

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society



ST ANDREWS BRANCH

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2007

This Newsletter comes to you in a new format, with a new typeface, to indicate, sadly, that we have a new Acting Chairman. Many of you will know that Roger Phillips, Carol's husband, suffered a major stroke following an operation at Ninewells hospital on the 1st of June. Carol has felt unable to take part in our activities since, and was granted Leave of Absence by your Committee. There has been an improvement - Roger has recently been moved to Cameron Hospital, Windygates, in Fife - but Carol felt that she must resign, and did so formally on the 12th of August. The Committee has accepted this with great regret, and would like to place on record their appreciation of all that Carol did for us in her year in office. She is one of those people who "make a difference", and the success, so far, of our 70th Anniversary celebrations is very much due to her. I am sure that every member will join the Committee in wishing Roger and Carol well, in whatever the future holds.

In a situation such as this, the Branch Constitution is clear; the Committee must elect, from among their own number, an Interim Chairman to act until the next Branch AGM, at which members will have the opportunity to elect a new Chairman. Your Committee has done me the honour of electing me until April 2008, and I will do my best to act in the best interests of the Branch, and all its members, until then.

John M Sturrock

70th Anniversary Year

The Branch is 70 years old this year. So far, we have had a very successful year. In January we held a Day of Dance for local schools, in the Younger Hall, to music by David Cunningham. The morning, in particular, attracted a lot of children, and the Branch gained valuable publicity from a report, and colour photograph, in the Dundee Courier. This was followed by an Afternoon School in the Holy Trinity Church Hall. This was a mammoth feat of organisation by Carol Phillips - who treated it as a full time job for three months - and her sister, and both reaped a deserved harvest. So successful was this event, that it will be repeated on the 5th of April, 2008, in the Town Hall, this time with Pat Houghton of Edinburgh as teacher, Robert Mackay as pianist, and with the James Coutts band for the evening dance.

In a new departure, the Branch held five Dances, rather than Classes, in May, all to live music, in the Victory Memorial Hall. These were well supported, from a wide area, and resulted in 5 great evenings of dancing. They will be repeated in 2008.

Following now established tradition, the Branch held four Summer Dances, on the four Summer School Tuesdays, in the Town Hall in July, and in the Boys Brigade Hall in August. Your Committee would prefer to hold all dances in the Town Hall, but it is never available on the first two Tuesdays in August. These Dances, attracting dancers from every corner of the world, were exceptionally well attended, and created the electric atmosphere that is SCD at its very best. They also left the Branch

with overflowing coffers! The same halls have been booked for 2008, and your Committee is endeavouring to book the same bands.

In October and November, the Branch holds two very important Events : -

70th Anniversary Dinner

This will be held in the Links Clubhouse on the 13th of October. You should all have received a Brochure containing full details of this - please fill in your Application Forms soon! Your Committee is hoping to welcome as many of you as possible. The Clubhouse has both 60 seat and 100 seat restaurants, so it can cope with various possible numbers. At the close of the Dinner, there will be a short 'Entertainment' by Branch members. If there are any lights hidden under bushels, please let the Committee know!

70th Anniversary Ball

This will be held in the Younger Hall, on the 23rd of November, dancing to the music of David Cunningham's Band. Please see the enclosed Brochure for full details - and fill your Application Form in soon. A maximum of 120 tickets will be on sale. This is governed largely by the smallness of the Supper Room. In an attempt to improve the catering arrangements, the Committee plans to operate a Table (but not Seating) Plan. Branch members will have priority for ticket purchase during September.

At our last Branch AGM, it was decided that our Ball - in accordance with tradition - should not be re-capped. Please do your homework, using the enclosed minicrib! The St Andrews Platinum Reel will, however, be walked, if required.

70th Anniversary CD

Most of you will know that the Branch has produced a CD as part of our 70th Anniversary celebrations. This contains, digitally re-mastered, the original 1987 recording for the 7 Golden Jubilee dances, played by David Cunningham Snr and Ron Gonnella. One of these recordings is also the recommended music for 'Charlie's Silver Jubilee', written for Charlie Todd, a St Andrews Branch class teacher for 35 years. The Branch produced a leaflet containing 2 new dances to welcome Prince William to St Andrews University. These have not been previously recorded, and appear on this CD for the first time. Finally, Lewis Derrick, well known to previous generations of our membership, has written 3 new dances set to music composed by a late relative of RSCDS Chairman, Irene Bennett. The latter 5 dances are all new recordings by David Cunningham Jnr, and his band. There are 13 dances in total, and full instructions for each are included in an accompanying 20 page booklet. Each CD, with instructions, is priced at £12.00, and may be ordered from any Committee member, at any Branch function.

The CD was financed partly from Branch funds, partly from donations, and partly from sponsorship from St Andrews Shoe-makers Ltd. It has been well received, and 350 have been sold in just over 6 weeks. 550 would have been sold, had the Branch accepted an offer from Highlander Music, but the proposed price was felt to be too low. The Branch is assured, however, of an overall profit from the project.

The CD looks, and sounds, great, and is something the Branch can be really proud off. It would make an excellent Christmas present for all your friends ...!

Remember... Remember...

Classes restart on the 13th of September! See you!!