

RSCDS, Chicago Branch



The Blethers

Mike Millin, Chair

April 2004
<http://rscds-chicago.org>

Sue McKinnell, Editor

2004 Annual General Meeting: This is official notice, pursuant to the Constitution and by-laws of the Chicago Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 2. The meeting will be held in the parish hall at St. Josaphat's Church, Belden and Southport, Chicago, Illinois, starting at 6:00 p.m. The main item on the agenda will be the election of a new Committee of Management. You must be a member of the Chicago Branch to vote at the meeting (but others interested in the Branch are invited to attend). There will be dancing after the meeting.

Silk and Thistle celebrates Tartan Day: The Silk and Thistle class took advantage of the fact that it was scheduled on Tartan Day itself -- Tuesday, April 6 -- to throw a party. And people came. There were almost 50 people in the Geneva American Legion that evening. Most tried out the dancing, in a program of introductory favorites that Doug, Sue and Mady offered. Those who came just to watch could also spend time browsing a large selection of books and Scottish memorabilia displayed in the foyer. Everyone in the group went all out to make all ages of newcomers feel welcome-- and to make sure all were well fed at break time!

The long table was filled to overflowing. Maureen Pettigrew brought haggis with neeps and tatties and atholl brose (a heavenly mix of whipped cream, honey, whiskey and toasted oats which is scooped up with shortbread). Mary Helen Polensky brought a huge bowl of trifle; Anna Jean researched recipes on the internet and made a potato salad, marmalade cake, fudge, empire cookies and a country egg casserole (all from the website, www.rampantscotland.com); Marsha Hanson brought bannocks. Tom Von Hoppe supplied stovies. Mady Newfield baked shortbread and oatcakes, and brought smoked salmon to go with the latter. Others brought other cookies and baked goods - it was quite a spread. And they served freshly brewed hot tea in good Scottish tradition.

A reporter and photographer from the suburban Sun newspapers also spent the evening taking in the festivities, and wrote it up in a mostly accurate article, which can be found, on the Web at <http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/sunpub/geneva/news/gvball0414.htm>. The Internet version sadly lacks the high-kicking photo of Sven Leyffer that appeared in the printed copy. Plenty of guests stayed even after the break to continue dancing and observe some informal demos of harder dances. Mike Fitak graced the evening with some bagpipe music and an interesting discussion of the instrument, and played later for Reel of the Royal Scots, to close the program. Silk and Thistle sold enough Tartan Day 2004 buttons to cover the cost, but there are still quite a few left. If anyone would like one or more, contact Mady Newfield.

Weekend Workshop 2004 (more to enjoy): In addition to the fine teaching of Geoffrey Selling and our branch's own Barbara Cool and Mel Whitson, the lively music of the Music Makars, the delicious food and comfortable housing of Beloit College, and traditional good times of the Workshop Weekend, we've learned that our new location offers another perk: we can hold our Saturday banquet at the College's famed Logan Museum of Anthropology. This collection will be available after hours for our private viewing before and during our banquet. While food and drink may not enter the area with the collections, the skylit atrium will provide an attractive gathering and dining area. And one can come early to have more time to go off and explore the extensive collections of Native American basketry and pre-Columbian pottery and much more. Another reason to come to Beloit on June 12. Banquet and ball-only registration is possible, although we hope you can make more of this special weekend. For more information, contact Mady at 630-584-0825 or folkdance@fnal.gov or Sue at lvsacd@suedan.com. The programs are listed on the back of this page.

2004 Highland Games: This year's Highland Games are Saturday, June 19th at the Oakbrook Polo Grounds, 31st and York Streets in Oakbrook, IL. The Branch will host a tent there for disseminating dance information and the demo team will perform in the early afternoon. Volunteers for manning the tent are always needed and welcome!

2001-2002 Committee of Management: Mike Millin, Honorary Chair; Ree Grisham, Honorary Secretary; Carlyn Bromann, Honorary Treasurer; Doug Jensen, Jeanne Millin, and Noel Chávez - Members at Large.

Branch Archive: Doug Jensen is gathering Branch working documents and assembling them onto a CD for reference and archive. To do this, he needs assistance from anyone who has the information and documentation that will go into this 'living Archive'. Information already in electronic form is the easiest to deal with, however, he can scan and if appropriate OCR documents. He can accept information in any electronic form you might have: on floppy, on CD, via e-mail (djensen@fnal.gov), His plan is to save documents in Word and/or Word Perfect format, and also create a set of documents in ASCII that can be easily read by a wide range of programs

Summer Dancing: There may be summer dancing in Oak Park again this year. Check the Branch website for details.

RSCDS Chicago Branch 2003 Schedule	
Annual General Meeting, St. Josaphats	Saturday, 5/2 6:00 p.m.
Weekend Workshop, Beloit, WI	Friday, 6/11 – Sunday, 6/13
Chicago Highland Games	Saturday, 6/19
Frolic on the Fox 9, St. Charles	Saturday, 10/2
2005 New Years Ball	Saturday, 1/8/05
2005 Tea Dance	Sunday, 1/9/05

Weekend Workshop Friday Welcome Dance		
The Happy Meeting	32J2	RSCDS Book 29 #9
The Highland Rambler	40R3	Leeds Silver (Goldring)
The Iona Cross	96S/96J (square)	Whetherly Book 17 #26 (Mitchell)
Duke of Perth	32R3	RSCDS Book 1
Autumn in Appin	32S4 (set)	RSCDS Book 35 #5 (Drewry)
The Irish Rover	32R3	Cosh: 22 SCD
Interval		
The Dashing White Sergeant	3 facing 3	RSCDS Book 3 #2
The Wild Geese	32J3	RSCDS 24 #3
St Columba's Strathspey	32S5 (set)	Gillan/Sproule Leaflet
Jessie's Hornpipe	32R3	RSCDS Book 8 #9
The Earl of Northampton	32S2 (6X)	Boston: Celebrate 50 Years (vanScoy)
Mairi's Wedding	40R3	Cosh: 22 SCD

Weekend Workshop Saturday Ball Program		
Ayr Promenade (variant)	32J3	Goldring: 24 Graded and Social
John McAlpin	32S3	Foss: Galloway Album
Shifftin' Bobbins	32R3	Ormskirk 6 #1 (Clowes)
Pelorus Jack	32J3	RSCDS Book 41 #1 (Skelton)
The Glasgow Highlanders	32S2	RSCDS Book 2 #3
Fire in the Rye	32R6/3 (set)	Ozorak: Leaflet
The Dance Program	32S3	McKinnell: Leaflet
Lucy's Fancy	32R3	Whitehorne: Leaflet
Interval		
The Rothesay Rant	32J4 (square)	Collins Book
The Saltire Society Reel	32R3	RSCDS Leaflet #9 (Goldring)
The Silver Tassie	32S3	Drewry: Bon Accord
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	32R5 (set)	Goldring: 14 Social Dances for 2000
Wisp of Thistle	32S3	RSCDS 37 # 4 (Kent)
The Blackadder Jig	32J3	Blackadder Collection (Johnstone)
The Reel of the Royal Scots	32R3	RSCDS Leaflet #7 (Goldring)

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