

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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Committee of Management 2016/17

Chair:	Scott MacRae	204-885-7111
Vice-Chair:	Gerri Stemler	204-488-7386
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Publicity:	vacant, pending review	
Librarian:	Reg Curle	204-254-6697
Membership:	Sharon Plaitin	204-661-1257
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Teacher's Rep:	Maureen Burnham	204-786-7767
Webmaster:	Sheila Careless	204-233-8808

A Word from the Chair....

At this point we are at the last phase of our dancing year. Spring dancing has begun with this past Tuesday's class and two more to go. Three full sets were there which is a very good sign. As well, the Weekend Workshop has recently concluded which was well received by those who were there. Many of us say that the old dogs can't learn new tricks but new tricks are learned. More importantly, friendships are renewed and collegiality within the branch happens which is a very good thing. Any reason to get together is important for the health of the branch (any branch for that matter). Well done to Jane and her workshop crew for this year's successful event.

I want to again remind everyone about the upcoming AGM on May 24. As well, Joyce is hoping to provide a dance opportunity in the outdoors in June which she will, no doubt, inform us about in the near future. Who knows what else the future will bring. The AGM is my last kick at the can as Chair and I just want to say that a year goes quickly. There will be new members of the next COM introduced and a new Chair to run the show. I know Gerri is going to be excellent and there will be quite a few new faces to help in making next year's dancing experience a good one.

Again, it has been a privilege to have served as Chair and worked with members of the COM and I will be leaving the position with few regrets. I have clearly seen how much time and care has been taken by those who have served this past year. New people and ideas can never hurt any organization and I wish Gerri well as she assumes her new responsibilities. I also wish all of you well and look forward to be a regular in the ranks again next year.

Scott MacRae

2016/17 Dance Season

9 May Tuesday	May dancing general class	8-10 PM
16 May Tuesday	May dancing general class	8-10 PM
24 May Wednesday	Branch AGM	Doors 7:30 PM, meeting at 8 PM

Events are at St Paul's Hall except as noted. Events will be added to the Calendar as they are scheduled.

Class Notes

Suspended for the summer.

Branch News

Branch AGM

Please be sure that your calendar is marked for the Branch AGM, Wednesday, 24 May at St Paul's Hall. Doors open 7:30 PM, meeting at 8. All members should attend: this is an opportunity to give your views about the Branch going forward, and to hear the views of others. Also, one of the last opportunities to visit before the long summer break. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates for the vacant positions on the Committee of Management (COM), and the meeting will be open to nominations from the floor before the elections take place. Hope to see you there!

Teacher Selection Committee

The Teacher Selection Committee has been formed. Members are Helen Barnes, Don Johnston, and Heather Colquhoun, who will convene the committee. Members who wish to do so may submit opinions about the teaching of Branch classes to Heather.

Life Membership for Jean Highmoor

During the past season, it was noted at COM that Jean Highmoor has been a member for 50 years. During that time, she has served the Branch in many ways, both official, as member of various Branch committees, and unofficial, notably as an ambassador for SCD in the community. When no longer able to dance, she has continued to serve by assisting with major events such as the Burns supper, and the annual Workshop. Life memberships are not given lightly, but there was unanimous agreement at COM that this was a worthy case. The presentation by Maureen Burnham and Scott MacRae at the Workshop dinner was a highlight of the evening.



From Jean Highmoor

A big “Thank you” to the Committee of Management (COM) who agreed to honour me by presenting me with a Life Membership in the Winnipeg Branch of the RSCDS.

I was absolutely amazed by this very well kept secret. For once in my life I was speechless, and emotional as well, when Maureen and Scott made the announcement. I am not often speechless, but that time I was. Thanks to both Maureen and Scott for their kind words.

Scottish dancing has been a big part of my life since I was 7-8 years old. I started dancing in Scotland when at boarding school. In England I danced in my home city of Norwich, and then in London, just off Fleet Street, where I was a student nurse.

From 1961 to 1965 I lived in Thunder Bay, Ontario (at that time called Fort William). I moved to Winnipeg in 1966 and was very happy to find a Branch here. I joined in the fall of that year, and persuaded my roommate Ruth to give it a try. She is still dancing, in Nanaimo, BC.

I have made many friends by dancing in Winnipeg and going to workshops in Canada. I truly miss dancing, but age and sore joints have caught up with me, and I can no longer “take the floor”. However, I still enjoy coming to social events, and seeing you all.

With many thanks for this honour – *Jean Highmoor*

46th Annual Dance Workshop and Ball 2017

Well, another annual event is over!!

Once again, we held our “Shin Dig” at 17 Wing Canadian Forces Base. A great time was had by one and all! This year our numbers were quite similar to last year, with 49 attending the Dinner and Ball.

We started off with our Ceilidh evening with a variety of local and out of town talent, socializing and libation with friends and acquaintances and of course a variety of foods to please our palates!



Slytherin Hall Alumni, who performed at the ceilidh: Doug, Glen, Peter, Cheryl, Sharon, Lynn

Saturday morning we donned our dance slippers and prepared to be put through our paces with our two out of town teachers, Barbara Johnston from Edmonton and David Booz from Toronto. This gave all of us a chance to participate with individuals from different class levels, and learn or relearn figures from a different perspective. Every little bit helps! Saturday evening, in all our finery, we arrived for cocktails and then a delicious “plated” supper. Our theme this year was Canada’s 150th Birthday, leading to our

red and white colour scheme. White table cloths, red napkins, red and white wine, red and white tulips as the centre pieces and our program with the ten provinces and their tartans displayed within a Maple Leaf, made for a beautiful display! There were a few speeches including a welcome from the Winnipeg Branch of RSCDS, by Scott MacRae and a Toast to the Queen, by John Hayles. A special presentation of a Life Membership to the RSCDS Winnipeg Branch was made to Jean Highmoor for her support and participation with the Winnipeg Branch since 1966. Our evening concluded with a Grand March, piped in by Kirby McRae and Grand Marshals, Peter and Lynn McClure, a wonderful Ball Program devised by Cheryl Durnin and dances briefed by Cheryl Durnin and Peter McClure. This year we were honoured to have two guest musicians, Ron Krug from Winnipeg on piano and Dennis Orr from Seven Persons, Alberta on accordion. It was great to have live music for our events over the weekend and a special thanks to them both!

Sunday, we met again as a whole group, not practicing dance steps and moves but enjoying a variety of dances that we could all enjoy. The two teachers alternated their dances and instruction and were quite gifted in their ability to make us all understand and follow through! We finished off our weekend with some special thanks to all who participated and then headed off to fill our tummies with great food once again.

A special thanks to 17 Wing for their hospitality, assistance and great food and presentation.

Jane Natrass, Coordinator of the Workshop and Ball 2017

May Dancing

At time of writing, one of the May dates has come and gone. There are two more, Tuesdays 9 and 16 May. St Paul's Hall, 8-10 PM, no charge.

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.

TAC Summer School

The time is coming to think about attending the TAC Summer School. Registration begins Feb. 15th. It's a wonderful week of dancing, dancing and more dancing! Come out and meet dancers from all over the world, learn from great teachers and dance to live music in every class and every evening! Information can be found at <https://www.tac-rscds.org/index.php/tac-summer-school/summer-school-2017>. Who would not want to spend a week on the beautiful UBC campus??

Summer School offerings include an opportunity to try for the Dancing Achievement Award, which was described in a previous issue of this newsletter. For more information and to read the requirements and expectations check the RSCDS website: www.rscds.org/article/dancing-achievement-award-daa

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.

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

Your one stop shoe shop for all your dancing needs.

Clan Info and Scottish Shop

www.scotclans.com

SCD Online

In case you didn't know about these sites:

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.

Inter-city Scot www.intercityscot.org for travellers; lists of classes and events in places that you might be visiting in North America. For other parts of the world, use the link to SCD groups on the Strathspey site to find contact information.

There may be other useful sites that we don't know about. Let us know!

Out of Town Events

19-21 May 2017

Berkshire Hills, Copake, NY, USA

New Pawling Weekend

Details & forms at www.rscdsnewyork.org

9-11 June 2017

Beaver Dam, WI

Midwest Scottish Weekend

Details at <http://sites.google.com/site/midwestscottishweekend>

23-30 July 2017

UBC, Vancouver, BC

TAC Summer School

Details at www.tac-rscds.org

Discount for registrations paid by 15 April

6-8 October 2017

Dartmouth, NS

NS Branch 35th Anniversary Workshop and Ball

Details at www.rscdsnovascotia.ca/35th-Anniversary.htm

Note that this is the beginning of Celtic Colours week in Cape Breton.

6-9 October 2017

Canmore, AB

Calgary Scots Cultural Gathering

SCD and more!

Details at www.calgaryscots.org

17-19 November 2017

Pacific Grove, CA, USA

SF Branch Asilomar Weekend

Details at www.rscds-sf.org

Late 2017

Dancing tour of New Zealand

Visit www.toursbychris.com for contact info.

Important Dates

COM meetings: Next meeting TBA.

Next L&A: Deadline for the next issue TBA.

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

This and past issues of the *Light and Airy* are posted on the Branch web site www.rscdswinnipeg.ca.