



the white cockade

Newsletter of the Vancouver Branch Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2013



Delbrook Scottish Country Dancers at the Langley Fair

photo Kerrie Hart

RSCDS VANCOUVER BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2013-2014

A new Board of Directors was elected at the Annual General Meeting held September 20, 2013

OFFICERS

Chair	Jennifer Shearman	chair@rscdsvancouver.org	604.739.3096
Vice-Chair	Gerry Stensgaard	vicechair@rscdsvancouver.org	604.451.1161
Corresponding Secretary	Vicki Downey	secretary@rscdsvancouver.org	604.298.9695
Recording Secretary	Drum Covers	recordingsecretary@rscdsvancouver.org	604.435.2217
Treasurer	Stewart Cunningham	treasurer@rscdsvancouver.org	604.261.0162
Membership Secretary	Patsy Jamieson	membership@rscdsvancouver.org	604.929.4884

OTHER DIRECTORS showing specific responsibilities

Archivist	Mary Ann McDevitt	archives@rscdsvancouver.org	604.929.2944
BC Highland Games Rep	Simon Scott	highlandgames@rscdsvancouver.org	604.925.9333
Children's Program Liaison	Francis O'Farrell	children@rscdsvancouver.org	604.321.0533
Events Coordinator	Heather Hankin	events@rscdsvancouver.org	604.730.9581
Publicity	Cathrine Conings	publicity@rscdsvancouver.org	604.299.6447
Safety Coordinator	Sue Sochasky	safety@rscdsvancouver.org	604.937.7967

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

50 th Anniversary Chair	Jean Wagstaff	50th@rscdsvancouver.org	604.464.8103
Betwixt & Between Co-ord	Frances Caruth	dancing@rscdsvancouver.org	604.922.6842
Betwixt & Between Co-ord	Heather Hankin	events@rscdsvancouver.org	604.730.9581
Burns Supper Coordinator	Peter Richards	burns@rscdsvancouver.org	604.929.2745
Dancing Coordinator	Frances Caruth	dancing@rscdsvancouver.org	604.922.6842
Dancing in the Park	Frances Caruth	dancing@rscdsvancouver.org	604.922.6842
Dem Team Director	R. Blackhall-Peters	demteam@rscdsvancouver.org	604.530.0500
Heather Ball Chair	Simon Scott	heatherball@rscdsvancouver.org	604.925.9333
Love to Dance Workshop	Frances Caruth	dancing@rscdsvancouver.org	604.922.6842
Love to Dance Workshop	Heather Hankin	events@rscdsvancouver.org	604.730.9581
Newsletter Editor	Eleanor Pedersen	editor@rscdsvancouver.org	604.538.4095
RSCDS Director USAC Ltd	Stewart Cunningham	uscs@rscdsvancouver.org	604.261.0162
Web Site Manager	Paul Lowe	web@rscdsvancouver.org	604.536.7660

OTHER CONTACTS

Ceilidh Director	Duncan MacKenzie	ceilidh@rscdsvancouver.org	604.536.9481
North Shore Children	Maureen Hood	northshorechildren@rscdsvancouver.org	604.922.4406
TAC Representative	Jean Wagstaff	tac@rscdsvancouver.org	604.464.8103

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2013

Directors 2013-2014.....	2
Fae the Chair.....	3
Dancing Dates.....	4
Notices.....	9
Dancing News.....	10
On The Dance Floor.....	12
New Dance Competition.....	13
50th Gleneagles Grand Ball.....	14
The Pride of Dunblane.....	16
The Dancing Should Never End.....	18
Comparing Dancing - Vancouver and London.....	19
Calendar of Events.....	20

fae the chair

We are well into another dance year packed with opportunities to improve our technique at classes and workshops plus socials and balls. It was really gratifying at our Annual General Meeting to have a member raise the problem of event scheduling conflicts. We are fortunate to have so many options of where to dance. Gerry has done a great job of putting together the 2013 - 2014 calendar of events and the clubs have liaised to minimize conflicts. Each year the Branch receives many notifications of events outside the Lower Mainland which we endeavour to share with the clubs. As the Scottish Cultural Centre becomes more successful at renting their space, RSCDS faces competition for our regularly scheduled events.

On the facing page you will see your new Board and I hope that you will support them and direct your concerns and suggestions to us. Like me, some of our new Board members are relatively new to the Vancouver dance scene and I welcome their energy and new ideas. I felt ill-equipped to take on the role of chair but have survived thus far. A long-time Vancouver Branch member commented in Fall 2012, "You do not take on the role of chair to be popular". I often remember and take comfort from Elspeth's wise words!

Many new dancers and members have joined our classes and I welcome you all. We had no Welcome Back dance this year, since the West End club's Fall Frolic on Labour Day weekend so delightfully fulfills our desire for an early season social. Then in October the Gleneagles club introduced us to some of the Special Gleneagles Dances that will be featured at their 50th Ball. The Branch demonstration team will host our Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance this year, while the Deep Cove club have volunteered to host this long-running event in 2014.

Many teachers have been doing the new dances from Book 47 and trying out dances submitted for inclusion in Book 48. Thanks to you all and to Jean Wagstaff for co-ordinating the latter for our Branch. RSCDS Vancouver Branch now has the opportunity to submit a dance for possible inclusion in Book 49. This is your opportunity to devise a dance. Please check out Fran's notices.

After many years of using the same software for our website, the Board has decided to update and we look forward to embracing some changes. Only when Stuart retired did we fully understand how much we are indebted to him for keeping our Branch online!

Each month your club is sent the Minutes of Board meetings. There is a lot of information on our website and Facebook. I will also be visiting your club. Get informed, get involved and enjoy dancing.

Jennifer Shearman

RSCDS Branch Award Nomination Request

Once again the Vancouver Branch is seeking nominations for Branch Awards. This recognition of outstanding service to Scottish Country Dance is approved by RSCDS Edinburgh based on Vancouver Branch's recommendation. A full description of the Branch Awards process can be found in 'Board Documents' on our website rscdsvancouver.org or contact the Corresponding Secretary for a printed copy to be mailed to you.

To ensure presentation in our 2013 - 2014 season, please submit completed nominations to our Corresponding Secretary by email or mail to SCC by November 30th 2013. All nominations will be considered by a Committee appointed by the Board at our December 7th 2013 meeting. To expedite the committee's deliberations, ensure your nominations are specific and complete.

Note that Branch Award nominations may be sent to the Board at any time throughout the year and the Board will acknowledge and process in accordance with the approved guidelines.

Jennifer Shearman

Dancing Dates

Saturday, November 2 LADIES' STEP DANCING

Scottish Cultural Centre 1 pm - 4 pm \$15
8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver RSCDS Vancouver Branch

Teacher: MARY MURRAY

Music: Wonderful live music (guitar and fiddle) led by JANET WRIGHT

A mini - workshop for dancers new to "soft shoe" step dance
and also something new for returning dancers.

Scottish step dance experience NOT required but some dancing in the
past essential eg Scottish Country, Highland, Irish, ballet, contemporary.

This will be an active afternoon for dancers

interested in different steps, different music and lots of fun.

Cost: \$15 includes tea/coffee

RSVP: space is limited

kay_sutherland@hotmail.com (subject "Step Dance")

Fran Caruth phone 604 922 6842

This workshop is almost full but if you are interested please contact Fran
or Kay. There will be a wait list and if you can't come this time but are
interested in step dancing let us know and we will be sure to add you to
our mailing list.

Monday, November 11 LADY ABERDEEN TEA DANCE

Scottish Cultural Centre 1:30 pm \$10

PLEASE NOTE: THE START TIME HAS BEEN CHANGED

SINCE THE PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENT

As hosts this year we have sent out invitations to all groups but we want
to make sure that everyone is welcome. This is one of the most popular
dances on the calendar and the programme has dances for all levels.
Come and enjoy the music, the chatter and the dancing. This year all
the proceeds are being donated to the B.C. Poppy Fund and the BC
Cancer Foundation. We would appreciate if you could bring a small item
to add to the food table. The programme and crib notes are on the
Branch website. We hope to see you all at the dance on November 11.

Duncan MacKenzie for the Demonstration Team

The Duke of Atholl's Reel.....	J.....	Book 16
MacDonald of the Isles.....	S.....	Haynes
The Royal Deeside Railway.....	R.....	Book 40
Hooper's Jig.....	J.....	MMM
The Dream Catcher.....	S.....	Book
The Falls of Rogie.....	R.....	Attwood
Nellie MacKenzie's Jig.....	J.....	Bennett
Delvine Side.....	S.....	Book 2
The Montgomeries Rant.....	R.....	Book 10
The Reel of the 51 st Division.....	R.....	Book 13
Neidpath Castle.....	S.....	Book 22
The Kissing Bridge.....	R.....	Book 47
A Capital Jig.....	R.....	5 for 2009
Jean Martin of Aberdeen.....	S.....	RSCDS Leaflets
Mairi's Wedding.....	R.....	Cosh

Saturday, Nov 16 VANCOUVER FIDDLE ORCHESTRA

Highlands United Church 7:30 pm Tickets \$15
3255 Edgemont Boulevard, North Vancouver

Welcome everyone to an evening of Scottish Music and Dance
with the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra.

There will be music for listening and opportunities for dancing.

Vancouver Branch Demonstration Team

De Danaan Irish dancers, Ceilidh dancing and more...

Doors open at 7 pm. Come early!

Tickets: \$15 from the Church 604.980.6071

or Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra members (and at door if space available)

Cathrine Conings

Tuesday, Nov 26 FORT LANGLEY ST ANDREWS DANCE

Fort Langley Community Hall 7:30 pm \$10
9167 Glover Road, Fort Langley

Fort Langley Voyageurs would like to invite all of you to our St Andrews
Dance. Come and enjoy some great tunes provided by Mary Ross, and
finish the evening with a wonderful Tea.

For further information call Larry or Maureen Onotera 604-576-6371

Rebecca Blackhall-Peters

Jubilee Jig.....	J.....	RSCDS Leaflets
The Balmoral Strathspey.....	S.....	Book 22
The White Cockade.....	R.....	Book 5
Welcome to Ayr.....	J.....	Book 47
Sauchie Haugh.....	S.....	RSCDS Leaflets
Catch the Wind.....	R.....	Book 45
Midnight Oil.....	J.....	Drewry
Aging Gracefully.....	S.....	Book 47
The Kissing Bridge.....	R.....	Book 47
Sandy Butterly.....	J.....	Brandon
Jean Martin of Aberdeen.....	S.....	RSCDS Leaflets
Mairi's Wedding.....	R.....	Cosh

Friday, November 29 VANCOUVER CEILIDH DANCE

Scottish Cultural Centre 7 pm class \$10 adults
8886 Hudson Street 8 pm dance \$8 students



Saturday Nov 30 CHILDREN'S & FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Capilano Room 2:30 pm Adults \$5 & Children Free
Harry Jerome Memorial Centre 123 East 23rd Street, North Vancouver

*Please note - the date of the Children's Christmas Party
has been CHANGED from December 7 to NOVEMBER 30*

Bring along your whole family for a fun filled afternoon of dancing,
games, tantalizing treats and a special visit from Mr. & Mrs. Claus!

All dances will be briefed. The Dorie Smith shop will be selling kilts,
dance shoes, records and dance books at the party. For more
information call Maureen at 604 922 4406 or delbrookdancers@yahoo.ca

Maureen Hood

Haymaker Jig	J	Book 2
Petronella	R	Book 1
Highland Fair	J	Graded
The Dancing Bees	R	Goldring 24
Posties Jig	J	Clowes
I2 Coates Crescent	S	Book 40
Its nae bother	J	2nd graded book
Flowers of Edinburgh	R	Book 1
Joe MacDiarmid's Jig	J	5/82
Reel of the Royal Scots	R	Leaflets
Extra - Bairn's Reel		

Saturday, November 30 DELTA BORDERERS' DANCE

KinVillage Community Centre 7:30 pm Tickets \$20
5430 - 10th Avenue, Tsawwassen

The Delta Borderers would like to invite you to a special musical evening
with Don Bartlett a well known pianist from Toronto.

Many of you will recognize the name

Don Bartlett and The Scotians

from their excellent recordings and we hope you will join us to

Dance - Listen - Enjoy

Tickets from Mairi Maxwell 604-946-2448 or Ruth Jappy 604-594-6807

Ruth Jappy

The Happy Meeting	J	Book 29
The Gardeners' Fantasia	S	Book 46
The Kissing Bridge	R	Book 47
Welcome To Ayr	J	Book 47
Ye'll Aye Be Welcome Back Again	S	Book 7
St. Andrew's Of Brampton	R	Book 37
A Bonnie Lassie	J	Donald Bartlett
The Dundee Whaler	S	Ormskirk Book 1
The Wind That Shakes The Barley	R	8 SC Dances Duthie
The Happy Weasel	J	Livia Kohn
Memories Of Mary Ann	S	Book 47
Peggy Dewar	R	Book 38
The Legacy	J	Pinewoods Coll. #2
The Northern Lights	S	Chas. F. Dobie
Maxwell's Rant	R	Book 18

Sunday, December 8 50th GLENEAGLES GRAND BALL

Fairmont Hotel Vancouver 1:30 pm Tickets \$110

See Ball Information On Page 14.

Monday, December 9 CHRISTMAS CEILIDH

Scottish Cultural Centre 7:30 - 10:00 pm \$6.00 Drop-in

The Branch's Monday night dancers invite you to join them for a fun
evening of easy dancing and entertainment. Come and dance with us
and join in the ceilidh if you'd like to share your talents. *Fran Caruth*

Tuesday, December 10 GLENAYRE CHRISTMAS PARTY

St Laurence Church Hall 7:30 pm \$8.00

825 St Laurence Street, Coquitlam, BC St. Laurence Street is North of
Como Lake Road between Poirier Street & Linton Street. *Jean Wagstaff*

The Kissing Bridge*	R	Bk. 47
Cherry Bank Gardens	S	Drewry Bankhead Bk
It's All Right*	J	2nd Graded
Starlight	R	Bk. 44
Balmoral Strathspey*	S	Bk. 22
Midnight Oil	J	Drewry Bankhead Bk
White Cockade*	R	Bk. 5
Birks of Invermay*	S	Bk. 16
Welcome to Ayr	J	Bk. 47
Round Reel of Eight*	R	Bk. 27
Butterscotch & Honey	S	J. Attwood Lft.24
Alan J. Smith*	J	Bk. 45

* easier dances

Friday, December 28 BETWIXT AND BETWEEN

Scottish Cultural Centre Dancing at 7.30 pm Music by Mary Ross
8886 Hudson Street **Free to all RSCDS members** Admission \$15

This seasonal tradition is sponsored in part by the Mary Wattum Fund.
Come and enjoy dancing to the great sounds of Mary Ross and her
accordion. All dances will be briefed and walked once. We hope you will
bring a small offering of seasonal fare to share at the supper table.

Fran Caruth

Good Hearted Glasgow	J	RSCDS Guide
Dancing Bees	R	Goldring 24 G&S
Anna Holden**	S	Book 42
Mrs Stewart's Jig	J	Book 35
Mary Wattum's Reel	R	Barnes
Miss Gibson's Strathspey**	S	Leaflet
Flowers of Edinburgh	R	Book 1
Rodney's Rant	J	Diamond Jubilee
The Gentleman**	S	Book 35
John of Bon Accord**	R	Book 33
Major Ian Stewart**	J	Book 35
Mrs Milne of Kineff	S	Leaflet
Deil among the Tailors	R	Book 14

**more difficult dances

Saturday, February 1

BRANCH BURNS SUPPER

Scottish Cultural Centre
8886 Hudson Street

Bar 6:00 pm
Dinner 7:00 pm

Tickets \$55

Put this in your diary for Saturday - February 1st, 2014



Burns Supper 2013

photo Stuart Somerville

It's never too early to include the Branch Burns Supper on your list of January entertainment. This will be our 40th annual celebration of the life and poetry of Robert Burns, including a traditional Scottish meal with all the trimmings. We'll have the wonderful music of the Tartan Players. It's a varied program with a dance for everyone!

As usual, we'll be entertained by the Demonstration Team and we hope to have one or two surprises to keep you on your toes!

Tickets are available from your club representative from November 11 or patcavers@shaw.ca or conveniently through PayPal on the rscdsvancouver.org website.

Peter Richards

BURNS SUPPER PROGRAMME

Gay Gordons (Traditional).....M	Lindsay Ross
A Highland Welcome.....J	Craigievar Book 1
Ha! Ha! The Woin' o'it.....R	MMM
Kiss Under the Stairs.....J	MMM
Sandy O'er the Lea.....S	MMM
The Dashing White Sergeant.....R	RSCDS Book 3
Joe MacDiarmid's Jig.....J	RSCDS Book 30

Intermission

Oh, Whistle and I'll Come Tae Ye, My Lad***.....J	RSCDS Book 24
Fisherman's Reel.....R	Sue Petyt, leaflet
The Flower of Glasgow***.....S	RSCDS Book 46
The White Heather Jig***.....J	Cosh; 22 SCDs
Mairi's Wedding***.....R	Cosh; 22 SCDs

*** For those who know the dance

Crib sheets will be posted on the rscdsvancouver.org website

Saturday February 15

LOVE TO DANCE SCOTTISH

Scottish Cultural Centre

Mark your calendars now for

The Love to Dance Workshop and Tea Dance

Always very popular so register early

Teachers: Mary Murray and Simon Scott Musicians: The Tartan Players

Watch the website for more details

Registration forms available mid-November.

Inquiries: Fran Caruth 604-922-6842

notices

St Andrews Saltire Society

ST ANDREWS BALL

30 November 2013 6:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Hellenic Community Centre 4500 Arbutus Street, Vancouver

Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra

Scottish Country Dancing, caller Duncan MacKenzie

details & online booking at standrewsbball.eventbrite.ca

Contact: Jeanette Langmann 604-805-5225 Johnstone@langmann.com

RSCDS NEW ZEALAND BRANCH SUMMER SCHOOL 2013/14

28 December 2013 to 5 January 2014

St Peters School, Cambridge, New Zealand

Marquee band is Nicol McLaren and Isobelle Hodgson from Scotland who will also be teaching the musicians' class.

Families are welcome at the school. It is fantastic to have energetic young people at the school enjoying the exhilaration of dancing.

Social bus trips are planned each weekday afternoon.

Website: waikato1314.rscdsnz.org.nz

RSCDS WINTER SCHOOL 2014

Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry

Dates: 23rd - 28th February

Teachers:

Duncan Brown, Eric Finley,

Pat Houghton, Anne Smyth

Musicians:

Muriel Johnstone, George Meikle,

Iain Robertson, Peter Shand

Come and experience the beautiful scenery as well as sharing a wonderful Scottish country dance experience!

One of the highlights of Winter School is the ball in the spectacular ballroom of Blair Castle, dancing to the music of some of the best musicians for Scottish country dancing in the UK and all included.

Online booking at rscds.org



Dancing news

Annual General Meeting 2013

The RSCDS Vancouver Branch 2013 AGM was held at the Scottish Cultural Centre on Friday September 20th and despite heavy rain and parking congestion, 36 members attended. Once again our busy recording secretary, Drum Cavers, flew in from Calgary just in time to take the minutes. All Board and Club reports were published on the website and posted for attendees to read at the meeting. A few printed copies were available for members lacking internet connections. The authors of most reports were in attendance to answer questions and no additional reports were presented. The Branch wishes to thank our retiring webmaster, Stuart Somerville, for enabling this electronic posting and for his years of dedication to ensuring the website has been kept up-to-date and interesting. His will be a "hard act to follow".

After five years on the Board, Paul Lowe completed his term but continues to work hard for the Branch by assuming the role of temporary webmaster plus support of our Membership database during the implementation of the electronic distribution of the White Cockade. Thanks, Paul. The Branch also appreciates the help of Pat Hollingdale who filled the role of Events Coordinator for the year. Thanks also to Pat Cavers who continued as Children's Program Liaison and to Rosemary Coupe our archivist.

Our nominating committee of Phil Holton and Isobel James undertook the difficult task of providing a slate of willing and capable candidates who were all duly elected to the vacant positions. We welcome our three new Board members – Heather Hankin, Francis O'Farrell and Mary Ann McDevitt.

Through the year I encouraged our dancers to join the Branch by visiting many dance clubs including those held in Seniors' Centres. An initiative to bring our Board to the members was introduced by Stuart who posted photos of the Board on our webpage with the contact details.

The Branch welcomes an increased focus on safety and emergency procedures at local dance events. Our new AED is available to our member clubs through our Safety Coordinator, Sue Sochasky. We also have provided liability insurance for our lower mainland clubs for the past few years. Contact Stewart Cunningham for the details.

Through the Pearl Holmberg Fund, the Branch purchased some new sound equipment, a new TV and supplied the latest RSCDS book of dances plus the CD to our teachers. Six local teacher candidates including two from Vancouver Island completed their levels successfully thanks to local mentors, teachers, organizers and "stooges". There is still a shortage of teachers, with two local classes lacking qualified leaders. We continue to encourage and support children's classes and Laurie Laing is trying again this year to establish a class in Surrey.

On behalf of our local members and dancers, I thank our 2012-13 Board, appointees and associated representatives for their hard work. Thanks also to our club representatives who provided reports for the AGM. I encourage you all to read these reports.

The meeting wrapped up relatively quickly and some lively discussions continued over the refreshments. Thanks to all who attended and showed support for the Board. This is your Branch – do not miss this opportunity to have your 'say'.

Jennifer Shearman

West End Fall Frolic

The West End Club kicked this year's dancing season off in fine form with the Third Annual Fall Frolic. Two wonderful musicians from Portland - Lisa Scott on keyboard and Leslie Hirsch on fiddle - kept the dancers moving all night with their vibrant playing. What a treat it is to have live music!



Denise had selected a well-rounded program which she and Duncan called with enthusiasm. Despite gridlocked West End traffic at the start of the evening, the dancing finished on time and well-deserving dancers enjoyed a potluck of many delicious contributions.

Thank you to everyone who helped, especially to Rebecca who did the sound.

Francis O'Farrell - photo Kerry McDevitt

New Celtic Arts Centre for Mount Vernon

Skagit Valley philanthropist couple, Ed & Laura Littlefield, have recently pledged \$500,000 to the Celtic Arts Foundation of Washington State. This gives a huge boost to the Foundation's fundraising for a new 3000 sq ft facility in down-town Mount Vernon. Construction is scheduled to start in May 2014.



Rendering by Henry Klein Partnership, Mount Vernon architects

"For many years, we've imagined a place to hold Robert Burns Suppers, concerts, musical workshops, lectures on any aspect of Scottish, Irish and Celtic culture and heritage - this Center will be all of that and much more! It will become a hub of activity that will make a vibrant contribution not only to the Foundation and its stakeholders, but to the broader community as well."

Skye Richendfr - CAF Founder and Executive Director celticarts.org

"I am personally excited about this project, as it is the plan to have a wooden dance floor in the gathering hall. I hope this may be an opportunity to re-introduce Scottish Country Dancing classes to the Skagit Valley. Another great plus is the centre's location. It is situated about half way between south Puget Sound and the greater Vancouver, BC area. I am hoping it will become a stopping place for artists performing in the Pacific North West."

Jack Herring - Bellingham SC dancer and Celtic Arts Foundation volunteer

on the dance floor



On the dance floor, where we all love to be
These are some of my thoughts when we are there.

The sets

We count our sets within what we know as the "Social Dancing of Scotland". The meaning of this phrase is not limited to just a social gathering of people at a function, such as an evening class, dance or ball. Such a phrase could well describe any type of dancing or activity. In our case it relates to the fact that we dance in sets where, unlike ballroom dancing for example, there is a "social" interaction with the members of that set. Our formations take us through delightful yet orderly patterns where we meet and greet the other dancers. This was one of the aspects of the country dancing of Scotland that our founders wanted to preserve in 1923.

Following WWI, dances such as foxtrot, quickstep, tango and others gained popularity. Although not considered antisocial they are dances for paired couple, without the social interaction of dancing in a set. The founders wanted to preserve set dancing including the inherent patterned social interaction of the dance.

This social atmosphere within the set begins as soon as the set is formed and continues until our final bow and curtsey followed by our thank you.

When sets are formed on the floor we count them to make sure they are complete. This is traditionally the responsibility of the first man, or the dancer in that place, via a method that should be simple, concise and non intrusive.

Very sadly we have often fallen into a method that is definitely intrusive. Too often we see first man sweep down the centre of the set with his partner by his side, slicing right through, and totally dividing, the social set as they do so. This has become most invasive to the very value of our social set dancing. It is sad if we commence each dance with an act contrary to the foundation of our country dancing.

The counting of sets should not be dominant or over visual, not a fanfare. It should be correct, precise and unobtrusive. Dignity is maintained when the first man goes behind the men's line, informing each gentleman of his position and that of his partner.

The music

Increasingly during the last years we have had the joy of experiencing good live music. The same in fact can be said for good recorded music. Music, not only supplies our needed rhythm and tempo it also lifts, thrills and inspires our spirits in the enjoyment of dance. We need to constantly listen and be aware of just how very valuable the music is for the entire duration of the dance, including during the formation of "down the middle and up".

Frequently, and now almost always, the majority of dancers, other than the couple dancing the pattern, break out into clapping while they do so. For many this is spoiling and covering up the wonderful music the musicians are supplying us. This is indeed most unfortunate.

This clapping happens twice per bar, so that is sixteen times by each of the other six members of the set. That, times the number of sets in the hall, ten say, is nine hundred and sixty claps covering up the music during this eight bar delightful phrase.

All of our many, many phrases and patterns are danced to, and deserve, the full benefit of hearing and enjoying this great music. Down the middle and up is not an exception, not an isolated phrase that needs less music or that requires our assistance to the band. Every dancer in every formation deserves the benefit and the enjoyment of hearing the music to its fullest. We are dancers, **not** the tempo makers.

Bow and Curtsey

The beginning and ending chord is indeed a grand part of the music that is played for us. It signifies a significant start and finish of the dance. It allows that dignified moment, that important gesture to, and with, our partner at the beginning and at the end of the dance. In general, we seem to use the starting chord reasonably well, as we prepare to dance. Regrettably, all too often the final bow and curtsey are lost. Whilst the musicians play their beautiful chord at the end, we too frequently tend to ignore it and rush into applause after the last bar of music and before the dance has properly completed. Applause is "fantastic", but only when the dance is truly finished. This dancing is so enhanced, as well as so enjoyably correct, when we gesture so gracefully our invitation to one another to dance and then our, equally important, thank you gesture at the end.

On the dance floor where we love to be

Our form of dancing has a wonderful and important social elegance that we have an important duty to preserve. Dancing fit for the ballroom is well worth maintaining. In everything there is change, some is for better, some not. We must maintain that which is good and we must always set a good, not poor, example to new dancers joining us, so that our elegant dancing is continued at its very best. We have an honourable tradition that we should carry forward into an enjoyable future, with great respect.

In all things –

"In order to take care of our future, we must take care of our past"
"Stand up for that which is good"

Simon Scott

new dance competition

Have you written a dance? Do you fancy trying your hand at writing a dance? The Vancouver Branch has been invited by Edinburgh to submit one (1) dance into the world wide competition for dances to be published by the RSCDS in Book 49 in 2015.

If you wish to submit a dance into the competition it must be emailed to book49@rscdsvancouver.org not later than December 10, 2013.

To enter the competition you must be a member of the Vancouver Branch.

A Vancouver Branch jury will review the submissions and submit the winning dance to headquarters in Scotland.

Submissions must never previously have been published in electronic or paper form or submitted for Books 47 or 48.

They should follow RSCDS terminology as closely as possible. Devisors may make only one submission.

Full instructions and guidelines concerning copyright and music can be found at rscdsvancouver.org

Contact Fran Caruth at dancing@rscdsvancouver.org if you require any further clarification.

Fran Caruth

50th annual gleneagles grand Ball

Gleneagles Scottish Country Dance Club cordially invites you to our 50th Annual Gleneagles Ball. Join us on Sunday 8 December 2013 at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver for this gala event.

You will enjoy:

- a special program of dances, several relating to Gleneagles and its history.
- the irresistible music of the 24 piece Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra
- the delectable food, both the delicious luncheon buffet and the sumptuous post-dancing dessert buffet
- a festive afternoon and evening of dance with friends from many clubs, both near and far

All of us at Gleneagles look forward to welcoming you and your fellow dancers to our eagerly anticipated 50th Annual Ball.

Margaret Doughty Secretary, Gleneagles Scottish Country Dance Club
(604) 922-7699 mdoughty@uniserve.com

INFORMATION ABOUT THE BALL

Time

Reception at 1:30, Luncheon Buffet at 2:00, and Dessert Buffet after dancing

Tickets

Ticket price is \$110 and a maximum of 160 will be available. Ticket sales will begin on Sunday 15 September and conclude at noon on Monday 2 December or earlier, if all tickets have been sold before that date. You may purchase tickets by contacting Norm and Susan Haug at normhaug@shaw.ca or (604) 984-7458. If you return your ticket before noon on Monday 2 December, you will receive a full refund.

Special Seating and Meals

If you would like to sit with a particular group of people or require a special meal at the Ball (e.g. vegetarian, gluten free), contact Norm and Susan Haug at normhaug@shaw.ca or (604) 984-7458.

Accommodations - Fairmont Hotel Vancouver

The hotel is offering Ball guests a rate of \$139 per night (before tax) for Saturday 7 December and Sunday 8 December. For reservations, call (604) 684-3131 and ask for in-house reservations; tell the person making the booking that you are attending the Gleneagles Ball.

Accommodations - Billets

If you are coming from out of town and would like to be billeted with someone here, contact Louise Murphy at mimurphy@telus.net or (604) 987-3792.

If you live here and are interested in offering a billet to an out-of-town Ball guest, please contact Louise. Gleneagles thanks you for your generous hospitality.

Ball Walk Throughs

Gleneagles will hold two walk throughs:

- Monday 2 December (easier dances)
- Wednesday 4 December (other dances)

Both will be held from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at Christ the Redeemer Church, 599 Keith Road (just east of Taylor Way), West Vancouver. There is ample parking. No drop-in fee will be required and everyone who will be attending the Ball is welcome.

Programme

Sandy Butterly	J	Brandon	<i>by 1st teacher</i>
Button Boy	R	Zobel	
Gleneagles	S	Will	<i>for 25th Ball</i>
White Cockade	R	Book 5	
Links with St Petersburg	J	Book 46	
Neidpath Castle	S	Book 22	
Eyrie in the Glen	J	Drewry	<i>for 40th Ball</i>
Gleneagles Treasure	S	Scott	<i>for May Loudon</i>
Polharrow Burn	R	Foss	
Gleneagles Dominie	J	Drewry	<i>for Simon Scott</i>
Best Set in the Hall	J	Book 46	
Silver Strings	S	Scott	<i>for VFO 21st Ball</i>
Deil among the Tailors	R	Book 14	
Montgomerys' Rant	R	Book 10	
Castle Douglas	S	Goldring	
Blooms of Bon Accord	R	Drewry	
Gleneagles Gold	S	Scott	<i>for 50th Ball</i>
Falls of Rogie	R	Attwood	
Reel of the Royal Scots	R	Goldring	

Each dance will be walked through at the Ball. Crib notes are available at rscdsvancouver.org (Calendar of Events).

Each dance can also be viewed on YouTube (www.youtube.com)

Special Gleneagles Dances

Seven of the dances on the programme relate to Gleneagles and its history. These dances can be viewed on YouTube by doing a search for the name of the dance plus the phrase "Scottish country dance". To view Castle Douglas, add the word "Gleneagles" to your search.

Below are direct links to YouTube videos of these dances:

Sandy Butterly	http://youtu.be/T7Qhzi3dPfM
Gleneagles	http://youtu.be/FIUjPRdZ210
Eyrie in the Glen	http://youtu.be/Go1ZEU3hFFU
Gleneagles Treasure	http://youtu.be/Yh97L3OVNxy
Gleneagles Dominie	http://youtu.be/EhQKWu4X_sQ
Silver Strings	http://youtu.be/KadV59GkJmE
Gleneagles Gold	http://youtu.be/HpgL5dhG7EM

Margaret Doughty



the pride of dunblane

A Tribute To Andy Murray

This past summer, tennis fans in the UK were avidly watching Andy Murray make his way through the Wimbledon tennis tournament. By the time Andy reached the semi-finals, John Carswell, who organises the Linlithgow Scotch Hop dances,



Ian Brockbank, Elizabeth Foster and John Carswell at Linlithgow Scotch Hop
photo Fiona Hewitt

had a feeling that the Scot was going to be the winner. He suggested to Ian Brockbank that a special dance would be a good way to celebrate a win. Ian has written more than 50 dances and has been an admirer and follower of Andy Murray's career, so he began devising a ceilidh dance to mark the occasion. He wanted it to be a simple, fun dance that could be enjoyed at ceilidhs up and down the country. He called it The Pride of Dunblane and it was to be danced to the theme music of the Wimbledon tournament.

Andy Murray did indeed become the champion on 7 July 2013 and became the first UK player in 77 years to win the men's singles final at Wimbledon.

On 17 July 2013, Ian Brockbank's new dance was premiered by 400 dancers in the courtyard of Linlithgow Palace. This location is 22 miles from Andy's home town of Dunblane.

The Linlithgow Scotch Hop is a series of open air social Scottish dances, open to all, which runs for five Wednesday nights in the summer in the stunning setting of the courtyard of Linlithgow Palace. The dances are organised by John Carswell and members of the Linlithgow Scottish Country Dancing Club.

The celebration was attended by Elizabeth Foster, Executive Officer of the RSCDS, who also joined in the premiere of the dance.

She said, "It was great to be part of a country dancing tribute recognising Andy Murray's wonderful achievement at Wimbledon. It really caught the mood of the people. I would hope to see the Murray family trying the dance out themselves in the not too distant future. The open invitation is there!"



ceilidh at Linlithgow Palace courtyard

photo scotthop.org.uk



Video instruction on YouTube - *Pride of Dunblane*
www.youtube.com/watch?v=axYtfnpAG_I

The crib is available on the Grand Chain website.

The figures of the dance are inspired by Andy's Wimbledon journey: Bars 1-8 show the shape of Centre Court, and the opening and closing of the roof

Bars 9-16 show serving an ace and wiping his face on his towel

Bars 17-24 show his incredible movement around the court

Bars 25-32 remember his amazing lob shot retrieval in the final and everyone's celebration at the end.

Grand Chain scottishdance.net

Tips from Grand Chain for SCD devising

- The dance should be enjoyable for all the couples, not only for the first couple.
- Give attention to the flow of the dance. How do you get from one figure to the next. Are the dancers in the right place? Are they heading in the right direction? Will there be any awkward changes of direction?
- Be original if possible, but within the framework of traditional Scottish Country Dancing. A dance should have something "different" about it - there are now over 9000 dances, so if it's going to get noticed/danced it has to have something extra.
- Avoid making the dance so different or complicated that people won't want to dance it - simple dances can also be fun.
- Be clear and specific in the instructions - who does what, where, when and how.
- Dances which leave you in the same place at the end of every eight bars are difficult to remember - "Here I am facing my corner again. Which figure is it this time?"
- "Meanwhile" figures can be fun and add spice to a dance. If there are too many though, the dance becomes a test of mental agility.
- Remember we have this large repertoire of figures to draw from.
- A good name adds to the appeal of the dance, but can be the hardest part of the whole endeavor!

the dancing should never end

The experience of a young dancer at RSCDS Summer School in St. Andrews, Scotland

The problem with talking about my week at St Andrews Summer School is that when I do, I just want to go back. I don't believe there are words in the English language to describe the days that were in that one magical week.



At the first night's Ceilidh, I was really nervous because, aside from being jet-lagged out of my mind, I had come to the quick realization that I was the youngest person there, and the only person from Toronto. I think people were surprised I was in the advanced class, but by the end of the first night I had made friends already; I think my enthusiasm during "Shiftin' Bobbins" definitely helped! A couple from New Zealand actually invited my Mom and me to their house the next day for a barbeque, and we spent three hours talking about everything from dancing to renaissance fashion. It was so surreal and just brilliant.

On Monday morning, I nearly fell out of bed as the sound of bagpipes came bursting through my open window. I thought my alarm clock had gone native, but then I realized it was a fellow dancer who practiced his bagpipes every morning at seven-thirty. It was the best "welcome to Scotland" ever.

My classes were fantastic, thanks to my great teachers, Antoine Rousseau and Anne Kennedy and amazing pianist, Heulwen Hall. I was blown away by how much personality and energy a live musician can add to a class!

Every night there was a dance for all to attend, and I always made sure I was well rested so I could do every dance. This meant afternoon naps, but our rooms were so cute that I didn't mind in the slightest!

The best thing about the Younger Hall was that when you were standing still and everyone around you was dancing, the entire floor shook. I couldn't wipe the grin off my face; the feeling that you are part of something so big and special and floor-shaking never loses its magic.

On my last night, there was a huge party to celebrate the end of week 4 of the Summer School. The tiny party room was filled with people, drinks and food. In the corner was a small piano, and at 2:00 in the morning, someone sat down and began to play. I have to say, spontaneous dancing at 2:00 in the morning is one of the coolest things I have ever done. By the end I was laughing so hard that my sides were aching. I stayed up long after the dancing was over, talking with other dancers until the sun came up. I just didn't want to admit it was over.

St. Andrews is a beautiful town. The beach looks like it belongs in Cuba (though the water's a lot colder!) and the buildings and streets are old, and full to the brim with character. I enjoyed immensely the walks from class to class as it meant I got to see the town. Colours seem so much brighter in St. Andrews. Especially the grass - we don't get real grass in Canada. I miss the carpets of emerald green, separated by winding paths and dotted with explosively bright flowers.

When people ask me about my trip to Scotland, I never answer the same way twice. There are too many stories, memories, and snapshots captured by my brain. I wish I could go back every year but, even if I don't, I know the memories from this once will last me forever.

by Tara Mactavish, RSCDS Toronto

comparing dancing - Vancouver and London

I have had family living in London for several years and taken the opportunity during visits to avoid dancing withdrawal symptoms by attending classes and dances with London Branch. There are many similarities as would be expected since we are all part of the RSCDS family but some differences too.



Jeni Rutherford's Wednesday afternoon class at Pont Street was delightful. Although there is a core group of dancers it is also the most likely to have drop-ins 'frae a' the airts'. She had no idea how many would turn up or their level of competency but had an amazing selection of interesting two couple dances so that nobody would have to sit out. The London dancers were most welcoming, afternoon tea was served and I felt completely at home. Our Vancouver dancers would be very friendly too and would enthusiastically welcome dancers from other parts, although we don't have an afternoon class and no tea.

Dances at Pont Street do have a different flavour, though the dance programme consists of familiar favourites with possibly a few unknowns of special interest to London Branch. There are differences in music (tempo and instruments); briefing of dances; length of programme including encores.

London Branch is able to have live music played by excellent Scottish dance bands, previously just a name on a CD for me (Frank Reid, Gordon Shand, Craiggellachie, Glenraig, etc). Quite a treat - but then we have our own local musicians in Vancouver such as The Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra and The Tartan Players featuring other instruments (fiddles, guitar, flute, and double bass). This gives a very different sound from the more traditional accordion. I think the music is played faster in the UK with great verve, but the musicians seem to have little interaction with the dancers. Our Vancouver musicians and dancers inspire each other and there is more spontaneous appreciation of shared delight in the whole process of music making and dancing.

Generally, dances in London are briefed but not walked through. I was at the Branch dance in September, which, unusually, allowed 'walking through' to help some of the newer dancers, perhaps since classes had not yet started and so there had been no opportunity to practise ahead of time. In comparison, there was no briefing or walking through at all for the last dance of the 'Summer Tuesdays' series. As a result we completed some 17 dances in 3 hours (with a break) and time for a few encores, unheard of in Vancouver where briefing and walking through all dances is expected, with a slower pace to the whole evening. Newer and less experienced dancers are encouraged to participate in social events if they are able to walk through the dance first. However, it was quite exhilarating to get up and just dance your heart out without prior knowledge of the programme or a chance to review the notes - a real stretch for the feet and the mind.

The main difference is the lack of formality in London, with all kinds of extra fun and nonsense with your partner, but still within the confines of the formations of the dance: e.g. extra twirls, lady under her partner's arm, waltz hold for turns and of course lots of birls. Since I grew up in Scotland I am very familiar with the joys of birling - anytime, anywhere and the faster the better. Dancing in Vancouver tends to be very correct (Miss Milligan style) and so somewhat restrained. You need to know the dance well to be able to take liberties with it, but a little bit of London style in Vancouver could be a good thing.

So whether you are in Vancouver or London there is great opportunity to participate in the Scottish country dance world - all you need are slippers and a passion for dance - and I have both!

Kay Sutherland

Originally published in the RSCDS London Branch newsletter, The Reel, in May 2013

vancouver area calendar of events 2013-2014

1-3 Nov	RSCDS San Francisco Asilomar Workshop & Ball	15 Feb	Love To Dance Scottish Workshop & Tea Dance
2 Nov	Vancouver Branch Ladies' Step Dancing	28 Feb	Vancouver Ceilidh Dance
11 Nov	Vancouver Br. Dem Team Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance	8 Mar	Burnaby Dance
16 Nov	Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra concert	8 Mar	Bellingham Social
26 Nov	Fort Langley St. Andrew's Dance	16 Mar	White Rock Spring Workshop
29 Nov	Vancouver Ceilidh Dance	16 Mar	Vancouver CelticFest Parade
30 Nov	Vancouver Branch Children's Christmas Party	22 Mar	Vancouver Branch Heather Ball
30 Nov	Delta Borderers' Dance	28 Mar	Vancouver Ceilidh Dance
30 Nov	St Andrews Saltire Society St Andrews Ball	29 Mar	VanIsle Workshop & Dance
8 Dec	Gleneagles Ball	5 Apr	Glenayre Dance
9 Dec	Vancouver Branch Party & Ceilidh Night	12 Apr	Deep Cove Spring Social
10 Dec	Glenayre Christmas Party	12 Apr	Children's Workshop & Tea Dance Vancouver Branch
11 Dec	Last Programme Class of 2013	12 Apr	Bellingham Social
14 Dec	Bellingham Social	14 Apr	Vancouver Branch Party & Ceilidh Night
28 Dec	Vancouver Branch Betwixt And Between Social	25 Apr	Vancouver Ceilidh Dance
10 Jan	Vancouver Ceilidh Dance	TBA Apr	Gleneagles Spring Dance
13 Jan	Vancouver Branch Classes resume	3 May	White Rock 60th Anniversary May Dance
15 Jan	Vancouver Branch Programme classes resume	10 May	Bellingham Social
25 Jan	Tam O'Shanter Dancers Burns Night	25 May	Fort Langley Whisky Tea Dance
1 Feb	Vancouver Branch Burns Supper	28 May	Last Programme Class of session
7 Feb	Vancouver Ceilidh Dance	mid-June	Dancing in the Park - starts
8 Feb	Bellingham Monthly Dance	21 Jun	BC Highland Games USCS (date is confirmed)

PUGET SOUND CROSSROADS

Afternoon dance party jointly sponsored by
RSCDS Seattle Branch and Friday Harbor Dancers
SATURDAY 28th JUNE 2014
Grange Hall, Friday Harbor
Advance notice from Elinor Vandegrift

tac summer school 2014

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SUMMER SCHOOL
July 27 - August 3

CANDIDATE COURSE
July 29 - August 3

TEACHERS' CONFERENCE WEEKEND
July 25 - July 27

For those who like to plan their holidays early - Jean Wagstaff
www.tac-rscds.org/summer-school

Late notice - Bowen island

Belterra Cohousing presents
a good old fashioned

Ceilidh

featuring a live Irish band and everything



FRIDAY NOV 8
5:30 - 8:30 pm
BCS Gym
\$5 admission
\$10 per family
All Ages

Ceilidh: noun /ka-lee/ an informal social gathering at which there is Scottish or Irish folk music, singing, folk dancing and story telling.

More details on www.facebook.com/RSCDSVancouver

Publication of the White Cockade is the first of September, November, January, March and May. Please send changes of address to Patsy Jamieson, Membership Secretary, RSCDS Vancouver Branch, c/o Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver BC V6P 4N2.

Send change of email address to membership@rscdsvancouver.org
The editor is happy to receive all contributions at editor@rscdsvancouver.org
The next deadline is 10 December 2013 for the January 2014 issue.