
THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY



**RSCDS
BULLETIN**

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November 2000



*Promoting Scottish Country Dancing
Around the World*



**THE ROYAL
SCOTTISH COUNTRY
DANCE SOCIETY**

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Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

President:

The Earl of Mansfield

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The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine
Lt.-Col. (Retd.) Muriel Gibson
The Hon. Peregrine Moncreiffe of
Moncreiffe

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Mrs Linda Gaul

Vice-Chairman:

Mr Alan Mair

Secretary/Administrator:

Ms Elspeth Gray

Treasurer:

Mrs Marilyn Jeffcoat

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Ms Elspeth Gray

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Deadline for Next Issue

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Editorial

What a wonderful time to join the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, as it strides confidently into the new millennium!

I am honoured, as your Secretary, to be introducing this milestone edition of the Bulletin to you. It seems that the new constant for all organisations today is change, and the Society is no different in that. However, I am sure you will still find many familiar elements in the contents of the Bulletin, together with some new and interesting articles demonstrating the range of knowledge and activities of Society members and those associated with it.

It has been fascinating for me to discover how widely-loved Scottish Country Dancing is throughout the world, and I have been delighted to make contact with many members already, by letter and email as well as in person at my first ever Summer School in St Andrews. What strikes me most is the passion, exuberance and sheer joy that is shared. I hope I can serve you and the Society well by contributing to its effective and efficient administration, and welcome your communications - please feel free to contact me at HQ.

I hope your Millennium celebrations continue into 2001, and that you continue to enjoy your dancing and other events.

Elspeth Gray

I AM PLEASED to have the opportunity once again to make a small contribution by way of a message to the members of the Society.

I had the good fortune to attend an evening during the first week of the Summer School at St. Andrews. This was a special dinner to mark the millennium and it was most impressive to discover how many countries were represented by individuals participating in the School. It represents people from

different cultures and speaking different languages united in their devotion to Scottish country dancing. I enjoyed very much both the music of the evening and my opportunity to meet so many different folk from all over the world.

This has again been a busy and interesting year for the Society, with changes in staff at Headquarters, proposals coming forward regarding possible revised management and membership structures, the formation of the Youth Committee,

and the first successful Winter School in Pitlochry, amongst other developments. All of these things demonstrate that the Society is forward-looking and progressive, and what better message could there be at the start of a new millennium?

I hope we can all work together to ensure the continued efforts of the Society, its branches and affiliated groups and indeed every member, to promote and develop Scottish country dancing.

Chairman's Foreword

LINDA GAUL

IT HAS BEEN a great pleasure to serve you, the members of the RSCDS, as Chairman over the last two years. As I look back over my term of office and consider the changes and developments, I am pleased to see evidence that the Society is embracing the challenges of the new century but I am saddened to see the decline in both numbers of Branches and numbers of members.

The future health and vitality of Scottish country dancing throughout the world is the responsibility of each one of us - we are the Society. To belong to an organisation such as ours is not just about what we get in return for our subscription, it is also about contributing in time, talent and money to ensure that the valuable work done over the past 77 years is enhanced. The vision and ideals of our co-founders are still worthwhile goals - we just seek to advance them in a different environment.

One of the most far-reaching developments has been the appointment of a Youth Director and a standing committee to consider the work of the Society among young people. All our Branches have been asked to appoint a Youth Co-ordinator. From all over the world, these people will be able to share examples of good practice and ideas. They will also be able to encourage young people to join their Branches and thereby become members of our



Society and able to play their part in keeping Scottish country dancing an enjoyable and prominent leisure activity.

The implementation of the Strategic Plan continues; the standing committees work hard to ensure that any developments and projects are in line with its vision and objectives. Proposed changes to the structure and governance continue to be discussed, but it is proving very difficult to find a solution that will satisfy the widely differing opinions and situations of our members. And that is before we try to find a formula that will attract new members!

The continuing drive to make the music for entire repertoire of published dances available in CD

format is moving ahead well, thanks to the generosity of Branches and individual members. These recordings are an extremely valuable resource and I would like to extend my personal thanks to all who have contributed to the project.

The addition of a Winter School and a residential course for musicians, run in association with Summer School, have proved popular additions to the country dancing year and I hope to see these events flourish in the future.

Finally, I would like to thank Elspeth, her team at Coates Crescent and the many members frae a' the airts who have supported and encouraged me throughout my term of office. It has involved much hard work but, more important, it has been a great honour and a privilege and I have loved it!



Annual Report for 1999–2000

Headquarters

The year 2000 has seen a number of changes to staffing at 12 Coates Crescent. Gill Parker left the Society in December 1999 to accompany her husband to Luxembourg, where she is working at the European Commission. June Dick managed the office and its activities in the period following Gill's departure until mid-March, when Elspeth Gray was appointed as Secretary/Administrator. June continues as Assistant Secretary, and also still with us are Linda Bates, Membership & Finance Administrator and Eileen Watt, Office Manager. Elizabeth McNeill left us in June, and has been replaced by the newest addition to the team, Kate Lawrie, who joined in August. Kate has been appointed as Finance and Administrative Assistant.

Very many thanks are due to the Headquarters staff for their continuing hard work. Despite the changing circumstances around them, they continued to ensure that visitors, orders and queries were dealt with, that committee meetings continued to be served, and that arrangements for events such as Summer School and examinations were not disrupted. They are an exceptional team.

Membership

The Society currently has 21,292 members, in 164 branches and 480 affiliated groups throughout the world. We are, as ever, grateful to all of those volunteers in the branches who work hard to maintain communications with Headquarters.

The following affiliated groups were approved in 1999/2000, and the Society is delighted to welcome them:

- Ashbourne Scottish Country Dancers (Derbyshire)
- Beckwith Scottish Country Dance Group (Ottawa)
- Bridport Scottish Dancers (Dorset)
- Caledonian Society of Cyprus (Limasol)
- Colwyn Bay, Llandudno & District Caledonian Society (N. Wales)
- Dyffryn Clwyd Scottish Country Dancers (N. Wales)
- Ericht Scottish Country Dance Club (Perthshire)
- Groupe de Danse Ecosaise de Carpentras (France)
- Happy Scottish Country Dance Club (Japan)
- Kanazawa Scottish Country Dance Club (Japan)
- Lady Lake Scottish Country Dancers (Florida)
- Mitaka TS Scottish Country Dancers (Japan)
- Oxford University Scottish Dance Society (Oxford)
- Pembrokeshire Group of Scottish Dance Clubs (Wales)
- Pencaitland Junior Scottish Country Dancers (Midlothian)
- St Nicholas Buccleuch Country Dance Club (Midlothian)
- Stratherrick Hall Dance Class (Inverness-shire)
- Terrace Scottish Country Dancers (British Columbia)
- Tokyo Scottish Dancers (Japan)
- Waverley Scottish Country Dance Club (Japan)
- Yamato Scottish Country Dance Club (Japan)

We send our best wishes to the above, and to all branches and groups who have celebrated special anniversaries this year.

Standing Committee Reports

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 are re-elected at the November Executive Council Meeting. Either the Secretary or another member of secretariat staff is present at all Society meetings.

General Purposes Committee

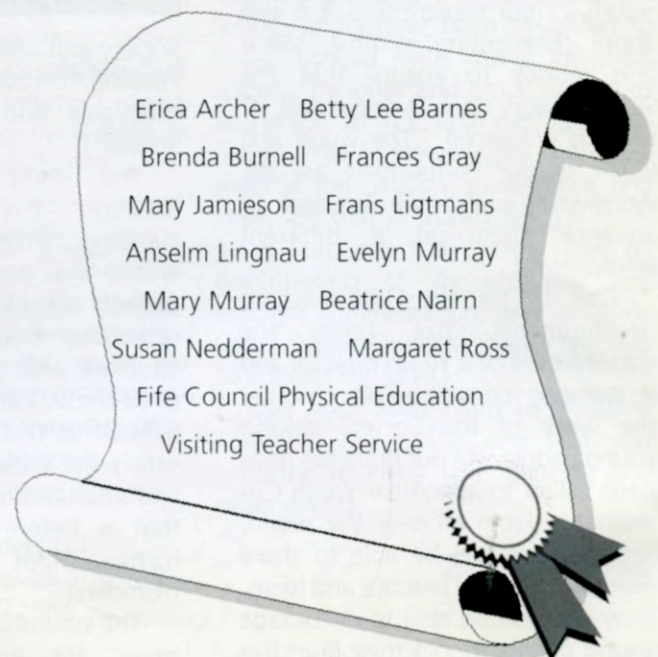
Functions: To consider from time to time matters concerning the general administration of the Society and to make recommendations thereon to the Executive Council and to prepare the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting.

Members: Mrs Linda Gaul (Convenor, Chairman), Mr Alan Mair (Vice Chairman), Mr John Fenningworth (Finance Convenor), Ms Susan Carr, Mrs Jessie Harper, Mr Brian Harry, Mr Jim Healy, Mrs Christine Munro, Dr Wilson Nicol, Mrs Sue Porter, Mr Alastair Reid, Miss Pauline Stewart.
In attendance: Ms Elspeth Gray

The Committee usually meets three times a year.

The Committee continues to administer applications for grants from the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund, and this year agreed funding for a variety of projects (see page 21).

The Committee was delighted to recommend the following members to receive the Society's scroll of honour:



Funds have been allocated for the refurbishment of the building at 12 Coates Crescent, and this work will now be planned. Meantime, staff have started work on some rearrangement of the ground floor office space. The Committee has been involved in initial talks with the Scottish Traditions of Dance Trust about the possibility of setting up a national traditional dance centre.

The General Purposes Committee oversees the work of its various sub-committees, which are Marketing & Public Relations, AGM, Management & Membership. The Marketing & Public Relations Sub-committee meets approximately six times per year, looking at a variety of issues including communications, promotion of the Society and sales of Society merchandise. It has taken some time, but the website has now been further developed and includes an excellent "index" to RSCDS dances. The Management & Membership Working Party has had several meetings to consider changes to the Society's structure, in line with the Strategic Plan. A progress report was taken to the Executive Council in May 2000 and a further progress report will go to the November 2000 Executive Council. A review of the Strategic Plan was carried out after its first year of operation, and a paper on this will be submitted to the November 2000 Executive Council.

Finance Committee

Functions: To be responsible for the funds of the Society and to deal with its financial business.

Members: Mr John Fenningworth (Convenor), Mrs Linda Gaul (Chairman), Mr Alan Mair (Vice Chairman), Miss Dorothy Hamilton, Mrs Elizabeth Harry, Mr Tom Kerr, Mr Robert Mackay, Mr Keith Stacey, Mr Ronald Taylor.

In attendance: Mrs Marilyn Jeffcoat (Treasurer), Mrs L Bates/Ms Elspeth Gray

The Committee usually meets four times a year.

This has once again been a busy year for the Committee. Cost savings have of course been a major consideration, and the Committee decided not to produce the Newsbrief in 2000, and not to pay Representatives' expenses for the May 2000 Executive Council meeting. Other actions to reduce costs include changing to electronic processing of credit cards, bringing a saving on bank charges, and the phased transfer of accounting in-house, which is ongoing. The Executive Council in May approved that the subscription rate for 2001/2 will not be changed, but the Finance Committee warned about the continued danger of this reducing capital. The Executive Council also approved the immediate suspension of long-term membership until issues relating to management and membership are resolved. The budget for 2000/01 shows a deficit of approximately £22,000, and this is obviously a continuing concern.

Many donations to both the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund and to the general fund have been received, and it is particularly pleasing to report the donation of substantial sums from branches and from individuals towards the transfer of RSCDS recordings from cassette to CD.

Examinations Committee

Functions: To consider from time to time the regulations governing the examinations and the awarding of Teaching and other Certificates and Diplomas of the Society and to make recommendations thereon to the Executive Council. Members: Mr Bruce Frazer (Convenor), Mrs Linda Gaul (Chairman), Mr Alan Mair (Vice Chairman), Mr Alex Gray, Miss Lesley Martin, Mrs Elma McCausland, Mrs Helen Frame.

In attendance: Mrs Eileen Watt

The Committee usually meets three times a year.

The Examiners' Seminar held in October 1999 was very successful, with 18 examiners attending, in addition to ex officio and other members of the Examinations Committee. This resulted in a paper reviewing the examination system, which was submitted to the Executive Council for consideration in May 2000. Many of the paper's recommendations were simply a formalisation of current practice, some were a logical progression from existing or approved procedures, and there were a few that had administrative and/or cost implications. In this latter group, there was a decision that the maximum class size for both PT and TC is 14, and that the recommended course time for both PT and TC is 40 hours, with candidates attending a minimum 30 hours. The proposal for a dancing proficiency test has been taken forward, this may be tested at Summer School 2001. After a trial period, consideration will be given to its role as preparation for entry into the Preliminary Test course.

The Potential Tutors' course held at Summer School was very well received, and it is hoped this will become a regular feature at Summer School. Plans are well advanced for a Teaching Skills course to be held in Edinburgh in February 2001, and it is hoped that a Tutors' course will be held at Summer School 2001.

Examination tours to Australia and Japan took place in 2000, and arrangements are under way for tours to New Zealand and North America in 2001. Guidelines on overseas exam tours have been drafted and will be finalised for the 2001 tours.



Linda Gaul, steering the ship very carefully?

This photograph was taken when our Chairman was visiting Boston and participated in their 50th Anniversary events.

Publications & Research Committee

Functions: To arrange for the publication of such instructional literature and other relevant material as may be deemed to be in the interests of the Society, subject to the approval of the estimated expenditure by the Finance Committee and to the approval of the Executive Council. To conduct and to encourage research in furtherance of the objects of the Society.

Members: Mr Alan Mair (Convenor, Vice Chairman), Mrs Linda Gaul (Chairman), Mr Alan Macpherson (Archivist), Mrs Barbara Gibbons, Mrs Anne Gordon, Miss Rosemary Gordon-Harvey, Ms Muriel Johnstone, Mr Peter Knight, Miss Angela Young.

In attendance: Ms Elspeth Gray

The Committee usually meets six times a year.

Many thanks are due to Rosemary Gordon-Harvey for acting as committee secretary for a period of months.

This has been an extremely busy year for the Committee, with a number of publications and recordings being produced. Publications included a Commemorative Edition of Book 1 - a replica of Mrs Ysobel Stewart's personal copy of Book 1; this year's subscription copy, Book 41 - The Millennium Dances; and "Any Good Tune", a book of alternative tunes compiled by Muriel Johnstone. CDs released this year included the CD to accompany Book 41; re-releases of the music for Books 1, 19 and 39 on CD; and "With the Music, Ready and.." - music for step and formation practice. Donations have been received from several branches and individuals towards the transfer of recordings to digital format and plans are progressing for further re-releases next year.

The subscription copy for 2001 will be a Pocket Edition of Books 39-41, and a call has now gone out for dances for subscription copy 2002.

Book 3 has been revised and will soon be reprinted. The revision of Pocket Edition 1-3 is almost complete, and the Leaflet Dances are also currently being revised. A formal system is now in place for filing any correspondence regarding errors or suggested changes to dance instructions, so that they can be considered when the appropriate publication is revised.

The Archivist continues to maintain the ever-growing archive of material, and provides responses to members' queries.

Summer School Committee

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

Members: Mrs Johan MacLean (Director), Mrs Linda Gaul (Chairman), Mr Alan Mair (Vice Chairman), Dr Ian Hall, Mrs Atsuko Clement, Mrs Moira Stacey, Mrs Rachael Wilton.

In attendance: Mrs June Dick

The Committee usually meets three times a year.

895 dancers attended the Summer School in St Andrews, Scotland this year. There were participants from 34 countries excluding the UK, amongst which were Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Monte Carlo, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, The Netherlands, Uganda, USA and Zimbabwe.

The School returned to its usual venue of University Hall, but because of building work in Wardlaw wing, some participants were housed in other residences. Two new courses, a Musicians' Course and a Potential Tutors' Course, were introduced this year and both were a great success. In addition to the morning and afternoon classes and evening social dancing, there were talks by Dr Alastair MacFadyen, Mr Robert Mackay and also by a Chartered Physiotherapist. For the first time also, a masseuse was available to provide foot massage. Special Millennium events were held, including a dinner attended by our President, Lord Mansfield.

Winter School in Pitlochry, Scotland in February 2000 was also a great success, with 120 participants. In addition to the usual morning and afternoon classes and social dancing, a ball was held in the splendid surroundings of Blair Castle, seat of the 11th Duke of Atholl. The Committee was pleased to announce that the Winter School will be repeated in 2001.

Youth Committee

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

Members: Mrs Fiona Turnbull (Youth Director), Mrs Linda Gaul (Chairman), Miss Lorna Ogilvie, Mr Andrew Kellett, Mrs Marilyn Watson

In attendance: Mrs Linda Bates

The Committee usually meets three times a year.

The first meeting of this Committee was held in January 2000, and it has since held three meetings. A questionnaire was sent to all branches and affiliated groups to establish a database of those with responsibility for children's interests and activities. Work is going ahead to produce a pack of resource material for teachers, aimed at the 5-14 age group, in partnership with Learning and Teaching Scotland. A model Code of Practice has been produced for branches in line with the requirements of the UK Children's Act. The Committee's request for two 50% scholarships to the Society's Summer School, for university students, was approved by the General Purposes Committee. There are plans for a section of the website aimed specifically at children, teenagers and young adults, and also for a Newsletter directed at Youth Co-ordinators.

Minutes of 70th Annual General Meeting – 1999

held in The Meadowbank Sports Arena, Edinburgh on Saturday, 6 November 1999

PRESENT

Office Bearers: Mrs L Gaul (Chairman), Mr A Mair (Vice Chairman), Lt. Col. (retd.) M Muriel Gibson (Hon. Vice President).
Past Chairmen: Mr A Aitkenhead, Mr J B C Brown, Mr W Clement, Mr G Lawson, Dr A MacFadyen, Miss A W Miller.
214 delegates and 216 observers were also present.

In Attendance: Mr D Watson (Finance Convenor), Miss G Parker (Secretary), and Mrs M Jeffcoat (Treasurer).

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from our President, Lord Mansfield; Honorary Vice Presidents, Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel, The Honorable Peregrine Moncreiffe of Moncreiffe and The Earl of Elgin; and from 5 delegates.

Opening Remarks

The Chairman introduced Councillor Mrs Marion Morton, Deputy Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, who was attending the opening of the meeting on behalf of the Lord Provost, (Honorary President of RSCDS Edinburgh Branch).

Councillor Morton said that it was a pleasure to bring the greetings of the City of Edinburgh Council. It was also great to see the RSCDS in such good health with so many people attending the Annual General Meeting. Mrs Morton had, she said, had her first contact with Scottish country dancing when aged six. She had been taught dancing at gym and had raced home to tell her parents "We learned a new dance today the Rushing Red Admiral" and to this day she always thinks of the Dashing White Sergeant with great enjoyment.

Councillor Morton explained that when she was invited to speak at events she often found word association was helpful. When she had done this for Scottish country dancing she had come up with kilts, weddings, ceilidhs and exiles, but Scottish country dancing was much more than this, it had a vital part to play in Scottish culture. The Society had a role in preserving and enhancing the traditions of Scotland and in so doing fulfilled the quotation "Happy is the nation with a living tradition of music and dance".

The Deputy Lord Provost went on to say that she would try to ensure that all Edinburgh schools were able to participate in traditional dancing and sent greetings from the Council.

Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed the many members, both delegates and observers, who showed a committed interest in the affairs of our Society. She particularly welcomed those who had travelled from overseas, the Past Chairmen and Lt. Col. (retd.) Miss Muriel Gibson (Honorary Vice President).

The Chairman also welcomed the members, who, through their inspiration, guidance and sheer hard work, had contributed much to the success of our Society in all corners of the world and who would receive the Society's Scroll of Honour.

Message from the Society Patron, Her Majesty The Queen

The message from our Patron read as follows:

"I was pleased to receive your kind message of greetings sent on behalf of the members of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. As Patron of the Society, I thank you for your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and send my best wishes to all those concerned for a successful gathering."

Signed *Elizabeth R*

Presentation of the Society Scrolls of Honour

Mrs Gaul began by paying tribute to Iain Stuart Robertson who had given generously of his many talents to the Society, and in particular his artistic skills when producing designs for the Scrolls and record sleeves. Those who knew Iain would be saddened to hear of his sudden death on October 17th.

Mr Bill Clement, the Immediate Past Chairman presented Scrolls of Honour to the following recipients:

Mr John Drewry	Mr David and Mrs Betty Grant
Mr Ian Hall	Mrs Bessie Kemp
Mrs Noreen MacLennan	Mrs Elma See

Mrs Heather Byers and Mr Bernard Kaiman were presented with their scrolls locally.



Scroll Recipients

Minutes of Meeting of 7 November 1998

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously.

Appointment of Office Bearers

Honorary President:

The Earl of Mansfield, D.L., J.P. was unanimously re-elected as President of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

Honorary Vice Presidents:

It was unanimously agreed to reappoint the following Honorary Vice Presidents of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society:

Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel K.T.
Lt. Col. (retd.) M. Muriel Gibson
The Honorable Peregrine Moncreiffe of Moncreiffe
The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine K.T., C.D.



Office Bearers and Secretary with the Deputy Lord Provost at AGM, 1999

Chairman:

Mrs Linda Gaul was confirmed as Chairman of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

Vice Chairman:

The appointment of Mr Alan Mair as Vice Chairman of the Society was unanimously approved.

Election of Six Members to the Executive Council

The following four members were elected to the Executive Council for the period 1999/2000:

Miss Dorothy Hamilton

Mr Andrew Kellett

Miss Lesley Martin

Mr David Watson

Annual Report

The Annual Report having been printed in Bulletin 77 (pages 4 to 6), Miss Parker gave a summary of the main issues of the year.

The continuing theme for the year was again "communication and change". Some members felt that there had been insufficient progress, while others felt there had been too much. This was the ultimate dilemma for a Society, covering all continents, but representing a Scottish tradition. Since 1995 the Bulletin had changed into a colourful and attractive magazine of interest to all. The Newsbrief had become a welcome part of the dancing year, doubling in size and frequency. The Society now operated a website providing direct communication via e-mail.

A new co-ordinated format for books and recordings had been established, allowing for easier marketing. The Society now had a full set of recordings for the numbered books 1-40 – a project started in 1975. The Publications Committee had released a list of Core Dances – Dancing Through The Decades for the millennium year. A subscription copy of Millennium Dances, an accompanying recording and a commemorative issue of Book 1 will be available in 2000.

The Examinations Committee continued to look at ways of improving the training available for teachers, tutors, adjudicators and examiners. Part of this process had been the recent examiners' seminar, which discussed policy and standards.

The General Purposes Committee was investigating an alternative Society structure to cater to the diverse needs of its members while maintaining a sound financial footing. Teaching visits had taken place this year – to Budapest and Spain, as well as the usual scholarships and youth projects funded by the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund.

This was Marjorie MacRae's last year as Summer School Director. Johan MacLean was to take over as Director shortly. This year, to improve communication, a new daily newsletter had been introduced. A Winter School was to take place in February 2000 after a suggestion raised at a previous Open Forum.

Miss Parker concluded by thanking the office bearers, Committee Convenors, Branch Secretaries, and most especially all of the office staff.

The annual report was unanimously adopted.

Annual Accounts

Mr David Watson, Finance Convenor, presented the accounts.

He explained that the accounts referred to the July 1998 Summer School in the 75th anniversary year, when the Summer School had a very high attendance. This, combined with the exceptional sales of Society goods, publications and recordings, had helped turn an expected deficit into a surplus for the year.

The value of the Society's investments meant that an independent Investment Review Panel had been formed to monitor the performance of our brokers. The report from this panel had been welcomed but had also raised many questions about the Society's investments, which involved long-term financial planning.

Although staffing costs appeared high, the Society still employed fewer staff than 10 years ago, although the workload was greater and increasing. New technology had merely transferred the workload and many members and branches now contacted HQ, expecting instant answers. There were many more committees and meetings than before and to improve communication, more information was being disseminated to the branches.

All this did not come without a cost and went some way to justify the increasing subscriptions. From January 1999 Committees had been asked to produce budget proposals, forming the basis of the Society budget which had been approved by the May Executive Council meeting. Several proposals have been put on hold in an attempt to address part of the budgeted deficit. The global insurance policy took effect as of 1 July and the cost for that will be shown in next year's accounts. It was clear that over the last few years the Society costs had been increasing faster than income. This cannot go on indefinitely and therefore steps were being taken to address this. He concluded by thanking all those who had helped him during his term as Finance Convenor.

The annual accounts as circulated in Bulletin No. 77 (1999) were approved by a majority.

Appointment of Auditor

The reappointment of Mr Humphrey Holmes, C.A., as Auditor was approved by a majority.

YOUTH ISSUES

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the motion agreed at the 1998 AGM was that:

"Membership of the Society shall be open to all persons interested in the objects of the Society." subject to the following:

- (a) that the Executive Council be instructed to propose further amendments to the Constitution to allow for members under the age of 16, and in so doing, to propose suitable terms and conditions of membership;
- (b) implementation of the change to Clause III (1) as per (i) above to await approval of such amendments as are determined in (a) being approved by the Inland Revenue and the Society in General Meeting."

She went on to say that all of the changes to the constitution proposed at this meeting had been approved both by the Inland Revenue in Scotland and the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

The following motion was approved by a majority:

III 1. First sentence to be deleted and replaced with

"Membership of the Society shall be open to all persons over the age of 16, interested in the objects of the Society."

VI (1) (a) add the following as a second sentence:

"Membership of the Executive Council or appointment to any Special Committee hereinafter mentioned is restricted to those aged 18 or over."

Add new sub-clause VI (4) (f)

"Youth Committee – This Committee shall consist of five members, including the Chairman or Vice Chairman and Youth Director. Three members shall form a quorum. The Youth Director shall be the Convenor. The Youth Director shall be elected at the first Executive Council meeting following the Annual General Meeting. Each branch shall be entitled to submit one nomination. The Youth Director shall hold office initially for a period of three years and may extend that term for a further year, but shall not hold office for more than four consecutive years.

Functions – To consider all matters relating to youth issues."

Renumber VI (4) (f) and (g) "VI (4) (g) and (h)"

CHANGES TO MODEL CONSTITUTIONS RELATING TO ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The following motion was carried by a majority:

"Changes to Appendix I, Model Constitution for Local Associations (including Scotland):

II First sentence to be deleted and replaced with:

"The Local Association is an autonomous body consisting of

- (a) members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (hereinafter called "the Society")
- (b) associate members of the Local Association."

IV.1 To be deleted and replaced with:

"Membership of the Local Association shall be open to all persons interested in the objects of the Local Association. Persons over the age of 16 may choose to become a member of the Society. Any member of the Local Association who has attained the age of 18 must be a member of the Society. Only such members as have attained the age of 18 shall have the power to vote."

IV.2 To be deleted and replaced with:

"Persons under the age of 18 may become associate members of the Local Association and the privileges accorded to such associate members shall be regulated from time to time by the Committee of Management of the Local Association."

VI (b).2 To be deleted and replaced with:

"The Committee shall have power to constitute Sub-Committees on an ad hoc basis either from its own membership or by co-opting other members of the Local Association and entrust them with such duties as it considers necessary for the efficient working of Local Association affairs. Such co-opted members shall not have voting powers."

VIII.3 To be deleted and replaced with:

"A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the Chairman or shall be called on a requisition signed by not less than one-tenth of the members of the Local Association entitled to vote when such membership does not exceed 500. Where the voting membership of the Local Association exceeds 500 a minimum of 50 or one sixteenth, whichever is the greater, of the members entitled to vote must sign the requisition calling a Special General Meeting."

VIII.4 To be deleted and replaced with:

"One-quarter of the members entitled to vote or twenty-five members of the Local Association entitled to vote whichever shall be lesser shall constitute a quorum."

XII.1 To be deleted and replaced with:

"The Local Association, in General Meeting shall appoint one of its members or other member of the Society, who, in either event, shall have attained the age of 18, to represent the Local Association on the Executive Council of the Society. Notification of such appointment shall be given to the Secretary of the Society at least eight weeks in advance of the Society's Annual General Meeting. In the event of the nominated representative being unable to attend any meeting of the Executive Council of the Society, an accredited substitute, who shall also have attained the age of 18, shall be allowed."

XII.2 First sentence to be deleted and replaced with:

"The Local Association, in General Meeting, may nominate one of its members, who shall have attained the age of 18, for election as one of the six Members of the Executive Council of the Society who are elected annually by the Society in general meeting."

XII.3 To be deleted and replaced with:

"Subject to any restrictions on numbers and any procedures contained in the Society's constitution, the Local Association in General Meeting, (which failing, the Committee), may appoint a delegate or delegates, all of whom shall have attained the age of 18 years, to attend a general meeting of the Society and represent the Local Association at such meeting. In the event of an appointed delegate being unable to attend such meeting, an accredited substitute, who shall also have attained the age of 18, shall be allowed."

Similar changes, as approved by the Charity Commission for England and Wales, will be made to Appendix II.

Vote of Thanks

In giving the vote of thanks Mrs Helen Frame (Ayr) asked delegates to join her in thanking the Deputy Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh for the empathy she had shown in her speech and the warmth of her welcome. The smooth running of the AGM weekend was due to the hard work of many people, over a long time and congratulations were deserved by Edinburgh branch members and in particular the Branch Chairman Peter Carpenter, the organiser Tom Notman and the committee members.

Thanks were also expressed to the caterers, bands, MCs. and stewards, and to Margo Priestley and Doreen McKerron for a pleasant, instructive and enjoyable class.

Alan Mair and Linda Gaul were thanked for their chairmanship of the Open Forum and Discussion Group sessions in the morning. Thanks were also given to Gill Parker and the HQ staff for the comprehensive papers and for keeping members continuously well informed. Finally, sincere thanks were given to the Chairman for her skilful, efficient and decisive Chairmanship of the meeting and for her humour in steering the meeting through the business of the day.

The Chairman concluded the meeting by thanking all the delegates for ensuring that the meeting had been able to deal with the items on the agenda so easily and reminding members that the next Annual General Meeting of the Society would be on Saturday 4 November 2000 in Troon.

Code of Practice

A Code of Practice drawn up by the Youth Committee for the conduct of children's activities within the RSCDS has been approved and adopted by the Executive Council. The recommendations are offered as a model for Branches, and details can be found on the website (www.rscds.org) or directly from Headquarters.

COURSES FOR 2001

Teaching Skills Course

10-11 February, Edinburgh

Tutor: Elma MacAusland

Musician: James Gray

A new revision course for teachers.

Tutors' Course

22-29 July, 2001 Summer School, St Andrews

This class is only open to fully qualified teachers who have experience in tutoring at least one candidate class for either the Preliminary Test or Teachers Certificate.

Musicians' Course

22-29 July, 2001 Summer School, St Andrews

Following the success of this course at Summer School 2000, it will again be run in 2001. The course is open to anyone over the age of 16 interested in playing for Scottish Country Dancing.

Application forms for courses can be obtained either from your Branch Secretary or from HQ. It is also planned to make these available for downloading from the website.

*Completed forms should be returned to
the Secretary at:*

RSCDS

12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AF

Branch Anniversaries



CAPE TOWN BRANCH

Cape Town Branch is celebrating 50 years of establishment. They have had a busy year to mark their special jubilee, including parties and, in June, the Branch Golden Jubilee Ball. Remarkably, the originator of Scottish Country Dancing in Cape Town, Mrs Kay Gibson, now 80 years old, is still going strong and is Honorary President of the Branch. Pat Baxter, Honorary Branch Secretary says, "Although we are far distant, still many tourists come to visit our lovely city and they are always most welcome to join in any dancing as part of the great Scottish dancing 'family'."

BOSTON BRANCH

Scottish country dancing began in Boston in 1947 with Jeannie Robertson Buchanan Carmichael as teacher and mentor. In April 1950, Boston was granted the first overseas Branch status by the RSCDS. To mark its 50th anniversary this year, the Branch published a booklet of dances and a CD (see reviews, p. 24), and events with the fiftieth anniversary theme included an anniversary party, the Highland Ball and of course the annual Pinewoods Weekend and Week of dancing and music.



AYR BRANCH

It started with an advert published in the Ayrshire Post of 3 March 1925, and now the Ayr Branch is celebrating its 75th anniversary. Around 200 people gathered to enjoy a special dance at Troon Concert Hall, with special guests and a huge birthday cake. Seen here cutting the cake are Honorary President Mrs Margaret Parker and Branch Chairman Andrew McConnell.

MONKLANDS BRANCH

This year saw the 50th anniversary of Monklands Branch. Special events have included a special Day of Dance, with a class in the afternoon and a dance in the evening, both of which were a great success. Pictured are some of the youngsters (doing some RSCDS advertising!) at their special event.



2000-2001 Branch Workshops

WORKSHOP	BRANCH	WORKSHOP	BRANCH
2001		<i>April (cont.)</i>	
2000 December 28 -	New Zealand	2001 April 21	N W Craven
<i>January</i>		2001 April 21	Winchester
2001 January 6	Summer School	2001 April 27 - May 1	Vienna
2001 January 6	N W Craven	2001 April 28	Somerset
2001 January 13	The Hague	2001 April 28	South Wales
2001 January 19 - 21	Falkirk	2001 April 28	St. Andrews
<i>February</i>		<i>May</i>	
2001 February	San Diego	2001 May 3 - 5	Tokai
2001 February 3	Carlisle & Border	2001 May 4 - 5	Isle of Islay
2001 February 3	Inverness & District	2001 May 4 - 5	Portrush
2001 February 3	Ottawa	2001 May 4 - 6	East Lothian
2001 February 3 - 4	Cheltenham	2001 May 4 - 6	London (Ontario)
2001 February 10	Cambridge & District	2001 May 12	Leeds
2001 February 10	Cheshire	2001 May 18 - 20	Duns & District
2001 February 10	Stirling	2001 May 18 - 19	Isle of Skye
2001 February 16 - 18	Hawaii	2001 May 18 - 20	Melbourne & District
2001 February 16 - 18	York & North Humberside	<i>June</i>	
2001 February 17	Hamilton (Ontario)	2001 June	Montreal
2001 February 17	Leeds	2001 June 9	The Hague
2001 February 17	Oxfordshire	2001 June 16	Bournemouth
2001 February 17	Perth	2001 June 16	Leeds
2001 February 24	Ottawa	<i>July</i>	
2001 February 23 - 25	Atlanta	2001 July	Boston
2001 February 24 - 25	Tokyo	2001 July 25 - 29	Nova Scotia
<i>March</i>		<i>August</i>	
2001 March	Dundee	2001 August	Cape Town
2001 March	Richmond	<i>September</i>	
2001 March 2 - 4	Winnipeg	2001 September 8	Lochaber
2001 March 3	Birmingham	2001 September 15	Leeds
2001 March 3	Somerset	2001 September 21 - 23	Ottawa
2001 March 3	South Wales	2001 September 22	Ayr
2001 March 9 - 10	Lorn (Argyll)	2001 September 22	Buffalo
2001 March 10	Berks/Hants/Surrey Border	2001 September 29	Manchester
2001 March 10	Leicester	2001 September 29	South Wales
2001 March 10	Liverpool	<i>October</i>	
2001 March 10	Newcastle-Upon-Tyne & Dist.	2001 October	Hamilton & Clydesdale
2001 March 10	Portland (Oregon)	2001 October	Queensland
2001 March 17	Edinburgh	2001 October	Ribble Valley
2001 March 17	Royal Tunbridge Wells	2001 October	San Francisco
2001 March 18	The Hague	2001 October	Sheffield
2001 March 24	Bath	2001 October 6	York & North Humberside
2001 March 30 - April 1	Leeds	2001 October 13	Leeds
<i>April</i>		2001 October 13	London
2001 April	Sacramento	2001 October 20 - 21	Sutton Coldfield
2001 April 6 - 7	Helensburgh & District	2001 October 28 - 29	Northern Virginia
2001 April 7- 9	Washington		
2001 April 20-22	Phoenix		

A Day in the Life of . . .

. . . A Dance Deviser

MY DAY DOES not begin very early but, if I find it hard to sleep during the wee small hours, I might begin mulling over combinations of dance figures. There is, alas, no evidence that anything worthwhile emerges from this - other than perhaps an early return to sleep. Indeed, the early part of the day is mainly concerned with trying to deal with outstanding chores in order that I can plan my day. Doreen's definition of how I plan a day is working out how soon I can escape to the golf course.

The less said about golf the better, other than to say that I can play quite badly without the distraction of thinking about dances. Hence any devising tends to be done in the latter half of the day, especially when we are putting together a programme for a class or social. If, for example, we are planning to teach a particular group of figures and there is nothing immediately available which fits the bill, that is a sufficient spur to see whether I can produce something for the occasion. Music is a big inspiration in itself and when ideas are germinating they are usually developed to a tune which is running through my head.

Once the dance has passed the germination stage, it is invaluable to have a second opinion at hand. Doreen has long experience of assessing ideas of varying quality and will tell me immediately if, for example, I am proposing movements which are more difficult for the ladies than the men. I have a reasonably large collection of dances called "Back to the drawing board" or "It seemed a good idea at the time". Even if ideas survive the first hurdle, a group of willing (and articulate) dancers is needed to try out the result. Comments are essential - especially of a critical kind. On one occasion, when I thought I had worked out something simple but effective, one experienced dancer asked innocently (?) whether I had intended to leave the second couple on the wrong side. Favourable comments at this stage may not be enough; I prefer to ask friendly teachers to try out a new dance. I am grateful for the help I have received in this way; their comments have helped swell the store of buried treasure.



Although comments are essential, one needs to beware of certain words/phrases. "It would make a nice demonstration dance" probably means that it is not social. "It is a dancer's dance" means that it is not suitable for ordinary mortals, and the word "interesting" often means "ugh". What is needed is something more than a dance that works: it has to be a combination of movements that people really want to dance. Stringing together a number of favourite figures could look good on paper but might not add up to a worthwhile whole.

Dancers like dances to flow easily but flow can be overrated. There are many fine traditional dances that only work well with a set of caring dancers who respond to the music. I have no musical ability and it has been a real asset to have come to know a number of helpful musicians. A good tune can lift a moderate dance and a musician with good experience of playing for dancing can advise what type of tune could be suitable.

At the end of the day, one thing I try to avoid is a lengthy session of Scottish dance music. That is one time to listen to something else.

Roy Goldring

(with the assistance of his managing editor/chief, critic/typist/friend, and wife!)

Potential Tutor's Course

SUMMER SCHOOL 2000

HAVING TAUGHT FOR over 27 years I decided to attend the Potential Tutor's course. When I arrived at Summer School, I was pleased to recognise a couple of names from the 11 on the course list. The course comprised two classes each morning: the first covering the practical side of teaching and our own personal dancing, and the second covering the administration of a certificate course, the tutor's role, course content, the examination, music and generally how to enable the candidates to become proficient teachers able to cope with various scenarios.

We were quite a mixed bunch comprising 2 men amongst 9 women, coming from Toronto, Zimbabwe, England and Scotland, plus Junko from Japan with her wonderful hand demonstrations. Suddenly being put on the spot to teach a formation with all its teaching points and then having your peers analyse your performance – politely of course – your 'thinking on the move' certainly went up several gears! One day Bruce acted as a Prelim candidate and taught a lesson which we had to assess. Unfortunately he didn't pass – no sooks amongst us!

Doreen provided great tunes despite certain notes on one piano deciding to play only in silent mode and another day having to compete against the shrieks of a playscheme. Little did she realise when joining us for pre-lunch drinks (as became our forte) that she'd end up explaining our homework: definition of a 'grace' note – extra note, sounds like 'dra' to non musicians – and in front of the tutor! Several of us went to Robert MacKay's music talk and felt that it should be included as part of the Tutor's course.

Thanks to Bruce for providing a great Potential Tutor's course, the first to be a week long. I don't know how it could have been condensed into one day. Thanks also to my 10 peers for the discussions, in and out of class, and general sociability of the course and Summer School.

Sue Porter
Oban

Dances for Publication

Members are invited to submit dances for consideration for the Book that will be produced in 2002 as the Subscription Copy. Since 2001 will be the 70th anniversary of Summer School, the Publications and Research Committee has decided that the book will have a Summer School theme. Dances should therefore have a connection with St. Andrews or with prominent people in St. Andrews.

Please bear the following in mind:

- * The submission must come from a member of the Society
- * The dance must be recent (devised within the last five years), and the link with Summer School explained
- * The dance should be "tried and tested"
- * Dance instructions should be in accordance with the guidelines in the Society's Glossary of Dance Terminology
- * Music
 - The dance can be submitted with music – in this case, the music must be firmly attached
 - The dance can be submitted with a suggested tune
 - If submitted without music or a suggested tune, and subsequently selected, a musician will be asked to provide music

The Publications and Research Committee must receive proposed dances at HQ by 7 May 2001 to allow sufficient time for their consideration.

Examiners' Seminar: October 1999

ASK ANYONE WHO has been through the RSCDS examination process and they will have a story to tell: a candidate remembers how Miss Milligan chatted throughout her exam; a tutor remembers how his most anxious candidate drew the last teaching position in a long day; an examiner remembers the young woman who ran out mid-exam in tears, while another examiner remembers the charming candidate with broken English, who brought to life a tired crowd of stooges. In recent years, the Examinations committee has worked to improve the examination process which it believes is "arguably the most powerful tool which the RSCDS has to ensure its survival....". The emphasis has been on considering "fairness, consistency and minimal stress for the candidate". In August 1995, a brief Examiners' Seminar was held and more recently, the Committee planned another such seminar for October 1999. Former RSCDS Chairman, Bill Clement, urged that the new seminar last for an entire weekend and that financial support be given to both the seminar itself and to enabling overseas examiners to attend. Because of the Society's generous support, both these aims were realized. Every overseas examiner as well as most UK examiners attended this remarkable event.

We were graciously housed in Edinburgh's Apex European Hotel, ate in their excellent dining room and met in their conference rooms. With our physical needs so competently attended to, we were free to devote the entire weekend to the work at hand . . . and work we did! Friday night's session went to well past 10:00pm and on Saturday, having started at 9:00am, we were still hard at work at 11:30pm that night.

Prior to the Seminar, the Committee had made a series of 19 recommendations to adapt and improve all aspects of the examination process. Selected recommendations were presented to the assembled examiners for discussion. I was impressed that the entire Committee also attended the seminar, and they immediately went into session to consider our recommendations when the seminar adjourned on Sunday. It was an even longer weekend for them!

Linda Gaul, RSCDS Chairman and Bruce Frazer, the Examination Committee Convener, welcomed us and gave us a businesslike and thoughtful tone. Elma McCausland had ably organized the Seminar's structure. For each topic under consideration, a senior examiner made introductory remarks about the topic. Then we were broken into small discussion groups and appointed our own secretary. The small discussion group format encouraged all to speak up and there was much debate, some if it quite heated. We found ourselves talking and listening to a wide variety of examiners as the weekend progressed. When the whole group reassembled and the informal minutes were shared, it was usually possible to discern a clear

sense of the examiners' collective wisdom. Those who still dissented were able to stand aside to allow the decision to go forward. It was a highly democratic yet efficient process; no one could accuse the process of stuffiness or rigidity. As a new overseas examiner, I felt comfortable and even proud of this process for all were respectfully heard, yet decisions were taken and recommendations made.

Under Elma's guidance, we considered some written examination papers and discussed how the written work should be weighted in the overall scheme. Bruce led us in a discussion of the Committee's 19 recommendations. We then watched videos of candidates dancing and under Elma's leadership, discussed what we saw, and how we considered and judged the practical dancing component of the exam. One of the most amusing parts of the Seminar was when Lesley Martin and Stanley Wilkie each taught a "stooged" lesson, making deliberate mistakes for us to catch and discuss. It was hilarious - watching master teachers make elementary mistakes, yet both were so effective as teachers that even their frequent "mistakes" hardly compromised their lessons. We were reminded that good teachers aren't just made, but also born! On Saturday evening, Brenda Burnell led us in complex discussion of the assessment form used to record a candidate's performance. We struggled into bed well past midnight. Sunday morning saw us hard at it, under Johan MacLean's guidance, discussing the assessment of tutors. Bruce Frazer and Elma McCausland wrapped up the seminar with final discussions, summaries and recommendations. Shortly after we adjourned, the Committee which had listened to, and even joined in the deliberations, went into session and approved almost all of the examiners' recommendations. These were sent on to the Executive Council for consideration.

My impressions of the Seminar were uniformly positive. The seminar was a needed event and the chance to meet, share and co-ordinate procedures was invaluable to this new examiner. As with so many RSCDS events, I was delighted with the friendliness and warmth of the group and equally impressed with the dedication and hard work of every attendee. The Seminar format was fair, open and very professional. As one of the newer examiners, I felt respected and listened to. It was an exhausting process but I believe the examination process will in fact be fairer and more consistent, and as a result of the first two, less stressful for candidates. That was the aim.

Geoffrey Selling
NORTH AMERICAN EXAMINER

Courses for teachers

MAINTAINING THE STANDARDS of dancing has always been a priority for the RSCDS and so in 1994 the Society ran its first course for candidate tutors with this aim in mind. It was also hoped that it would reduce the tension for teacher candidates by making it clearer to the tutors what was expected of them.

Following the success of this first course, subsequent courses were divided into Potential Tutors (for those aspiring to taking a candidate class for the first time) and Tutors (for those going on to take further candidate classes particularly involving the Teaching Certificate). Courses were run in Edinburgh in February or March and lasted one day. Experience has shown that one day is not sufficient and although interest in the courses is high (representatives from Europe and Japan have attended), recently there have not been sufficient numbers to support two courses in February and March. The Examinations Committee has therefore extended the courses to last for two days, and this year for the first time is planning to hold a Potential Tutor's course during the fourth week of Summer School so that the opportunity of attending may be opened to a wider audience.

Applications for the Summer School course have been encouraging and it is hoped that this will become a regular feature of the School programme, but again to give everyone a fair chance of attending, courses will be cycled between Summer School and Edinburgh in

February/March. The Examinations Committee also recognises that some teachers may well wish to brush up their teaching skills without intending to run a candidate class and so is introducing a new course in 2001 which will involve practical work. The cycle of courses will be as follows:

2000	Potential Tutors	Summer School
2001	Teaching Skills	February/March, Edinburgh
2001	Tutors	Summer School
2002	Potential Tutors	February/March, Edinburgh

There is of course no reason why Branches or Teaching Associations cannot organise similar courses in addition to those planned above. Indeed candidate tutors are now expected to have attended courses and some overseas courses have already taken place. All you need is an examiner to tutor the course.

The Examinations Committee hopes that through support for these courses both the standard and enjoyment of dancing will be spread through the membership and beyond.

Bruce Frazer

Convenor, Examinations Committee

Letters to the Editor

I often hear of dancers who, like me, really enjoy Scottish dancing, but are plagued by cramps and tight muscles after dances. Probably like you I have also met several who have had hip replacements.

Although I have only been a member of the RSCDS for a few years, I have never seen any correspondence in the RSCDS Bulletin basically about how to take care of your feet nor any advice about suitable 'footwear' or about 'in-soles' for footwear. One does not even hear of guidance to newcomers, that during cold weather they should spend a few minutes 'warming up', to prevent possible foot injury. While most of us usually dance on wooden surfaces there are occasions, even at the Summer School, when the floor provides no give whatsoever.

In almost every other leisure activity and sport in which I have participated – potholing, swimming, riding, dinghy sailing, cross-country running, squash, gliding, flying etc, there is at some time some mention of how to take care of your body to prevent injury. Even those entering Marathons are provided with a wealth of information about suitable footwear and how best to take care of their feet.

Since our feet are probably one of the most important parts of our body during Scottish dancing, I would like to hear from my 'grandfathers and grandmothers' why this subject appears to be taboo?

Freddie Marsh
London

EDITOR'S NOTE: A comprehensive article written by Mr Hardisty, a physiotherapist in St Andrews, appeared in Issue 6 of the Newsbrief. Please contact HQ if you would like a copy.

Dear Sir

This letter is to announce that Santiago Canyon College, in Orange, California, will offer Scottish Country Dance for full college credit beginning in September of this year. I have tried for several years to have various colleges offer this course as part of their curriculum. Now, SCC will give me the opportunity to teach this course. It will be an exciting challenge to not only share this dance form with a broader community, but it will be a further challenge to assemble a demonstration team of college age dancers.

I am, of course, curious as to how many colleges world-wide offer this type of course. Hopefully this college course will encourage the students to become active in RSCDS dance classes.

Yours aye

Donald Karwelis
KCTJ

Ladies' Step Dancing

The following article was written for the Bulletin by Susan Nedderman shortly before her untimely death this year (see obituary, page 25). We are grateful for her husband's kind permission to print the article.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF my first visit to St Andrews in 1952 was Tibbie (Mrs Isobel) Cramb's Ladies Step Dance class. I was enchanted by the grace of her dancing and have remained captivated by Step Dancing ever since.

Tibbie's inspiration came from a notebook written in 1841 by Frederick Hill, a tailor from Alford, containing details of many dances including a dozen Step Dances. The instructions were in obsolete technical terms, but these were interpreted for Mrs Cramb in 1946 by Miss Cruickshank, who in her youth had been the last of a long family of dance teachers in Aberdeenshire, spanning three generations. Since Miss Cruickshank was then in her eighties, she clearly knew of an Aberdeenshire tradition dating back to the early years of the nineteenth century. Miss Cruickshank was insistent that the dances should be performed in a soft balletic style, and it was this style that Mrs Cramb instilled during her classes at St Andrews. She was ably supported on the piano by her friend from Aberdeen, Nan Main, who also composed many of the second tunes.

Step Dancing in Aberdeen originated with Francis Peacock who was appointed by popular request as "sole dancing master within the Burgh of Aberdeen" in 1747 and remained in this office until his death in 1808. He was assisted and succeeded by his friend Archibald Duff, who seems to have toured the county, giving classes in the towns and teaching individuals in the great houses. It is probable that Hill had attended Duff's classes. Duff also published, in 1812, a collection of dance music including the tunes for 27 Step Dances. The titles, such as "Pas seul for Miss Margaret Burnett of Leys" and

"Pas de deux for the Misses Grant of Monymusk" make it clear that many of the dances had been composed specifically for individuals and doubtless consisted of different enchainements of the standard steps. Unfortunately the instructions for many of Duff's dances have not survived.

A Step Dance consists typically of some 6 or 8 steps of 8 bars, often ending with a "close" (chorus). The individual steps recur frequently in many dances and show the combined influences of the Scottish, French and Irish traditions.

Many of the Dance Masters had their annual "Publicks" (balls) at which their pupils demonstrated their skills. Also the young ladies of the great houses performed at home to entertain their fathers' guests, dressed in their best gowns and wearing indoor shoes.

The Hill manuscript is not our sole source of Step Dances. Miss Cruickshank taught Mrs Cramb three more. Mrs Little also recalls that she and Miss Milligan attended Dancie Reid's classes, in the afternoon at St Andrews before the war, at which he taught both the Lilt and Blue Bonnets, sometimes playing the fiddle as he danced! The Rose of Benbecula is adapted from a dance found in Canada by Mrs MacNab and Callum Brogach was given to Mrs Cramb by Florence Niell, whose grandfather James had taught it to the Queen Mother.

Tibbie did not usually teach for both fortnights at St Andrews but always insisted that the other teacher was well skilled in ballet. Notable amongst these other teachers were Mrs Elizabeth West, Mrs Hope Little and Mrs Vera Davidson and, in later years, Miss René Fidler, Miss Wendy West and Mrs Esmé Randall.

Mrs Cramb was fascinated by Duff's music for the Pas de deux for the Misses Grant of Monymusk, for which the original instructions are lost, and in the early 60's invited her class to compose a dance to it. Others have similarly composed dances in this tradition in recent times. Mrs Little published a set of 10 dances in 1997. René Fidler has composed some half dozen dances including the Thistle and the Rose. Other modern dances include Lammas Day (Rita Quirk), the Etterick Jig (Vera Davidson) and L'Hirondelle (Esmé Randall).

Within the field of Step Dancing, as in all other aspects of human endeavour, it is futile to believe that there was once a Golden Age of uniform perfection. Inevitably the selection and style of the dances, as well as dress and footwear, differed from district to district, teacher to teacher and time to time. What Miss Cruickshank's family tradition and the Hill manuscript have given us is the style of dancing in Aberdeenshire in the early years of the nineteenth century. Miss Cruickshank's insistence on the soft balletic style is all the more convincing, since that period was a time during which grace and elegance were much prized. Moreover, this style of dancing has merit in its own right and its continuation is a just tribute to the pioneering work of Mrs Cramb, to the assistance she received from Miss Cruickshank, and to Dr Milligan's encouragement.

Susan Nedderman

THE YOUTH COMMITTEE LIKES JAM?? - read on

Summer School rocked!

No – not at St Andrews but Wanganui in January – according to the JAM recipient of the New Zealand Branch Scholarship, Vaudin Cole.

In 1996/7 New Zealand Branch appointed a Junior Associate Membership Committee, JAM, to encourage junior dancers (4-19 years). Over the last three years, membership has risen to 398 (JAM's) with approximately 20 weekly classes. They distribute a regular newsletter entitled **Jigs And More** which is full of lots of lively pictures and competitions to encourage junior dancers. Recently a Senior JAM's page has been introduced. Every two years they organise a Junior Camp (weekend school). The last JAM camp was attended by 120 dancers catered for in four classes and this year they provided JAM classes at four Branch weekend schools.

JAMs played an active part at Summer School 2000 with 14 in the Senior JAM class and 19 in the Junior class. They danced and helped to run the school in many different ways: setting up rooms, welcoming new arrivals, making decorations and leading the singing at Hogmanay.

Vaudin reports that "It was eight days of dancing morning and evening, with lots of other fun activities. In the afternoon there were optional classes in Line Dancing, Folk Dancing, Men's Highland or Ladies Step, as well as the Musicians' workshop. A Fancy Dress night on the theme of The Wizard of Oz turned out some remarkable costumes, like a Tin Man in a kilt and a Lollipop boy. At the Ceilidh, Senior JAMs sang while dressed in duvet covers (accom-

panied by James Gray also wearing a duvet cover), while the Junior JAMs danced as Y2K Bugs. The last day concluded with a Mock Court, during which many people wished they had not done one thing or another during the school!".

(Information supplied by Deanne Corps, New Zealand)

The Society's Youth Committee congratulates New Zealand Branch for their enthusiastic and innovative work with their junior dancers. While every Branch will have different circumstances and priorities, it is hoped that many will follow this example and look for ways of promoting and encouraging the young dancers in their own locality. Information has already been received about many Days of Dance and Festivals for children. The Youth Committee will be pleased to hear about more of these events and to assist with any enquiries.

Ceilidhs are officially cool - so ran a headline in a Scottish newspaper this year. Instead of end of term discos, youngsters are keen to have Scottish sounds and dancing, as an increased awareness and interest in Scottish culture spreads through the nation. The Youth Committee is responding to this by producing a package for teachers in conjunction with Learning and Teaching Scotland. The pack will contain popular party, ceilidh and Scottish country dances and advice to teachers. The emphasis must be on having fun while learning. The complete package will be available by summer 2001.

At the time of writing, **questionnaires** (to Branches, asking

if they have appointed anyone with specific responsibility for youth issues, and what activities are provided or planned for young people) are still arriving and being analysed. At present about half our branches run events for young people. There is a general willingness to do more to encourage young dancers, but the results are patchy with pockets of excellence around the world but disappointing reactions from certain groups.

The Youth Committee is working hard to provide resources and encourage greater communication between groups. It is very rewarding to work with children and see their incredible progress. I quote an American about teaching a class of Mexican children aged 9-11: "It is an energising experience to teach young people". Be positive and proactive. If you enjoy dancing, why not share your enthusiasm with the next generation? There is much to do to ensure the future of our Society and it is in your hands as members.

*'Dancing's happy, dancing's fun,
when you see it nicely done.
Pas de Basque and skip change too,
let's try it now just me and you.*

*We're not allowed to run in class
or shout or scream or make a fuss.
No matter what, we all are friends,
if we make mistakes we make
amends.'*

Compiled by
Fiona Turnbull
Youth Director

RSCDS CATALOGUE

All items subject to availability. Prices as at November 2000.

Full price list and information on discounts available on website or from HQ.

Orders can be placed personally or via your local Branch. Remember to check prices first. Prices shown below are retail, and it may be possible to get a member's or Branch discount. Postage and packing are added to the price. We accept payment by Access, Visa, Delta, JCB and Eurocard, or cheque in £ sterling. **Items *starred* are new this year.**

BOOKS WITH PRINTED MUSIC

Book 1 Commem Edition	£3.50
Books 1 – 12, 14, 16-20, 22-24, 26-30, 32-33, 35, 37-39,	£3.00
Book 13, 15, 21, 25, 31, 34, 36, 40-41*	£3.00
4 SCD 1978	£1.65
5 SCD 1982	£1.75
5 Traditional for 1965	£1.65
MacNab Vol I & II (each)	£5.50
SCD for children	£3.00
Graded Book	£3.00
Leaflet 32	£1.00
Leaflet 33	£2.00

POCKET EDITIONS

4-6; 10-12; 13-15; 16-18; 19-21; 22 & Graded; 23, 24 & 5 Traditional; 25-27; 30, 31 & 5 for 1982 & SCD for Children;	
32 & Leaflets; 33-35	£2.20
7-9; 28, 29 & 4 for 1978;	
36-38	£2.75

BOOKS GENERAL

Album for Mrs Stewart	£3.00
An Introduction to SCD	£3.30
Any Good Tune	£11.75
Core Programme	£2.20
Dance with your Soul	£5.50
Examination Syllabus	£3.00
Glossary of Terminology	£1.00
Hopscotch	£4.40
Index: A5 & PE	£1.75
Index: Formations	£2.20
Manual of SCD	£6.25
Miss Milligan's Miscellany Vols I & II (each)	£3.30
Notes for Tutors	£1.75
SCD Music: alternative tunes for Books 8-14	£5.50
Teaching Syllabus	£1.75
Thirty Popular SC Dances	£2.30

RECORDED MUSIC

Music to accompany all RSCDS books is still available on cassette, but from Book 41 onwards, CDs only will be produced.

CD Compilations:

A Scottish Celebration	£12.00
World of Scottish Dance	£12.00
SCD Favourites Vol I	£12.00
Vol III	£12.00
Tweedside	£12.00
Scottish Reflections	£12.00
Music for Collins Pocket Ref Vol I	£12.00
Vol II	£12.00

CDs from the Books:

75 th Anniversary, Leaflets 32 & 33, 5 for 1965	£12.00
Book 1	£10.00
Book 19	£10.00
Books 23-26 (each)	£12.00
Book 39	£10.00
Book 40 & Children's	Book £12.00
Book 41	£12.00
With the Music, Ready And...	£5.00
Music for Teacher's Certificate Dances	£5.00

Cassettes:

For Books 1 – 40	£2.00
Music for 10 SC Dances	£2.00
Music for 9 SC Dances	£2.00
Music for 8 SC Dances	£2.00
Music for 8 SCD – 1987	£2.00
Songs & Music of Scotland	£2.00
Thirty Popular (I & II) (each)	£2.00
Music for Prelim Test Dances	£2.00
Music for SCD for Children	£2.00
Music for Teaching	£2.00
Step Dances at Scotland	£2.00
Talks at Summer School	£2.00

VIDEOS

	PAL	NTSC
Books 32/33/34	£ 8.50	£10.00
Books 35/36	£10.00	£12.00
Books 37/38	£10.00	£12.00
Book 39	£ 8.50	£10.00
How do you do it?	£10.00	£12.50

ACCESSORIES

Badges, Children's	£0.15
Baseball cap – one size	£4.00
Binder	£3.00
Book Mark – Leather	£1.00
Brooches:	
Dancer on blue enamel	£12.50
RSCDS blue on white	£2.25
Silver crown, millennium hallmark	£40.00
Saltire flag, metal	£0.80
Car Sticker, RSCDS	£0.50
Car Sticker, Saltire	£0.50
Cross Stitch Bookmark Kit	£6.00
Cuff Links	£11.50
Eraser	£0.25
Gift Voucher	£5 & £10
Hose Flashes, all colours	£9.00
Key Ring:	
Blue on white	£1.25
Leather	£1.50
Kilt Pin	£9.75
Mouse Mat	£3.00
Notelets – pack of 10	£2.50
Pencil with eraser	£0.30
Pen	£0.20
Postcards (each)	£0.20
Post-it Notes	£1.25
Purse Wallet	£2.50
Sash – silk, Strathspey tartan	£97.70
Scarf Ring	£9.00
Serviettes, pack of 25	£2.50
Shoe Bag:	
Plastic	£0.10
Calico with logo	£4.00
Slip Stop:	
Small	£2.00
Medium	£7.50
Sporran Flask	£36.00
Stick Pin	£1.55
Tea Towel	£3.20
Ties, various	£7.00
T Shirt, millennium	£5.00
Tie Pin	£5.50
Umbrella:	
Gents (golf style)	£13.50
Ladies	£9.50

DONATIONS

As always, we are very grateful to the many members and branches who have given donations to the Society, whether to the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund, the General Fund or for a specific project. All are much appreciated and contribute towards funding many of the Society's varied activities – without this funding, many projects would not have been possible.

THE JEAN MILLIGAN MEMORIAL FUND

The Jean Milligan Memorial Fund was established in December 1978 in memory of Miss Jean Milligan, the Society's co-founder. Members should be aware that a stipulation of the Fund is that only the interest accruing from the Fund can be used for grants for funding of projects. The capital donated is secured to provide for future income. The Fund continues to benefit from donations and legacies from a variety of sources, and all donations are gratefully accepted. The General Purposes Committee is responsible for expenditure from the Fund, and in doing so considers each application carefully to ensure that the funds available are distributed to benefit as wide a range of projects as possible.

We are very grateful for all donations, no matter how large or small. All those who kindly donated £20 or more to the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund in 1999/2000 are listed below:

Cambridge Scottish Society, in memory of Susan Nedderman	£25
Eva Marie Hirst	£1,000
Frimley Green Scottish Country Dancing Class	£105
Malvern Scottish Dancing Club, in memory of Spencer Noble	£50
Scottish Country Dancing Torrevieja	£240
In memory of Jean Holms, from friends in Orangefield, Ontario	£50
RSCDS Dundee Branch Club & Strathtay Club, in memory of William Sime	£100
In memory of James Taylor	£1,000
In memory of Susan Nedderman	£392
Sussex Association of Scottish Societies, in memory of Dennis Milne Bowden of Brighton	£50

Thank you also to those who organised and donated to the raffles at Summer School, E McHardy, D Buchanan, P Gillies, J Johnston, E Carlyle, F Smith, M Haynes, K Gray, S Barnes, which contributed a total of £1,220.20 to the fund. The total donated for the year was £4,318.

Among the grants made by the General Purposes Committee during the year 1999/2000 were:

- Toronto Branch* – contribution towards a music course
- Sacramento Branch* – contribution towards a Youth Workshop
- Aberdeen Branch* – grant for a Children's Day School

ATA – assistance towards costs of a Teachers' residential training course

Canberra & District Branch – contribution towards Winter School activities

North West Craven Branch – assistance with funds for a Teachers' certificate class

East Angus Branch – grant towards funding musicians for children's event

THE GENERAL FUND

Donations to the general funds can be used for a number of purposes, and come in many forms. This year, for example, it was decided to formalise the process of committee members who choose not to claim expenses, so that they can now opt to donate their expenses to general funds.

DONATIONS FOR TRANSFERS TO CD

The Society requested donations for the specific project of transferring recordings to CD, and we have been delighted by the response. The cost of a straightforward re-mastering is approximately £1,500, and a re-recording is approximately £5,000. We are very grateful to the following for their kind donations which have seen this project make significant progress:

In memory of Herbert Wiseman	£1,500
Royal Tunbridge Wells Branch	£100
Bournemouth Branch	£50
Edinburgh Branch	£1,500
Perth Branch	£1,500
Miss Marion Brown, Lockerbie	£10
New Zealand Branch	£150
Liverpool Branch	£100
Edinburgh Branch	£1,460
Mrs Yasumuro	£552
Glasgow Branch	£750
St Andrews Branch	£1,500

GIFT AID

Members in the UK may be interested to know that any amount can now be donated under Gift Aid. Guidelines on this, and a form for those who wish to donate money in this way, will shortly be available from HQ. Please contact the Secretary for more details.

LEGACIES

An information leaflet on legacies is being prepared for those who may consider leaving a donation to the RSCDS in their will. Again, this will shortly be available, and the Secretary can be contacted for further information.



R.S.C.D.S. Scholarships

Applications for Scholarships

Scholarships are offered annually by the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund and the Duncan MacLeod Scholarship Fund. Residential fees and examination fees (where appropriate) are covered by the Scholarships but travelling expenses are not covered. A recommendation from the Branch should accompany each application and the Summer School Committee will be responsible for selecting the recipients from the applications received.

No Branch may submit more than one recommendation for any of the five scholarships.

THIS APPLICATION MUST BE RETURNED TO HEADQUARTERS NO LATER THAN 31 DECEMBER.

1. **Teacher's Scholarship**
A Scholarship is offered annually to Members who wish to attend Summer School with a view to taking the Teacher's Certificate. A report from class teacher and a recommendation from Branch (to be signed by Branch Chairman and Secretary) with reasons for nomination should be sent with application form.
2. **Preliminary Test Scholarship**
A Scholarship is offered annually to Members who wish to attend Summer School with a view to taking the Preliminary Test. A report from class teacher and a recommendation from Branch (to be signed by Branch Chairman and Secretary) with reasons for nomination should be included with application form.
3. **Junior Scholarship**
A Junior Scholarship is offered annually to Members aged 16-20 years, wishing to attend Summer School. A recommendation from Branch (to be signed by Branch Chairman and Secretary) with reasons for nomination should be included with application form.
4. **General Scholarship**
A General Scholarship is offered to Members wishing to attend Summer School. A recommendation from Branch (to be signed by Branch Chairman and Secretary) with reasons for nomination should be included with application form.
5. **The Duncan MacLeod Scholarship**
The above Scholarship will be offered to a student in (preferably) Physical Education Training. The Scholarship will consist of payment for two weeks Summer School in St. Andrews. The student selected by the Summer School Committee will attend the class preparing candidates for the Preliminary Test for the Teacher's Certificate and will take the Preliminary Test at the end of the course. The examination fee will also be covered by the Scholarship.
6. **John Duckett Scholarship**
A Scholarship funded by the proceeds of the "Green Book". Preferably it will be offered to full-time students aged 16-25.

Please indicate the Scholarship being applied for by ticking the appropriate box below:

1	Jean Milligan Memorial Fund Scholarship for Teacher's Certificate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Jean Milligan Memorial Fund Scholarship for Preliminary Test	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Jean Milligan Memorial Fund Junior Scholarship	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Jean Milligan Memorial Fund General Scholarship	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Duncan MacLeod Scholarship For Student in (preferably) Physical Education Training	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	John Duckett Scholarship For full-time students under 25	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name of Applicant

Address

.....

.....

Date of Birth Branch

Date of Joining the Society

Reasons for Application

.....

.....

CD Players

ONE THING THAT all Scottish country dance classes and events share is the need for music. Unless you are fortunate enough to have live musicians, you will be dependent on the recorded variety. Are you thinking about changing over to CDs? In the following article, Peter Knight gives the benefit of his experience with sound equipment for CD – note that although the companies and contact numbers given are in the UK, it is likely that these or similar pieces of equipment are available elsewhere.

Now that there is such a large choice of music available on CD, it is well worthwhile investigating a CD player. The Society itself has 7 compilation discs, as well as 9 books and the two for the Collins Book (including ceilidh/party dances), and dance music on CD is also available from other sources. It is very easy to build up a collection of 50-60 CDs.

The CD player that I use is the Keytronics Cdi 120 (£843); this uses a Dennon DCD-715 deck which is top of the range with "pitch control" (pitch is just another name for speed in this case) and is fully programmable. The deck is built into a carrying case with a 120 watt amplifier (60 watts each channel), with a further speed control giving +/- 45%. The amplifier has microphone and auxiliary inputs, each with their own volume control, and a CD output for playing through a larger amplifier. It is recommended that it should be used with two full size speakers, enough for a large gym or hall. In smaller halls, I use a pair of "Road Cube" speakers that will take the full power of the amplifier without damage, but are small enough to lock together for carrying (approximately 6.5" cubed) - a very important point when there are several boxes of CDs to carry as well as the player!

Obviously other CD players will differ slightly in the way that they are operated, but the way that I use the Cdi 120 is as follows: - having chosen the dance, insert the CD in the drawer and press "PAUSE" to close the drawer and put the machine in pause mode; key in the track number and press "PROGRAM". Program locks the track you have chosen so that "PLAY", "FAST FORWARD" AND "REWIND" all operate within the track. The advantage of this is that any number of bars can be played, stopped by pressing "PAUSE" and "REWIND", which takes it back to the beginning of the track - all as often as required. At the end of the track, the player automatically stops and rewinds to the start of the track again, very useful when MC-ing and dancing at the same time, as all of the above can be operated from the remote control. Another point of information in using the CD this way - I have heard of people complaining that when starting a track from "STOP", they lose the chord, but have not experienced this when using "PAUSE" first and then "PLAY".

To further enhance the system, I use a radio remote control (£75), which can be bought from any good hi-fi shop. This is very useful for teaching or MC-ing, as it has

a greater range than the normal infra-red and does not have to be pointed directly at the player - it can even be used in the middle of a crowded room. The one disadvantage is the size, as it is too large for a sporran or pocket. (I have had a local saddler make a leather holster for it, and also one for my radio mike, which I wear on my kilt belt.)

Portagram make a 90-watt stereo CD player with speed control and built in amplifier (£764) and Coomber will shortly announce a mono player. The latter is an all in one machine, ie player, amplifier and speaker all in one case, with no extra speakers to carry.

Having started at the top of the market, I will work down. The next best player is a "ghetto blaster" with a speed control. Both Keytronics and Portagram take a standard player of about 60 watts and add a variable speed control for both CD and tape deck; they both sell for about £390. These are light to carry and half the cost of the larger machines but, of course, half the power. To give an idea of power, the 120-watt player with full size speakers on stands can be used in a large hall with 100-

200 chattering people wearing hard shoes. At a

function recently, a "ghetto blaster" at one end could be heard by the demonstration team in the centre, but not by the 80 guests sitting at tables at the other end and talking. If another amplifier is available, a "ghetto blaster" can be played through it.

Further down again is a "ghetto blaster" from a High Street store. Speed control is not available but make sure that you can key in the track number and not just "skip". This is essential if you are going to use the Society's new CD for teaching "With the music, Ready and" (thank you for the plug - Editor). As this has 78 tracks, "skipping" would be difficult.

To re-cap: for use in a large hall for weddings/birthday parties etc, a 120-watt machine with a microphone (I would recommend a radio mike) is essential. For the average class, a good "ghetto blaster" will suffice, preferably with speed control.

And finally - another gadget that has just come on to the market, and worth considering if you have a noisy crowd or weak voice, is a "Belt Blaster" (£69). This is a small amplifier on a belt, with a microphone that can be worn on a headband or suspended round the neck. It is not as powerful as a microphone through an amplifier, but is a lot cheaper than a radio mike with the same freedom from wires.

Keytronics Ltd: 07000 823594
Portagram Ltd: 020 8449 4183
Coomber Ltd: 01905 25168

Peter Knight

Reviews

Review of CD for Book 41 – David Cunningham

The Society's recordings enter the new millennium with an excellent CD from one of our finest bands. The sound is full and well-rounded, with a good balance between the two accordions, piano and drums. The pace is just right for dancing and the music has a lift which will keep the dancers going through even the longest dances. Alternative tunes have been carefully chosen to complement

the originals, with a wide selection of mainly 20th century compositions featured, although our old friend "Trad" makes a few appearances as well. This recording is to be recommended whether you use it in class or just listen to it while relaxing at home.

Andrew McConnell

Review of CD "Gang on the Same Gate", by Green Ginger

I like very much the consistently good tempo throughout this recording as well as the variety of interesting tunes, many of which are not particularly well known. There is a good spread of composers, the most prolific of whom is the mysterious "Trad". Then there are tunes ranging from past masters such as Marshall, Mackintosh, Porteous and Skinner, to a few by a modern composer/fiddler Ian Hardie, and some by Cas Sloan & Meryl Thomson, members of the band.

Many of the bands I hear on "Take the Floor" on Radio Scotland make little attempt to play tunes matching the original (even if they play that!). This trio's efforts in this respect are, I think, exemplary. Being a devotee of traditional-type strathspeys, I enjoyed immensely the selections for "Lady Lucy Ramsay" and "Gang the Same Gate" – the kind of tunes I call the 'soul' music of Scottish country dancing! The lovely, lilting music for the jigs gives a fine feeling of ease of movement in "Mr Morison",

"Mrs Stewart's Jig", and "The Leith Country Dance". The tunes for "The Reel of the Gordon Highlanders", "Shiftin' Bobbins", "West's Hornpipe", "The Triumph" and "Not I" are stimulating and lively without being rushed.

I was impressed by the selection of named dances because most of them, I feel, could be danced by anyone with knowledge of basic steps and formations – no modern orienteering skills required! There are also good general selections of jigs, reels and strathspey airs in addition to two listening tracks – a fine medley and a set of slow airs.

In these days of accordion-dominated bands and midi-systems it is an unusual treat to have two fiddlers and a pianist making up a band. On the evidence of this CD, Green Ginger is a name to remember.

Joe Murphy

Review 3 (Boston Branch Book & CD – Fifty Years of Dancing with the Boston Branch)

Boston Branch was the first overseas Branch of the Society in 1950 and has celebrated its 50th Anniversary in style with a book of dances and accompanying CD.

A simple tartan cover with writing on it may not sound particularly innovative but the choice of font and colour to tone with the tartan, together with the use of high gloss paper, gives an immediate impression of quality.

Regrettably, I have not had an opportunity to try out any of the dances, but the mixture appears to be excellent with 2, 3, 4 and 5 couple dances and a good range from relatively straightforward to more complex.

The jewel, however, is the CD. Not only a companion to the book of dances, but a panorama of the quality and quantity of Scottish music, particularly fiddle playing, in the US. Sixteen tracks

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Congratulations to Boston Branch and their 50th Anniversary project team. Here's to the next 50!

Jim Healy

Obituaries

Mrs TIHI WEST (1907-2000)

In March, the RSCDS suffered a very sad loss with the death of Mrs Tihi West of Elgin. Many members will have very happy memories of Tihi's teaching at the Summer School and at weekend schools. Having attended the first Summer School of 1927, she was recruited to the teaching staff the following year and for the next fifty years or so, she generously offered to attending members the benefit of her considerable knowledge and experience of dancing.

Tihi was one of the highest qualified ballroom dancers in Scotland, having been a pupil of Victor Sylvester in London. She took Highland dancing lessons from the famous dancer and teachers, J A Pirie of Aberdeen. In her home town of Elgin, for more than sixty years and with great success, she taught all forms of dancing - ballroom, Latin American, old time, Scottish country dancing, Highland and tap. She taught Scottish country dancing at Gordonstoun, the school attended by the Prince of Wales, at the invitation of the school's founder, Kurt Hahn. In 1934, Tihi was a founder member of the Scottish Dance Teachers' Alliance.

RSCDS members were truly privileged to be able to benefit from Tihi's enviable range of dancing and teaching experience. Her classes in Highland, country dancing, ballroom and Ladies

Step will be remembered not only as valuable learning opportunities, but also as occasions of great fun and jollity. In fact, whenever or wherever Tihi was present, there was sure to be lots of fun and laughter and she was especially gifted in her ability to communicate to her classes the joy and pleasure of dance.

RSCDS members who were privileged to have known Tihi West will long cherish her memory and be ever grateful for what they learned from her.

Sincere condolences are extended to Wendy, a loyal and loving daughter and, in her mother's later years, a devoted companion and carer.

Alastair MacFadyen



IAIN STUART ROBERTSON

Iain Stuart Robertson, who died on 17 October 1999, was a well-known member of the Society, joining Edinburgh Branch in the mid-1940's.

Iain will be remembered as a leading member of the Edinburgh Branch Demonstration Team, in which he danced a number of times on the television programme "The Kilt is my Delight" starting in 1956. During the 1950's Iain and the team danced at many receptions for UK and overseas visitors. The highlight was the performance on the forecourt of the Palace of Holyroodhouse during the Queen's visit each June. Iain was presented to Her Majesty on a number of occasions. He also danced in the first performance of "An Edinburgh Fancy", a theatrical show presented by the Branch during the Edinburgh International Festival. In later performances he was the baritone soloist, frequently accompanying himself on the clarsach. Iain was also a member of The Saltire Music Group who gave performances during the International Festival and for many years trained the army dancers for performances during the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, for which he devised the dance "Dancing on the Ramparts" and composed the music for the dance.

In 1949, Iain was a member of the Society's first post-war International Team, which attended the Venice Festival. In the years that followed, the team attended other festivals in Europe such as Nice, Holland, Norway, Biarritz and Pamplona in Spain. Iain's command of languages, in particular his fluent French, was of tremendous assistance to Miss Milligan.

In 1956, Miss Milligan and the Society co-operated with the production of the film "Scotland Dances". Iain not only danced

with his partner Sheila Cameron in the Edinburgh Team's contribution but also sang mouth music for the team dancing "The Hebridean Weaving Lilt". He was a member of the team which first danced "The Duke & Duchess of Edinburgh" in front of the Queen, who was then The Princess Elizabeth, and The Duke of Edinburgh.

Iain was devoted to Miss Milligan, and gave so much help both to her and to the Society. Iain moved south in 1963 to Sherborne, but maintained his house in Edinburgh, frequently returning on holiday.

The maps in the entrance hall at the Society's HQ are his work, as are the Society's Scrolls and Certificates and other artwork. Iain also composed many dances and tunes, such as "Major Hamish Robertson", "Maidie Logie Robertson" (alternative tunes for "The Robertson Rant") and "The Queen Mother's Progress", "Dame Diane's Delight" being tunes for the dance which Iain devised "Her Majesty is Welcome".

For about 10 years, he returned to teach at the Society's Summer School, where he became fully involved organising the Sunday evening hymn singing and being master of ceremonies at the Friday night Ceilidhs. At the ceilidhs, Iain might play his clarsach and sing a favourite song of Miss Milligan's - Sina Bhan (Sheena Van).

Iain was very generous with his talents, and Miss Milligan and the Society were the appreciative beneficiaries. The Society has lost someone who cannot easily be replaced.

Robert Mackay/Bill Clement

SUSAN NEDDERMAN (Died May 2000)

In Susan Nedderman, the Society, and particularly Cambridge & District Branch, has lost a dedicated teacher and supporter of the traditions of the RSCDS.

Although in her younger days she was an excellent dancer herself, she will chiefly be remembered as an inspiring teacher to many generations of students in Cambridge, a large number of whom she encouraged to become teachers themselves. Recognising the importance of bringing young people into the Society who would then disperse to play leading roles in branches elsewhere, she worked hard to achieve co-operation between the Branch and Cambridge University Strathspey and Reel Club.

Susan ran certificate classes in Cambridge for 20 years, attracting candidates from as far afield as Kent, Wiltshire, Birmingham

and Northallerton. She rarely missed a Summer School, often organising a group of younger dancers to accompany her.

Another of her passions was ladies' step dancing, emphasising the soft balletic style recovered by her friend Tibbie Cramb from Miss Cruickshank. As with country dancing, she helped to keep this tradition alive, teaching it both in Cambridge and at day schools.

Susan's contribution to Scottish Country Dancing was recognised by the Society, which awarded the Scroll of Honour. She will be very much missed, but her memory will live on in the love of dancing and its traditions that she passed on to so many.

Kate Gentles

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Iain Stuart Robertson, who died on 17 October 1999, was a well-known member of the Society, joining Edinburgh Branch in the mid-1940's.

Iain will be remembered as a leading member of the Edinburgh Branch Demonstration Team, in which he danced a number of times on the television programme "The Kilt is my Delight" starting in 1956. During the 1950's Iain and the team danced at many receptions for UK and overseas visitors. The highlight was the performance on the forecourt of the Palace of Holyroodhouse during the Queen's visit each June. Iain was presented to Her Majesty on a number of occasions. He also danced in the first performance of "An Edinburgh Fancy", a theatrical show presented by the Branch during the Edinburgh International Festival. In later performances he was the baritone soloist, frequently accompanying himself on the clarsach. Iain was also a member of The Saltire Music Group who gave performances during the International Festival and for many years trained the army dancers for performances during the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, for which he devised the dance "Dancing on the Ramparts" and composed the music for the dance.

In 1949, Iain was a member of the Society's first post-war International Team, which attended the Venice Festival. In the years that followed, the team attended other festivals in Europe such as Nice, Holland, Norway, Biarritz and Pamplona in Spain. Iain's command of languages, in particular his fluent French, was of tremendous assistance to Miss Milligan.

In 1956, Miss Milligan and the Society co-operated with the production of the film "Scotland Dances". Iain not only danced

with his partner Sheila Cameron in the Edinburgh Team's contribution but also sang mouth music for the team dancing "The Hebridean Weaving Lilt". He was a member of the team which first danced "The Duke & Duchess of Edinburgh" in front of the Queen, who was then The Princess Elizabeth, and The Duke of Edinburgh.

Iain was devoted to Miss Milligan, and gave so much help both to her and to the Society. Iain moved south in 1963 to Sherborne, but maintained his house in Edinburgh, frequently returning on holiday.

The maps in the entrance hall at the Society's HQ are his work, as are the Society's Scrolls and Certificates and other artwork. Iain also composed many dances and tunes, such as "Major Hamish Robertson", "Maidie Logie Robertson" (alternative tunes for "The Robertson Rant") and "The Queen Mother's Progress", "Dame Diane's Delight" being tunes for the dance which Iain devised "Her Majesty is Welcome".

For about 10 years, he returned to teach at the Society's Summer School, where he became fully involved organising the Sunday evening hymn singing and being master of ceremonies at the Friday night Ceilidhs. At the ceilidhs, Iain might play his clarsach and sing a favourite song of Miss Milligan's - Sina Bhan (Sheena Van).

Iain was very generous with his talents, and Miss Milligan and the Society were the appreciative beneficiaries. The Society has lost someone who cannot easily be replaced.

Robert Mackay/Bill Clement

SUSAN NEDDERMAN (Died May 2000)

In Susan Nedderman, the Society, and particularly Cambridge & District Branch, has lost a dedicated teacher and supporter of the traditions of the RSCDS.

Although in her younger days she was an excellent dancer herself, she will chiefly be remembered as an inspiring teacher to many generations of students in Cambridge, a large number of whom she encouraged to become teachers themselves. Recognising the importance of bringing young people into the Society who would then disperse to play leading roles in branches elsewhere, she worked hard to achieve co-operation between the Branch and Cambridge University Strathspey and Reel Club.

Susan ran certificate classes in Cambridge for 20 years, attracting candidates from as far afield as Kent, Wiltshire, Birmingham

and Northallerton. She rarely missed a Summer School, often organising a group of younger dancers to accompany her.

Another of her passions was ladies' step dancing, emphasising the soft balletic style recovered by her friend Tibbie Cramb from Miss Cruickshank. As with country dancing, she helped to keep this tradition alive, teaching it both in Cambridge and at day schools.

Susan's contribution to Scottish Country Dancing was recognised by the Society, which awarded the Scroll of Honour. She will be very much missed, but her memory will live on in the love of dancing and its traditions that she passed on to so many.

Kate Gentles

Also Sadly Missed . . .

JAMES TAYLOR

Died 24 August 1999

Jim was involved with the RSCDS for many years. Within Stirlingshire Branch, he served as Chairman for many years, and latterly as Branch President. He held the position of Finance Convenor in the Society from 1974–1991; during this time he also served as Vice Chairman, and from 1979–1981 was Chairman of the Society. Amongst his many achievements was promoting the creation of the Jean Milligan Memorial Fund, which continues to benefit many Society activities around the world. Jim was devoted to his family, and was an example to all in his cheerful attitude to life. Jim gave and achieved much for the good of the Society, for which we are thankful.

MARION DONALDSON

Died 24 March 2000

A long time member of the Belfast Branch, Marion served as Chairman, Secretary and Representative to the Executive Council for five years. She taught for the Branch for a number of years, and attended Summer School regularly. Her enthusiasm as Teacher, Committee Member, Dancer and friend will be greatly missed.

NANCY STEPHEN

Died 23 July 1999

Nancy was a well-loved dancer and teacher in both the Glasgow area and in East Kilbride. She conveyed her enthusiasm to all who danced with her, and introduced many people to Summer School, which she attended for many years. She is fondly remembered and greatly missed.

JOHNINA GALLOWAY

Died 4 April 2000

A long time member of Ayr Branch, who served as Branch Secretary for 22 years, Nina was an enthusiastic supporter of Scottish country dance, with extensive knowledge of dance and the history of the Society. Ayr Branch owes much to her service.

LAURIE ROY LEAVETT BROWN

Died 30 March 2000

An enthusiastic long time member from Charing, Kent, Laurie taught for many years and also participated in numerous international tours. He also devised many dances, particularly favouring strathspeys. His love of dancing was inspirational, and his family and many dancing friends will miss him greatly.

KARIN WILLBERG

Died 3 June 2000

One of the first teachers in Germany, a regular attendee at Summer School, and the initiator and principal organiser of the Rechberg international dance weekends over 20 years, Karin was a Society Scroll recipient, and had many friends worldwide who will be saddened by her death.

INA NAIRN

Died 22 June 2000

A long time member and teacher in Forfar, Honorary President of Forfar Branch, and Society Scroll recipient, Ina was highly respected and her loss is deeply felt.

GALE CRAGG

Died 20 July 2000

Gale was a teacher and the driving force in the Fredericton Scottish Country Dance Group and elsewhere for more than thirty years, and deviser of a number of dances. She will be missed sadly by all her dancing friends.

KAY PARSONS

Died 12 June 2000

A member of Somerset Branch, who was a great innovator with lots of ideas and energy, Kay's friends all over the world will miss her greatly.

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OR

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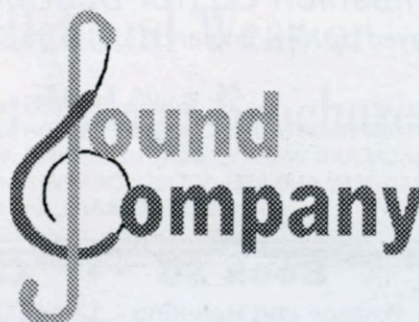
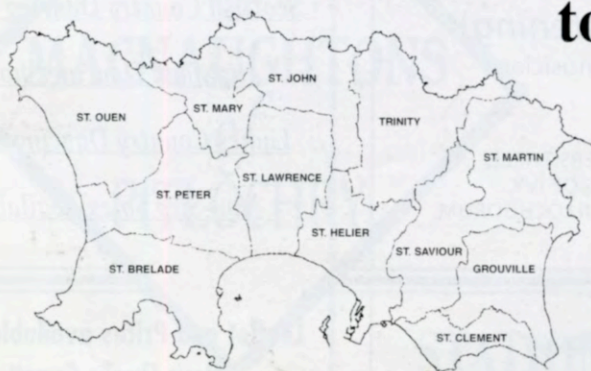
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