

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

Important Dates

Winter/Spring Term 2019

Monday, April 22 – Afternoon Class ends

Thursday, April 25 – Ball dance practice 8:00pm at St. Paul's

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

Tuesday, May 7 – Spring Dancing

Tuesday, May 14 – Spring Dancing

Tuesday, May 21 – Spring Dancing

Wednesday, May 22 – AGM - 7:30 at St. Paul's Hall; doors open at 7:00

Thursday, September 12 – Open House and Registration

Week of September 16 – Fall Classes commence

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

A Word from the Chair of COM

Spring is still trying to be “Sprung”, without much success, but I guess this is good news for anyone who is in danger of flooding! We need to be *thankful in this season of renewal!*

We are “*Thankful*” that we have finished the revision of the By-Laws and a copy went to Headquarters in March. The constitutional panel looked at our proposed revision to our By-Laws and had no issues with our proposed changes. We will therefore be proceeding to present these to the membership at our AGM, May 22, 2019. A copy of the old By-Laws and the revised By-Laws has been distributed at the same time as the notice and agenda of the AGM and the minutes of the 2018 AGM. There was also an accompanying notice that explains the changes that were made. We are hopeful that you will all be pleased with the end result. Our By-Laws Committee will be in attendance to answer questions. A vote will be taken to adopt the By-Laws as revised, post discussion.

We are “*Thankful*” for John Giesbrecht and his Nomination and Teacher Selection Committees. Their continued efforts finding volunteers for the vacant positions on your Committee of Management and contacting the teachers and arranging the class schedule for our coming year is appreciated.

We are “*Thankful*” that Joan Hanton, of the St. Andrew's Society invited RSCDS Winnipeg Branch to participate in their Ceilidh celebration of Tartan Day on April 5th, at Crescentwood Community Centre. There were about 20 of us who attended the evening. The highlight, I think for most of us, was the Winnipeg Police Pipe Band playing for about 20 minutes at the end of the evening. We all left for home, smiling and having enjoyed each others' company in a new social environment. Please read Joyce's description of the evening in this edition of the Light and Airy.



We are “*Thankful*” for our Spring Dance Workshop Committee and all the work they have done to prepare us for the April 26-28 Weekend.

We are “*Thankful*” for the Basics Class Social on Thursday April 11th. We thank the teacher Sheila Careless for the lovely and varied program she provided, and we thank the Basics Class for their hospitality.

Jane Nattress

Next COM meeting is May 1, 2019 at 7:00 pm at St. Paul’s.

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 Montgomerie’s 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

Have you heard?

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 / Ceilidh

The St. Andrew's Society hosted a Ceilidh in celebration of Tartan Day on April 5th and approximately 20 dancers and friends attended this event. The Society offered 3 prep dance evenings so guests could become familiar with the dances that were on the program - Gay Gordons, The Canadian Barn Dance, Dashing White Sargent and Strip the Willow.

It was quite an enjoyable evening with a live band that played great music and a wonderful performance by the Winnipeg Police Pipe Band. Eight of our dancers danced Shiftin' Bobbins and we also invited the public to join us in dancing Riverside. Our handouts were distributed throughout the hall and we are hopeful this results in interest regarding SCD.

Attending this event reminded me of the other ceilidh evenings that we have had over the years. Perhaps it is time to consider holding another such evening prior to our upcoming season in September. Something for the incoming COM to consider.

Joyce Cormack

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”

The Workshop Weekend and Ball on April 26-28 is upon us. Preparations are being finalized, so don't delay and get your registrations to our registrar Glen Colquhoun as soon as you can. 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.

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

Lynn McClure



CALL TO CEILIDH

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!

Are you coming to dance in Calgary?

Sheila Careless

Class Reports

Fort Garry Social Class

Spring has sprung and we have arrived at the end of our regular dance season. Is that a sigh of relief I hear? Shame on you; we prairie types are hardier than that, aren't we?

Peter has been putting us through our paces with dances from the Social and Ball programmes lately, so we should be in fine form for both the last Social of the season and the workshop and Ball at the end of the month. Speaking of the Ball, I have booked St. Paul's Hall for a special Ball practice on Thursday, April 25th. Yes, that means those of us registered for the entire workshop will be dancing four nights in a row!

The Fort Garry Social Class had their wind-up class on April 15th. Class members prepared wonderful goodies to enjoy. Even though our regular classes have ended, we still have spring dancing to look forward to on Tuesdays - May 7th, 14th, and 21st. Following on the heels of that is our AGM happening on the 22nd of May. I have been working furiously every day trying to get my committee reports wound up; good practice I suppose for someone stepping into the shoes of chairperson.

Did you hear about the fight between two women on a Winnipeg Transit bus? They were fighting over the last available seat. The bus driver finally intervened and shouted "Let the ugly one take the seat". Both women stood for the rest of the trip. Argument done!

See you at the workshop!
John Giesbrecht

Technique Class

The Technique dancers enjoyed the challenge presented by each of our teachers this month. Cheryl skillfully moved us through a number of unfamiliar figures such as the half reel progression, slip knot, set & shuttle, birls, and “meanwhile” figures in dances including Ellie’s Jig, The Parting Kiss, Birls Allowed, and Juliette’s Reel stressing our responsibility to dance not only as partners, but also as individuals. Even with her lesson notes left at home, Maureen confidently led us through a number of dances to music with Alex Jappy playing lead accordion. It was a joyful opportunity for our class to dance down memory lane with Laird of Milton’s Daughter, Davy Knick Knack, Monymusk and JB Milne. Hours of class preparation ensured Joyce was able to move us out of our comfort zone to learn a new figure involving setting to corner and casting back around to opposite corner position in a few John Drewry dances Best Set in The Hall, the Quaich, and Crossing the Line. The class finishes the season with a sense of enthusiasm and accomplishment thanks to the many skills of our teachers. We also come away with sated tummies after enjoying our shared treats.

Sharyl Eaglesham

Basics Class

The Basics class worked hard over the last few weeks to get ready for the Spring Social. Thank you all who were able to come and we hope you had a good time. We enjoyed hosting the evening. We also spent some time on some of the dances for the workshop ball and we are all looking forward to the weekend. For some it will be our first workshop! The class also learned the dance ‘Hello-Goodbye’ to get ourselves orientated to the set to corners and partner formation (hello/goodbye setting). Sheila would like to thank the class for a great term. You are such a fun group to work with. Also thank you to the experienced dancers that came out every week to support the class. We appreciate you!

Donna Daniels/Sheila Careless

Afternoon Class

Well, our dancing schedule is almost over and it seems as if it just began. We have made some new friends and learned some basic steps for Scottish Country Dancing.

The first few weeks had us learning our foot positions and basic step patterns. Then, learning how to cast off, down the middle and back, circle round and back, how to hold our arms, keeping in time to the music, listening for the beat, across to the right and then to the left, reels (yikes!), advance and retire, slow and fast Allemandes and rights and lefts. Hopefully I didn’t miss too much! The more recent dances that we have been practicing are The Linton Ploughman (J), Rakes of Glasgow (S) and De’ll Amang the Tailors (R). These all have similar formations, done to slow and fast time, allowing us to solidify our formations and steps. Trip to

Sucker Bay, The Old Gray Cat and a five couple dance called Wasatch Mountain (R) were introduced as well.

We are not perfect [but which of us is - ed.], however we have been having fun and trying to learn how to think ahead but keep our feet going in time to the music! This is no small feat! Although we have had a taste of all the teachers, except for Peter who teaches the Fort Garry Class the same evening, most of our classes have been taught by Maureen. Her humor and gentle but expressive directions, such as “smack” your foot to your ankle in a Strathspey have kept us on track. A Thank you to all our teachers this term!

Jane Nattrass (filling in for Marilyn Piniuta)

From the editor's desk

We are nearing the closing events of our dancing season –the workshop and ball, and spring dancing in May. Please come out to the AGM on May 22 at St. Paul's to voice your input for the coming year.

I hope you enjoy the beginnings of summer. Check out other branch websites for upcoming dance events not included in the listing of out of town events. You may find some dancing to do along your summer travels or plan a trip in the fall.

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.

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

September 20 & 21 – Mississauga – SCD ceilidh with Maggie and Duncan Keppie

L&A Submissions

Next L&A: June/July

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: May 25. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are at: www.rscdswinnipeg.ca