

# The Scottish Country Dance Society Bulletin

No. 21.

November 1943

## Editorial

THIS Bulletin, issued after the beginning of the fifth year of the war, finds the Scottish Country Dance Society still carrying on its activities wherever possible.

It will be seen from the reports sent in by Branch Secretaries that Scottish Country Dancing maintains its popularity in spite of difficulties and that subscriptions have been kept up, and in some cases increased. Members will be interested to see from the Financial Statement that the balance on the year's working is £109, 3s. 5d. This is accounted for mainly by sales of books and leaflets, by increased subscriptions and a decrease in expenditure, no new books having been printed. It is hoped that members will keep up the good work by continuing to pay their annual subscriptions to their Branch Secretaries, to whom we owe sincere thanks for their help and interest.

Many members who knew Mr Terras, our Treasurer, personally, and those who knew him through correspondence, will be very sorry to hear that he died early this year. The Committee at their meeting expressed deep regret, and sent sincere sympathy to Mrs Terras in her great loss. They also placed on record their great appreciation of the work that Mr Terras did for the Society and for his keen interest in all its affairs. Mr Terras has been succeeded by Miss J. W. McLellan, who helped him with his S.C.D.S. work for some time, and who is a keenly interested member of the Society. A warm welcome is extended to Miss McLellan.

Acting on the suggestion of one of the members of the Glasgow Branch, a Fund was started through the Branches on behalf of comforts for the 51st (Highland) Division prisoners of war, and this has been most enthusiastically supported. £169, 3s. 4d. has been subscribed, and most delightful letters have been received with the donations showing how much the idea appealed to members. Donations were received as follows:—Aberdeen, £8; Angus, £10, 10s.; Ayr, £1, 4s.; North Ayrshire, £3, 7s. 6d.; Banffshire, £5, 5s.; Belfast S.C.D.C., £10, 10s.; Carluke, £2, 2s.; Dumbartonshire, £5, 5s.; Dundee, £2, 2s.; Edinburgh, £20, 12s. 6d.; Gaflac S.C.D.C., £2, 2s.; Glasgow, £33, 10s.; Hamilton, £3, 3s.; Kirkcaldy, £2, 17s. 6d.; London, £18, 18s.; Manchester, £20, 19s.; Perthshire S.C.D.C., £3; Renfrewshire, £5; Stirlingshire, 10s. 6d.; East Stirlingshire, £7; Wishaw Youth Welfare Class, £2. Donations from individual members amounted to 15s. 3d.



After making all possible inquiries as to the best way of spending the money, the Committee has decided to divide it among three centres of the Red Cross—North, Central and West (Elgin, Perth and Rothesay). These centres will spend the money on such things as chanters, bagpipes, music, records, books, footballs, games, etc.—all things which will give the men something of the same pleasure as their dance has given the members of the S.C.D.S.

The Red Cross have assured us that they can send these things definitely to members of the 51st Division, and that they will be accompanied by the good wishes of the S.C.D.S.

Examinations were held in the following places during the past year:—Aberdeen (Dunfermline P.T. students); Birmingham (Anstey P.T. College students); Dundee (Training College students); Edinburgh; Glasgow (Jordanhill Training College and others); Manchester; Rochdale; and Wishaw. 108 candidates were successful in gaining the first Certificate, 2 of these being men; and 49, including 4 men, gained the Full Certificate.

The dance leaflet, "Knit the Pocky," is being issued to members along with this Bulletin in payment of their annual subscription, which is now due.

The Secretary has received many interesting letters during the last year from the British Isles and from overseas. Space does not permit comments on them all, but here is an extract from Sergeant Stirling, R.A.M.C., from Cairo: He writes: "As you may know, I am a certificated teacher of the S.C.D.S., and trained the S.Y.H.A. (Edinburgh) Club team that won the S.C.D.S. Trophy in the 1939 Musical Festival in Edinburgh. When we arrived here and started work, I approached the Matron of the hospital and obtained permission to start a country dance class for the Sisters. We are now at the end of our second session; the class is small but very enthusiastic. It is not an easy job running a class in a hospital, as the nursing staff is continually changing from day to night duty, which prevents regular attendance. In spite of this, I have at least eight dancers who are easily as good as any of those at home who dance in the Festival teams." Sergeant Stirling ends by wishing the S.C.D.S. all success, and we reciprocate this wish to him and all his pupils.

Here is a good idea that comes from Ross-shire. At the Christmas Social Evening of the Plockton Higher Grade School, the prizes for the best performance of Scottish Country Dancing were Membership Subscriptions to the Society, and six boys and girls received a copy of "Twenty-four Favourite Scottish Country Dances." Let us hope that their interest will grow and deepen through this early beginning.

Among the overseas broadcasts to South America was a talk given on "Montgomerie's Rant" and "The Duchess of Atholl," with descriptions of dances and accompanying music.



## Branch Reports

*ABERDEEN.*—During these war-time years we have been unable to carry on our usual classes owing to the difficulty in getting suitable halls. This autumn, however, we have managed to obtain a hall, thanks to the kindness of the Business Women's Club, and we are looking forward to running a successful class throughout the winter months. Special arrangements are being made to encourage beginners. Although our activities have been curbed during recent years, our enthusiasm has not waned, and we still have many keen dancers. Some of our members who are with the Forces or engaged in other forms of war work have been teaching Scottish Country Dancing and training recruits for the next Summer School.

The *ANGUS* Branch has had a very successful session. There were 80 members of the Society, which is quite good, considering that only two of the centres are active. Besides holding weekly classes, the centres have given demonstrations, lessons to various clubs for Service men and women, and also to W.R.I.s and Women's Guilds.

Our big effort—a Dance to which spectators were invited—raised £72 for the Prisoners of War Fund. During the summer Arbroath Centre held an Open-air Dance in connection with the "Stay-at-Home Holiday" Scheme. This was very popular, and drew a large number of dancers and an enormous spectatorate.

*NORTH AYRSHIRE.*—This Branch had a very successful class last winter, although the numbers were not large. We have been very fortunate in being allowed to have our classes in a Bowling Club House, which, though small, has served our purpose excellently, and we are very grateful for this privilege. We hope to begin our new session again in October.

*DUNDEE.*—This Branch will start off the season with a Dance early in October, in aid of war charity. Thereafter weekly classes will resume as formerly.

*DUNFERMLINE.*—This Branch has lapsed owing to difficulties of accommodation for classes, also members too occupied with war work. It is hoped to begin again when possible.

*WESTERN DUMBARTONSHIRE.*—Owing to all available halls being taken over for war purposes, no classes have been held, and the membership has consequently lapsed. It is hoped to resuscitate the Branch when conditions permit.

*EDINBURGH.*—Membership has increased this year, and classes have been well attended. The monthly dances were very popular; as a result more than £80 has been handed to charities. Several demonstrations have been given, including four by a mixed team in Princes Street Gardens during "holidays at home."



## Statement of Receipts and Payments

### RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand at 30th September 1942	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£713	6	8	
SUBSCRIPTIONS—												
Received from Branches	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£184	3	0	
Paid direct to Headquarters	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59	15	0	
										243	18	0
ROYALTIES—												
Gramophone Records and Broadcasting Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	10	3	
Sale of Dance Books and Leaflets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	119	10	11	
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	19	7	
Rebate on Insurances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	16	2	
INTEREST—												
County Council of Lanark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£3	2	6	
Savings Account	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	11	1	
										4	13	7
									£1096	15	2	

The following articles are the property of the Society :—3 Typewriters, 2 Portable Gramophones, 1 Writing Desk, Music Cabinet, Filing Cabinet, 2 Chests of Drawers, and Sundry Books of Music.



for year ended 30th September 1943

PAYMENTS.

Cost of October Bulletin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£8	9	2
Printing and Stationery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	10	7
Postages and Telephones	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	1	5
Travelling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	9	2
Insurances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	3	0
Auditor's Fee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	0
Rebate to Rochdale Branch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	18	6
Examination Fees and Organising Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	19	7
Secretary's Salary and Office Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	129	4	0
Treasurer's Salary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	6	8

BALANCE—

County Council of Lanark Loan	-	-	-	-	-	£250	0	0					
Government Loan (free of Interest)	-	-	-	-	-	250	0	0					
British Linen Bank—Current Account	-	-	-	-	-	115	7	9					
Do. do. Savings Account	-	-	-	-	-	205	15	11					
Petty Cash in hands of Secretary and Treasurer	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	5					
											822	10	1
											£1096	15	2

23 BARNES STREET, AYR, 26th October 1943.—I have examined the foregoing Statement with the Books, Accounts and Vouchers relating thereto, and certify them to be correct.

NORMAN MACKINNON, C.A., Auditor.



*GLASGOW*.—City black-out conditions notwithstanding, the Branch looks back on last winter's activities with much satisfaction.

Well over 200 paid membership fees. Life members numbered 31.

On a Saturday in October, a one-day course at Jordanhill College, with classes in the forenoon and a Social Dance in the afternoon, enabled Branch members and friends from outside Glasgow to get together for a few hours which were reminiscent of the happy days at St. Andrews.

After the successful day, during which the Dance of the 51st Division had been a great favourite, the Committee felt that some tangible way might be found to give a little pleasure to the men who, in their prisoners-of-war camp, had worked out such a delightful dance. It was suggested that a fund might be raised for this purpose. Members were enthusiastic in their support. A surplus from the dance held in December gave a very good start to the fund. Class members subscribed, and donations and gifts received from "Circles" and friends helped to swell the total.

Glasgow Branch would like here to state its appreciation of the reception of its idea by the other Branches.

On Saturday afternoon, 5th December, 450 attended the dance held in the Astoria Ballroom. The numbers were far in excess of anything the Committee had dared to anticipate, but the dancers took the floor—if not too comfortably, at least with great enthusiasm.

Early in October the first course of four classes weekly was started, and a similar course was held in the spring of 1943.

"Circles" and private classes continued as usual. In addition, most successful classes were held under the auspices of the "Keep Fit" Association.

Several candidates, men and women, gained the Teacher's Certificate.

Scottish Country Dancing continues to be a feature of A.R.P. Centres, Youth Welfare Clubs, etc.

During the year numerous demonstrations were given by mixed teams at indoor meetings, entertainments, and garden fêtes.

The Branch has started its winter classes, and is happy to say that they have made an excellent beginning, and that the prospects for the year 1943-1944 seem to be very good.

*HAMILTON*.—Nothing very special to report, but the Branch carries on, although most of the members are engaged in work of national importance.

*INVERNESS*.—Owing to difficulties of accommodation, etc., this Branch has suspended its activities until after the war.

*KIRKCALDY*.—Having had a session of weekly classes attended by keenly enthusiastic members, a Party was held on the closing evening. The proceeds, along with some donations, were sent to the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Royal Benevolent Society.

*LONDON*.—The Branch held a series of fortnightly Saturday afternoon dances from October to March, and these were well attended. A special meeting was held on the 10th



of April, in aid of the 51st Division Prisoners of War Fund, and the Branch were able to forward £18, 18s. after paying expenses. An evening class under the London County Council was started in the spring, and carried on throughout the summer session. The L.C.C. are again including it in their syllabus. Mrs. Sandison is the instructress.

I might add that the members very much appreciated the attendance of Miss Milligan at a special meeting on the 9th July. As usual, she imparted her enthusiasm with the result that some of the members' friends who came to watch joined the Society.

*MANCHESTER.*—In spite of difficulties the Branch has continued; fortunately, a nucleus of very enthusiastic members make it possible—in fact, almost necessary—to carry on. The membership has increased slightly.

Parties have been held in support of the 51st Division Comforts Fund. In all a sum of just over £20 has been raised in Manchester and district.

Visits have been paid by members to the University Settlement, where a mixed club of lads and girls at first scoffed, but eventually became enthusiastic.

The high-light of the session was, of course, Miss Milligan's visit on 24th July. Through the kindness of Dr Wicks and the Board of Governors the Branch had the use of the hall at Broughton High School. There Miss Milligan in her own inimitable style taught classes in the morning and afternoon, and held an examination. Members of the Branch Committee record their gratitude to Miss Milligan for her tuition and her infectious enthusiasm.

*PERTH.*—There have been no classes held here during the past year. The Perth S.C.D. Club meet every Tuesday evening, and have had a very successful session. They have been able to send substantial donations to various war charities. The Gaffac S.C.D. Club have curtailed their meetings to once a fortnight, until such time as their members return from the Services. Our members, though fewer in number, are all very enthusiastic.

*RENFREWSHIRE.*—Exceptionally well attended classes were conducted during winter in Greenock. Members of services and war workers attended, and thus many new persons were introduced to the delights of Scottish Country Dancing. To meet Service requirements a hall was made available during summer months for practice of these dances. Branch activities have proved useful in making contact between visiting Service personnel and local members of classes.

*ROCHDALE.*—Our newest Branch reports that eleven of its members were successful in gaining a Certificate in the examination held in summer.

*STIRLINGSHIRE.*—Our members are so few that this year we have decided to have a social evening once a month, instead of a weekly class.

Last season Miss Morrison took a team to Touch Convalescent Hospital. Their display was greatly enjoyed, and requests came from other hospitals for a visit from the team, but owing to difficulties of transport this could not be done.

Miss Kemp Smith held a very successful class at Bridge of Allan, also a children's class in Stirling, and a class at Auchentroig Convalescent Hospital; and Miss Mary MacLaren held a children's class in Stirling. Two very enjoyable Social Dances were held in Stirling during the winter season.



**EAST STIRLINGSHIRE.**—A successful winter session was carried through, despite war-time conditions.

Two dances were held, one in December and one in March, at the close of each session. They proved to be most enjoyable, and were well attended.

A team was entered for the Stirlingshire Musical Festival, and was successful in gaining a First Class (Honours) Certificate.

Demonstrations of Scottish Country Dances were given at a meeting of the Falkirk Branch of the Scottish-Polish Society in February, and later in June at a "Wings for Victory" Fête held in the grounds of Airth Castle.

**WEST LOTHIAN. LINLITHGOW.**—Although not a Branch class, a very successful class for Scottish Country Dancing was conducted by the late Miss McLachlan during the winter months. After class expenses had been met a sum of £1, 14s. 6d. was handed over to the Red Cross. At the close of the session a dance was held for the benefit of the Aid to China Fund, and the sum of £17, 4s. 6d. was realised. Children's classes were also organised by a member of the adult class. Classes have been resumed now.

**BO'NESS.**—Bo'ness Class had two very successful afternoon dances, the proceeds being given to local war funds. The class here is very small, and at present has no teacher, but meantime the Branch has formed a sort of club, no one wishing the class to drop. Classes have been resumed now.

The staffs of Bridgend Public School and Uphall Public School organised classes for war funds.

**BROXBURN V.A.D.** held a most successful dance in June, handing over £30 to the Prisoners of War Fund.

Much regret is felt by the Branch at the loss sustained through the death of Miss McLachlan, who has been Treasurer and Secretary of the Branch since it was formed.

It will be a help to the Treasurer and to the Secretary if members will state when paying their Annual Subscription which book they would like. There is a good supply of Books 6-12 and "Twenty-four Favourite Scottish Country Dances," also of the pocket edition of Books 10, 11 and 12.

#### 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 their annual subscription for ten years may become		
Life Members on payment of £1. 10/-.		

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

*Treasurer*—Miss J. W. McLELLAN, Parkend, Galston, Ayrshire.