

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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Committee of Management 2016/17

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A Word from the Chair....

We are now approaching over two months of Dancing classes and from what I have heard and observed things are going well. Peter, Cheryl and Maureen have done their best to give entertaining and challenging classes and the feedback has all been positive. Very few of us could be considered “elite” dancers anymore (some of us never were) and this has been reflected in the approach of the teachers to their classes; while desiring good footwork, good posture, arms and phrasing are being considered as laudable and realistic goals for many dancers in their development. As a result it has increased the fun in dancing while still allowing dancers to experience more challenging dances. Kudos to the teachers as I certainly see lots of smiles in the classes I have observed and experienced.

Two special evenings of dancing have now been held by Maureen and Peter and have gone well according to my sources and we can look forward to our first Social later this month. Anyway, thanks to the teachers and the members for keeping the love of dancing going throughout the past two months.

Cheers for now,

Scott MacRae

2015/16 Dance Season

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------|
| 24 November Thursday Extra Class | St Paul's Hall | |
| 29 November Tuesday | St Andrews Social | |
| Week of 12 December | Last Autumn term classes | |
| 29 December Thursday Extra Class | St Paul's Hall | |
| Week of 9 January 2017 | Winter term classes begin | |
| 21 January Saturday | Burns Dinner and Dance at 17 Wing | \$50 |
| 27 February Monday | Spring social | |
| 29 March Wednesday | Branch social | |
| 21-23 April, Friday – Sunday | Weekend Workshop at 17 Wing | |

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

Class Notes

Technique (Tuesday)

It has been a very nice transition into regular fall dancing on Tuesday evenings as Cheryl has been focusing on interesting and flowing dances rather than repetitive steps around the room. We usually have 14-16 dancers so occasionally need to “borrow” but that has become a situation that most of us can handle since the numbers vary from week to week.

A couple of dances have a New York flavour as Cheryl and Doug are going to be there in December...”Broadway” written by Chris Ronald is one, and we have been reviewing set and link for three where you have to keep your mind awake to figure out what end of the line of three you are located! Dances written in honour of June Shore a diminutive, cheerful teacher from Hamilton Ontario

have also been fun to do including “The Darling Buds of June” and the “Wee Giant”, which of course refers to June herself. Cheryl’s focus has been on getting to where you need to be in the dance while closing in 3rd, finishing the step, and just in time, so that there’s no fiddling about waiting for the next phrase.

We have missed having Clare, absent for a few weeks due to a knee problem, and of course Ron Krug, recovering from surgery; hope to see them back soon and wish them well. Joyce Cormack was recently at Asilomar (west California coast) to attend a workshop there and nine of us from Winnipeg went to Saskatchewan for the Saskatoon WE workshop which was a good time. Sheila Careless and her husband Bruce recently attended the Medicine Hat WE workshop so members of this class have been getting about!

A little survey reveals that Joan Curle has been watching a series called “Boomer” on Acorn TV, Ron Krug highly recommends a book, “The Light Between Oceans” by M.L.Stedman and Pete and I have been listening to a gripping audio book, “The Runner” set in Beijing by Peter May anytime we are in the car...great for longer trips, and you may see us sitting in the car at St Paul’s to hear the end of the chapter!

Hope to see you all at the social later this month.

Lynn McClure

Basics of SCD (Wednesday)

Class is going well, with four new members and six returning from last season. Usually, there are two or three more experienced dancers attending, who help to make up numbers, and generally lend a helping hand. Maureen is working at developing basic skills, as well as teaching dances from the upcoming social programme that are appropriate to the class level. There’s a nice balance of serious effort and good humour – perhaps the one generates the other.

Branch News

Burns Dinner and Dance

Be sure your calendar is marked for the Branch Burns Dinner and Dance on 21 January, 2017. As last year, the venue will be the base at 17 Wing. Dinner will include the traditional haggis and roast beef, and wine will be provided. We will try to negotiate more modest dinner portions, as several people felt that servings were too large last year. The dance programme will be a blend of Scottish country and couples’ dances, so you can be comfortable in bringing non-SCD partners and friends to enjoy the evening. Tickets will be available by early December at latest; once again, to comply with 17 Wing security protocol, your class rep will need to get your name as it appears on your ID, and similar information for any guests, when you get your tickets. We’re looking forward to another very enjoyable evening; don’t miss it!

From Ron Krug ...

I thank you, my heart thanks you!

How wonderful to receive the horn of plenty delivered by special courier Don Johnson. And thank you to all the RSCDS folks for thinking of me during this recovery period. As most of you know, I had quadruple bypass heart surgery in August. It has been such a whirlwind, and I received such very

prompt attention, that I sit here now wondering 'Did this really happen to me'? All I have to do is look at the scar all the way up my left leg where they harvested a vein to replace the unhealthy heart arteries, and the scar where they opened me up to see what kind of heart I had. Enough of the gory details. I'm on the mend now – and that is certainly aided by the kind basket of medicine I received from all of you in the Branch. Medicine like, wine, chocolate, fruit, shortbread...mmmmm. All the things that make you feel good again. Thank you so much. I may not be dancing much this year, but once I'm up to par – look out. Thanks again to all of you for your good wishes and for thinking of me.

Scottish Entertainers Reunion July 2016

It was decided that this should be the year the group known as the Scottish Entertainers should have a gathering while there was still some of us around.

Out of the 40+ dancers/musicians that made up this entertainment group, 23 were able to attend. Unfortunately some of our members have passed on, some were not able to attend due to health problems and some live in other provinces and were unable to be here.

All the members of our band, The Wee Dram, are now gone.

Heather & Glen opened their lovely home to everyone and we had wonderful weather co-operating with us.

We decided that a potluck supper would be best and, as usual with potlucks, it was the right decision.

Kirby McRae, who had piped with our group, attended bringing mother Myrna from Kelowna, with him and regaled us with only ONE tune on the pipes.

Plans had been for a sing-a-long with all the old World War tunes but it was tough to try to break up all the conversations that were going on.

Norma brought the original documents that we had put in place with the RSCDS COM at the time of inception and she read them to the crowd. We all had forgotten most of it over time but enjoyed hearing it all again.

It was a most enjoyable evening seeing those we had not seen for some time and catching up on who was retired, who was still working, how old the children (and grandchildren!) are now, etc., etc. Why didn't we do this sooner??

Agnes Brydon

Editor's Note: For those who have come to the Branch more recently, The Scottish Entertainers were a group who, as their name suggests, provided Scottish entertainment during a period in the 1980s and early 90s when the Branch had no active demonstration group. Agnes is one of the original members of the group. Currently, the Lads & Lasses fill a similar role.

Saskatchewan Workshop

Nine Branch members attended the Saskatchewan Branch workshop in Saskatoon September 30 – October 1. We were blessed with good weather, especially appreciated by those who drove, and warm hospitality by the host Branch. Speaking of weather, a week later, Saskatoon had snow on the ground. They must have a direct connection to who/whatever organizes the weather. Wonder if they'd be willing to pass on their secret.

Lynn and Peter broke the journey at Yorkton on Thursday night, and had supper with Ferne Katzberg, Diane Norman (daughter of Ivy and the late Peter Stout – remember the Ole stories?) and Diane’s husband Doug. We were glad of the opportunity for a longer visit – not always possible during a busy workshop. Cheryl and Doug, and Sheila and Bruce did the drive in one day, and still made it to the Friday evening ceilidh! Jane came by air, so had no worries about timing or road construction – not that there was much of that, both routes had relatively minor delays. There was concern that Sharon and Ray might be needing a new vehicle – they left on Wednesday to get to Saskatoon for Friday, and expected to take three days coming back. Great relief when it was revealed that their car is fine, they were stopping along the way to visit family and friends.

Cheryl brought the “fixings” for a Teddy Bears’ Picnic, so we had our ceilidh item, and were “caught unawares” only once or twice, as we “got about”. The Saturday evening dance had Winnipeg representation in the form of Trip to Sucker bay, by Maureen Burnham, with signature tune by Ron Krug. Many good wishes expressed for Ron’s speedy recovery, and a great deal of remembering of the “glory days” of Ron and Ken playing at Saskatchewan weekends, dating back to Fort Qu’Appelle in the 1990s. During the Saturday evening there were moving tributes to Ken, both as contributor to Scottish dance music, and as a person, by Bev Will on behalf of the Branch, and by Dennis Orr, whose band GlenMorin provided music both for the classes and for the dance. The closing waltz was written by Dennis, in memory of Ken. There are words to go with it, and the song was first performed at Lethbridge in 2015. Jane will be glad to show the song to anyone interested.

Excellent teaching by Elinor Vandegrift for the Saturday classes rounded out the weekend. Hearing even things that we know, expressed in a new voice, makes them fresh again. That, and the pleasure of meeting again friends from away, and making new friends, are among the benefits of travelling to others’ events. No doubt we’ll do it again.

Thanks to Sheila for the photo.



Summer School Part 2

On the Wednesday afternoon of Summer School, there is the option to go on a tour. I have never taken part in this before but this year they offered the opportunity to go visit an Abbey. So Don & I signed up for the tour, along with about 40 other people, and along we went to the Abbaye de Saint-Benoit-Du-Lac. As its name indicates, it is situated on a lake, and the surrounding country is quite lovely. Our tour guide Patrick, a young monk of 34, was very friendly and even though his French accent was quite thick, he tried to make his English understandable.

Once we entered into what looked like a dining hall, we were treated to a taste of the cider and 3 different kinds of cheese, which are specialties of the abbey; all were very tasty! Patrick asked us questions about our group as he could see we were wearing name tags from different parts of the world. Someone tried to explain Scottish Country Dancing to him but he didn't know what it was. Well actions speak louder than words and when you have a group of about 40 SC dancers, *someone* is bound to have dance music on their phone. So we showed him what SCD was. We danced Flowers of Edinburgh and Montgomery's Rant. Maria may have been heard to be singing in the Abbey, but we *dancing* in the Abbey!! Someone gave him a book of diagrams. He had a good laugh at some of the dance titles.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable afternoon and a lovely drive through that part of Quebec. Optional activities vary depending on the location of the summer school; next year's is at UBC, so there will be lots of possibilities.

Sheila Careless

Editor's note: For the first part of Sheila's report on the TAC Summer School, see the previous issue.

Special Class with Ron Wallace

Ron Wallace from San Francisco will be in Winnipeg conducting a Tutors Course in November. As part of the course, Ron will be teaching a class on Saturday November 12 at St. Luke's Anglican Church (Nassau and Stradbrook) from 8 - 10 pm. All members of the Branch are welcome to attend this evening. Many of you will be familiar with Ron's teaching, which is known and respected world wide. Here is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy an evening of his teaching.

Costs are covered by the course, so there will be no charge for this class. Light refreshments will be provided after the class; small contributions to the refreshment table from those attending will be welcome. Water is available in the St Luke's kitchen, but you may find it convenient to bring your own water bottle for use during the class. Please contact Cheryl or Doug Durnin at 204-253-4213 if you plan to attend, so that we may have an idea of the number to expect.

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.

Branch Social

Cheryl Durnin and the Tuesday Technique class will welcome members to the first social of the season:

Tuesday November 29 2016
8 PM, St Paul's Hall
No charge!

Programme

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| The Flowers of Edinburgh | 32-R-3 | Bk 1- 6 |
| St Andrew's Fair | 32-J-3 | 5 for 82 |
| Friendships | 32-S-4 | Third Graded |
| St Andrews Gardens | 32-J-3 | Bk 35-7 |
| Matilde is a Delight | 32-S-3 couple set | Bk 50-6 |
| The Saltire Society Reel | 32-R-3 | Leaflet #9 |
| The Gates of Edinburgh | 32-R-3 | Bk 15-5 |
| Fair Donald | 32-S-3 | Bk 29-4 |
| The Wandering Wallaby | 32-J-4 | Bk 50-7 |
| De'il Amang the Tailors | 32-R-3 | Bk 14-7 |

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...

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 I don't know about. Let me know!

Peter

Out of Town Events

12 November 2016
Toronto ON
Workshop and Afternoon Dance
Details at www.dancescottish.ca

18-20 November 2016
Minneapolis-St Paul, MN
Weekend workshop
Details at www.rscds-twincities.org

10-12 February 2017
Edmonton, AB
Annual Workshop and Ball
www.rscdsedmonton.com for details and forms

17-19 February 2016
Honolulu, Hawaii
Aloha Winter Weekend
Details at www.rscdshawaii.org

Late 2017
Dancing tour of New Zealand
Visit www.toursbychris.com for contact info.

Important Dates

COM meetings: Next meeting 7 December.

Next L&A: Deadline for the next issue 9 December.

Members are encouraged to submit articles, pictures or information of interest to Branch members. Please send submissions for the *Light and Airy* to Peter McClure john.mcclure@umr.umanitoba.ca. This and several past issues of the *Light and Airy* are posted on the Branch website www.rscdswinnipeg.ca