

# *Light and Airy*



## **Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg**

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### **Committee of Management 2015/16**

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

With the unseasonably mild weather we are currently enjoying, it's almost hard to believe that we are approaching the end of the first term of classes. I hope the term went well for you, that you experienced

both challenge and satisfaction in the dances our teachers led us through, and that you enjoyed the friendship of fellow dancers. Soon we will have a break from classes but once the New Year begins so too do we begin another season of dancing.

On Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> November, we celebrated St Andrew's day with a social hosted by the Social class and an excellent dance programme devised and taught by Peter McClure. Our thanks are extended to Peter and the Social class for a memorable and delightful evening.

There are two other dance events I hope you will consider attending. On Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> December we are holding an afternoon Tea Dance at St Paul's Anglican Church, beginning at 2 o'clock. On Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016, our annual Burns Supper and Dance will be at the Officers Mess at 17<sup>th</sup> Wing Air Base. This year an invitation has been extended to those beyond our Branch, and the programme will include non-RSCDS dances so all can join us on the dance floor if they so wish.

On a personal note, I wish to extend my gratitude to the members of our Branch for your cards and expressions of sympathy in the recent passing of my brother. Your kindness is greatly appreciated and I was very pleased to see some of you at Jack's funeral on 9<sup>th</sup> November. Thank you for your love and care during this difficult time.

Until we meet again, I wish you a very Happy Christmas and all the best in the New Year.

*Don Johnson*

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### ***Editor's Note***

Thanks again to our class correspondents; you make editing worthwhile. This is the last edition before the holidays, so I'll take this opportunity to wish everyone a peaceful holiday season, with just the amount of riotous celebration that you can manage.

*Peter*

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### **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	

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

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## ***Class Notes***

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

Time sure flies when you are having fun dancing. Barbara and I agreed to take turns submitting a writeup of the news from the class. Hard to believe it is again my turn to do this and that our 1st term of dancing has almost come to an end.

This term has seen excellent attendance with an average of three sets and on at least one occasion 28 dancers out. It is a very good feeling to have the hall filled with dancers. We were pleased to have Mary Holmen return to dancing after an absence of about 5 years. She dances as if she had never been away and told me that she started dancing when she was a student attending university in Toronto. Her professor was a certified SCD teacher and another student persuaded her to join. She remembers being tired at the end of the day and that it was tempting to stay home but instead, off she went slogging through the rain and cold, and at the end of the evening how much better she felt after dancing. I think many of us have the same feeling during our winters and after an evening of dancing. We are most fortunate that our weather has been mild and hope that this continues for a while longer.

Our class was most pleased to host the first social of the year, the St Andrews Social, which was very well attended. Peter had reviewed all of the dances on the program so we were well prepared and able to enjoy the dancing. It was good to visit with the dancers from the other classes, especially those from the Basics class. This was the first social where music was provided from Peter's computer and all went off without a hitch. He selected some very lively music from some great bands including Scotch Measure. The music for Mrs Macleod was particularly stimulating and we all really enjoyed the pipe music for Bill Clement MBE which was a perfect ending to the dancing. The evening concluded with socializing and delicious food - an amazing array of savories and sweets from our dancers who sure know how to cook and bake as well as dance.

As I write this we have two more weeks left to dance, so let's all take advantage of this and attend as many classes as we are able. Whatever your plans over Christmas, best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

*Joyce Cormac*

### **Tuesday Technique Class**

As a newbie to Tuesday's class, November 10<sup>th</sup> demanded all of my attention. Sheila set the bar high by teaching us progressive 1/2 diagonal reels of three for the dance "John of Bon Accord". Sheila announced "John of Bon Accord" as one of her favorite dances and once we figured out where and with whom we should be reeling, the dance was lots of fun and kept everyone busy. Newcomers to Tuesday were also exposed to reflection reels and hello - goodbye setting when Joyce taught the strathspey "Donald Bane".

Sheila had the floor (and us) again on November 17<sup>th</sup> and led us through our first dance, a strathspey entitled "Marquis of Lorne." Following a discussion about the pronunciation of "marquis" (markwis or marki), Sheila had us practice the grand chain, emphasizing the count. The dance flowed easily and was a good way to start the evening. Joyce upped the pace with the "Laird of Milton's Daughter" and walked us through the figure called a "corners chain".

After a quick sip of water, we embarked on a dance by John Drewry entitled Byron Strathspey. It might be the only dance that I have encountered in which all three couples are dancing all the time. With 20 minutes left, Joyce was reluctant to try Montgomeries' Rant, but the class enthusiastically decided to give it a whirl. Success was assured by the many experienced dancers who knew and loved this dance. Joyce told us about Campbell Tyler in South Africa who keeps track of Scottish country dance programs worldwide and Montgomeries' Rant ranks as the number one reel.

Joyce kept the fifteen dancers who attended the November 24<sup>th</sup> class very active. We warmed up dancing Corn Rigs. During the remainder of the evening we practiced dances that enabled us to review the pousette and the diamond pousette. The diamond pousette is a feature of the Strathspey, "Flower of Glasgow" – a beautiful dance that also has circulating allemande. The other formation Joyce reviewed this evening was the "espagnole" as part of the "City of Belfast" - an intriguing strathspey that keeps everyone one alert and engaged. Wild Geese is a neat little dance whose steps really do make you think of flying geese and one that I might actually remember for the social program. Once again Joyce chose Montgomeries' Rant to round out the evening. We had ended last week with Montgomeries Rant, but I certainly needed a review. Joyce has filled these evenings with a good variety of formations and dances.

*Hilary Hayles*

### **Wednesday Basics of SCD**

Learning Scottish country dancing is more than just learning steps, formations, and dances. One can also learn a bit of history. On the evening of Nov 11, Cheryl chose to teach "The Reel of the 51<sup>st</sup> Division". Learning that this dance had been composed by Scottish soldiers in a prisoner of war camp in Germany rendered this dance fitting for a Remembrance Day class. Apparently, Germans reviewing letters out of the camp thought the dance instructions were some sort of code. Then Cheryl introduced us to the "Bridge of Nairn" a dance dating from 1749. Both of these dances, one a reel and the other a strathspey, involved setting to corners or turning corners, so by the end of the evening, we had had a lot of practice identifying where our corners were. "The Wild Geese" piqued my curiosity. I discovered that the title referred to Irish soldiers who had died in foreign battles. The legend is that when they died abroad, their souls were transformed into geese so that they could fly back to Ireland. Before researching this dance, I had assumed it had been written locally in recognition of the annual migration of Canada Geese.

November 25<sup>th</sup> was the last class before the social. We usually begin our classes practicing all together in a circle. Sneaky Cheryl taught us a little circulating pattern involving the dancers on either side of us. We didn't know until we had perfected this little formation that we were actually practicing left shoulder reels. Hmmmm, so would this carry over into a dance? With the November Social upon us, Cheryl was determined to show us as many of the social dances as possible. So, she embarked on "Mrs MacLeod", "Lord Selkirk" and "St Andrew's Fair". The sneaky left shoulder reel practice was for "Mrs MacLeod". Of course reels danced in isolation always flow smoothly, but when the passion of the dance is upon you - not quite. But we are trying Cheryl!! Embarking on "Lord Selkirk" after struggling through Mrs. MacLeod" was a logical choice as both of these dances involve setting and turning corners followed by left shoulder reels of three on the side. So we got to practice this sequence once in jig time and again in strathspey time. Cheryl outdid herself in an effort to get us through both of these dances. She clearly knows what each of the eight (or more) participants should be doing at any given time, and gave directions over the music! By the end of the evening she was elated with our achievements. In hindsight, I should have hied over to the coat rack to retrieve a throat lozenge from the depths of my

parka pocket, as I know Cheryl would have appreciated one. She must have gone home and bathed her throat in lemon ginger tea or some similar concoction.

*Hilary Hayles*

## ***Branch News***

### ***Tea Dance***

Our annual “in between” social will be held Sunday 27 December, 2-4 PM, in St Paul’s Hall. Open to all (e.g., family, holiday visitors), casual dancing, and whatever holiday goodies you’d like to bring for the tea table. There will be a collection basket to help defray the hall rental. Mark your calendar, and take a step toward working off that big dinner!

### ***Burns Dinner and Dance***

The Branch Burns dinner and dance will take place Saturday 23 January 2016 at 17 Wing (Whytewold Road, north of Ness). Doors (and cash bar) open at 5:30 PM, dinner at 6 PM, with dancing to follow. Tickets must be purchased in advance, no later than 13 January. If you don’t manage to get them at classes, they can be had from Betty Poole (204 888 3137) or Jean Highmoor (204 832 8117). In accordance with base security protocols, we must submit in advance a list of all those attending, so when buying tickets, provide the names of those for whom you are buying. **Be sure all guests understand that they will be asked for photo ID at the gate, and the name must match the guest list.** Absent photo ID, two pieces of ID will be needed.

We are hoping to reach beyond our own membership on this occasion, and the programme has been arranged to provide opportunities to dance for all, some dances for members in the know, as well as some more widely accessible.

### ***Programme***

1.	Gay Gordons		
2.	Waltz Country Dance	40W2 RTR	Bk 4
3.*	The Montgomeries’ Rant	32R3	Bk 10
4.	Quickstep		
5.*	The Silver Tassie	32S3	RSCDS Leaflet
6.	Waltz		
7.	Circle Mixer	32J Single Circle	Leaflet
8.	Barley Bree Lite	32J4	Leaflet
9.*	Talisker	32R2	Whisky Coll.
10.*	Just As I Was In the Morning	40J2	Bk 19
11.	Polka		
12.*	The Lea Rig	32S2	Bk 21
13.*	Corn Rigs	32R2	Bk 4
14.	Last Waltz		

Auld Lang Syne

Dances marked \* are for experienced Scottish country dancers. All others are fairly accessible, and, except for the ballroom dances, will be reviewed at the programme preview on 15 January, 7:30-9:30 PM at Silver Heights.

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

### ***Scottish Gear For Sale***

Your pdf reader may let you scale the image for better viewing ...

**Men's Full Kilt  
with Complete Ensemble**



Suitable for a male of 5'10 to 6', 185 to 205 lbs.  
The ensemble includes a locally made Kilt consisting of the Hunting MacPherson Tartan in ancient colours. It also includes a locally hand made Sporrán, bearing the same crest as the Kilt Pin.  
Also included are a formal Jacket and vest, peasant shirt two pair of hose (off-white and light grey), and hose garters made from the matching kilt tartan. One Pair Gillies (size 11) also included but optional. Without them, reduce the price \$50

**Asking Price = \$750**  
For enquiries please call Terence  
**204-837-3223**

### ***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***

### **Aloha Winter Weekend**

12-14 February 2016

Honolulu Hawaii

Details and forms at [www.rscdsHawaii.org](http://www.rscdsHawaii.org)

(In case you were planning a winter holiday!)

## ***Important Dates***

**COM meetings:** Next meeting 3 February 2016

**Next L&A:** Deadline for the February issue will be 5 February 2016. With COM meetings returning to a familiar schedule (first Wednesdays), L&A deadlines will go to the following Friday.

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).