

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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www.rscdswinnipeg.ca

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Committee of Management 2018/19

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Teacher's Rep:	Cheryl Durnin	204-253-4213
Webmaster:	Sheila Careless	204-233-8808

Important Dates

Winter/Spring Term 2019

Thursday, April 11 – Spring Social - hosted by the Thursday Class

Week of April 15 – Second Term Classes end (no class April 18)

Monday, April 22 – Afternoon Class ends

Friday to Sunday, April 26 - 28, 2019 – Spring Dance Workshop

see workshop brochure on website

Tuesdays, May 7, 14, 21 – Spring Dancing 2019

Wednesday, May 22 – AGM 7:30 start at St. Paul's Hall

- All dance events are at 8pm at St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall unless otherwise indicated.

A Word from the Chair of COM

Since the last newsletter, your COM has been busy *looking to the future!*



Spring and all it has to offer us! New growth in our environment, ourselves and for us, “*dance*”!

We started February off with our *new Afternoon Class!* There were 17 registered dancers and on average we have 12-14 participants every week. We have five newcomers who are quickly picking up rhythms, step work, and figures. It is a pleasure to welcome them to our love of dance.

One of our goals this year was to complete the revision of the By-Laws and review the Operating Guidelines. The By-Law revisions are now complete and will be going out to the membership after our April COM meeting on April 3rd. A notice regarding the AGM, the Annual Reports and the By-Law revisions will be distributed in late April, early May. We are hoping to have the By-Law revisions ratified at the AGM on May 22.

The St. Andrew's Society is hosting a Tartan Day Ceilidh on April 5th at Crescentwood Community Centre. There is a group of 15-20 of us who will be attending. If you are interested please be in touch with Joyce Cormack. Information has been emailed to you about this event.

Our Spring Workshop is coming up the weekend of April 26-28. More information is on the website, as well as the registration form.

Watch for information on Spring Dancing in May!

I am writing this note, after a wonderful evening of dance, as the Tuesday Technique Class hosted a Social for the Branch. It was a great program with about 45 people in attendance. Thank you to the Class as well as to their teacher this term, Cheryl Durnin.

Jane Nattress

Next COM meeting is April 3, 2019 at 7:00 pm at St. Paul's.

Spring Social – Thursday Class April 11

Programme

Bethankit	32J3	3rd Graded Book
Provost Wynd	32R3	2nd Graded Book
Delvine Side	32S3	Book 2
Highland Rambler	40R3	Leeds
Tine's Jig	32J3	Moments in Time
Intermission		
Granville Market	32J3	2nd Graded Book
Triple Happiness	32S3 (3cpl)	Book 52
Australian Ladies	32R3	Glasgow Assembly
Haar on Skye	32S3	3rd Graded Book
Diel Amang the Tailors	32R3	Book 14

Have you heard?

How Winnipeg! Branch snow policy. We are hoping to see the snow melt away and Spring take over. The snowy winter weather can sometimes cause havoc on the streets. Check the website or October issue of L & A for the branch snow policy for classes.

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society has launched their new website for all things SCD in the world. Check it out at: <https://www.rscds.org/>

Tartan Day Social

The St Andrews Society is organizing a ceilidh evening April 5th at Crescentwood Community Club to celebrate Tartan Day which is on April 6.

Sounds like a very fun evening with a great band called Thistle. More info at the website <https://www.standrewssocietywinnipeg.com>

Nominations for COM Positions

A Nomination Committee has been struck to provide a slate of people willing to serve in the various positions on the Committee of Management for the RSCDS Winnipeg Branch. Members are John Giesbrecht, Joan Curle and Donna Robinson. Nominations for any of the COM positions will be gladly accepted. If you are or know of someone interested in letting their name stand for nomination for any COM position, please contact any committee member. Positions becoming open are Vice-Chair, Social Chair and Librarian. John indicates the position of Vice-Chair seems a harder one to find a person for.

DEMONSTRATION DANCERS WANTED

For several years, the Winnipeg Branch has not had an organized demonstration programme. Requests have been few, and have been handled on an *ad hoc* basis. This approach is not very satisfactory – dancers are recruited at short notice, there is no fixed demonstration repertoire, and most importantly, there is never adequate preparation / rehearsal time. Recently, the number of requests has been increasing, and the Committee of Management has asked the Teacher Rep to lay the groundwork for a Branch demonstration programme. This is the beginning of that project.

Dancers often think of demonstrations as entertainment, and no doubt, they serve that function. However, they should also serve the objectives of an RSCDS Branch, including “to advance the education and engagement of the public ... in traditional Scottish dancing”. Accordingly, the dancing should be to reasonable Society standards. Dancers involved in demonstrations should be able to adequately perform the steps of contemporary SCD, and should be familiar with the common formations used in the dances, so that rehearsal time need not be spent on teaching basics. A necessary, but not always sufficient, condition for that level of competence is at least two years regular attendance at Branch teaching classes – Basics and Technique - and active engagement in the learning process of those classes. Regular attendance means every week, barring occasional absence – say at least 11 weeks out of each 14 week term, not counting the “party class” at end of term.

Demonstrations can be fun, if you’re well prepared – which is the point of the short course, mentioned below. If you would be willing to participate in Branch demonstrations, including attendance at a short course to learn the repertoire, and feel that you meet the requirement of adequate steps and acquaintance with common formations, please contact the Teacher Rep Cheryl Durnin at 204-253-4213 or email durninch@gmail.com.

Cheryl

2019 Spring Workshop “Tulips and Tartan”

Not much time left before we will be approaching the Workshop Weekend on April 26-28, so don't delay and get your registrations to our registrar Glen Colquhoun as soon as you can. It really helps those of us on the committee to get advance planning done around meals, ceilidh contributions, along with class composition and space. Should be a fun weekend and this year we are using a new space for the ball and dinner along with the Sunday combined class and brunch at the Holiday inn West.

We had a special international visitor come to our WE last year, Mieko Hori from Japan and she had a really good time, so much so, that this week we just heard from her, and she is

making that very long trip once again to take part. She will be here from April 24 until April 30 and we look forward to having her here at the workshop! So if you need some persuasion to attend part or all of the WE, Mieko's example should provide the motivation, and illustrates how SCD is an international movement that easily dissolves borders and differences. Mieko is very friendly so if you haven't met her before, be sure to introduce yourself, and suggest a dance.

Any last minutes questions please get in touch with myself (204 489 7712) or Shirley (204 256 3835).

Lynn McClure



Ball Programme April 27

Grand March

The Highland Fair	32J2 6x	Gr Bk
The Kenora Reel	32R3 8x	Bankhead
Jenny's Well	32S3 3x	Aye Afloat
A Trip to Sucker Bay	32J3 8x	Prairie Gold
The Kissing Bridge	32R3 8x	RSCDS Bk 47
Invercauld's Reel	32S3 8x	Bk 11
The Montgomeries' Rant	32R3 8x	Bk 10

Interval

The New Year Jig	32J3 8x	Bk 51
Mary's Strathspey	32S3 8x	4 SCD In Mem Mary Nixon
Mrs MacLeod	32R3 8x	Bk 6
Napier's Index	40J3 8x	Bk 45
The Minister on the Loch	32S3 3x	RSCDS 4/2008
The Golden Boy	32J3 8x	Bankhead
Reel of the 51st	32R3 8x	Bk 13

Waltz

CALL TO CEILIDH

Our Annual Workshop & Ball April 26-28 is approaching fast. Help your hard working committee put together a great programme by getting your registration in without delay.

Friday night's Ceilidh is calling on you to help create a fun filled evening with your presentation, be that a song, tune, dance, poem or skit. Now is the time to get ready. Include your entry on the registration form. Please call or text me, Ray Plaitin 941-3151 with your questions or needs. Sound equipment and keyboard will be on site.

Ray

Summer School 2019

Summer is getting closer. And so is TAC Summer School. Registration started March 1st and after only one day it is 25% sold! Don't delay if you are thinking of coming. It is in Calgary this year so in Canadian dollars (yay!). You can go to the TAC website at <https://tac-rscds.org/index.php/tac-summer-school> to get the details. It is a ton of fun! You will meet people from all over the world, get great teaching from some of the best teachers out there and get to dance to live music every day!

Who is going to join me on the dance floor in Calgary?

Sheila Careless

Class Reports

Fort Garry Social Class

This month Peter McClure has really brought intriguing dance formations to our class. In my 38 years of dancing, the chaperone chain progression and Schiehallion reels were totally new to me. For the first while I was thinking that he was trying to convince us that old dogs can learn new tricks! Thanks Peter for bringing us the Countess of Dunsmore Reel and Bon Vivieur. This last one has both a Strathspey and a Reel tempo, and was great fun, once I wrapped my head around the cloverleaf pattern of the Schiehallion reels.

Of course, these challenging dances were interspersed with a few old chestnuts like Machine without Horses and Shiftin Bobbins. This type of class programming make one forget about the adverse weather and makes class time fly. Before you realize, it's ten o'clock and time to go home!

These last two weeks Peter has focused on reviewing the dances on our March Social programme; Paisley Weavers, Fair Donald, Mary Erskine, Glasgow Lasses, The Dancing Man,

and Jig to the Music. Peter's class plan will hopefully show in our enjoyment of these dances at our March Social.

John Giesbrecht

Technique Class

The February class size has been consistent - just like the minus double-digit temperatures in Winnipeg. It's the comradery in the class that draws us out into the cold evenings to enjoy our Tuesday evening dance class. Thank you to our teacher Cheryl and substitute teachers Maureen and Joyce for preparing us for the March social. Forty-three dancers came out on March 12th to enjoy dancing the old social favorites – Flowers of Edinburgh (Book 1-6) with wonderful tunes, and try some new favorites – Trip to Timber Ridge (Book 52). We now look forward to the Spring Social on April 11 and the Winnipeg Workshop April 26 – 28.

Sharyl Eaglesham

Basics Class

Our instructor Sheila Careless has led us through many dances this term. We were ready for the social - Flowers of Edinburgh, The Paisley Weavers, Trip to Timber Ridge, Fair Donald, Mary Erskine, Glasgow Lasses, and Jig to the Music. Our class averages 10 to 14 on Thursdays as we practice our various steps such as Strathspey setting, travelling and more. Thanks to the experienced dancers who come out to our class.

We are looking forward to hosting the next social on April 11. Don't miss it!

Donna Daniels

Afternoon Class

We have an enthusiastic group of dancers averaging 12-14 in attendance each week. Our class consists of half brand new dancers and half with varying levels of experience. This works out very well as those of us who have experience are able to partner up with an inexperienced dancer and provide some assistance. We usually begin the class with a simple round the room dance followed by the usual warm up exercises with a review of the proper foot positions and a reminder of good posture. We then have step practice which has included skip change, strathspey travelling step, slip step and pas-de-basque. We have been practising many figures: promenade, poussette, rights and lefts, 4 hands across, corner-partner-corner-partner as well as corner chain, advance and retire, back to back and diagonal reels of four. I'm sure I have forgotten to mention some but in any case our new dancers have learned a lot during these past several weeks. Of course it's always beneficial to those of us with experience to review these things as well! We have put all of the above figures into practice in such dances as A Reel for

Jeannie, EH3 7AF which is the postal code for the RSCDS headquarters in Edinburgh, Charles Stuart, It's Nae Bother, The Wasatch Mountain Reel, The Laird of Milton's Daughter, The Linton Ploughman and Catch as Catch Can, just to mention a few.

Accolades to our very capable teachers - Sheila, Joyce, Maureen and Cheryl who somehow have the amazing ability to provide this class of both "old and new" dancers with just the right mix of step practice and dances that can be enjoyed by all, making for a sociable and fun afternoon of dance and exercise. It is evident that everyone is enjoying it. Thank you for this opportunity!

Marilyn Piniuta

From the editor's desk

It's now Spring!! Both by the calendar, and by our warming temperatures and longer hours of sunshine.

We are nearing the closing events of our dancing season – the last class social, the workshop and ball, and spring dancing in May. It seems another dance year has "slip stepped" away! 😊 (pun intended.)

I hope you find interesting dancing news in the L & A newsletter.

We recently received sad news that Alex Jappy, gifted musician, dancer, and wonderful man passed away in Vancouver. The SCD world will miss Alex and we extend our condolences to Ruth Jappy.

Doug Durnin, editor

Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca

Here and There...

SCD Books and Music

Anyone interested in buying books of Scottish country dances or recordings of SCD music should be aware of TACBooks and TACSound, two services maintained by Teachers' Association Canada (TAC). You can look at their catalogues on the TAC web site www.tac-rscds.org. If you want to order any items, please do it via the Branch Librarian, as there are discounts available to Branches, but not to individuals. In the past, the Librarian has sent in Branch orders two or three times per year.

Scottish Country Dance Ghillies and Pumps

www.avriel.com Shoe shop for dancers.

Clan Info and Scottish Shop

www.scotclans.com

SCD Online

In case you didn't know about these sites:

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Edinburgh, Scotland: <https://www.rscds.org>

A great site to link to other branches and everything in the world of Scottish Country Dancing.

[The Inter-City Scot](#) - lists events across Canada and the United States. For other parts of the world, use the link to SCD groups on the Strathspey site www.strathspey.org to find contact information.

[RSCDS Winnipeg Branch](#)

[RSCDS Saskatchewan Branch](#)

[RSCDS Calgary Branch](#)

[RSCDS Edmonton Caledonian Branch](#)

[RSCDS Medicine Hat Branch](#)

www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org

[RSCDS Vancouver](#)

[RSCDS Toronto Branch](#)

[RSCDS Ottawa](#)

[RSCDS Montreal Branch](#)

[RSCDS St. John's \(Newfoundland\) Branch](#)

[Teachers Association Canada](#) : for teachers of Scottish country dancing.

Strathspey www.strathspey.org has a database where you can search for info about dances (including cribs and videos when available), music (some clips), people and more. Also, there is a link to the Strathspey e-mail list, in case you'd like to join an online mailing list about SCD.

SCD Dictionary www.scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com has info about steps and formations. We don't really need that, we get it in our classes; however, sometimes a video may help, and SCD dictionary has videos for steps and formations. Also, there is info about dances, as on Strathspey.

Some Out of Town Events

If you have an internet connection, browse for RSCDS & city. For instance RSCDS Toronto hosts workshops and monthly dances and has links to dancing events all over the world. Almost every city in Canada has an RSCDS group. Many have a Facebook site as well.

March 23, 2019 - Regina - Spring Fling

March 23, 2019 - Vancouver - Heather Ball

April 6, 2019 - Victoria - Vancouver Island SCDS Workshop & Ball

April 12-14, 2019 - Lethbridge - Dance, Music Workshops and Ball

April 12-14, 2019 - Minneapolis - RSCDS Twin Cities 43rd Annual Grand Ball Weekend

April 13, 2019 - Ottawa - Ottawa Branch Annual Ball

April 27 – Montreal – Spring Dance

May 3-5, 2019 - Edmonton - Ellerslie Spring Ball Weekend

May 11, 2019 - Edinburgh - Edinburgh Branch 95th Anniversary Ball

May 11, 2019 - Toronto - West Toronto Ball

July 26-28 – Calgary – TAC Teachers' Conference Weekend and AGM

July 28-August 4 – Calgary – TAC Summer School Week

L&A Submissions

Next L&A: May

Members are encouraged to submit articles, pictures or information of interest to Branch members.

Submissions for the *Light and Airy* can be sent to the Branch e-mail address: info@rscdswinnipeg.ca or to the editor at Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca Deadline for submissions: April 13. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are at: www.rscdswinnipeg.ca