

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

---- NEAR ----

May 3, 2003: Spring Social, 8 p.m., Vanier School, with Corryvreckan. Last social of the year. Dance booklets are available at class.

May 5, 2003: St. John's Branch AGM at 7:30, choir room at Gower Church, followed by dancing.

May 12, 2003: Last Monday evening of dancing for the spring.

May 26, 2003: Summer dancing starts at St. Davids -- every Monday evening at 8 p.m.

August 8 - 10: Scotch on the Rock. Summer workshop in St. John's, with Norah Link of Montreal as guest teacher. Registration forms and information are available from the executive.

--- AND FAR ---

Details on the inserted page.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT - 2002-2003

Past Chairman:	Sue Scott	738-3355
Chairman:	Brenda Burness	895-2712
Secretary:	Robert MacIsaac	726-6874
Treasurer:	Ingrid Pardoe	364-9305
Members at Large:	Phil Hanley	745-2526
	Susan Pfister	576-2022
	Denise Sharpe	895-2992

TEACHERS

Monday Social Class:	Martin Mulligan	739-0166
Monday Beginners:	Penny Gillies	726-1008
Thursday Technique:	Bill Scott	738-3355



Royal Scottish Country Dance Society St. John's (Newfoundland) Branch

NEWSLETTER

April 2003

Our regular dancing year is drawing to a close. It has been a good winter: lots of snow, but fortunately at times that did not interfere with dancing. We have all made new acquaintances in the dancing, but one of the great things about Scottish Country Dancing is that those new friendships do not end with the spring, but grow and flourish over the years. And do not despair -- there is summer dancing and a summer workshop to keep your toes twinkling and, more important, to keep your legs in shape for next year's classes! At this time of year, people's thoughts generally turn to gardening and cabins and vacations. Outdoor activities beckon, and of course, teachers do need a holiday too! But we'll look forward to seeing everyone at times throughout the summer, and certainly again in September at Gower Church. Have a happy summer!

Sue Scott, Newsletter Editor

LAST SOCIAL OF THE YEAR

This will be held on **Saturday, May 3, 8 p.m.** at Vanier School, with Corryvreckan providing the music. Admission is \$10. Please bring a small plate of finger food.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MONDAY MAY 5, 7:30 P.M.

The AGM will be held on Monday, May 5. We intend to start at 7:30 so as to leave as much time as possible to dance afterward. There will be signs directing you to the choir room upstairs from the gym -- the same place we held it last year. Dancing afterward will be together in the gym, though we can have our tea break as usual in the small kitchen.

The main events at the AGM will be the receiving of reports on this year's operations, and the election of officers for next year. If you have any questions, complaints (!), or proposed changes to how things are done, bring them along. There will also be a call for volunteers to help on workshop committees.

LAST REGULAR DANCING OF THE YEAR

The last regular dancing night of the year will be Monday, May 12.

SCOTCH ON THE ROCK, AUGUST 8 - 10, 2003

Plans are well advanced for our summer workshop. Brochures with applications will be out by the time you get this. Please be sure to include it in your summer calendar -- it's a great way to meet a teacher "from away", and brush up on your dancing skills while having a great time. Venues for the classes and social are still under discussion. Party venues, of course, are already known! Note that the last day for advance registration (cheaper by \$10.00) is June 15.

Nora Link of Montreal will be our guest teacher. Norah is a competitive Highland dancer, as well as being a popular teacher of Scottish country dance workshops. She has taught workshops in eastern Ontario and New England. Her country dance teaching career began in 1993 in Cornwall, Ontario, but she has been teaching in Montreal since 1999.

Workshop Schedule:

Friday evening: Special class for first year dancers, followed by a get-acquainted party at the Scotts' house.

Saturday: Intermediate workshop classes morning and afternoon plus a practice class for the social programme

Saturday Evening: Social with Corryvreckan

Sunday morning: Easy English country dance session for all, followed by brunch at Brenda Burness' in St. Phillips.

DANCING SHOES (GHILLIES)

Unfortunately, there is no shop here in St. John's that stocks ghillies. Ladies *can* wear either black ballet shoes (pleated toe, not always comfortable), or modern dance shoes, which *are* available here. But for real ghillies, there are a couple of long-distance options:

1. Demi-Pointe Dance Shop, Charlottetown, PEI stocks ghillies (phone 902-892-2759) You can phone and order. The best way to determine size is to draw an outline of your foot on a piece of paper (have your weight on the foot as you draw), and then fax or mail the paper to the shop.

2. James Senior of St. Andrews has a very large selection of styles, and you can use the same method for ordering, but there you have to fuss with currency conversion too. The advertisement is on your RSCDS Bulletin. Website is www.jamesseniior.co.uk

3. Music Collection and Dance Corner, 444 Torbay Rd. (738-2982). Debbie at the store will order ghillies for you. Call for details.

HAGGIS

(As described in Captain Topham's book of letters written in 1775 from Edinburgh. Captain Topham is obviously an Englishman.)

"This was a haggis; a dish not more remarkable or more disgusting to the palate than in appearance. When I first cast my eye upon it, I thought it resembled a bullocks paunch, which you often meet in the streets of London in a wheel barrow; on nearer inspection I found it really to be the stomach of a sheep, stuffed till it was as full as a football I turned a hungry face towards a large tureen which the master of the feast called "Cocky-leaky". With the greatest appearance of glee he extracted a large Cock, which I dare say had been the herald of the morn for many a year...."

SUMMER DANCING

Dancing in the summer takes place at St. David's Presbyterian Church on Elizabeth Avenue, Mondays at 8 p.m. This is social dancing, with everybody taking turns talking through the dances. All are welcome. Dancing starts there on Monday, May 26.

NOTES ON HANDING

(from "A Pocket Companion for young Ladies & Gentlemen", published in Edinburgh, 1830, courtesy of Bill Clement, a past RSCDS chairman, via The Tartan Times of Boston)

Every Lady or Gentleman, it is hoped, will be ready to give their hands when required, as any neglect or inattention to this is always considered to be a mark of disrespect toward others, and indicates a want of obliging politeness.

No Lady or Gentleman should by any means interrupt others in going down the Dance; and if such should unfortunately happen, an apology should certainly be made by the party offending to the party offended.

An easy management and turn of the hands is of the first rate importance in Dancing, as the least appearance of awkwardness destroys the grace of the whole figure.

When about to join hands, the shoulders should be perfectly easy, with the elbows raised first, and the arms should be properly rounded; neither should the hands be opened too wide, nor the fingers too much apart, and a gentle hold is all that is necessary, as any deviation from that may be held as rudeness, and consequently evidence of want of good breeding. In withdrawing the hands, the arms should bend in the above easy manner.

The hand cannot be gracefully presented without looking at the person to whom it is presented; and in all figures where the hands have to be changed, they must upon no occasion be done suddenly.

---- AND FAR ----

May 9 - 11, 2003: Boston Highland Ball & Weekend, Nevins Hall, Framingham, MA. Call (781) 944-5252. Music by Alasdair Fraser and Muriel Johnstone.

May 17, 2003: Bon Accord Spring Fling with live music, 7:30 p.m., St. Matthias Church Hall, Halifax.

June 6 - 8, 2003: Montreal Branch weekend, Ste. Anne de Bellevue. Teachers are Vicky Goodloe from Kentucky, Dale Birdsall from Vermont, and our own Martin Mulligan. Ball music by Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent.

July 13 - August 10, 2003: RSCDS Summer School, St. Andrews, Scotland. Classes from introductory level to fully qualified teachers, are held a week at a time, from Monday to Saturday mornings. "All classes are accompanied by a musician and a suitably experienced and qualified teacher of Scottish country dancing." Six scholarships, which cover residential and attendance fees, are available each year. Application forms are due March 1. Sue Scott has information and applications.

July 7 - 11: English - Scottish session at Pinewoods, Boston area.

July 11 - 14, 2003: Scottish session I at Pinewoods.

July 14 - 19, 2003: Scottish session II at Pinewoods.

Forms available from Sue Scott. It's probably too late for this year, but remember these for next year!

July 27 - Aug.3, 2003: TAC Summer School, St. Jerome's University, Waterloo, Ontario. Teachers have application forms.

October 6 - 19, 2003: A Journey to the Classic Sites of China for Scottish Dancers and other congenial travellers. Sue Scott has forms.

July 28 - Aug.1, 2004: International Scottish Country Dance School, Halifax, NS. (Information: lydiahedge@accesswave.ca or tel 902-827-2033).