

## The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society



### ST ANDREWS BRANCH

## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2010

This will be my last Newsletter to you. On the day of our AGM, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June, I will have been either Acting Chairman, or Chairman, for 3 years and 1 day, so it is time to go. The new format, of a possibly new Newsletter, will be decided by the new Committee, after the AGM. My very best wishes for the future go to the Branch, the new Chairman, and the new Committee, both of which will be elected in June.

Looking back on 3 eventful years, a number of things stand out. Among them, 3 successive Committees oversaw : -

1. The launch of the first Branch CD. This was an artistic, and financial, success. 755 copies have been distributed.
2. The launch of the first Branch website. This is now fully operational, contains a lot of information, and is updated regularly. Members are reminded that the address is : -  
<http://www.rscdsstandrews.org>
3. The relaunch, after an absence of some years, of the Branch Demonstration team, which is now available for bookings.

4. The 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner at the Links Clubhouse - a new venue for the Branch. It is now only 20 months until the Branch enters its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, when there will surely be more celebrations to look forward to.
5. The hosting of a visit, and talk, from the then new President of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Alastair MacFadyen, at the New Club - an unusual venue for the Branch.
6. The updating of the Branch Constitution.
7. The creation and purchase of a Branch Banner to display at the more important Branch events.
8. The purchase of a Branch voice amplification system for use at the noisier events.
9. The successful introduction of May Dances, with live music, every Thursday in May, in place of the former Spring classes with recorded music.
10. The gradual expansion of the dances on the 11<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each term, into today's format, with shared refreshments, and large attendances from both the Tuesday and Wednesday classes.
11. The move of the 4 Summer Dances away from the rather limited Holy Trinity Church Hall, to the much larger and more popular Town Hall and Boys Brigade Hall, with their superior floor surfaces.
12. The similar successful move of the Day School, to the Town Hall, for the same reasons. It is hoped that this will now become an annual event.
- 15 members - I think - have served on the Branch Committee during these 3 years, and all have contributed something -

some a very great deal - to the items listed above. Each and every one has my warm thanks - the Branch is in their debt.

Through all these changes, the Branch has continued to do well, the things that it has always done well. The Annual Ball is as good as it has ever been. All three classes continue to be well attended, and St Andrews has managed to maintain the tradition of live music on Thursdays - at a time when it is much more difficult than it once was - and has even extended it, occasionally, to the Beginners' class on Tuesdays. Your Committee endeavours to peer ever further into the future - already the main arrangements have been made for the Annual Ball in November 2011.

John M Sturrock

Chairman

## May Dances

May Dances will be held this year, as usual, on all four Thursdays in May, in the Victory Memorial Hall from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. The cost will be £3.00 per evening. Squash and biscuits will be provided.

The evenings are : -

6<sup>th</sup> May : Neil Galloway and Linda Gaul.

13<sup>th</sup> May : Stewart Warrender and Shelley McElney.

20<sup>th</sup> May : Calum Mitchell and Christine Mair.

27<sup>th</sup> May : Neil Galloway and Alice Oliphant.

Sadly, there are once again only 4 Thursdays in May in 2011, but 2012 promises a return to the 5 Thursdays to which we had become accustomed...

Something to look forward to !

**Branch AGM**

Members are asked to note that this will be 6 weeks later than in the past, in order to give time to prepare the Accounts to the requirements of the OSCR. A separate notice, with the Agenda, is included with this mailing. While the date for submitting formal Motions to the AGM is long since past, members are encouraged to raise any concerns they may have under A.O.C.B.

## Summer Dances

Your Committee has decided to implement a 'ticket-less' system for this year's Summer Dances. No tickets will be sold in advance. Instead admission will be by payment at the door - £5 for Branch Members (regardless of whether one Dance or all four Dances, are attended) and £6 for everyone else. All dances are from 8.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m., and light refreshments will be served as usual. Members should note that, because of the proximity to the Open Golf Championship, the order in which the venues are used is different from the recent past. The dates, bands, halls and programmes are included separately, with this mailing.

## John S Sturrock

The Branch regrets to record the death of one of its longest serving, and most respected members, last December, a few weeks short of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. This mailing contains an Obituary supplement containing details of John's contribution to St Andrews Branch and, indeed, to Scottish Country Dancing. A large part of this Obituary was provided by Alice Oliphant, to whom the Branch extends its thanks.

**Remember...  
June...**

**Remember...**

**3<sup>rd</sup> of**