

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

info@rscdswinnipeg.ca

www.rscdswinnipeg.ca

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Important Dates

Winter/Spring Term 2020

DANCE EVENTS ARE CANCELLED until Further Notice

Spring Dancing 2020 — Tuesday, May 5 **cancelled**

Wednesday, May 20 – RSCDS Winnipeg Branch AGM **postponed**

A Word from the Chair of COM

Sadly the COM has decided to cancel all dance related events for the remainder of the dance year.

The branch AGM has been postponed until such time as we can meet together to carry on the branch business.

Many thanks to all those involved in planning and organizing these cancelled events. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Stay safe.

John Giesbrecht

Teacher Selection Committee Report

April 2020

Over the past two months our committee has been meeting through the use of email and phone. We have each asked for and received written comments from our respective classmates regarding their opinion of how the classes went this year. This was done not to judge the teachers in any way or make any decisions related to class placements. Everyone benefits from feedback and constructive criticism, both dancers and teachers.

We tried to get you going by providing a few sample questions to ask yourself, but we hoped that you would feel comfortable making some general comments. We received 18 responses and are thankful for your participation. These comments have been sent to the teacher representative for the Branch, and in turn she has shared them with the teachers.

A summary of general comments from all respondents were as follows:

- They were *happy with their respective teachers*. Smiles on the teacher's faces and the use of humour during classes were appreciated.
- They *love the social aspect of getting together*, learning new and sometimes more challenging dances, as well as listening and dancing to beautiful music.
- Speaking of listening, many comments were made regarding *too much talking* during classes and socials, and this was not directed at the teachers but at the participating dancers. Certainly we are a social group, but we are also there to learn. *When the teacher is ready to start the teaching we need to be respectful of their time and efforts, both at classes and at socials, and "Zip it Up"*. The chance to chat is before and after each dance, not during.
- There were comments about *challenging dances*, however if you are attending the advanced class then this is what you might expect.
- Perhaps just a *little more instruction or demonstration* might help these individuals. Pushing, pulling and getting annoyed does not help. Remembering that *each class comes with widely varying abilities*.
- There were several comments about the *lack of technique being taught* in both the technique and basic classes.
- There were many comments about how *helpful it was to have more experienced dancers in class* to assist with newcomers.
- Several comments were made regarding *the helpfulness of repetition* when learning new dances and figures. Repeating that dance the same night or the following week is useful.
- Everyone *appreciates that all the teachers come prepared*, even to the point of having to change their teaching plan at the last minute when not enough dancers show up, uneven numbers to do a chosen dance, etc.
- **We really appreciate their efforts in taking time to come out and give us the best instruction possible.**

I want to thank the membership for responding in a respectful way. We are hoping you are staying healthy and we are looking forward to getting back to dancing in September. The teachers for the classes are usually announced at the AGM. Because the AGM has been postponed until further notice, the Committee will confer with the Teacher Rep and other members of the COM to decide when to make this announcement.

Teacher Selection Committee

Agnes Brydon, Charles Cameron and Jane Natrass

Have you heard?

TAC Summer School

AN UPDATE FROM THE SUMMER EVENTS COMMITTEE REGARDING THE CORONAVIRUS

Effective April 5, 2020, TAC Summer Events registration has been suspended pending discussions with Mt. Royal University about our contract.

We will update you on the situation as soon as possible.

Please check on the TAC website (<https://tac-rscds.org/index.php>) for more updates as they are posted.

Class Reports

A Note From the Fort Garry Social Class

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of our class to thank Peter for the wonderful classes he taught us in the second term, albeit abbreviated. We certainly miss them!

I hope everyone is staying well during these trying times and engaging in activities at home that bring you enjoyment. I have used this time to return to playing the piano, something I did for many years and then regrettably gave up. I have been brushing up on my old classical pieces as well as learning new ones and it has been a rewarding experience. I know all of you will have discovered hidden (or not!) talents as well to

help occupy your time.

We all look forward to better days ahead, seeing friends again and of course to our beloved Scottish Country Dancing. A “Goodbye to Covid -19 Dance” sounds great! Until then.....stay healthy!

Marilyn Piniuta

Request from our Librarian

Our branch library table could use a V-shaped table-top book shelf. If anyone has one they would like to donate for the lending library please contact Joan Curle (jcurle11@hotmail.com).

Creativity, innovation, and humor in SCD

To the tune O’ Flower of Scotland

No flour in Scotland!
When will we see
Sliced breid again?
No Mother’s Pride for
Your wee bit piece and jam
No cheesey toasties
(fur who?)
Wur tartan army
Just pictures of empty shelves
Aye, blink again!

Those days are past now
But icy blast, it may remain
But we might still drive (how?)
Tae get tae Asda again
And stand in queues there
(Whit for?)
Wur milk, breid an whisky,
And carry them homewards
Tae drink again...

There's always music for us

We can enjoy the wonderful Scottish Dance music we love anytime. Visit The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society website info@rscds.org where you can listen to various At Home Podcasts of musicians playing from their living rooms for the online audience. And also a dance class via Zoom!

Creativity ala Robert Burns

Tae a virus

Twa months ago, we didna ken,
yer name or ocht about ye
But lots of things have changed since then,
I really must salute ye

Yer spreading rate is quite intense,
yer feeding like a gannet
Disruption caused, is so immense,
ye've shaken oor wee planet.

Corona used tae be a beer,
they garnished it wae limes
But noo it's filled us awe wae fear
These days, are scary times.

Nae shakin hawns, or peckin lips,
it's whit they awe advise
But scrub them weel, richt tae the tips,
that's how we'll awe survive

Just stay inside , the hoose, ye bide
Nae sneakin oot for strolls
Just check the lavvy every hoor
And stock-take, your, loo rolls

Our holidays have been pit aff
Noo that's the Jet2 patter
Pit oan yer thermals, have a laugh
And paddle ' doon the waater '

Canary isles, no for a while
Nae need for suntan cream
And awe because o this wee bug
We ken tae be..19

The boredom surely will set in,
But have a read, or doodle
Or plan yer menu for the month
Wi 95 pot noodles.

When these run oot, just look about
A change, it would be nice
We've beans and pasta By the ton
and twenty stane o rice.

So dinny think yell wipe us oot
Aye true, a few have died
Bubonic, bird flu, and Tb
They came, they left, they tried

Ye might be gallus noo ma freen
As ye jump fae cup tae cup
But when we get oor vaccine made
Yer number will be up.

Willie Sinclair.... March2020

And to remind us of our social responsibilities



***Always a bit of humor
comes into play.***

***We do dance for the fun of
it after all.***

***(with apologies to our
marvelous and amazing
musicians)***

From the editor's desk

There is not a lot of local dance news for this issue but I have included a few notices and some tidbits found on various websites.

All dance activities of RSCDS Winnipeg have been cancelled until the end of the dance year. A date for the branch AGM will be decided once we can get back together again.

In the meantime – stay safe!

Doug Durnin, editor

Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca

Committee of Management 2019/20

Chair:	John Giesbrecht	204-489-8429
Vice-Chair:	Don Johnson	204-885-9879
Treasurer:	Sharron Bettess	204-256-2248
Secretary:	Agnes Brydon	204-837-7346
Social Secretary	Linda Wingert	204-889-6319
Asst. Soc. Secretary:	Barbara Lambert	204-256-8738
Publicity:	Joyce Cormack	204-224-2291
Publicity Asst.:	Jane Natrass	204-667-0814
Membership:	Lorraine Watson	204-661-0112
Library:	Joan Curle	204-254-6697
Light & Airy:	Doug Durnin	204-253-4213
Teacher's Rep:	Cheryl Durnin	204-253-4213
Webmaster:	Sheila Careless	204-233-8808

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.

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.

The TAC AGM and Summer School are still being planned but registrations have been suspended. See the TAC website for updates. – ed.

July 24 – August 2, 2020 – Calgary – TAC Teachers' Conference AGM and Summer School

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: June 1. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are available at: www.rscdswinnipeg.ca