

Light and Airy



Scottish Country Dancers of Winnipeg

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A Word from the Chair....

After a very busy month, Don is taking a well-earned breather. Happy dancing!

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)

Hello again from the Monday night Social Class. It is quite the challenge to follow Barbara's very interesting writeup in the last edition. Thank you for the research that you did in providing an explanation of what Burns was actually saying in some of his poems and how many of them are reflected in our dances.

Monday nights continue to attract a good number of dancers and we are treated to a varied program as devised by Peter. He emphasizes points of technique throughout the evening and sometimes includes exercises, such as reviewing the phrasing of reels of three which is different for each person in a reel and which is particularly helpful for our newer dancers. Even our more experienced dancers find it helpful to be reminded of these points. In an earlier class we learned the two couple Bourrel which was devised by Bob Campbell and used in his dance Frae A' The Airts. Recently we learned the three couple Bourrel, a lovely formation found in the newer dances Barbara's

Strathspey devised by Sue McKinnell and Miss Eleanor devised by Ann Dix. We also did Christine's Scroll devised by Peter in honour of Christine Wallace being awarded the Scroll by the society in recognition of the contribution she made to Scottish Country Dancing in Winnipeg. This dance has the three couple knot so we are getting our practice dancing these three couple formations which were originally devised for two couples.

It was fun to do an old favourite, The Luckenbooth Brooch, a jig devised by John Bowie Dickson. There are two consecutive reels of three in this dance, originally done with 1st couple in promenade hold while dancing the reels. Peter suggested that we do the reels as tandem reels (as in Pelorus Jack) which were perhaps easier for most dancers to dance. It was interesting to experience the dance both ways and I am sure we each had our preference of which version we preferred.

Have you watched the video of the interview with Dr Alistair McFadyen which is available either on youtube or on the RSCDS web-site? I would heartily recommend it and found it to be most interesting as he answered 20 questions

which covered many topics throughout his 70+ years in SCD which he began around the age of five. When asked what he sees for the future of the society he stated " we need to remember that SCD is a social form of dancing that has to be made to look easy, natural and above all joyful. It should be learned easily and performed easily, not neglecting the fact that our style does involve some technical work on steps and rhythm. This should not be at the expense of relaxed, easy and enjoyable dancing".

I would say that we experienced this relaxed, easy and enjoyable dancing at the recent social hosted by the Tuesday night class. How wonderful it is for dancers of all the classes to dance together. Thank you Maureen for a very enjoyable program, for sharing with us some of the history associated with the dances and for your precise briefing of the dances. Thank you to the Technique class for your hospitality.

Joyce Cormack

Tuesday Technique Class

Tuesday's Technique class has been well attended and most of February was spent practicing dances for the March 1st social. However, the refinement of steps and formations continues to be an integral part of Maureen's agenda. This month we have practiced the finer points of double triangles for the dance Promise of Spring. To practice reels of three, Maureen kept us on our toes by having the middle dancer determine the direction of the reels and hoping that the end dancers would react accordingly. For those of us who haven't yet mastered the art of knowing exactly where to go in a reel, this exercise was very helpful. Maintaining eye contact is another point Maureen has been reminding us about. The reel practice naturally segued into practicing crossover reels in "Maxwell's Rant". On a couple of evenings we have tried "Black Mountain Reel". As a newcomer, this was the first time I had encountered a dance specifically

for five couples with the first and third couple starting. The fourth couple in this dance function as corners for both the first couple and the third couple (at least I think I've got that right!). Maureen cautioned dancers for being too busy telling each other what to do and missing their own cues! On careening through this the second time I was beginning to get the hang of it – definitely a dance that is lots of fun and I hope we try this one again before the season ends.

The March 1st Social, hosted by Tuesday's Technique class, was a well attended event filled with toe-tapping music, uplifting dances, scrumptious food, and good company. In acknowledgement of St David's Day, Welsh cakes were part of the "spread" at the end of the evening. Maureen, and all others involved, created a memorable event.

Hilary Hayles

Wednesday Basics of SCD

Most of the month was spent in preparing for the March 1st social. In particular, dancers have been learning crossover reels of three. Cheryl emphasized how important it is to think ahead and be ready to start the reel from different positions. We practiced our new skill with the dances "Aging Gracefully", "The Kissing Bridge" and the "Balquidder Strathspey". Peter led the class on March 2nd. We were a very small group, but worked very hard. The music didn't stop till after 10pm! As we were only five dancers at the beginning of this class Peter taught us the dance "Domino Five". One more dancer showed up to make a three couple set and the remainder of the evening was well spent focusing on reels of three and the all round pousette.

Several of our dancers have been away on trips. Cheryl and Doug spent a relaxing week in Mexico and Virginia is away in California.

Two of our dancers, Cameron and Valerie Buchanan spent 3 weeks visiting their son, Arthur, who is working in the jungle highlands of Guatemala. He is working for an

organization called CCFC. (Community Cloud Forest Conservation). It's a Chicago based Non Government Organization that focuses on economic, environmental and social improvement of the indigenous population who are descendants of the Mayan people. His project aims to improve the lives of young women between 14 and 22 who are marginalized by poverty and culture. Here is a small sampling of their adventure.

Guatemala is a very beautiful and diverse country. It has high altitude rain forests called cloud forests because they are so high the clouds pass through them. There are many volcanoes and steep mountain roads. Guatemala has beautiful beaches on both the Caribbean side and black sand beaches on the Pacific side of the country. Arthur was our tour guide and fully conversant in Spanish as we toured the country in old school busses called Chicken buses (see photo), trams, old taxis and ancient mini buses. We stayed in simple lodging all over the country ranging from hostels in small lake towns like Mira Flores and Antigua (with beautiful Spanish architecture) to jungle hotels along the Rio Dulce river complete with parrots and tarantula spiders! We had an opportunity to visit one of the largest Mayan ruins in Tikal where we saw the sun come up over the ruins and heard the jungle come to life with the Howler monkeys who stake their claim with one of the most terrifyingly loud calls in all of nature.

Any trip to Central America has its challenges. The airlines lost our luggage on our incoming flight; we were suddenly thrown off a bus because it was the end of the line, but not for us. We nearly rolled off a cliff when our driver took a pit stop and forgot to put the parking brake on his old bus. We drove in a chicken bus at breakneck speed down a foggy poor quality mountain road and traveled standing up in the back of an open pick-up truck down a switch back mountain road in pitch black conditions. Arthur told us it would be a back-pack adventure and it certainly was, but all in all a very rewarding trip. The people are very friendly and the countryside very scenic and diverse. We hope to do more exploring in

Central and South America in the future.



From Hilary Hayles and Valerie and Cameron Buchanan

Branch News

45TH ANNUAL SPRING WORKSHOP AND BALL

APRIL 22 TO 24, 2016

Information brochures, registration forms, and the Ball program for the Workshop and Ball Weekend are available on the website. Guest teachers this year are Kay Munn of Kingston, Ontario and Betsy Brydon of Regina, Saskatchewan. All events will once again be held at the Officers' Mess, 17 Wing, Air Force Base.

Highlights of the weekend are:

- **Friday night Ceilidh** – The Ceilidh is held in the lower level “pub” and includes a cash bar, Manitoba social food, entertainment, fun dances and surprise events. Join us for a fun, casual evening.
- **Dance classes** – Three classes of 1 ½ hours each will be held: Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday morning. There will be two levels of classes on Saturday, offered in both the morning and afternoon slots, and one combined class on Sunday morning. You can register for Saturday or Sunday classes or all three.
- **Dinner and Ball** – Saturday evening – a served dinner prepared by the great cooks at the Mess, followed by dancing Cheryl Durnin’s delightful Ball Program.
- **Other meals** - Saturday classes include lunch and Sunday class includes a full Sunday Brunch at

the conclusion of the class. Not to be missed!

- **Cost** – The cost for the full weekend (all events, classes and meals) has been lowered to **just \$125, down \$25 from last year**, so a really good deal! See the registration form for complete details.

Registration deadline is Wednesday, April 13, 2016! For 17 Wing security purposes, names of attendees and Photo ID will be required on entry at the gate.

Contact Sharon Plaitin, Registrar, at (204) 661-1257 or joesdaughter@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

Workshop Ceildh

Don't miss the Friday Evening Ceilidh at our Spring Workshop & Ball. There's nothing like a song, skit, story, poem or dance to lighten the heart in the company of friends. Have something you'd like to share? Just include your entry on the application form. As well feel free to call me at 204-661-1257 with your questions or needs. Some sound equipment and keyboard are available if required.

Ray Plaitin

Tartan Day Social April 6

The Basics of SCD Class looks forward to welcoming you to the last regular Branch dance of the season.

Wednesday 6 April 2016, 8 PM, St Paul's Hall

Admission \$5

Programme

Jubilee Jig	32-J-3 Leaflet
The Highland Plaid or Tartan Plaidie	32-S-2 Bk 7-8
The White Cockade	32-R-3 Bk 5-11
Tribute to the Borders	32-J-3 Leaflet
Keep the Country Bonnie Lass	32-S-3 Bk 14-6
The Flowers of Edinburgh	32-R-3 Bk 1-6
Berwick Johnnie	32-J-3 Graded #14
Aging Gracefully	32-S-3 Bk 47-4
Joie de Vivre	32-J-3 Bk 39-2
Catch as Catch Can	32-R-4 Lets All Dance

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Dance Shoes Available

One pair of men's dance shoes, jazz style, soft sole, a nicely made shoe, and in very good condition. Quite a large size – listed as 16 inside the shoe. Megan has been asking \$15 on Kijiji (which is a bargain price), but her priority is to see the shoes put to good use. If interested, call Megan at 204 291 9529.

Out of Town Events

Toronto, ON

2 April 2016

31st Annual West End Workshop

Details at www.dancescottish.ca

Leeds, UK

9 July 2016

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 for more information, programmes, and booking forms.

Wolfville NS

15-19 August 2016

Scotch on the Rocks: dancing and excursions!

Info from Duncan Keppie

keppie@eastlink.ca

Important Dates

COM meetings: Next meeting 13 April 2016

Next L&A: Deadline for the April issue will be 15 April 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.

This and several past issues of the *Light and Airy* are posted on the Branch website www.rscdswinnipeg.ca