

# *Light and Airy*



## Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

[info@rscdswinnipeg.ca](mailto:info@rscdswinnipeg.ca)

[www.rscdswinnipeg.ca](http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca)

---

Volume 51, Number 7

April 2020

### ***Important Dates***

#### **Winter/Spring Term 2020**

#### **DANCE EVENTS ARE CANCELLED TO APRIL 30**

~~Thursday, March 26—Spring Social—hosted by the Thursday Class~~

~~Week of April 6—Second Term Classes end~~

~~Friday April 17—Sunday April 19, 2020—Winnipeg Weekend Workshop~~

~~Spring Dancing 2020 – Tuesday, April 28~~

#### **DANCE EVENTS after April 30 still possible (for now)**

Spring Dancing 2020 – Tuesday, May 5

Tuesday, May 12

Wednesday, May 20 – RSCDS Winnipeg Branch AGM 7pm

- All dance events are at 8pm at St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall unless otherwise indicated.

## ***A Word from the Chair of COM ....***

Sadly the COM has decided to suspend dance classes and the dance workshop until the end of April to observe the advice to restrict the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. There are still two evenings of dancing scheduled in May and the branch AGM. Decisions about these events will be made in the coming weeks.

Many thanks to all those involved in planning and organizing these cancelled events. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

John Giesbrecht

Next COM meeting is April 1, 2020 at 7:00 pm at St. Paul's. maybe

***Spring Social Programme***



**March 26, 2020**

***Workshop Ball Programme  
2020***



***Saturday April 18,***

***Have you heard?***

***Spring Weekend Workshop -  
2020***



***April 17 – 19,***

We are disappointed to have let you know (perhaps you already did know) that due to the corona virus pandemic the workshop has been cancelled. With the emphasis on social distancing and the concerns for "mature" adults being high risk for health complications, cancellation was the only option. We, on the Workshop Committee, appreciate all the support we have received from the members and the COM in organizing this Workshop. We hope that we might have a "Goodbye to Corona Virus" event in the future and will let everyone know when and if this can happen.

It will take a week or three, as Branch cheques require two signatures, but refund cheques will be sent to those whose cheques have already been cashed. Thanks so much for your support of the Workshop by registering early!

Keep well

Lynn and Shirley

### ***TAC Summer School***

#### **Update from TAC regarding the Covid-19 situation as of March 18**

The TAC Summer Events Committee is monitoring the Covid-19 situation and keeping apprised of guidelines issued by the Province of Alberta regarding events and gatherings. At present we are planning to go ahead, but the situation is very fluid. **Please know if TAC or Mount Royal University cancels the event at any point, you will receive a full refund.**

**If you cancel on or before July 2** you will receive a full refund less a \$50 CDN administrative fee. Cancellations after July 2 will incur a \$150 CDN administrative fee. We would prefer not to charge the administrative fee, but our transaction costs to date are in excess of \$3000.

The Summer Events Committee encourages everyone to invest in travel insurance. We remind those who are planning to drive to Calgary that there is free on-campus parking for residents. Those who are planning to fly may want to wait before purchasing their tickets as airlines' cancellation policies are currently in flux.

Note from Linda Pettengill

## ***Class Reports***

### **Fort Garry Social Class**

First and foremost our class sends its very best wishes to our fellow class mate and branch chair John Giesbrecht. We are all thinking of you John and wish you a speedy recovery.

For our last class in February we were fortunate in having several members of the technique class join us as their class the following evening had to be cancelled due to a previous hall commitment. This made for a great evening of dance. We have done some interesting dances from Book 52, one being A Trip to Timber Ridge which is fast becoming a very popular dance with wonderful accompanying music. Another from the same book is Triple Happiness the name of which I always think so aptly describes our social class. It contains the figures The Knot and Corners Pass and Turn. We danced The Snow Butterfly which has a heart warming story behind it. It was devised by John Drewry a number of years back when he was staying at Peter and Lynne's home during a weekend workshop at which he was a guest teacher. At that time our workshops were held in March and while outside in their yard John came across a butterfly in the snow, alive and intact. He rescued it from the elements, bringing it indoors. However when the butterfly disappeared they all thought that Moxie the dog ate it (awwwh!) Thankfully there was a happy ending to the story when the butterfly miraculously appeared the following morning and was then released outside again.... and so the dance The Snow Butterfly. Thank you Peter for sharing this with us. Among other dances we have done are John T. devised by our own Maureen Burnham for the late John Trevenen, a teacher for the Winnipeg branch many years back who passed away all too soon. We also polished up our dances for the social hosted by the Tuesday technique class which was a great social. The following week Peter taught us another John Drewry dance The Hazel Tree. John Drewry's dances are always so interesting. This one contains the figure espagnole and also turns with our corners and our partners' corners. The turns were a bit difficult to wrap one's head around at first ( I am speaking for myself here!) but they turned out to be really very simple once remembering which hand to use to turn corners and which shoulder to use to pass partners. Peter always ends the evening with a familiar and fun dance that we all enjoy doing – if we have any energy left that is!

David and Debbie have returned from their trip to Hawaii where they attended the SCD workshop. I was told Wendy is now back from Mexico. A couple of others are currently away at the time of writing this report but as for myself, our much anticipated spring trip to Italy is cancelled due to this pandemic. C'est la vie!

Marilyn Piniuta

## Technique Class

I have little detail to offer this month. For history here are the dances we attempted, destroyed, reattempted, and completed with a measure of success. It's always nice to see smiles and hear "wow that was a good dance". There was no class on "sticky" Shrove Tuesday.

Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> we danced Mrs. Stewart's Jig, MacDonald of Keppoch, Alltshellach, and the Kissing Bridge.

Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup> was the Technique Class Social.

Sheila Careless did a wonderful job leading us through an interesting choice of dances. Thank you Sheila. To my guess we had 35 attend. It was a fun filled evening, dancing, socializing, and enjoying the food. Thanks to all who brought the fine array of snacks to sample.

Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> We danced Miss Allie Anderson, Olympic Gold (5 cpls that showed the Olympic Rings) Strathspey, Farewell to Balfour Road ( 5cpls – new top couples start every 16 bars while couples are still dancing at the bottom), and the Piper and the Penguin.

Some of the dances presented to us this term were creative and difficult. But not when we consider that this is a Technique Class. Looks like rather than basquing in my accomplishments I need to slip, skip and step up my efforts.

Thanks to COVID-19, this is the end of our term. Hopefully we can have a class windup at a later date. A big thank you to Sheila for guiding us and to everyone who pitched in to make our class activities a success. The next days and months call us to take care of ourselves and those we love. Hopefully things return to normal soon. Meanwhile stay safe and healthy.

Ray Plaitin

## Basics Class

*"Is it really folk dancing?" "Ach yes, folk dancing and enjoying themselves!" - Stanley Baxter*

Thursday evening, which would ordinarily be our weekly dance class. Instead I find myself at the computer missing my dance mates, the music and the dance, with an unforeseen but necessary early end to our RSCDS year. So here's to all of us thinking of each other, and hoping this finds all faring well!

Given the worldwide turn of events of late there is of course much to reflect upon, but for now a wee recap of an enjoyable and productive Beginner Class! Many new dances and steps were learned and reviewed to enhance our expanding abilities and to prepare us for dance socials. Our privilege was excellent weekly instruction - from our two regular teachers over the terms, Joyce and Cheryl, as well as from those who filled in occasionally. We progressed through simple formations to reels, chases, knots and beyond, encouraged to keep our heels off the ground and our heads up and minds keenly tuned to the details! Both socials this term were so very enjoyable, always ending too soon for my liking but with those of us beginners inevitably learning so very much in the process. My weakness for strathspeys found in the Burns Programme a compelling and enduring affection for 'The Red Rose'. Our "February" Social challenged us with many more fun dances, including the Winnipeg inspired Golden Boy, and (who knew?) also a song uniquely entitled 'Kissing Bridge'. So fantastic in our final classes to hear firsthand the story and learn 'Prairie Crocus', a dance devised by our own Peter McClure ... really, how great is that?!!

Alas, now Seann Truibhus Willichan's six themed melody has ended up sheet music at my piano, joining my own rendition of 'The Red Rose' in spillover transition from a wonderful season of dance into a prudent time of social distancing. And so we enjoy memories of very many lovely evenings learning together, enjoying one another's company, the music, the dance, the challenge. To my Beginner Class peers, to others who showed up oh so faithfully just to round out the sets and help us learn, to our capable and patient instructors, to the committee and those who hosted socials ... thank you. I have appreciated every smile, conversation, word of encouragement, and the all too essential sense of humour you contributed to a really great season of Scottish Country Dance! On to the challenges at hand, and looking forward to seeing you all again in fall. Keep well.

Claire Buys

### ***Request from our Librarian .....***

Our branch library table could use a V-shaped table-top book shelf. If anyone has one they would like to donate for the lending library please contact Joan Curle ([jcurle11@hotmail.com](mailto:jcurle11@hotmail.com)).

## ***Creativity, innovation, and humor in SCD***

For those of you are wanting a fix you might like to try this from Stephen Kraus-Scottish Country Dance Teachers

### **The Pandemic Reel**

A 32-bar reel for any number of dancers in their own living rooms

1-8 Dancers cast off behind own couch, dance around the end & back to place.

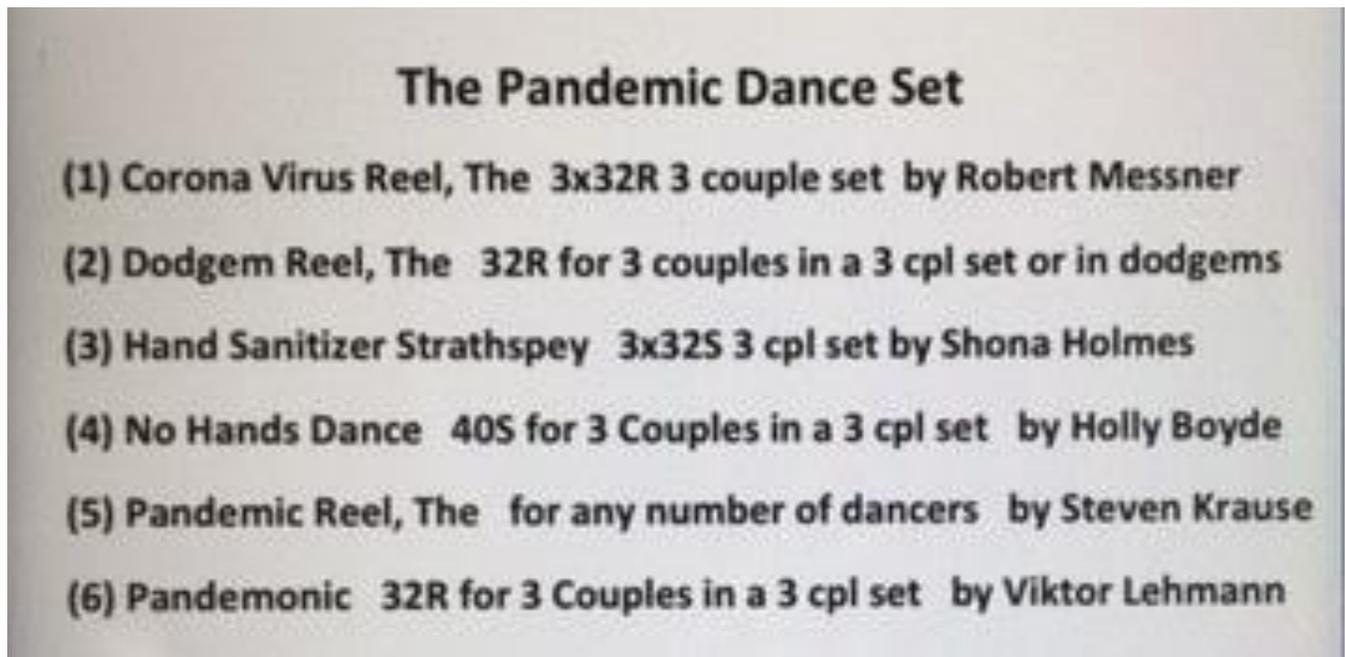
9-16 Do-Si-Do around coffee table, then slip step away from the coffee table & back.

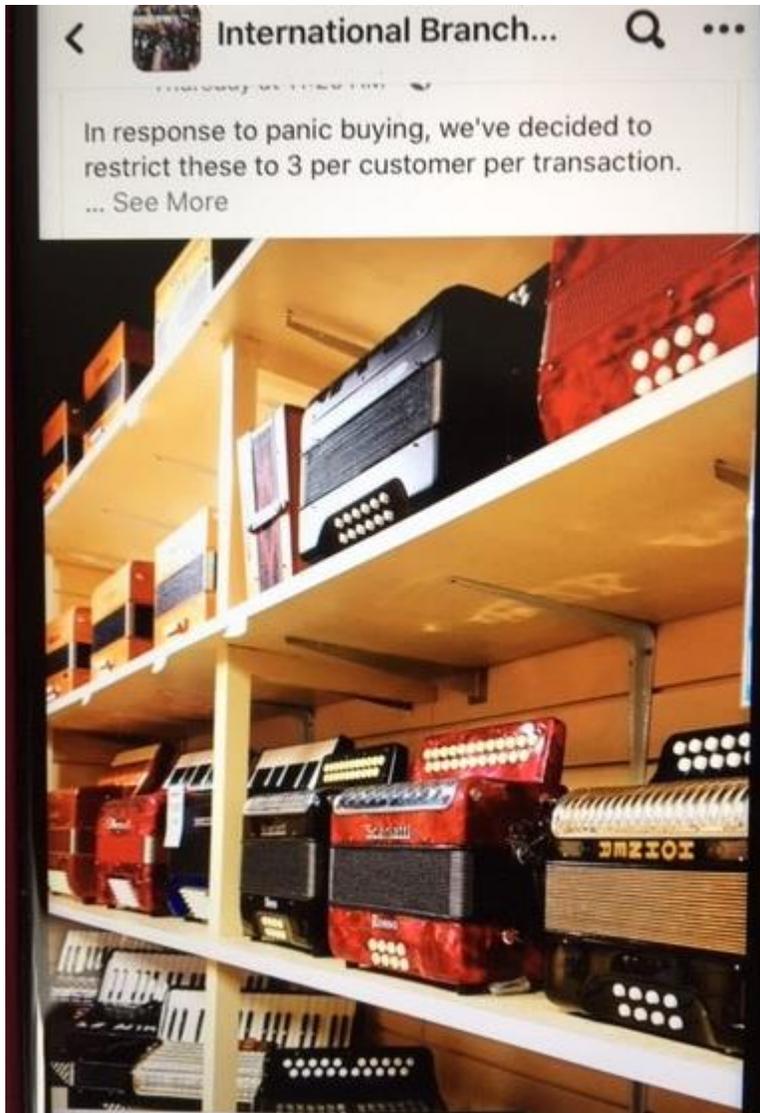
17-24 Dance down the hallway, into the kitchen, grab a beverage\* & dance back to place.

25-32 Set while placing the beverage on the coffee table, turn on the spot twice (using Pas de Basque), then retire to the couch, sit, and enjoy.

\*Wine, beer, whiskey, or other beverage of choice

AND to add to that “at home” dance, an entire book of six dances has been prepared:





***Always a bit of humor  
comes into play.***

***We do dance for the fun of it  
after all.***

***(with apologies to our  
marvelous and amazing  
musicians)***

### ***From the editor's desk .....***

A few noteworthy things this issue. The information in the newsletter is current as of March 19 to the best of my ability.

First, all dance activities of RSCDS Winnipeg have been suspended until the end of April. Events scheduled for dates in May will be decided upon in the coming weeks as the COVID-19 pandemic plays out.

Second, not a lot of news to report so I've included bits illustrating the creativity of dancers and some of the fun we enjoy.

I hope all are well. I am currently in self-isolation following our return from Mexico this past Sunday, and still on speaking terms with my wife.

Doug Durnin, editor

[Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca)

### ***Committee of Management 2019/20***

<b>Chair:</b>	John Giesbrecht	204-489-8429
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Don Johnson	204-885-9879
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Sharron Bettess	204-256-2248
<b>Secretary:</b>	Agnes Brydon	204-837-7346
<b>Social Secretary</b>	Linda Wingert	204-889-6319
<b>Asst. Soc. Secretary:</b>	Barbara Lambert	204-256-8738
<b>Publicity:</b>	Joyce Cormack	204-224-2291
<b>Publicity Asst.:</b>	Jane Natrass	204-667-0814
<b>Membership:</b>	Lorraine Watson	204-661-0112
<b>Library:</b>	Joan Curle	204-254-6697
<b>Light &amp; Airy:</b>	Doug Durnin	204-253-4213
<b>Teacher's Rep:</b>	Cheryl Durnin	204-253-4213
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Sheila Careless	204-233-8808

### ***Here and There...***

#### ***SCD Books and Music***

Anyone interested in buying books of Scottish country dances or recordings of SCD music should be aware of TACBooks and TACSound, two services maintained by Teachers' Association Canada (TAC). You can look at their catalogues on the TAC web site [www.tac-rscds.org](http://www.tac-rscds.org). If you want to order any items, please do it via the Branch Librarian, as there are discounts available to Branches, but not to individuals.

#### ***Scottish Country Dance Ghillies and Pumps***

[www.avriel.com](http://www.avriel.com) Shoe shop for dancers.

#### ***Clan Info and Scottish Shop***

[www.scotclans.com](http://www.scotclans.com)

#### ***SCD Online***

In case you didn't know about these sites:

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Edinburgh, Scotland: <https://www.rscds.org>

A great site to link to other branches and everything in the world of Scottish Country Dancing.

[The Inter-City Scot](#) - lists events across Canada and the United States. For other parts of the world, use the link to SCD groups on the Strathspey site [www.strathspey.org](http://www.strathspey.org) to find contact information.

[RSCDS Winnipeg Branch](#)

[RSCDS Saskatchewan Branch](#)

[RSCDS Calgary Branch](#)

[RSCDS Edmonton Caledonian Branch](#)

[RSCDS Medicine Hat Branch](#)

[www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org](http://www.lethbridgescottishcountrydance.org)

[RSCDS Vancouver](#)

[RSCDS Toronto Branch](#)

[RSCDS Ottawa](#)

[RSCDS Montreal Branch](#)

[RSCDS St. John's \(Newfoundland\) Branch](#)

[Teachers Association Canada](#) : for teachers of Scottish country dancing.

Strathspey [www.strathspey.org](http://www.strathspey.org) has a database where you can search for info about dances (including cribs and videos when available), music (some clips), people and more. Also, there is a link to the Strathspey e-mail list, in case you'd like to join an online mailing list about SCD.

SCD Dictionary [www.scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com](http://www.scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com) has info about steps and formations. We don't really need that, we get it in our classes; however, sometimes a video may help, and SCD dictionary has videos for steps and formations. Also, there is info about dances, as on Strathspey.

### ***Some Out of Town Events***

If you have an internet connection, browse for RSCDS & city. For instance RSCDS Toronto hosts workshops and monthly dances and has links to dancing events all over the world. Almost every city in Canada has an RSCDS group. Many have a Facebook site as well.

I'm not sure if these events are still going ahead. – ed.

May 15 - 17, 2020 - Toronto Spring Fling & Fringe

May 29 – 31 - Peterborough, ON - Stoney Lake Scottish Country Dancing Weekend

June 2020 – Edmonton – Summer Solstice Ceilidh

July 24 – August 2, 2020 – Calgary – Teachers' Conference AGM and Summer School

### ***L&A Submissions***

**Next L&A:** May

Members are encouraged to submit articles, pictures or information of interest to Branch members.

Submissions for the *Light and Airy* can be sent to the Branch e-mail address: [info@rscdswinnipeg.ca](mailto:info@rscdswinnipeg.ca) or to the editor at [Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Doug.Durnin@umanitoba.ca) Deadline for submissions: April 11. This and past issues of *Light and Airy* are available at: [www.rscdswinnipeg.ca](http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca)