

The
Scottish Country
Dance Society
Bulletin.

No. 15.

MARCH 1939.

WILLIAM BISHOP, PRINTER, MARKET STREET, COIMBATOR

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Scene on Hansel Monday

"Well! Johnny my boy, how are you enjoying yourself?"



Sketch by GEORGE BAILLIE, younger, of Jarviswood and Mellerstain, afterwards 11th Earl of Haddington. Date about 1847.
Hansel Monday was kept at Mellerstain as an annual day of festivity for household and estate.

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Editorial

Since the Autumn School there have been no outstanding events in the life of the Society. The work goes steadily on, and the sale of books, leaflets and gramophone records continues to be very satisfactory. This sale is not limited to the British Isles but extends to many parts of the world.

The attendance at classes in all the various centres is good and this despite the fact that members have an increasing number of calls on their time and energies in the form of A.R.P. classes and other matters of national interest. Perhaps they are bearing in mind the words in the Government handbook, "National Fitness for National Service."

The Autumn School, of which there is a report given on a later page, was a very successful one. It also marked an important stage in the history of the Society being the first time that the Executive Council had been given a civic reception and luncheon by the Lord Provost, Magistrates and Councillors of Edinburgh, in the City Chambers. The Society greatly honoured and appreciated this invitation and felt that Scottish Country dancing had now been recognised as part of the national life.

Lord Provost Steele in his speech said: "I cordially congratulate the Society on the success it has attained in the carrying out of the aims and purposes and on the good work it is doing in stimulating interest in this excellent form of exercise." He sincerely wished the Society continued success in promoting their native country dances, and in its efforts to maintain the high standard of attractive and skilful dancing for which Scotland was noted.

All the members of the Council must have felt proud of their Chairman, Mrs Hamilton Meikle, when she replied to the Lord Provost. She made an excellent speech and everyone there listened with great interest and obvious enjoyment. Mrs Hamilton Meikle gave an amusing account of the start of the Society, went on to speak of its growth and finished by saying, "Our aim is to revive and preserve, not only for ourselves, but for the generations to come, those happy health-giving sociable dances that are a real and essential part of our Scottish birthright."

All those who attended the Autumn School would like to express their warm appreciation of the kind hospitality extended to them by the Edinburgh Branch. The excellent arrangements made by Miss Wood (Chairman), Miss Martin Stewart (Secretary), and the committee members, ensured a successful and enjoyable School.

The Publications Committee has not had such an arduous winter, partly due to the fact that no research work necessary when bringing out a new book, has been done. The next publication is to be a book of twenty-four of the most popular dances that have already been issued in leaflet form, particularly those suitable for the ballroom. The dances that have been prepared for publication in leaflet form with this Bulletin are—Torryburn Lasses and the Marquis of Huntly's Highlanders.

The music for these dances has been arranged by Mr Herbert Wiseman.

Arrangements are now being made to have gramophone records for Book 12 prepared, as well as having some of the previous records re-made.

It was again a pleasure to listen to Mr John Reid and his Orchestra "on the air" at the beginning of January.

The Annual Summer School of the Scottish Country Dance Society will be held once more in the University Hall, St Andrews, from Monday, 31st July to Monday, August 14th. As usual classes will be held in the forenoons and afternoons will be left free for golf, bathing, etc.

Full particulars of the School, which is open to Members and non-Members of the Society, will be found on the last page along with the application form.

It is hoped that a team of men and women will dance at the International Folk Dance Festival to be held in Stockholm from August 1st to 6th, 1939. The programme will include:— Official Opening; Festive Gatherings and Displays in Concert Hall and Parks; Party given by the City in the City Hall; Boat Trip to Lillsved People's Gymnastic High School on Värmdö Island; Festival in the Stadium; Procession through town to Festival in Haga Palace; Conferences, Lectures, etc.

A Concert and Ballet performance in the Queen's Hall in February was the initial demonstration of a new Celtic Movement Association. The Dancers of Don demonstrated some of the Scottish Country dances. An article describing this entertainment is given on a later page.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting.

The 15th Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Country Dance Society was held on Saturday, 5th November 1938 in the Plaza, Morningside Road, Edinburgh, at 3 p.m.

Lord James Stewart Murray presided, and approximately 200 members were present.

Apologies were intimated from Mr Drummond, Mr Duthie, Miss Henderson, Mrs Law, Mrs Liddell, Mr Low, Sir John Lorne MacLeod, Mrs Pinkerton and Miss Slater.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed.

Lord James in addressing the meeting said that the progress made had been gradual and steady. The past year had been more exciting than usual due to the fact that Scottish Country Dancing had been recognised as an essential part of the "Keep Fit" movement. They also knew of the great success the Society had had at the Empire Exhibition during the past six months. The demonstrations at the "Keep Fit" Pavilion had been enormously popular—about 30,000 people had witnessed entire performances and many more had been present at partial performances. The teams had also been in great demand at the Clachan. The dances there reminded him very much of the entertainments that used to be given in his youth in Perthshire, where everyone danced, rich and poor, young and old. These dances, Lord James said, were invaluable for keeping alive that spirit of sympathetic unity amongst the people of different walks of life.

Recent events had surely impressed on us how necessary it was that we should not only be fit, but that we should be united, and anything which encouraged unity and fitness must be worth while striving for. Lord James said he thought the meeting would agree that Scottish Country Dancing was among the most valuable of these movements.

Lord James reported that two new Branches had been formed, one in Carlisle and the other in Lanark.

Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich in moving the adoption of the Annual Report, recalled how the Society began in a very small way and said that the forebodings of some people had not been realised. They had got the country dances back into the ballroom to a very large extent, and within 15 years had got 27 Branches.

The fact that the Lord Provost, Magistrates and Councillors of the Capital had asked the Executive to be their guests, showed that the Society was recognised as being part of the national life of Scotland.

Miss Milligan in seconding the adoption of the Report said that one of the greatest difficulties at the start was the getting of men, but that now she really felt that the country dances of Scotland were interesting the young men to an ever increasing extent.

The Report was adopted.

The following members were elected to the Executive Council:—Miss Anderson, Mrs Bruce, Miss Dow, Mr Drummond, The Hon. E. Forbes-Sempill and Miss Milligan.

Mr Duncan moved the adoption of the Financial Statement. Mrs Gordon Bruce seconded the proposal of adoption. The Financial Report was adopted.

Lord James announced that the Annual General Meeting 1939 would be held in Stirling.

Miss Kenyon proposed and the meeting accorded a very hearty vote of thanks to the President, Lord James Stewart Murray.

This ended the business.

Dances—or Musical Games?

The following letter from our Vice-President, Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich will be of interest:—

Dear Mrs Brown,

When I see people dancing "Paul Jones" it always reminds me of the fun we used to have in Argyll, dancing the "Pin Reel." As it is only suitable for a small party and not for the Ballroom or Festival competitions it has not been published in the Society's Books. There may be some who would like to dance it—also the "Everlasting Jig"—so I have written out the descriptions. It would be interesting to know if these are danced in other parts of the country?

Yours sincerely,

Y. STEWART.

Everlasting Jig—Jig Time

Only suitable for a small party.

One couple set to each other for 8 bars and turn, as in Reel of Tulloch for 8 bars. Repeat. After the first 16 bars, at any moment while setting, a man may step in front of the man who is dancing and dance with the woman—or a woman may step in front of the woman and steal her partner—but *there must never be more than one couple dancing.*

Pin Reel—Reel Time

About 4 to 9 couples, and an extra man, who is the Pin.

The Pin dances in the centre while the others join hands in a circle round him. They dance 8 steps to the left—8 steps to the right—then the Pin turns one woman by the right hand and the next by the left hand all round the circle, until he has returned to his starting point. The women stand still while all the men join hands in a circle and dance round until the music stops, when each man turns round and bows to a woman. The man left without a partner is now the Pin. Repeat.

This can be varied by having a woman for the Pin, when the women take the place of the men as described above, and the men take the place of the women.

If this reel is danced by a larger number of people, making several sets, then each set should be composed of the same number of couples.

Note on "Torryburn Lasses"

The dance "Torryburn Lasses" which is re-issued with this copy of the Bulletin seems to have been a popular one, and the description, with slight variations is to be found in the following books:—In Longman and Broderip's Collection, 1792, and called "Sir James Baird's Reel;" in Goulding's "24 Country Dances for 1793," and there named "The Laird of Appin;" in Campbell's 10th book, 1795, called "Miss Louisa Drummond's Reel;" in Dale's collection as "Miss Ray, or Shaddie" where the tune is a lively one in 6/8 time.

About 100 to 150 years ago, a popular dance would be carried from one place to another and danced to a local tune, from which it would take a new name—an instance of this is the "Duke of Perth" alias "Broun's (or the Brownie's) Reel," and in Ayrshire well known as "Pease Strae."

Scottish Country Dancing in London

The Celtic Movement Association was inaugurated at the Queen's Hall on February 3rd, at a "Celts and Scots night" organised by Miss Margaret Morris. This Association has been formed by Miss Morris for the purpose of preserving traditional music and dancing, and at the same time "to develop modern Celtic music and poetry, and a new Celtic dance form.

Some time ago Miss Morris asked me to bring the Dancers of Don to London to represent a part of the traditional side of the movement. It was a most interesting experience taking part in this performance of linking the old and the new together. The team was in great spirits and determined to do full justice to our beloved Scottish Country Dances.

We divided our programme into two parts, doing firstly the Long Chase and the Reel of Six, and secondly the Glasgow Highlanders and the Isle of Skye. It was evident from the start that the dances appealed to the audience, which grew more and more appreciative, until after acknowledging repeated calls, we returned and danced an Eightsome. The lighting effects were particularly well done and must have helped the audience to follow the pattern of the dances.

Amongst our telegrams of good wishes was one from the Scottish Country Dance Society, which was greatly appreciated by us all.

While in London we visited Avery Hill Training College where we gave a lecture demonstration. The College is a magnificent building surrounded by delightful grounds, but as it is situated on the outskirts of London, we were provided with a special bus for our conveyance. This vehicle caused great merriment among the team, as it is officially called an L.C.C. ambulance, and is used for taking physically defective children to school!

Quite a number of students at Avery Hill are anxious to take up Scottish Country Dancing and have already been taught a few dances by a member of the staff. We were much impressed by the enthusiasm and kindness shown us by the staff and students, and hope that we may have helped to stimulate their interest in the work of the Society.

It would not be right of me to conclude this article without paying a tribute to Miss Duncan, our faithful pianist, and Miss Trotter, both of whom accompanied us admirably.
E. FORBES-SEMPILL.

The Folk Dance Festival

By VIOLET ALFORD

The annual Folk Dance Festival at the Albert Hall enlarged its borders this year. Invitations were sent to some six or seven countries, and the instruments which they brought to these shores deserve a word of notice. They ranged from mouth organs and piano-accordions to bagpipes and eight-stringed fiddles. To supply pure rhythm we had drums, metal discs and the archaic snapping jaw of our own Abbots Bromley Hobby Horse. Thus traditional dance makes use of the new without discarding the old. The Norwegian violin was beautifully inlaid, and it possessed eight strings, four of which supplied a drone to enrich the melody. The Norwegian dancers also used their voices to accompany their dances, so many of which are remnants of caroles sung to remnants of old sagas. The mournful strains and the tragic or heroic subjects are characteristic of a far northern land. The French dancers from the conservative and isolated Vendée also used 'mouth music' in the shape of lively Rondes.

More exotic effects were given by the two musicians who followed the stamping, leaping Calusari about the arena. These Rumanian dancers are of the ritual variety and work themselves up into an ecstatic condition. Their *cobza* is a pot-bellied lute-like instrument with metal strings, recalling the Portuguese guitar; it is played with a quill. Its never-failing companion is a feeble-toned fiddle, and the melodies are lost in the flurry of scratching and bowing. In any case they seem unintelligible to our ears. The dance has more than sixty sections, each section changing its tempo in the middle. The stamping feet, reinforced by shaking metal discs worn on the sides of the shoes and replacing the usual bells of ritual dancers, keep a marvellous rhythm, often syncopated. The Jugoslav team from the Macedonian borders were a dancing brotherhood like those from Rumania. Their particular effect was that of a slow-motion picture, the feet placed deliberately on the ground after much swinging of legs and bending of the knees. They were the Rusalii, a prophylactic dancing group who are employed on the sinister business of driving off evil spirits from man and crops. Their season, like that of our sword dancers, is mid-winter. Their instruments were the most strident the Albert Hall can have known—not to mention the tranquil streets of South Kensington, down which they marched waking the echoes. A huge and terrible bagpipe chanter without a bag led the band. No air was perceptible, nor tempo. The player, of marked Turkish type, sometimes bent forward so that the large open mouth

of his instrument almost touched the floor, sometimes raised it vertically in the manner of a wolf baying the moon. A smaller, but also large-mouthed instrument occasionally made itself heard beneath the squeals of the chanter, and a menacing, curiously shaped (almost triangular faced) big drum rolled its warnings. These men and their music leave a sinister memory though their intentions are beneficial. The second performance showed them with a large pigskin bagpipe—a welcome change. We also heard the Scottish bagpipes and the Irish pipes. These last were broadcast, and came over the air beautifully.

—*Reprinted from the Monthly Musical Record.*

Autumn School, 1938

The 1938 Annual Meeting was held in Edinburgh and as usual the Autumn School took place at the same time. The week-end started on Friday, 4th November, with classes in the British Medical Association Hall in Drumsheugh Gardens. Both general and certificate classes were held and were well attended. Miss Milligan's Special Class on Friday evening for Book XII dances was filled to capacity, about 120 dancers being present. Further classes were held on Saturday morning, and in the evening an examination for 1st and 2nd Teachers' Certificates.

The Executive Committee and Branch Representatives were entertained to luncheon by the Lord Provost and Councillors of Edinburgh Corporation in the City Chambers, after which the Annual Meeting of the Society was held in the lower hall of the Plaza, Morningside Road. About two hundred people from all over Scotland were present. Afterwards the Edinburgh Branch entertained the visiting members at a Thé Dansant in the Plaza Ballroom.

E. G.

Scottish Country Dancing in Egypt and India

It is always interesting to read of the growth of Scottish Country Dancing abroad. The following is an excerpt from a letter sent to Miss Milligan from one of her former students, A. Marsark.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT,
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,
CAIRO, EGYPT,

Dear Miss Milligan,

. . . It may please you to know that the Scottish Country Dances have a place in our activities in the Egyptian Schools. In the Boys' Primary Schools, which I am in charge of, the boys get this as part of their sport programme and they enjoy it. In the last year's Annual Display of the Primary Schools which I organised the boys exhibited two dances, namely, Petronella and Rory O'More. This year they will do the Eight-some Reel and Strip the Willow. I have been also asked to teach Scottish Country Dancing to the Students of the Physical Education Institute. I am trying my best at that, and I must say that I am able to do it only through the marvellous instructions we were fortunate to get from you during our course of study in Glasgow. I give a class these dances in the Y.W.C.A. in Cairo and have been at it for two years. The results are satisfactory."

Then followed an order for gramophone records of the various dances.

An interesting letter from Mrs Trotter, who started the S.C.D. Association of Calcutta.

c/o ST ANDREWS CHURCH,
KARACHI, INDIA.

Dear Mrs Brown,

It is quite a long time since I wrote you about Scottish Country Dancing in India. I think I told you I was leaving Calcutta for Lahore. The Calcutta class continued during this last winter very successfully, I hear from one who attended it. I hope it will go next winter again. I must write and see what is going to happen.

In Lahore we were able to run two small circles in the bungalows of people interested. Altogether there were 32 doing Scottish Country Dancing, and how they enjoyed it. It was the first attempt of its kind and I am sorry it cannot be continued. There was really no one who could take over these circles after I had gone, though there were two or three pianists who would willingly have played.

We intend reviving the Social Club which existed in Karachi some time ago and next winter I shall make Scottish Country Dancing one of its activities. Those to whom I have mentioned this are very keen on the prospect. We can only wait and see if it succeeds.

I hope to be in Karachi for two or three years so the Scots community will have a chance of getting to know quite a number of the dances.

The Summer School

Last year the numbers that enrolled for the Summer School were very large and we hope that this summer the response will be just as good. We certainly do want to have as many people as possible at our Summer School, but those of us who have been there realise that although the accommodation at St Andrews is delightful, it has certain limits. This year, as well as having University Hall and Kinnessburn, we have been fortunate in obtaining the use of another University residence, The Swallowgate, an attractively situated house, the front facing the sea and the side facing Butt's Wynd where some of the classes are held in the University Gymnasium. It is difficult to predict from one year to another what the numbers will be, but if the entries are as numerous as last year, members will understand that they may be obliged to share rooms. This sharing business is undoubtedly a drawback! If we could give all our members single rooms we would do so gladly—as it is, we shall do our best to put friends together and to arrange that where possible it is the younger members who have to share. Many single rooms will, of course, be available and these will be given to the earliest applicants. It would be a real help if people who are willing to share would state this fact when they apply, and also give the name of the person with whom they would like to share.

It has been decided to dispense with the Dance in the Younger Hall this year. This information is given as members sometimes want to know whether it is necessary to bring evening dress.

It is hoped that this article will not unduly depress prospective Summer School members. We extend a hearty welcome to all, and look forward to our usual happy time at St Andrews.

Copies of the following Dances which have been published in Leaflet Form are for Sale, price 2d. each.

Circassian Circle.	The Waltz Country Dance	The River Cree.
Corn Riggs.	The Merry Dancers.	Red House.
Dashing White Sergeant.	The Eightsome Reel.	Haughs o' Cromdale.
Duke of Perth.	Greig's Pipes.	Marquis of Huntly's High-
Flowers of Edinburgh.	The White Cockade.	landers.
Glasgow Highlanders.	Jenny's Bawbee.	Monymusk.
Petronella.	Teviot Brig.	There's Nae Luck About the
Scottish Reform.	Dumbarton's Drums	Hoose
Speed the Plough.	Fight about the Fireside	Torryburn Lasses.
Linton Ploughman.	General Stuart's Reel.	Tulloch Gorm.
Lady Susan Stewart's Reel.	Scottish Ramble.	Dalkeith's Strathspey.
Light and Airy.	The New Rigg'd Ship.	The Isle of Skye.
The Punch Bowl.	Mrs MacLeod of Raasay.	Triumph.

Names and Addresses of Office-Bearers.

Executive Council.

Chairman—Mrs Hamilton Meikle, Brankstone, Bogside, Alloa.
Vice-Chairman—Lord James Stewart Murray, Cuil-an-Duin, Ballinluig.
 Mrs Stewart, of Fasnacloich, Camserney Cottage, Aberfeldy, Perthshire.
 Miss A. Anderson, 16 Warriston Crescent, Edinburgh.
 Mrs Bruce, 5 Rubislaw Place, Aberdeen.
 Miss M. M. Dow, Training College, Dundee.
 Mr J. Drummond, Lynwood, 83 Craigcrook Avenue, Edinburgh.
 Miss Jean Milligan, 22 Roxburgh Street, Glasgow, W. 2.
 Hon. E. Forbes-Sempill, Fintray House, Aberdeenshire.
Representatives of Branches.
Secretary—Mrs M. K. Brown, Thornhill, Corstorphine, Edinburgh.
Treasurer—Mr R. T. Terras, British Linen Bank, Galston, Ayrshire.

Terms of Membership to Scottish Country Dance Society.

Annual Subscription	5/-
Life Membership Subscription	£3, 3/- or £2, 10/-

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

Will all "original" Members of the Society who have not received their Life Membership Cards please notify Mr Terras.

Gramophone Records

Member are reminded that Gramophone Records (price 3/-) should be ordered either from Miss J. Milligan, 22 Roxburgh Street, Glasgow, W.2., or from the Treasurer, Mr Terras, British Linen Bank, Galston, Ayrshire.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
SUMMER SCHOOL

The Thirteenth Annual Summer School of the above Society will be held in University Hall, St Andrews, Fife, from 31st July to 14th August 1939.

Two weekly courses will be held as follows:—

FIRST COURSE. Monday, 31st July to Monday, 7th August.

SECOND COURSE. Monday, 7th August to Monday, 14th August.

Applications are only taken for a week or a fortnight.

TERMS:—

RESIDENTS. 3½ guineas per week, plus a registration fee of 5/- which must accompany the application form. Non-members of the Society pay an extra 10/- per week.

NON-RESIDENTS. 1 guinea per week, 4/- per day, 2/- per class.

Classes will be held from 9.45—1 o'clock daily on all twelve books. A reel step class will be held from 5.30 to 6.30 p.m., and there will be social dancing each evening at 8.30 p.m. The afternoons are free for bathing, golf, etc.

Examinations for Teacher's Certificate will be held at the end of each week.

NOTE. Please report at the Secretary's Office on arrival between 3 and 5 o'clock on Monday, 31st July and Monday, 7th August. The first Country Dance Class will be held at 5.30 p.m.

In the event of any member being prevented from attending, the registration fee will be refunded if notice of withdrawal is sent to the Secretary before 10th July. If any member withdraws after 22nd July, a charge of 10/- will be made if the enrolment is for one week and £1 for two weeks. This charge will not be made if the Secretary can re-let the room.

Members may be required to share a room.

TO BE SENT IN BY 17th JUNE.

TO THE SECRETARY, S.C.D.S.,
THORNBILL, CAIRNMUIR ROAD,
CORSTORPHINE, EDINBURGH.

Please reserve accommodation for me at the Summer School at St Andrews, from

_____ to _____ (Please fill in dates).

Name _____

Address _____

My Registration Fee of 5/- is enclosed.

