

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Chicago Branch

November 1988

B l e t h e r s

Chari Wurtzel, President

Kenneth Schoon, Editor

Congratulations to Kent Smith who successfully passed his teaching exams and received his Preliminary Certificate at St. Catharines, Ontario, this last summer. It takes a great deal of dedication and effort to become a certificated teacher of the RSCDS. We are all very proud of you.

The AUCTION is this Sunday, November 6th, at the Fox Center in Oak Park. Please plan to arrive about 4:30 so that your donations can be set up for all to see before bidding begins. The auction will commence at 5:00 promptly. Remember a prize (two tickets to next January's Nicht Wi' Burns) will be given to the member who brings the most guests. Home baked goods are always a good auction item. (The gourmet dinner was our biggest item last year. Be sure to read its description on the back of the auction flyer.) Refreshments will be served after the auction, before dance class begins.

Bring your treasures and clever ideas.

Bring your friends.

Bring your checkbook (and a generous frame of mind, of course).

New class times: Beginning November 13th, Sunday classes will begin at 6:00 pm continuing until 8:30 as usual. The extra half hour will allow for more social dancing. Many thanks to Ingrid and Kent for their teaching efforts these last two months. As branch class teachers are being rotated this year, Barbara Ellis and Bill Moorhead will begin their session November 6th -- right after the auction. Remember one unannounced Sunday each session will be a social.

A Mini-Beginners' Workshop will be held Tuesday evening, November 22nd at 7:00 pm at the Longfellow Recreational Center (Ridgeland and Jackson) in Oak Park. Please spread the word.

The Alasdair Fraser recital and dance was the highlight of our fall season. He was magnificent! His powerful strathspeys were unlike any this editor has ever before experienced. [My leg muscles were sore for days afterwards.] Many thanks to those whose efforts made such an enjoyable afternoon--especially to John Collins who organized the event as well as being accompanist for half of the dance program, Mike Briggs of Madison who accompanied Mr. Fraser for the other half of the dance, and Mary Brown who took care of reservations.

The Scottish Fair was held October 22 and 23. Our group had a booth, gave a demonstration, and held workshops for beginners. Thanks to Tom Watkins who coordinated the efforts at the booth and to all those who helped out.

The Homewood Group is sponsoring a Soiree of Scottish Country Dancing and refreshments on Saturday, November 19th, at 7:00 pm. The dance will be held at the beautiful Marie Irwin Community Center at the corner of Highland Avenue and Ridge Road, in Homewood. Admission is free and spectators are welcome, however reservations are necessary. --please call Ingrid at 957-4494 to make them.

Semi-Annual Meeting: We will have a short semi-annual meeting at 5:30 pm, Sunday, November 20th, to assess how the year is progressing. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The New Year Ball will be held January 7, 1989, at the Glendora House in Chicago Ridge. Live music will be provided by the highly acclaimed Elizabeth and Etienne Ozorek of Richmond, Indiana. The Ozoreks, who play accordion and piano, provided much of the music at the Cincinnati workshop last September. Several of our members attended and recommended that they be invited to play for us some time. We invited--they accepted. Wow!! More information will be in the mail soon.

Nicht Wi' Burns: The 19th annual Nicht Wi' Burns is scheduled for Saturday, January 28th at the Oak Lawn Hilton. Ed Rorison, a member of the Homewood-Flossmore SCD, will be master of ceremonies. Our demonstration team has been invited to perform. More details will be in the next Blethers.

Our demonstration team can use some help! Announcers, music system operators, purse watchers, as well as specators would be especially appreciated. No experience necessary. Apply with Dave or Avril.

Brendan Graham Marshall, 7 lbs, 11 oz, 21 inches, newly arrived son of Laurie Walter and Dan Marshall, and (of course) new brother of Andy Marshall, was born September 29, 1988. He made his Branch debut October 22 at the Scottish Fair with his parents and killed brother. A warm welcome to wee Brendan. Congratulations to Andy and the proud parents.

Best Wishes: to Ann Lindsey and John Lockhart who announced their wedding engagement at Sunday class recently. John is a Scottish Country Dancer from the Madison group. The two met at our workshop at Lake Geneva last Spring. The big question is, of course, which group will get to see them more often? More on all of this later.

Doug Schneider, formerly of Twin Cities, now of Boston, visited with Kathy and Yoshi Yukishige in Osaka last month. He writes, "If hospitality is an art, Kathy and Yoshi are a national treasure." Doug may be in Chicago this month--if so we'll see him November 13th. By the way--

Kathy and Yoshi Yukishige have a new phone number: 011-81-6-866-7063. The first three digits inform Ma Bell that you're going to make an international call; 81 is for Japan; 6 is for the Osaka area.

Martin Mulligan's new address:

104 Portugal Cove Road Apt 301
St. John's, Newfoundland A1B 2M7
Canada
Phone (709) 739-0166 home; (709) 737-797 work

(This supercedes the address in the August Blethers)

Ossian, a Scottish-Irish folk group, will be performing in concert, November 18th, at the Irish American Cultural Center, in Chicago. For an enjoyable evening of jigs, reels, airs, laments--traditional music played with a contemporary flair, see Bill Moorhead. He'll have tickets at class or call 848-2332.

Madison Dance Party: The Madison group is having a dance party on Sunday evening, December 11th, at the Memorial Union Building in Madison, Wisconsin, at 6:00. Have that 1989 calendar yet? If so, please note that their Annual Ball is scheduled for Saturday, April 1, 1989.

Where are you, Larry Bell? We have lost track of Larry Bell, who taught our group way back in 1982. If any of our readers know of his whereabouts, please inform the editor. We would certainly like to see him again, and would especially like to invite him to participate in our:

10th anniversary: The Chicago Branch of the RSCDS started as an unnamed dance group back in 1980. Our first hall was the Foundation Center, a building in Palos Park hardly big enough for two sets--and then tall dancers had to be careful not to knock their heads in the chandeliers. Jeanette Parrot and Nancy LeNoble McGladdery were our first teachers; John LeNoble our first president. The group chose the name Loch Michigan Scottish Country Dancers which we held (and by which we are still informally known by many) until we became a branch of the RSCDS last year.

Our 10th anniversary will be in 1990. Ingrid Kendall is chairing the anniversary committee and would like some input for appropriate activities for the year-long celebration. Please feel free to write down your innovative thoughts and mail them to her--using the enclosed sheet.

Avril Quarrie has had so many folks ask for her recipe for her Mandarin Cheese Cake that she has offered it for publication. Here it is:

Mandarin Cheese Cake
(Germany)

approx. 4 oz graham cracker crumbs
1/2 stick margarine
5 tbs sugar

8 oz cream cheese	4 tbs mandarin juice
1 carton plain yogurt	3 ts gelatine in 5 tbs juice
3.5 oz sugar	juice of 1 lemon
16 oz can of mandarins	1/2 pt whipping cream

(3 ts. gelatine = 1 packet Knox gelatine.)

Melt the margarine, add sugar and graham cracker crumbs. Mix well and press into a spring form. Allow to harden.

Very gently warm the gelatine in the mandarin juice until dissolved. Allow to cool slightly.

Meanwhile mix the cream cheese, yogurt, sugar, mandarin juice, lemon juice, and mandarins (keep about 10 mandarin segments aside for decoration).

Add the gelatine mixture to the cream cheese mixture, making sure that no "threads" of gelatine appear. (Use an electric beater or mixer for this and you should have no trouble.) Allow to set slightly.

Whip the cream until it thickens. Fold evenly into the cream cheese-gelatine mixture and pour into the spring form. Allow to set for at least 4 hours.

Decorate with mandarin segments.

[Thank you, Avril]

A Hawaiian Fling, organized by Bob Blackie, is to be April 8th - 24th, 1989. The trip will combine "the fast paced, active life style of Waikiki . . . and the relaxing, tranquil garden isle of Kauai." In Waikiki, the group will meet with members of the Honolulu RSCDS. For information, see our notice board.

Branch Classes: Sunday evenings at 6:00 at the Fox Center, Oak Park, Illinois
Basic and advanced. Tea and light refreshments served at 8:30.

Calendar:

November 6	Auction / Session II begins	
November 12	Feast of the Haggis	Chicago Hilton
November 13	Classes begin at 6:00	Fox Center, Oak Park
November 18	Ossian Concert	Irish-American Cultural Center
November 19	"Soiree" Dance Party	Marie Irwin Center, Homewood
November 20	Semi-Annual General Meeting	5:30
December 3	Ann Arbor (Michigan) Ball	
December 11	Dance Party at Madison, Wisconsin	
December 18	Request Night followed by Christmas Dinner	
January 7	New Year Ball	Glendora House, Chicago Ridge
January 21	Dance Party at Racine, Wisconsin	
January 28	Nicht Wi' Burns	Oak Lawn, Illinois

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Address Correction Requested
