

# Light and Airy



## Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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

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

---

Volume 47, Number 7

April 2016

### Committee of Management 2015/16

<b>Chair:</b>	Don Johnson	204-885-9879
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Scott MacRae	204-885-7111
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Heather Colquhoun	204-888-0834
<b>Secretary:</b>	Agnes Brydon	204-837-7346
<b>Social Secretary</b>	Bob Poole	204-888-3173
<b>Asst. Soc. Scty:</b>	Paula Ferreira	204-475-7001
<b>Publicity:</b>	vacant, pending review	
<b>Librarian:</b>	Reg Curle	204-254-6697
<b>Membership:</b>	Sharon Plaitin	204-661-1257
<b>Demo Scty</b>	Agnes Brydon	204-837-7346
<b>Light &amp; Airy:</b>	Peter McClure	204-489-7712
<b>Teacher's Rep:</b>	Maureen Burnham	204-786-7767
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Sheila Careless	204-233-8808

---

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

As I write this, it is now mid-April, classes are concluded for the term, and it seems like spring has finally come to stay. I hope you had an enjoyable year of dancing and that you are gearing up for the Workshop a bit later in the month.

It takes a lot of effort, planning and cooperation from many people in order for us to have the weekly classes, socials, Burns Dinner, Workshop and other events which we have enjoyed this past year. In particular, I think of our teachers, who continue to introduce and instruct us in the wonderful collection of dances available, as well as gently challenging us to work a bit harder at our own dance abilities. Throughout the year the Committee of Management has worked with the teachers to ensure the smooth running of our various endeavours. Special committees have been formed during the year to organize the Burns Dinner at 17 Wing, as well as the upcoming Workshop at the same location. Our great thanks are extended to all who have so freely and generously contributed their time and talent for the sake of our branch of Scottish Country dancing.

The Annual General Meeting of our Branch has been called for Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> May, beginning at 7:30 p.m. (Doors opening at 7 o'clock). Attendance at this meeting is a helpful way to discover more about the efforts of the abovementioned during this past year, and to look to the future. More importantly, it is an opportunity to express our gratitude for all that has been done for us and to celebrate our membership in this worldwide organization we know and love as the RSCDS.

*Don Johnson*

---

### **2015/16 Dance Season**

9 September Wednesday	Open House St Paul's, 8 PM	No charge
Week of 14 September	First term classes begin	
Week of 14 December	Last first term classes	
27 December Sunday	Tea Dance 2-4 PM, St Paul's Hall	Collection
Week of 11 January 2016	Second term classes begin	
15 January	Burns programme preview, 7:30-9:30 PM	
	Silver Heights Church Hall	No charge
23 January Saturday	Burns Dinner, at 17 Wing	Ticket \$50
1 March Tuesday	Social dance, 8 PM, St Paul's	\$5
6 April Wednesday	Social Dance, 8 PM, St Paul's	\$5
Week of 11 April	Last second term classes	
22-24 April	Branch Workshop and Ball, at 17 Wing	
4, 11, 18 May, Wednesdays	General classes, St Paul's hall, 8-10 PM	
24 May Tuesday	Branch AGM, St Paul's hall, 7:30 PM	

Events will be added to the Calendar as they are scheduled.

---

## ***Class Notes***

### **Fort Garry Social Class (Monday)**

During the month of March the Fort Garry Class reviewed complex figures. One - The Bourrell for 3 Couples – was reviewed by dancing Barbara's Strathspey – a favorite dance of mine and not because of the name. As the name suggests, the 3 couple Bourrell is a derivative from of the Bourrell for 2 Couples. It appears to me that the Ft. Garry Class is beginning to skillfully dance this complex figure.

Another complicated figure – La Baratte - was reviewed while dancing the Haggis Tree by John Drewry. I for one am grateful there is no such thing as a Haggis Tree, but am grateful for John Drewry's imagination and creativity. He is considered one of the greatest devisers of Scottish country dances. La Baratte is his complex 6-bar way of crossing for a couple or for any man and the lady facing him to exchange positions in either strathspey step or skip change of step.

We practiced and practiced the Allemande for 3 Couples, trying our best to perform it as gracefully as possible. When we moved to the Circulating Allemande, our paths degenerated. We will keep trying to make the Circulating Allemande an elegant means of progression and won't give up in achieving the goal of elegance, which we almost did achieve when we danced the Flower of Glasgow by Ruth Taylor . Just as we did not give up on learning The Ruby Rant by Francis Walduck, who is the Vice Chair of the RSCDS and has been chair of the Queensland, Australia Branch of the RSCDS. The Ruby Rant is a unique combination of figures and flow, requiring footwork we don't usually encounter. Ruby Rant is challenging and fun for the dancers and I imagine delightful to watch.

We practiced reels when dancing Roy Goldring's The Dancing Man, who is Bob Campbell. Our own Mr. Morrison was home with a cold when we worked on the mentally challenging Mr. Morison by Hugh Foss and got the chance to practice more reels. We had fun dancing the jig – Rory O'More – a pre-celebration of St. Patrick's Day and the Shamrock Girl by Roy Goldring – a post-celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

This month of dancing was filled with cooperation and harmony, good humor and fun on the part of the teacher and the students.

#### *Barbara LeBow*

Thank you Barbara for your interesting writeup of the happenings of the class for most of the month of March. Barbara asked if I could provide details about the happenings of the class for the latter part of March and April so here goes.

We were treated to enjoyable evenings for the remaining weeks of the term. One evening we learned the dance All the Eights which was devised by Brenda Burnell of the Leeds Branch written in honour of Ivy Dawson who began SCD at the amazing age of 75. Apparently she had previously done ballroom dancing and also ceilidh dancing. The dance was devised for her 88th birthday and Brenda also devised another very interesting dance in a 9 person set called Nifty Ninety to celebrate her 90th birthday. Many of us will remember Brenda who was a guest teacher at one of our workshops. Other dances included on the program were Aging Gracefully (which I think we all do by participating in this activity of SCD), The Sailor, Granville Market and a variation on Round and Roundabout.

The following week's program included many dances on the Spring Social Program and, in fact, you will find many of these dances on the ball program. Many of us, especially our newer dancers, will find it reassuring and helpful to see these dances repeated on subsequent programs. There was a good turnout

at our last social and it was fun to again meet and dance with our newer dancers. We thank the Wednesday class and the COM for their hospitality in hosting this event.

It is hard to believe that another year of classes has come to an end. Where does the time go when you are having fun? Our final class featured favourite dances done during the year and we enjoyed delicious refreshments and socializing to end our evening. Thank you to Wendy and Pat and everyone else who helped out that evening. Thank you Peter for a great year and thank you to all the dancers who came out. It was really wonderful to have an average of 4 sets on the floor most evenings. I dream about a time when we have similar numbers at everyone of our weekly classes. But our dancing is not finished! We hope to see many of you out at the workshop and/or the General classes on Wednesdays for three weeks in May.

As I write this it looks like the warmer weather is finally arriving. Throughout the summer might we all be ambassadors and help to spread the word about this great activity with people we encounter? Enjoy our wonderful Winnipeg summer and we look forward to seeing you all back at classes in the fall.

*Joyce Cormack*

### **Technique (Tuesday)**

During March and April classes Maureen introduced us to a couple of neat warm-up dances, of which one was the *Montrose Reel*. The figures of this dance mimic responding to a shipwreck: raising the call, passing the information, responding to the call, and helping to rescue passengers. The composer of this dance chose the formations well. The other fun and easy warm-up dance we have been doing is *McDonald's Saunter*. You needed to be alert after the warm up because Maureen has been teaching us some new and unusual formations! Introducing something different to most, if not all, dancers, Maureen has devoted some time to teaching us the very cool "celtic reel" for the dance *First Rain of Spring* by a composer from South Africa, which I think everyone enjoyed. Another less common figure we have been working on is "La Baratte", a curious and graceful way for man and lady to change places to opposite sides of the dance. On the subsequent evening, we learned the dance *The Left Handed Salute*, which has two "La Barattes". Still another figure Maureen had us working on was the "3 couple Bourrel" for the dance *Miss Eleanor*. The "chain progression" or the "chaperoned progression" is quite a unique formation occurring in the dance *The Countess of Dunmore's Reel*.

Maureen has continued to drill us on more familiar formations –insisting on correct timing for "turn corner, partner, corner, partner". She emphasized the speed of this formation in quick time and we followed up by dancing Berwick Johnny.

April 12<sup>th</sup> was the last Tuesday evening class – so no step practice this evening but instead a chance to revisit a couple of the more interesting formations Maureen has introduced to us this winter session, namely the "chain progression" and the "celtic reel". Ron was delighted to dance the very graceful strathspey, MacDonald of the Isles, which apparently is his favorite dance. The last dance of the season was Mairi's Wedding. Maureen was acknowledged for her hard work this term; then we pulled chairs up to the snack table where we ended the evening noshing on goodies and chatting.

*Hilary Hayles*

## **Basics of SCD (Wednesday)**

Many of our classes in March and April were spent learning the dances for the spring social. As Tartan Day recognizes the **Declaration of Arbroath**, a declaration Scottish independence, Cheryl tried to find dances of a patriotic theme. One such dance is *Keep the Country Bonny Lass* created around 1752. The dance has reels of three both across the dance and on the sidelines in a continuous formation. We worked long and hard on getting the sequence correct! A lighter and easier dance was *The Woodland Wanderers*, danced to the tune of Teddy Bears' Picnic. Cheryl thought that the tune heralded spring and the word picnic was a fitting reminder of our own picnic to come at the end of the social. Cheryl reminded dancers the sequence of steps for the all round pousette and the circulating allemande in preparation for the *Flower of Glasgow*, a dance written for Kay Munn, one of the teachers who will be at the workshop in April. We enjoyed Peter's tutelage for one evening in March and honed the timing for turn corner turn partner in quick time, then danced a somewhat similar formation in Davey Nick Nack.

A full moon was shining on the evening of March 23<sup>rd</sup> and Cheryl, in a fit of lunacy, embarked on the tangled task of teaching tandem reels. Cheryl used a book of dances from New Zealand with enticing titles of a marine theme. Who wouldn't want to dance to "The Playful Porpoise"? Cheryl decided that we definitely would. Tandem reels were meant to convey the image of playful porpoises cresting above the waves, but I am not sure we attained that degree of grace – sinking beneath the waves might be closer to our level of prowess. We revisited tandem reels again during our very last class, and then closed out the season with some familiar dances, Flower of Glasgow, Flowers of Edinburgh and Catch as Catch Can. Although we were a small group, the nibbles brought in by dancers provided a tasty backdrop for sitting and chatting and recognizing Cheryl for a year of excellent classes despite our dwindling numbers in the colder months.

Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup> was the Tartan Day spring social hosted by the Wednesday evening class with a lot of help from a lot of other people. Cheryl had devised a program that most Wednesday dancers could participate in and enjoy. Thanks to everyone who brought food and helped out in the kitchen.

*Hilary Hayles*

## **Branch News**

### **45<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SPRING WORKSHOP AND BALL**

**APRIL 22 TO 24, 2016**

Editor's note: By the time of publishing, the registration deadline has passed. Hope you made it! Ball program and cribs are still available on the Branch web site, as well as the registration form – no use for registering now, but it does have info about classes, schedules, etc.

### **General Dancing in May**

There will be dancing for members on three Wednesdays, 4, 11, and 18 May. These are "make up" classes for those missed for various reasons during the season, so **no extra charge!** They are on Wednesdays, since the Wednesday class took the most of the cancellations. So, come out, and try out all those insights you've picked up during the Workshop weekend.

## **Branch AGM**

The Branch AGM takes place Tuesday 24 May, at St Paul's Hall (our favourite venue). Doors 7 PM, meeting at 7:30. This is a requirement of our participation as a Branch of the RSCDS. It is also your opportunity to voice your opinion about what's going well (we hope!) or what needs improving as our Branch conducts its affairs. Quorum is about 30 members – don't shoot the editor if that's not exact – so please come out, listen, and speak.

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

### ***Scottish Country Dance Ghillies and pumps***

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

Your one stop shoe shop for all your dancing needs.

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

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

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

30 April 2016

Ames, Iowa

RSCDS Central Iowa 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball

(Also concert on the Friday evening, Brunch on the Sunday)

Details at <http://www.rscdscentraliowa.org/events/2016-ball/>

24-26 June 2016

Beloit College, Beloit, WI

Midwest Scottish Weekend

Info at <http://sites.google.com/site/midwestscottishweekend/>

9 July 2016

Leeds, UK

Leeds White Rose Festival

If you might be in the area at that time, and would like to experience a SCD festival as they are held in UK, visit the web site [www.whiterosefestival.uk](http://www.whiterosefestival.uk) for more information, programmes, and booking forms.

## **44<sup>th</sup> TAC Summer School - Bishop's University Sherbrooke, Quebec July 31<sup>st</sup> to Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**Dance Teachers:** Fred DeMarse, USA; Mary Murray, CAN; Janet Walker, USA; William Williamson, UK

**Musicians:** Ian Muir, UK; Judi Nicolson, USA;

Laird Brown, Fred Collins, Kathy Fraser-Collins, Don Wood, CAN

Where can you go to get instruction from top notch teachers (other than Winnipeg of course ☺)? Where can you go to enjoy dancing to a band every evening? Where can you go to experience dancing in a ballroom with over 100 other dancers? Summer School!! Not only do you get to experience what's already been mentioned but there are options of other classes in the afternoons and if you have the

energy, the after party every night. It's great to meet with other dancers from all over North America (and sometimes other parts of the world). You can find out what's happening at other branches of RSCDS and see the talent from others at the Friday night ceilidh. I'm going and I can hardly wait. Who's coming with me? More info at [www.tac-rscds.org](http://www.tac-rscds.org)

*Sheila Careless*

15-19 August 2016  
Wolfville NS  
Scotch on the Rocks: dancing and excursions!  
Info from Duncan Keppie [keppie@eastlink.ca](mailto:keppie@eastlink.ca)

28-30 October 2016  
Asilomar, CA, USA  
RSCDS San Francisco Branch  
Asilomar Weekend  
Details and forms at [www.asilomar.rscds-sf.org](http://www.asilomar.rscds-sf.org)

### ***Important Dates***

**COM meetings:** Next meeting 4 May 2016

**Next L&A:** Deadline for the May issue will be 6 May 2016.

Members are encouraged to submit articles, pictures or information of interest to Branch members. Please send submissions for the *Light and Airy* to Peter McClure [joptmc@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:joptmc@cc.umanitoba.ca). This and several past issues of the *Light and Airy* are posted on the Branch website [www.rscdswinnipeg.ca](http://www.rscdswinnipeg.ca)