

- 18 - 24 First man sets to partner who stares blankly up the set. Second couple shuffle guiltily (Highland Schottische setting without taking feet off the floor) in case they are supposed to be doing anything. Third couple shrug shoulders. First man catches partner's eye.
- 24 - 28 Reel of four down one side; reel of two down the other.
- 29 Agitated whispering followed by
- 30 - 32 Reel of three whichever side seems least surprised to see you.
- 33 - 34 First man leads down the middle and back up again to collect partner whom he forgot the first time.
- 35 - 39 First couple lead down taking longer and longer steps and gaining speed all the time.
- 40 First couple remember they should have turned back but now going too fast to stop and hit wall at end of room.
- 41 - 42 First man scrapes splattered partner off wall and both limp back to top of set.
- 43 On way back discover fourth couple have died of boredom.
- 42 - 44 Meanwhile, second couple move down one place, bump into third couple who are now moving up. Both couples collide with first couple who have now reached top of set.
- 45 - 48 First and second couples form a nasty conglomeration in middle of set (Advanced class might try a Poussette).
- 48 ½ First man holds third lady's right arm and partner's left arm while partner twists her other arm around her back to attempt to reach second man. (Advances class might try Rights and Lefts).  
Repeat having passed a couple, but dancing couple stand still and gaze into space for first six bars, top or resting couple leap in above them on bars 1 - 2 then slink back into own set on bars 3 - 4.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| May 3         | A.G.M. - 7.30 p.m. dancing to follow          |
| May 17        | Last day of classes                           |
| May 24        | Start of summer dancing at St. David's Church |
| June 11/12/13 | Workshop                                      |



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

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NEWSLETTER

April 1999

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This is the last newsletter until September and there are a few things coming up, of which you may need to be reminded.

The **AGM** will take place on May 3rd at Macpherson, starting at 7.30 p.m. The early start enables us to dance afterwards. Please try and attend, for your input is needed.

Due to us missing Easter Monday dancing, our last class will now be **Monday 17th May**.

**Soiree '99 Workshop.** A number of people from outside the Province have already registered for our workshop. We would like as many of our own members as possible to attend since it is important to have a good turnout of local dancers, particularly since we have Mary Murray, who is so well qualified, to teach us. A little background information on Mary Murray.

She has not stopped dancing since the age of three when she was enrolled in a tap dancing class. Originally from Stirlingshire, Scotland, she was introduced to Scottish Country Dancing in High School. As a member of the school dance team, she represented the school in competitive festivals held in Central Scotland.

As a member of the East Stirlingshire Branch of the RSCDS demonstration group, Mary travelled with this team to participate in a few international music and dance festivals in various countries of Europe (Sicily, Germany, Belgium and France).

Prior to leaving Scotland for Canada she was a member of the Edinburgh Branch of the Society, where she danced with the demonstration team and has very happy memories of the time spent in Edinburgh.

For many years she has been actively involved with the Vancouver Branch of the Society and at present directs the Branch Demonstration Group.

Over the past number of years Mary has been invited to teach at numerous workshops and summer schools extensively throughout Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, Denmark, Germany, France and United Kingdom. As well, for the past few years, she has been a member of the teaching staff of the RSCDS Summer School held annually in St. Andrews, Scotland.

You can see that this is a wonderful opportunity for us to be taught by someone who has such a reputation.

We should stress that you don't have to attend all the sessions. The cost is broken down so you can choose.

We were delighted to learn that TAC has increased the amount they are giving us towards the workshop. They will give us a grant of \$250, for which we are very grateful.

We are considering having **sweatshirts** and **golf shirts** with our logo on them for sale. These were popular when we had them a few years ago and you may have seen members wearing them. The cost would be \$20 for the sweatshirt and \$25 for the golf shirt. We will try and have them on display at the AGM and if you are interested you can order and pay for them that night.

**Summer dancing** will start at 8 p.m. Monday 24th May at St. David's Church on Elizabeth Avenue. This is social dancing, with no teachers, which continues throughout the summer. It's on a pay-as-you-go basis, costing \$3 per night. Everyone is welcome and it is a great way for dancers to get in extra practice.

We have received a letter and forms from the Multicultural Assoc. of Nova Scotia (MANS) which has developed a database of cultural and ethno-cultural resources. This database acts as a tool for assisting those in need of contacting people with special skills, such as: interpreters, guides, performers, lecturers, mentors, etc.

MANS is apparently contacted daily by people inquiring about multicultural issues, i.e. schools who need to talk to someone from Eastern Europe. The database

is only as useful as the people who participate in it and they ask for our help. The information forms are available from Sheila and the database is now searchable on the Internet at: <http://fox.nstn.ca/~multicul>

A reminder - in our last newsletter we mentioned a Jim Hewitson from Orkney who is carrying out research for a book on the impact of the Scots on the development of Canada. If you can help by writing a few lines about anyone who you think may be appropriate, please see Sheila.

The following pops up every now and again in various newsletters from across the country and it's now our turn to have a laugh over it. If anyone in our basic class (or the more experienced) thinks they've got problems, read on!

In London there is a "fanzine" for those who, perhaps, take the RSCDS less seriously than they do their dancing. The following is an extract from an early edition of the (Re^al) Reel. The RSCDS London Branch classes for Beginner and Intermediate dancers are held at Marlborough School.

### The Marlborough Reel

Devised by Drouthie Ruthie

Tune: "Oh, sorry, Nicholas, I thought you had the music ready!"

- 1 - 4 First couple and second lady dance three hands round with second man running around the outside of circle (clockwise) desperately scrambling for a place.
- 4 - 8 First couple and second man dance back, this time with second lady running around (anti-clockwise).
- 9 - 12 First couple cross over, man giving right hand, lady giving left. Fumble with hands for ½ bar of music. Repeat movement, this time lady gives right, man gives left.
- 13 First couple leap quickly into the place they would have been in had they cast off a place.
- 14 - 16 First man scowls at second man; first lady kicks second lady.
- 17 Second couple, grudgingly move up one place.