

THE REEL NEWS

Volume 20, Issue #3 January 2014
ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY
LONDON, CANADA BRANCH
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Submissions for the next newsletter can be sent to
kmacrone@rogers.com by March 5, 2014

Chairperson's Message

Marel Fielding

Happy "Dancing" New Year to everyone! As I write this we are in the midst of the worst deep freeze for many decades. However, we can keep warm dancing our hearts out.

What a great evening we had at the Christmas Dance at the Polish Hall on December 21! Those who were there (and there were many) were treated to a wonderful fresh turkey or "eye of the round" beef dinner and the great music of Scotch Mist led by Laird Brown. Thanks to everyone who participated, but particularly to Helen Bell and Anne and Alasdair Campbell for their organization and coordination. During the unfortunate incident experienced by one of our dancers, I commend you all for the care, compassion and respect you offered to him and his wife.

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have celebrated our Winterfest and the Scottish Bard Robert Burns. I hope you had fun.

Our next big event is the Ceilidh and Workshop on February 14 and 15. We are having this earlier this year to accommodate those who want to attend the Tartan Ball in Toronto. This is usually a great event and I particularly invite those in the Basic and Intermediate class to join us - especially if you have never been before. The event is coordinated by the Vice/Past chair and Dorothy will have details.

Marg Boss and Doug Munn are working hard to keep our Web page up-to-date and although there are sometimes delays in postings, this is usually not their fault as they have to wait until we get the information to them. Some decisions have to be agreed to by the Committee of Management and may depend on gathering information from other sources. We do appreciate you bringing concerns to us and we will try to keep you as up to date as we can.

We are continuing to assess venues for our social events and are beginning plans for next year's events.

I am looking forward to another fun filled session of Scottish Dancing – I hope you are too!



Branch News

Condolences



Marie McLennan's brother, Edwin Arthur Taylor, died peacefully on Sunday, October 27, 2013 in his 88th year.
Our deepest sympathies go out to Marie and her family.

Notice of AGM and Agenda Items

Marg Allan



Annual General Meeting - May 21, 2014

According to the Branch Constitution: "The agenda of items to be discussed at the meeting will be available to the members 21 days prior to the meeting. Any member who wants an issue discussed at the Annual General Meeting must provide the Committee of Management with the details of the issue in writing sixty (60) days prior to the Annual General Meeting." Therefore, any such request should be given to a member of the Committee of Management by **March 21**.

October Dance

Calla Mahon

The first, monthly, social dance, sponsored by the Intermediate Class, was held at the Air Force Association Hall on a lovely, cool evening. Dancers were greeted at the door by Nicholas and Julie who collected funds and offered warm salutations as we entered. Drinks were shared, conversations rose as old acquaintances met again and dancing shoes were pulled on. The music was provided by Helen Bell and her magical music iPad.



A small number of beginners and very new beginners attended, mainly to watch but possibly to participate in some of the easier dances. The first dance was called, sets were counted, the dance was briefed, a first chord bow and curtsy and the dance programme began. Everyone encouraged and invited us to dance throughout the evening and the support from the experienced dancers was truly appreciated.

A wonderful potluck lunch was consumed at intermission and a special "birthday greeting" emceed by Declan and Gavin surprised Jim Rollo. A delicious cake supplied by Elfriede was enjoyed by all.

Once again, fortified by good food, numerous cups of tea and a thick slice of birthday cake, the dancers were called to resume the evening programme. After a final waltz, everyone pitched in to clean the kitchen, wash dishes, pack up supplies and replenish the hall with tables and chairs. It was a cold walk back to the car, but the warmth, laughter and good fellowship of the evening kept us warm all the way home.

While I dance I cannot judge, I cannot hate, I cannot separate myself from life. I can only be joyful and whole. This is why I dance. - Hans Bos

Parkwood Demo

Marie McLennan



Two sets of dancers helped to entertain the Veterans at Parkwood Hospital on November 7 as part of the Remembrance Day activities. The selected dances all had "military" titles. We began with the Reel of the 51st Division followed by The Sailor, The British Grenadiers, The Reel of the Gordon Highlanders, The Blue Mess Jacket, The Drunken Sailor and The Reel of the Royal Scots. Fred Moyes played for the dancing and between dances he entertained the Vets with songs popular during the war years.

Men's Dance

Patrick Capper

As always the Men's Dance started with a splendid pot luck with a great variety and quantity of food to cater to all tastes and appetites.

Fred Moyes was in excellent form. Before the dance started we were treated to some ragtime piano music. I always appreciate his choice of tunes, with his own great tunes such as Hop Scotch and Ballinluig blending in seamlessly with traditional tunes. It was a surprise to hear that some Christmas songs are really Scottish reels.

He kindly played my favourite waltz for the closing "If Ever You Were Mine", which I first heard by a wonderful Irish American group called "Cherish the Ladies". Later on, words were penned to the tune part of which are "If you were mine one hour, I'd be the proudest one you'd see, If you were mine for a life, I'd be the humblest one you'd see."

We had up to 7 sets on the floor and the dancers all seemed to be enjoying themselves with mostly straightforward dances spiced up with a few more challenging ones. It was a great night, with great food, great music, great dancing and great fun!



Girlguides Dance Scottish

Girlguiding Scotland and the RSCDS have worked together to create the Scottish Country Dance Challenge Badge. The Challenge Badge will be available to Guides all over the world. To find out more information about what is involved, visit the Girlguiding Scotland website.

<http://www.girlguidingscotland.org.uk/node/1914>



Christmas Dance

Jean Hampton

I attended the Christmas Dance in the Polish Combatants' Hall on 21 December 2013 with my husband Barry, who is a non-dancer. We had already been to the Christmas dance last year at the same venue and at my husband's suggestion, as he had really enjoyed himself; we did it all over again!

The hall was so nicely decorated for the Christmas season and had a really welcoming atmosphere. Everyone looked splendid in their party clothes and ready for a full evening of dancing. We liked having time at the beginning of the night to be able to say our 'hellos' and have a little chat with several of the members and non-members. We don't always get a chance to converse in class! The meal itself was first class and praise indeed goes to the chef and his staff.

As we drew closer to the commencement of the dance and the excellent band Scotch Mist starting their tune-up, I could hear the ripple of excitement, and no doubt a little sprinkling of anxiety about the prospect of getting through the programme successfully, and hopefully with great enjoyment.



The night got off to a fine start due to the management of the programme by Helen Bell and everyone involved in the smooth running of the event. Unfortunately member Joe Craigan had a bad fall and sustained a head injury, but hopefully he is recovering well. We were also informed that Elizabeth King was involved in a car accident the night before and was recovering at home.

On resumption of the dancing, Catherine Shaw had a calming effect by asking us to join in a waltz and it really worked. We continued until the interval and of course the highlight of the evening was Catherine's raffle! I waited in anticipation for my number to come up, but alas as on every other occasion, no luck! Well, there's always next year.

The second half of the evening went very well and built up to a great atmosphere of fun and enjoyment. Thanks again to everyone involved for making the evening a memorable one.



Check out this great video clip of [The Piper and the Penguin](#) from this year's Christmas dance. The music was absolutely fabulous.



The winner of the free London Branch Workshop Weekend was Marg Allan. Congratulations!

Bursary Fundraiser

Janet Schreiber

The winners of the draw for the two framed prints were Christine Nath for Lone Mare and Jean Cameron for Morning Feeding. The draw raised \$175.00 for the Bursary Fund.

Hogmanay Dance

Alasdair Campbell

Forty-six revellers gathered at St. Michael's and All Angels Anglican Church for the Hogmanay Dance. All were determined to have a good time and take in the New Year with family and friends. The dancing was fun (thank you Catherine) and with so many beginners, we walked the dances. Needless to say everyone was happy about that as our *heids* were still recovering from all the dances at the Christmas Ball. At least we did not have to tackle Caddam Wood. The programme was nicely dispersed with some waltzes, ceilidh and modern dances.



We had a very nice supper and Lori Ferguson, who was unfortunately laid up with a sore back, had arranged everything ahead. Thanks to John and Lori for making sure everything was at the hall for the group. Janet, Marel and others stepped in and made sure it was ready for us at the intermission. Thank you to all who brought all the decorations and hats for "The Bells". We all looked magnificent as we counted "down" to midnight; then hugged and wished "All the Best" for 2014. We finally stopped dancing at 12:30 am having completed the programme. Many were quite *exhaustapated*, but we enjoyed the fun, camaraderie and well chosen dances. Thanks to everyone. Once again, the New Year was brought in with style.



Basic Class Monthly Dance



Don't forget to keep **Friday, March 28th** free as the Basic Class will be hosting the March monthly dance at Elmwood Presbyterian Church Hall. It's always a great night with a fun dance programme and a light lunch. Look for the dance briefs on the London Branch website closer to the event.

Read All About It!



Read a National Post article about a reporter's reactions to her first Scottish Country dance class.

<http://life.nationalpost.com/2013/11/02/jane-macdougall-it-battle-of-fun-vs-the-gym-scottish-dancing-wins-every-time/>

Windsor Ball

Lesley Craigan

On Saturday, October 26, the Windsor Branch had their Annual Ball and also celebrated the 90th Anniversary of the RSCDS which started in Glasgow, Scotland with twenty-seven members attending.

The Windsor group made everyone feel very welcome and what a fabulous night we had. There were fifty three people attending including the band Scotch Mist. The smaller numbers gave us a chance to dance and talk to people we wouldn't normally in a larger venue. There were eighteen dances on the program plus one and great music to keep us busy on the dance floor. As always, there was a large contingent from Michigan and Ann Arbour and ten members from the London Branch.

As a tribute to Anne Hammond, a member of the Windsor Branch who died in September, her friend Isobel Hunter talked of Anne's love of life, and especially Scottish dancing, then we danced Anne's favourite dance, the Reel of the Royal Scots.

The Windsor Branch have thirty seven members with four teachers, a lot of us know most of them at least by sight as they are regulars at the London events.

Chatting with June Dey, who has been teaching for thirty-three years, we learned the Windsor Branch were initially known as the White Cockade. At that time you needed two teachers to become a branch, so June and her husband, John, both got their teachers certificates at Brock University and the White Cockade became the Windsor Branch.

We left the Ball looking forward to next year's celebration.



June Dey and Kim Munro, Chair of the Windsor Branch, cutting the cake to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the RSCDS and the 2013 Windsor Ball.



Members of Scotch Mist waiting to savour the cake.

RSCDS Documentary



BBC One produced a documentary titled **Scottish Country Dancing: Controlled Abandon** to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. It was broadcast on Sunday, December 29th, 2013 in Scotland, but the RSCDS is working to make it more widely available. In the meantime, you can watch a short clip of the program to whet your appetite. Have a look!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01n7clb>

The Toronto Workshop that was held back in November was truly enjoyable in all the ways you would expect.

There was a warm welcome for out-of-town participants, not only on the dance floor but during breaks and lunchtime. The facilities at Bishop Strachan School were perfect, and the food was plentiful and delicious, but above all it was the friendliness of people that made the day outstanding.

Of course we practised our dancing: footwork, figures and friendliness were all emphasized in due measure. There were three teachers working with us: one from far away (Graham Donald from Scotland), one from nearby (Elizabeth McMahon from Peterborough), and one local (Moirra Korus from Toronto). Each of the three class levels had a turn with each teacher, so that we received the benefit of three perspectives on how to improve our dancing. We were reminded to keep our footwork nice, which is good because this is easy to neglect but does make the dancing more beautiful. I remember learning some figures that were new for me: allemande left and allemande right, and contra chaise. There were some interesting twists on familiar figures also, as they were featured in the new dances that we learned. As for friendliness, the teachers' appeals to make eye contact and smile were hardly even necessary, since we were all having such a good time during classes.

Best of all was that after the morning sessions, we danced in the afternoon to the music of Scotch Mist joined by Fred Moyes. They were fabulous as always. From 2 until 5 pm we put in practice all that we had learned, and danced to our heart's content. Well, actually we could have gladly continued, but ran out of time. However, this is one of the good things about the Toronto Workshop: a person who has driven from London can be happily home by 8 pm on Saturday night.

I'm grateful to the Bursary Committee for their assistance covering the cost of the workshop. When I applied, they assured me that they are eager to subsidize out-of-town workshops now, as well as Summer School as they have done in the past. I'd encourage everyone to consider attending such a fun and educational event.

The Story Behind a Dance

The Piper and the Penguin (R88) Sq.Set R Goldring Scotia Suite

Gilbert Kerr was a member of the crew of the ship "Scotia" on the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition of 1902-04, which was organised and led by Dr. William S. Bruce. A blizzard forced the ship onto an ice shelf where it was stuck for seven days. To pass the time, Kerr, the official piper of the Expedition, decided to test the effect of music on the penguins found there. They showed "no signs of appreciation or disapproval, only sleepy indifference". Kerr was photographed performing in full Highland dress in the harsh Antarctic environment. The Emperor penguin accompanying him in this photograph was tied to a large cooking pot packed full of snow to keep him in place. This shot was made into a postcard, and became one of the first items ever to be posted from Antarctica. It was later made into a British stamp to commemorate the occasion.



Dear Miss Millie Ganz

Dear Miss Millie Ganz,
When I dance rights and lefts it never seems to be very smooth or flow well.
What should I be doing to improve?
Questioning Quentin



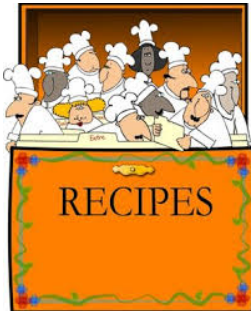
Dear Questioning Quentin,
This formation is like a Grand Chain for two couples facing each other across a set (a square). **Each person should take a handshake hold, shoulder height of the shorter dancer, giving hands as you give eye contact to the opposite dancer. It is very important to release their hand as you pass so you do not drag hands down or pull their arm out of its' socket.** You have 2 bars for each side of the square, so you have time to dance an oval track around each other making eye contact and keeping your arms nicely extended (elbows down) until you pass that person. Start with the right hand, then turn and repeat with the next dancer left hand and the next dancer right hand. On bars 7 and 8, you will change places, left hand, with person of same sex and person in first man's position or second ladies' position will do a polite turn into original place. **This is a social formation so gracious manners should be apparent.** You will be amazed at how much more enjoyable a dance can be when all participants are working together and smiling!

Miss Millie Ganz

If you have a question for Miss Millie Ganz, just send it to kmacrone@rogers.com and I'll be sure to forward it on to her.

London Branch Recipes

Gayle Frisa



Peanut Crunch Frozen Dessert

2 liters vanilla ice cream
1 liter Cool Whip
350 ml (1.5 cups) peanut butter
150 grams (3 bars) crushed Crispy Crunch (half used in mixture, other half sprinkled on top)

Here is the recipe for the dessert I brought to the Men's Dinner and Dance. Enjoy!

Soften ice cream enough to be able to mix ice cream, Cool Whip, peanut butter and half of Crispy Crunch together. Spread into 13" x 9" pan. Sprinkle other half of crushed Crispy Crunch on top.
Put in freezer.

Music Competition Winners

The winner of the RSCDS "Music for the Future" competition was a six piece folk band called D.U.K. which consists of one Englishman and five Danes. You can hear a sample of their music by clicking [here](#).

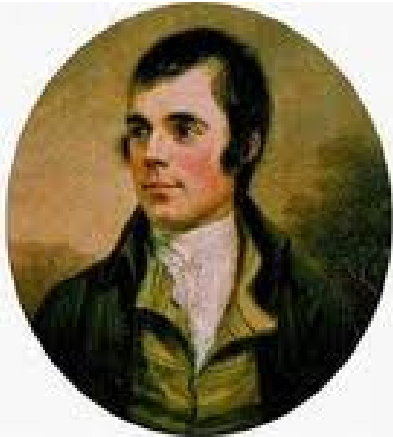



Dancing Around the World

G'day Mate! For those of you looking for a dancing holiday, consider the 39th Australian Winter School in **Canberra** this Fall. The event takes place from **September 28 to October 4, 2014**. And don't let the "Winter School" name-tag fool you as you can expect Springtime weather conditions. Eric Findley from Scotland, Doug Mills from New Zealand, Martin Mulligan from Canada and Jeanette Stephen from Sydney will be teaching at the event. Further information about the school can be found on the Canberra Branch website <http://www.rscds-canberra.org/>.



Robbie Burns Day – January 25th

	<p><i>A red red Rose O my Luve's like a red, red rose That's newly sprung in June; O my Luve's like the melodie That's sweetly play'd in tune-</i></p> <p><i>As fair art thou, my bonnie lass, So deepin love am I; And I will love thee still, my Dear, Till a' the seas gang dry-</i></p> <p><i>Till a' the seas gang dry, my Dear, And the rocks melt wi' the sun: I will love thee still, my Dear, While the sands o' life shall run-</i></p> <p><i>And fare thee weel, my only Luve! And fare thee weel, a while! And I will come again, my Luve, Tho' it were ten thousand mile!</i></p> <p><small>Robert Burns</small></p>	
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Robert Burns was born to a poor farming family January 25, 1759 in Alloway, Scotland. He was the oldest of seven children and demonstrated signs of exceptional writing ability at a very young age. His book titled *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect* was published in 1786 and was a huge success. He moved to Edinburgh and was welcomed into high society. He continued writing until his death on July 21, 1796 in Dumfries at 37 years of age. He is credited with 559 poems or songs and is one of Scotland's most important literary figures. Burns is famous for his political views, revolutionary behaviour and his love of the lassies. He was also inspired by the beauty of Scotland. Robert Burns remains one of the most celebrated figures in history and has a worldwide following.

When asked for the source of his greatest creative inspiration, American singer songwriter Bob Dylan selected Burns' 1794 song *A Red, Red Rose*, as the lyrics that have had the biggest effect on his life. Click [here](#) to listen to a rendition of this song by Andy M. Stewart.



London Workshop Programme

Saturday, February 15, 2013 at 12 p.m.
The Great Hall, Somerville House, Western University

[FLOWERS OF EDINBURGH](#)
[SWASHBUCKLING IAIN](#)
[BALQUIDDER STRATHSPEY](#)
[THE BARMKIN](#)

Teacher's Choice

MEMORIES OF PARKHILL
[LINNEA'S STRATHSPEY](#)
[THE WESTMINSTER REEL](#)

Teacher's Choice

THE MILLER OF SESSNIE
THE BONNIE LASS O' BON ACCORD
THE PENSIONER'S REEL
KISS UNDER THE STAIRS

[CATCH THE WIND](#)

Extras

GALLOWAY HOUSE
[THE FRISKY](#)

(R8x32) 3C (4C set) Bk 1/6
(J6x32) 2C (4C set) San Francisco Coll 2/11
(S8x32) 3C (4C set) Bk24/2
(R88) Sq.Set 24 Graded & Social Dances #3

(J8x32) Golden Jubilee 2/14
(S8x32) 3C (4C set) Dunsmuir Dances #20
(R6x32) 2C (4C set) Bk45/1

(J5x32) 5C set 15 Social Dances #9
(S64) Sq.Set Bon Accord Bk 1/18
(R8x32) 3C (4C set) Skye Coll. 2/14
(J8x32) 3C (4C set) MMM2/15
(R8x32) 3C (4C set) Bk45/5

(R6x32) 2C (4C set) Graded SCD/5
(J8x32) 3C (4C set) Bk 26/10



This is a wonderful opportunity to not only improve your dance skills, but to meet new people and have a great deal of fun. The weekend starts with an old fashioned Ceilidh on the Friday night (February 14th) at the Byron Legion starting at 8 pm. For only \$10 at the door you get a bit of dancing, some first class entertainment (LOL), a cash bar and a nice light lunch.

The London Branch Workshop takes place on Saturday, February 15th starting at noon. Two classes are offered each participant (one for less experienced and one for more advanced dancers) by two different teachers. This year, we are extremely fortunate to have Ruth Jappy from Delta, BC and Sheila Scott from London, ON. Ruth Jappy has taught at workshops in Canada, the USA, Australia, and Japan and also at T.A.C. Summer School. Sheila Scott was involved with T.A.C. Summer School for many years as an instructor, Chairperson and on their Executive.

A light supper follows the afternoon sessions with the evening dance coming later. Fred Moyes will be providing the live music. It's a great weekend. Come out and see for yourself.

Briefs for the evening dance program can be found on the [London Canada Branch website](#).

The Thrift Store at the London Workshop will have Scottish Country dancing clothing for everyone. For the ladies; short and long kilts, long formal dresses, jackets and long black skirts suitable for all dressy occasions. For the men; kilts, jackets and shirts are available. There are also Scottish County dancing accessories; kilt pins, clan badges, socks and a day sporran. The Merchandise area will have crafts, DVD'S and items from Scott's Highland Services which will tempt everyone to buy. The profits from the sales go to the Branch's Bursary Fund. Get there early for the best selection!



Upcoming Out of Town Events

Jan 25, 2014	Kitchener Burns Supper	www.rscds.kitchener.on.ca
Jan 25, 2014	Buffalo Burns Night Program	www.rscdsbuffalo.com/index.html
Feb 7-9, 2014	Ardbrae Ball Weekend	www.ardbrae.org/events.php
Feb 8, 2014	Alliston Workshop and Tea Dance	contact Irene Wilson 705-435-2361
Feb 9, 2014	Windsor Afternoon Tea Dance	http://www.rscdswindsor.org/events.php
Feb 14, 2014	Ottawa Valentine Dance	www.rscdsottawa.ca
Feb 14-16, 2014	Aloha Winter Weekend	www.rscdshawaii.org
Feb 22, 2014	Toronto 51 st Tartan Ball	www.rscdstoronto.org/Tartan_Ball.html
Feb 25, 2014	Kitchener Mini-Social	www.rscds.kitchener.on.ca
Feb 28-Mar 2/14	Belleville Workshop & Ball	contact Mike lmccarey@sympatico.ca
March 8, 2014	Kitchener Dance & Workshop	www.rscds.kitchener.on.ca
March 22, 2014	West End Workshop 2014 (Brampton)	www.rscdstoronto.org
March 22, 2014	Border Cities Workshop (Windsor)	http://www.rscdswindsor.org/events.php
March 23, 2014	Ardbrae Tea Dance	www.ardbrae.org/events.php
April 5, 2014	Ottawa Annual Ball	http://rscdsottawa.ca/
April 26, 2014	Hamilton's John Middleton Ball	http://www.rscdshamilton.org/events.html
May 3, 2014	St. Catharines 50 th Spring Dance	http://www.rscdsstcatharines.ca/
May 10, 2014	West Toronto Beginners Ball	more information to come
June 14, 2014	Kitchener Crystal Ball	www.rscds.kitchener.on.ca



The **T.A.C. Summer School** will take place this year from July 27 to Aug 3, 2014 at the University of Northern Colorado located in Greeley, Colorado (50 miles NE of Denver). More information can be found on the [T.A.C. website](#).

The annual **RSCDS Summer School** located in St. Andrews, Scotland offers you a choice of four different weeks and runs from July 20 to August 17, 2014. More information can be found on the [RSCDS website](#).

Committee of Management for 2013-2014

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