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ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

GLASGOW BRANCH

April 2007 News Letter

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Firstly, a word of thanks to all those who sent in completed Gift Aid forms and in addition some have given additional donations. Many thanks for your generosity. More details will be available at our AGM in May.

It was also nice to hear so many good reports about our Ball last January. By all accounts it was an extremely enjoyable evening with first class catering, excellent music and a happy atmosphere.

We had another good "Come & Try" Session at Celtic Connections, this time with numbers deliberately reduced to allow for more dancing space. Fiona McDonald ran an excellent class with good assistance from Branch Members.

That same willing assistance was evident at a new event, namely the Introductory Classes Dance in the new Whiteinch Centre. Again a happy evening in a good hall giving the beginners a taste of real dancing. Thanks to all who supported the event. Both Introductory classes thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

I understand that the Aberfoyle overnight was also a happy event both on the dance floor and in the walking on the Saturday (despite the weather).

The Committee have agreed to strengthen our links with the Affiliated Groups. Not all may be visited before the end of the session, although I enjoyed my visit to Cathie McNeil's class at Ralston and extended good wishes from the Branch. The time of the tea break I'm keeping to myself!

Congratulations to all who competed and assisted at the Glasgow Music Festival. This year the Glasgow Branch Quaich is travelling to Ayr. The Ayr ladies team excelled themselves with a first class performance of "Dreamcatcher" in the Square Dance section.

We have just completed another Children's Festival at Kelvin Hall and if you caught the evening News item on STV you would have had seen something of the scale of the event. A fuller report is inside.

I think that brings you up to date again - you can see that the Branch has been very busy. I hope as many as possible will be at our AGM in May. As usual there will be a Members Forum, when your comments and points of view will be welcome.

Jim Ferguson

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 24th May in Woodside Halls at 7: 30pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Chairman's Remarks
3. Minutes of AGM held on 18th May 2006
4. Matters arising
5. Branch Report
6. Accountant's Report
7. Financial Report
8. Report to Trustees
9. Appointment of Accountants
10. Election of Office Bearers and Committee for 2007/8
11. Election of Delegates to RSCDS A.G.M.
12. Any Other Business

Notes:

As there has been no prior intimation of any relevant other business, any issues arising at the meeting under item 12 can be discussed, but not voted on.

Mrs. Vivienne Imlrie O' Duffy has completed her term as a committee member and is not eligible to stand again this year. There will be a vacancy for a general committee member.

Papers for items 3, 5, 6/7 and 8 will be available at the meeting. Any member wishing a copy of the Minutes of the 2006 AGM in advance of the meeting can have these on application to the Hon. Secretary.

The formal proceedings will be followed by the popular Open Discussion Forum.

MC'S/RECAPPERS COURSE

The Branch is considering running another short course for recappers/mc's, sometime in the autumn, if there is sufficient demand. The course of 4 classes will be taught by John Johnston. Prospective attendees must be experienced, confident dancers, who are prepared to put in a lot of preparation between the classes. Dances will have to be learned sufficiently well to be recapped from memory.

For further details contact the Hon. Secretary at 01505 850623

From The Editor.

Helping Others

Are you confident enough in your dancing skills to help the visually impaired dancers of Confidance enjoy their dancing? Linda Henderson's appeal on page 7 asks for experienced SC Dancers, who would also be interested in other forms of dance, to consider becoming sighted partners. Confidance (what a super name for the group) does great work and members have danced demonstrations and joined in the dancing at our former Dancefest event. A familiar sight to Branch members is Nancy, who attends some of our monthly dances along with her patient guide dog Kaylie. If you think that you can help, please let Linda know a.s.a.p.

Primary Schools Festival

The second Glasgow Primary Schools Festival has just been held and Jim Ferguson's report highlight's the happy nature of the occasion. With over 900 children attending there certainly was mass participation!

However perhaps Glasgow Education Dept. and the Branch are in danger of producing 'quantity rather than quality.' Many of the schools were well prepared but it has been observed that there were a number who were having difficulty with the basics and were struggling to complete the dances. Disappointing for them and others in their sets.

The Branch has only a handful of our own teachers able to go to schools and the Education Dept's peripatetic P. E. teachers can only give a few short weeks to other schools. It takes time and lots of practice to build children's confidence and expertise.

The Branch must take stock of what it is that we want from our considerable commitment (financial and timewise) to these events. Should we perhaps aim to have a smaller number of children better trained so that they may follow up SCD in later life – the future dancing generation? What is the best way forward?

CITY OF GLASGOW PRIMARY SCHOOLS PE EDUCATION DEPT — DAY OF SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING —

Around 10.30 am on Wednesday 14th March 2007 the roof of Kelvin Hall was almost lifted off when cheering from over 900 children, teachers and guests greeted the Strathclyde Police Pipe Band into the arena followed by the parade of banners.

With welcome speeches from Councillor Gerry Leonard, Peggy McIntosh, Head of Services, GDC and Irene Bennett, Chairman of the RSCDS completed, it was on with the dance. The floor was a continuous riot of colour and movement mostly in time to the music of John Renton's SCD Band and superbly controlled by MC Les Lambert.

With a brief stop to eat packed lunches, it was on again for each of the two groups to have their turn on the floor ending with the presentation of certificates and Auld Lang Syne.

It was good to welcome many guests with Branch connections including Johan McLean who looked very well after a long spell of treatment and also several from the City Council.

I'm sure the children enjoyed their day out of school and as I said in my vote of thanks the Branch is fortunate to have this close working relationship with the PE Dept, headed by Christine Watson. Grateful thanks to all the PE staff, the Branch teachers for many visits to the schools, John Renton's Band, our stewards, photographers and all who helped with their wonderful support in creating a very successful event. Is Ruth still lying in a darkened room?

JF.



SPRING CLASSES



Our ever popular Spring Classes will be held in on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm in Cleveden School, Cleveden Road – just off Gt Western Road.

The theme this year is overseas dances – either from books of dances devised by overseas Branches or dances with an international theme devised by home based compilers following their travels to foreign places.

Note changed order

17 th April	John Johnston
24 th April	Jimmy McMillan
1 st May	Andrew McConnell
8 th May	Eric Finley

Music will be provided by John Renton.

Cost - £3.50 per night for Branch members, £4.50 for others.

GLASGOW MUSIC FESTIVAL – 2007. SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SECTION.

This year's Festival was split in two, the 'Open' Section was on Saturday 3rd March and the 'Schools' section on Monday 5th March. The Glasgow Music Festival Committee decided to have the Schools section on a weekday to see if more Schools would come along. We had four Glasgow Schools entered for the first time: St Mirin's PS, Holy Cross PS, Copeland PS and Our Lady of Annunciation PS, plus Ardgowan Primary from Greenock who have supported us for many years.

Entries in the 'Open' section were down this year – too many of the teachers have either closed classes due to lack of numbers (too many other distractions for the children) or the teacher has retired. We had one Brownie Team from Weyms Bay who did exceptionally well, but unfortunately had no competition.

Copeland Primary School and St Mirin's Primary School, The Buchanan Dancers from Glasgow and Lochvale Dancers from Dumfries made up the Children's Section. Lochvale Dancers won the 15 and under Section and the Buchanan Dancers won the 18 and under section.

The Adult Section was well supported with entries from Ayr RSCDS Branch, Edinburgh RSCDS Branch and of course Glasgow RSCDS.

The Ladies Section had only 1 entry: RSCDS Ayr Branch; The Mixed Section had 2 Entries: RSCDS Glasgow and RSCDS Edinburgh and the 'Square Dance' Section had 3 Entries: RSCDS Ayr, RSCDS Glasgow and RSCDS Edinburgh. Glasgow won the 'Mixed' Section, and Ayr won the 'Square Dance' Section and were presented with the 'Quaich'. The 'Quaich' can be awarded to any of the Adult Classes. The Adjudicator was Christine Traynor and our Pianist was Dorothy Hamilton.

My thanks to all the Committee Members and Volunteers who helped in any way on either of the days. Pam Gillies, Youth Convener

Dancing in the Park

Saturday 16th June

Once again we are keeping our fingers crossed for fine weather (3 times lucky so far!) for outdoor dancing on the lawns of the delightful walled garden at Mugdock Country Park. This year our event coincides with a festival of culture and music which is running over the weekend and we are happy to link in with it. Because of other events in the garden, we shall be dancing a little earlier in the afternoon this year - from 12:30 -2:30 pm.

The programme will be a mixture of easier set dances together with some well known 'ceilidh' dances such as The Gay Gordons, which we hope will encourage spectators to join in the fun.

We are hoping too that one of the children's groups will give a demonstration and also join in the dancing. This event is for all ages – come along and bring the family.

“Dance Scottish” Week

Headquarters is arranging a “Dance Scottish” week from 10th to 15th September this year. A number of events will take place mainly in Scotland but also throughout the world.

Following the launch on Friday 7th September, a Ball is being held in Edinburgh at Surgeons' Hall. Tickets will be available after 30th April from HQ costing £25 each. On the Saturday morning following the Ball, HQ will be open between 10am and 4pm and there will be a display of memorabilia of interest to all. Teas and coffees will be available every day. The display will also continue for the remainder of the week.

On Friday 14th September an informal dance will be held in St. Andrews in the Square in Glasgow. Tickets are priced £10 and are available from Flora Frame (0141-942-6850) from the middle of April. At the dance the Society's newly-formed 'Dance Scottish' Youth Demonstration Group will perform. More details of all the events will be available shortly. If any groups wish to participate, more information is available from Ruth Beattie (0141-956-1522).

⇐ Confidance Needs YOU! ⇒

Are you a capable Country Dancer? Are you looking for something both challenging and interesting to do on a Monday evening in Glasgow, enjoying various forms of dance as well as Scottish Country?

Well, **Confidance** (used to be called Blind Dance) are in need of sighted members who do not need to learn the basics of dancing - who automatically go the correct direction when asked to do a right shoulder reel whether of 3 or 4, on the straight or on the diagonal - who know how to poussette, promenade and allemande (quick or slow) and who fancy learning some different manoeuvres in totally different rhythms.

Competent, confident sighted partners enable our visually impaired members to really relax and enjoy their dancing because the visually impaired person (VIP) KNOWS that their partner will be in the right place at the right time.

We meet on Mondays from 7.30 - 9.30pm (with tea-break!) at the Woodside Halls (Lesser Hall) between September and May, have an annual workshop weekend and other extras whenever possible. Some of our sighted members cannot make a weekly commitment, but can come fortnightly which is fine.

Don't be afraid to contact us in case you might not like it - we have training sessions for sighted members specifically targeted at dancing with VIPs and are happy to meet you on a "sook it and see" from both sides.

More information is available on our website www.confidance.org. You'll probably recognise a few faces in the photographs!

Look forward to hearing from you,

Linda Henderson, Secretary,
Confidance, PO Box 19580, Johnstone PA5 9WZ

Branch Dance – August

One week later than usual as we expect to be joined
by a visiting group from Connecticut, U.S.A.

Friday 24th August

New Venue
Whiteinch Community Centre

Band – John Carmichael

Tickets £6.00 from: Margaret Weir-334 0694 or Flora Frame -942 6850

***** Letters *****

Editors note. After a recent dance which included a number of challenging items, I received from a member a letter which I have unfortunately mistaid. I think I have captured the tenor of the letter but my apologies to my correspondent for not being able to publish it as written.

Experienced dancers are more likely to attend an event when some challenging dances are included in programmes. However these dances are daunting to less experienced dancers and yet some are often encouraged up (or dragged up!) on to the floor to make up sets. Often the recap is not sufficient explanation for an uncertain dancer (e.g. Foxhill Court, Bonnie Lass of Bon Accord) and the writer suggested that a demonstration might prove more helpful.

What do readers think of this suggestion?

April Dance
Friday 27th April
Bearsden Hall

Geo. Meikle & The Lothian Band

J	Jubilee Jig	L/let	J	Joie de Vivre	Bk 39
R	Mr. Wilson's Hornpipe	Bk 16	R	Round Reel of Eight	Bk 27
S	Eileen Watt's Strathspey		S	Wishing Well	Bk 44
<i>Scottish Country Dancer</i>					
J	Napier's Index	Bk 45	J	Midnight Oil	Drewry
R	The Clutha	Bk 31	R	Westminster Reel	Bk 45
S	The Three Sisters	Drewry	S	This is No My Ain Hoose	Bk 15
J	The Immigrant Lass	Bk 39	J	The Starry-eyed Lassie	Bk 23
R	Back to The Fireside	Bk 38	R	Reel of the 51 st Division	Bk 13
Extras: J Pelorus Jack, Bk 41					
R Mrs. Macleod Bk 6					

Tickets from Flora Frame, tel. 0141 942 6850

Affiliated Club News

New Kilpatrick Scottish Country Dance Club

The New Kilpatrick Scottish Country Dance Club was founded in 1982, and so celebrates its 25th Anniversary this year. It was founded at the suggestion of the then minister of our church, the Rev David Hamilton who now, in retirement, is a member of the class. Our teacher from the beginning has been Peter Knapman, and many of us owe everything we know about Scottish Country Dancing to Peter.

The aim of the class has always been to promote Scottish Country Dancing. One of the difficulties throughout the years has been to know at what level to pitch the class. While we wish to encourage non-dancers to become dancers we also wish to help those who are no longer beginners to progress. We are grateful to the experienced dancers in the class for the way they help those less able in their sets. One way of trying to deal with the variation of ability in the Club has been to set up a beginners class. This class, set up in 2005 and taught by John Young, meets for half an hour before the main class begins, and its members then stay on for as much of the main class as they feel they can manage.

The Club also has a successful Junior class which is in its second year of operation. A small but enthusiastic group of children meets on a Thursday night and is taught by Walter Proven, with members of the Club providing additional assistance.

The Club runs a dance once a year in January, where profits are given to charity. This year we raised £700 for Erskine. Together with the New Kilpatrick Ceilidh Band and other guests, a Demonstration group from the Club visits local Retirement Homes and Friendship Groups to provide entertainment with a touch of tartan and nostalgia. A recent innovation has been to include members of the Junior class in the entertainment, which is very popular with the elderly.

Over the years the Club has been fortunate to have music provided by a number of musicians who have been an integral part of the Club's success. Particular mention should be made of Norrie Williams who played for the class for many years and to David Ross who is the present class musician.

We are also fortunate in having three excellent teachers. In addition to their work with the Beginners Class and the Junior Class, John and Walter fill in for Peter when work commitments prevent his attendance at the class. We are very grateful to all our teachers and to David without whose initiative the class would not have existed.

The Club is pleased to be affiliated to Glasgow Branch RSCDS. Many members of the club are individual members who take an active part in RSCDS events. You will know our faces, if not all our names!