognised as a Scottish Charity  
No. SCO16085

## Disclaimer

No statement, advertisement, or views presented here are to be construed as supported by the Society, unless specifically stated, and no liability is accepted for any matter therein.

## Front cover

Various pictures from the Cambridge Spring Fling in April 2004.

## President's Message

Once again, I am pleased to address the members of the Society through this members' magazine. But it is the last occasion upon which I shall have the opportunity to do so because, as you may know, this will be the last edition of The Bulletin. It will be replaced by a new twice-yearly magazine as from autumn 2005.



This is one of several changes which have been and are continuing to take place in the Society's organisation and administration. The new magazine will have a wider appeal, designed amongst other things to "inform, entertain, and inspire Scottish country dancers". It will be distributed directly to each member.

There will be further changes, but the core work of the Society - carrying out examinations and assessments, producing publications and recordings, organising and running the Summer and Winter Schools and the Spring Fling, and all the Society's other activities - continues. Much of this activity is dependent on the wholehearted commitment and effort of a great number of individuals who give freely of their time and skills. I speak for all when I thank them sincerely for all that they do on our behalf.

The headquarters staff, the Management Board and Committees of the Society can only do so much. It is therefore incumbent on all of us, Branches, Affiliated Groups and members alike, to work together to develop and promote the wonderful, joyful activity that brings us all together - Scottish country dancing.

The Earl of Mansfield

## RSCDS AGM 1 November 2003, Perth

### Highlights

RSCDS Annual Conference weekend 2003 was the first to be jointly arranged by a Branch and the Headquarters office, and involving volunteers from other Branches. Perth & Perthshire Branch handled all the arrangements for the venue, bands, etc. most efficiently. Volunteers from the following Branches acted as stewards throughout the weekend, and did a superb job: Banffshire, Belfast, Cambridge, Dundee, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Forres, Glasgow, Inverness, London, Perth & Perthshire, Skye, York & Yorkshire. London Branch and TAC compiled the dance programmes, and provided MCs.

The Annual General Meeting itself was very straightforward. A brief summary follows:

There were 257 delegates and 244 observers present.

The Earl of Mansfield was most disappointed not to be

able to attend. Jean Martin, Chairman, chaired the meeting. Honorary Vice President, The Hon Peregrine Moncreiffe of Moncreiffe, addressed the meeting and presented the Scrolls of Honour.

Scrolls were presented to:

- Derek Haynes (nominated by Liverpool Branch)
- Nora Kindness (nominated by Cincinnati Branch)
- Robert H Mackay (nominated by San Francisco Branch)
- Duncan MacLean (nominated by Glasgow Branch)



*Delighted scroll recipients at the AGM.*

Those unable to attend the AGM and who received their Scrolls at local presentations were:

- Gary Morris (nominated by New Zealand Branch)
- Keith Napier (nominated by Sydney Branch)
- Morag Napier (nominated by Sydney Branch)

The appointment of the Honorary President and Honorary Vice Presidents were approved without opposition.

Adoption of the Annual Report, of the Annual Accounts for 2002-03 and Appointment of Auditor were all approved without opposition.

Results of the elections to the Management Board and Management Committees were announced. The full list is included in the AGM minutes, enclosed with this Bulletin.

The meeting, which started promptly at 2.30pm, closed at 4.10pm.

The Saturday morning class, with teacher Jenny Greene and pianist Jennifer Wilson, was very successful, attracting approximately 200 dancers. Neil Copland's Band and David Cunningham's Band provided wonderful music for the Ball on Friday night and the dance on Saturday night respectively. There were 645 dancers on Friday and 687 on Saturday - a superb spectacle on both nights! All in all, it was a memorable and successful weekend.

# Management Board Report 2004

It hardly seems like two years since I was appointed Chairman of the Society in November 2002. The intervening period has certainly been a busy and very memorable one for me.

Working with the other members of the Board has been very stimulating with good debate being a feature of each meeting. Even although we have not always agreed on everything, our meetings have always been good humoured and a consensus has been reached on the appropriate way to move forward. Collective responsibility has been our watchword and if we have not always been able to progress as quickly as we would have liked, it was not for the want of trying.

Reports of the Management Board meetings are sent to Branch secretaries and are also posted on the website regularly. Details of the work covered by the three Management Committees and sub-groups appear later in this Bulletin and you will see that everyone has been kept fairly busy!

The alterations to the building at Coates Crescent took rather longer than we would have liked, but we now have a basement, which provides a safe working environment as well as a new meeting room and good toilet accommodation. The racking for the stock room and for the archives is a great improvement on what existed previously and it makes it so much more pleasant to work there for staff and members alike. The Honour Board, donated by members of Lorn (Argyll), Mid Argyll and South Argyll Branches, now occupies pride of place in the front hall.

Members of the Board were encouraged by the number of responses received on the consultation on Membership Structure. Something of the order of 36% of the membership responded. Further comment on the 'Great Debate' appears later in the Bulletin. The over-riding conclusion, however, was that one member one vote (OMOV) would not gain wide support at present. Of the branches who responded only three were in favour of OMOV. Some of the other Branches, and a surprising number of HQ members, were quite outspoken in their criticism of instituting a OMOV structure.

The majority of Branches wanted to retain a delegate voting system, the number of delegates being in proportion to the number of Branch members. It was also clear from the responses that a complex voting system would not find favour. Overall, there was no real groundswell of opinion for change and it was agreed that a Branch structure with delegate voting should be retained for the present with delegates voting on a proportional basis.

That having been decided, the position of members who join through Headquarters had to be considered. It was interesting to note that many HQ members thought that they were already members of an HQ Branch and many of the respondents were not concerned about being enfranchised. At the time of writing the Management Board has received an application for the formation of an international branch, which would cater for members who live some distance from an existing Branch or whose employment means that they are constantly moving from place to place and cannot therefore participate in local Branch events. On that basis the Board would respond positively to the application under the terms of the current constitution.

The Board is committed to improving the communication links with members and steps will be taken to allow direct mailing to members. At present this is not possible as Branches provide numbers of members not actual names and addresses. Branches will be asked to send membership details to Headquarters and in turn they will benefit from not having to distribute publications. Much more communication with Branches and members is now done via the Internet. This has many advantages but members should perhaps be reminded that theirs is not the only query to be dealt with in any one day!

An award strategy has been agreed by the Management Board. The Scroll will be retained but in addition an award has been created for outstanding work within a particular Branch. Branches have been sent details of the award and it is anticipated that the first Branch Awards will be presented in 2005.

I am delighted to report that in the past year we have welcomed another new Branch, namely the Central Germany Branch although it is disappointing to report that Whitehead Branch has had to disband. Several affiliated groups have joined us and a full list of these appears in the Secretary's report.

One of the concerns of the Board, however, is the gradual decline in membership numbers and the Membership Services Committee has been asked to come up with some ideas and/or material which might help Branches in the recruitment of members. A UNESCO Day of Dance takes place every year on 29 April and it is hoped that Branches would plan an activity on that date as part of a recruitment drive.

As I leave office I am optimistic about the future of the hobby that we all enjoy so much. There is a resurgence of interest in dance in schools and elsewhere and younger members are taking an active part in Society affairs. Day schools, weekend schools, summer and winter schools in both the northern and southern hemispheres, camps, dances and balls abound. Certainly I found myself on numerous occasions having to decline an invitation because I was already booked to go



*Chairman, Jean Martin*

elsewhere. It would be wrong, however, to assume that our future is assured as we must work towards that, but the signs of hope are definitely there.

May I conclude by thanking the members of the Board, in particular the Chairman Elect, Stewart Adam, the three Convenors, Irene Bennett, Alex Gray and Richard Turnbull, the Management Committees and Working Groups for another year of unstinting effort and commitment to the Society. The members of staff at Coates Crescent, led by Elspeth Gray, also deserve especial thanks for all the help given to me in my time in office. To all of you who are working for the Society worldwide and to those who have been so hospitable to me and to my husband when we attended events in the various Branches, my most sincere thanks.

Jean M Martin, Chairman

## Convenor's Report, General Purposes & Finance Committee



This year has again been dominated by Value Added Tax. As I explained last year at the AGM the basis on which we calculated our VAT liability was being reviewed. Discussions have continued throughout the year and, while we now have agreement in principle from HM Customs and Excise to our contentions, as I write this at the

beginning of August the detailed negotiations which have been ongoing for several years are not yet finalised. All this has resulted in uncertainty and additional work making it very difficult to plan ahead. The lack of resolution has also delayed completion of the Annual Accounts.

It was decided last year that the Society's financial year end be changed from 30 June to 31 March. One reason for this was to facilitate the preparation of Accounts in order to make them available in plenty of time for distribution to members along with their Bulletin prior to the AGM at the beginning of November. Members should note that the Accounts for the period 2003/2004 are therefore prepared to cover only the nine months to 31 March 2004 and do not reflect all of a full year's activities. This has to be borne in mind when looking at the figures.

Although the Accounting year has been changed to end in March each year the Management Board decided that the Subscription year should continue to end in June each year. This minimises the change to Branches whose administration should be unaffected by the change in the accounting period. Subscription income for the year to 30 June 2004 has been apportioned so that only nine months are included in the Accounts to 31 March 2004.

As the new management system settles in it has become

apparent that while we are the General Purposes and Finance Committee the majority of the business with which we deal is financial. Many matters which would previously have been the responsibility of General Purposes are now dealt with by the Management Board. The Committee meets quarterly with a fairly lengthy agenda much of which is repetitive and routine. At each meeting we review the Society's financial position, consider the current year's figures to the end of the previous quarter and compare these with the projections. Much of our work relates to the support of the other committees; to monitor their costs and to find funds for their projects. We also consider requests for funding from the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund.

Amongst the matters considered during the last year have been:

- Refurbishment of Headquarters basement to make better use of facilities
- Funding of medal tests for young dancers
- Training for Examiners
- Development of the web site and Dance Details
- Scroll nominations
- Staff job evaluations and review of remuneration
- Membership numbers
- Updating the computer systems

The full subscription for the year to 30 June 2006 will remain unchanged at £10. This amount is wholly available to the Society as no VAT is payable on subscriptions received whether the member is within or outside the UK.

Finally, despite VAT difficulties and a reduction in membership numbers, I am pleased to be able to report that the Society is financially sound.

Richard Turnbull, Convenor  
General Purposes and Finance Committee

## Convenor's Report, Education & Training Committee



This committee continues to make good progress in its three major areas of responsibility - examinations, youth and schools. This is due to the hard work of its members and the lead set by the Youth Director and the Schools Director in their areas. During the year the Directors have changed due to the previous directors coming to the end of their periods

in office. Johan MacLean and Fiona Turnbull made outstanding contributions to the Society's work in their respective roles. They both made important innovations during their periods in office and ensured by their

efforts that the committee worked effectively and efficiently. We welcome the new Directors - Linda Gaul (Schools) and Sue Porter (Youth). Both are well known in the Society and we wish them well in their respective roles.

The benefits of bringing together the Youth, Examination and Schools remits in a single committee has had positive effects, in that integration of the work in these three areas is leading to useful proposals for new courses at Summer School and other Schools and more coherent thinking about how to coordinate work such as bringing forward new examiners by helping people to gain necessary experience for such roles. It has also led to a realisation of the need to run more varied training courses designed to develop the skills of our teachers in specific areas after their initial training, such as teaching children, and advanced technique classes. When, however, the committee reviewed its working practices at its last meeting, it recognised that there was a need to streamline its procedures as meetings were getting longer and it was struggling to get through its work. A structure of more permanent working groups will be set up to deal initially with Schools, Youth and Examinations. These will meet on the same day as the main committee and concentrate on the work in their area with issues of overlap being considered by the full committee on the same day. The committee believes this will lead to more effective working.

Medal tests for young people were introduced this year. These were launched at the AGM in November and the first medal test was carried out in June in Aberdeen. Several Branches are considering running these tests. A very successful Spring Fling for younger members at Cambridge was held this year. It attracted more than 60 people all of whom had a great time. Planning is in hand for the next Spring Fling in Edinburgh next year. The Canadian members also ran a successful Weekend West for younger members in Vancouver. We hope this type of weekend will occur in other areas in future. There will also be a workshop at the Scottish Universities Scottish Dance Festival. Several members of the committee were invited to attend the Fife schools dance festival and had interesting days seeing parts of this festival which involved more than 12,000 children dancing.

A revised structure for appointing Society examiners was established during the year and five UK examiners were appointed. A training course has been developed to meet the needs of a new examiner and the new examiners undertook this initial part of their training in June. The course was well received by the people attending. We will be appointing overseas examiners in the near future and hope to be completing this selection process in October. It is intended that in future there will be a two-year cycle for appointing new examiners. The processes for appointing new assessors for the young persons' medal tests will be on a similar cycle.

The revision of the examination/training structure for teachers has continued as a major aspect of the committee's work during the year. The two part five unit

structure was sent to Branches and put on the web as part of a consultation process in which we were trying to get input from as wide a spectrum of members as possible. In the event we were slightly overwhelmed by the number of responses, which caused a slight delay in our timetable for introducing the new structure. We received 70+ responses, many representing a joint response from several members. The committee thanks the members who made these responses. It was almost unanimous that the new structure was a positive step forward but a number of minor points of improvement were suggested. These have been considered by the committee and some aspects will be included in the final version, which will be brought to the Management Board in October for approval. It is planned to introduce the new system in July next year. An examiners' seminar will be held to ensure all are cognisant of the new structure and working to a common standard. We are also considering an appeals procedure for the examinations and also feedback forms for the organisers of examinations.

A strategy working group, which will look at long term planning, has been established for Summer School. It was decided it was important to separate the day-to-day running and planning of the next Summer School from the forward thinking needed to ensure that Summer School is maintained as the pre-eminent School to attend in Scottish Country Dancing. This requires us to be thinking about future needs of our members with respect to new courses and structure at Summer School.

The normal committee work has continued during the year. We are following up ideas raised by the youth working group, such as a family weekend, teaching notes for young people taking a class, and advice for people wanting to play for Scottish dancing. There will be a change in closing dates for the Summer School scholarships to the middle of February as from next year. Congratulations are due to Bruce Frazer for running a very successful Winter School in which the innovation of musical soir e sessions was a great success. The director of next year's Winter School will be John Wilkinson.

From the above it is fair to conclude that the Committee is making substantial progress with its work and I thank the members for their support during the year.

Alex Gray, Convenor  
Education & Training Committee



## **Convenor's Report, Membership Services Committee**

The Committee has met four times since the report in the October 2003 issue of the Bulletin. At our August

2003 meeting we were pleased to learn that the dances for Book 44 which had been circulated worldwide for scrutiny, had been reduced in number to the "top twenty". The final choice was made much more manageable for the committee because of the valuable assistance given by the Branches involved in the initial selection. It is interesting to note the movements and formations which are popular, as there are similarities in many of the dances selected. The process of selection has begun again as dances for Book 45 have already been circulated around the world.

The Management Board charged the committee to consider a complete revision of the Society's publishing policy following the discussions which took place during the Branch Forum at the AGM in November 2003. We found it difficult to separate publications and communication as the two are clearly linked. Members will still receive a subscription publication but it will not be a book of dances as is the current practice. An editorial team has been established to produce a magazine which will be published biannually. A smaller number of new dances will be printed annually in one issue of the magazine. This magazine will be mailed directly to members thus saving Branches time and cost. A separate article about the new publication appears elsewhere in this Bulletin.

The CD of the music for Book 44 was available at Summer School. Other recordings which have been produced this year, are Book 38; music for the Miscellanies, Volume 3; and Book 12. At the time of writing a recording has been made for Book 10 which will be available at the AGM. Book 15 will be recorded in the autumn and available at Winter School. Work is nearing completion on the video of the MacNab Dances and progress is being made on the production of the Warm-up Booklet. The revision of the Manual, which has been a mammoth task, is nearing completion and will be available early in 2005.

A request has been circulated to Branches asking for recollections from their most senior member and former members of the early days of the Society. Individual members may also participate if they have a family member or friend with interesting anecdotes to recall. The Archivist would be pleased to hear from you.

The Marketing Group is proposing the involvement of the RSCDS in a World Day of Dance on 29 April 2005. This will be a major recruiting drive for new members so watch out for details coming to your Branch. The Marketing Group commissioned silver earrings from Ortak in the design of the RSCDS "crown" and they were available at Summer School.

The work of this committee is varied, interesting and challenging. I know progress with some publications may seem a little tardy. Each member of the committee gives sterling service and even then we don't always meet our deadline!

Irene Bennett, Convenor  
Membership Services Committee

## Secretary's Report for 2003-04

### Headquarters

The team at Headquarters remains the same as last year. Elspeth Gray (Secretary/Administrator), June Dick (Assistant Secretary), Eileen Watt (Office Manager), Kate Lawrie (Finance and Administrative Assistant) and Suzanne Durrand (Finance and Membership Administrator). Congratulations to Suzanne and new husband Peter who were married in Las Vegas this year.

We do know that there will be staff changes to deal with soon, however, as Eileen will be retiring in 2005 and June the year after. Thoughts are already turning to the implications of their departures and how best to cover the areas of work for which they are responsible.

### Membership

The Society currently has 18,041 members in 166 branches and 437 affiliated groups throughout the world.

Once again we have lost one branch only to gain another. Whitehead Branch in Northern Ireland sadly disbanded, but it is a pleasure to welcome a new branch, our first in Germany, the Central Germany Branch (see page 22 for a brief report on this).

### Branches

Many branches celebrated special anniversaries this year. Congratulations and many more years of happy dancing to all of the following:

*25th Anniversary:* Buffalo, Delft, Doncaster & District, Kingston (Ontario) and Milton Keynes, all established in 1979.

*50th Anniversary:* Hamilton (Ontario), established in 1954

*75th Anniversary:* Banffshire, established in 1929. Banffshire was only the eighth branch of the Society to be formed.

### Affiliated Groups

A warm welcome to the following groups, all of whom affiliated to the Society this year:

- Flora (Fukouka, Japan)
- Leeds St. Columba Scottish Country Dancers (Leeds, England)
- Scots Society of St. Andrew (Bedford, England)
- Colgrain Dancers (Helensburgh, Scotland)
- Gairloch Scottish Country Dance Class (Gairloch, Scotland)
- Northampton Town & County Scottish Association (Northampton, England)

- Spiffin Scottish Country Dancers (Southampton, England)
- Rechberg Scottish Dancers (Rechberg, Germany)
- Kettering & District Caledonian Society (Northamptonshire, England)
- Stocksfield Scottish Country Dance Club (Northumberland, England)
- Brockville Scottish Country Dancers (Ontario, Canada)

- Barford Scottish Country Dancing Group (Warwickshire, England)
- Great Ayton Scottish Country Dance Club (North Yorkshire, England)
- Charlotte Scottish Country Dance Society (North Carolina, USA)
- The Whole Nine Yards, Lafayette (Indiana, USA)
- Newcastle Reelers (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England)

---

## COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2003-04

### Management Board meets 6 times per year

Jean Martin (Chairman & Convenor of MB)  
 Stewart Adam (Chairman Elect)  
 Alex Gray (Convenor, Education & Training)  
 Richard Turnbull (Convenor, GP & Finance)  
 Irene Bennett (Convenor, Membership Services)  
 Malcolm Brown  
 Peter Clark  
 Christina France  
 Bruce Frazer  
 Ian Hall  
 Dorothy Hamilton  
 Jim Healy  
 Jimmie Hill  
 Andrew Kellett  
 Alastair MacFadyen  
 Susanna Mayr  
 Anne McArthur  
 Wilson Nicol  
 Keith Oughton  
 Jerome Reinstein  
 Andrew Smith  
 Irene Whyte  
 Rachel Wilton  
*Secretary: Elspeth Gray*

### General Purposes & Finance Committee

meets 4 times per year

Richard Turnbull (Convenor)  
 Jean Martin (Chairman)  
 Stewart Adam (Chairman Elect)  
 John Douglas  
 Fiona Grant  
 Harry Hall  
 Roderick McLachlan  
 Margaret Ross  
 William Whyte  
*Secretary: Suzanne Durrand*

### Education & Training Committee meets 4 times per year

Alex Gray (Convenor)  
 Jean Martin (Chairman)  
 Stewart Adam (Chairman Elect)  
 Linda Gaul (Schools Director)  
 Sue Porter (Youth Director)  
 Helen Brown  
 Pat Clark  
 David Hall  
 Lesley Martin  
 Elma McCausland  
 David Normand-Harris  
 Carol Smith  
 Anne Smyth  
 Anne Taylor  
*Secretary: June Dick*

### Membership Services Committee meets 6 times per year

Irene Bennett (Convenor)  
 Jean Martin (Chairman)  
 Stewart Adam (Chairman Elect)  
 Jim Healy (Archivist)  
 Mo Rutherford (Music Director)  
 Sue Duckett  
 Anne Gordon  
 Rosemary Gordon-Harvey  
 Peter Knight  
 Tom Notman  
 Alistair Reid  
*Secretary: Eileen Watt*

---

### Elections for 2005-06

If you are interested in standing for election to the Management Board or any of the Management Committees please note that nomination papers for vacant posts will be available in mid-April 2005. Any member can stand for election with the support of a proposer, a seconder and 10 additional members. Check the website or contact Headquarters for full details.



## First Timers' Experiences of Summer School

Ever since I began dancing when I was 9, I wondered why everyone made such a fuss about St Andrews. It eluded me why anyone would want to travel hundreds of miles to go to school in the middle of the summer holidays, but nevertheless I counted the years until I could go. Of course, now I fully appreciate the total insanity of all those who attend and everything falls into place!

I feel I have achieved so much in one week; not only by improving my dancing, but also in meeting so many people and making so many friends. I have to say that the part I enjoyed the most was the social dancing in the evenings. The atmosphere was brilliant, the music was inspiring and it was amazing to dance with people from all over the world - there just weren't enough dances on the programme! I don't think I will ever forget that rather unique feeling of being a standing couple in the middle of the dance floor of Younger Hall either!

Being totally immersed in Scottish dance, surrounded by live music, and simply spending a week with so many people that share the same passion for Scottish music and dance that I have always had, is an experience that I did not want to end and shall never forget. I hope to enjoy it many times again.

Lindsey Walsham

(Bournemouth Branch)



*Summer School Directors past and present: Marjorie MacRae, Linda Gaul (present), and Johan MacLean.*

### Summer School

See the advert on page 30 for confirmation of next year's Summer School dates - why not take the plunge and make 2005 YOUR first time at Summer School.

"What have I let myself in for," I thought as I looked at the list of participants for this year's summer school, but I needn't have worried. There were only smiling faces in the dining hall that night. Lots of participants return year after year and mealtimes give people the chance to catch up with old friends and make new acquaintances from all over the world - this year, there were participants from 19 different nations.

At our morning classes, we had two marvellous teachers, whose patience was incredible, and two wonderful musicians - live music, what a treat for those of us dancing abroad who do not have this luxury. As a first timer to St Andrews, you have a star on your badge to identify you, people are extra courteous and very willing to help you find your way around, and as long as one tries and is positive any mistakes are laughed away. Social dancing in the Younger Hall was a wonderful experience. It is a beautiful old building, the sprung floor has to be danced on to be believed, live music each night and everyone enjoying the dancing. Lots of people were willing to help beginners through the dances.

St Andrews is a delightful town, with plenty to do if one has the time and the inclination. There's the castle, the abbey, the golf course - but best of all is the beach, just a little walk away, and paddling in the sea is to be recommended for soothing hot and blistered feet!

I had a wonderful time, learnt a lot, made new friends, had lots of fun . . . I shall of course be returning next year!

Patricia A E Dawson

(Oslo Scottish Country Dance Group)



*Linda Gaul being presented with a wall-hanging embroidered by Olga Ivanova, one of the Russian Summer School students.*

## Vote for your favourite Scottish country dance of all time!

So, which is the greatest dance of them all? The RSCDS wants to know. Frequently we are beseeched by the media to vote for our favourite film, book, or song. We are told about the ten best sellers, the top twenty recordings and the one hundred greatest this or that. But the question we all ask, "What tops the jig, strathspey and reel charts?" has not been answered. Until now.

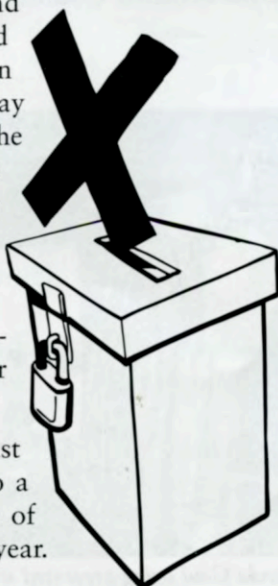
The RSCDS is conducting a poll, open to anyone who cares to vote, to find which Scottish country dance really is "the best". Will it be a thrusting, energetic reel or a lilting, gentle strathspey? Will it be a complex, modern composition or something simple from the traditional repertoire? Will it even be a dance that the RSCDS has not yet published? Only you, the dancing public, can decide. Of course, the result will have no more artistic or scientific validity than any of the other polls that are currently so much in vogue. However, don't let that put you off. Finding out the answer will be interesting and fun!

Please vote. The more votes we get the more interesting the result. And admit it, you do want to know if the rest of the dancing world shares your view. You can vote by email or by post (see contact details on page 2).

If you cannot make up your mind straight away, think about it when looking at the programme for your next function. Talk about it with your friends after class. Lobbying is allowed! You have until 30 April 2005 to register your vote and the results will be announced in the first issue of the new RSCDS magazine due out in August 2005.

All you have to do is vote, but to add extra interest you can comment on why you have made your particular choice. There will be prizes for the most interesting, entertaining and original emails or letters, and we hope to publish a selection along with the results. It may be the music, it may be the symmetry of the figures, it may be the story behind the dance, it may be when you first danced with your partner for life, it may be any numbers of reasons - don't be shy, share your thoughts.

Do take part, even if it is just to vote. We look forward to a big response and to the fun of finding out the answer next year.



## Is YOUR favourite here?

### Dance programmes for AGM 2004:

#### Friday night Ball

(provided by New Zealand Branch)

Dance	Title		Source
1	Maxwell's Rant	R	Book 18
2	Mrs Stewart's Jig	J	Book 35
3	Miss Milligan's Strathspey	S	Leaflets
4	The Montgomeries' Rant	R	Book 10
5	Seton's Ceilidh Band	J	Morison's Bush Collection
6	Argyll Strathspey	S	Book 35
7	The Rev. John Macfarlane	R	Book 37
8	The Wild Geese	J	Book 24
9	Gentleman	S	Book 35
10	Cadgers in the Canongate	R	Book 9
11	Culla Bay	S	Book 41
12	Pelorus Jack	R	Book 41
13	Joie de Vivre	J	Book 39
14	Neidpath Castle	S	Book 22
15	Red House	R	Book 7
16	Follow Me Home	J	Book 38
17	The Robertson Rant	S	Book 39
18	The Reel of the Royal Scots	R	Leaflets

#### Extras

1	Flowers of Edinburgh	R	Book 1
2	The Silver Tassie	S	Leaflets
3	The Reel of the 51st Division	R	Book 13

#### Saturday night dance

(provided by East Lothian Branch)

Dance	Title		Source
1	Lothian Lads	R	Drewry, Brodie Book
2	MacLeod's Fancy	J	Book 33
3	Altshellach	S	Book 23
4	Reel of the Royal Scots	R	Leaflet
5	Jubilee Jig	J	Leaflet
6	S-Locomotion	S	Book 41
7	Kendall's Hornpipe	J	Graded
8	Autumn in Appin	S	Book 31
9	Minard Castle	R	Book 22
10	Royal Yacht Britannia	R	Book 43
11	Light and Airy	J	Book 4
12	Gang the Same Gate	S	Book 36
13	Round Reel of Eight	R	Book 10
14	Miss Allie Anderson	J	Leaflet
15	Sauchie Haugh	S	Leaflet
16	College Hornpipe	R	Book 20
17	Cape Town Wedding	S	Book 39
18	Quarries Jig	J	Book 36

#### Extras:

	Robertson Rant	S	Book 39
	Glasgow Country Dance	M	Book 23
	Sugar Candie	S	Book 26
	It's Just for Fun	J	Book 33
	Clutha	R	Book 31

# The Great Debate

The Great Debate is over - for the time being at least. Last November at our AGM, two members of the Management Board put the case for each side of the argument: should members exercise their control of the Society individually through one member one vote (OMOV) or collectively through the existing practice of Branch delegates. There followed an extensive period of consultation. The Board invited Branches and Headquarters members to give their views. It was not possible to contact all members directly, as Headquarters does not hold all names and addresses of members. A number of Branches, however, did consult their entire membership. In all, 44 Branches and 127 individuals contacted Headquarters with their opinion. In April, the Management Board discussed the issue at length and concluded that the system of Branch delegates should remain, while allowing that changed circumstances in future (for example, the creation of a central database of members) may cause the debate to be re-opened.

So, after all that time, all that effort and no little expense we are back where we started. Was it worth all the fuss? Yes it was, and for a number of reasons. The Board had been wrestling with several tricky issues, notably the representation of Headquarters members at our AGM and the services provided to all members. These concerns opened up the wider question of whether we are a Branch-based or members-based organisation. As this is a fundamental question, the Board wanted to take the views of the Society at large before reaching a decision.

Despite not being able to contact every member directly, this process was still the largest consultative exercise in the history of the Society. The response was stunning. As might have been expected, the overwhelming majority of Branches favoured the Branch delegate arrangements, although three did put forward persuasive arguments for OMOV and a few had no strong view in either direction. More surprisingly, perhaps, the majority of individual respondents who offered a definite opinion one way or the other came down in favour of Branch delegates. For many, the compelling argument against OMOV was its impracticability. Although this was a consultative exercise and not a referendum, and therefore the results were not binding, a number of Board members changed their own stance on the issue as a direct consequence of the consultation.

It was striking how seriously many people treated the debate. As already mentioned, some Branches involved their entire membership, while others organised discussion groups at classes and weekend schools, some debated the issues in Committee and, in a few cases, an office holder expressed a personal view on behalf of the Branch. In the case of individuals, some talked through the issues with other RSCDS members in their affiliated groups and responded on behalf of them all. Many replies ran to several pages offering a detailed analysis of the issue and proposing compromise solutions.

Several Headquarters members said how delighted they were to have been involved in the debate. They were also asked about their reasons for being Headquarters (as opposed to Branch) members. For many the reason was geographical: they were too far away from any Branch. Others seemed to be constantly on the move and therefore unable to settle in one Branch's area. A number of members took the opportunity to write at length about their reasons for joining the Society and what membership meant to them. Reading their comments was an uplifting, though sometimes rather sad experience. Some members are quite elderly and no longer able to dance, but they can recall quite vividly the enjoyment they once found in Scottish country dancing and its music.

Whatever views being expressed, each response mentioned a desire for the continued prosperity of the Society and helped to put the Great Debate in perspective. Administratively we may be a Branch based organisation, but primarily we are a dancing organisation. It is important to remember that, because unless our focus is firmly on dancing we are not doing what we should.

---

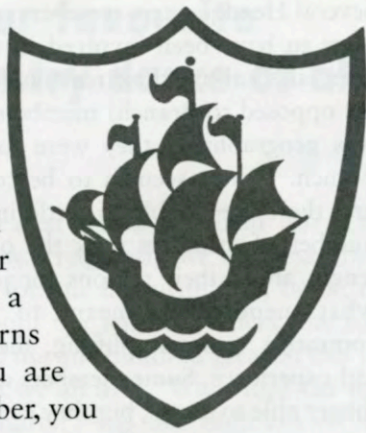
## The End of the Bulletin . . . . . . The Start of ?

This will be the last Bulletin published by the RSCDS. The Management Board believes that a new style of members' magazine is needed to keep you informed, and hopefully entertained, about what is happening in the Society and in the wider world of Scottish country dancing. Like the Bulletin, the magazine will be free to RSCDS members.

The first issue of the new magazine will be coming out in August 2005 and should be with all members shortly afterwards. The Board has appointed an editorial team, led by Jimmie Hill, to ensure that its content is lively, up-to-date, and interesting to members and other Scottish dance enthusiasts. Preparations are well advanced, but one important question remains unanswered. What title should we give to the magazine? Clearly "The RSCDS Magazine" won't do, and some other possible titles have already been claimed by long established Branch publications. Do you have any ideas?

The editorial team would welcome your thoughts and suggestions for a snappy, enticing title that will resonate not only with RSCDS members but also with other Scottish dancers who, we hope, will be attracted to the Society by the new look publication. Please email, write or phone your idea(s) to Jimmie Hill, c/o Headquarters. Anyone submitting an idea that makes it to the masthead will be rewarded.

## Blue Peter



What happens when you are an assistant producer with the BBC and the Blue Peter presenters need a challenge for Burns night? Well, if you are also a RSCDS member, you think Scottish country dancing! The producer in question is Angela Young and her mother, Doris, just happens to teach one of the RSCDS children's classes in Aberdeen. Dad, Kenny, also plays for the class.

For overseas members, who may be wondering what this is all about, Blue Peter is a children's television programme which has been running successfully in the UK twice weekly for 46 years!

In early January Angela made the contacts and then boys from Airyhall Primary School set a challenge for two of the programme's presenters, Liz and Matt: they were to learn The Reel of the 51st Division in time for Burns night. A few days before 25th January the two presenters flew to Aberdeen and visited the school where one of the senior girls from the Airyhall class took them through their paces with assistance from the boys and girls who attend the Friday evening class.

There was a flurry of activity thereafter arranging for six boys and seven girls to go to London to make a live recording for the programme. Craig, from the Upland Junior Dancers in London, joined the group and with the two presenters there were two sets.

It was decided that it would be a good idea if the presenters did not dance together and so Liz danced with Gregor from Airyhall and Matt with Heather. Gregor and Heather had been interviewed earlier in Aberdeen when Matt was told he needed to "get the gear" - i.e. a pair of pumps! The recording was most successful with the young people not only dancing very well but

also managing to keep the presenters on their toes and in the right place at the right time!

Everyone who has seen the programme has been most complimentary about it. The dancers and the travelling support certainly did us proud. For the dancers perhaps the highlight was being in the same programme as Britney Spears, a pop star, maybe not well known to older RSCDS members!

This is what some of the dancers had to say about their experiences:

*"Brilliant, I liked the experience of working with the presenters!"*

*"Excellent day. The best was meeting the presenters and meeting Britney Spears."*

*"Dancing in the studio was really fun. I was the youngest there and I had never flown before."*

*"It was the chance of a lifetime. The best bit was being in the studio and meeting Britney Spears."*

*"It was ACE."*

*"It is an experience I will never forget."*

*"The whole thing was fantastic from the flight to being on television. It was a real adventure and something I won't forget in a hurry."*

*"It was really great. It was the best experience of my life. Matt and Liz were really nice as well as all the other crew. It was fabulous getting to see Britney Spears and being the audience when she sang."*

*"The best bit was - ALL OF IT."*



It just goes to show what can be done when you have the right person in the right place at the right time. The RSCDS had superb publicity on prime time television on a programme aimed at the right audience - young people! We are hugely indebted to Angela, her Mum and Dad, the parents and the Headteacher of Airyhall School, who travelled with the group to London, but most of all to the young teacher and dancers who were such good ambassadors for us as they showed Scottish country dancing to be the fun we all know it to be.

## Mary Isdale MacNab

*Over the past year or so, the RSCDS has been putting together a video, for archive purposes, of the MacNab dances. Here Rosemary Coupe (with contributions from Mary Murray) tells us something about the lady, her teaching methods and her impact on the development of Scottish dance.*

No better material for a Scottish dance performance can be found than the dances of Mary Isdale MacNab. Their variety of formations and footwork is stunning: circles melt into lines, squares into diagonals, and the dancers break from highland stepping into travelling steps. These complex, exciting dances are the legacy of a woman whose vision of Scottish dance was broad and inclusive, and who was a gifted teacher as well as a collector and creator of dances. In her work and through her dances, she helped to cement links between country and highland dancing, and between the Vancouver dance community and the SCDS, later the RSCDS, in Scotland.



Born in Govan, Scotland, Mary Isdale emigrated to Vancouver as an eight-year-old child in 1907, and soon embarked on her lifelong career as a Highland dance teacher. Her students won trophy after trophy and she quickly became recognized as the leading teacher in Vancouver. Those students who did not wish to compete were encouraged to perform at garden parties, teas, concerts, and the school's grand end-of-year recital, "The Gathering of the Clans." Mrs. MacNab had an eye for dramatic spectacle, and she often linked her dances to Highland history and legend. Former student Mavis Pickett describes the elaborate performance of a dance called "The Brooch of Lorne" honouring the brooch wrested from Robert the Bruce in 1306. It was designed to be seen from the balconies of a military armoury, with the dancers making up a colossal Cairngorm brooch. The central "jewel", dancer Bill Elliot, enacted the spirit of Bruce in a "Dirk Dance." Four more men were the "claws" of the jewel, and surrounding them were concentric circles of "rubies," "emeralds," and "sapphires" wearing red, blue, and green caps respectively. First one circle and then another would dance around the central

jewel. Lines of other dancers radiated out from them, dressed in white and silver. Dances of this kind were certainly coloured by a romantic vision of Highland history, but they were splendidly conceived.

Piping and dancing were closely integrated in those days in Vancouver, but piping was still a male preserve until Mrs MacNab founded the Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band. She toured extensively with the Pipe Band and her team of young dancers, the BC Highland Lassies. Hers was the first Scottish dance team from abroad invited to perform at the Edinburgh Tattoo, where Mrs. MacNab was director of dancing in 1964. Some students, like Irene Donegan, belonged to both Pipe Band and Highland Lassies. Irene also made the kilts and jackets for the Pipe Band, and remembers the huge bolts of MacNab tartan arriving from Scotland. The Vancouver Ladies' Pipe Band continued to wear the MacNab tartan into the 1990s.

Mrs MacNab's vision of Scottish dance went beyond Highland dancing. Organised Scottish country dancing began in Vancouver as early as 1929, when Mrs Thomas Bingham (another Scottish immigrant) gave lecture-demonstrations to the Scottish Society and the Overseas League. As the leading Highland dance teacher in Vancouver, Mrs MacNab was invited to the second lecture. From then on she played a steady supporting role in the country dance movement in Vancouver. She served on the Vancouver group's committee, represented Vancouver on the Provincial Society executive, and led step practices in her dance studio. Later she hosted Miss Milligan on one of her Vancouver visits. In 1960, she was the prime force behind the first weekend Camp at Crescent Beach, where she also taught. She formed the Prince Charles Scottish Country Dance group and led the Braemar group, a demonstration team consisting mainly of the parents of her Highland pupils.

When the Vancouver Branch of the RSCDS was formed in 1964, Mrs MacNab and Mrs Bingham were made Honorary Vice-Presidents, "in recognition of the fact that Scottish Country Dancing in Vancouver owed its beginnings and success during the past forty years to your efforts." Both attended the Branch's first Annual Ball. Two years before her death, on September 18, 1964, the Vancouver Ballet Society presented an extravaganza of Scottish dance, song, and music to honour Mrs MacNab after her successful tour of Scotland. The Ladies' Pipe Band paraded down the aisles of the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, the Highland Lassies and the RSCDS danced, and Mrs MacNab received a commemorative scroll from the City of Vancouver.

Mrs MacNab's work was widely recognised in her lifetime, both in Canada and in Scotland. When Miss Milligan visited Vancouver in 1961, Hugh Thurston wrote, "she saw a performance of Vancouver's own dances, arranged by Mrs MacNab. The highlight was the scintillating performance of 'The Eight Men of Moidart' and 'Lovat Star' by sixteen dancers." Mrs MacNab subsequently taught her dances at St Andrews; her relationship with Miss Milligan was one of mutual esteem. Miss Milligan taught two new MacNab dances at Summer School in 1964, and she herself wrote the obituary for Mrs MacNab in the RSCDS Bulletin for 1967. She mentions Mrs MacNab's loyalty to the RSCDS, her enjoyment of Summer School, and her dry sense of humour. She describes her as "a real character" and a "dear friend".

Above all, it was in her dances that Mrs MacNab brought together the Highland and country dance traditions. The MacNab group dances - MacNabberies, as they were affectionately known in Canada - belong to diverse genres of Scottish dance. These include the threesome reel ("Shepherd's Crook"), the country dance ("Jeannie o' the Witchin' E'e"), the quadrille ("Kelvingrove"), the ecossaise ("St. Andrew's Nicht"), the Hebridean pantomimic dance ("Reel of the Blackcocks"), and the occupational dance ("Hebridean Weaving Lilt"). The structure of many of her elaborate set dances is also based on alternating phrases of setting steps and travelling figures, as in the broad Scottish reel tradition. In this eclectic approach, Mary Isdale MacNab resembles other great teachers of Scottish dance (Peacock, Anderson, MacLennan) who also recorded and taught many forms of Scottish dance.

Mary Isdale MacNab was in part collector and in part creator of her dances, and she would probably have seen no contradiction between the two roles. The traditional dances seem to have been seeds

## ACT 1

### MARCH IN

VANCOUVER LADIES PIPE BAND  
BC HIGHLAND LASSIES

"51ST HIGHLAND DIVISION, MEETING OF THE WATERS"

### VANCOUVER LADIES PIPE BAND COMPETITION SET

DONALD MACLEAN'S FAREWELL TO OBAN  
CALEDONIAN SOCIETY OF LONDON  
OVER THE ISLES TO AMERICA  
CROSSING THE MINCH  
IRISH WASHERWOMAN

### BC HIGHLAND LASSIES

#### 1. THE CLANSMEN

GATHERING OF THE CHIEFTAINS OF CLANS  
"LEADER" CHIEF OF A CLAN

#### 2. MCLAINE OF LOCH BUIE

FROM THE MCLAINE CLAN  
DURING THE 13TH CENTURY THIS WAS THE FAVORITE  
DANCE OF RED HECTOR MCLAINE, MCLAINE CHIEF  
OF CLAN, WHO ALWAYS INSISTED ON THE DANCE  
PERFORMED ON "HOGMANY" (NEW YEARS EVE).

#### 3. THE EIGHT MEN OF MOIDART

THESE WERE THE MEN WHO CAME FROM FRANCE TO  
SCOTLAND IN 1745 WITH PRINCE CHARLES STEWART.  
IN ORDER TO GAIN THE FAVOUR OF THE SCOTTISH  
PEOPLE, THEY DRESSED IN THEIR BEST DOUBLETS  
AND JABOTS AND DANCED A REEL ON THE WHARF. IT  
WAS NAMED THE "EIGHT MEN OF MOIDART" AS THIS  
WAS THE SIGN THAT THE PRINCE AND HIS FOLLOWERS  
WERE ACCEPTED.

### BRUCE KENNEDY BARITONE

SCOTLAND THE BRAVE  
WESTERING HOME

### DAWN MACDONALD MUSIC: GEORGE BIZET

THE FAIR MAID OF PERTH  
A YOUNG GIRL LEAVES HER VILLAGE AND GOES TO THE  
CITY OF PERTH.

### CHOREOGRAPHY: MARA MCBIRNEY

### ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

BONNY STRONSHIRAY - A STRATHSPEY IN THE MODERN  
TRADITION BY BOB CAMPBELL OF OAKVILLE, ONTARIO  
MACDONALD OF SLEAT - COLLECTED BY MRS ISDALE  
MCNAB

Extract from programme for "A Tribute to Mary Isdale", presented in Vancouver on 18 September 1964 by The Vancouver Ballet Society, with the BC Highland Lassies, Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band, and others.

from which her choreographed versions grew. Most are based on dances she originally collected from a variety of sources - some from Scottish emigrants in Vancouver and Nova Scotia, some from sources in Scotland, some from Scottish seamen (Vancouver was a busy port city). She seems to have lent an open ear to anyone willing to teach her a dance, especially old people describing dances they knew as children. Several of her dances were learned from her Canadian teacher D C Mather, a piper and dancer, and from Mrs Bain, a Vancouver high school teacher whom Mary Isdale met during World War I.

Since Mary Isdale MacNab began recording dances while still a student, as many as thirty years might elapse between the collecting and the reconstruction of a dance. Hugh Thurston writes in *The Thistle* from first-hand knowledge of her method: "Mrs MacNab reconstructed dances from her notes - or, rather, not entirely from her notes (which were very brief) but from a combination of the notes, her memory, and her experience of, and feel for, the kind of movement that is a valid part of Scottish dance tradition." The finished dances

evolved also from the collaboration between Mrs MacNab and her class. Mavis Pickett describes her trying out first one figure and then another until she was satisfied with the result. The dances also owe much to her artistic feeling for dance as spectacle and her flair for organising an effective and varied performance. She seems to have picked up and accentuated the theatrical or dramatic elements in the traditional dances. In "McNeil of Barra," for example, the traditional Barra ship dance in which a single dancer (the mast) is surrounded by a ring of six dancers becomes a display of dancing prowess by a sole male dancer framed by the six women. The fact that Mrs MacNab wished to showcase the talent of her outstanding young male dancers, Bill Kerr and Bill Elliot, helped to shape her choreography.

Former pupils remember Mrs MacNab as a kindly teacher who insisted on high standards of performance. According to Mavis Pickett, she had authority and presence, and like an old-fashioned dancie she taught good manners as well as dancing. She took care of her dancers, providing costumes for them (Mavis still has a cairngorm the size of a saucer) but woe betide the student who went out alone at night while on tour. Irene Donegan remembers her protectiveness towards her students, and the sense of security it gave them. Hugh Thurston saw a different side of her:

*"Mrs MacNab was, in herself, a very friendly, motherly person. This statement may surprise anyone who met her only briefly, because she had a certain reserve that had to be broken through before her true character became apparent. But many is the pot of home-made jam or soup that bachelor members of her dance-groups have taken home with them after an evening's dancing in her basement, and many is the party that she has enlivened with her rather dry sense of humour..." (The Thistle No. 33)*

Cheryle Macdonald, leader of the Stave Falls Dancers, remembers that Mrs MacNab wanted her pupils to enjoy dancing as much as to succeed in competition. Her horizons were broad, and she introduced her students to many forms of dance, including dances from Sweden, Ukraine, and Sri Lanka. She encouraged her students to become teachers themselves, and remarkably at least six of them eventually formed their own Scottish dance schools in the Vancouver area. Two current groups in particular, the Stave Falls Dancers and the Inverglenn Dancers, continue her philosophy, stressing the love of dance and exploring the traditions of Scottish dance in all their richness. Both groups have travelled and performed in many parts of the world, taking the spirit of Mary Isdale MacNab with them.



Mrs MacNab (centre) with her Braemar Demonstration Team, July 1963.

## Spotlight on Branches

### Atlanta Branch

The Branch has had a productive and enjoyable year. They hold six weekly classes for all levels of dancers, and in addition there is an ongoing beginners' class, offered in blocks of 6 or 8 weeks, after which participants are encouraged to join one of the regular classes. Atlanta Branch sadly lost one of its faithful members, Bennett Hamer, in early 2003; a bequest from him, combined with another legacy, has become the Branch's Memorial Scholarship Fund, set up to further the interests of SCD in the area and to help perpetuate the aims of the RSCDS.

### Bournemouth Branch



Bournemouth Branch, founded in 1965 continues to provide weekly classes for Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced levels. Branch membership was boosted this year by a superb 45 new members, due to an extra advert in the local press during the Christmas period. The Junior members, the Macaulay Dancers, held their 10th annual New Year charity dance. The Branch is very proud of its young folk!

### Castle Douglas & District Branch

The Branch has been making a big effort to attract new members, starting with a Taster Evening in mid-September. All members have been asked to invite a guest to attend the Taster Evening at the start of this season. The Committee also raised the Branch profile locally with 3 articles and accompanying photographs appearing in the local newspaper during the year. Finally, the Branch is planning a Day School in the near future - the first in Castle Douglas for nearly 40 years - and it is hoped this will give Scottish country dancing a boost throughout the area.

### Doncaster & District Branch

The Branch celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2004, and the piece de resistance of the year was the 25th Anniversary Ball, with Marion Anderson and her band



providing the music, together with piper Colin Headley. The Branch Chairman, Mrs Margaret Budgen, was presented with a beautiful copy of 'Silver and Grey', a march specially composed for the occasion by Colin Headley.

### Forfar Branch



2003 was the 50th anniversary of Forfar becoming a Branch of the RSCDS in its own right. The annual dance in November was the focus of the celebrations, and was a resounding success, in a beautifully decorated hall filled to capacity and with David Oswald providing the music. Pat Young, who had attended the inaugural meeting 50 years ago, cut the anniversary cake, and she is shown surrounded by the Branch Committee.

### Forres



In addition to its adult classes, Forres Branch has three junior classes, catering for children aged 5-15 years. They celebrated over 40 years of their class with a dance in December. Four teams from the different age groups took part in Inverness and Elgin music festivals, and were rewarded with 7 first places and 1 second place. The season was rounded off with an open evening for parents and friends when the children performed their festival pieces and some of the dances they had learned during the year. Margaret Ross is pictured with the juniors.

### The Hague & District Branch



In addition to celebrating the award presented to Branch founder, Hans van Zon (see p 24), the Branch



was marking the 45th anniversary since the founding of the group that affiliated to the Society in 1961 and eventually became the Branch in 1966. A wonderful time was had by all.

### Monklands Branch

At their Christmas dance in December 2003, the Branch presented Maisie Lithgow with a gift and certificate in recognition of her long service and dedication to the Branch. A founder member, Maisie has taught both children and adult classes for many years.



### Oxfordshire Branch

The Branch reports that a striking feature of their year has been the number of new faces at the weekly classes, numbers are booming and almost overcrowding the space available! New hands and old have enjoyed various events throughout the year, including an open-air dance at Wolfson College.

### Paris Branch

The highlight of the year for the Branch was the "Trip to Pau", when about 200 people from around the world



joined together in the Pyrenees region of France for an Easter weekend of "dance, delectation and delight"! Ann Dix was the teacher, accompanied by Jennifer Wilson, and Keith Smith and Green Ginger played for the "Grand Bals". The Chairman, Jean Martin (right), was pictured with Fanny Moureaux-Nery and René Vergé, sporting the red berets that were provided for all at the special dinner, as René was presented with a special award.



### Saskatchewan Branch

Saskatoon celebrated 50 years of dancing in that city, and a dinner and ball was held to mark the anniversary, with current and former dancers attending alongside visitors from across the province. Much work has been

done to develop a written history on Scottish country dancing in Saskatchewan, and the Branch looks forward to the book being published.

### St Andrews Branch

St Andrews Branch published two dances to mark Prince William's years at St Andrews University. Branch members were invited to devise dances; those chosen were "St Andrews Welcomes Prince William" (Mary Macintyre), and "The Bejant Royal" (Lewis Derrick), and music was by David Cunningham. A bound copy of the dances was sent to Prince William. In the photo are (L to R) Lewis Derrick, Mary Macintyre and David Taylor, Chairman of the Branch.



### West Lothian Branch

The Branch participated in two remarkable events this year. Firstly, a showcase event about the young people of



West Lothian, held at one of the biggest concert halls in Edinburgh, entitled "The Best Years of Our Lives". The Branch provided a team of dancers to represent West Lothian Schools, and the event was a huge success, gaining praise from Scotland's First Minister, Jack McConnell.



The second event was a series of workshops to introduce adults with special needs to SCD, in conjunction with a Special Olympics Power Lifting Championships, culminating with a ceilidh which all the participants enjoyed enormously. The workshops were a revelation and a delight for all the Branch members who participated, and it is now planned to repeat them.



# New Zealand Summer School

*(Neil Copland and Maureen Rutherford were invited to lead the Musicians' Course at the New Zealand Summer School in 2003/04. Needless to say they had a fantastic time. Here are some of Mo's impressions.)*

There were 19 musicians on the course: 4 accordionists, 6 pianists, 7 fiddlers (one of whom also played flute), a bass guitarist and a recorder/tin whistle player. They were from a wide range of musical backgrounds. Some already had experience of playing for classes or in small groups, whilst others had experience in other disciplines of music. What really delighted us, however, was that the group included 6 youngsters, who all danced and played with unstinting enthusiasm. We were also able to use the excellent facilities at the music department of the teacher training school at Waikato University.

The aspirations of our students differed greatly. Some were simply there for the social aspect, and the "tune", whilst others sought lengthy explanations to questions, to which I did my best to answer. We did impress, however, as we always do at St. Andrews, that playing for Scottish country dancing is not an academic exercise; it is a part of our heritage which has to be felt from the heart, and not analysed to the most precise demisemiquaver when it becomes a mechanical exercise. As an aside, I shall never forget Jude Linton's classic response to the somewhat academic query of a gentleman on an earlier course, "Och, for ony sake, forget the appliance o' science an' jist you play"! Beautifully put, if I may say so!

Each morning began with a lesson for the whole class. We would then split into smaller groups to undertake more specific activities such as looking at harmony and bass lines, the construction of sets, discussion about original tunes and basically any other issue concerning Scottish dance music. The afternoons comprised individual tutorials and a "mock" class with Gary Morris acting as teacher. Gary had the patience, understanding and sense of humour necessary for this task. The class was successful from all aspects: the dancers learned to appreciate how a musician had to concentrate, the musicians had to learn to respond virtually on demand, and the teacher had to be aware of all those strands that usually gel together in a professional situation.



*Musicians' Course members.*

There were social events each evening: a ceilidh, informal dances, the formal President's Ball and a Hogmanay dance complete with Mother and Father Time. The Peter Elmes Band played for all the dances. The band consists of Peter on 5-row button key, John Smith on fiddle and Lynne Scott on keyboard, and what a tremendous job they do. This is really the only SCD band in New Zealand, so they provide music at country dances throughout the two islands. Peter was delighted at the prospect of the music course, hoping that it would encourage more musicians to share the workload. On the final night our group was given the chance to shine, sharing the stage with the Peter Elmes Band, and shine they certainly did. Our sound engineer, Bill Jacob, recorded it, and each participant was given a CD as a reminder of this happy week.

We had an absolute ball, and I would like to accord a heartfelt thanks to all concerned, especially to Simon and Glenys Barbour, the organisers, and Lynne Hudson, our "gofer". Finally, a word to all Scottish country dance teachers who are desperate for live music. There are plenty of musicians out there who have been on RSCDS courses. They are perfectly capable and just need to be given the chance to play at classes. However, you must be patient with them, as we all have to learn. The scene in New Zealand is very healthy, as was proven by the number of young people at the Summer School and the attitude towards them. It was a great experience, and Neil and I were privileged to have been invited. I can't wait to meet some of those lovely people at St. Andrews over the next few years.

*Maureen Rutherford*



*New Zealand Summer School "en masse"*

## Questions, questions - the Reel of the 51st Division

Many people, both members and others, regularly write to Coates Crescent asking for information about various dances or music. In those cases where the answer is not readily available, the question generally finds its way to the Archivist's in-tray. By far the largest single subject of such requests is The Reel of the 51st Division. Since the dance first became available, questions have been raised: unfortunately, we are no nearer the answers today than they were in 1942. The following article is drawn from material in the Society's archives and includes correspondence with the devisors and those who have researched the dance together with a number of newspaper and magazine articles.

The basic facts are well known. In 1940, the 51st Highland Division, under the overall command of the French General Staff was ordered to fight a rearguard action<sup>1</sup>. The Division retreated in good order but was eventually overwhelmed by superior German armoured forces and formally surrendered to General Rommel at St Valery-en-Caux on 12 June 1940. The Division was disarmed and the men marched off to five years of imprisonment. For security reasons, the distinctive red

on blue shoulder patch of the 51st Division had been replaced by the Saltire, the white on blue cross of St Andrew.

One of the young officers, J E M ( J i m m y ) A t k i n s o n , occupied his

mind during the march across Europe by devising a dance movement to represent the new shoulder patch. Lieutenant Atkinson was not an experienced country dancer and although he worked out the formation he wanted - a variation on the opening of Scottish Reform - he could not come up with a satisfactory way of getting 1st couple to be facing their corners. Lt. Atkinson finally finished up at the PoW camp at Laufen near Salzburg. In that camp, another young officer, P J (Peter) Oliver started a Highland Dance Club, and subsequently a Reel Club, that met three times a week but they could not remember too many of the dances so they were forced to devise a few of their own. Jimmy mentioned his idea to Peter and it was agreed that the dance should finish with a circle as in Hamilton House but they still did not have a satisfactory start to the dance. Fate took a hand when it was discovered that one of the senior officers in the camp, Lt. Col T Harris Hunter had been Chairman of the Perth Branch of the then SCDS, "the ultimate authority" as one journalistic flight of fancy would have it. Col Hunter suggested the first eight bars of Lady

<sup>1</sup> One of the people asking for information about the dance noted that her father had been captain of one of the Royal Navy ships sent to evacuate the troops but he had been turned back by the French High Command - so much for the conspiracy theories about Churchill sacrificing the Scots as more politically expedient.

Susan Stewart's Reel as a model. Instructions for the new dance were eventually allowed through by the German censors (and thereby hangs another tale or three). The dance finally reached Col. Hunter's wife who, as he put it in a letter in 1950, "took it down to her little class in Perth". Mrs Hunter had the instructions duplicated and sold copies in aid of the Red Cross and to send supplies to the prisoners. Over £150 was raised, of which £60 went towards sending gramophones to the prisoners.

One of the most frequently questions asked is why it was changed from a dance for a five couple set to one for four couples when the Society published it. There is no doubt that this happened: the 1950 letter referred to above from Col. Hunter to 'Jimmy' Atkinson notes that the Society "took upon themselves to alter the formation to cast off two instead of three". He goes on, "we in Perth stick to the original of a five set and cast off three". However, in a letter of 17 June 1942, Miss Milligan included the instructions for the dance in a letter to Miss Mackenzie in Stirling: this already showed the change to "set and cast off down behind 2nd and 3rd couple". One previous researcher put into words what many suspect, that the person behind the change was "perhaps Miss Milligan, knowing her ways of tidying and unifying things". It is, of course, equally legitimate to ask a different question. Given that Lady Susan Stewart's Reel is a standard, three couple dance in a four couple set and the first eight bars are 'busy' [1st couple set, cast off two places, meet below 3rd couple, lead up to the top and cast off to corners] why was it a five couple dance in the first place?

Another question is why the Society decided to go against established practice and publish a newly devised dance. There is a tradition that Queen Elizabeth, subsequently the Queen Mother, was responsible for this when she saw a demonstration of the dance and allegedly said to Miss Milligan something along the lines of: "the dance will be in your next book, of course". Col. Hunter was certainly convinced of the Queen's involvement. This version of the story has, however, caused some researchers to raise doubts about it as they have been unable to find evidence that any such demonstration took place. When the Queen Mother was asked about the story in 1980, she replied that she had no recollection of any involvement whatsoever. As noted in *An Album for Mrs Stewart*, however, there was no demonstration involved and the conversation with her Majesty took place at Holyrood Palace in 1944 when a bound copy of the pre-war Books 1 to 12 was presented to her. As regards the Queen Mother's 'forgetfulness', it is quite possible that there may have been some difference between what was said and what was heard.

Then there is the name of the dance. The original handwritten instructions are headed simply 51 Division. A tune for the dance (below) is headed The Highland Division - 51st Divisional Dance St Valery Reel, hardly the snappiest of titles. The first public performance of the dance was at Halloween 1941 in a PoW camp in Warburg in Westphalia before Major-General Victor Fortune, the 51st Division Commanding Officer. He approved the dance with the title The 51st Country

Dance (Laufen Reel). The dedication in Book 13 says Gen Fortune approved the name as published by the Society. In a letter, Col. Hunter says he sent details of the devisors to the Society but "they only put it in with permission of Sir Victor Fortune - who had nothing to do with it". A wartime note from Col. Hunter gives the name as 51st Division Reel. Letters home, however, also referred to St Valery Reel and that is the name Miss Milligan used in the instructions for the dance in her letter to Miss Mackenzie. Jimmy Shand's Folk Dance Band did produce a recording under that name during the war, of which more later. There is some suggestion that this name was considered inappropriate as it referred to a defeat - although how a rearguard action that contributed to the success of the evacuation of Dunkirk can be considered a defeat seems strange. The fact remains that no one knows where the name as published by the Society came from.

As for the tune! Various articles on the dance over the years refer to an original tune that was lost. There is a candidate for this. In a letter to the Scotsman in January 1991, Peter Carmichael recounts being given St Valery's Day to play for a performance of the dance by the Dunblane Townswomen's Guild in 1947. This tune is a jig and in a subsequent letter was identified by Derek



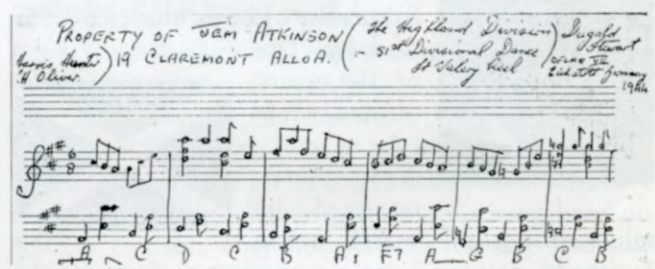
McLeod of Edinburgh as being identical with John Bain's Sister's Wedding in Kerr's Third Collection. The other tune, often referred to as lost, was written by Dugald Stewart in Oflag VII: a copy of this was given to the Society in 1980 by Mike Young who unearthed it while researching the history of Col. Hunter's Regiment. The lengthy title of this tune is given above and, it too, is a 6/8 tune. In the letter to Miss Mackenzie, Miss Milligan notes that the dance "was written to the tune The Drunken Piper but I haven't got it and use the alternative tune for Scottish Reform in Mrs Shand's



Group taken at POW camp in August 1941. Back row second from left is Jimmy Atkinson. Front row on the left is Peter Oliver.

Book" - another jig. In the standard pipe settings used by the British Army, however, The Drunken Piper is played as a 2/4 March, which would generally translate into a reel in dance terms. The only other link to a reel tune is that it was known that, in the absence of the 'lost' tune, it was being danced in the camps to My Love She's but a Lassie yet. For the recording of St Valery's Reel referred to above, Jimmy Shand chose The Victoria Hornpipe as the lead tune although he might have been expected to have access to the 'original'. 'Jimmy' Atkinson was convinced that it was Mrs Hunter who was responsible for matching the tune to the dance. Indeed, he considered the dance a collective effort, writing: "I composed it, Oliver produced it, and Col. Hunter, together with Mrs Hunter, presented it ... without one of us the dance would not have come about".

The questions and the speculation continue to this day. The correspondence in the Scotsman referred to above started with an article in that newspaper about the liberties being taken with the dance by the Reelers with the introduction of the so-called Aberdeenshire version i.e. a version for "as many as will" where every third couple starts by setting and casting off two places and continue till they reach the bottom. One of the threads in the correspondence that followed confirmed that, true to tradition, no one knows who started this trend or why it is called the Aberdeenshire version. While all



this speculation on who and why continues to exert a unique level of fascination for a large number of people, not only dancers, the fact remains that the dance, together with its tune - The Drunken Piper, remains as popular as ever on the dance programmes of all Scottish Country Dancers no matter what style they practice.

Jim Healy  
Honorary Archivist



The Schloß (Castle) in Laufen, Bavaria where The Reel of the 51st was born. Photo taken by Michael Young in 1980.

## Letters to the Editor

### Dancing down the Yangtse

Hello! Just wondered if I have been involved in a "first"? On a recent school trip to China our school group was asked to entertain the cruise passengers with evening entertainment as we sailed down the Yangtse River. After the girls had done their bit I got everyone up dancing "Flying Scotsman" and "Virginia Reel" (having taken CDs with me so we had correct music!) - it went really well. English, Chinese, Americans, Canadians and two Scots all letting their hair down. We then finished with "Auld Lang Syne". So many folk commented on what fun it was - hopefully a few more converts! I don't believe there is yet a group in China.

Lorna Ogilvie

(Croydon & District Branch)

### Aileen Crighton

In Bulletin 81, the Donations report included £150 from "Doncaster Branch". This was not accurate: the £150 was made up of individual donations from several of our members specifically in memory of Aileen Crighton. We feel strongly that Aileen's name should have been mentioned when the donation was shown. I know this correction will please all those members who gave so generously in memory of a much loved and respected member of our dancing community.

Mrs J Duncan

(Treasurer, Doncaster & District Branch)

## Correction

In last year's Bulletin, the article on p26 - "A Star is Born" - unfortunately contained a number of inaccuracies. I am grateful to Betsey Maxwell for the correct details, which are as follows:

"A star in the constellation of Gemini has been named for Jackie Johnstone and John Drewry. The framed certificates were presented to them at the Morland (Cumbria) Scottish Dance Week in June 2003. However, the gift was to honour the 80th birthdays of both dancing masters. Dulcie Bond of Sheffield did devise the Double Eighty Strathspey for the occasion, but the music was composed by Chris Dewhurst, not Stewart. Contact with the Star Foundation was made by Colin and Betsey Maxwell of Eaglesfield on behalf of the dancers and organisers (David and Jenny Jones) at Morland."

Apologies to all concerned, we are happy to publish the accurate details of this delightful story.

Editor

## New Email Addresses

Please note that new email addresses have been created for all the staff at Headquarters. Although we are planning to upgrade or replace much of the computer equipment at the end of the year, these new email addresses will be operational from now on. The most important one to note is:

**info@rscds.org**

which is the new address for general enquiries, and replaces the old info@rscdshq.freemove.co.uk address.

Staff email addresses are all in the format firstname.lastname@rscds.org, so they are as follows:

**elspeth.gray@rscds.org**

**june.dick@rscds.org**

**eileen.watt@rscds.org**

**kate.lawrie@rscds.org**

**suzanne.durrand@rscds.org**

Please make sure you update your address book!

## Winter School 2004

Here are a few photographs from Winter School 2004.



## RSCDS Central Germany Branch

Easter marked a special occasion for many Scottish dancers with the formation of the first RSCDS branch in Germany. Much discussion had taken place over the years, and quite a lot of preparation was necessary to ensure that the branch was legally acceptable under German law, but all hurdles were finally overcome. Having become a natural meeting place for Scottish dancers over the years, it was decided that the Kuckucksnest should be the base. This fits in with the chosen name "Central Germany" since the Kuckucksnest is also geographically centrally placed.

Advantage was taken of the annual Easter course, which is attended by dancers from all over Germany, including many teachers, to hold the first meeting. Before classes started on Easter Saturday the 8 founding members set off for the local registration office to obtain the official seal, after which glasses were raised and photographs taken. Further celebrations took place with coffee and "Branch cake" before the afternoon classes commenced.

Although a variety of SCD courses and workshops are held at the Kuckucksnest every year, as well as in other venues throughout Germany, the Branch plans to organise events of its own. The first of these will be a workshop for teachers and people interested in teaching or preparing for teaching exams since Germany has many good dancers but too few trained teachers. This will take place from 21-24 April 2005 at the Kuckucksnest and will be taught by Brenda Burnell.



The photo shows the founding members with the committee members in the front row: from left to right - Anika McGregor (Vice Chairman), Birgit Fleck (Treasurer), Carola Fischer (Chairman), Ute Hoppmann-Lacour (Assistant Secretary) and Martina Mueller-Franz (Secretary).

## Pinewoods

Every year Boston Branch runs a dance camp at Pinewoods. This year the Chairman, Jean Martin, attended and these are a few photographs from her album.



*Dressed for the Ball.*



*The lake, early morning.*



*Meal time.*



*Muriel Johnstone and Dave Weisler at the keyboard.*

## Branch Workshops 2004-05

Date	Branch
<b>November 2004</b>	
November 5-7	Kingston (Ontario), Canada
November 5-7	Northern Virginia, USA
November 12-13	Florida North, USA
November 12-14	Croydon & District, England
November 13	Bristol, England
November 13-14	New York, USA
November 20	Leeds, England
November 20	Norwich, England
November 20	Paris, France
November 20	York & North Humberside, England
November 26-28	Leeds, England
November 28	Hague District, Netherlands
<b>December 2004</b>	
December 28 to January 6	New Zealand
<b>January 2005</b>	
January 15	Hague District, Netherlands
January 22	Somerset, England
January 28-30	Tokyo, Japan
<b>February 2005</b>	
February 4-6	York & North Humberside, England
February 5	Carlisle & Border, England
February 5	Inverness & District, Scotland
February 5	Ottawa, Canada
February 5-6	Cheltenham, England
February 12	Cambridge & District, England
February 12	London, England
February 12	Monklands, Scotland
February 12	Nova Scotia, Canada
February 18	Glasgow, Scotland
February 19	Dundee, Scotland
February 19	Oxfordshire, England
February 25-27	Atlanta, USA
February 26	London (Ontario), Canada
February 26	Stirling, Scotland
<b>March 2005</b>	
March	Detroit, USA
March	Saskatchewan, Canada
March	West Lothian, Scotland
March 5	Birmingham, England
March 5	Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada
March 5	N W Craven, England
March 5	Newcastle-Upon-Tyne & District, England
March 5	Perth & Perthshire, Scotland
March 5	Somerset, England
March 11-12	Florida North, USA
March 11-12	Lorn (Argyll), Scotland
March 11-13	Leeds, England
March 12	Berks/Hants/Surrey Border, England
March 12	Leicester, England
March 12	Portland (Oregon), USA
March 18-20	Cornwall, England

Date	Branch
March 19	Derbyshire North East, England
March 19	Dundee, Scotland
March 19	Leeds, England
March 19	Royal Tunbridge Wells, England
March 19	Toronto, Canada
<b>April 2005</b>	
April 1-3	Helensburgh & District, Scotland
April 1-3	Washington DC, USA
April 9-10	Orange County, USA
April 16	N W Craven, England
April 16	York & North Humberside, England
April 21-24	Central Germany, Germany
April 21-24	Vienna, Austria
April 23	Castle Douglas, Scotland
April 23	Liverpool, England
April 23	South Wales, Wales
April 29 - May 1	East Lothian, Scotland
April 29 - May 1	Tokai, Japan
April 29-30	Isle of Islay, Scotland
<b>May 2005</b>	
May 14	Leeds, England
May 20-21	Isle of Skye, Scotland
May 20-22	Duns & District, Scotland
May 20-22	New York, USA
May 28	Hague District, Netherlands
<b>June 2005</b>	
June	Montreal, Canada
June 9	Leeds, England
June 25	New York, USA
<b>July 2005</b>	
July	Boston, USA
<b>September 2005</b>	
September 9-11	Orlando, USA
September 10	Lochaber, Scotland
September 16-18	Seattle, USA
September 17	Leeds, England
<b>October 2005</b>	
October	Saskatchewan, Canada
October	Sheffield, England
October 1	York & North Humberside, England
October 8	Ribble Valley, England
October 9	Hague District, Netherlands
October 14	Atlanta, USA
October 15	London, England
October 22	Leeds, England
October 22	Roxburgh Selkirk & Peebles, Scotland
October 22	Tokai, Japan
October 28-30	Medicine Hat, Canada

## Medal Tests in Aberdeen

At the beginning of June the first Medal Tests for Young People were held in Aberdeen. There was a very good response with 25 children taking the Introductory Award, 17 taking Grade 1 and 9, Grade 2.

At a parents' evening later that month the presentation of certificates took place. The Aberdeen teachers were very pleased that Fiona Turnbull, who had put so much effort into setting up these tests during her period as Youth Director, was able to attend. Everyone who was there that evening shared the delight of the youngest members at receiving their awards. Their pride and that of their parents was there for all to see.

Hopefully lots of Branches will be participating in the Medal Test programme before long. Details of the arrangements for running a test are available from HQ.



*Fiona Turnbull with Aimee Gray,  
the youngest dancer taking the Introductory Award.*

## Honoured in The Hague

In November 2003, Hans van Zon was presented with the Dutch equivalent of the British MBE - he was awarded, in the name of Queen Beatrix, the insignia belonging to the rank of "Member in the Order of Oranje - Nassau". Hans was a founder member of Hague District Branch, and the honour was bestowed on him in the Branch's 45th anniversary year, as recognition of all that he has done for Scottish country dancing in The Hague, and for historical research in The Hague and surroundings, resulting in various publications. This is a rare honour, and Hans is quite rightly proud to have received it. The photograph shows Hans wearing the ribboned medal that he was allowed to wear on the day of the presentation only; he also received a smaller, permanent "badge" that he will no doubt wear on his kilt jacket with great pride.



*Hans van Zon*

## Sir Jimmy Shand Sculpture Project

The Project has now been completed and the Bank account closed. The accounts have been audited by Macfarlane Gray, Chartered Accountants, Stirling and given certification. Just over £42,000 was raised and, having now settled all outstanding expenses, the balance has been paid to Fife Council in respect of their improving lighting and landscaping at the site and future maintenance of the statue and site.

The Project Committee wishes to extend sincere thanks to all donors and supporters, to the Shand family for all their co-operation, to Fife Council for much help, including the provision of printing and stationery, to all contractors who provided services and to all who freely gave publicity. The Committee paid postages and no expenses were claimed.

The statue attracts many visitors and is certain to continue to do so as a memorial to a revered and legendary figure.

Ian Collie, Treasurer of Project





## DONATIONS 2003-04

It is hugely encouraging to be able to record once again in the pages of the Bulletin the generous donations that the Society has received from members, Branches and Affiliated Groups. Every donation, large or small, is welcomed and appreciated as a contribution towards the work that the Society carries out in order to fulfil its objectives.

### General Fund

Donations to the General Fund of more than £20 are listed below. In addition to these donations, we are grateful to those members of the Management Board and Management Committees who choose to donate some or all of their expenses rather than claim them.

J Sommerfield	£66.00
Teesside Branch	£50.00
Mrs Yasumuro	£2,779.00
Mrs Botting	£20.00
R Poulton	£100.00

Anonymous donations of £250.00 and £100.00 were also received, as well as contributions from Munro's, McNaughtons of Pitlochry and the Green Book for including their flyers in our new member's packs.

The donation from Teesside Branch sadly resulted from its dissolution, and constituted the balance of its funds after a donation to another regional Branch had been approved to support their children's dance class.

Mrs Yasumuro has made extremely generous donations to the Society over the years, and we are very grateful for her support.

### Jean Milligan Memorial Fund

This Fund was established in December 1978 in memory of the Society's co-founder, Miss Jean Milligan. The General Purposes & Finance Committee is responsible for considering applications for support from the Fund, and in doing so reviews each application carefully to ensure funds are distributed to benefit as wide a range of projects and activities as possible. Guidelines for applications to the JMMF are available from Headquarters or on the Society's website, [www.rscds.org](http://www.rscds.org). Donations of more than £20 in the year 2003-04 were as follows:

Gifu Scottish Country Dancers	£ 500.00
Summer School raffles	£1,292.00
Estate of Margaret Parker	£ 500.00

Margaret Parker was a Past Chairman of the Society, and we are most grateful that she remembered the Society in her will with this generous bequest.

Beneficiaries of grants from the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund in the last year have included:

- Toronto Branch – support for children's class
- NW Craven Branch – contribution towards teacher's certificate course
- National Festival of Movement & Dance – financial support underwritten for Branches participating in this high-profile event
- DanceDetails project – contribution towards set-up costs.

Each year, in addition to the grants described above, the JMMF funds various scholarships to the annual Summer School in St Andrews - please contact HQ for more details.

### Digital Recordings Fund

We are happy to acknowledge the donation of £750.00 from Vancouver Branch, in memory of Pearl Holmberg, for

the transfer of Book 5 CD. Toronto Branch also generously donated £2,000 towards the re-recording of Book 12 on CD, by their "home band", Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent - unfortunately, this was agreed too late to be acknowledged on the CD sleeve, so we are delighted to be able to do so now.

All of the digital transfers are now complete, but donations to this fund are still welcome, as remaining recordings will be re-recorded rather than remastered. A donation of £4,600 pays new recording costs (not including stock), but donations of any amount are welcome.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

## RSCDS Summer School Scholarships

Scholarships to Summer School in St Andrews are offered annually from the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund, the Duncan MacLeod Scholarship Fund and from proceeds of the "Green Book". A brief outline of all scholarships available is given below. Please note that residential fees and examination fees (where appropriate) are covered by the Scholarships, but travelling expenses are not. Each application should be accompanied by a recommendation from the Branch, signed by Branch Chairman and Secretary. A Branch may submit only one recommendation for each scholarship, but applications from a Branch for more than one scholarship may be considered.

Application forms and guidance are available either from Headquarters or on the website, and should be completed and returned to HQ by 28 February. The Schools Working Group of the Education & Training Committee will then be responsible for selecting the recipients from the applications received.

### 1 Teacher's Scholarship

For members who wish to attend Summer School with a view to taking the Teacher's Certificate.

### 2 Teaching Certificate Part 1

For members who wish to attend Summer School with a view to taking the Teaching Certificate Part 1 (new structure).

### 3 Junior Scholarship

A Junior scholarship is offered to members aged 16-20 years, wishing to attend Summer School.

### 4 General Scholarship

A General scholarship for members wishing to attend Summer School.

### 5 The Duncan MacLeod Scholarship

For a student in (preferably) Physical Education Training, to attend two weeks at Summer School, attending the class preparing candidates for the Teaching Certificate Part 1 (new structure). The examination fee will also be covered.

### 6 John Duckett Scholarship

This scholarship is funded by the proceeds from the "Green Book". Preferably it will be offered to full-time students aged 16-25.

### 7 Youth Working Group Scholarship

Two Scholarships for full-time students who have not previously attended Summer School and who are presently attending classes or interested in learning Scottish Country Dancing. Each consists of payment of half the weekly residential fee (including full board, accommodation, tuition fee and membership fee, if required) for the 2nd week of Summer School.

## Obituaries

### Col Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel

Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel was honoured to be one of the Society's Honorary Vice Presidents. The following is an extract from the obituary which appeared in *The Scotsman* on 2 June 2004.

He was the head of one of the oldest and proudest families in Scotland. The Camerons of Lochiel have graced Scottish history with their bravery, service and strong sense of duty since the middle ages. Donald Cameron upheld that tradition with energy and style. A tall and ebullient man, he was a fervent upholder of age-old traditions but was adept at adopting new practices and habits to broaden the clan and ensure it moved with the times.

Donald Hamish Cameron, the 26th Chief of the Clan Cameron, inherited the estates and Achnacarry, the family home near Spean Bridge, in 1951. He assumed various non-executive posts in leading Scottish companies, and gave his time to various charities. He was Lord Lieutenant of Inverness and a county councillor for Kilmallie, and was made a Knight of the Thistle in 1973, having been awarded the CVO in 1970.

He worked tirelessly for the clan and was instrumental in founding branches in North America in 1968 and in England in 1981. There is an ancient prophecy, which has it that the Camerons of Lochiel will hold their lands as long as there is snow on Ben Nevis. The corries maintain that tradition.

### Alice Murphy – A Tribute

Alice Murphy died peacefully in her sleep on 18 August, less than three months before she was due to be presented with the Society's Scroll of Honour. Earlier this year she was one of five UK members selected to go forward for training as a RSCDS examiner.



Alice Murphy joined the London Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society in 1956. She was later to dance in Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme. In 1964 she gained her Teacher's Certificate and when she moved to Cumberland she became an active member of the Carlisle & Border Branch where she taught a range of Branch classes. She served as Chairman of the Branch and latterly was Secretary for the second time.

As a member of the staff at Summer School in St Andrews from 1985, Alice taught classes over the whole range as well as acting as depute director. Perhaps her greatest contribution to the Society was in teacher training. For over 15 years she presented candidates for examinations and the success of these courses is measured by the support she received from many groups in Yorkshire, Cheshire, Ayrshire and her local area.

In 1987 Alice was invited by the Society to conduct a teaching tour of Scandinavia. Her sound teaching led to

many invitations to teach abroad. In addition to teaching in various European countries she taught in the USA, in Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore, at the Australian Winter School and in three Australian branches.

Those dancers who have been taught by Alice, saw her create a very happy atmosphere in her classes and marvelled at her innovative teaching. As an adjudicator, particularly of young people's dancing, she showed great appreciation and humour and was always most encouraging.

For a period during the 1970s Alice was the Carlisle and Border Branch representative on the Executive Council and later, until 2002 representative for Western Australia. Everyone knew when Alice got to her feet and said "Alice Murphy, representing Western Australia", that not only would we hear the views of those she represented but also whatever she said would be significant, well thought out and clearly presented.

Carlisle and Border Branch of the Society is the last Branch before you leave England going north and the first one coming south from Scotland and we understand that was the idea behind the title of the dance, "Tribute to the Borders." When you think of Alice, remember her dancing with Joe, head held high, smiling and thoroughly enjoying what we have come to know as their dance.

To provide details of Alice's connections with, and contributions to, Scottish country dancing is one thing but that is to ignore the qualities which we associate with her. She was one who valued tradition, had a strong sense of purpose, a quiet dignity and elegance, an ability to think things through in a logical manner and along with those qualities, a well-developed sense of fun.

Dance itself is a physical art form which is notoriously difficult to put into words. Finding words to express what Alice meant to Joe, her family and her many friends is not easy. Perhaps the most sincere way of paying tribute to her is simply to say that she will be greatly missed.

Peter Clark and Jean Martin

### John Hutton

John Hutton's commitment to the RSCDS manifested itself at both Branch and National level. His service on the Committee of Management of Newcastle & District branch covered many years and his knowledge and advice was always trusted and valued. His expertise as a sound and electrical engineer was also invaluable, and both he and his wife Morag contributed generously to every Branch function.

John was a regular attender at Summer School over many years, where he and Morag made many friends.

He also served on the Executive Council as a Branch representative and AGM delegate for many years, firstly representing Delaware Valley Branch and later The Hague & District Branch.

John had the ability to take very full notes at all meetings, writing in longhand, and in great detail, much

of what was said or reported. He was extremely knowledgeable about constitutional and administrative matters.

He was a man of great integrity who will be remembered on Tyne and Wear, and by his many friends throughout the Society, with great affection.

John Cass, Bill Clement

### **Miss Janet Banks**

Janet (known to many as Chattie) qualified as a teacher in 1938. A founder member of Forres Branch, she taught the general class for 30 years and her firm but kindly approach encouraged all ages to attend. On her retirement from teaching she was made Honorary President of the Branch. Janet taught regularly at Summer School from 1966 until retiring in the late 1980s, but continued as an examiner until she began to lose her sight in 1990. She was awarded a Scroll of Honour that year.

A maths teacher by profession, Janet had many interests and loved the outdoors. She was a life member of Moray Mountaineering Club and also often took Inverness Royal Academy pupils on field trips in Scotland and abroad. She did voluntary work for the RSPB and also for the National Trust at Brodie Castle.

Her last 4 years were spent in a residential home, and despite being hard of hearing and almost blind, Janet maintained a very sharp mind and never failed to ask numerous questions about SCD. She kept up to date with recent publications and enjoyed debating the merits and demerits of the new dances.

Janet had a deep and abiding interest in the Society and in SCD in general. She set high standards for herself and encouraged her pupils to do their best. She will be remembered affectionately by her many friends.

Eve Ritchie, Julie White

### **Bruce Fordyce**

Bruce was perhaps best known in Scottish Country Dance circles worldwide as the deviser of the dance and composer of the music "Seton's Ceilidh Band". He was involved with the formation of the Wellington/Hawkes Bay Association of SCD Clubs in 1953 that later led to the formation of the NZ SCD Society then the NZ Branch of the RSCDS. In 1954 he was a member of the organising committee for the first Summer School in NZ.

Scottish Country Dancing was not Bruce's only interest. He was a self-taught musician, keen tramp and model railway engineer. Though he retired from the dancing scene for many years his wife Mary continued and recently Bruce returned and once again entered wholeheartedly into activities attending club nights, balls, weekend and day schools and also summer schools where he was known to party into the wee small hours especially with the musicians. He was still devising dances and composing music in recent months.

As requested by Bruce a set of Hawkes Bay dancers danced Seton's Ceilidh Band to the music of Peter Elmes, John Smith and Lynne Scott as a special farewell at his funeral.

Murray Corps

## **Also sadly missed:**

### **Jessie Bain**

Jessie Bain was a founder member of the Banffshire Branch, who died this year at the age of 95. She was a President, Vice President and Secretary of the Branch, was for many years the Branch representative on the Executive Council, and was awarded the Scroll of Honour in 1986. She will be sadly missed.

Banffshire Branch

### **Jim Ronnie**

A real "gentle man", Jim Ronnie was a very active and hard-working member of New Zealand Branch, where he ran the Branch bookshop from 1971 until his sudden death in August 2004. He was devoted to Scottish country dancing, and managed to be active to the last minutes of his life. He will be sorely missed.

New Zealand Branch

### **Ron Taylor**

Originally a member of Liverpool Branch, where he was a committee member, active fundraiser, teacher and President, Ron moved across the water and helped found Wirral Branch in 1983. He served Wirral Branch in many capacities including teacher, Honorary President, Chairman and Secretary, and there was little that went on in the Branch in which he was not involved. He also took a keen interest in RSCDS matters, serving on the Executive Council and on the Finance Committee. An enthusiastic teacher and lively MC, Ron worked tirelessly for the branch and much of its present well-being is due to his unstinting efforts.

Wirral Branch

### **Joan Watkinson**

Chairman of Nottingham Branch for a number of years and, with her great friend Jenny Bradley, a great stalwart of Summer School, Joan passed away in 2004. She will be sadly missed, both in the Branch and at St Andrews.

Nottingham Branch

### **Edna Wilson and Jack Young**

Both Edna and Jack were members of NW Craven branch for many years. Edna was a qualified teacher who regularly took one of the Branch classes. Jack was responsible for the music for a class at Lancaster and often held out with the music at Branch dances. Both will be sadly missed.

NW Craven Branch

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society  
Cornwall Branch

invite you to a

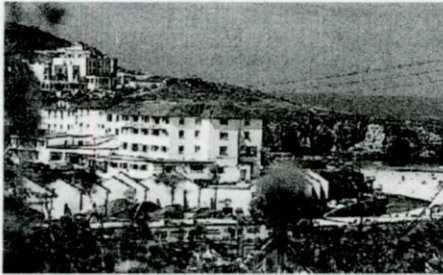
**Residential Weekend**

**The Ponsmere Hotel, Perranporth**  
(the hotel on the beach)

Friday March 18th to Sunday March 20th. 2005

Teacher: — **Marilyn Watson** Musician: — **Hugh Ferguson**

Dancing on two nights to **Hugh Ferguson and The Dairiada Band**



The Ponsmere Hotel is right on the doorstep of Perranporth's famous sandy beach. The hotel is of a high standard and there is an indoor swimming pool and large car park. Perranporth is very convenient to Newquay, Truro, St. Agnes as well as many beautiful coastal walks. The Eden Project is just an hours drive away.

**For further information please contact: —**

Mrs. Rosemary Southwood, Red Lane Farm, Rosudgeon, Penzance. TR20 9PU

Tel.: — 01736 762264 E.mail: — [Phil@redlanefarm.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:Phil@redlanefarm.fsnet.co.uk)



**Teachers' Association (Canada)**

*Affiliated with the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society*

- o An Association of Scottish Country Dance teachers located mainly in North America and with a worldwide membership.
- o Promotes and encourages excellence in the technique and social enjoyment of Scottish Country Dancing.
- o Membership is open to RSCDS members who hold the Society's Preliminary or Full Certificate.

**Membership Services**

- o **TACTALK**  
Quarterly magazine with articles on many aspects of Scottish Country Dancing, book and recorded music reviews, teaching hints, etc. Subscription information is available for non-teachers through the Corresponding Secretary.
- o **TACSOUND** (Catalogue available)  
Sells and produces recorded music for Scottish Country Dancing and leisure listening. Recorded music available for RSCDS books. Instructional videos on SCD now available.
- o **TACBOOKS** (Catalogue available)  
Distributes dance books, leaflets, and instructional material about Scottish Country Dancing to TAC members and dancers.

- o **ANNUAL RESIDENTIAL SUMMER SCHOOL** (1 WEEK)  
Classes, evening social dancing, ceilidh, banquet and ball, optional afternoon activities. Daily, part-week, and weekend registration available. Candidate courses offered on alternate years.
- o **AREA REPRESENTATIVES**  
Area representatives provide local networking contacts and support.
- o **OUTREACH PROGRAMME**  
Provides sponsorships and advice to new groups, new and potential teachers and outreach workshops.
- o **TAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
An annual weekend held at various locations in North America with a guest teacher for class instruction, banquet and ball, and an opportunity for input at the Saturday afternoon AGM.

**Corresponding Secretary**  
(for all general enquiries)  
Elizabeth Barber  
8 Glen Avenue  
ST. CATHARINES, ON L2S 1L1  
e-mail: [bwilson@becon.org](mailto:bwilson@becon.org)

**Membership Secretary**  
June Shore  
197 Duke Street, Apt 202  
HAMILTON, ON L8P 4V4  
e-mail: [snjshore@cogeco.ca](mailto:snjshore@cogeco.ca)

**TACTalk**  
Editor  
Janet L. Walker  
5441 North Broad Street  
SOUTH PARK, PA 15129-9164, USA  
e-mail: [walker@chatham.edu](mailto:walker@chatham.edu)

**TACSound**  
Manager  
Marie Disiewicz  
18464 67A Avenue  
SURREY, BC V3S 9B3  
e-mail: [TACSound@telus.net](mailto:TACSound@telus.net)  
Fax: 604-575-9667

**TACBooks**  
Manager  
Nora Sutherland  
3065 Lenester Drive #14  
MISSISSAUGA, ON L5C 2B8  
e-mail: [tacbooks@sympatico.ca](mailto:tacbooks@sympatico.ca)  
Tel/Fax: 905-279-4603



**TAC Web Site**  
[www.tac-rscds.org](http://www.tac-rscds.org)

# Janet Washington

at  
*Claire Charles Designs*



## DANCING SKIRTS GALORE

70 Pure Silk Tartans • 200 Plain Silks

20 Poly Cotton Tartans • Exotic Cotton Prints

*Individually made to measure or altered from a large choice of stock.*

*Austrian styled blouses in pure cotton trimmed with cotton lace.*

8 West Moulin Road  
Pitlochry, Perthshire PH16 5AD

Telephone: 01796 473787

Please ring or write for a leaflet and samples. Personal callers welcome.

**CLOSED ON THURSDAYS AND SUNDAYS.**

## CLASSIC COLLECTIONS of SCOTTISH DANCE MUSIC

Carefully reset, clearly printed

Access our great musical heritage in the

**ATHOLE, GLEN  
and  
MACKINTOSH  
COLLECTIONS**  
- and others -

**Hundreds of dance tunes!**

Phone, write or email Eric or Helen  
for our brochure, or see our website

**HIGHLAND  
MUSIC  
TRUST**

c/o Eric & Helen Allan, Arras, Drumossie,  
Inverness IV2 5BB Tel 01463 717811  
hmt@heallan.com www.heallan.com  
a Scottish charity dedicated to Scottish music



**Royal Scottish Country Dance Society  
New Zealand Branch Inc.**

**Join us for some Summer Fun at  
Auckland Summer School - 2005/2006**

**New Zealand's Annual Summer School  
28 December 2005 to 05 January, 2006.**

Single room accommodation in new student apartments

Morning classes for all levels of dancers; Musician's Class  
Evening functions and voluntary afternoon classes included.

**Don't dream it, do it**

Auckland, located between two harbours, is known as the City of Sails. It is New Zealand's largest city, but is just 30 minutes from a variety of beaches, bush (forest), islands and wineries. Whatever your interest - outdoors, history, Maori and Polynesian culture, shopping, culinary - it is here on our doorstep for you to explore. And for travel further afield in New Zealand before or after the school, Auckland is an ideal gateway.

For further information, please contact the organiser:

*Ruth Budden* RSCDS New Zealand Branch Summer School 2005/2006,  
3/90 Riversdale Road, Avondale, Auckland, New Zealand.

Tel: +64 9 820 4111 email: [ruth.budden@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ruth.budden@xtra.co.nz) Or  
The Secretary, RSCDS NZ Branch, P.O. Box 743, Wanganui 5015, New Zealand  
Tel: +64 6 344 5300 - Fax: +64 6 344 5454 - Email: [sect@rscdsnz.org.nz](mailto:sect@rscdsnz.org.nz)



The RSCDS London Branch is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2004-2005!  
We are holding a series of events throughout the year.  
Do come and join in the fun.

☆ WEEKEND SCHOOL  
September 10th, 11th, 12th 2004  
Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester

☆ DANCE - Celebrate The Entente Cordiale!  
Saturday September 18th, 2004  
St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St., London SW3

☆ DAY SCHOOL  
Saturday October 16th, 2004  
Lady Margaret School, Parsons Green, London SW6

☆ BALL  
Saturday, October 30th, 2004  
The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gdns, London SW6 3PR

☆ FAMILY DANCE  
Saturday November 13th, 2004 - 2.30 - 5.00p.m.  
St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St., London SW3

☆ EVENING DANCE  
Saturday November 13th, 2004  
St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St., London SW3

☆ EVENING DANCE  
Saturday December 11th, 2004  
St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St., London SW3

☆ BURNS' NIGHT CEILIDH DANCE  
Saturday January 15th, 2005  
St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St., London SW3

☆ CELEBRATING MUSICIANS  
David Cunningham will lead a musicians' workshop which will culminate in an evening dance.  
Saturday February 12th, 2005  
Lady Margaret School, Parsons Green, London SW6

☆ CHILDREN'S EVENT AND EVENING DANCE  
Saturday March 19th, 2005  
St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St., London SW3

☆ PRESIDENT'S LUNCH  
Saturday April 16th, 2005  
St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St., London SW3

☆ EVENING DANCE  
Saturday May 21st, 2005  
St. Columba's Church Hall, Pont St., London SW3

☆ GARDEN DANCE  
Saturday June 11th, 2005  
Polesden Lacey, Great Bookham, Surrey

For more information on any of the events, contact Rachel Wilton on 020 8858 7729 or email [wiltonrachel@hotmail.com](mailto:wiltonrachel@hotmail.com). More details on all these events can also be found on our Branch website at [www.rscdslondon.org.uk](http://www.rscdslondon.org.uk)

## PLANNING AHEAD FOR 2005?

*Why not come to . . .*

**Winter School:** 24 February – 1 March 2005 Held at the Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry.  
Intermediate, Advanced and Very Advanced classes offered.  
Optional afternoon classes, and other activities.  
Social dancing each evening, and a Ball at the magnificent Blair Castle on Monday evening.

**The Edinburgh Spring Fling (for 16–35's):** 1 – 3 April 2005 Organised by young people for young people!  
It is hoped that classes for beginners and for experienced dancers will be provided, as well as other optional classes, and social dancing in the evenings.  
Accommodation including most meals is at the Youth Hostel and the fee will be VERY reasonable! Come and have fun!

**Summer School:** 18 July – 14 August 2005 Based at University Hall in beautiful St Andrews.  
Come for one or two weeks, accommodation provided or non-resident.  
Morning classes for all levels, optional afternoon classes, and a variety of other activities and events.  
Social dancing every evening, with a ceilidh one evening each week.  
*Two Musicians' Courses will be held, 18 – 24 July and 31 July – 7 August.*

COME AND MEET OLD FRIENDS, MAKE NEW ONES AND HAVE A GREAT TIME!

Further details on all Schools available from: RSCDS Headquarters, 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 7AF  
Tel: 0131 225 3854 Fax: 0131 225 7783 Email: [info@rscds.org](mailto:info@rscds.org)  
Information and forms also available on the website: [www.rscds.org](http://www.rscds.org)