

Island Fling



October 2009

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

Web address: www.viscds.ca

Executive Committee

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Van Isle's 34th season commenced with a "packed hall" of current members and a dozen newcomers at our Open House on September 8. Thank you to Gordon Robinson who once again put together and taught a varied program of Basic dances, formations and footwork to introduce our guests to the enjoyment of Scottish Country Dance. Thanks also to the many experienced members who came out to help make the evening a fun and successful one. After at least a month or more of no dancing, I'm sure a few kinks were eased out by the end of the evening!

All classes are now well underway. We would like to encourage more members to participate in the Tuesday Daytime Social class as there was barely a set on the first afternoon – dancing two classes per week keeps one's mind and body limbered up and there's no extra charge! The first Tuesday Basic level on September 15 enthusiastically welcomed eight newcomers who joined a good-sized group of 22 participants in all.

As the role of Class Representative is a vital one, each level requires a volunteer to fill this position to: take attendance; act as a liaison between the Executive and class to communicate news/events; and to coordinate one social a year. As several classes are without a Rep, we hope members will consider volunteering for this role – it is not an onerous job. Thank you to Heather Shave and Riki Sato who ably served as Reps for a number of years. They retired from these roles when each was elected to our Executive at the AGM in April 2009.

The Thursday Intermediate class is hosting our annual **Harvest Social** on **October 24** – remember to mark that date on your calendar and I look forward to seeing you there.

Joan McIntosh, President

EXECUTIVE COLUMN

Fall 2009 Class Schedules

CLASS	DAY	CLASS REP.	LAST CLASS
Experienced Social	Monday	TBD	Dec. 7 – No Class Oct. 12
Daytime Social	Tuesday	TBD	Dec. 1
Basic	Tuesday	TBD	Dec. 1
Advanced	Wednesday	TBD	Dec. 2 – No Class Nov. 11
Intermediate	Thursday	TBD	Nov. 26

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN DAYTIME SOCIAL HOURS:

FROM: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm TO: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Newsletter

Please send submissions for the next newsletter by October 23, 2009 to gael@shaw.ca or give to me in class.

34th Annual Ball and Sunday Social, March 27 and 28, 2010

Following the cancellation of last year's Ball Weekend, the Executive reviewed the Ball Committee report and studied the results of the VISCDs Survey. We also noted that the economic downturn had affected many scottish dance events in the region and recommended significant changes in the scope and format of the 2010 Ball Weekend.

Many of those surveyed preferred not to have a heavy meal before the Ball and this year we will be offering light refreshments and finger food during the evening. The Ball will be held at the newly renovated Edelweiss club which is known for its excellent dance floor. We are retaining the ever popular Sunday Social and Brunch at the Chiefs and Petty Officers Mess, CFB Esquimalt and we are delighted that Muriel Johnstone and Calum MacKinnon will provide the music for both occasions.

This year our workshops and ceilidh will take place on Saturday, January 23, 2010 as part of the Robbie Burns day celebrations.

Dora Dempster, VP Publicity



Letter to the Editor

I wish to address an issue of dancing etiquette.

At a recent class, and a number of other times over the years, the situation occurred where the last people to take the floor for a dance were two men. Now, I have no more concern about two gentlemen dancing together than I do about two ladies. In fact, I think it makes one a better dancer to learn both sides of a dance - it's excellent exercise for the brain, and it makes one aware of the particular challenges one's partner faces in any given dance.

These gentlemen, apparently, did not want to better their dancing in this way, and so they "split some ladies up" — without so much as a by-your-leave. How discourteous.

Gentlemen, if you want ladies to abandon their chosen partners to accommodate your discomfort with doing something ladies do all the time, don't you think you should at least ask politely?

Pattie Whitehouse



St Andrews Social

November 21, 2009, 7:30 p.m.
at St. Martin In-The-Fields, 550 Obed Avenue
Cost: \$8

St. Andrews Fair	8 x 32 J	B	Core
General Stewart's Reel	8 x 32 R	I	Core
Summer on the Clyde	4 x 32 S	B	Core
The Cadger's Roadie	8 x 32 J	I	Core
The Barmkin	1 x 88 R	B	Core
Bonnie Ina Campbell	8 x 32 S	A	Core
Highland Fair/Muirland Willie	8 x 32 J	B/I	Core
Ferla Mor	8 x 32 R	I	Deeside 1 J. Drewry (see attached)
Neidpath Castle	3 x 32 S	I	Core
Napier's Index	8 x 40 J	I	Core
Butterscotch and Honey	4 x 32 S	B	Core
Duke of Perth	8 x 32 R	I	Core

Break

Jennifer's Jig	8 x 32 J	I	Core
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	8 x 32 S	I	Core
Fisherman's Reel	5 x 32 R	I	Core
Farewell to Auchterarder**	1 x 128 J	A	Core

Extras

The Robertson Rant**	1 x 80 S	I	Core
Early in the Morning	5 x 32 R	I	Core

**No Briefing

Hosted by Advanced class



FAMILY DANCE CLASS - note changed dates!

This fall, RSCDS Victoria Branch is offering Saturday morning classes for children, parents, and grandparents at the Lutheran Church of the Cross, 3787 Cedar Hill Road, from 10:00 am - 11:30 am. The dates are **Oct. 17, 31, Nov. 14, 21, 28, and Dec. 5**. Penny Catton and Mary Howarth will be teaching. Please pre-register by October 10 so we know if we have enough people to go ahead with this class. To register, or for more information, please contact Sarah at 598-2612 or sarahkell@shaw.ca. Children must be accompanied by an adult - and adults must be accompanied by a child! Suggested donation: \$20 per family for the six weeks.

COMING EVENTS - LOCAL

All local events held at St. Martin in-the-Fields Hall, 550 Obed 7:30pm unless otherwise noted

2009

- Oct 3** **RSCDS Victoria** \$10 live music by the Elastic Ceilidh Band
- Oct 17** **Zimbabwe Benefit Dance Fund Raiser**, 7:30 pm - 11:30 pm. Please bring a small plate of finger food. There will be a Silent Auction - donations may be dropped off at classes up until October 10. Maureen Orr will be organizing theme baskets. Joan McIntosh will provide further information via email when available.
- Oct 24** **VISCDS Harvest Social** hosted by the Intermediate Class. Program in September Fling
- Nov 7** **RSCDS Victoria A Gathering of the Clans**
- Nov 21** **VISCDS St Andrews Social.** Hosted by the Advanced Class. Program in this newsletter
- Dec 5** **Joint Christmas Social**, time and details TBA
- Dec 31** **RSCDS Victoria**, time and details TBA
- 2010**
- Jan 23** **VISCDS Workshop, Burns Social and Ceilidh**
- Feb 6** **RSCDS Victoria Olympic Fever**
- Feb 20** **VISCDS Valentine's Social**
- Mar 13** **RSCDS Victoria** \$15 live music by Muriel Johnstone
- Apr 10** **RSCDS Victoria** \$12 live music by Mary Ross
- Apr 24** **VISCDS Spring Fling**

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

- Oct 17** **First Fifty Favourites** will re-live fifty years (1930 to 1980) in a single evening! The dance is being sponsored by the Vancouver Branch and organized by Rosemary Coupe and Liz Peerless. Music: The Tartan Players. Scottish Cultural Centre 8pm 8886 Hudson Street Vancouver BC
- Nov 6-7** **Bellingham Workshop and Ball**, teachers: Robert McOwen, Arlington, MA; Mairi Hand, Boise, ID; and Heather Graham, Bellingham. Musicians: Calum MacKinnon, Fiddle; Susan Worland, Fiddle; Lisa Scott, Piano; and Ginny Snowe, Bass. www.bellinghamscd.org
- Nov 28-29** **Los Angeles Branch Workshop for SCD and Music**, El Segundo. Instructors: Muriel Johnstone keyboard; Susan Worland fiddle; and Bill Zobel experienced dancers. www.rscds-losangeles.org
- Dec 5** **Port Alberni SCD Christmas Dinner/Dance**, Royal Canadian Legion (Branch 55) 3031 - 4th Ave Port Alberni
- Feb 13** **Comox Valley Valentines Dance**, Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith playing. Watch for more info at <http://cvscottishcountrydance.org/>
- Feb 19-21** **Edmonton 40th Annual Workshop and Ball**, teachers: Pat Coyle, Mary Murray, Elinor Vandegrift, Ron Wallace. www.rscdsedmonton.org
- Mar 13** **Port Alberni SCD St Patrick's Dinner/Dance**

NOTE: Dance Programs for many of the listed events are available from the VISCDS newsletter editor or the listed contact/websites.

Ferla Mor (or the Big Grey Man)

amended November 4 2009

Devised by John Drewry, Deeside Book Part I

32 bar Reel for 3 couples in a 4 couple longwise set.

Bars

- 1-4 1st couple set, turn RH ½ way round, moving down to face partner in the centre in 2nd place.
2nd couple step up bars 3 & 4.
- 5-8 1st couple set, turn RH once round to finish 1L facing her 1st corner, 1M immediately behind her in tandem.
- 9-16 1st couple in tandem and 1st corners dance diagonal reel of 3, RS to 2M to begin. 1L finishes facing her 2nd corner, partner in tandem behind her.
- 17-24 1st couple in tandem and 2nd corners dance diagonal reel of 3, RS to 3M to begin.
On bars 23 & 24, 1L, as she dances down the centre, pulls LS back to face partner. 1st couple turn LH to face 1st corners.
- 25-32 1st couple turn 1st corners RH, pass RS, turn 2nd corners RH and pass RS to 2nd place on own side.
- Repeat, having passed a couple.

In this dance 1st man becomes Ferla Mor or the Big Grey Man who is reputed to haunt the upper part of Ben Macdhui, as he follows his partner in the reels.