

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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A Word from the Chair....

We are now into our last month of regular classes. It is hard to believe that time moves so fast. From what I can see everyone has enjoyed the year and things have gone quite well, especially the Canada 150 Social which was interesting and well organized. Thanks Maureen and the Wednesday class plus some others. We are now just coming up to the Workshop which has been set by the Workshop Committee. Just a reminder to sign up for the workshop and/or the Ball later on Saturday of the Weekend. It looks like there will be spring dancing as well so there is lots to look forward to. There is also the AGM in May. Anyway, I hope the classes wind up well and I certainly speak for all of us in thanking the teachers for all the work they have put in for this past season of dancing.

Scott MacRae

2016/17 Dance Season

Week of 10 April	Last Winter term classes	
21-23 April, Friday – Sunday	Weekend Workshop at 17 Wing	
27 April Thursday	Extra general class	8-10 PM
2 May Tuesday	May dancing general class	8-10 PM
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

Tuesday Technique Class

We've had a busy couple of months; I won't try to list everything, but here are a few highlights.

We've had a fair bit from the John Drewry repertoire, including Foxhill Court, Courage Reel, Cherrybank Gardens, King's Park, Celtic Kiwi, Thomas Glover's Reel, and Cherry Blossom Time. Notable formations from some of these dances were the espagnole, dance to corners and set, petronella in tandem, and the kiwi knot. It was nice to be able to review some of these dances in subsequent classes.

We also enjoyed The Whistling Wind, by local dance deviser Elizabeth Goossen, and All for Mary, by Roy Goldring, among many other dances too numerous to mention!

Another new formation was the tourbillon, introduced to us in the dance Burn of Sorrow, by Barry Priddey. The tourbillon progression is named for the "whirlwind like" addition to the mechanics of a pocket watch escapement invented around 1795 by A. Breuget. The Burn of Sorrow is a creek just west of Castle Campbell and just north of the village of Dollar. Castle Campbell was originally known as Castle Gloom, and sits between the Burn of Sorrow and the Burn of Care. It would be interesting to know the origin of these names!

The Burn of Sorrow and the Burn of Care both flow south from the Ochil Hills. These hills are actually an escarpment of Devonian age lavas thrust up along the Ochil Fault with more flat lying sedimentary rocks to the south. The escarpment produces fast moving streams in steep sided valleys. A common

warmup march here in Winnipeg, "The Hills of Alva", celebrates this same geography / geology as the village of Alva is just west of Dollar.

A couple of other notes: on 14 February, Cheryl brought valentine candy kisses for the class, much appreciated by all; also, Sharon and Ray Plaitin enjoyed a visit with family to Hawaii for a few weeks.

From John Hayles

Wednesday Basics of SCD Class

Numbers at class have been small, but together with COM, the class hosted a very successful "Spring Social" on 29 March. The programme and decorations were themed to celebrate Canada's sesquicentennial (last time to use that word?); the programme included several dances that originated in our own workshops over the years. The Maple Leaf cake was duly celebrated and photographed!

Branch News

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee, chaired by Gerri Stemler, has been hard at work seeking candidates for four vacant positions. They've had some success, but are still working on one or two positions (e.g., L&A Editor – how hard can that be??). They wonder whether there are some shy people out there. If you know someone (maybe you!) that you think would be a good committee member, give that person's arm a (gentle!) twist, and forward their name to Gerri at 204-488-7386.

CD Launch

Elizabeth Goossen, who is an RSCDS qualified SCD teacher, now spends her creative energy in English Country Dancing and music. She writes both dances and music, and a recording of music for fifteen of her tunes has been made by a prominent ECD band, The Flying Romanos. Great for both listening and EC dancing. The CD, titled *Daisies in the Wind*, vol 7, *Dancing With Friends*, will launch on 29 April 2017 at the Universalist Unitarian Church, 603 Wellington Crescent. Tickets are \$15, and are available at McNally Robinson Booksellers, Grant Park. Get yours soon to avoid disappointment!

Spring Dance Workshop and Ball

Hope you got your registration in by the deadline, 12 April. It's going to be a great time, with teachers Barbara Johnston and David Booz, and musicians Ron Krug and Dennis Orr. And the ceilidh, organized by Ray Plaitin. And the dance programme, compiled by Cheryl Durnin. And Hope to see you there!

May Dancing

COM has approved three nights of general classes for our members in May. The dates are Tuesdays 2, 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 this beautiful 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 I don't know about. Let me know!

Out of Town Events

7-9 April 2017
Lethbridge, AB
Dance and Music Workshops and Ball
Details at www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org

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.

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 3 May 2017.

Next L&A: Deadline for the next issue 5 May 2017.
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.meclure@umr.umanitoba.ca.
This and past issues of the *Light and Airy* are posted on the Branch web site www.rscdswinnipeg.ca.