

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Chicago Branch

February 1988

# B l e t h e r s

Ingrid Kendall, President

Kenneth Schoon, Editor

Auction '88--A Great Success!! \$1000.00 was raised at the auction last month making it our most successful money-raising activity ever. Much of the credit goes to Ann Wood and her committee (including husband, Hank). Ann would like to thank them, and the many members and friends who donated items and brought their checkbooks and good spirits. (The editor remembers two-day summer bake sales which only netted \$300.00. This was certainly more fun, let alone more profitable.) We especially appreciated some of the more imaginative offerings, such as Ann Linsey's gourmet dinner for six, which netted us \$93.00.

The way we look at it--the "Branch" has two reasons to be joyful:

1. Our basements have less clutter
2. We all got great new toys at fantastic prices.
3. The cost of the workshop will be considerably less.

O.K., so we have three reasons to be joyful. Probably more.

January was quite a nice month, actually. In addition to the auction:

The Annual Ball at Glendora on the 2nd was terrific. Several dances saw eight sets on the floor--with many more folks enjoying the dance from the sidelines. Many dancers were present from other groups. Dave Pattison would have taken the prize (if'n we had had one) for coming the greatest distance--Calgary.

The Burns Night was well attended by our group and the Branch was recognized for its many contributions. (Your editor, serving as master of ceremonies, was wearing two hats that evening.) Our demo team did a splendid job as did the team from Evanston. The Haggis, the singing, and Stockyards Kilty Band plus the Highland and social dancing, complimented the Hilton's fine dinner.

Spring Dance Party: Our annual Spring dance will be held at the Palos Park Village Hall on Saturday evening, March 19 at 7:30 'til whenever. There's a very good assortment of dances on the program--some old favorites and some new ones. A copy of the program is enclosed. Hope to see you there.

The Lake Geneva Workshop: is filling up quickly. If you are planning on attending and have not yet sent in your deposit, you should do so ASAP.

Speaking of Lake Geneva: 1989 will be the last year we will be able to hold the workshop there. We've always enjoyed the campus there (and having a Resident Baker in Tom Cox is just the icing on the cake) however, the number of wooden floors is being reduced and we will simply have to find some other place to go. Anyone with suggestions for another location (such as a nice small, wooded, college campus, or ritzy--but inexpensive--resort) should inform one of the workshop committee members, or any branch officer. If we can find another location soon enough, the 1989 workshop might be held there.

Demo Team Video Available: The video tape of our demo team (and Highland dancers) is completed and is available for anyone who would like to see it--or show to their friends. Thank you to the team and its coach, Martin Mulligan, who spent many, many hours on the project. It shows!

The Madison Group is planning two special events:

A Valentine's Day Dance, Sunday, February 14th (of course) at 7:45 at the University of Wisconsin's Memorial Union Building. The program includes a number of our favorite dances including, Yoshi's Farewell. Music for half of the evening will be provided by Capercaillie (The Madison SCD Band).

Their 11th Annual Dinner and Ball will be held Saturday, March 26th. Our Branch's demonstration team has been asked to perform. More details will be available on the class bulletin board. Hospitality is available if requested in advance. We hope to have several car-loads going up for this annual event.

Lynette's Scones: After much prodding, Lynette TeVault has released the secret to her wonderful scones, and because we have received so many requests to see the recipe, here it is:

1 lb. unbleached flour	1/2 level tsp salt
1 stick (4 oz.) real butter	3/4 cup sultanas
10 fluid ounces sour milk	6 level tps baking powder
	1 egg beaten

Pre-heat oven to 450°F

Sift flour, salt and baking powder into a bowl and cut in butter with pastry blender until fine, like cornmeal. Make a well in the center and stir in enough sour milk to give a spongy, soft dough. Turn onto a floured board, knead very lightly if necessary to remove cracks, and roll out lightly 3/4 - 1 inch thick. Cut into rounds with sharp 2 inch cutter (dipped into flour). Place on greased baking sheet, glaze with beaten egg and bake near top of oven for 8 - 10 minutes, till brown and well risen. Cool the scones on a rack. Yields 20 - 24 scones.

RSCDS catalogue: Speaking of Lynette, she has the catalogue of items available from the RSCDS in Edinburgh which includes sweaters and sweatshirts with the RSCDS logo on them, also aprons, brooches, coasters, scarves, ties, key rings, paper, pencils, pens, plates, posters, even playing cards. In addition: serviettes ("dinner napkins" to those born over here) sashes, shoe bags and More! There are also instruction books for all our dances, with and without music, records, and books about dancing. See Lynette for details.

A Scottish Tour, combining the best of Scotland and England is leaving from Toronto August 14th. "Scotland--England '88" led by Bob Reid from Peterborough, Ontario is timed to permit the option of attending of Summer School in St. Andrews before going on to Edinburgh, Burns Country, the Highlands, the Lake District, York, Chester, Stratford and London. Participants may attend the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, the Glasgow Garden Festival and an Elizabethan Banquet. For more information see the bulletin board.

Old phone books are still needed by your editor for Chicago and areas North and far west of the city.

The Illinois St. Andrew Society does a lot to promote things Scottish in the Chicago area. Many of our branch members have been to the Scottish Home, which is operated by the Society, and have seen what a beautiful and well kept place it is. Membership is open to Scots, those of Scottish ancestry and their spouses. Dues and money-raising activities, such as the Feast of the Haggis, benefit the home. If interested in membership, see Fiona Robertson, Ann Wood or Ken Schoon.

Planning a trip to Scotland? Barb Bowker, our secretary, has received an invitation from the Laird of Stronvar and his Lady inviting one and all to their Country Home overlooking Loch Voil and the Braes O' Balquhider. The owners of Stronvar House are RSCDS members and not only can arrange dance parties, they offer a 25% discount for other RSCDS members. The house offers views of one of the most beautiful areas of Scotland which happens to be the ancient home of the clans MacLaren and McGregor. Rob Roy is buried in a local churchyard. (Your editor wears the MacLaren tartan and can talk for hours about the locality, but you probably wouldn't want him to.) Rather, check the brochure on that old class bulletin board.



The following letters arrived just after the Blethers was issued last December.

From Japan:

Dear Chicago Branch members:

Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year.

We wish that we could sprout wings and fly to Chicago in time for your New Year Party. Hope that you all have a wonderful time and a wonderful year! We wish this new year brings joy and happiness.

All of you are always in our minds in dancing SCD. Happy dancing!

Yoshi

From Italy:

Dear Friends,

Christmas blessings from the Eternal City! You must be gearing up for the DeKoven Christmas dance and your own New Year's Ball. How I wish we could be with you!

We have been dancing with John Fitzpatrick's F.A.D. group here and went to their St. Andrew's dance at a little restaurant up in the mountains south of Rome. Meanwhile a number of people here at St. Paul's have expressed interest in SCD, so as of Dec. 3, Leticia and I are teaching a beginners class for about 12 people including the Rector and his wife. . . . We have a beautiful wood floor (very unusual for Rome where most everything is marble or terazza) but it is so slippery that even I have to wear tennis shoes to avoid broken bones. --Technique will have to be modified a bit, alas.

We are taking 4 classes at the Dominican University. The classes are all good for content, but there is a great divergence in the quality of teaching. We have learned that one asks the students about the merits of a professor before contracting to take a course.

Time has not permitted us to do much sight seeing yet. We've wandered about Rome a bit and did take a one day excursion to Assisi. We have about 2 weeks at Christmas and hope to explore a bit of northern Italy then.

This carries our love for each of you and a prayer that the Dance may be for all of us a beginning of our participation in the Great Dance of Eternity! Buon Natale.

Your dancing sisters, Dorcas and Leticia

Branch Classes: Sunday evenings at 6:30 at the Palos Park Village Hall.  
Basic and advanced. Instructors Avril and David Quarrie.  
Tea and light refreshments served at 8:30.

**Calendar:**

February 14	Valentine's Day Dance	Madison, Wisconsin
March 19	Spring Dance Party	Palos Park Village Hall
March 20	No Sunday class	
March 26	Annual Dinner and Ball	Madison, Wisconsin
June 3 - 8	Chicago Area Workshop	Lake Geneva, WI

Winter Weather Cancellation Phone Number: (312) 848-2332

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Address Correction Requested

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