

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society



ST ANDREWS BRANCH

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2008

We ended a year of 70th Anniversary celebrations with our annual Ball in November - even though the actual anniversary was not until December !

All 5 special Events - the Schools Day in the Younger Hall, the Day School in the Holy Trinity Church Hall, the CD launch in June, the Dinner in the Links Clubhouse, and the Ball in the Younger Hall - were successful. As most members will know, very sadly our Chairman had to leave us, with only two of those Events completed, six weeks after our last AGM. The Branch wishes to thank Carol for all that she did for us, and hopes, one day, to see her back on the floor with us all, once again. In the circumstances, the Branch Committee had an extra burden thrust upon them. I should like to thank every one of them for the magnificent way in which they responded, and for the success that they have achieved. I think that our AGM, on the 17th of April promises to be a very cheerful occasion, brimming with Good News from the Branch Secretary, the Branch Treasurer, and the Branch Membership Secretary. I would urge you all to be present that night, to hear their reports.

Despite the success of 2007, your Committee is not minded to rest on their laurels. A number of recent innovations will be repeated, and a number of new ones will be introduced. Your Committee remains open to any suggestions, from any member, and I hope that you will make these known, either to a Committee member, or to the AGM. I hope to welcome as many of you as possible to this - please note the number of vacant posts, listed on the Agenda, to be voted on that night. Our Treasurer, Elizabeth Gray, will be retiring at the meeting, and the Branch thanks Elizabeth gratefully, for her many contributions over the last six years.

John M Sturrock, Interim Chairman

End of Season Dance

This will take place, for all three Classes, in the Victory Memorial Hall, on Thursday 20th of March, at 7.30 p.m. The programme, as at Christmas, will be suitable for everyone. It is included with this Newsletter mailing. The Branch has seen an enormous influx of new dancers on Tuesday evenings at the Town Hall. It is hoped that as many as possible will be present to welcome them to their first End of Season Dance, and that their experience of Branch Dancing will be a very happy one. Live music will be provided by the Class Musicians, and there will be Shared Refreshments, as usual.

Technique Classes

It has been a matter of concern, for some time, that although many Branches run Technique Classes, for those wishing to improve their footwork, posture, phrasing, understanding of SCD, and so on, St Andrews has not done so for a long time. Accordingly, as an experiment, your Committee proposes to run two Technique Classes in the Victory Memorial Hall, on Thursdays the 10th and 24th of April. The Teacher will be our own Bruce Frazer, who has conducted similar Classes all over the world.

These will be open to all, but clearly the experiment will be most likely to succeed if all the participants already have a good working knowledge of SCD Steps and Formations, and will be likely to benefit from advanced tuition. It is hoped that this will be well supported, and that many will come prepared to work hard ... and to have fun !

Following these two evenings, they will be reviewed by your Committee, and a more permanent arrangement considered. The views of the participants will also be taken into account.

May Dances

Last year, as an experiment, the Branch staged five May Dances instead of the former Spring Classes. With five experienced Musicians and MCs, the evenings were very successful. Accordingly, this experiment will be repeated, every Thursday, in the Victory Memorial Hall, at 7.30 p.m.

The evenings are : -

1st May: John White and Alice Oliphant.

8th May: Gary Sutherland and Linda Gaul.

15th May: George Wilson and Sheila Gardiner.

22nd May: George Meikle and Bruce Frazer.

29th May: Stewart Warrender and David Taylor.

Make the most of it : there are only four Thursdays in May in 2009 !!

Summer Dances

As before, the Branch is running four Summer Dances on the four Tuesdays during Summer School. These have been very popular, particularly with Summer School visitors from every corner of the world, who like to 'Meet The Locals' on their 'night off'. The details and programmes are included separately with this mailing.

Autumn Evening

It is many years since the Branch last met, as a Branch, away from the hurley burley of the dance floor. Accordingly, an Autumn Evening is planned for the 11th of September. The invited speaker is Alastair MacFadyen. Alastair is recognised as the foremost historian of the RSCDS, with personal memories that go back to Miss Milligan, in her prime, at Jordanhill College in Glasgow, from which so much stems today. There will be full details in the Autumn Newsletter.

Open Night

This will be held once more, on Tuesday September 23rd, at 7.30 p.m., in the Town Hall Supper Room. Last year's led to one of the largest Beginners Classes in world SCD, and it is hoped that everyone will help repeat that success this year.

70th Anniversary CD

By the day of our AGM, we may be approaching the 600th sale. This has been an artistic - and financial - success.