

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society



ST ANDREWS BRANCH

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2009

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

As now seems traditional, this Autumn Newsletter comes to you unusually early. The main reason is to draw your attention to the 10th of September - now only 10 days, or so, away - when we restart for the autumn...

St Andrews Branch, I'm pleased to say, continues to expand its range of activities. Those who have looked at the RSCDS website recently, will have seen the magic words "This Branch has a Demonstration Team" under the St Andrews entry. The team has been reformed under Shelley McElney, has rehearsed, and successfully gave its first demonstration, in the Younger Hall, on the 11th of July. I hope that more bookings will be forthcoming, as this is excellent publicity both for the Branch and for Scottish Country Dancing. I had hoped to announce two new initiatives, rather than just one, in this issue. Unfortunately the Branch website is still under construction. I hope that it will be announced before the Spring Newsletter reaches you, so members might like to note the registered address : - <http://www.rscdsstandrews.org> Members should also note that, following the last Society AGM, there are now different categories of Society membership, according to age. Additionally, Joint Membership is available, to households, at a reduced fee. The appropriate fees are indicated on both the Membership Application Form, and on the Information for Members sheet. Have a great dancing season !

John M Sturrock, Chairman

Autumn Classes

The Branch will hold two Autumn Classes, at 7.30 p.m., in the Victory Memorial Hall. The Branch Committee like to see new faces present these classes, and, accordingly, our teacher on Thursday, 10th of September will be Susan Robertson from Dundee Branch, while that on the 17th of September will be Ann Gibb from our own. These classes are open to all, and the Committee hope to see a large attendance from all three of last year's classes. There will be live music, as usual. There will be a charge of £3 per evening, and refreshments will be provided.

Homecoming (Open) Evening

As in previous years, this will take place in the Town Hall, on Tuesday, 22nd of September, at 7.30 p.m. This has been a fertile recruitment field for the Branch in the past, 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 Shelley McElney and Alice Oliphant, while the music will be provided by Calum Mitchell, direct from his stint on the Summer School staff.

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, 7th of November, and the venue will be the Bell's Sports Centre in Perth. As a result of increased recruitment, St Andrews Branch is entitled to 3 voting Delegates. These must, by Constitution, be elected at our Branch AGM. This year's Delegates have already been elected, but any Branch member is eligible to stand ; anyone thinking of doing so, for November 2010, should let the Committee know. 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 : - <http://www.rscds.org>

Christmas Dance

This will take place, for all three Classes, in the Victory Memorial Hall, on Thursday, 10th 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.

Half Day School

Members are reminded that this will take place in the Town Hall on Saturday, 27th of March. The teacher will be Andrew McConnell, the class musician Robert Mackay, while the evening band will be that of James Coutts. With such a strong team, all the makings of a memorable day are in place, and members of all three classes will be made most welcome. The question of Application Forms has exercised the best Committee brains for some time. Distributing them with this mailing is too early, while distributing them with the next is too late ! As a compromise, the forms will be made available, at functions and classes, from the end of the year - but please mark the date in your diaries **now** !

Branch AGM

Recently, the requirements of Charities legislation have made the very short gap between the end of our Financial Year, and our usual AGM date, difficult for the Treasurer. This year, our Accounts were not fully compliant on the day of our AGM. In order to avoid this situation in future, your Committee have been exploring a new date for the Branch AGM. The outcome will be announced as soon as practicable, but, in any event, not less than three weeks before it takes place.

Branch Constitution

Members are reminded that a new Branch Constitution has been formally passed, since the last Newsletter, and is now in force. The Branch thanks Bruce Frazer and Alan Mair for their work on this. Copies can be obtained from Bruce, Jonathan, or myself, if required.

Health & Safety

While most of you have never noticed - because, thankfully, it has never been needed - the Branch has a First Aid kit available at all functions such as our Summer Dances, etc.

70th Anniversary CD

After a successful Summer School sales push, and with the odd single sale since the Spring Newsletter, 748 copies have been sold or given away as review copies or as raffle prizes. Only 252 copies remain in stock - they make excellent Christmas presents ... !