

# Light and Airy



## Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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[www.rscdswinnipeg.ca](http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca)

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### Committee of Management 2017/18

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### **Important Dates**

Second Term Classes End	the week of April 9, 2018
Ball Dance Practice	April 19
Workshop Weekend	April 20th to 22nd, 2018 at <b>17 Wing</b>
Extra Class (general class)	April 25
May Dancing	May 1, 8, 15
AGM RSCDS Winnipeg	Wednesday May 23, 2018

Please note: All dances are at St Paul's from 8pm to 10pm unless otherwise noted.

### ***A Word from the Chair....***

Rounding the last turn into the home stretch (I'm reading *Seabiscuit* at the moment!); classes are coming to a close, however there are lots of events and dancing still to come in the next two months.

#### ***Ball Practice***

First up is a Ball Practice which will be held at St. Paul's on **Thursday April 19<sup>th</sup>**, 8 to 10 pm. Peter will go over the dances which are on the Ball Programme for April 21<sup>st</sup>. All members are welcome to attend even if you are not attending the ball.

#### ***Extra Night of Dancing***

Cheryl will lead an extra class on **Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>** (St. Paul's 8 to 10 pm) for all members who wish to attend. This a follow up to the Workshop and Ball and is a general class for all who wish to attend.

#### ***May Dancing***

Dancing in May will be held this year on **May 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>, all Tuesday evenings** (St. Paul's 8 to 10 pm). All current and past members welcome, no charge.

#### ***Winnipeg Branch Annual General Meeting***

The Annual Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>** at St. Paul's. Notice of the Meeting will be sent later this month with more details, and the Annual Reports will be sent out in advance of the meeting. Please mark your calendars to attend.

#### ***Last But Not Least***

Thank you to the Thursday class for hosting the successful Tartan Day/Spring Social on April 5<sup>th</sup> and to Joyce for leading the program. Also thanks to the COM and Teachers for extra help in the kitchen. It was a good time enjoyed by all.

### ***Gerri Stemler***

#### ***Class Notes***

##### **Monday Social Class**

Well, March roared in like a lion and as a result our first class of the month was cancelled due to a snowstorm, occurring 52 years almost to the day after the famous snowstorm of March 4/66. I'm sure many of us have memories of that event! With the class cancelled this gave us all a chance to study the

dances on the social program the following evening ( which I'm sure we all did, right!! ) Thankfully the weather was fine for the social hosted by the Tues. technique class and the evening was great.

The following week the weather was much better, in fact very mild, but strangely enough we had only 10 people attending class. However what we lacked in numbers Peter more than made up for in a great evening of dances to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, complete with an Irish accent which was very good I might add Peter! We had so much fun dancing Rory O'More, Belfast Hornpipe by Wes Clindinning, and City of Belfast written for the Diamond Jubilee of the Belfast branch. We also enjoyed two Roy Goldring dances: Shamrock Girl and Tribute to the Borders which is a lovely dance.

The following Monday our class more than doubled in numbers! We welcomed back Tara Newton from her trip to the Philippines, Sharon Bettess from a 2 week cross country ski trip and Barb LeBow back from Utah. Barb had been absent for some time and it was so nice to see her smiling face once again! As for dances, we did The Haar on Skye, haar meaning a cold sea fog, with the Isle of Skye sometimes being referred to as the misty isle, and The Kenora Reel devised by John Drewry at a weekend workshop here in Winnipeg in 1992. I remember it well. The dance was devised as a tribute to the Kenora SC dancers who attended the workshop.

At our last class in March we welcomed Mary Holmen back from her New Zealand and Australia trip and as well as some guests from the Ottawa branch, Bill and Dorann Low. Dorann had danced with our branch from 1987-91 when they lived in Winnipeg and I recognized her immediately even though I hadn't seen her since they left Winnipeg in 1991. She had even convinced Bill to dance after they moved back to Ottawa which was great to see!

Classes will be ending shortly, our wind-up social hosted by the basic class will have taken place April 5 and our workshop and ball are fast approaching. I will not be attending as we will be away however I will be thinking of you as we too will be dancing up a storm (pardon the pun) but on a cruise ship in the middle of the Atlantic and to the "beat of a different drum"!

This will be the last class report of the 2017/18 dance season so I will take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Peter on behalf of the class for his excellent dance instruction and for making our Monday evenings a time we have all enjoyed and looked forward to each week. Thank you Peter!

In closing I would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer and as the song from the 60's goes "See You in September"!

*Marilyn Piniuta*

## **Tuesday Technique Class**

To start the month Cheryl was back at the helm and piloted us through some challenging waters. One hazard she navigated us through was the Tourbillon, which when translated into English means a whirlwind, swirl or eddy. I could see how this strathspey figure could be described as swirly. The tourbillon is part of the dance entitled "Spirit of the Dance". My scottish country dancing muse, (who

shall remain anonymous), recalled that she had done the tourbillon 15 years ago and it was traumatic. Perhaps her observation propped up her all encompassing pronouncement that Scottish country dancing is humbling – a generality supported by other experienced dancers – no matter how long you have been dancing, you can still make an awful mess of it. Anyway, many of us benefitted from some gentle instruction in the tourbillon and 3 couple rights and lefts. Cheryl also introduced us to the kiwi knot as a formation appearing in the dance, “The Celtic Kiwi” - a genuinely fun and noteworthy dance composed by John Dewry. Another composition by John Dewry which we danced on a couple of evenings was “The Lap-top Dancer and the Stripper” devised as a result of frustration with his computer. It is a busy dance, and when attempted with some confusion on our last evening, the comment was made that sometimes when things go wrong you just have to hit “ctrl, alt, delete”. Sheila, our instructor on March 26<sup>th</sup> she led us through some of the dances from the April social. She attempted to refine our performance of the knot for the dance “Annie Douglas”. Thank you, Sheila, for reviewing J. B. Milne. Dancing it is much better than trying to figure it out by reading the crib notes. Names appear frequently as titles for dances and there must be a story behind them. In fact all three of the dances that Sheila presented were so named. Peter reminded me to read the extensive background behind J.B.Milne as given in strathspey.org. He lived from 1902 to 1968 and is remembered in Scotland for the cinema empire he built up. When he died he controlled 34 cinemas and bingo halls. Another interesting dance this month was “The Hamilton Welcome” - A very neat dance for 5 couples. A reel is danced starting from positions 1,3,5 with 2 and 4 standing still. The Hamilton Welcome breaks from the usual ‘twice and to the bottom” scenario. The dancing couple ends in 5th place by virtue of the dance pattern has to start into reflection reels right away – so lots of fun, but no time to nap. Cheryl, Sheila and Maureen took turns to shepherd us through the last class of the term. All the dances proved to be a little different from the usual. After a week spent visiting her daughters, Cheryl chose Smiling Lila, a dance she had learned while attending a dance class in Toronto. Don Barton wrote this dance for his granddaughter and insisted that it be danced to music he wrote. The sheet music of the same name is available at the Scottish country dancing dictionary. Maureen led us through Trip to Bavaria – distinctive in that the dancing never stops! Sheila guided us through Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan – a clever dance for a 5 couple set. This reel was dedicated to the musician Muriel Johnstone, who grew up in Ardrossan on the North Ayrshire coast. As the Tuesday evening dancers sat around a table of goodies, Cheryl, along with Sheila and Maureen who occasionally filled in for her, were thanked for providing us with instructive and entertaining dances during the second term.

*Hilary*

## **Thursday Basic Class**

March flew by and clocks jumped ahead. The midwinter/ spring social was well attended, Enjoyed by all. We were honored by guests Alex and Jan Coats who drove from Kenora, Ontario.

We had an extra General Dance arranged by Sheila Careless on Wednesday March 21st.

Our Wind-Up Social was on Thursday April 5th. Joyce has been teaching us in preparation for this social. We thank all the experienced dancers who have so generously joined our group on Thursday evenings. You have given us so much encouragement and support.



Photo: Barry Daniels

Both Hilary Hayles and Joyce Cormack were wearing casts on their left wrist. Hilary no longer was wearing a sling and was looking much better. Joyce broke her wrist on the Easter weekend. This did not slow her down. She led the evening with interesting introductions to each dance she demonstrated. She even danced with us. Joyce waltzed with John Giesbrecht as the food and beverage was being set out.

Gerri Stemler thanked Joyce for leading us. A large amount of food was set up. Gerri joked about there being easily enough food. We sang Happy Birthday to Heather Robbins and to Jane Natrass. Jane is off to Stratford, Ontario to visit her son.

After sampling all the treats and some visiting we walked out to a light layer of new snow over everything.

Our last Basic group class is Thursday April 12th at St Pauls'. We look forward to the Workshop Weekend of April 20th to April 22nd at 17 Wing

*Donna Daniels*

## ***Branch News***

### ***Name Tags***

Branch members should have name tags, with their name and Branch affiliation. New members receive these tags **at no further charge** after their first membership is paid. A returning member who has misplaced their tag can get a replacement by contacting the Registrar, Sharon Plaitin. The charge for replacements is \$8.

It is a courtesy to wear your name tag in any situation where not everyone may know you, e.g., when attending an “extra class” or a social.

### ***The Branch on Facebook***

Did you know that the Branch has a Facebook page? If you're on Facebook yourself, why not visit us at ***RSCDS Winnipeg***, and “like” us.

## **NOTICE FROM ST. PAUL'S CHURCH**

The emergency door at the south west end of the hall is for emergencies only – as the sign reads. The thermostat in the hall may be turned down at your will, and the exhaust fan may be switched on. **During the Spring, Summer and Fall, the entrance door must be kept shut or we will again have squirrels and mice. Also note: The windows can be opened during class but please ensure that they are all closed and locked and the fan is off before leaving the hall.**

## ***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](http://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](http://www.avriel.com) Shoe shop for dancers.

### ***Clan Info and Scottish Shop***

[www.scotclans.com](http://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](http://www.strathspey.org) to find contact information.

[RSCDS Winnipeg Branch](#)

[RSCDS Saskatchewan Branch](#)

[RSCDS Calgary Branch](#)

[RSCDS Edmonton Caledonian Branch](#)

[RSCDS Medicine Hat Branch](#)

[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](http://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](http://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.

April 20 – 22, 2018 Glasgow, UK, Spring Fling and Spring Fringe  
<https://www.springfringe2018.com/spring-pling/>

April 25, 2018 Spring Ceilidh Saskatoon – family and friends  
<http://www.rscdssask.org/Saskatoon/thisseason.htm>

14 May 2018 Twin Cities End of Year Social 7:30pm at [Tapestry Folkdance Center](#)  
<http://rscds-twincities.org/events.html>

June 5, 12, 19, 26 - Dancing In The Park – Toronto - Edwards Gardens, 7pm to dusk.  
<http://www.dancescottish.ca/Whats-On-Near.html>

June 8-10, 2018, Midwest Scottish Weekend at Wayland Academy in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.  
(from email to Peter McClure) <http://sites.google.com/site/midwestscottishweekend/>

## ***Summer School 2018***

It's still winter outside but summer is coming! Along with that comes SUMMER SCHOOL!!

It's the 60th anniversary of the TAC Summer School. This year it will be held from July 29th to Aug. 5th at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

There are a number of benefits from attending Summer School. With that much concentrated dancing, your dancing will improve. It's good to hear from other teachers as they all bring their own perspectives on dancing. You will learn some great new dances. There is live music at every morning class and for every evening event. It's a great experience to dance in a large class and there is nothing like being on a dance floor with 150+ people! And I repeat - live music! You will get to meet people from all over the world. Most of the people are from North America but there are people from the UK, Europe, and other places. I have gone for a few years now and at the end of the week, I can hardly wait to go back. I've met some great friends and it's always fun to meet up again the next Summer.

Minneapolis is only about 8 hours from Winnipeg. Why not car pool and head south for a great week of dancing! Yes you will be tired at the end of the week but it is so worth it!

The TAC website is <https://www.tac-rscds.org/index.php/tac-summer-school>. The registration information is not up there yet but should be soon so keep checking.

I will be there but will in the candidate class so I won't get to be involved in the regular Summer School activities this year but I will see you at meal times and be at the ball at the end of the week. Mark your calendars now. I hope to see a few Winnipeg faces on the dance floor in Minneapolis.

*Sheila Careless*

## ***L&A Submissions***

**Next L&A:** mid May

Members are encouraged to submit articles, pictures or information of interest to Branch members. Until further notice, please send submissions for the *Light and Airy* to the Branch e-mail address: [info@rscdswinnipeg.ca](mailto:info@rscdswinnipeg.ca) **Simple .rtf or .txt formats preferred & separate JPEG images.** Deadline for submissions early May. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are at: [www.rscdswinnipeg.ca](http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca)