



BULLETIN

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

OCTOBER 2002
ISSUE

80



*Queen's Bridge
Perth - venue for AGM 2001*

**Promoting Scottish Country Dancing
Around The World**



Editorial

It has been yet another busy year for me, and for all of us involved in the management and administration of the Society. As has been said elsewhere in this Bulletin, much time and effort have gone into taking forward the decision of the AGM in 2001 to create a new management structure – it's up to you now to help make it work!

But apart from all the hard work, there has been much pleasure too, in seeing lots of people enjoy events like the special Garden Party; the Summer, Winter and Easter Schools; and dancing at Holyrood Palace for the special Golden Jubilee 'Take the Floor'. It is a real delight to receive reports and photos from your dancing events throughout the world, and I am pleased to include several in this Bulletin.

I would like to give a special thanks to Linda Gaul for her enthusiastic assistance in producing this edition, and we both hope you enjoy reading it.

Elspeth Gray

Secretary/Administrator

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.

Contents

Editorial	2
President's Message	3
Chairman's Message	3
Annual Report	4
Standing Committee Reports:	
General Purposes	4
Finance	5
Examinations	5
Publications & Research	5
Summer School	6
Youth	6
AGM 2001	7
AGM 2001 (reconvened)	11
Notes from the Keyboard	11
Letters to the Editor	12
News from the Branches	13
Royal Garden Party	16
Take the Floor	16
Scotia Centenary	17
Donations Report	18
Branch Workshops	19
Reviews	20
Mississauga Festival	21
SQA Higher Dance Practice	21
Strategic Plan	22
Dancing in Russia	22
Youth Committee News	24
Easter School	25
Winter School	26
Obituaries	26

WEBSITE

A reminder - the Society's website can be found at www.rscds.org

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

All articles, letters, etc. must be submitted in writing to the Editor by 30 May. The Editor reserves the right to edit the articles subject to space.

All advertisements are dealt with by Headquarters, contact details as shown elsewhere on this page.

Front cover photo of Perth courtesy of the Perthshire Tourist Board



Office Bearers

Patron:

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

President:

The Earl of Mansfield

Honorary Vice-Presidents:

Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel

The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine

Lt.-Col. (Retd.) Muriel Gibson

The Hon. Peregrine Moncreiffe of Moncreiffe

Chairman:

Mr Alan Mair

Vice-Chairman:

Mrs Jean Martin

Secretary/Administrator:

Ms Elspeth Gray

Treasurer:

Mrs Marilyn Jeffcoat

Editor:

Ms Elspeth Gray

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President's Message/Chairman's Foreword

Message from the President

It is a great pleasure to once more be asked to address the members of the Society through the pages of its members' magazine.

In 2001, I had the honour of chairing a momentous – and lengthy – AGM in Perth, where decisions were made that will result in major changes to the management structure of the Society. I am delighted to say that I will again be present to chair the AGM in Aberdeen in 2002, when these changes will be implemented, and I look forward to working with all involved to ensure the transition to the new structure will be as smooth and efficient as possible.

Meanwhile, all the other activities of this worldwide Society continue unabated. The first Easter School for younger people has taken place; the project to transfer recordings to CD is progressing well; there has been a successful collaboration between the RSCDS and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society to mark their Scotia Centenary celebrations. In addition, there is the year in, year out, work of all those involved in the organisation of Summer and Winter Schools, examinations, publications, and the essential work of general administration and finance. None of this could happen without the unstinting effort and commitment of a great many people, all of whom deserve our thanks.

I said at the end of the 2001 AGM that the meeting had been a demonstration of how vibrant the Society was and how much its members cared. With such care and dedication, I am sure we will all – Headquarters, Branches, Affiliated Groups, and members – continue to work together to promote Scottish country dancing.

Lord Mansfield



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

AGM 2002 will bring to an end a very busy, a very interesting and a very memorable period of my life. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have been your Chairman for the past two years and I will not find it easy to occupy my Saturdays so fully ever again!

There have been many challenges along the way. There have been successes and, because we are only human, there have been failures too. I do believe that a great deal of progress has been made, the most important evidence of this being the changes to our management structure which were agreed at AGM 2001 in Perth. It is now possible for those entrusted with the overall running of our Society to meet more than twice a year, which will be an enormous benefit. In addition, from now on, any member of the Society will be able to stand for election to any position or any Committee.

Although the Management Board will be much smaller than the Executive Council there will still be a requirement for a large number of members to fill the various positions, as members no longer need to be part of the Board before they can serve on a Management Committee.

The "new structure", however, does nothing more than provide an opportunity for members to contribute to the management and future development of our Society. Its success will depend on the response of members worldwide in rising to this challenge.

While I have been helped and encouraged during my period of office by countless members throughout the world, my special thanks are due to Elspeth and her Headquarters "team" who have never failed to give support and counsel to me while continuing to provide their excellent service to you, the members. I wish them, my successor and all who are "called" in Aberdeen every success in the future and hope that AGM 2002 will mark the beginning of another memorable period in the life of RSCDS.

Alan Mair



Annual Report for 2001-2002

Headquarters

This has been an exceptionally busy year for the Headquarters team, one in which we sadly said goodbye to Linda Bates. Linda left at the end of May 2002 to develop her career with Audit Scotland, and we would like to thank her for the huge contribution she made while working with the Society, and wish her every success in the future. A new member of staff, Suzanne Pilley, joined us on 1 July 2002 – welcome Suzanne, and we hope that you will enjoy working with us. The team therefore now comprises: Elspeth Gray (Secretary/Administrator), June Dick (Assistant Secretary), Suzanne Pilley (Finance & Membership Administrator), Eileen Watt (Office Manager) and Kate Lawrie (Finance & Administrative Assistant). As well as coping with the effects of Linda's departure, staff have had to administer an additional school, Easter School; to contribute to planning and arrangements for the introduction of the new management system; and continue to set up and run new systems relating to in-house book-keeping and accounting. Meantime, all of the regular activities of supporting the committees, fulfilling orders, administering examinations, dealing with the large number of queries that we receive, and more, all continue. Heartfelt appreciation goes to all of the team for their hard work and dedication.

Membership

The Society currently has 20,186 members, in 166 Branches and 449 Affiliated Groups throughout the world.

The work of the Society relies heavily on those members in the Branches who volunteer their time and skills in many ways, and sincere thanks go to all of them.

Many Branches celebrated special anniversaries this year:

75th anniversary: Clackmannanshire, and Stirling – both established in 1927

60th anniversary: Lockerbie, established in 1942.

50th anniversary: East Lothian, Helensburgh & District, Portrush, Richmond, Sydney, and Winchester, all established in 1952.

25th anniversary: Berks/Hants/Surrey Border, Leicester, New Haven, and Queensland, all established in 1977

You can read about some of their celebrations, and see a few photographs, in News from the Branches on pages 13-15. Congratulations and very best wishes to all of the above – and here's to many more years of happy dancing!

We are delighted to welcome a number of Affiliated Groups to the Society. All of the following were approved in 2001/2002:

- Birmingham Scotia Country Dancers, USA
- Brecon Scottish Country Dance Group, Wales
- Funabashi Central Scottish Dance Club, Japan
- Highlands of Durham Scottish Country Dance Club, Canada
- Horsham Scottish Country Dance Club, England
- Koganei Scottish Country Dance Group, Japan
- Komorebi Scottish Country Dance Club, Japan
- Silver State Scottish Country Dancers, USA

Standing Committee Reports

Under the current Constitution, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are ex-officio members on all standing committees. Members' names in italics are ex officio on the committee in question. Committee members were elected at the November Executive Council Meeting, and November 2001 was the last time that will happen. The final meeting of the Executive Council will be on the morning of 2 November 2002, prior to the establishment of the new management structure at the AGM later that day.

General Purposes Committee

Functions: *To consider from time to time matters concerning the general administration of the Society and to make recommendations thereon to the Executive Council and to prepare the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting.*

Members:

Mr Alan Mair (Convenor, Chairman), Mrs Jean Martin (Vice Chairman), Mr David Watson (Finance Convenor), Mr Brian Harry, Mrs Jessie Harper, Mr Jimmie Hill, Mr Roderick McLachlan, Mrs Christine Munro, Dr Wilson Nicol, Mr Alastair Reid, Dr Jerry Reinstein, Miss Pauline Stewart.

In attendance: Ms Elspeth Gray

The Committee usually meets three times a year.

The main focus for the Committee this year has been to progress plans for implementing the decision taken at the AGM in 2001 to create a new management structure. Much has been achieved, and elections to form the new Management Board and Management Committees will take place at the AGM 2002.

The Committee is responsible for dealing with applications for grants from the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund, and once again a number of awards have been agreed. Details can be found on page 18, Donations.

The Committee was delighted to recommend the following members to receive the Society's Scroll of Honour:

- Renée Campbell
- George Cooper
- Susanne Hegel
- Muriel Johnstone
- Patricia Kent
- Jim South
- Phyllis South

A most impressive Honour Board to list Past Chairmen of the Society has been produced, sponsored jointly by Mid-Argyll, South Argyll and Lorn, Argyll Branches. It is hand-carved in oak from Fasnacloich, and will be hung in the entrance hall at 12 Coates Crescent.

Various sub-committees have continued their work in different areas: Marketing & Public Relations Sub-Committee; AGM Sub-Committee; Strategic Plan Sub-Committee; and the Website Working Party. One of the Marketing & PR Sub-Committee's successful

Annual Report

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Annual Report

The Committee usually meets six times a year.

The Committee has yet again covered an enormous amount of work this year. The subscription copy was Book 42, which contained 10 dances on the theme of Summer School, and the Committee has already started work on selecting dances for the next subscription book. The pocket edition of the Index has been revised and reprinted, in a modern design, and incorporates all dances up to and including Book 42. The A5 version will be available shortly.

Generous donations continue to be made to the re-recording fund, and this year has seen the release on CD of the music for Book 5, Book 21 and Book 29 – our grateful thanks to those Branches and individuals who made this possible. Also released this year was the CD of music to accompany Book 42. The two CDs of music to accompany the Lealiet Dances book, produced last year, have now been issued; one is a digital re-master and the other is a new recording.

The Society has been collaborating with the Royal Geographical Society of Scotland on a booklet of dances and music to celebrate the Scotia Centenary – see the article on page 17 for more details of this fascinating project.

The Committee commissioned dances from John Drewry and Alan Macpherson to present to Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her Golden Jubilee, and it is planned to incorporate these dances in Book 43. One of the dances concluded a special Golden Jubilee live broadcast of the popular "Take the Floor" programme from Holyrood Palace, where the dancers were drawn from many RSCDS Branches and groups.

Summer School Committee

Functions: *To assist the Director in the administration of the Summer School.*

Members:

Mrs Johan MacLean (Director),

Mr Alan Mair (Chairman),

Mrs Jean Martin (Vice Chairman),

Dr Ian Hall, Mrs Carol Smith, Mrs Moira Stacey, Mrs Rachel Wilton.

In attendance: Mrs June Dick

The Committee usually meets three times a year.

Summer School was once again a huge success. There were 817 attendees, and although the majority attended for one week only, 143 of these attended a two week course. Many of the students were attending for the first time, and there was also a healthy proportion of younger people. The afternoon classes in Very Advanced Technique and Technique Analysis introduced the previous year were repeated, and again were well received. Students appeared to be very satisfied with the range of classes offered, and the quality of teaching and musicianship was outstanding. The standard of catering was excellent, and a served dinner with special guests was held one night each week; it was a great pleasure to welcome Lord Mansfield, our President, on one of these occasions.

The Musicians' Course took place during the second week, and yet again was a delight for both the musicians and the dancers. Special classes were provided for Musicians' Course students to play alongside established musicians, and these were found to be invaluable.

Winter School has now become an established item on the calendar, and this year's was again an unqualified success. The only danger appears to be that attendees might be snowed in!

Youth Committee

Functions: *To encourage children and young adults to participate in Scottish Country Dancing.*

Members:

Mrs Fiona Turnbull (Youth Director),

Mr Alan Mair (Chairman),

Mrs Jean Martin (Vice Chairman),

Mr Andrew Kellett, Miss Lorna Ogilvie, Mrs Sue Porter.

In attendance: Mrs Linda Bates

The Committee usually meets three times a year.

Once again, another busy year for Fiona Turnbull and the Youth Committee. The pack for schools, "Dance Scottish", has been very well received. The initial focus has been on promoting it to Scottish schools, but English schools will be targeted this year, and indeed a number of packs have also been sent overseas.

The very first Easter School for young people has taken place, organised by a working party made up of young people, under the directorship of James Gray. Although there were only 37 students, it was most enjoyable and attracted very positive feedback. Plans are already under way for another Easter School in 2003, again in Stirling, and again with James Gray as director.

The Committee has been working on the preparation of a syllabus and requirements for providing children's tests through the Society, and this is an ongoing project. Initial responses have been very favourable.



Minutes of AGM 2001

Minutes of 72nd Annual General Meeting held in the Gannochy Trust Sports Complex, Perth on Saturday 3 November 2001, at 2.30pm.

1 PRESENT

Office Bearers: The Earl of Mansfield (*Hon. President and Chairman of the meeting*), Mr A Mair (*Chairman*), Mrs J Martin (*Vice Chairman*), Lt. Col. (retd) M Muriel Gibson (*Hon. Vice President*).

Past Chairmen: Mr A Aitkenhead, Mr J B C Brown, Mr W Clement, Mrs L Gaul, Mr G Lawson, Dr A MacFadyen.

235 delegates and 240 observers were also present.

In Attendance: Mr J Fenningworth (*Finance Convenor*), Ms E Gray (*Secretary/Administrator*), and Mrs M Jeffcoat (*Treasurer*).

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Honorary Vice Presidents, Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel, the Honorable Peregrine Moncreiffe of Moncreiffe and the Earl of Elgin; Past Chairmen, Miss W Miller and Mrs M Parker; and from 4 delegates.

3 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed the Earl of Mansfield, guests and delegates to the 72nd Annual General Meeting of the RSCDS. It had been a very busy and challenging year. Mr Mair felt he had not yet visited nearly enough Branches, but had made countless new friends and had been able to speak to and listen to many people through contact at Branch events, on committees or on the Internet.

4 It had been a year when the unifying influence of an international Society such as the RSCDS had been brought into focus by the events of 11 September. Mr Mair was pleased to record that a number of American members were attending the meeting. He thanked them for coming and asked for our best wishes and support to be taken back to everyone when they returned home.

5 The meeting, which could prove to be a very important one in the development of the Society, had been a difficult one to prepare for. Every effort had been made to set out the Agenda clearly but with deadlines to meet and new developments daily, that had not been easy. He urged delegates to listen carefully to the directions of the President, The Earl of

Mansfield, as to how and where Agenda items would be dealt with.

6 Mr Mair concluded by asking delegates to listen very closely to the debate, to consider the issues carefully and, when voting, to remember that it was not the best interests of any individual or Branch that was important, rather those of the Society. He invited the Earl of Mansfield to chair the meeting.

7 AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

The Earl of Mansfield announced two amendments to the agenda. Firstly, as the audit of the Accounts had not been completed, they would not be presented to the meeting. Secondly, as the motion from Edinburgh Branch did not in itself require constitutional change or a two-thirds majority, it would be dealt with separately, after the discussion and voting on the motions from the Executive Council and Bristol Branch respectively.

8 OPENING REMARKS

The Earl of Mansfield introduced Helen McDonald, Deputy Provost of Perth & Kinross Council, and invited her to address the meeting.

9 Deputy Provost Helen McDonald said it was a great pleasure to welcome the RSCDS Annual General Meeting to Perth, and extended a very warm welcome to all. She noted that Scottish Country Dancing was very popular, and praised the Society for its efforts to promote Scottish Country Dancing to young people. It was a very sociable activity, enjoyed by all age groups.

10 The Deputy Provost congratulated the Society for fostering good teaching at the same time as encouraging the social aspects of the dance. She hoped that all delegates would enjoy their visit to Perth, and gave her best wishes for a successful meeting.

11 PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

The President thanked the Deputy Provost for her remarks. He welcomed so many dedicated and committed members of the Society, both delegates and observers. He particularly welcomed those who would today receive the Society's Scroll of Honour in acknowledgement of their varied contributions to the success of the Society all over the world.

12 MESSAGE FROM THE SOCIETY'S PATRON, HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

The message from our Patron read as follows:

"I was pleased to receive your kind message of loyal greetings sent on behalf of the Executive Council and Members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society on the occasion of their seventy-second Annual General Meeting which is being held today, hosted by the Perth and Perthshire Branch. As Patron of the Society, I send my best wishes to all those concerned for a successful gathering."

Signed Elizabeth R

13 PRESENTATION OF THE SOCIETY SCROLLS OF HONOUR

Mr Mair, the Chairman, read out the citations and the Earl of Mansfield presented Scrolls of Honour to the following recipients:

- Betty Cathcart
- Roy Goldring
- Peter Knight
- Dorothy Leurs
- Jeanetta McColl
- Muriel More

A local presentation would be made to Grace Lofthouse of Cape Town Branch.



14 MINUTES OF MEETING OF 4 NOVEMBER 2000

The motion "To confirm the adoption of the Minutes of the Meeting of 4 November 2000 as circulated with papers for the meeting" was proposed by Catherine Mottram (Manchester) and seconded by Lis Fugler (Helensburgh & District).

15 The Minutes were unanimously adopted.

16 APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY PRESIDENT

The Earl of Mansfield handed over Chairmanship of the meeting to Mr Mair for this item. The motion "To confirm the appointment of the Earl of Mansfield, D.L., J.P. as President of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society" was proposed by John Sturrock (Cambridge & District) and seconded by William Whyte (Johannesburg).

Minutes of AGM 2001

17 The motion was unanimously approved.

18 APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY VICE PRESIDENTS

Mr Mair handed Chairmanship of the meeting back to the Earl of Mansfield. The motion "To confirm the appointment of the following as Honorary Vice Presidents of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society:
Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel K.T.
Lt. Col. (ret'd) M Muriel Gibson
The Hon. Peregrine Moncreiffe of Moncreiffe
The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine K.T., C.D." was proposed by Susan Carr (TAC) and seconded by Christine Jones (Derbyshire North East).

19 The motion was unanimously approved.

20 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Alice Oliphant (St Andrews) proposed and Helen Frame (Ayr) seconded the motion "To confirm the appointment of Mr Alan Mair as Chairman of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, being the sole nominee"

21 The motion was unanimously approved.

22 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Lesley Martin (Aberdeen) proposed and Keith Shearer (Stonehaven) seconded the motion "To confirm the appointment of Mrs Jean Martin as Vice Chairman of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, being the sole nominee."

23 The motion was unanimously approved.

24 ELECTION OF SIX MEMBERS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The results of the election were announced, as follows:

Dorothy Hamilton
Andrew Kellett
Alistair Reid
Margaret Ross
Pauline Stewart
David Watson

25 It was confirmed that the above-named were duly appointed as the six Elected Members to the Executive Council for the period 2001/2002.

26 ANNUAL REPORT

Ms Gray presented the Annual Report.

27 The year since the last AGM had passed very quickly, having been extremely busy. Ms Gray regretted that the Bulletin had once again not been available for the AGM, due to

delays in getting copy from advertisers, and delays at the printers.

28 It had been a year of consolidation with regard to the staff at Headquarters. Ms Gray thanked all members of the staff for their continuing hard work, support, and great commitment to the Society. The transfer of much of the accounting function in-house had a major impact on staff during the year, with Linda Bates in particular dealing very capably with the changes, creating new systems and developing expertise. Close liaison with the accountants, DM Vaughan, continued.

29 Two new Branches were established during the year – Saitama in Japan, and Derbyshire North East in England. Ms Gray thanked the office-bearers and committees in all the Branches for their support in helping Headquarters to service the membership. Communication with members and Branches was increasingly via email, which she welcomed as a way of having personal contact, particularly with those in other countries.

30 The contents of the Annual Report could not communicate the amount of work done by the committee members and Convenors, much of which remained unseen and unacknowledged. However, she highlighted some issues.

31 The General Purposes Committee and its Management & Membership Working Party had continued to work hard on alternative structures for the Society, the fruits of which were on the agenda.

32 Many donations had been received – to the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund, to the General Fund, to the project to transfer the Society's recordings to CD, and to the Summer School's Piano Fund.

33 The 2001 Summer School was again a great success. A Musicians' Course was held once more, and one highlight was the 17 participants and guests playing for social dancing in the Younger Hall at the end of the week. Winter School in Pitlochry also went very well, and plans for 2002, again in Pitlochry, were now in place. An Easter School for young people aged 18-30, to be held in Stirling in April 2002, was being planned by co-optees of the Youth Committee.

34 A major achievement for the Society during 2001 was the publication of the "dance Scottish" pack, and the hard work of all

concerned, but especially Fiona Turnbull, the Youth Director, was acknowledged.

35 The Publications & Research Committee had continued its very productive work. The Leaflet Dances had been collected and printed with music in a new book, and CDs of the accompanying music would shortly be available. 68 dances were submitted for consideration for the 2002 subscription copy, and the Committee was now at final shortlist stage. Book revisions and many other projects were ongoing.

36 A Teaching Skills Course had been initiated and was delivered twice, both courses producing very positive feedback. Successful examination tours to New Zealand and North America had also taken place.

37 Ms Gray thanked Mr Mair, Mrs Martin and Mrs Gaul for their continuing support, help and advice throughout the year.

38 The Annual Report, as circulated with the papers for the meeting, was unanimously adopted as proposed by Janet Johnston (Stirling) and seconded by Yoshiki Oyama (Tokai).

39 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

The motion "To confirm the appointment of Mr Humphrey Holmes CA as Auditor" was proposed by Peter Quince (Newcastle-upon-Tyne) and seconded by Donald Lee Fuell (Cincinnati).

40 The motion was approved by a majority, with one vote against.

41 SUBSCRIPTIONS 2002-03

42 On behalf of the Executive Council, Mr Fenningworth proposed "That with effect from 1 July 2002 the annual subscription shall be £15.00" This motion was seconded by Tom Kerr (Cape Town).

43 Daniel Capron (London) questioned whether any reference to the financial position could be made by Mr Fenningworth as the accounts had not been finalised. Mr Fenningworth responded that the income on the accounts was correct. The President stated that the motion was for the subscription rate from July 2002, and the accounts related to the last financial year, therefore the query was not material.

44 An amendment from Leicester Branch and Tokyo Branch "That with effect from 1

Minutes of AGM 2001

July 2002, the annual membership subscription shall be £10.00" was proposed by Keith Oughton (Leicester) and seconded by Mae Stuart (Tokyo).

45 The amendment on the Agenda from Aberdeen Branch was withdrawn by Lynn Wood (Aberdeen).

46 Following extensive discussion, a vote was taken on the amendment, and was carried by a majority.

47 Alice Murphy (Western Australia) raised a point of order that she had wished to vote against the Executive Council motion, but had not had the opportunity. The Earl of Mansfield stated that there was one motion and one amendment, and that the meeting had voted decisively for the amendment, agreeing a subscription fee of £10. There could not then be a vote on a fee of £15.

48 It was therefore confirmed that the annual subscription fee from 1 July 2002 would be £10.

49 MANAGEMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

The President again clarified the order in which the Executive Council motion, the alternative motions, and their amendments would be dealt with.

50 Jimmie Hill (Brighton) and Alex Gray (South Wales) proposed and seconded the motion on behalf of the Executive Council "That the RSCDS accepts changes to the Constitution and Rules to allow the implementation of the Management Structure (Option A) as agreed at its meeting of 12 May 2001 "

51 Andrew Smith (Bristol) and Wilson Nicol (Sacramento) proposed and seconded an amendment to the Executive Council motion from Bristol Branch, "That the following amendments be made to the Draft Revised Constitution already circulated:

(a) Clause VI – MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE, Section (i) Management Board, Para 2: Delete "eighteen" and Insert "six" (with respect to elected members).

(b) Clause VI – MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE, Section (i) Management Board, Para 4: Delete "Twelve" and Insert "Six" (with respect to the Management Board quorum)"

52 Doris Buchanan (Leicester) and Simon Wales (London) proposed and seconded an

amendment to the Executive Council motion from Leicester Branch, "That paragraphs 7 and 8 of part VI, Management Structure, (iv), Nominations and Elections, be amended to read as follows (changes in italics):

7 *Elected Members of the Management Board and Management Committees shall be elected to hold office for three consecutive years.*

8. *One third of elected Management Board members and elected Management Committee members shall retire annually. If fewer than one third of elected members have completed three years' service at the end of any given year, other members required to retire at that time shall be determined by ballot (the drawing of lots) amongst the remaining longest serving members. Such members required to retire by ballot after less than three years' service shall not be subject to RULES part II, paragraphs 3 and 4 "Terms of Office"*

53 Keith Oughton (Leicester) and Howard McNally (New Zealand) proposed and seconded a further amendment to the Executive Council motion from Leicester Branch, "That paragraph 1 of part VII, General Meeting, (i), Delegates, be amended to read as follows (changes in italics): Every Local Association/Branch shall be entitled to send to a General Meeting delegates, who shall be aged 18 years or over with full voting powers. The number of delegates is proportional to the number of members of the Local Association/Branch, less than 100 members – 2 delegates, *plus 1 additional delegate for every additional 100 members or part thereof.* No delegate may represent more than one Local Association/Branch."

54 Catherine Gray (Boston) and Evelyn Murray (Boston) proposed and seconded an amendment to the Executive Council motion from Boston Branch, "That the Management Structure of the Society be amended to state that Branch Delegates may vote at the Annual General Meeting either in person or by postal (mail) vote"

55 After substantial discussion on the motion and all the amendments, the proposers of each amendment, followed by the proposer of the Executive Council motion, were invited to sum up. Each amendment was then voted on in turn, in reverse order, to finalise the motion.

56 In response to a point of order, the President confirmed that the amendments in themselves were still material to the

Constitution, they would require a two-thirds majority, as would the final motion itself.

57 Amendment (iv), from Boston Branch, was not carried and therefore fell.

58 Amendment (iii), the second amendment from Leicester Branch, was not carried and therefore fell.

59 Amendment (ii), the first amendment from Leicester Branch, was carried.

60 Amendment (i), from Bristol Branch, was not carried.

61 It was therefore confirmed that the final Executive Council motion was as stated in the agenda, with one amendment, as at point 52 above.

62 Andrew Smith (Bristol) proposed and, in place of Jerome Reinstein (Paris), who had had to leave the meeting Fiona Grant (Bristol) seconded the motion from Bristol Branch "That this AGM approves the amendments (paper enclosed) to the Draft Revised Constitution and Rules of the Society (circulated for Agenda item 11.2.1) as will enable implementation of the following principles concerning the Management and Membership of the Society:

(i) That the present management structure of the RSCDS is replaced by a Management Board and other Committees as described in the report of the General Purposes Committee presented to the Executive Council on 12 May 2001

(ii) That Membership of the Society may be as a Member at HQ and/or of a Branch/Local Association.

(iii) (a) That every fully paid up Member of the RSCDS at HQ shall have the right to vote at General Meetings, and to elect such Members to the Management Board and Standing Committees of the Society at HQ; (b) That a Branch Convention be convened annually to provide a forum for Branch members to discuss issues affecting the Branches and put forward proposals to the Management Board of the Society at HQ.

(iv) That all Members of the Society at HQ should pay their subscriptions direct to HQ, and all Branches/Local Associations should make an annual donation to HQ proportionate to the numbers of Branch/Local Association members which they have (exclusive of Members at HQ), the annual subscription and donation amounts to be set by the Society at HQ AGM."

Minutes of AGM 2001

63 Doris Buchanan (Leicester) and Simon Wales (London) proposed and seconded an amendment to the Executive Council motion from Leicester Branch, "That paragraphs 7 and 8 of part VI, Management Structure, (iv), Nominations and Elections, be amended to read as follows (changes in italics):

7 *Elected Members of the Management Board and Management Committees shall be elected to hold office for three years.*

8. *One third of elected Management Board members and elected Management Committee members shall retire annually. If fewer than one third of elected members have completed three years' service at the end of any given year, other members required to retire at that time shall be determined by ballot (the drawing of lots) amongst the remaining longest serving members. Such members required to retire by ballot after less than three years' service shall not be subject to RULES part II, paragraphs 3 and 4 "Terms of Office"*

64 Following extensive discussion on the motion and the amendment, the proposers of the amendment, and of the Bristol Branch motion were invited to sum up. The amendment was then voted on, to finalise the motion.

65 The amendment from Leicester Branch was carried.

66 It was therefore confirmed that the final Bristol Branch motion was as stated in the agenda, with the amendment, as at point 63 above.

67 The President then confirmed that a vote would first be taken on the motion from Bristol Branch. If the motion was passed by the necessary two-thirds majority, the Executive Council motion would be deemed to have fallen. If the motion fell, there would then be a vote on the Executive Council motion. He also confirmed that, because of the importance of the issue, a paper ballot would be taken rather than a show of hands.

68 Delegates were instructed to vote on a paper supplied at registration, and the papers were gathered and counted by tellers. If a paper was not handed in it would be deemed an abstention.

69 The result of the vote was as follows:
For: 45
Against: 170
Assumed abstained: 20

70 It was confirmed that the motion from Bristol Branch was therefore defeated.

71 The President announced that a paper ballot would be taken on the Executive Council motion. Delegates were instructed to vote on a second paper supplied at registration, and the papers were gathered and counted by tellers. If a paper was not handed in, it would be deemed an abstention.

72 The result of the vote was as follows:
For: 188
Against: 30
Assumed abstained: 6

(A check was made of the number of delegates present for the vote, being 224.)

73 It was confirmed that the motion from the Executive Council was therefore carried by more than the necessary two-thirds majority.

74 The President then moved on to take item 11.2.2 on the Agenda. Christina France (Edinburgh) and Elizabeth Harry (Edinburgh) proposed and seconded the motion "That this Annual General Meeting instructs the management body of RSCDS to bring forward to the AGM in November 2002 such amendments to the Society Constitution and Rules as to enable implementation of the principles concerning membership of the Society set out in the attached paper"

75 Following a point of order regarding the competence of the amendment from New Zealand Branch which was on the Agenda, the amendment was withdrawn by Howard McNally (New Zealand).

76 There was discussion on the motion, followed by a summing up by the proposer. The motion was then voted on, and was not carried.

77 It was therefore confirmed that the motion from Edinburgh Branch was defeated.

78 The President announced that the meeting would deal with item 11.3 on the Agenda. Les Lambert (Glasgow) and Anita Mackenzie (Stirling) proposed and seconded the motion "That the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society supports and encourages the formation of a 'Friends of the RSCDS' group, which shall be a group of like-minded individuals, all members of the Society, established under the direction of its own constitution to promote and develop non-dancing Society events and occasions"

79 The motion was not carried.

80 It was therefore confirmed that the motion from Glasgow Branch was defeated.

81 Robert Mackay (San Francisco) and Irene Whyte (Inverness) proposed and seconded a motion "That this meeting be adjourned to a date to be confirmed in order that the Accounts for the year 2000-01 may be adopted"

82 The motion was carried.

83 VOTE OF THANKS

Alistair Reid (Aberdeen) thanked the Earl of Mansfield for his efficient chairing of the meeting, saying that he could always be relied upon to steer these occasions to a successful conclusion. Mr Reid thanked Perth & Perthshire Branch for doing a splendid job as hosts, which he recognised was no small task. The Ball had been a super occasion. He thanked the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and HQ staff for their hard work in preparing for the meeting, and also thanked Helen McDonald, the Deputy Provost, for welcoming delegates to Perth. He hoped that the next AGM in Aberdeen would be as successful

84 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the re-convened meeting will be advised.

The next full Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 2 November 2002, in Aberdeen.

85 CLOSE

The Earl of Mansfield remarked that this concluded an interesting meeting, which was the longest he had known as President. He believed that it was a demonstration of how vibrant the Society was and how much its members cared. He closed the meeting, hoping that all attendees would enjoy the remainder of the weekend.

The meeting closed at 6.55pm.



Minutes of Reconvened AGM/Notes from the Keyboard

Minutes of 72nd Annual General Meeting - reconvened.

Held in The Jarvis Learmonth Hotel, Edinburgh on Saturday 11 May 2002, at 2.00pm.

1 PRESENT

Office Bearers: The Earl of Mansfield (*Hon. President and Chairman of the meeting*), Mr A Mair (*Chairman*), Mrs J Martin (*Vice Chairman*).

128 delegates were also present.

In Attendance: Ms E Gray (*Secretary/Administrator*), Mrs M Jelfcoat (*Treasurer*), Mr J Douglas (*Member of the Accounts Working Party*).

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 13 delegates.

3 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed the Earl of Mansfield, delegates and observers to the reconvened 72nd Annual General Meeting of the RSCDS. The President had been a

source of counsel and comfort throughout this marathon AGM. Mr Mair expressed the grateful thanks of delegates for Lord Mansfield's determination to attend the meeting despite having only returned to the country some hours beforehand. Mr Mair invited Lord Mansfield to take the chair for what he hoped would be the completion of the 2001 AGM.

4 PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

The Earl of Mansfield thanked Mr Mair for his comments and stated that it was never a hardship for him to attend a Society AGM.

5 ADOPTION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2000-01

The annual accounts for 2000-01 were not presented at the AGM in November 2001. At the meeting of the Executive Council shortly after the AGM, the Council approved the setting up of a Working Party to investigate the questions that had arisen. The Working Party had concluded its efforts, and the report of their findings and the final audited accounts had been submitted to the Executive Council meeting immediately prior to the reconvened AGM.

6 The motion "To confirm the adoption of the Annual Accounts for 2000-01" was proposed by Ron Taylor (Wirral) and seconded by Robert Mackay (San Francisco), and was approved with four abstentions.

7 VOTE OF THANKS

On behalf of delegates, Mrs Martin thanked Lord Mansfield for conducting the business of a very short meeting. She and the Chairman both very much appreciated the counsel that he had provided in November and since. As both Vice Chairman and a member of Aberdeen Branch, she looked forward to welcoming the President to the Aberdeen AGM.

8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday 2 November 2002 in Aberdeen.

9 CLOSE

The Earl of Mansfield declared the meeting closed and looked forward to seeing delegates once again in November.

Notes from the Keyboard

By Robert Mackay

It is amazing what the country dance pianist sees from the keyboard in addition to the notes on the music. Perhaps because I have always been a dancer as well as a pianist, I enjoy watching the dancers in action during a class. This is best achieved by careful positioning of the piano and memorising some of the music. It is very satisfactory and rewarding to see a large class of dancers performing well to your music.

Of course not all dancers listen carefully to the music. How many dancers are really aware of the pianist in the class? Perhaps this is unfair, as nowadays most classes, other than weekend, Summer & Winter Schools etc. have recorded music instead of live music. (Remember to refer to live music, not live musicians – the other kind of musician is not much use to a class!). It is frequently the case that at least one dancer who dances off beat will be close to the piano. It can be very alarming to look up from the music and then to wonder whether you are wrong or the dancer. Sometimes it is better not to watch the class!

In recent years, especially at Summer School, the pianist has become much more a part of the class. I really enjoy talking to the class about the type of music played or perhaps a little bit of the history of the music, including a mention of the composer. With music talks and musicians' workshops and courses, I would hope that dancers are becoming more aware of the music in a class.

One of the most daunting experiences for me is playing for the demonstration team in the Younger Hall during Summer School. Apart from the fact that so many people are listening to every note, you have the big responsibility of assisting the dancers to a good performance. I am sure they are also very nervous and a pianist playing at the wrong

tempo can ruin their dance.

It can also be nerve-wracking playing for competitions and festivals, especially for children's classes. You can never be quite sure what might happen on the dance floor and you have to be constantly alert. For instance, small boys whose sporrans fall off during dancing (one made a marvellous recovery and kept dancing) and eight girls who all look alike with white dresses and similar hairstyles help to keep the pianist on the mark. I remember one young team took 40 bars to dance a 32 bar dance and it took a few repetitions for me to realise why I was always 8 bars out. It is, however, very pleasant when the team walks off, smiles at the pianist and says thank you. That makes it all worthwhile. Unlike other instrumentalists, pianists do not carry their instrument around with them. I realise that, today, some carry keyboards but I never get the same satisfaction playing on a keyboard as I do on a really good piano, especially a grand piano. We are very fortunate at Summer School in having good pianos for classes and this year there will be a new piano at the school. I was heartened and impressed with the amount of money collected for this piano and in such a short space of time. I can assure those who contributed that their generosity will be much appreciated by the lucky pianists who get to play this new instrument.

My worst experience took place many years ago at summer School, when some of the pianos were definitely below standard. On this occasion I found "bluetac" on quite a number of notes when I arrived for the class. I hastily removed it before seeing a note on top of the piano, which read, "The notes marked with "bluetac" do not work". That was one of the most hilarious classes ever! I'm glad to say that a new piano arrived next day.

I get great joy out of playing for classes and I do encourage you to come and speak to me (or to any musician) after the class. I am always happy to discuss the music and its history with the dancers. Please continue to include us as part of the class – we do appreciate it.

Letters to the Editor



From Dorothy Fry, Nowra, NSW, Australia

Bulletin No79 was the first one with anything worthwhile reading. It is good to see the brain cells are alive and well! I refer to Wilson Nicol, who bemoans the fate of men and the use of the left foot in poussette. Perhaps women should have been included in the statement, as men are far outnumbered by the "fairer sex"? It was a thoroughly enjoyable and thought provoking article.

Anne Gordon's "Review" of "An Aberdeen Collection" might have attracted more attention if the names of the musicians and a full list of the dances had been included, for buyers to consider

Well done for making a video with children! That must have been a mammoth task and should prove instructive for all beginners.

I trust the Scottish Parliament does promote Scottish country dancing in Schools, as we might all eventually get the benefit.

Congratulations!

From Jim Ronnie, Dunedin, New Zealand

I am at a loss to understand the views expressed in Wilson Nicol's Article in Bulletin No 79. Neither I, nor anyone else I have spoken with about it, find any difficulty in getting into the formation. A left foot start

for the man must be easier all the way through, as it leaves the space free for the lady's right foot to come forward at the start and gives both a free foot to turn on to at each change of direction.

From John Carswell, Linlithgow, West Lothian, Scotland

From the meagre information I have as an ordinary member, it appears that we may be going to have a revised management system, but control will still be in the hands of the select few, as it has always been. I would wish to protest, but who will listen?

I want the best possible people chosen to run the society and do not want the wrong people coming forward and staying too long, as in the past.

Editor's Note

All you have to do is send to HQ for a Nomination form, find a proposer, a seconder and ten sponsors and you can stand to help run the Society.



From John Foster, Peebles, Scotland

As a member of the Society and a Quaker I am interested in the origins of the dance "Merrily Danced the Quaker's Wife" This dance appears in the "Border Dance Book" compiled by Elizabeth Maclachan. No additional source information is given in the book. If any reader has any information as to the origins of the dance I would be pleased if they would let me know. I am interested in when and why it was devised, if it had any connections with the Scottish Borders and if the Quaker referred to is any particular person or was meant to apply to Quakers in general.

From John Thomson, Cupar, Fife, Scotland

In view of your members' great interest in the Jimmy Shand Sculpture Project, I thought I should inform you of the present situation.

I am very pleased to inform you that, because of the tremendous generosity of many Branches of the RSCDS, Dance Bands, Entertainers, Accordion & Fiddle Clubs, various organisations and a large number of individual Shand lovers, there is now almost sufficient money to fund the complete Project, with some organised functions still to take place. Consequently, we are in discussion with the Shand family and David Annand, Sculptor, Kilmany, Fife, regarding the proposed sculpture. We also intend, in the very near future, to discuss the siting of a sculpture with the local authorities. When, in time, the date and location are known for the sculpture to be unveiled, you will be informed.

News From The Branches

STOCKHOLM BRANCH

Stockholm Branch celebrated its 25th anniversary at Ake Franzon's summer party, an event which is always eagerly anticipated. The highlight was Robert Wallgren's excellent piping. The Branch continued its usual activities, enjoyed by an active, and hopefully growing, group.



Stockholm Branch members at their 25th anniversary party in May 2001

ST ANDREWS BRANCH

St Andrews Branch has been established for 65 years and has another successful year, reintroducing a beginners class, running weekly intermediate and general classes and organising a day school, Christmas party and Summer Dances. The Annual Ball in the Younger Hall with Colin Dewar's Band is always a sell-out and much enjoyed by all who attend. For the end of season dance in March members were encouraged to bring a partner who was not a member. This proved very successful and it is hoped that many lapsed members may rejoin! At this dance a presentation was made to David Gibb, who is retiring as Branch accordionist after 30 years.



David and Ann Gibb receiving their gifts, with best wishes for a long & happy retirement from members of St Andrews Branch.

RICHMOND BRANCH

Richmond Branch celebrated its 50th anniversary with a special dinner dance on April 6, 2002. 80 members and friends, including Alan and Christine Mair, gathered to share this occasion and enjoy the company and the dancing.



Founder member Eric Marshall, Branch Chairman Clarice Middleton and Alan Mair cutting the special anniversary cake.

NORTH WEST CRAVEN BRANCH

Although North West Craven Branch has been in existence for 43 years, on 1st December, 2001 it held its 40th Annual Ball with music by Alan Ross. To celebrate the occasion a magnificent cake was made and decorated by Mrs Kathleen Rushton.



Truly a dancers' cake!

NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCH

Northern Territory celebrated ten years with Branch status with happy weekly classes at general, advanced, social levels, a step dance for ladies and for 18 enthusiastic children. The beginners' courses also attracted some new members. The branch collaborated with Ausdance (the Australian umbrella organisation for dance) in teaching a variety of dance groups at a big "Dancers' Picnic" in August 2001 and in performing at a Multicultural Council refugee fund raising event in October, 2001

PORTRUSH BRANCH

During the 50th year of Scottish country dancing in the Portrush area, classes have been well attended and new members recruited. The branch celebrated with a well attended and enjoyable dinner and dance on 20, October 2001 to the music of Ian Muir Sound. RSCDS Chairman Alan Mair and his wife Christine, Lord and Lady Laird (Ulster Scots Agency), Councillor and Mrs David Barbour (Coleraine Borough Council), Mrs Lily McIlhinney (Branch President) and Miss Betty Mann (a former teacher) were most welcome guests. A new strathspey, "The Golden Gates" devised by Dorothy Bell, was demonstrated and then enjoyed by the entire company. A special bookmark was given to all and most dancers went home with a helium filled balloon!



Members of Portrush Branch at their 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance

MILTON KEYNES BRANCH

Milton Keynes Branch embarked on a new venture this year - in June 2001 it hosted a Picnic Dance at Station X, Bletchley Park. The programme featured many dances by Hugh Foss, as he had been stationed there during World War 2. In glorious weather over 100 dancers and the Milton Keynes Pipe Band had a wonderful afternoon and a repeat performance is planned.



Hugh Foss (photograph donated to Archives by John Drewry)

News From The Branches

MEDICINE HAT BRANCH



Members of the Medicine Hat Branch demonstration group who danced Corn Riggs, St John River and Rothesay Rant at a "Scottish Night" held at St John's Presbyterian Church on 20 January, 2002.

BRISTOL BRANCH

The 2001-02 season has been an extremely successful one for Bristol Branch, with both classes well attended throughout the year. Other functions include a New Season Dance with music by Sound Company in October, a Day School with the Gray family, including a dance with music provided by Hugh Ferguson and the Dalriada Band and a Newcomers Dance to the music of Peter and Edna Russell with Jim Coleman. The 40th Anniversary of the Branch was celebrated with a Ball in May. There was a photographic display of the history of the Branch and a book of dances, devised by members, was launched.



Barbara de Winton (Chairman), Lesley Terry (Secretary), Peter Wright (Teacher), Jean Hood, Rita Porter and Dorothy Bell (Founder Members)

SYDNEY BRANCH

Sydney Branch celebrated the 50 years since its foundation with a Grand Social in June and a Garden Party in September. The first half of the programme for the Grand Social consisted of dances popular in 1952 and the second half of dances popular since then, including three devised by Branch members. A special dance "Napier's Index" was performed to celebrate Keith Napier's involvement in the Branch over many years and, of

course, to honour his achievement in producing the internationally known Dance Index. The Garden Party attracted many former members, who are no longer dancing, and three founder members, Berenice Vale, Dorothy Rosemond and George Wells, who still regularly attend Branch events. At both events the music was provided by Chris Duncan (fiddle) and Catherine Strutt (piano) from Hunter Valley. There are now over 20 dance groups in the Sydney suburbs and surrounding area, of which most are taught by teachers trained by Sydney Branch. The Branch continues to support younger dancers to gain their teaching qualifications to ensure that Scottish country dancing continues in the area. Sydney Branch hosted the Winter School in 2002 at Richmond and welcomed dancer, teachers, and musicians from Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, Canada, Japan and the United States.

HELENSBURGH BRANCH

The Helensburgh and District Branch, active for 50 years, had been celebrating over the past year. Commemorative jerseys, with the Branch logo, were made and an Anniversary Booklet, with a pictorial history and a collection of members' dances was published. The annual Junior Dance attracted local youngsters and those from Oban, Greenock and Furnace. The Alan Ross Trio played for an enjoyable evening's dancing. A special celebration in the Victoria Halls on 10 May 2002 included a champagne reception, anniversary cake, dinner and dancing to the Ian Muir Sound. Guests at the enjoyable and well-attended function included Alan and Christine Mair, Nora Dunn (Honorary President and founder member), John Blain, Cath Twigg (also founder members), long-standing members and friends from all over Scotland. In 1951 the Helensburgh Branch was formed to replace a Branch formed in 1927, which had gone into abeyance during the war. Although country dancing was still being done, members felt they wanted a beginners' class and a more formal link with the parent Society. The Branch has continued to develop and prosper, offering classes for couples, for Ceilidh dancing, for technique and for demonstrators. The Branch also supports many independent classes in the area and is active in teaching children, with classes in many of the district's schools. However, the main

thrust of Branch activities is to ensure that all enjoy Scottish country dancing at local dances and further afield.



Junior Dance, March 2002

QUEENSLAND BRANCH

On 18 June 2001, the Queensland Branch celebrated its first twenty five years of existence. We began the year with a very successful Branch Social in March; in October we celebrated with a Weekend School at Maroon Dam, a beautiful lakeside venue in the mountains; and finished the year with a grand St Andrew's Day Social. We also held three Days of Dance during July and August, to go through the twenty six dances composed by our members, and published in the "2001: A Dance Odyssey" book for the highly successful 26th Australian Winter School, held in Brisbane. Queensland, at present, has about twenty SCD clubs, the most southern being at the Gold Coast and the most northern at Cairns, a distance of over 1,200 miles. Each club elects a representative to sit on the Branch Committee, which meets every two months in Brisbane. To add to our celebrations Phyllis and Jim South, who helped found the Branch, are to be awarded the Society's Scroll of Honour, an acknowledgement of their many years of tireless work promoting Scottish country dancing in Queensland. Here's to the next twenty-five years and may they be even more successful!



Queensland Branch Committee and other members, including Phyllis & Jim South in the centre.

News From The Branches / Catalogue Highlights

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

There is great excitement in our Branch in recent years as we witness the incredible growth of the numbers of children and teens dancing. From one group in 1991 with teacher Sheena McQueen, we now have seven groups. Our other teachers are Cathy McAdam Bertics, Jo Hamilton, Kathleen McAdam and Ron Wallace. The total number of dancers involved is approaching 150! In April, we held our 4th Annual Childrens' Ball with 95 dancers and 120 relatives as spectators. The High Tea afterwards was lovely! The Andy Imbrie Ensemble provided fantastic music and all the adult dancers present were tapping their toes and wishing they were on the floor. All of our groups have been taking part in various Highland Games and other demonstrations and are received enthusiastically. Many of our older teens are now dancing in adult classes. We are no longer worried about the "greying of Scottish Country Dancing", we are now reaping the benefits of (to quote Dorothy Carr) "nurturing the seeds of the next generation"

BERKS/HANTS/SURREY BORDER BRANCH

The Berks/Hants/Surrey Border Branch celebrated 25 years of Scottish Country Dancing this year. The Branch, which is much 'younger' than some of the clubs in the area, has a close and happy relationship with local clubs and societies and acts as an 'umbrella' organisation, encouraging and supporting dancing with classes, music and instruction.

A special Silver Anniversary Ball was held in May, with music by Ian Muir and the Craigellachie Band. At the Ball, attended by many of the past Chairmen, Alan Mair was invited to cut the celebratory cake. Bruce Frazer, a founder member, gave a brief résumé of the history of the Branch. The Ball was also chosen for the first formal introduction of a new dance - 'Crossing the Tay' - commissioned by the Branch Committee to celebrate the 60th birthday of Bruce Frazer. It was devised by Alan Davis, with original music by Ian Muir.

As part of the Silver Anniversary celebrations, the Branch introduced its own local award recognising services to Scottish Country Dancing in the area. Alan Mair presented the award, an inscribed quach, to first recipient

Sheila Jupp, an enthusiastic and supportive founder member.

Vice Chairman Jean Martin was a guest teacher at our Day School in March, and there will also be an open air Jubilee dance at Loseley House in June, as well as our usual Autumn and Christmas socials.



Past Branch chairmen (L to R) Bruce Frazer, Marjorie Eves, Alan Mair, RSCDS Chairman, Enid Woollett, David Massie, Paul Plummer, Rowena Kelley and Alan Davis.

STIRLING BRANCH

Stirling Branch has had a very busy and successful 75th year. The usual round of classes for adults and involvement in children's events have been supplemented by other enjoyable functions. There was a special dance devised for Miss Nana Shearer, as she retired as teacher of the general class after 40 years. This was performed at a dance held in her honour in September. In October an afternoon Social was held for dancing and non-dancing members when Anita Mackenzie gave an illustrated talk on the wider dancing world. A Burns Supper followed in January with Branch members displaying their other talents. Neil Grant, from Forres, visited the Branch in February as teacher for another successful Day School, although there were early worries about the numbers attending. The highlight of the year was a Ball to celebrate the Branch's 75th Anniversary on 19 April, 2002, in the Albert Halls. Guests included office bearers in the Society, members of HQ staff and members of STDT. Dancing friends from far and near enjoyed an evening that began with a wine reception and archive exhibition, continued through dinner with a special cake, cut by Branch President,

Mrs Doris Milne and finish with dancing to the excellent music of David Cunningham and his band.



RSCDS Chairman, Alan Mair (2nd left), Stirling Branch Chairman, Alan Macpherson (4th left) and other members and guests.

RSCDS CATALOGUE HIGHLIGHTS

Books now available on CD.

Book 1	(CD17)	£10
Book 5	(CD30)	£10
Book 19	(CD18)	£10
Book 21	(CD27)	£10
Book 22	(CD22)	£10
Book 23	(CD11)	£12
Book 24	(CD12)	£12
Book 25	(CD13)	£12
Book 26	(CD14)	£12
Book 29	(CD31)	£10
Book 33 + 9/8 Strip the Willow	(CD23)	£10
Book 39	(CD19)	£10
Book 40 + Children's		£12
Book 41	(CD16)	£12
Book 42	(CD29)	£12
A Fife Fairing (4/78, 5/82 + 3 Jubilee)	(CD24)	£10
Leaflet Dances Vol 1	(CD28)	£10
Leaflet Dances Vol 2	(CD26)	£12

CHILDRENS' BADGES

New this year: childrens' badges, reflecting the Dance Scottish pack design, only £0.20 each



For a full catalogue and details of member's and volume discounts available, please contact Headquarters (details on page 2)

Royal Garden Party/Take The Floor

ROYAL GARDEN PARTY AT THE PALACE OF HOLY ROODHOUSE

The Lord Chamberlain was 'commanded by Her Majesty' to invite me - along with 15 other RSCDS members and 8000 other guests to the Jubilee Garden Party at the Palace of Holyroodhouse on 25 May, 2002

Prior to the party, the RSCDS contingent gathered at Headquarters for a delightful reception hosted by



our Chairman and members of staff. From there we were taxied to the Palace and soon found ourselves walking through the lovely gardens to the reception area.

Our group got split up amongst the crowds but I enjoyed the company of two new friends, from the Inverness

and the Hamilton & Clydesdale Branches during the afternoon.

When the rain came we took refuge in a large marquee, where a delectable buffet was served, (and not a cucumber sandwich in sight!). After tea the sun shone brightly - between the showers - and we were entertained with music by the Highland Band, the Lowland Band and the Society of Pipers. We also enjoyed the pageantry presented by the Queen's bodyguard, the Honourable Company of Archers, who ringed the reception area and stood guard in front of the Royal tea-tent.

Fifty people who were born on the day of her Accession in 1952,

were presented to the Queen and we had an excellent view of the proceedings. Her Majesty looked lovely and seemed completely unruffled by the variable weather conditions.

Even though the members of our RSCDS group did not personally

meet the Queen, I feel sure that they, as I did, felt privileged to be part of Her Majesty's celebrations and proud to be there as representatives of our Society.

Dulcie Bond
Sheffield Branch

Garden Party List

The following lucky 16 were those whose names were pulled out of a hat to attend the Special Garden Party (name and nominating Branch):

June Gray, Berwick-upon-Tweed
Sheila Barnes, Somerset
Mary Stoker, London
Dulcie Bond, Sheffield
Anne Brown, Roxburgh, Selkirk & Peebles
Katherine Burke, Belfast
Elizabeth Page, Birmingham
Sheila Trafford, Atlanta
Nigel Gibson, Inverness
Clarice Middleton, Richmond
Irene Mathieson, Hamilton & Clydesdale
Lucinda Coventry, Oxfordshire
Ian Hall, Manchester
Muriel More, Glasgow
John S Sturrock, St Andrews
Sheila Mannall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Take the Floor

As part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and the BBC Music Live series of events, eleven teams of dancers from RSCDS branches throughout Scotland, and one from the Dunedin Dancers in Edinburgh, were invited to take part in a live broadcast of the long-running Scottish dance music programme, "Take the Floor" on Saturday 1 June from the grounds of Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh.

The ninety-six dancers gathered together for a mass rehearsal at 4pm and were put through their paces under the watchful eyes of Rosemary Gordon-Harvey and Margo Priestley. The programme for the event had been put together with a "regal" theme by our bandleader for the evening, Ian MacPhail. The teams all coped well with the country dances, however the same could not be said of the less well known ceilidh dances! Our first attempt at the Anniversary Two Step

resulted in a number of dancers desperately seeking a partner from the other side of the floor, whilst the deviser of the Victory Waltz obviously never meant it to be danced on tarmac!

As it was an uncharacteristically warm Edinburgh evening, a number of members of the "home team" felt obliged to give the local hostelry some trade, along with Robbie Shepherd and the band. The more organised were able to enjoy a civilised picnic in the Palace grounds.

Anticipation mounted as 7.05 p.m. approached. In the audience were a number of "well kent" faces just to add to the pressure. The Vice Chairman, Jean Martin, assured me that she would be looking for smiling faces rather than at our footwork! Just as well it was radio. Robbie Shepherd claimed that there were over 500 people in the audience.

On cue the programme started and progressed without any obvious disasters. Also performing that evening was Sheena Wellington accompanied by Ewen Sutherland, and the Scottish Power Pipe Band.

The evening passed all too quickly and we were suddenly at the last dance on the programme. This was appropriately called "Fifty Years On" and had been written by John Drewry with music by Ian MacPhail, as part of a suite of dances to be published for the Jubilee.

I would like to thank all those involved in the organisation of this event from the BBC, including Robbie Shepherd and his producer Ken Mutch, as well as the Palace staff. Special thanks must also go to Rosemary, Margo and of course to Ian and his band with his usual high quality of music. We all thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Stewart Adam

The Scotia Centenary

THE SCOTIA CENTENARY: CELEBRATING WILLIAM SPEIRS BRUCE

Last year, the Publications & Research Committee was approached by a Glasgow Branch member who was also a member of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society (RSGS). Would we be interested in participating in the celebration of the achievements of William Speirs Bruce? Who? Scotland's forgotten polar hero, that's who. Tell us more!

William Speirs Bruce sailed from Troon in November 1902 aboard the *Scotia* on the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition to revisit the Antarctic. His expedition made a substantial contribution to the scientific and geographical knowledge of the Weddell Sea region. The research and discoveries made by Bruce and his scientists significantly advanced our knowledge of the Antarctic region, following his safe return in 1904. Why has the general public not heard of this remarkable man? The answer, it seems, is simply that he undertook his work without any of the traumas that marked the travels of Shackleton and Scott. Bruce was totally successful in his project.

Involvement in this celebration offered an interesting and different challenge for the Committee – to produce a suite of dances to celebrate Bruce and the centenary of his polar achievements. It also offered the opportunity to work with another Scottish organisation, on a project that would benefit both. The RSGS was already collaborating with the National Youth Orchestra to produce a musical work; an educational programme for schools was planned,

and a tour of the Scotia exhibition around Scotland. The addition of dance would broaden the appeal of the project. In fact, the RSGS is now planning a number of events over the coming two years. Key events include an opening concert by the National Youth Orchestra in July 2002; a dinner in the presence of royalty in October 2002; the opening of the exhibition on the life and work of William Bruce in the Royal Scottish Museum in March 2003 (prior to touring the country); a memorial plaque to be erected in Edinburgh; a geographical expedition to the South Atlantic; and an international Geographical Congress in Glasgow in August 2004.

Roy Goldring was approached with the brief and provided a selection of dances from which to choose. Muriel Johnstone was Roy's first choice to provide the music, and happily she agreed. Following thorough trialling and discussion, the Committee's final suggested suite of dances has been accepted by the RSGS. There are seven dances in all, a mixture of reels, strathspeys and jigs, suitable for all ages as well as for demonstration purposes. Muriel has produced a fine set of tunes for the dances, whose titles are all related to Bruce and his expedition – for example, "Antarctica Bound", "The Ice Cap". Our contribution has now been handed over to the RSGS, who will be responsible for producing a commemorative booklet containing the dances. Its launch will be at the dinner in October 2002, and it will be included in the official programme distributed to all those attending. There is a possibility of producing a collaborative CD to include the NYO's orchestral piece, specially commissioned pipe music, and the

music for the Scottish country dances – a varied programme. It is also hoped that demonstration groups from various parts of the country will take part in events during the next two years.

The logo chosen by the RSGS for these celebrations is shown on this page. It was inspired by a drunken party which followed the tapping open of a barrel of Guinness on midwinter's day in 1903 in Antarctica – "In drawing the porter, we had overlooked the fact that the water in the barrel was frozen and, as a result, the men had been drinking strong spirits by the glassful". Moreover, the *Scotia's* cook made an excellent penguin curry – Bruce had advised other polar explorers on the importance of including fresh meat in the diet. What better reason than that for having the piper serenade the penguin? And how could we resist naming one of the dances "The Piper and the Penguin"?

Both organisations are delighted with this collaboration so far, and hope that it will signal similar ventures in the future. If you would like further information about any of the events mentioned, please contact the Royal Scottish Geographical Society at 40 George Street, Glasgow, G1 1QE or visit their website at www.geo.ed.ac.uk/~rsgs

Rosemary Gordon-Harvey
Convenor, Publications & Research
Committee



Donations 2001-02

Once again, individual members, Branches and Affiliated Groups throughout the world have been extraordinarily generous in making donations to the Society. Every single donation is very gratefully received, and each one goes towards helping the Society carry out its objectives.

The Jean Milligan Memorial Fund

This Fund was established in December 1978 in memory of the Society's co-founder, Miss Jean Milligan. Only the interest accruing from the Fund is used to provide funding for projects, and the capital is secured to provide for future income. The General Purposes 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 application are being prepared, and any enquiries regarding application for grants should be directed to the Secretary.

All donations, however large or small, are welcomed. Those who kindly donated £20 or more in 2001-02 were:

<i>Orange County Branch</i>	£95
<i>Frimley Green Scottish Country Dance Class</i>	£165
<i>George Douglas, Orangeville, Canada</i>	£40
<i>Florida North Branch, in memory of Hester "Jeff" Rieger</i>	£35
<i>George DeMille (Life member, Canada)</i>	£50

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

Sydney Branch: Contribution towards a Musicians' Course
NW Craven Branch, and Dunfermline

Branch: Contributions towards costs of Teacher's Certificate Classes
Adelaide & District Branch: Contribution towards a Children's Class at Australian Winter School
Lynne Scott, New Zealand Branch and Liz de Groot, Cape Town Branch: Contributions towards Musicians' Course fees and travel
Inter Varsity Folk Dance Festival: Contribution towards the costs of providing Scottish country dancing sessions

In addition to the above, monies were provided from the Fund towards the various Summer School scholarships (see brochure enclosed with the Bulletin) and a contribution towards the cost of a Musicians' Course tutor.

General Fund

Donations to the general funds have come from a number of sources. Particular thanks go to all those committee and Executive Council members who choose to donate their expenses, rather than claim them; the total generated for the fund in this way was £841.

Donations to the General Fund of more than £20 are listed below:

<i>St Andrews Branch</i>	£50
<i>Estates of Freda Galway</i>	£1,000
<i>Tom Toriyama</i>	£365
<i>Mr Miyakawa</i>	£300
<i>William Whyte</i>	£30
<i>Estate of Mrs Margaret Sinclair, Cromarty</i>	£500
<i>Robert Mackay</i>	£150
<i>George Douglas, Orangeville, Canada</i>	£40
<i>Dorothy Scott</i>	£65
<i>Tom Kerr</i>	£100
<i>Duncan Brown & Laura Gracie</i>	£80
<i>George DeMille, Life member Canada</i>	£100
<i>David & Betty Grant, Canada</i>	£71

<i>Carol J Blake, France</i>	£50
<i>Brenda Kampf</i>	£500

The total donated in the year was £4,441.

Donations for Recordings

Generous donations have been received from the following:

<i>New York Branch</i>	£1,500
<i>Tokyo Branch</i>	£850
<i>The Arrochar Dancers</i>	£1,000

Three more CDs were digitally re-mastered and made available this year, and plans are well under way for the next tranche. We are very grateful for all donations to this fund; the cost of a straightforward re-master is approximately £1,500, and a re-recording costs approximately £5,000.

Piano Fund

In previous years, the proceeds of the raffles at Summer School have been put into the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund. Last year, it was agreed that the funds should be put towards the purchase of a piano for Summer School. Many thanks to those who organised the raffles at both Summer School and Winter School: Karin Schnabl, Ruby Wilkinson, Barbara Peel, Maureen Haynes, Pam Gillies, Atsuko Clement, Fran Smith, Janet Johnston, Jennifer Lawson, Ann Wall and Anita Mackenzie. A total of £3,125 was given – proceeds from the raffles together with generous individual donations. Grateful thanks are due to Robert Mackay who secured a new piano at a very good price indeed. It was due to be 'in situ' for this year's Summer School, and will no doubt be welcomed and appreciated by musicians and dancers alike.

THANK YOU!

Branch Workshops

Workshop	Branch	Workshop	Branch
2002		2003 March 22	Windsor (Ontario)
November		2003 March 29	Ottawa
2002 November 1-2	Northern Virginia	2003 March 29	West Lothian
2002 November 1-3	Kingston (Ontario)	April	
2002 November 1-3	Medicine Hat	2003 April	Helensburgh & District
2002 November 8-9	Toronto	2003 April 4-6	Washington DC
2002 November 9	Kitchener-Waterloo	2003 April 19	Doncaster & District
2002 November 22	Edinburgh (Juniors)	2003 April 26	Edinburgh
2002 November 22	The Hague	2003 April 26	North West Craven
2002 November 23	Bristol	2003 April 26	Somerset
2002 November 23	Norwich	2003 April 26	South Wales
2002 November 24	Hague District	May	
2002 November 29	Leeds	2003 May	Duns & District
2003		2003 May 2-3	Isle of Islay
January		2003 May 3	Portrush Branch
2003 January 11	N W Craven	2003 May 16-17	Isle of Skye
2003 January 11	The Hague	2003 May 17	St Andrews
February		June	
2003 February	Cheltenham	2003 June	Montreal
2003 February	Hawaii	2003 June 14	The Hague
2003 February	Inverness & District	July	
2003 February 1	Carlisle & Border	2003 July	Boston
2003 February 8	Ottawa	September	
2003 February 15	Stirling	2003 September	Johannesburg
2003 February 21-23	Atlanta	2003 September	Manchester
March		2003 September 20	Ayr
2003 March	Derbyshire North East	2003 September 20	Leeds
2003 March	Leicester	October	
2003 March	Liverpool	2003 October	London
2003 March	Lorn (Argyll)	2003 October	Sheffield
2003 March 1	Birmingham	2003 October 17	Atlanta
2003 March 1	London (Ontario)	November	
2003 March 1	Somerset	2003 November	Herefordshire
2003 March 8	Berks/Hants/Surrey Border	2003 November	Leeds
2003 March 8	Newcastle-Upon-Tyne & District		

What are YOUR plans for 2003?

Why not come to.....

Winter School: 20 – 25 February 2003

Held at the Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry.

Intermediate, Advanced and Very Advanced/Fully

Certificated classes offered.

Optional afternoon classes.

Social dancing each evening, and a Ball at Blair Castle on the Monday evening.

Easter School (for 18-30's): 2 – 6 April 2003

Returning to Stirling again, with accommodation in Stirling Youth Hostel.

Organised by young people for young people!

Morning classes at all levels: Basic steps & formations;

Challenging dances; Fun dances; and Dances for demonstration.

Optional Highland afternoon classes.

Social dancing in the evenings, and a Ball on the Saturday night.

Summer School: 13 July – 10 August 2003

Based at University Hall in beautiful St Andrews.

One or two week courses, accommodation provided or non-resident.

Morning classes for all levels, optional afternoon classes, and a variety of other activities and events.

A Musicians' Course will again be held during Week 2. Social dancing every evening, with a ceilidh one evening each week.

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@rscdshq.freemove.co.uk.

Information and forms also available on the website: www.rscds.org

"Leaflet Dances with Music" book, and CDs (CD026 and CD028)

What a great decision to get these publications together in one book, especially for musicians. The spiral bound book is very well presented on seventy-one pages with clear print, including details of all the devisors and composers. The dances are usefully arranged in alphabetical order. Possibly the numbering should have been ignored so as not to cause confusion with the chronological numbering of the Leaflets and the pocket edition numbers. Most of the dance instructions appear on the left hand page with the corresponding music opposite. The wording is slightly modified and some details, eg the tourn e description, are omitted. The music is excellent, being on a good size stave, having a variety of arrangers, and details of the chords on all tunes except the quadrilles. This is well worth the expense to replace all the separate sheets of instructions and music.

There are nineteen dances on the two new CDs. This completes the CD issue of all the Leaflet Dances, the Jubilee Leaflet and Leaflet 33 having been previously released on CD. In Volume 1, David Cunningham has digitally re-mastered previous tape and LP recordings through the generosity of ten RSCDS Branches from the SE of England. Two bands are featured, giving some variety with the tracks on Volume 2.



The sounds of Bobby Crowe and Andrew Rankine are splendid. All the tracks have extremely well matched tunes played at a tempo indicated by the manual recommendations except the McCulloch Strathspey, which is slightly faster. "The Reel of the Royal Scots" is to the Pipes & Drums of the Royal Scots, with its four bar introduction. It has a good rhythm from the drums but is limited to two tunes and has a somewhat abrupt ending. However, those who prefer a SCD band recording can find an alternative on Volume 2. All the tunes follow the phrasing of the music in the book except "My Spouse Nancy", in which Andrew Rankine provides an alternative form which fits the dance better than the printed version! The good standard of playing is what we expect from these well-known bands, though a slight inconsistency of melodic rhythm can be detected in "The Silver Tassie" compared with the music text.

Neil Copland's SCD Band has recently recorded Volume 2. This is his first recording for the Society. The line-up is a family affair, with husband and wife, brothers and sisters making up most of the players. They produce a very good sound which shows a pleasant balance between accordion and fiddle and, to my liking, a less prominent drummer, and a keyboard which enhances the strong, smooth rhythm in the strathspey. There is a good selection of traditional and more

recent tunes and having six alternative tunes provides greater interest for the full strathspey dance. The strathspeys feature a good first beat and very precise rhythm of the melody line. I particularly like the new selection of tunes in the slow air, "Miss Gibson's Strathspey". The playing has a good drive and a very steady tempo, though probably the strathspeys are slightly slower than recommended. However, those discerning dancers and listeners who seek adjustments for local preferences or conditions of the dance floor should have equipment to cater for minor adjustments of speed. In the full-length quick time dances, the arrangements provide each dancing couple with two different tunes, and the named tunes appear at the beginning and the end.

Here are two well-produced CDs that should feature in everyone's collection and though some of the more popular leaflet dances have already been recorded several times, it is great to have another change so we do not always have to dance to the same selection of tunes.

Pat + Peter Clark

Clear steps to reel moves with music

"Dance Scottish"
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
Book, CD and video pack
£30 to schools or £35 plus p&p

Last year was a good year for the many teachers who have been crying out for good resources to help them teach Scotland's traditional music and dance. Quickly following the essential *Traditional Scottish Songs and Music* by Katherine Campbell and Ewan McVicar (Leckie & Leckie) comes *Dance Scottish*, an excellent, well planned book, music CD and video package from the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

The RSCDS has been involved in education since its inception in 1923. This package is an unstuffy blend of its long experience and unquenchable enthusiasm.

Detailed instructions, with easy to follow diagrams, are given in the book for 18 dances, graded from easy to advanced. These include the Gay Gordons, the Dashing White Sergeant and Eightsome reel, without which no Scottish wedding, formal dance or Hogmanay party would be complete.

The same attention to detail and clarity shows in the illustrated descriptions of foot positions, steps dance formations and popular moves such as poussette.

The dance stars of the video are the children of Anderston and Garscadden primary schools in Glasgow, being taught by Johan MacLean and Bruce Cochrane. The comprehensive guide starts with simple exercises to encourage listening and moving in time to the music and leads by stages to experienced young dancers doing quite complex formations.

All the music for the dances is on the CD and there is a section of suitable pieces for step practice and – a delightful RSCDS touch – a bow and curtsy.

The players are some of our best Scottish country dance musicians and my only real criticism of the whole package is that we are not told who they are. The Colin Dewar, Bobby Crowe, Olympian and Craigowl Dance Bands have all produced great albums and I think many teachers would have liked to know more about them.

Sheena Wellington

Sheena Wellington is a singer and traditional arts development officer for Fife Council.

Reprinted with permission from the Scotland Plus section of the Times Educational supplement of 25 January 2002.

Mississauga Festival/SQA Higher in Dance Practice

SCOTTISH PAVILION, MISSISSAUGA FESTIVAL

Twelve boys and girls, aged 8 to 19, from Erinoak Treatment Centre performed at the Scottish Pavilion as part of Mississauga, Ontario's multi-cultural festival held each May. Erinoak is a children's treatment centre that provides a range of clinical services and family supports to young people with physical, developmental and communication challenges.

Their teacher, Alma Smith, had adapted "The Prince of Orange" and "Rabbie's Reel", accommodating the wheelchairs and limited motor skills of some of the children. Alma, who is a physiotherapist at the treatment centre and has her RSCDS Teacher's Certificate, has been teaching adapted dances since 1992

but this was the first time the group had performed to a general public audience. As well as Scottish country dances, the children learn adapted international folk dances in their class.

The children, outfitted for this occasion with tartan sashes, responded to the enthusiastic response of the approximately 200 visitors to the pavilion and proudly accepted the rhythmic clapping and encouraging cheers of the onlookers.

The Association for Scottish Tradition & Arts (ASTA) hosts the Scottish Pavilion each year supported by volunteers from their own members, and teachers and dancers from the RSCDS Toronto Association. There were performances throughout the weekend by pipers, fiddlers, highland

dancers, Scottish country dancers aged from 4 to 70, bands, folk singers, etc. Scottish culture was demonstrated with displays of Scottish history, art and literature, and everything from addressing the haggis, performing the Sword Dance of Papa Stour, selling lots of Scottish food and drink, as well as coaxing the audience to participate in The Dashing White Sergeant and Highland Schottische.

Alma's group was certainly a highlight of Sunday afternoon.

Nora Sutherland



SQA Higher in Dance Practice

A chance conversation with the Head of Qualifications: Services and Social Subjects, Scottish Qualifications Authority led to the RSCDS having an involvement in the development of the Scottish Dance units of the Higher in Dance Practice. For members worldwide, "Highers" are the final examinations taken by school pupils in Scotland before going on to University or another form of tertiary education. Normally students take five subjects but that will vary depending on the individual case.

Each "Higher" is made up of a series of Units and the Higher in Dance Practice has the following range of units:

<i>Dance Choreography</i>	Mandatory	40 hrs
<i>Professional Practice</i>	Optional	40 hrs
<i>Dance Alternative</i>	Optional	20 hrs
<i>Dance Ethnic</i>	Optional	20 hrs
<i>Dance Classical</i>	Optional	20 hrs
<i>Dance Contemporary</i>	Optional	20 hrs
<i>Dance Jazz</i>	Optional	20 hrs
<i>Dance Scottish</i>	Optional	20 hrs

In order to gain a pass at Higher each student will be required to take *Dance Choreography* and then any combination of units up to 80 hours. A further 40 hours is allowed to practise skills and for assessment purposes.

At the moment three Further Education Colleges who offer qualifications in Dance are piloting Dance Practice and I understand that single units are being offered in some schools. As the units can be taken singly, *Dance Scottish* might even become quite attractive to our dancers who are not so young! (*Lifelong Learning* is a watchword in Scottish educational quarters at present.)

The unit specifications are written for lecturers and teachers and are full of "education-speak" but the content of the *Support Notes* would be familiar reading for all members, containing, as they do, names of steps and

formations. There are no prescribed dances in the unit specifications; prescription is not current practice in such publications.

I am sure that the units will be refined over the years but at least we have been able to have some influence in educational decisions at national level and it has also led to Edinburgh's Telford College making contact with the local Branch. For the first time too, as far as I am aware, teachers throughout the country will be advised to use RSCDS material for reference and Headquarters at Coates Crescent is given as the point of contact.

Jean M Martin
Vice Chairman

Strategic Plan/Dancing in Russia

Strategic Plan – Further Development

At the Annual General Meeting in Edinburgh in 1999 the twelve Strategic Objectives and the goals detailed in the Strategic Plan were accepted by the delegates. Since then considerable progress has been made in several areas - the appointment of the Youth Director, the developments the Youth Committee have initiated, the piloting of a Dancing test and, not least, the decision by delegates at the AGM in Perth last year to appoint a smaller Management Board and a revised Management Committee Structure.

A Review of progress was presented to the Executive Council in November 2000 and in May 2001 the Committees (Examinations, Finance, General Purposes, Publications and Research, Summer School, Marketing) as well as Elspeth Gray, our Secretary, were asked to provide information on how they would proceed in order to develop the plan further. From that input we now have a "fleshed out" plan, which provides details of what the individual Committees consider is important to achieve over the next few years. If you wish to see the detail of the plans then please ask the secretary of your Branch or your Branch representative, as they hold copies.

It is particularly valuable that so much detail has been provided as, at a time of change, knowing what was planned is vital. It is also important to note that the plans are those of the individual Committees and not plans, which have been imposed upon them. In that lies their strength.

At their meetings this autumn Standing Committees provided a report of progress on the goals for 2002 but unfortunately it is not possible to give you information on that because of publication deadlines.

It is also worth noting that the original goals and objectives have never really been tested and, in light of the work undertaken recently, it has become obvious that the goals and objectives themselves will have to be revised to take account of developments and planned changes to the management structure of the Society. Several worthwhile proposals were made; yet they did not fit in with the goals as they stand at present. Further work is therefore needed to amend the Strategic Objectives and the Goals of the 1999 Plan to take account of developments.

To that end the small group of members who collated the plans of the Standing Committees have begun the process of reviewing the objectives and if you have any suggestions on improvement of the existing goals then we would be pleased to hear from you. All comments should be sent to Headquarters for the attention of Jean Martin.

Jean M Martin
Vice Chairman

Dancing in Russia by the Black Sea

Jim Cook of the London Branch heads east to sample Scottish country dancing in Russia. Here is his story...

Having met Ilona Gumenyuk at dance events in such places as St Andrews and Budapest in recent years, I was curious to sample the Scottish country dancing group, Kuban Scottish Dancers, that she has established in her home city of Krasnodar in Russia. Krasnodar, situated on the Kuban Steppe between the high Caucasus Mountains and the Black Sea, is in an area of fruit trees, vines and tea plantations and is a favourite holiday destination for Russians.

Not for me the speed and ease of air travel. Instead, I opted for a long-winded eight day train trip from London via Belgium, Germany, Poland and Ukraine, although the journey can be accomplished in four days if you are in a rush! The trip is a story in itself, but let us move on to the nitty gritty of dancing in Krasnodar.



As Friday 8 March 2002 was Women's Day, I found myself in the middle of a holiday weekend. On the Saturday, Ilona had arranged a Ceilidh. This took place in the splendid Palace of Culture with its large wooden floor and stage. Such is Ilona's drive and enthusiasm that over eighty people came to witness the local talent of dancers, singers and musicians that she had gathered together. Simple Scottish dances for all to join in, whether members of Ilona's classes or not, were also featured, and I was pleased to instruct and walk everyone through two simple dances – "Welcome" and "Borrowdale Exchange". Ilona supplied the immediate Russian translation for those who did not understand English, the difficult part for me being to remember to pause occasionally for her to keep pace with me!

To capture this unusual occasion, Ilona had persuaded the TV cameras to witness the event and, as a visitor from the RSCDS London Branch, I unexpectedly found myself being interviewed, Ilona again providing the translation. All in all, it was a very memorable occasion.

Dancing in Russia

Classes are held on Sundays, and I was pleased to participate and share in the teaching of both Ilona's children's and adults' classes on the day following the Ceilidh. Yes... I did say children's class. Ilona took a set of children through their step practice, concentrating that day on skip change of step and pas de basque. I was then invited to teach them "A Reel for Jeannie" from Book 40. It was a pleasure to teach such an attentive, well-behaved and interested group of children. It is tempting to say that perhaps the future of Scottish dancing may lie in Russia, given such enthusiasm amongst the children. Once the dance had been walked through by each couple and the dance began in earnest, "A Reel for Jeannie" was easily coached by hand movements to indicate, for instance, the casting and the formation of arches. I was amused to be told by one parent that I looked like a Master at work. I rather suspect that I looked like a policeman on point duty directing traffic.

Then it was the turn of the adults: three sets of mainly young adults. Ilona's class suffers from a great affliction; new people keep joining every week as word spreads, such that the class takes two steps forward and one step back to accommodate the newcomers. Bearing in mind the age profile of many groups in the UK for example, you will sympathise with Ilona and appreciate how awful it is for her to keep having new young dancers wishing to join... especially men! On this Sunday, various basics were being consolidated, such as pas de basque and rights and lefts. After the step practice, Ilona taught "Wild Geese", whilst I was invited to teach "The Machine Without Horses". Again each couple were taken through the dance with Ilona providing instantaneous translation and, when the music started for the dance, I was back on point duty to coach the dancers. The TV cameras were still with us that day.

Monday was approached with trepidation – would the weekend's dancing be shown on the Russian TV news after all? No fears. As in the UK, the serious news is followed by one or more items of light-hearted interest, and after an item about pancakes, it was us! Now the whole of Russia from Moscow to Vladivostok knows about the Scottish dancing in Krasnodar!

Ilona currently has plans to choreograph, and present at a Krasnodar theatre, a Scottish equivalent of Riverdance, with a story line based on Scottish legend. A Celtic interest group also meets every Saturday in Krasnodar.

At the risk of embarrassing Ilona, she is clearly the right person in the right place at the right time. From childhood, her life has centred on dancing, first ballet, then competitive ballroom dancing. Ilona was introduced to Scottish country dancing during a stay in Bristol in 1997-8, when working as a language assistant in the Russian Department of the University of Bristol. Fiona Grant remembers that it all started when a young redheaded Russian lass came along to the class one Thursday evening and amazed everyone with her immediate aptitude for accomplishing the most tricky formations with poise and precision after only a few lessons. Impressed with her talent, the Branch supported her application for a place at the St Andrews Summer School with a travel grant. Courtesy of a scholarship from the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund, Ilona progressed from the beginners' class to advanced class within the fortnight. Indeed, at a second Summer School, she progressed through the very advanced class into the Thursday demonstration team. Bristol Branch supports Ilona's personal membership of the Society and assisted the Kuban Scottish Dancers to gain affiliated group status. Gaining such official recognition has enabled the group to meet the demands of Russian bureaucracy, allowing access to official buildings such as the Palace of Culture where the group currently meet to dance.

But there is a downside. It is a crying shame to see such interest and enthusiasm hampered by geography and the economic situation. Soft leather pumps are just not available in Russia, but appeals to dance groups and individuals have provided some help. With a university lecturer's annual income in Russia only £300 GBP, it is impossible for the group to finance costumes not created by themselves. The women now have attractive white dresses and tartan sashes, but kilts for the men are much more problematic. The group is in demand for local demonstrations but the men's presentation would benefit if kilts, sporrans, socks and flashes could be obtained. As the group continues to increase in size, the demand for kit will continue. The group's kilts, plus the use of two tartan ladies' skirts, are allocated to the best male dancers.

The Bristol Branch has tried hard to support the group in practical ways and many individual members have donated books and CDs, although financing the purchase of a reasonable sound system has been impossibly expensive to date. The branch finds itself in a dilemma, wanting to support a faraway group, but knowing that its charitable constitution requires it to raise funds for use only in its own locality. The Branch feels strongly that to retain the interest of so many young people, and to preserve Ilona's fading voice after each class, we need to help

provide a good sound system, and hope that funds might be forthcoming from HQ or some generous individual to this end. Assisting Ilona's young dancers would not only improve their presentation, but would also reflect on and publicise the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Could you personally, or your Branch as an entity, sponsor a pair of shoes or a kit of attire for one of the men?

The Kuban Scottish Dancers continue to gain popularity, members and publicity. Since my visit, a "Ball of the Clans" in May brought 200 dancers together for an evening of Scottish culture and dance. Also, the group has been invited to attend and perform at a four-day Russian/Scottish Festival in Perm, two days away in the Ural Mountains.

One demonstration in 2001 took place at a festival celebrating the 160th anniversary of one of Russia's most loved poets, Mikhail Lermontov. His forbears were of the Learmonth family from the Scottish Borders, and Fiona Grant tells me of the curious coincidence that, in recent years, the RSCDS Executive Council has met in the Learmonth Hotel in Learmonth Terrace in Edinburgh!

Without Ilona's determination and enthusiasm, it would be impossible to keep up the impetus shown by this group, isolated as it is from the rest of the Scottish country dance family. As it is not feasible to provide for the whole group to participate in the St Andrews Summer School, Ilona hopes to bring the Summer School to Russia. Plans are progressing for a 10-day Scottish country dance holiday, from Friday 5 to Sunday 14 September 2003, where RSCDS members are invited to join the group. Hospitality, fun and tours of this scenic, and difficult to reach, part of Russia will be complemented by the musical skills of the band Scotch Measure (David Queen, Andrew Lyon and James Gray) and teachers yet to be named. As this is Cossack country, expect to see (and join in?) some Cossack dancing. Readers interested in supporting the group with funds or kit (collection can be arranged from most areas in the UK, and some places in Europe), or who would like information on the adventurous holiday, should contact Fiona Grant either by email, office@dancetour.co.uk, or by post, 7 Maurice Road, St Andrews Park, Bristol, BS6 5BZ.

If you go to the Black Sea in September 2003, you would see from the keenness of the local dancers that your donations would not have been in vain.

Jim Cook, London Branch
Fiona Grant, Bristol Branch

"DANCE SCOTTISH"

What has happened since the launch of the "dance Scottish" teachers' resource pack? As this is being written it is almost twelve months since the pack appeared at Summer School 2001 and more than half of the original production of 1000 packs has been distributed. They have gone into schools large and small, to RSCDS branches and other organisations such as folk dance societies. They have travelled to many corners of the SC dancing world and extra videos in NTSC format have just been ordered from the printer. The response from schoolteachers and dancers worldwide has been very positive and an excellent review appeared in the Times Educational Supplement in January (see page 20).

Have you taken the pack into your local schools yet? Why not order one today and offer to help hard-pressed teachers with dance in the curriculum, the next display for parents or a forthcoming dance festival? The Youth Committee is delighted to learn about the different opportunities which dancers use to spread the joy of Scottish Country dancing to the next generation not only in the Scotland but throughout the Scottish dancing world. The programmes of many of the Scottish Dance Festivals and Days of Dance in schools now include dances from the pack and certain Local Educational Authorities have purchased "dance Scottish" packs for their teachers. During the past year there have been promotions of "dance Scottish" at conferences on "Dance in schools" and in Scotland a new "Higher" examination in "Dance Practice" will include information about the RSCDS.

Fiona Turnbull
Youth Director

Parents, Children and Summer School!

For many years, parents with young children have been unable to attend the Society's Summer School as there was no provision for their children during morning classes. The RSCDS Summer School remains an adult event; however, the Youth Committee has negotiated special arrangements for one week of the 2003 school to allow dancing parents to attend the scheduled lessons.

"Kid's Courses" are organised in the Sports Centre by the University of St Andrews throughout the summer months. These are very popular with both locals and visitors, but usually finish by 12.00 noon. For the week starting 3rd August 2003, the first week of the second fortnight, special supervision will be arranged for dancers' children until the end of the Summer School's morning classes at 12.30pm. From Monday to Friday, youngsters can be supervised and entertained with a variety of sports activities. These courses get booked up very quickly, so parents must contact the University Sports Centre as early as possible to ensure a place – see the advert for details. For older children, adventure and sailing courses are available in the area.

You should note that the booking of these courses and of accommodation in St Andrews is left to individual families. The RSCDS undertakes no responsibility for any of these arrangements.

Fiona Turnbull
Youth Director

CALLING ALL PARENTS

Now you can attend classes at Summer School (as a non-resident) while your children are happily and safely occupied at the University of St Andrews Sports Centre.

The University's Physical Education Department run Kids Courses for youngsters aged 3 - 11 throughout the summer.

During the week beginning 3 August 2003, courses and special supervision will be arranged to fit in with the RSCDS class timetable.

Approximate costs are:

Day courses: £9.00 per child (9.30am - 4pm)

Week courses: £22.00 per child (9.30 - 12.30 Monday to Friday)

BOOK EARLY!

These courses are extremely popular and special arrangements will have to be made for RSCDS course members, so places on all courses are limited.

To join the University Sports Centre's Kids Courses mailing list, please send your name and address to: -

The Sports Centre, University of St Andrews,
St Leonards Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DY

or call Joyce Clark on 01334 462160 during office hours.

Information about accommodation can be obtained from Tourist Information Centre, 70 Market Street, St Andrews KY16 9NU.

Youth Committee News

YOUTH COMMITTEE - EASTER SCHOOL

On a recent radio programme, someone bemoaned the lack of younger dancers participating in Scottish Country Dancing. If only he had been to Stirling for Easter School in April or St Andrews for IVFDF in March! The enthusiasm and energy of the young dancers was inspiring to see but exhausting to dancers of more mature years!

For some years the Inter-varsity Folk Dance Festival (IVFDF) has held an annual weekend of folk dancing in a different venue each year. Students from all over the UK flock in to have fun, meet other enthusiasts and sleep(!) on hard floors. There is always a large group of Scottish Country Dancers among their ranks. The Saturday Ceilidh/Dance is always extremely popular and recently the Society has sponsored a class teacher and musician for this event.

How could we interest these keen young adults in the RSCDS? A sub-committee of young dancers,

RSCDS 18 – 30 Easter School (Stirling)

I'm on my way home with aching legs and feet, over-exerted muscles screaming and suffering from a distinct lack of sleep, yet I can't help smiling as I think back over the last five days.

Arriving from Australia only five and a half weeks ago and travelling solo up from Manchester, it was wonderful to be met by a friendly, smiling face. The 18-30 Easter School was a marvellous concoction of accents, newfound friends, historical sites, brilliant music and of course dancing, dancing and more dancing!

Lift, flight and enthusiasm were in abundance, even though the dreaded third position was sometimes elusive.

With Anita Mackenzie leading the way, the morning classes couldn't be anything except inspiring. Constantly

directed by James Gray, was asked by the Youth Committee to organise a residential course especially for dancers aged 18 – 30 and the RSCDS Easter School was born. For four days in April 2002 the newly created city, Stirling, played host.

Everyone including the musicians stayed in the Youth Hostel in the shadow of Stirling Castle and almost non-stop dancing took place across the road in the Boys Club. Dancers travelled from many corners of the UK and also from Austria, France, USA and Australia (*see Jo's report below*). Annika from Norway was studying in Aberdeen and first encountered Scottish Country Dancing the previous month in St Andrews at IVFDF. She immediately applied to attend Easter School before flying home to locate her local SCD group. Several other participants have since signed up for Summer School.

Plans are now well advanced for Easter School 2003, again in Stirling. Acting on the helpful suggestions from this year's

astounding with her patience and skill as sometime-sleepy-headed dancers stumbled into class, Anita had us all whipped into shape and smiling before we had realized we were actually dancing.

Afternoon classes were spent 'flinging' (or not, if you suffer from my definite lack of ability) with Gillan Anderson and her popular highland classes. It was the perfect opportunity for some to stretch their wings (show-off) while I tried to untangle my limbs from an uncoordinated mess.

Then.... just in case you had any energy left, Seonaid and Morag Gent provided various scenic tours. Trouping through the streets en-masse, the next generation of 'Scotty Hoppers' laid siege upon the city of Stirling.

Drawn on by the musical talents of James Gray and Phill Jones, we were

satisfied dancers, it promises to be bigger and even better. The organising committee being in the same age bracket recognises that it is important to keep fees as low as possible and that the additional cost of travel is a major obstacle for young people. They were delighted that some Branches sponsored their young dancers either by subsidising the fees or paying their travel. If you know of a young dancer who might like to attend send for an application form straight away. Dancers approaching their 30th birthday are hoping for a special dispensation for next April (they can apply to be put on a waiting list!).

A similar event - the **Youth Weekend West** - is being organised by another enthusiastic group of young dancers in British Columbia, Canada, with advice from the RSCDS Youth Committee. This takes place in Vancouver in May 2003.

For information on both events refer to the RSCDS web pages.

Fiona Turnbull
Youth Director

danced off our feet morning, noon and night. The Pied Pianist led the starving hoards to fruitful eating houses, always starting his announcements with "Today James will be....."

The well-planned and enjoyed week was capped off with a Grand Ball. Several of us astonished ourselves (and others) with an amazing transformation into elegant Belles and Beaus. James' Surprise Trio provided excellent music and led the frenzied fray as we rushed to the dance floor filling the room with laughter and the swirl of flying feet.

Sleepily, addresses were swapped and farewells said, the week closed with sincere promises of being back next year.

To our fearless leaders and pioneers, the Easter School Sub Committee, one and all..... Thank you.

Jo Archdeacon

Winter School/Obituaries

WINTER SCHOOL A new experience.

Five nights and four days at a majestic hotel in the heart of Perthshire in the depth of winter and with all entertainment included. Not to mention good music, good company and an almost inevitable improvement in our dancing skills!

That is what two innocents from the Peterhead area expected to find at the Atholl Palace Hotel in Pitlochry for our first visit to the RSCDS Winter School in February 2002.

They were not disappointed, in fact I should have included Highland steps for men, a step class for ladies, old time and modern dancing, the archival history of the RSCDS and the chance to discuss high policy with office bearers. In addition to all this my hill walking buddy and I made two attempts on the peak of the local Corbett - Ben Vrachie - the second attempt being successful.

All of the mornings were taken up with classes, usually with two teachers and lasting three hours. The venues all had their own flavour, and ranged from a large scout hut, to the palatial Atholl suite at the hotel. Many dancers are familiar with Pitlochry Town Hall, but it feels different on a cold Monday morning with large snowflakes falling outside. The four teachers were of very different personalities, which added to the maintenance of interest, but all had the same goal, improvement of our skills. Even with my unrefined type dancing, I did feel more confident after their efforts and definitely benefited from the school.

Our own class teacher, Alison Russell was so energetic and graceful we could not fail to be

inspired - all 30 of us! Included in our number were several Canadians and Americans, all enthusiastic.

The four class musicians later provided music for after-dinner dancing in the evening. By way of variety a ceilidh was held on the Saturday evening, where very different talents were displayed.

These stretched from the rarefied atmosphere of the Northumberland pipes to a demonstration dance, by our Canadian Friends - The Indian River Strathspey - performed in genuine moccasins and impressive red hats. The finale of the school was the ball in Blair Castle on Monday night. It was held in the splendour of the ballroom, and David Cunningham and his band were magnificent. I found the occasion quite stirring - not relaxing - but the most memorable evening in 15 years of dancing.

The best part of the school, from our first-time view point was the wonderful social atmosphere especially the little parties before dinner and after dancing. These were enhanced by the fact that the school had exclusive use of the hotel. No angry neighbours banging on the wall, which can affect foreign holidays! Slight bottlenecks occurred at mealtimes, but this was not a serious problem, nor was dancing on full tums, merely a temporary discomfort. The hotel staff could not have been more helpful and efficient and the rooms were well maintained. Pitlochry had all the facilities necessary, with the extra benefit of pleasant countryside. We would certainly vote - "Same again, please."

*Tony and (when it is "we") Barbara Pilling.
(Banffshire Branch)*

David Brandon

Once again we are saddened to report the passing of one of Scottish Country Dancing's hardest working and finest proponents. David Brandon suffered cardiac arrest on 14 April 2002 and died on 30 April without regaining consciousness. Our sincere condolences go to his wife, Mary Brandon.

Earlier on 14 April, David was hard at work organising a dance adjudication on board the Queen Mary in Long Beach, CA. Tears from all over Southern California enjoyed a wonderful day of dancing planned by David and Mary. It was a fitting conclusion to a life dedicated to the best that Scottish country dancing has to offer.

David was a tireless worker for the Los Angeles Branch having been instrumental in its founding in 1966 along with noted teacher C. Stewart Smith. He served as the Branch's first chairman. Shortly afterwards he and Mary were married and the Branch grew quickly with their weekly classes and workshops.

In 1972 the Brandons moved to Hawaii when David accepted a promotion by IBM. There they formed yet another RSCDS Branch and taught classes for 20 years. Even after his retirement and their return to Los Angeles, David and Mary maintained a daunting schedule of weekly classes and work on behalf of the Branch, the TAC and the RSCDS. David was awarded the Society's Scroll of Honour in 1996.

He served as chairman of the local organising committee when the TAC accepted the LA Branch's invitation to host the 1998 AGM. That most successful event was also held on board the Queen Mary and is fondly remembered by those fortunate enough to attend.

Reprinted from TACTalk June 2002

Andrew Gillies (1920-2002)

In paying tribute to an old friend we believe that Andrew Gillies would wish to be remembered as much for

Obituaries

his sense of fun and "joie de vivre" as for his immense contribution to the world of Scottish Country Dancing.

Born in Glasgow, Andrew was proud of his Scottish roots and not only served the Clan Macpherson Association for many years but also attended the Clan gathering each summer in Newtonmore, on Speyside. He was also involved with the London Branch of the National Trust for Scotland.

As a teacher, Andrew was much loved and respected around the world. He taught classes, and Argyll weekend schools, in the London area, and toured abroad including the USA and Australia. Classes were technically demanding, highly sociable and always fun. At Summer School in St Andrews Andrew was a great ambassador for the Society with his ability to draw foreign students rapidly into the social life – the start of many friendships! He was very proud to receive the Society's Scroll in 1988 and indeed this was one of the prized possessions he took to the nursing home, along with the photograph of Lord Mansfield making the presentation.

Latterly President of the Croydon and District Branch of the RSCDS, Andrew served the Branch as teacher, committee member, MC and as a regular dancer. Many Croydon friends enjoyed his London 80th birthday party, the culmination of celebrations that started at St Andrews and moved south! Andrew's pride, and surprise, at receiving congratulations from HRH the Queen Mother, with whom he shared his special day, was a joy to see.

An enthusiastic member of the Dunedin dancers in Edinburgh, Andrew danced with teams in International dance festivals abroad and his personal dancing technique remained an example to us all well into his seventies.

How will we all remember Andrew? As a kind, generous, dignified, caring man, whose sense of fun was never far away. As a story-teller "par excellence"! As an inspiring teacher, whose classes were full of life, laughter and friendship. As a

wonderful partner on the dance floor. Most of all as a much loved friend to so many in Scotland and throughout the world.

Scottish Country Dancing has lost one of its best ambassadors – a true "Dancing Master".

Lorna Ogilvie (Croydon) and Robert Mackay (Edinburgh)

Janetta (Netta) Huxley



Netta was born on 21 January 1902 and brought up in Edinburgh. Her father taught her Scottish Country Dancing from the age of 4 onwards, and she never looked back. During the 1930s, when she was Assistant to the Director of the Grand Hotel (now Hamilton Hall), St Andrews, she met and accepted a proposal of marriage from David Huxley. When the RSCDS Summer School took place, she often wondered who was the little lady striding purposefully through the town on her way to the Younger Hall – she was to meet Miss Milligan 20 years later! In 1953, her husband was posted to Washington, DC, where she was persuaded to take up Scottish Dancing again by a fellow Scot, and finally enticed David (who thought it was "too wild") to partake in the classes – he was "hooked". Both became life members of the RSCDS, and both attended every Summer School from 1958 until David's death in 1984. During that time, whenever he and Netta were posted to somewhere else (be it England or overseas), they started a SCD class, which, with her support, was always

a success. She was the first known member of the RSCDS who reached her 100th birthday; a wonderful birthday party was held in January 2002, with guests from Scotland to the south of England. Netta is pictured enjoying a glass of champagne, and proudly holding her birthday card from Her Majesty the Queen.

Roz Scott-Huxley

ALSO SADLY MISSED....

Betty Bagguley (died January 2002)
Mrs Bagguley was a founder of the Sheffield Branch in 1956 and a teacher until May 1978.

Alice Couper

(died 21 November 2001)

A well-loved teacher and dancer in Fife, Alice was a longtime member of Dunfermline Branch, becoming the Honorary President in 1998. She was awarded the Scroll of Honour in 1993. Her enthusiasm as teacher, dancer and friend will be fondly remembered.

Edith Clara (Claire) Broome

(died 11 June 2001)

Claire was a founder member of the Royal Leamington Spa Branch of the Society, and was a Branch teacher for 34 years, Branch Chairman for 15 years, and past President of the Branch. She will be remembered for her great love and enthusiasm for Scottish dancing.

Frederick Dent Sharp III

(died 14 December 2001)

The husband of Eugenia Callander Sharp, who supported her in all her efforts for the Society, particularly the compilation of the Formation Index.

Sam Shore

Sam was an avid supporter of the TAC, primarily through the work of his wife June, passed away on 26 May, 2002. Although without children of his own, Sam was a guide, mentor and friend to many people, dispensing wit, wisdom, common sense advice and practical help. Our heartfelt condolences go to June.

Reprinted from TACTalk June 2002

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Phone/Fax: 64 (07) 847 6603 Email: SGBarbour@xtra.co.nz

Check out our website for further updates.....www.rscdsnz.org.nz/ss/ss-ham

Other contact:

The Secretary, NZ Branch RSCDS, PO Box 743, Wanganui, New Zealand
Phone: 64 6 344 5300 / Fax: 64 6 344 5454 Email sect@rscdsnz.org.nz



Teachers' Association (Canada)

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- 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.
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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.
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