

Island Fling



February 2010

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society
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Victoria, B.C. V8X 5E1 Canada
Affiliated with the RSCDS, Edinburgh, Scotland
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Executive Committee

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Teacher Representative	Bob Anderson	250-479-6719

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This year has been one of transition for our Society as a result of the executive's decision last May to alter the format of our traditional full Ball Weekend. Keeping in mind that change does not come about easily, we have endeavored in our planning to continue to offer opportunities to challenge your skills and stimulate your enjoyment of dance.

We were delighted with the turnout for both levels of Workshops held on January 23rd (for the first time) and received many positive comments. I'm sure you'll all agree that Ruth Jappy is a very dynamic, capable teacher who conveys her love of dance through instruction and with a light touch of humor. As well, it was such a treat to have music provided by local accordionist, Mary Ross. Hopefully by the end of the classes attendees saw improvement in their dancing technique – I'm still working on timing after all these years!

Combining the Ceilidh with the Robbie Burns Social on January 23rd was also new this year. What a fantastic turnout with seven sets on the floor dancing. Thanks go to: Bob Anderson for putting together and briefing an excellent program; MC Walter Balfour; Jane Matthews, Catherine Mick and Kathryn Deegan for organizing the Social; Dora who coordinated a wonderful mix of Ceilidh entertainment; a special thanks to each of the "Entertainers" who shared their talent with us; Jamie Orr our piper; and Alex McAuley for the "Address to the Haggis. It was a grand Burns' celebration and I would say the evening was a great success.

In this newsletter you will see a Ball update from Rosemary Balfour. "The Early Bird" registration deadline of **February 10th** is fast approaching and I encourage you to mail your registration in soon. Forms are available at classes if needed.

Our Valentines Social on February 20th is hosted by the Basic Class – mark it on your calendar and plan on attending in support of our newer members. You will find the dance program in our January newsletter and I'll see you there.

Joan McIntosh, President

EXECUTIVE COLUMN

Sick and injured

As there have been a number of members inquiring about Noel Kinnon's recovery after hospitalization in early January, I am happy to relay that Edna says he is improving and regaining his strength. We're thinking of you Noel and wish you well this month.

Joan McIntosh

Newsletter

Please send submissions for the March newsletter by March 1, 2010 to gael@shaw.ca. The next newsletter will be published after the AGM. Many thanks to the Kinnons for their ongoing help with logistics.

Gael Forster

Publicity

If you took any good photos of the Ceilidh please send some to Dora Dempster to be used when the new website is ready.

Nominating Committee

The Executive will be asking for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee, which consists of at least two members. Please contact any executive member if you are interested or have any questions. The following will be retiring from their current positions: Joan McIntosh; Kathryn Deegan; Gordon Hawkins; Gael Forster; Riki Sato

All Executive positions need to be filled to ensure the continuation and success of our Society – please consider contributing your expertise or skills by taking on one of the executive roles.

VISCDS Annual General Meeting

First Notice - Tuesday April 20, 2010, St. Martin In-The-Fields, 550 Obed Avenue, 7:30 pm

All members are encouraged to attend. Please submit any business and/or proposals for the AGM in writing to Heather Shave (Secretary) no later than April 10, 2010. No new business will be taken from the floor.



VISCDS Burns Social and Ceilidh, January 23, 2010, was a great evening of dance, music, entertainment, Address to the Haggis, and a table of mouth watering food. With all the elements for a great evening, many of the 80 dancers remained on the dance floor until the end of the event. Presented by Bob Anderson, the dance program enabled dancers of all levels to take to the floor for the outstanding music of Mary Ross. Walter Balfour acted as MC.

The ceilidh acts included a humorous song by Anita Mather and two Gaelic songs by Margaret Chapman. Ruth and Alex Jappy demonstrated three Old Time dances, and there was a performance by the VISCDS demonstration team under the direction of Joan Axford. The haggis was piped in by Jamie Orr, followed by Rob Langridge, Rick Deegan, Gordon Robinson, and Alex McAuley, who delivered the Address to the Haggis.

The singing of "Auld Lang Syne," by Robert Burns, ended the successful evening, organized by Jane Matthews, with Dora Dempster and Kathryn Deegan and many helpers. It was a night that Burns himself would have enjoyed, full of good spirit, friendship and fun.

Alan Thomson

A note of thanks

As class rep for the Monday Social Class, I wanted to thank everyone who helped to bring our Burns Social and Ceilidh all together. From several comments, it was an enjoyable evening for many and I especially wanted to personally thank those who helped me to carry out my class rep responsibilities.

A big thank you to our amazing and hard working executive who seem to go above and beyond on many occasions. As class rep, I'm especially thankful for all the guidelines and regular communication from Riki Sato. I was very thankful when Dora Dempster offered to co-ordinate the Ceilidh for the evening, including the Address to the Haggis. Dora was also very helpful re purchasing and quantity of haggis. Our social convener, Kathryn Deegan, so organised and knowledgeable, always ready for another question; a huge support along with husband Rick. Many thanks. Thanks too to our President Joan McIntosh who keeps her "finger on the pulse of the Society and in the middle of everything else came up with the lovely tray for serving the haggis and glasses for the toast. Thanks to our teacher executive rep, Bob Anderson, and all his hard work with lots of support from Alice. Thanks Alice for the surprise Robbie Burns cake too.

I would also like to thank Merle Peterson, who so kindly offered to help although she couldn't dance and did a stalwart job in the kitchen, along with out of town guests, Irene and John Telfer and Anne Scott who also phoned at the 11th hour and offered to cook the haggis. Be assured I'm asking Anne for notes for the future! So thank you to all of the team who helped in so many ways and provided the refreshment for everyone's enjoyment. Each one of you made my job so much easier.

I extend a huge vote of thanks to Heather Hermanson whose shoes I shall never be able to fill, our past class rep for many years, who so ably organised our Burns Social year after year. I hope you are only taking "a year off" and will be back dancing with us in the near future. (This hope has no strings attached, Heather).

Just two more thank yous: one to Catherine Mick for so kindly offering to be my alternate – a huge help when I had to be away in the Fall; and one to my husband Pat for all his loving support.

A once reluctant class rep, **Jane Matthews**.



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

Live Music: This is another reminder that very soon you will have the wonderful opportunity to dance to the live music performed by our two very special guest musicians, Muriel Johnstone and Calum MacKinnon. For further information about Muriel and Calum, please follow the links to their websites at http://www.viscdis.ca/annual_ball.html

Early Birds: Early bird registration rates are available until **February 10**. Registration forms were included in your December "Fling" and are also posted on our website <http://www.viscdis.ca/springball.html>. You may sign up for both the Ball and the Sunday Social and brunch, or only one of these traditional Ball Weekend events. If you have any questions about registration, please contact the Registrar, Maureen Orr at 250-478-5338 VISCDS@yahoo.ca

Non-dancers: Anyone who wishes to come on Saturday evening and listen to the music of Muriel on the piano and Calum on the fiddle, watch the dancing, and enjoy light refreshments, can obtain a ticket by sending a registration form to the Registrar, Maureen Orr.

Dance Programs: Dance instruction sheets for the ball program have been posted on our website http://www.viscdis.ca/annual_ball.html and all except two of the ball dances will be briefed. At our informal Sunday morning social the dances will be briefed and walked through.

Volunteers: If any one has a little time to spare on the Saturday afternoon to help decorate the Edelweiss hall, please contact me. I would also like to know if anyone will have some spring flowers in their garden that they could let us use.

If anyone needs any more information please contact me.

Rosemary Balfour VISCDS@shaw.ca, Ball Weekend Coordinator



Mug Bags

You can use quilted fabric or something sturdy such as corduroy. Cut 2 pieces 8" x 15". Serge or zigzag the edges. Place right sides together (watch for one-way pattern or nap). Form tube by joining long sides - using 1/4" seam and starting at top, stitch down 8 1/4", leave 1" gap, then continue stitching to bottom.

Press seams open.

Turn in top of tube until edges meet at the bottom of tube, making sure the gaps are on the outside of the tube! Baste bottom edges together. Topstitch all around tube right at the top of the gaps, then repeat at the bottom of the gaps. This makes a nice neat casing for a drawstring.

Cut circle of fabric to fit bottom of tube plus 1/4" seam allowance. Sew to tube, right sides together, then turn right side out. Cut another circle of fabric and zigzag to circle of felt, foam, or something firm; this just sits loose in the bag to help give it some shape.

For drawstring, with bag held open, insert cord in seam gap on one side, thread through to other side, cross over other gap and continue through to first gap. Pull out several inches of cord at each end and tie together. Repeat from other side.

Insert mug!

Barbara Walker



Spring Fling - April 24 2010
7:30 p.m. St. Martin-in-the-Fields Hall, \$8

GOOD HEARTED GLASGOW	8X32J	B	KNAPPMAN, COLLINS
A REEL FOR ALICE	5X32R	B	GOLDRING
CULLA BAY	4X32S	I	ANN DIX, BK 41
FOLLOW ME HOME	8X32J	I	MURIEL JOHNSTONE, BK 38
THE BARMKIN	1X88R	B	GOLDRING, 24GRADED & SO
MACDONALD OF THE ISLES	3X32S	I	HAYNES, CARNFORTH 2
THE OLD MAN OF STORR	8X32R	B	GOLDRING, SCD CHILDREN
JENNIFERS JIG	8X32J	I	DREWRY, SILVER CITY BK
INTERMISSION			
THE CHEQUERED COURT	8X32J	I	BROWN, BK 42
MISS JOHNSTON OF ARDROSSAN	5X32R	A	GOLDRING, 14 SOC DNCS
THE GENTLEMAN	8X32S	A	HUXLEY, BK 35
ROARING JELLY	8X32J	B	FOSS, GLENDARROCH SHEET
THE PIPER & THE PENQUIN	1X88R	B	GOLDRING, SCOTIA SUITE
GANG THE SAME GATE	8X32S	A	LEVY, BK 36
THE BLOOMS OF BON ACCORD	4X32R	I	DREWRY, DEESIDE BK
DANCING FOR PLEASURE	3X40S	A	BLAIR, TAC 50 TH ANNIV BK *
EXTRAS:			
THE DREAM CATCHER	1X96S	A	OR, BK 45
MACLEOD'S FANCY	4X32J	A	DREWRY, BK 23

HOSTED BY: TUESDAY AFTERNOON CLASS.

* Instructions included in this Fling; All other dances are in the core book.

Retirement Announcement

In December Monica Roots wrote a letter announcing her retirement from teaching Scottish country dance at the end of 2009. Monica, who has been a skilled and dedicated teacher with VISCDs for 25 years, first began teaching the Basic class in 1984. This led her to take the preliminary certificate in 1985 and full certificate in 1987 to become a fully qualified SCD teacher.

I had the pleasure of being in Monica's Intermediate class from 1997-2001 and greatly benefited from her strong leadership abilities, which included her particular attention to ensuring formations and patterns were taught and danced well. During those four years, I was always impressed with her ability to keep her eye on a good-sized class of 24-32 in order to give additional guidance to "errant" dancers or sets, which was often revealed by participants' laughter! She consistently displayed confidence as a result of being well prepared for class or Social briefings and put time into careful selection of the dances. Monica's commitment was apparent through her continued work to upgrade her dance and teaching skills by attending many workshops throughout the years. Always supported and accompanied by her husband Walter, they both traveled from their home on Galliano Island to Victoria for classes each week – often a challenge in unpredictable winter weather conditions causing havoc as a result of ferry cancellations. Monica also taught SCD on Galiano and Saltspring Island.

On behalf of the Membership, I would like to thank you Monica for your contribution as a Scottish country dance teacher with our Society. We wish you and Walter well in your retirement and look forward to having you continue participating "just as a dancer" now.

Joan McIntosh, President

New feature: "Meet your fellow member"

This is an opportunity to match a name to a face and learn a wee bit more about our fellow dancers. Contemplate your answers to the same questions, as you may be approached for an upcoming month.



This month: Joan Axford

How did you get introduced to SCD and when did you join VISCDS? *I was introduced to SCD at the age of 15 when my highland dance teacher decided to also teach us Scottish country. Then I was a member of the Stave Falls Scottish Dancers and I learned a lot about performance dancing. I joined the VISCDS in 1977 when I married and moved to Victoria. I remember watching the group perform at Folkfest and deciding then and there to join as everyone looked like they were having a good time.*

Which class do you usually attend/teach? *I currently work with the demonstration team. I have taught for the VISCDS since 1980 and have taught at all levels. It is great to work with the members of the demonstration team because they are always willing to work with my choreography and have a lot of fun doing it.*

What appeals to you about SCD? *I enjoy the team work and social part of SCD. I also enjoy the challenge of learning the dances and working to improve my dancing. There is always something to learn.*

What other hobbies do you enjoy? *I enjoy sewing and crafts and watching my son play ice hockey and lacrosse.*

What occupation do you have? *I am a professional accountant and work for School District No. 63 (Saanich)*

What is your ideal vacation? *I love going to Parksville with my family, walking the beach, swimming and reading a good book.*

Dem team news

The dem team has just completed a successful Robert Burns season. On Jan. 23 we danced for the Juan de Fuca 55+ Association Burns Night, after enjoying roast beef, haggis, champit tatties and bashed neeps as the Association's guests. That performance over, we dashed to St. Martin's hall to stage part of our routine for our own dancers at the Social. Our final performance was at the Burns Memorial Tea held at St. Andrews Presbyterian Kirk Hall on Jan. 31. A highlight of the afternoon was the attendance of the great-great-great-great (I'm not quite sure how many greats) grandson of the Bard himself!

We will take a few weeks' break before resuming rehearsals in March. No doubt our creative, encouraging and extremely patient leader, Joan Axford, will have dreamt up challenging new program for us to go over and over and over again until we finally get it.

So why are we so dedicated to dancing the same dances several times a night, week after week? Not for the fame and fortune! though we do feel well-rewarded when an audience responds to our efforts with smiles and appreciation. For me, it's the joy of learning the dance so well that it dances itself, and I become just a vehicle for the marriage of music and movement. It's the teamwork that we build, the support we give one another, the sense that the whole that is the dance is far greater than the sum of us, its individual parts. It's the magic of formations that make the shapes they were meant to make, of reels that end the split second that circles begin, of patterns that flow from one to the next without hesitation, almost without thought.

If exploring the art of Scottish country dancing appeals to you, you might enjoy dancing with the dem team. For more information, contact Joan Axford at jaax@shaw.ca or 250-474-1018.

Pattie Whitehouse



Una and Lesley invite you to an afternoon Tea and Sale, 2374 Cookman Street in Oak Bay at 2pm on Sunday March 7, 2010. Bring your not-worn-any-more clothes to a fun afternoon of swap, bargain and buying new treasures. If you plan to attend, please call Lesley at 250-391-6984 or email lesleybrennand@shaw.ca

COMING EVENTS - LOCAL

All local events held at St. Martin in-the-Fields Hall, 550 Obed 7:30pm unless otherwise noted; please bring your own cup, plate and napkin to the socials.

- Feb 6** RSCDS Victoria Olympic Fever, \$6
- Feb 20** VISCDS Valentine's Social, Program in January Fling
- Mar 12 & 19** Ball practices
- Mar 13** RSCDS Victoria \$15 music by Muriel Johnstone
- Mar 22** Barra MacNeils in concert, 7pm, Alix Goolden Hall, \$37.50 adult, \$27.50 student, sponsored by the Victoria Highland Games Association
- Mar 27-28** VISCDS 34th Annual Ball and Sunday Social, details in this Fling
- Apr 10** RSCDS Victoria, \$12 music by Mary Ross
- Apr 11** Kirkin of the Tartan, St. Aidan's United Church, details tbd
- Apr 24** VISCDS Spring Fling, Program in this Fling
- May 21-23** Youth Weekend West
- May 22-23** Victoria Highland Games, Topaz Park

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

- Feb 13** Comox Valley Valentines Dance, Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith playing. 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 6** Burnaby / Glenayre Dance, Music: Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra, Eastburn Community Centre, 7435 Edmonds St, Burnaby; 8 p.m. \$18
- Mar 13** Port Alberni SCD St Patrick's Dinner/Dance, Royal Canadian Legion #169 (North Port - near Victoria Quay); music by Mary Ross; \$36 each (includes dinner and dancing); \$23 for non-dancers; doors open 5.30 PM
- Mar 14** White Rock Spring Workshop, Sullivan Hall, 6303 152nd Street, Surrey; \$10; Experienced Dancers 9:30 a.m. – noon; Beginner Class 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Mar 20** Oceanside Spring Gala. Qualicum Beach Community Hall, 644 Memorial Ave.
- Jul28-Aug1** Windsor NS ISCDS 2010, www.rscdsnovascotia.ca/ISCDS_2010/ISCDS10

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

DANCING FOR PLEASURE

40 bar strathspey for three couples in a three-couple set

by Patricia Blair

- 1-8 1st and 2nd couples dance the tourbillion. Meanwhile 3rd couple cross over with the right hand and set to each other, then repeat back to place.
- 9-16 1st couple dance a figure 8 around the 2nd and 3rd couples, woman around 3rd couple and man around 2nd couple.
- 17-20 1st couple advance setting to first corners, who set back, turn corner with both hands to finish man between the 3rd couple facing up and woman between the 2nd couple facing down.
- 21-24 1st couple advance setting to second corners, who set back, turn corner with both hands to finish in second place on opposite sides.
- 25-36 All 3 couples dance rights and lefts for three couples.
- 37-40 1st couple cross down between 3rd couple and dance the long way round into place while 3rd couple dance up one place on bars 39 and 40.
- Repeat with new top couple.

Devised by Patricia Blair of Chemainus, British Columbia

Dedicated to the 50th Anniversary of TAC. We all love to dance and enjoy the coming together for such special celebrations.