

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society



ST ANDREWS BRANCH

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2008

Welcome to the new dancing season, and especially to those of you receiving this Newsletter for the first time.

The Autumn Newsletter comes to you unusually early, this year. The main reason is the imminent closing date for ticket applications to hear the new Honorary President of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Alastair MacFadyen, address the Branch in the New Golf Club. To comply with the Licensing Laws there will be no admission on the night without a ticket purchased in advance. Please return the enclosed application form, to the Branch Secretary, before the 31st of August.

Apart from Dinners every ten years or so, St Andrews Branch has not often met away from the hurley burley of the dance floor. As an experiment, your Committee has planned this Evening Talk, on the 11th of September, as somewhere where all three classes, and non-dancing members alike, can meet socially, in a convivial atmosphere, and get to know each other better. The invited speaker, Alastair MacFadyen, is recognised as the foremost historian of the RSCDS, with personal recollections that go back to Summer Schools in the 1950s, and to Miss Milligan, in her prime, at Jordanhill College in Glasgow, from which so much stems today. I look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to what promises to be a great evening.

Not only is this Newsletter unusually early, the envelope containing it is unusually full – most will have between 6 and 9 different items inside ! Our thanks are due to Rose Cunningham for assembling all the paper over the summer. I hope that it will be read carefully, and replied to promptly, where appropriate. I hope, too, that everyone will take note of the little details - for example, while Scottish Country Dancers can generally be relied upon to dress more smartly than most, I hope that no one transgresses the dress code at the New Golf Club. It would be a pity to miss seeing that glorious view of the 18th hole, through turning up in tee-shirt and trainers !

John M Sturrock, Chairman

Open Evening

As in previous years, this will take place on Tuesday, 23rd of September, at 1930 hrs in the Town Hall. This has been a fertile recruitment field for the Branch, and it is hoped that as many experienced dancers as possible will be present, once more, to make the evening go with a swing. The MCs will be Alice Oliphant, and Moira Mackenzie, while the music will be provided by Calum Mitchell. Calum played for the Beginners Class last term, but this will be a first opportunity for many members to dance to his music.

Dance Scottish Week

This will run from the 12th to the 20th of September this year, with special events, mainly designed to attract newcomers, all over Scotland. The St Andrews Branch contribution will be a Class on the 18th of September, in the Victory Memorial Hall, at 1930 hrs. The Teacher will be Bruce Frazer, and live music and refreshments will be provided.

Society AGM

The AGM of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will be held, once again, within easy travelling distance of St Andrews. The date will be Saturday the 8th of November, and the venue will be the Bell's Sports Centre in Perth. As a result of increased recruitment, St Andrews Branch is now entitled to 3 voting Delegates, rather than the 2 that we elected at the last Branch AGM. Accordingly there is one vacancy. Should any member wish to represent the Branch in this way, please contact our Secretary, Jonathan Wilson. All St Andrews members should note that they are entitled to attend both the AGM as spectators, and the dances as dancers. With 750 dancers often on the floor, it is a highly recommended experience. Ticket application forms may be downloaded from the RSCDS website.

Christmas Dance

This will take place, for all three Classes, in the Victory Memorial Hall, on Thursday 11th of December, at 7.30 p.m. The programme, as before, will be suitable for everyone, and will be circulated in advance. Live music will be provided by the Class Musicians, and there will be Shared Refreshments, as usual.

Technique Classes

These were judged to be a success, and will be repeated in Spring next year. It is worth remembering, however, that, as stated in the last Newsletter, these classes concentrate on improving footwork, posture, phrasing and teamwork and

are most successful when every participant already has a good working knowledge of SCD. Regretfully, therefore, these classes are not suitable for Beginners. It is hoped, instead, that they will be something for all Beginners to aspire to...

Branch Banner

Many RSCDS Branches proudly unfurl an elaborately woven banner at their functions. While St Andrews does have an excellent logo, it has never possessed such a banner. This is being rectified at the time of writing, and, all being well, should have been on display at the Town Hall at the first Summer Dance, or soon after. This modern banner takes the form of a portable roller blind, and features Alistair Leiper's artwork. It is hoped that all members will approve the new 'brand image'.

Health & Safety

This seems to impinge on every aspect of life today - even Scottish Country Dancing ! It is sensible, however, to enquire if any member is a qualified First Aider or is intending to acquire such a qualification. Please let any Committee member know if this is the case.

70th Anniversary CD

As this Newsletter goes to the press, the total sales to date have reached 667 - with all the Summer School sales still to come ! Buy now while stocks last !!