

# THE REEL NEWS

Volume 25, Issue #4 March 2019  
ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY  
LONDON, CANADA BRANCH  
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Submissions for the next newsletter can be sent to the new  
Newsletter Editor by August 6th, 2019

## Chairperson's Message

Helen Bell

February 2019 had the record for interrupting three consecutive Wednesday night dance classes! It seemed that the weather gods waited just for a Wednesday to pile on freezing rain and snow! Gladly, that is behind us now as we enter March with hopes of better weather and temperatures.

The one bright light in February was our very successful annual workshop on Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Moira Korus, our guest teacher, arrived in London on the Friday afternoon and accepted our invitation to teach a few dances at the Social Class. The class was well attended and all those who came had a very enjoyable night with some new dances from Moira. After many anxious days for Marg Campbell and our treasurer John Biro, the numbers of attendees at the workshop climbed to a total of sixty six. There were enough beginners to warrant a Beginner Class led by our own Catherine Shaw. This could not be determined until approximately a week before the workshop. We are very grateful to Catherine for her continued readiness to teach, as we waited for applications to be received. Moira led an excellent workshop introducing interesting dances with new formations in the morning for the more advanced dancers and later in the afternoon gave a lesson of dances suitable for a combined class. She was a delightful guest teacher, with a bright personality and great teaching skills. I would like to thank Marg Campbell once again for the thought, the time, and effort she gave to making the 2019 Workshop such a success. My thanks also go to Mary Howard and Maureen Graham, who handled the job of registration so efficiently, to Alasdair and Anne Campbell who were in charge of receiving applications and to our members who came to take part. Once again this year, Janet Schreiber held her shop of "all things dance". This is a huge undertaking and I thank Janet for bringing it to the Workshop so that we could browse and purchase from a large selection of items.



The Spring Dance at Metropolitan United Church will be our next monthly dance on April 5th and our Annual Ball will be held on May 4th, at the Polish Hall. This year we are planning to hold an afternoon "Strawberry Social" Tea Dance on Saturday, June 15th, from 1pm to 4pm at Colborne Street United Church. Please mark these dates in your calendar as we need your support. I also **encourage you to advertise our FREE class on May 8th, at Carling Heights**. This is a great opportunity to increase our membership by inviting all those fellow classmates at exercise classes as well as friends and relatives. Spring is coming everyone, and there is a lot more dancing to enjoy!

## Branch News

### Member Updates



Get well wishes to our members (Helen Bell and Jim Rollo) that are doctoring or recuperating from various ailments.

Hope you are up and about and feeling fine in no time.

### Important Notice to all Branch Members

Barb Jessop

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at 7:30 on **Wednesday May 15** at Carling Heights Optimist Community Centre. This is your second best place to influence the direction of our Branch. Of course, the best way is to become a member of the management committee.

Before the meeting, you will receive the meeting agenda and the reports of each committee member. Unless requested prior to the meeting, no hard copies will be available. You are advised to print whichever pages you would like to have on hand at the meeting.

### News from the Thrift Store

Janet Schreiber

The Thrift Store at the Workshop had a profit of \$280.00. Thank you to Gayle Frisa for helping set up, selling and packing up. If you are doing a closet spring cleaning, consider donating items suitable for Scottish County dancing to the Thrift Store. The Thrift Store has a box of Scottish County dance books. These are available for a small donation. The instructions in these books have the original instructions for the dances and are a valuable resource for all levels of Scottish County dancers.



### Bursary Fund



Have you ever considered attending a workshop hosted by another Branch or becoming qualified to be a Scottish Country Dance Teacher? Our London Branch has a bursary fund to help pay for you to attend workshops or teacher candidate classes and exams. **You may apply for workshop subsidy once in a two-year period.** All that we ask in return is a short write up for The Reel News to tell other members about the experience. **Letters of application should include workshop dates and registration fees and be given to the Branch Secretary, Barb Jessop.**

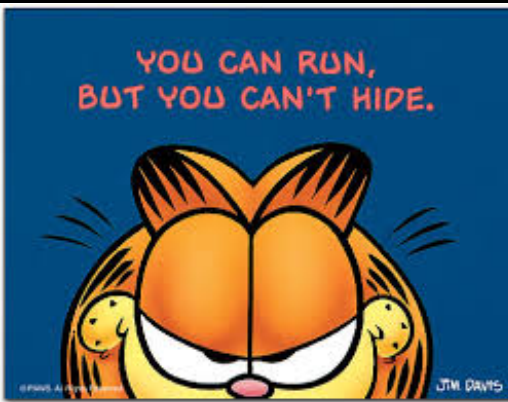
### Calling All Banners

Peter Auksi

Last year at our first May Ball in the Polish Hall, we had the opportunity to hang our wonderfully colorful clan banners on the walls of the hall. The effect was dramatic: tons of color, history, and visual appeal on usually blank walls. Many out-of-towners commented on the striking effect of these colorful allusions to Scotland's social history -- and we look forward again to hanging our collection of the 16-18 banners which our branch members own. If you would like to see your clan banner (or banners) hung on the walls of the Polish Hall this May 4th, please bring them to either the Wednesday evening or Friday evening dance classes a week or two before the May Ball ... I would be glad to have them for installation and display at our festive celebration. (Banners will be returned on Saturday evening right after the Ball). Thanks in advance.



*“Blossom by blossom the spring begins.” – Algernon Charles Swinburne*



Did you know that every class, every dance, every flyer, ticket, newsletter and piece of information on the website is the result of a volunteer on the Committee of Management and our dedicated group of teachers? Have you considered volunteering yourself to help with the running of the Branch?

We still have two positions to fill on the Committee of Management (CoM) starting with the 2019/2020 dancing year. These are for two-year terms starting in June. Many thanks to our volunteer who has stepped up to fill the Newsletter Editor role.

**Publicity Coordinator:** Held by Gayle Frisa for the past four years, this position promotes and markets the Branch and its activities. This involves advertising and materials to attract new members, as well as flyers, brochures and website information to promote our branch events. Gayle has a sub-committee of two members working with her, one of whom looks after the website. It's an important role requiring good knowledge of Branch activities.

Ideally we'd like to fill this position. However, Gayle has generously offered to stay on for another two years if necessary and have someone shadow her during that time, with the goal of taking over as Coordinator in 2021. This would be a great way to learn the ropes with Gayle's guidance.

**Archivist:** This position has been vacant for the past year and is currently handled by me. The Archivist is responsible for filing and storing materials such as Minutes of CoM meetings, financial reports, newsletters, membership lists and more. The Archivist provides historical information to the CoM as needed. This role is a gentle introduction to the workings of the CoM with light duties. The Archives are now being held in a climate-controlled, secure storage unit in London, so the role no longer comes with a truckload of material to be stored in your home!

If you've never served on the CoM (or if you have and can't wait to do it again), please consider volunteering for one of these positions. I guarantee it will enhance your membership experience in the Branch when you have a stake in how it's run. Please see one of us on the Nominating Committee (Linda Adamson, Dorothy Sample and Margaret Campbell) for further information and a job description.

## Dancing Around the World

### *Easter Weekend Away in Chambéry, French Alps – April 11-13, 2020*



Every four years, the RSCDS Paris Branch organizes an international Easter dance weekend for advanced dancers in the French Alps. Our host teacher is Ron Wallace from California with music provided by Sarah-Jane Summers on fiddle and James Gray on piano. Chambéry, France is accessible by train from Paris, Geneva and Lyon international airports. More information will be made available over the next few months on their [website](#).

## Burns Night

Linda Adamson



An enjoyable Burns Night dance was held at Metropolitan United Church on January 25. This is the actual anniversary of Burn's birth in 1759. There were about 35 dancers present and a good time was had by everyone. In keeping with the occasion, there was haggis! Helen Bell and I paraded the haggis through the hall and the address was given by Bill McLennan. The haggis made an appropriate addition to the wonderful meal coordinated by Calla. There was also a famous "Shaw Draw" making for some happy winners (Alasdair wins the prize for being a lucky guy). The dancing was fun – a good mix of dances for participants at all levels of skill. And we were able to welcome a couple of new dancers also.



Thank you to everyone who organized this event – it was a great way to spend a cold and snowy evening and to celebrate Scotland's most famous poet.



If you have never been to Scotland, check out this [video](#) to see what you are missing. And for those of you that have, you are going to love it too. The scenery is breathtaking.

## London Workshop and Tea Dance

Margaret Campbell

What do weasels and roses have in common? They're both in new formations we learned at the Workshop on Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.



Mother Nature smiled on us when 66 dancers gathered at the Polish Combatants' Hall for a day of fun, fellowship and learning. A large contingent came from out-of-town to support this event.

Lead by our guest teacher, Moira Korus from Toronto, the experienced class learned new formations in the morning that we haven't normally seen in dances. [The Happy Weasel](#) challenged us with weasel reels, and the rose formation found in [A Rose for the Cobbler](#) made for a beautiful and elegant strathspey. At the same time, Catherine Shaw guided the basic dancers through the formations in [Kendall's Hornpipe](#), including rights and lefts and ladies chain. In the afternoon we had a combined class taught by Moira and learned some new dances while focusing on handing, covering and phrasing. The Tea Dance was a nice way to practice our new – or improved – skills and end the day.



Food was plentiful and delicious. There was lots of opportunity to socialize with old and new friends, or shop for bargains at the Thrift Shop to support the Bursary Fund. I think all would agree that Moira was an outstanding and motivating teacher. In spite of some tired feet and a few aches here and there, we all left energized with a new appreciation for dancing.



*Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 Social Class with special guest Moira Korus.*

## Spring Dance Programme

Friday, April 5, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.  
Metropolitan United Church, London

1. The Flowers of Edinburgh	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	RSCDS Book 1-6
2. Swashbuckling Ian	J-6x32 2C(3C set)	San Francisco Coll. 2
3. Wisp of Thistle	S-8x32 3C(4C set)	RSCDS Book 37-4
4. The Dancing Bees	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	24 Gr. & Soc. Dances
5. Miss Allie Anderson	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	Leaflet 14
6. The Marquis of Lorne	S-8x32 3C(4C set)	MMM 2
7. The Lass of Richmond Hill	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Graded Book
8. Miss Welsh's Reel	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	Graded Book 1.13
9. Seann Trubihias Willichan	S-6x32 2C(3C set)	RSCDS Book 27-9
10. The Sailor	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	RSCDS Book 24-4
11. The Flying Scotsman	J-4x32 4C set	Thurston
12. The Silver Tassie	S-8x32 3C(4C set)	Leaflet 1
13. Jubilee Jig	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	Leaflet 19
14. Knot on a Ferry	J-4x32 (R the R)	R. Wallace



The briefs/video links for this and the following dance programmes can be found on the [RSCDS London Canada Branch website](#).



**Tartan Day** is a celebration of Scottish heritage that is held on **April 6th**, the date on which the Declaration of Arbroath, giving Scotland independence, was signed in 1320. It originated in Canada in the mid - 1980's and has spread to other countries where Scottish people immigrated to.

**DON'T FORGET TO WEAR TARTAN TO THE DANCE ON FRIDAY, APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>**

Ever wonder who works at the RSCDS Headquarters in Edinburgh and what exactly they do? Watch this [video](#) and take the tour to see for yourself.



*“Spring is nature’s way of saying, ‘Let’s Party!’” – Robin Williams*

# London Spring Ball Programme

Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.  
Polish Combatants Hall, London

1. The Machine Without Horses	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	RSCDS Book 12-12
2. The Lass of Richmond Hill	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Gr. Bk.
3. Sugar Candie	S-8x32 3C(4C set)	RSCDS Book 26-9
4. Pelorus Jack	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	RSCDS Book 41-1
5. Trip to Timber Ridge	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	RSCDS Book 52-12
6. Culla Bay	S-4x32 (sq. set)	RSCDS Book 41-2
7. Joie de Vivre	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	RSCDS Book 39-2
8. The Highland Rambler	R-8x40 3C(4C set)	Leeds Silver Jubilee
9. The Rose of the North	S-8x32 3C(3C set)	Leeds Silver Jubilee
10. Cranberry Tart	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	7 Year Itch
11. The Royal Deeside Railway	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	RSCDS Book 40-9
12. MacDonald of the Isles	S-3x32 3C set	Carnforth 2
13. Swashbuckling Ian	J-6x32 2C(3C set)	San Francisco Coll. 2
14. The Countess of Dunsmore's Reel	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	RSCDS Book 49-12
15. Cutty Sark	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	RSCDS Book 40-2
16. Mairi's Wedding	R-8x40 3C(4C set)	Cosh



*Please join us for an evening of great food and dancing to great music provided by Laird Brown and Scotch Mist. A Ball practice for everyone attending the Ball is being held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April at Elmwood Presbyterian Church at 7:30 pm.*

*Tickets for the Ball can be purchased from Alasdair Campbell at Wednesday and Friday night classes or by mail. A copy of the Ball flyer can be found on the [RSCDS London Branch website](#).*

## Dutton Demo


Helen Bell

On Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup>, a number of our dancers entertained at a "Scottish Evening" in Dutton, Ontario. This is a popular annual event in Dutton which is anticipated each year. There were several entertainers including pipers, storyteller, and singers. The dancers received many compliments on their performance and we all enjoyed the evening. Pictured are: Brian and Margaret Campbell, Duncan and Kathy Gray, Scott and Karen MacCrone, Alasdair Campbell, Jean Cameron and Helen Bell.



# Strawberry Social Tea Dance Programme

Saturday, June 15, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.  
Colborne Street United Church Hall, London

1. The Borrowdale Exchange	R-4x32 (R the R)	Second Carnforth	
2. It's Nae Bother	J-6x32 2C(3C set)	Second Graded	
3. Matthew's Strathspey	S-4x32 (sq. set)	St. Catherine Book	
4. Beeswing	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	Gr. & Soc. Dances 2 - Goldring	
5. A Summer Social	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	12 SCDS - C. Ronald	
6. Balquidder Strathspey	S-8x32 3C(4C set)	RSCDS Book 24-1	
7. Hedwig's Reel	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	Second Graded	
8. Campbell's Frolic	J-8x32 3C(4C set)	RSCDS Book 15-3	
9. Wind on Loch Fyne	S-3x32 (tri. set)	Dunedin Dances Book 1	
10. Scotland's Gardens	R-8x32 3C(4C set)	Auld Friends Meet - Goldring	
11. The Wooden Horse	J-3x32 3C set	Turkish Set - J. Drewry	
12. Midsummer Common	S-8x32 3C(4C set)	RSCDS Book 49-3	
13. The Summer Assembly	R-88 (sq. set)	RSCDS Book 35-8	
14 Festival Interceltique	R-4x40 (R the R)	4/2008	



*Welcome summer by coming out to our Strawberry Social Tea Dance. It promises to be a lovely afternoon of dancing in air-conditioned comfort, followed by a delicious seasonal treat.*



*The cost will be \$15 at the door for dancers and \$7.50 for non-dancers.*

## The Story Behind a Dance

**BEESWING** (R8x32) 3C (4C set) Roy Goldring G and S Dances 2

Beeswing is a small village in Dumfriesshire, Scotland. Formerly known as Lochend, it was renamed to honor the great racing mare, Beeswing. Beeswing (1833-1854) was a 19th century British thoroughbred racehorse from the north of England. In her day, Beeswing was hailed as the greatest mare in Britain and one of the greatest of all time. Entering 63 events, she won an astonishing 51 times. Of the 57 races she finished, she was placed lower than second only once.



If you are looking to immerse yourself in more Scottish heritage (without the airfare), check out the following **Highland Games** this summer: [Georgetown](#) June 8, [Kingsville](#) June 22, [Embro](#) July 1, [Kincardine](#) July 5-7, [Cambridge](#) July 19-20, [Detroit](#) August 2-3 and [Fergus](#) August 9-11. Enjoy the pipes and drums, Highland dancing, heavy athletics, clan tents, tug of war competitions, Celtic entertainment and more.





## The Era of Long Dance Programmes

Patrick Capper

These days a common dance programme is 14 or 16 dances. During my downsizing of papers, I came across a programme from the 1964 Leeds University Highland Ball that had 28 dances.

The dances were as follows:

Hooper's Jig (J), General Stuart's Reel (R), She's Ower Young Tae Marry Yet (S), The Golden Pheasant (J), Alewife and Her Barrel (R) Shepherd's Crook (S), Of She Goes in the North (J), Reel of the 51<sup>st</sup> Division (R), Kiss me Quick (R), Montgomerie's Rant (R), The Axum Reel (S), Drambuie (J), The Lea Rig (S), Hamilton House (J), Sutters of Selkirk (R), Glasgow Highlanders (S), Fergus McIver (J), College Hornpipe (R), Grey Daylight (S), The Gentle Shepherd (J), Bonnie Anne (J), Foursome Reel and Tulloch (M), Monymusk (S), The Hamilton Rant (R), Ellwyn's Fairy Glen (R), Strathglass House (S), Mairi's Wedding (R), Eightsome Reel (R).



The only one not in the Scottish Country Dance Dictionary is **Drambuie**, a jig done in a square set.

Fig 1: All set to partner, pass R & L of grand chain/Set to next person, pass R & L// Repeat to places//

CHORUS: Set to partner, change places R/ set, change back L//Polka round the set//

Fig 2: 1 & 3C spin, while 2 & 4C turn & dance out to form lines across with other couples/ the two lines cross R shoulder//Cross back R shoulder/Turn partner to places

CHORUS

Fig 3: Men move to middle and face partner/all set twice//Turn partner, corner, partner, corner//

CHORUS

Fig 4: Ladies cast round partners, cross to man on R/ cast round, cross to next man etc. to places//

CHORUS

Fig 5: Men cross to lady on R, cast round her/cross to next lady & cast// repeat to places//

CHORUS

*(This is the typical format for dance briefs with a / indicating 4 bars)*

I found the original instructions for Drambuie. The dance was devised by Hugh Thursten and (first published in "The Thistle" in 1961) later published by Hugh Foss in 1966.

Programmes of about 20 dances were common in the mid 1960s. In 2013, the Perth Summer Dance programmes all had 18 dances, with a potential for 2 extras. I suppose with the aging population the number of dances in a programme has been steadily diminishing.




*Sir Nils Olav is a King penguin living at the Edinburgh Zoo. Check out this [article](#) about how this penguin became a high ranking officer in the Norwegian Army.*

## Upcoming Out of Town Events

Mar 23, 2019	<a href="#">West End Workshop &amp; Tea Dance (Brampton)</a>
Mar 23-24, 2019	<a href="#">Heather Ball &amp; Musicians' Workshop (Vancouver)</a>
Mar 30, 2019	<a href="#">Blair Spring Dance (Kitchener)</a>
Apr 6, 2019	<a href="#">John Middleton Ball (Hamilton)</a>
Apr 13, 2019	<a href="#">RSCDS Ottawa Branch Ball</a>
Apr 14, 2019	<a href="#">Memorial Dance for Bill Hamilton (Windsor)</a>
Apr 19-21, 2019	<a href="#">Spring Fling, Paris - A special weekend for young dancers 18-35</a>
Apr 27, 2019	<a href="#">Sarnia's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dance</a>
May 11, 2019	<a href="#">West Toronto Ball (50<sup>th</sup> Annual Beginner's Ball)</a>
May 24-26, 2019	<a href="#">Stoney Lake Workshop</a>
May 25, 2019	<a href="#">Oakville Spring Dance</a>
June 8, 2019	Spring Fling (Ailsa Craig) – contact <a href="mailto:marwil@sympatico.ca">marwil@sympatico.ca</a>
Jul 14-Aug 11, 2019	<a href="#">St Andrews Summer School (Scotland)</a>
July 28-Aug 4, 2019	<a href="#">TAC Summer School (Calgary)</a>
Sept 20-21, 2019	<a href="#">Keppie Ceilidh (Mississauga)</a>
Dec 8, 2019	<a href="#">The 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Gleneagles Ball (Vancouver)</a>





The **RSCDS London Ontario Branch** is offering 2 nights of dance (July 10<sup>th</sup> and August 14<sup>th</sup>) over the summer. They will be held at Carling Heights Optimist Community Centre at 7:30 pm in the Aerobics room. Cost is \$5.

The **Ailsa Craig dance group** is also offering 2 chances to dance this summer (July 4<sup>th</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup>) at Ye Olde Towne Hall on Main Street in Ailsa Craig at 7:30 pm. The cost is \$2.

**Both venues are air-conditioned for your dancing enjoyment!**

## Committee of Management for 2018-2019

Chairperson	Helen Bell	<a href="mailto:bellpoppy20@gmail.com">bellpoppy20@gmail.com</a>	519-471-0623
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Treasurer	John Biro	<a href="mailto:jbiro2@teksavvy.com">jbiro2@teksavvy.com</a>	519-681-9823
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