

Island Fling



FEBRUARY, 2005

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society
P.O. Box 30123, Saanich Centre Postal Outlet
Victoria, B.C. V8X 5E1 Canada
Affiliated with the RSCDS, Edinburgh, Scotland

Executive Committee

President	James Scott	370-2359
Past President	Thelma Bell	652-5122
1st Vice President and Publicity	Bill Greig	246-1036
2nd Vice President and Membership	Mary Roberts	385-1082
Secretary	Heather Danks	477-0346
Newsletter Editor	Christine Rushforth	477-0340
Treasurer	Merle Peterson	477-8331
Social Convenor	Ian Danks	477-0346
Teacher Representative	Joan Axford	474-1018

Web address: www.viscnds.ca

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Are you all Burns'd out? I know I am. Between Socials and dancing with the Branch Entertainment Team, Toast to the Ladies at St Paul's Naval & Garrison Church and serving tea at St Andrew's I think it time to move onto our next big event "Valentines Social" which is hosted by the Basic and Advanced Technique classes.

Please note Monday class changes (see editors note).

Many local and out of town events coming up. See the events page in this issue.

James Scott, President

Ball Dance Briefings

Saturday 5th February

A large number of VISCDS and other dancers have indicated they would feel more comfortable and be more willing to partake in our March Workshop/Ball Weekend if the Ball dances were briefed.

Therefore, our Teachers in conjunction with the Ball Committee and Executive Committee have agreed to a trial run this year with a tri-committee discussion and critique after the Ball Weekend.

Please note!!! **Dancers must know the dances as if there were no briefings.** The briefings will be short and concise and will be done by our teachers. We hope that this change will help dancers who are hesitant about the weekend make up their minds to attend. VISCDS this is your weekend.

Contact Rosemary Balfour ASAP while tickets for the Ball are still available. There is still a lot of room at the workshops and Ceilidh.

Jim Scott

EXECUTIVE COLUMN

Executive Committee

Your executive met at Obed Hall on January 27.

Treasurer's Report

Merle gave us the good news on the reduction of cost of insurance now that we are under the umbrella of the Scottish Country Dance Association (SCDA)

Merle Peterson

Nominating Committee

We have had no takers so far for the two person nominating committee for the upcoming AGM. We have until the March 10 before the six week dead line. If you are curious at all about the job give me a call (no strings attached) and I will give you all the details of the positions required and then you can make up your mind. *Jim Scott*

Wanted

One new **Treasurer** and one new **Newsletter Editor**. If you feel you would like to try or inquire as to nature of the positions of these important positions in our Society please contact me direct. As above, no strings attached.

Jim Scott

Membership

Mary tells us we have retained all and even gained one new member in the basic class. She will have numbers and break down for the AGM.

Sick & Injured

Cards and/or acknowledgments were sent out to a number of dancers in December and January. Keep me informed of any that you know of.

Demonstration Team

Had a number of venues to cover over the last month and are wearing their new vests that Thelma and the ladies have been working on.

Newsletter

Christine will be working on her last newsletter in a couple of months and it looks like the new method of distribution is going to take a load off the editor. Please consider this important position when asked by the nomination committee.

Publicity

Bill has arranged for a local TV station to come to one of our March weekend workshops. Which one is yet to be determined.

Social Convener

Ian will be doing an inventory of the locker in the near future. If anyone has equipment out on loan or use for classes etc. Please contact Ian and let him know what you have this will help immensely.

Jim S.

Next Executive meeting is on February 24, 2005.

Burns Night Social

Despite some inclement weather there was a good group of dancers (six sets) for a fine program. The Hall was decorated with murals depicting Burns' poetry and song, setting the scene for a traditional evening. Bob Anderson provided a wide selection of dances with a Burns flavour. At the interval, Jamie Orr piped in the procession with Sword Bearer Rob Robinson, Haggis Bearer Larry Lindahl, Toastmaster Howard Sturrock and Gordon Simpson who delivered a spirited Address to the Haggis. More dancing followed and the two sets of stalwarts at the end managed to get through the Dancing Master and Argyll Square, both with repeats!

Many thanks to those who prepared food, to the kitchen volunteers and those who helped decorate the Hall. As usual, Bob had a great set of dances and, with the majority only one talk through, we managed to complete the entire program.

Alex McAuley

VJSC Burn's Tea and Concert

Anne, Mary, Margaret, Ann Easton and myself wish to thank the Demonstration Team for their help in setting out the goodies and clean up afterwards. The usual number of attendees is around 40-50. This year there were 140 including our dancers. The afternoon started with a Heather Laying Ceremony at Beacon Hill Park followed by a concert in the St Andrews Kirk Hall which consisted of a piper doing a medley of tunes, Edith Chapman's sister Margaret who sang with an incredible voice, our Demonstration Dance Team who, in spite of missing members who were ill and had to switch around in their sets did their usual wonderful job, the Gaelic Choir who likewise were decimated by sickness and out of toners sang three beautiful songs followed by Marten Campbell singing solo and finally the Highland dancers from Gayle Rees

Studios who gave a really uplifting performance. Thank you also to the VISCDs Dancers who attended and enjoyed a wonderful afternoon.

Jim S.

Change of Class Time

Pay attention all. We will eventually all go to this wonderful class if we want to continue dancing in our "less active" years or are rehabbing from an injury.

The class as of January 31, 2005 changed its operating time from the present 2:00 p.m. until

4:00 p.m. to a new time of 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Scottish Sympathy

"How's Andrew recovering from his heart attack?"

"He's getting on fine, thank you."

"Ooch, what a thing to happen. And he'd just had his kilt cleaned!"

VISCDs 29TH ANNUAL WORKSHOP & BALL March 11,12,13, 2005

Message from the Registrar

This is just a friendly reminder that the deadline for registration for our Workshop and Ball Weekend is March 01. Remember that you can register either for the whole package, or for your own choice of various parts of the weekend's activities as described in the forms and brochures you received with the January Fling. These forms and brochures are also available on our website at

<http://www.viscdis.ca/registration.html>. A point of clarification regarding the Saturday fee of \$40: it includes the morning dance workshops, lunch, as well as your choice of various options for the afternoon session from 1:30 to 3pm. If you have any questions about registration please phone me at 598-6456.

Rosemary Balfour

Ball Walk-Through

There will also be a Ball Walk-Through that will be open only to out-of-town dancers.

Ball Practices Schedule

Wednesday, Feb. 16, 23 and March 2 at 7:30 p.m. St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church Hall

These practices are open to anyone who is registered to attend the Ball. There will be a nominal fee of \$2.00 for the evening. The teachers may vary the sequence of dances as listed if they feel it is necessary.

Please see important note on front page about Ball Dance Briefings.

Class 1

The Hunting Horn J
The Fusilier's Dream R
Victoria Plums S
The Rothesay Rant J
The Glens of Angus R
The Minister on the Loch S
Da Rain Dancin' R
Fifty Years On J
The Byron Strathspey S

Class 2

Fifty Years On J
The Edinburgh Castle R
The Northern Lights S
Inverneill House R
The Trysting Place S
The Glens of Angus R
Da Rain Dancin' R
The Minister on the Loch S
The Fusilier's Dream R
Victoria Plums S

Class 3

The Rothesay Rant J
Da Rain Dancin' R
The Trysting Place S
Fifty Years On J
The Glens of Angus R
The Northern Lights S
The Edinburgh Castle Reel R
Victoria Plums S
The Fusilier's Dream R
The Fisherman's Reel R
Janet Rice, Coordinator

WORKSHOP AND BALL WEEKEND RAFFLE

Thank you to all the class reps for distributing the raffle tickets. Hopefully, your classes will be helping you out by taking books to sell. We always have a great selection of prizes for our raffle donated by our wonderful members (and some wonderful "outsiders"). We cannot have a

raffle without this help so please think about something you would like to donate and support out Ball Committee by selling some tickets. Our Ball Weekend is only six weeks away and will be here in no time at all!

Heather and Ian Danks

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE ETIQUETTE AND CONVENTIONS

Some people continue the habit of "booking" partners for dances later in the evening. Many people consider it rude to do so for the whole evening.

For the most part, feel free to ask anyone of either sex to dance. CAVEAT: Be aware that in some areas, two men dancing together may be encouraged to partner two women who were dancing together. This is more often the case in classroom situations (where teachers and people learning the dance prefer to clearly see who is dancing "as a woman" and who is dancing "as a man").

It is customary to dance with many different partners throughout the evening. If possible, try to partner at least one person with whom you have never danced before (SCD is all about meeting new people) - and of course, ask them their name and where they are from.

Beginners shouldn't be afraid to ask more experienced dancers to dance. Experienced dancers are strongly encouraged to invite beginners to dance, as they are often shy about asking more advanced dancers to partner them. If you are an experienced dancer, look around to see if anyone is sitting out while you are dancing, and if there is anyone, consider asking them for the next dance.

If asked to dance, do not be afraid to politely decline if you are not confident that you can manage that dance. Don't feel pressured if the MC is calling for "one more couple". If you really cannot cope, it spoils your own pleasure and that of your partner and the set. Keep in mind that you can attempt more with a partner whom you know is good and good at helping.

Form sets when the dance is announced or the band signals the next dance by playing the opening bars of music. It is considered rude to take the floor before one of these two signals has been given.

When the dance is announced or introductory music is played, *walk* onto the floor with your partner, even if this means that you are not in the top set. (Other people may also like an occasional dance near the band or a chance to be first couple.)

Try to get into sets with different people, rather than just making up sets with your friends.

Always join sets from the bottom, never dash into the middle or the top of a set that has already formed.

If you are the top couple, it is customary to count off the couples so each dancer knows if s/he is first couple, second couple, etc. If after counting off the sets you find that more couples are needed to complete the set, hold up fingers indicating how many couples are needed. The MC will announce it.

If a dance is being "briefed", keep quiet and listen, even if you already know the dance, or you are sitting out.

It's great if you are able to help your partner or other dancers in the set through a dance, but be judicious. No one likes to be bossed around, and no one wants to be pushed. Don't assume that if someone makes one mistake they need you to cue them through the entire dance. The best way to help is through subtle techniques like making eye-contact, good handing, etc. While a few quiet verbal cues from one's partner can be much appreciated, avoid getting into a situation where everyone in the set is shouting out directions. If someone is going the wrong way, avoid a crash and do your best to be where you are supposed to be. If everyone else is in the correct place it will be easier for the "lost" dancer to see where s/he is supposed to be.

After each dance is completed, you should thank your partner and the other dancers in your set. It is also considered polite to escort your partner from the dance floor.

SO IT'S YOUR FIRST DANCE? A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO WHAT TO EXPECT AT A BALL

Beforehand:

If you have pre-registered for a dance, very often, a set of notes for the dances on the program will be sent to you. Look over these notes ahead of time, or consider going over them with a friend. Maybe even "dance" them on the kitchen table with salt and pepper shakers. Don't try to memorize the dances, but try to "get a feel for them." NOBODY ever knows all (or even many) dances by heart. Note if the dance is a "partner can help you" type or a "you're on your own" or a "don't try it". Even for experienced dancers preparation for a ball can take several hours.

Many of the dances on the program for balls in your area will be done in class during the weeks before the ball, so make a point of attending.

Many ball organizers will schedule a walk-through or ball rehearsal of some type the afternoon or evening before the dance. Consider attending if you are unfamiliar with or not sure of some of the dances.

Don't feel compelled to find a date. In Scottish country dancing, it is customary to change partners throughout the evening, even if one has come with a date.

What To Wear:

Whatever you wear, make sure you can dance in it!

Men are always encouraged to wear a kilt at a ball, but don't feel you have to stay away if you don't have one. At a formal ball, other formal wear such as a suit and tie would be appropriate. At a semi-formal ball like the RSCDS Twin Cities Branch Beginner's/Fàilte Ball, a nice pair of trousers and shirt would be appropriate attire. On the other hand, if you've never worn the kilt before, a ball is the perfect opportunity to borrow or rent one to try out.

Ladies, a Scottish country dance ball may be your golden opportunity to wear those bride's maid dresses and prom gowns you thought you'd never be able to wear again. Unless you are up for an Oscar, there just aren't many opportunities to really dress up these days, but a ball is one of

By Lara Friedman-Shedlov. Inspired by and partially adapted from the [guide on the Edinburgh University New Scotland Country Dance Society web site](#). Note that in some cases it reflects our local practice and may not be universal.

Items contributed by Janet Rice

those few times. Of course, if you don't have an Yves St. Laurent lying around, never fear. An attractive skirt and top or dress will do quite nicely. Whatever style you choose, make sure the skirt isn't too narrow or you won't be able to move your legs freely enough to dance.

Ghillies or other soft-soled leather dance slippers are the typical footwear for all dances for both men and women. If you haven't got a pair, any soft-soled shoes will do in a pinch, even Keds. For the safety of themselves and other dancers, ladies should not dance in high heels. Hard-soled shoes are strongly discouraged, because they are quite painful if they happen to land on someone else's foot. Stocking feet will work but may be dangerously slippery. If necessary, consider asking the organizers of the event if they can find you a pair of soft-soled shoes to borrow. Many dancers have extra pairs they can lend.

At The Dance:

There are usually very few walk-throughs at a ball, so try to look over the dance notes beforehand. If you have been going to classes, you will have already danced most of the dances on the Fàilte/Beginner's Ball program at least once before. At most balls, the dances are "briefed" or "recapped" (i.e. a concise version of the instructions are given aloud) just before they are danced as a reminder.

A copy of the dance instructions is usually distributed at the ball. At more formal balls, these are often in the form of little booklets. Men usually keep them in their sporrans, but since women's formalwear rarely has pockets, they usually have more of a challenge. Many more formal balls will provide a ribbon to tie the notes to your waist or wrist. Consider bringing a safety pin or two to facilitate this.

After more popular dances and old favorites, dancers may call for an encore. If a dance is repeated, it is usually once and to the bottom, unless the MC says otherwise.

Most of all, smile and enjoy yourself! It's contagious!

VANCOUVER ISLAND SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY St. VALENTINE'S DANCE & SOCIAL

7:30 p.m. February 19, 2005

St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church Hall, 550 Obed Ave.

Good Hearted Glasgow	8x32J	B
The Dei'l Amang the Tailors	8x32R	B
Sugar Candie	8x32S	I
Peat Fire Flame ♥♥	8x40R	A
The Immigrant Lass	4x32J	I
Miss Gibson's Strathspey	8x32S	A
Jessie's Hornpipe ♥	8x32R	B
Joe MacDiarmid's Jig	4x32J	B
Robertson's Rant ♥♥	80Bar S	A
Montgomerie's Rant	8x32R	A
The Northern Lights	3x32S	I
Blooms of Bon Accord ♥	4x32R	I



INTERMISSION



Shiftin' Bobbins	8x32R	I
Summer on the Clyde	4x32S	B
The Clansman ♥♥	8x32R	A
Farewell to Auchterarder	128J Sq Set	A

All dances are in the Core Book

♥ Briefing Only

♥♥ No walk through or talk through

Hosted by Liz Gray & the Basic & Advanced Technique Classes

AFTER CLASSES FINISH COME TUESDAY DANCING

7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at St. Martin in the Fields Church Hall, Obed,

Cost: \$3.00

Dates:

April 19

May 10

May 31

April 26

May 17

May 3

May 24

GREETINGS FROM HOWARD HOSPITAL

Dr. Paul Thistle sent a letter from Howard Hospital in Zimbabwe expressing his appreciation for everything the Scottish Country Dancers have done to support the work of the hospital. "Our essential ministries such as maternal child health are relying more than ever on overseas assistance, the needs are greater than ever," Dr. Thistle wrote.

COMING EVENTS - LOCAL

- Feb 19 '05** **VISCDS VALENTINES SOCIAL** program this issue.
- Mar 5 '05** **12th ANNUAL CEILIDH** sponsored by the Canadian Scottish Regimental Heritage Foundation. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Bay Street Armouries. Some of the featured performers will be the Naden band, Band of the 5th (BC) Field Regiment RCA, the Pipes and Drums of the Regiment, the Regimental Association, the Cadet Corps and the Saanich Peninsula Legion. The program includes both Highland and Scottish Country Dancing, and songs by Corrine Coell and Nancy Bittner. Organist will be Steven Benson. Appearing for the first time will be the Victoria Police Chorus. Cost: \$12.00 adults, \$6.00 students and children aged 13-19, children 12 and under are free but must have a ticket. Tickets are available starting February 16 from Long and McQuade Music (756 Hillside Ave.) and at the Regimental Museum, room 312, Bay Street Armoury (enter from Field Street), Tuesday to Friday 10:00-2:00, and Thursday night 7:30-10:00. NOTE: To enter the Armoury, all adults will require photo identification such as a valid driver's license, a government ID or any other "official" form of ID. There will also be a raffle with a multitude of great prizes.
- Mar 11, 12, 13 '05** **BALL WEEKEND**
- Apr 2 '05** **TARTAN BALL** Saturday at the Edelweiss Club. Details later.
- Apr 2 '05** **TARTAN WEEK MALL DISPLAY** sponsored by the Victoria Joint Scottish Council tentatively set for April 2/3, 2005 at Hillside Shopping Centre.
- Apr 6 '05** **TARTAN DAY** Encourage your friends to wear their tartan.
- Apr 10 '05** **KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN** - sponsored by the Victoria Joint Scottish Council. Meet, wearing your tartan, in the Kirk Hall (on Courtney, just off Douglas) about 10:30 a.m. and we will be piped around the corner to the Church service which starts at 11:00. If you would like to stay after the service for lunch, please call Irene 652-5773 or kifeir@shaw.ca by April 3.
- Apr 16 '05** **RSCDS VICTORIA BEGINNERS' DANCE** Cadboro Bay United Church Hall at 7:30 p.m.
- Apr 21 '05** **VISCDS AGM**
- Apr 30 '05** **VISCDS SPRING FLING**
- May 22 '05** **HIGHLAND GAMES** - sponsored by the Victoria Highland Games Association. All day in Bullen Park in Esquimalt.
- May 23 '05** **VICTORIA DAY PARADE** entry sponsored by the Victoria Joint Scottish Council. Plan to put on your walking shoes and join in to make a noticeable Scottish presence.
- July 2 '05** **SCOTTISH FIDDLE ORCHESTRA** sponsored by the St. Andrew's and Caledonian Society. Doors at 7:00 p.m. show at 7:30 p.m. University Auditorium, University of Victoria. Cost: \$45.00 inclusive, available at the UVIC Ticket Centre. For information call (250) 721-8480 or check online www.auditorium.uvic.ca
- Dec 10 '05** **JOINT CHRISTMAS SOCIAL** Cadboro Bay United Church Hall.

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

- Feb 18-20 '05** **ALOHA WINTER WORKSHOP 2005 HONOLULU, HAWAII.** The Complete Event Package is \$125.00 US and consists of classes, ceilidh and social, Ball and Banquet. If anyone is interested in attending please contact Heather Danks 477-0346.
- Feb 18/20 '05** **EDMONTON CALEDONIAN COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY** 35th Annual Workshop and Ball. Teachers: Elinor Vandegrift, Kenmore, WA; Ruth Taylor, Brockville, ON; Ron Wallace, Santa Rosa, CA. Music: Christine Baker Trio. Registration deadline: February 10, 2005. Contact: Paula Priest or Norma Stobart – 780-425-8020 or www.geocities.com/eccds/

- Feb 23 '05** **WHITE ROCK SOCIAL** 7:00 pm Sullivan Hall, 6306-152nd St., Surrey. Wear something red.
- Feb 24 Mar 1 '05** **RSCDS WINTER SCHOOL, Pitlochry Scotland**
- Mar 4-6 '05** **WINNIPEG WORKSHOP**
- Mar 19 '05** **DELTA SPRING FLING** Hosted by the Delta Borderers. Gizeh Temple, 3550 Wayburne, Burnaby. 6:30 p.m., \$45. Tickets:Mairi Maxwell 604-946-2448 or Ruth Jappy at 604-594-6807.Music: Bobby Brown and the Scottish Accent. Ticket includes a social hour from 6:30 to 7:30 with wine and hors d'oeuvres.
- Apr 9 '05** **GLENEAGLES SPRING DANCE** 8:00 p.m. at the Highlands United Church Hall, 3255 Edgemont Boulevard, North Vancouver. Cost:\$10.
- Apr 16 '05** **CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP AND DANCE** Highalnds United Church Hall, 3255 Edgemont Boulevard, North Vancouver. Workshop 10:30 a.m., dance 2:00 p.m. Cost: children \$14, adults \$15.
- Apr 16 '05** **SALT SPRING SPRING WORKSHOP** at Fulford Hall on Salt Spring. Intermediate workshop 9:30 – 12:00, lunch 12:00 – 1:000, Basic workshop: 1:00 – 3:30. Cost: \$20 per workshop or both workshops \$35. Lunch is included. Teacher Ruth Jappy, music Alex Jappy. Contact: Lynn Bischoff, 150 Beddis Rd., Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2J2 or anchorpoint@telus.net tel: 250-538-0110, toll free 1-800-648-2560.
- Apr 29 '05** **WORLD DAY OF DANCE**
- May** **NANAIMO SCD WORKSHOP HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO UNAVAILABILITY OF VENUES.**
- May 14 '05** **THISTLE BALL** At Squamish Nation Recreation Centre Capilano Road, North Vancouver. Dancing to the music of Marian Anderson and her band from Scotland. Ticket prices: \$45 per person \$10 discount for RSCDS members \$10 discount for full-time students Tickets are available from Paul Lowe at 604-536-7660
- May 20/22 '05** **YOUTH WEEKEND WEST 2005** at UBC. Scottish Country Dancing workshop is open to youthful youth as young as 15 years. The tea dance on Sunday will be open to all ages. New website is www.youthweekendwest.com Cost:\$100.
- June 2-15** **SCOTTISH DANCING IN THE OUTER HEBRIDES**
- June 3-5** **MONTREAL WEEKEND**
- June 15-19** **SCOTTISH DANCE MASTERS' CONFERENCE** Sonoma State University. Rohnert Park, CA (for teachers and musicians)
- July 18-Aug 14** **RSCDS SUMMER SCHOOL, ST. ANDREWS** deadline for applications March 1, 2005. For details see www.rscds.org
- July 31-Aug 7 2005** **AGM AND TAC SUMMER SCHOOL** Shawnigan Lake School, Shawnigan Lake. Teachers: David Hall, Brussels; Elaine Brunken, Laurel Maryland; Mary Murray, Vancouver. Musicians: Muriel Johnstone, Houston; Keith Smith, Cambridge England; Alex Jappy, Delta; Ron Krug, Winnipeg. Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith will play for the Saturday night ball. Applicants are strongly advised to send their registration forms in by April 1, 2005. For copies of the brochure or the registration form, please contact Anita Mathur, Summer School Deputy Director, at 382-8808 or dmanita@telus.net.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER, March 1, 2005

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