

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society; Chicago Branch

March, 1994

The Blethers

Noel Chávez, Chair

Laurie Walter, Editor

Spring dance date changed: The RSCDS, Chicago Branch, Spring dance, formerly scheduled for April 9, has been changed to **APRIL 23**. It will take place at St. Josaphat Parish House, Southport & Belden Aves. in Chicago, starting at 7:00 PM. Please bring goodies for the tea afterwards. Should be a good way to shake those winter blues!

Annual General Meeting: The RSCDS, Chicago Branch, Annual General Meeting will be held at 6:00 PM on Sunday, May 1, 1994, in the Parish Hall of St. Josaphat Church, corner of Southport & Belden Aves. in Chicago. All members are invited to this important meeting, which will be followed by social dancing. Business includes the election of Branch officers and members at large (see following notice).

Wanted!! Candidates for Branch officers and members at large: At the Annual General Meeting of the Branch, scheduled for Sunday, May 1, there will be an election for the Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and three Members at Large. They form the Committee of Management, responsible for managing the Branch and its activities. Committee of Management meetings are usually held once a month. They are elected for a one year term, and cannot serve more than three consecutive full terms. The qualifications for candidates per the Branch Constitution are: ***A nominee must be eligible for the office (member of the Branch); ***Consent to the candidacy; ***Agree to ~~serve~~ if elected.

The Nominating Committee (3 elected members who are not on the Committee of Management) is responsible for developing a slate of candidates for these positions at least 4 weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting. The Constitution specifies there should be two candidates for every position, if possible, and this provides a democratic election. Following is a brief description of the primary duties of each position. The Constitution provides a complete description of duties.

Branch Chairman--Presides at Branch and Committee meetings and is the executive officer of the Branch. **Honorary Secretary**--Takes minutes at Branch and Committee meetings, submits annual report of Branch activities to Headquarters, and maintains membership records. **Honorary Treasurer**--Manages all monies collected by the Branch, maintains the financial records of the Branch which are examined by the Finance Committee annually, and submits a financial report annually to Headquarters. **Members at Large**--There are three Members at Large positions who serve along with the Branch officers on the Committee of Management responsible for conducting the business of the Branch and all its activities.

All of these positions are crucial to the continuation of Scottish Country Dancing activities in the Chicago Area. Please consider supporting the Branch in these positions. It is a great way to get to know your fellow dancers better.

If you are interested or would like to nominate someone for one of these positions, please talk to me (Robin Gaston) on Sunday night or call me at 708-806-5312 (days) or 708-475-4589 (evenings until 9:00 PM).

Set-up help needed: Please show up early on Sunday evenings to St. Josaphat--if you can--to help with set-up/clean-up. Sometimes chairs and tables need to be moved, the floor is dirty, etc. Any help would be appreciated! Also, dancers are encouraged to bring a coffee mug of their own to keep in the basement cupboard and to use for water, coffee, tea, etc. That way we use fewer disposable cups.

Still seeking dance hall: We are still looking for an inexpensive hall with wooden floors for more frequent social dances. Please contact Noel Chávez (708-848-9218), Barbara Cool (708-433-8704), or Kent Smith (708-869-7803) if you have any ideas. Also, please share with your favorite Committee of Management member whether or not you would be interested in occasional Saturday afternoon dances.

1994 June Workshop approaches: The Chicago Branch's Workshop will be held on June 3-5, 1994, at Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN. Teachers are Mel Briscoe, Vicki Goodloe, and Anthony Moretti Tufts and music is by Tullochgorum (the best!). The workshop is designed for dancers with at least one year of experience. It's always a great weekend of fun, dancing, and friendship, so if you haven't signed up, send your registration now or call Ken Heinemann at (708) 655-4154 to get more information and/or a registration form.

Great New Year's Ball: The annual New Year's Ball was, once again, wonderful. A lot of folks came out despite the gruesome weather (within & without) and danced the cold away to the inspiring music of Terpsichore. A particularly nice innovation, to my mind, was the brunch dance following the brunch the next day, again with Terpsichore providing the beat. Thanks to Barbara Cool, Marian Smith, and everyone else involved with putting on a great weekend. Also, it's always a joy to see our friends from out of town....thanks for coming! If anyone knows of a different hall where we could hold next year's ball, please contact Mary Ellen or Tomy Endo at (312) 922-1725 or Ree Grisham at (312) 528-7824.

Thanks for the New Year's Ball brunch support: Thanks to everyone who brought food and provided help with the New Year's Ball brunch. Several out-of-town folks commented on the nice selection of dishes. (There were definitely some recipes to add to the proposed RSCDS cookbook.) We appreciated all the assistance and enjoyed working with such a supportive group. THANKS!! (Robin Gaston & Sue Kamp) ---And thanks to Robin and Sue from all of us for putting it together! Jeanette Parrott also thanks everyone who brought tea goodies, and we thank her for coordinating it.

Inter-City Scot gets new editor, subscription manager: The new editor for The Inter-City Scot, a handy newsletter of SCD contacts and schedules, is Pat Donaldson, 1248 Marsh Rd., Pittsford, NY 14534. Send her any info about dances, workshops, etc. Subscriptions will be managed by Mary Brown, 1209 S. Garner St., State College, PA 16801, so if you aren't a subscriber, now is a good time to start. And big hugs to Ellie Briscoe for holding both jobs for the last several years! (And before that it was John Collins, of the same State College address.)

Folk dance phone: The phone number for up-to-date information about Chicagoland folk and ethnic dancing, English dancing, Scottish dancing, barn dances, etc., is (708) 232-0242.

Top 40 Reels Chicago!!! Does the Chicago Branch tend to do a dance one time only, or are we slowly building a working repertoire by repeating dances a few times so that they become somewhat familiar? Judging from the record since September, 1992, the answer is a middle of the road "Yes." During those 18 months, there were 523 *appearances* of dances (in the sense of, "We did 6 dances tonight"--6 appearances) in the intermediate/advanced class and social dance period at St. Josaphat, the ScotReel class, parties, and balls sponsored by the Chicago Branch. We danced 243 separate *titles* (in the sense of, "Didn't we do that dance [title] last week also?"). Of the 523 appearances, 22% were of titles that were done only once; 23% were of titles done twice; the "yes" answer to the first half of the question. At the other end, 24% of the appearances were of titles done 5 or more times; 39% were of titles done 4 or more times: "yes" to the second half of the question.

Looking at the record in terms of titles, 47% of the 243 titles appeared only one time; 24%, two times; 12%, three times; and 16%, four or more times. Topping the list are three dances (titles) that

appeared 8 times. These are "The Birks of Invermay," "The Montgomerie's Rant," and "The White Cockade." In the Top 40--those appearing four or more times--there are 11 jigs, 15 reels, and 14 strathspeys, roughly the proportion one finds on a well-balanced party program. As an indication of how much we are indebted to the RSCDS for collecting, publishing, and disseminating dances, only 6 of the Top 40 are not published by the RSCDS.

Here is a list of the Top 40 dances, ordered by the number of times they have appeared in class and parties during the past 18 months. How many of the titles do you recognize? How many could you do after a brief talk-through? (Surely no one expects us to be able to dance them without a talk-through at least!) The entire list is posted at both St. Josaphat and ScotReel.

Eight appearances: The Birks of Invermay (S), The Montgomerie's Rant (R), The White Cockade (R). **Seven appearances:** Balmoral Strathspey (S), The De'il Among the Tailors (R), Fair Donald (S), Flowers of Edinburgh (R), The Irish Rover (R), Round Reel of Eight (R). **Six appearances:** Corn Rigs (R), Lamb Skinnit (J). **Five appearances:** The Jubilee Jig (J), The Machine Without Horses (J), Mairi's Wedding (R), Maxwell's Rant (R), Miss Milligan's Strathspey (S), Monymusk (S), Mrs. Macleod (R), The Reel of the Royal Scots (R), St. John River (S). **Four appearances:** Blue Bonnets (J), Braes of Tullimet (S), Dalkeith's Strathspey (S), Duke of Perth (R), Espie McNabb (J), Jessie's Hornpipe (R), Lady Auckland's Reel (S), The Laird of Milton's Daughter (J), Moment of Truth (S), The Nurseryman (J), Over the Water to Charlie (J), Rest and Be Thankful (R), Roaring Jelly (J), Seann Truibhas Willichan (S), Simon Brodie (S), There's Nae Luck About the Hoose (S), Well Done Jack (J), West's Hornpipe (R), The Wild Geese (J), Wisp of Thistle (S). (Kent Smith)--Thanks to Kent for compiling the statistics!

Tartan Ball: The Scottish Cultural Society's Tartan Ball will be held Saturday, April 16, at Plentywood Farms in Bensenville. The evening will include dinner, entertainment and dancing (Gay Gordon's, Dashing White Sergeant, etc.). There is a vegetarian, no-fat entree available (the main entree is beef kabobs). The SCS is working on car pools to Bensenville, so if you are interested in coming and need a ride (or can provide a ride), call Ree Grisham at (312) 528-7824 (or Ree Grisham, mother version, at [708] 798-4031) for details and reservations. The cost of the evening is \$25.00.

Ghillies for sale: "Black leather ghillies with chrome soles--all sizes in stock for immediate delivery: \$27." They will also hand make pink, white, yellow, blue, red, green, or burgundy ghillies in six weeks for \$58 [attention all Imeldas]. These and other useful items available from Heather and Thistle, P.O. Box 115, Walpole, NH 03608. Phone and FAX: (603) 445-5546.

Minutes of Committee of Management meeting: *Minutes of the January 30, 1994 meeting:* 1. Motion that Branch class sessions are not designed for dancers under 12 years of age, though exceptions may be made by the Committee--passed. 2. Motion that Bob Carter be authorized to pay the new, higher insurance premium--passed. 3. Motion to approve the September 17 and November 3 minutes (the latter with one correction)--passed.

Daftinitions: "Skip change of step: a fast-time travelling step used to travel from point A to point B, via point C, D (where you really had no business being) and around E (who forgot to step up), usually to finish approximately where you began. It usually incorporates a skip, a close, and a couple of steps, in varying order according to a dancer's ability, mood, and slipperiness of the floor." (Ree Grisham, from TACNotes)

Reappearances: Veteran teachers Sandie Lamb and Bill Moorhead are both back at Sunday dancing (the latter only briefly between sojourns to Scotland and elsewhere). Nice to see you both!

CALENDAR:

St. Joe's--

ScotReel--

Mar 6, 13, 20, 27 Class

3, 10, 17, 24 Class
31 No class

Apr 3 Class
10, 17 Class

7 Class
14, 21 Class

*****April 23
24 No class

Spring Dance*****

28 Class

*****May 1
May 8, 15, 22, 29 Class

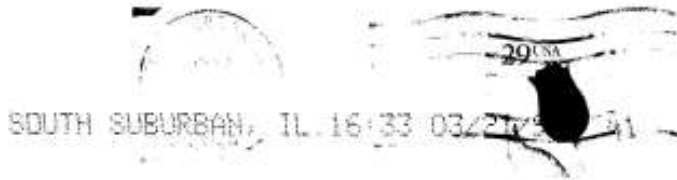
Annual General Meeting/social dancing*****

7 Special event (to be announced)
12, 19 Class

*****June 3-5

Valparaiso Workshop*****

RSCDS, Chicago Branch
c/o Laurie Walter
18824 Juhlin Dr.
Homewood, IL 60430



Address correction requested

Ken, Reg & Jacobi Schools
8030 Hobart Ave
Mundelein, IL 60061

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