

Island Fling



AUGUST, 2003

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	Ann Whittaker	478-4760
2nd Vice President and Membership	Mary Roberts	385-1082
Secretary	June Robinson	477-8317
Newsletter Editor	Christine Rushforth	477-0340
Treasurer	Merle Peterson	477-8331
Social Convenor	Jan Thorsen	380-5154
Teacher Representative	Joan Axford	474-1018

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer weather we are experiencing at present (29th July).

In this issue you will find three new items. The first being the request for phone fan out callers.

The second is a Q&A column. This is your opportunity to ask the committee questions concerning the overall policy and running of the society. You can phone or e-mail any member of the executive and will get your answer in short notice. We will however include your question and the answer in the following Fling so all know what was asked and answered. First or last initials only will be used in the column.

The third is e-mail VISCDS Dancers Group addresses. This has turned out to a popular way of keeping in contact so that along with the phone fan out and of course the Fling no one should miss any up to date news.

Our first effort at a co-sponsored Dancing In The Park (this issue) is very successful and thank you to the large numbers coming to either dance or watch.

James Scott, President

**YOUR 2003-2004 VISCDS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM
IS MAILED WITH THIS ISSUE**

EXECUTIVE COLUMN

As I mentioned in the last Fling the fees must go up. Unpopular it may be but necessary to keep us solvent. (see treasurers report). Read your application carefully and fill in all the requirements.

On a more personal note it is really gratifying to see members show up and enjoy themselves at other venues during the summer e.g The Lavender Festival and Folk Fest and Friday evenings at St Martin's in The Fields and half a dozen or so were invited to "Blind Test" some of the new dances for the Core Book number 44 and submit a report Excellent, good, average or rubbish. This is the first time this has been done outside Edinburgh and Victoria was one of the chosen few so with testing done in 10 countries with 6 dances each it should be interesting to see the outcome. Looking forward to September. See you on the floor.

Jim Scott

Phone Fan Out

During the past couple of months we (exec) have talked about a phone fan out system in which a number of members would have a certain number of phone numbers of other members and would on occasion be called by an exec member to pass along reminders, missed items in the previous Fling that can't wait until the next issue and other items deemed important enough for all to be made aware of. I have six names (from the e-mail group) and would like as many as we can get from the

whole Society. The more, the fewer names you will be assigned. Please give this some consideration and call, e-mail or fax me. Thanking you in advance. *Jim Scott*

Treasurer's Report: Fee increases, June 2003

Increases in annual membership fees from \$20 to \$30 were unanimously judged necessary by the Executive to meet several increasing costs to the Society such as hall rentals, insurance premium (up from \$660 in 2001 to \$1000 in 2003), newsletter production and mailing (when necessary), and other administrative expenses that are costs shared by all members. This was felt to be the fairest away to meet this challenge and still provide the services delivered in previous years.

Increases in class fees from \$70 to \$80 for the year were similarly judged necessary. In the past fiscal year (1 April 2002-31 March 2003), income from classes (registrations and drop-in fees) exceeded the costs of classes (hall rentals and teachers) by only approximately \$1,000. That margin is insufficient to support the administrative (annual report fee, affiliation fees, insurance, office expenses and postage, repairs to equipment, purchase of new equipment, Society post box, Society storage locker) and service components of the Society (newsletter, web server and web site updates, Core Book revisions and update). While the socials

and Throonie Nights have resulted in a small profit, this has been accomplished without live music over the past year, as a money saving measure. As the financial report indicated at the Annual General Meeting this past April 24, 2003, all categories of income were down compared to the previous year, while seven categories of expense (out of a total of 13 categories) were up or comparable in the same time period. Fee increases are regrettable but if we measure all that we receive as the result of our membership fee and class fees perhaps it will be easier to accept these realities.

June and July are relatively quiet months for the Treasurer, a wonderful time to enjoy the outdoors.

Merle Peterson

Demonstration team.

The Demonstration Team took a hard hit this year for dancers in time for Folk Fest. Both Rob Langridge and Lorne Duncan had to step out due to suffering from Plantar Fasciitis. Liz Gray underwent surgery and Gordon Robinson has had to step out due to work. Joan Axford was suffering from a bad bout of bronchitis but bravely kept going. The rest of us doubled up where we could and Jamie Orr kindly stepped in to assist as well as doing some piping. Lisa Gray also joined us and did an excellent performance.

It is always a delight to have Lisa with us. Liz Gray assisted with the music and Steven Axford videoed the performance.

Joan MacIntosh and Janet Rice spent a few days at my house where we cut out our new dresses then passed them on to those who could sew their own and we made the ones for those who do not.

We felt very comfortable and proud wearing them at Folk Fest and all who saw them gave complementary comments. And guess what? NOT A WRINKLE in them. Unfortunately we had to again turn down an invitation to perform at the Langford Lavender Festival as our numbers were low and Joan not feeling too well.

If any of our members are interested in joining the dem team, please call Joan Axford at 474-1018 and let her know. It is very challenging and requires a lot of dedication but very rewarding and it is a pleasure to be a part of the team.

Thelma Bell

Good wishes and kind thoughts

The President has asked me to continue the job of sending cards to our members as needed so if anyone knows of any just cause why someone should get a card, please let me know until such time as your class reps have been elected for next season.

Thelma Bell, 652-5122.

Q & A Column

Q. *Is the Society looking into buying VISCDs shirts or tops with the logo?* **P.**

A. Apparently it was looked at briefly sometime in the past. It will be discussed at the September Executive.

Q. *How does one get onto the Dem Team, approach a member or wait to be approached?* **F.**

A. Joan says you may be invited to join or you may ask to be considered – see info this page.

Q. *Why the increase in fees? Question from many members.*

A. See Treasurer's report this issue.

E-Mail List

We have at present 52 members on an e-mail group mailing list who receive up to date info every couple of weeks. I wasn't sure how it would go over but I have had all positive responses so far.

If you have e-mail and have not been receiving the updates and would like to be on the VISCDs Dancers list please e-mail me at fairfieldscotts@shaw.ca and I will add your address to the list. This will work very well in conjunction with the phone fan out list. This way everyone will be kept in the picture.

Jim Scott

Joint Scottish Council

Katy Dunn has volunteered to be our (VISCDs) representative once again. Katy invites anyone else who may be interested in joining her in this role to contact her. Meetings are the second Thursday of each month. Thank you Katy

Jim Scott

FOR SALE

Ghillies

Two pair of ghillies used for one year of lessons.

Size 7 & size 8. \$20 per pair. Please contact Pat & John MacLeod at 652-8804. We live in Brentwood Bay.

Direct from Scotland -- Man's Dress Jacket 30" chest and Mackay tartan kilt waist approximately 32", length 23" including belt and flashes. Good/new condition, barely worn. Call Katie Dunn ph. 598-6547.

CLASSES BEGIN THE WEEK OF SEPT 15

There will be twelve sessions ending the week of Dec. 8.

BASIC CLASS:

Mondays 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. McKenzie Elementary School (small gym)

Teacher: Liz Gray

In the Basic Class you will learn the five basic steps of Scottish Country Dancing and various formations that make up the dances. You will become familiar with the concepts of sets, progressions, technique and teamwork and you will experience the joy of moving to the lively music in a relaxed social setting. By the end of the year you will be able to dance many basic dances with some degree of confidence.

LOWER INTERMEDIATE CLASS:

Tuesdays 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. St. Martins-in-the-Fields Church Hall, Obed Ave.

Teachers: Una Lennam, Rob Langridge and Sue Langridge

For those who have attended a basic class and are familiar with basic formations and dances. This class will continue to work on all basic steps and formations as well as introduce new formations and appropriate level dances.

UPPER INTERMEDIATE CLASS:

Thursdays 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. St. Martins-in-the-Fields Church Hall, Obed Ave.

Teacher: Monica Roots

For those who have been dancing for a number of years and who wish to improve all aspects of technique. This class is designed to provide dancers with the opportunity to experience a broader range of formations and movements.

ADVANCED CLASS:

Tuesdays 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. McKenzie Elementary School (small gym)

Teacher: Liz Gray

For experienced and upper intermediate level dancers who wish to maintain and improve their dancing skills. Emphasis will be placed on continued improvement of all aspects of technique. This class will provide an opportunity to "tidy up" old formations as well as to introduce more complex formations and transitions. Dancers in this class must express a desire for continued improvement for all aspects of the dance and should have danced at an upper intermediate level for at least two years.

EXPERIENCED SOCIAL:

Mondays 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. St. Martins-in-the-Fields Church Hall, Obed Ave.

Teacher: Bob Anderson

For those truly experienced dancers who do not wish to choose the intensity of an advanced technique class but wish to dance the more challenging dances and formations. Dancers in this class should have a good knowledge of all common formations and steps and be able to dance those dances with common formations with just a brief walk-through.

LOW IMPACT CLASS:

Mondays 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. St. Martins-in-the-Fields Church Hall, Obed Ave.

Teacher: Bob Anderson

A daytime class for Scottish Country Dancers with mobility problems or difficulty performing steps. Some technique will be taught but emphasis will be on formations and phrasing of popular dances.

Howard Hospital Benefit Dance Sat., Sept. 27, St. Martin in the Fields

The Benefit Dance for Howard Hospital in Zimbabwe will be held at St. Martin in-the-Fields Church Hall on Saturday, Sept 27th at 7:30 p.m. Cost will be \$8.00 each. All proceeds will be donated to Howard Hospital and the Church has generously offered the use of the Hall at no cost. All are asked to bring food, either savories or sweets.

Donate your surplus drugs

Dr Lorraine Irvine will be returning to Howard Hospital and will be hand carrying all proceeds plus any drugs that have been donated so please bring what you have to the dance e.g. antibiotics, anti inflammatories, anti

histomines, diabetic drugs for hyperglycemia, ointments, hypertension. Anything up to two years beyond expiry date and clearly marked. Dr. Paul Thistle from the Hospital will be visiting here and will be speaking at the dance before returning to Zimbabwe.

Silent Auction

There will be a Silent Auction at the Benefit Dance for Howard Hospital. If you have any unwanted treasures that you no longer want please bring them to the Dance to be placed in the auction. All proceeds go to Howard Hospital. For further information contact: Diane at 655-4890 or Una at 598-2225.

Bob Anderson has put together a program as follows:

Pelorus Jack
Belle of Bon Accord
Shifin' Bobbins
Jennifer's Jig
Enchanted Garden
Mairi's Wedding
McLeod's Fancy
Moray Rant
Bratach Bana
Mrs Stewart's Jig
"Deer" Friends
Reel of the Royal Scots
White Heather Jig
Dance # 12
Maxwell's Rant
Farewell to Auchterarder
The Quern
Irish Rover
If you have any questions please call:
Diane Robinson 655-4890

Thank You from Lorraine

Thank you for the lovely plant, cards and phone calls. It was wonderful to be at the August 1st dance, the best part was seeing friends again. Looking forward to September dancing.

Lorraine Irvine

SUMMER FUN

Dancing In The Park

We are now working on our fifth week (31st July) and have four more to go. For those who have not been contacted VISCDS and the Branch are co-sponsoring this year. The turn out has been excellent with an average of five and half sets with one evening having seven sets. The grass where the dancing is done has been improved a lot this year but sturdy shoes are still recommended

Walking the dances is totally acceptable and is done so by numerous dancers. We have had tourists from Japan, China, all parts of the USA and Canada joining in and last week there were ten children which was fantastic. We have passed out about 60 brochures advertising VISCDS events and the open house. The dancing starts at 7:00pm until 8:30pm in front of the Cameron Bandshell in Beacon Hill Park. If you don't feel like dancing just

come and cheer everyone else along. A number of retired dancers have been coming out to watch. Good seating. After the dancing we (if you so desire) go to the patio at the Beacon Drive -In and have hot chocolate or a pokey hat or even a bag of chips (fries). Bring a fleece or sweater as it cools down around 7:45pm.

Jim Scott

Victoria Day Parade

If you weren't among the 80,000 people lining the parade route on May 19, you missed a good one. It was the biggest Victoria Day parade in Canada and your club was part of it.

Our new 15-foot long banner was carried by three kilt-swinging laddies. Jan Thorsen, in the middle, reports great cheers from each side. Rowdy applause for Lester Vowles' dazzling new outfit complete with shiny silver buttons was drowned out by wolf whistles of appreciation from Fraser MacGillivray's side as he proudly tossed curly green locks, dyed to match his tartan.

Leading the contingent was the Joint Scottish Council banner carried by Katie and Gerry Dunn, Alice Anderson and Ruth Slavin. Although the marching band in front of us had warned it marched backward 36 steps as part of one of their four routines, it caught us off guard the first time, sending us scrambling backward away from those stomping, shiny white boots. Every time the band struck up, there was consternation amongst the Joint Scottish Council standard bearers. Do we keep going forward or stop? The four of us didn't have to agree, due to the uncertain quality of the curtain rod holding the banner. It U'd one way when the outside people stopped, and U'd the other way when they didn't. When we alternated, it S'd nicely. We were surprised it lasted the route, but three hours later, it was still doing the job and our sides were sore from laughing.

Comprising the Joint Scottish Council contingent were four of its 13 members: VISCDs, The Victoria Branch of RSCDS, St. Andrew's and Caledonian Society, Rene Cusson's Shawnigan Lake School of Piping and Dancing, and representing the clans, hereditary Chiefs McDouall and McTavish waving sedately from a horse-drawn carriage creaking along to the skirl of Rene Cusson's bagpipes.

To our delight, the Joint Scottish Council won second place in the *Performing Arts* category, between Maxwell Bahai School and Wild Roller Hockey. Interesting competition! What were our best features? The piper? Rene Cusson's adorable dancers? Fraser's green hair? The contortions of the curtain rod? Whatever did it, we'll take it.

Thanks to the Joint Scottish Council for paying the insurance and entrance fee and organizing the contingent. Given the fun we had and the success of our effort, we're planning something even better for next year.

Ruth Slavin

First annual SCD Youth Weekend West an amazing success!

A grand total of 56 dancers aged 15 to 30-ish participated, hailing from across Canada, Washington State, and as far away as Germany and Japan and a great time was had by all.

The fun began with a high-energy ceilidh on Friday evening. On Saturday and Sunday, Rebecca Blackhall-Peters of Fort Langley and

Bruce Herbold of San Francisco kept us all busy with fast-paced classes in SCD, English Country Dancing, and step-dancing. Eleven new beginners were introduced to SCD over the weekend ... and most of them were seen dancing 'Follow Me Home' and 'The Bees of Maggie Knockater' by Sunday afternoon!

A youth-only social dance was held Saturday night (even Petronella was encored!), and the Sunday Tea Dance saw dancers of all ages joining in the fun. Fantastic live music for the weekend's social events was provided by members of the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra and the Coast String Fiddlers. The Tea Dance programme had to be cut short, but the youth were not deterred: we finished the programme on the grass while the YWW barbecue got underway at Jericho Beach!

Donations from VISCDs and Victoria Branch allowed the young dancers to enjoy a delicious Pancake Breakfast at the hostel on the final morning of the weekend – and then there was more dancing for the three sets still standing!

Participants went home with a network of young SCD friends from across the continent - plus some ideas for encouraging more youth to dance in their home towns and universities. Plans are already in the works for YWW 2004, to be hosted by the Western Washington University SCD club in Bellingham! (For more information please contact Sophia Yeckley at summer_solstice@hotmail.c)

om.)

On a personal note, thank you to all the Victoria dancers who supported and encouraged me and the Youth Weekend West planning committee!

Sarah Kell

Dancing in Seattle

Last Victoria Day weekend, Maureen and I took advantage of the fact that our kids are growing up – we deserted them and went to the RSCDS Ball in Seattle.

We caught the nine o'clock ferry on Saturday, and reached the border about twelve. There we sat in the line-up until half past one, when we enjoyed a thirty second chat with a nice lady who wished us a pleasant visit and passed us right through. The rest of the drive went quickly, though, and we had time to find our bearings in Seattle.

The evening started with a before-the-dance dinner where we met a lot of people whose names have mostly escaped me now. But everyone introduced themselves and quickly made us feel very welcome. We had a good meal without overdoing it for the dancing afterward. No dessert was served, that was to follow at the Ball – something else to look forward to.

The Ball itself was held at the Polish Home, an easy drive from the restaurant for we out-of-towners. I didn't count the sets, but there was a good crowd – luckily there was a big dance floor to accommodate everyone. A

good surface too, once some magic powder was scattered on it. Once again, we were made to feel at home right away, which added greatly to our evening. The program was good, with not a few old favourites. What really impressed us, though, was how the other dancers made us feel they were really dancing with us, and each other, through little things like making eye contact, or in taking hands with the person opposite (in four hands around). It certainly made me smarten up and pay more attention to my own dancing! In any case, we had a great time – and the desserts were more than worth waiting for.

The Ball attracted people from all over Washington, and a few from out of state as well. Victoria was represented by ourselves and Anita Mathur – and there were a few familiar faces from the Vancouver area too.

After the dance, our hosts, Kay and Ross Morrison, had to stay on to do chores, but sent us off with a key and directions to their house. Of course, we managed to get lost, going the wrong direction on the freeway! It looked a bit dodgy for a while. Next morning, we were treated to some excellent breakfast and conversation, and sat there enjoying both for quite a while.

Once back on the road, we came straight home, passing through the border with no delay, and driving straight onto the two o'clock ferry, a fitting ending to a great

weekend. So thank you to Seattle RCSDS, for the warm welcome and the fine dancing. And thank you to the Morrison's for the morning after.

Jamie Orr

DANCING IN WATERLOO

I've just returned from a week of dancing at Summer School in Waterloo, ON, sponsored by TAC [Teachers' Association (Canada)]. Besides the fun of a week of classes and activities, it was my privilege to be asked to guest teach the elementary class one morning, accompanied by Laird Brown on the accordion. There was great camaraderie amongst teachers, dancers and musicians.

There was a myriad of activities through the week: social dances, a ceilidh, a 'smorgasbord of dancing', a trip to Stratford and a grand banquet/ball. I must say, though, that one event that really stands out in my mind is the costume ball: everyone came dressed as a dance. As the sole Victoria dancer, I attended in the guise of The Enchanted Garden, and was accompanied by such dances as Wild Geese, Dundee Whaler, The Ale Wife and Her Barrel, Soldier's Joy and Jimmy's Fancy. I'll have to leave the costuming to your imagination!

Reminds us once more: serious dancing requires serious fun!

Anita Mathur

COMING EVENTS - LOCAL

- Sept 8 '03** **VISCDS OPEN HOUSE** 7:30 p.m. Mackenzie School. There will be refreshments served after the dancing.
- Sept 15 '03** **CLASSES BEGIN THIS WEEK**
- Oct 18 '03** **HARVEST SOCIAL** 8:00 p.m., Brentwood Hall. Program in next issue.
- Oct. 24 '03** **ALEXANDER BROS** sponsored by the St. Andrews and Caledonian Society. 7:30 p.m. UVic Auditorium, cost \$20. Tickets call Alex and Francis Reid 370-9226.
- Oct. 25 '03** **HIGHLAND DANCE COMPETITION** sponsored by The Sons of Scotland. 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Saanich Fairgrounds.
- Sept 27 '03** **HOWARD HOSPITAL BENEFIT DANCE** St. Martin in-the-Fields Church Hall on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Cost will be \$8.00 each. All proceeds will be donated to Howard Hospital.
- Nov 15 '03** **ST. ANDREW'S SOCIAL** St. Martin in the Fields
- Dec 13 '03** **JOINT VISCDS/RSCDS CHRISTMAS SOCIAL** Cadboro Bay United Church Hall
- Jan 17 '04** **BURN'S SOCIAL** St. Martin in the Fields Church Hall
- Feb 21 '04** **VALENTINES SOCIAL** St. Martin in the Fields Church Hall
- Mar 27/28 '04** **VISCDS BALL WEEKEND**

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

- Aug 22-30** **VALLEY OF THE MOON SCOTTISH FIDLING SCHOOL** Northern California Redwoods. Instructors include Alasdair Fraser, Laura Risk, Hanneke Cassel, Linda Danielson and Muriel Johnstone. Contact 415-655-4355 vom@monitor.net
www.valleyofthemoon.org
- Aug 29-31** **TAC AGM WEEKEND MANCHESTER NH** Contact J'ina Middleton
jmiddlet@interlynx.net
- Sept. 12-14** **FORT WORDEN DANCE WORKSHOP 2003 - Come Fly With Us. Fort Worden State Park, Port Townsend WA** Celebrate the centennial of aeronautics with dancing. Check out the website for an online application form at www.rscds-seattle.org Teachers Bruce and Jo Hamilton (Menlo Park CA) and Ruth Jappy (Delta BC). Musicians Muriel Johnstone, Laura Risk and Calum MacKinnon. Learn English, Step, Shetland dances as well as Quadrilles and Intermediate and Advanced Scottish Country Dances. More information from the web site or from the Registrar 10008 NE 120th Lane #C-202 Kirkland WA 98034 ftwordenregistrar@earthlink.net Chairman Peter_Zarich@csi.com 425-771-2973.
- Oct 6-19 '03** **CHINA** A journey to the classical sites of China for Scottish Dancers and other congenial travelers. Organized by Ken McFarland. Information: (800) 822-3435 or (907) 456-7556.
- Feb. '04** **PITLOCHRY WORKSHOP**, If enough dancers are interested, a party might go from Van Isle to the workshop. I would welcome expressions of interest from dancers. We'll need about 20 or so to approach Air Canada for special group status. *Alex McAuley* (595-1607 or amcauley@uvic.ca)

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWS LETTER, Sept. 1, 2003

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