

Island Fling



September 2011

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.viscnds.ca

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

So much seems to have happened since I wrote my last Presidents report that I hardly know where to start! Happily we have begun our new season with a very successful Ceilidh on August 20th attended by 84 people. So far 18 of the guests have registered for the Open House on September 6th. Our new Spring Basic classes went well and we had eight newcomers attend. We hope some of them will choose to join us this Fall. Attendance at the Spring and Summer Socials was low, however and regrettably Bob Anderson has decided to discontinue the Summer Dancing evenings which we have enjoyed so much over the years. Summer Dancing began twenty-two years ago and was initiated by Bob and Alice Anderson, Ian and Ethel Sutherland and Peter and Irene Pabsdorf.

Classes start on **September 6th** with the **Open House** which will be run by Gordon Robinson at Dance Victoria (7:30 to 9:30 pm). It will be primarily for current and prospective Basic Dancers plus any others who wish to drop in and help the new dancers. Please invite potential new dancers.

Class venues and fees for 2011/2012

After another long search, we have secured new venues for the Advanced and Intermediate classes. Wednesday's advanced class will meet at **All Saints Anglican Church** in View Royal and Thursday's Intermediate class will take place at the **James Bay Athletic Association Hall**. Although not centrally located (no luck there) both are spacious, have excellent wood flooring and have been used for Scottish Country Dance occasions in the past. The Basic class will continue to meet at the Eastern Star Lodge and we have been able to make bookings at St Martin-in-the Fields Church Hall for the Monday night Experienced Social class and the Daytime Social class. This year the Daytime Social is being held on **Wednesday** afternoons from 1:30 – 3:30 pm. The Advanced Class is reverting to the previous format and will not include demonstration team practices this year. The start dates and locations are listed in this newsletter and you can also check the website for the details of all classes.

As we no longer get a government grant and with the increase in rental costs, we are raising our class fees this year to \$110 for the whole season. Members will still have the option of paying their fees for the Fall or Winter terms separately. The annual membership fee of \$30 remains the same. Drop in fees for 2011/2012 will be pre sold in batches of 10 classes for \$60 (with no expiry date). Rather than giving the class rep cash at the door, members who buy the drop in fee cards will have the card punched each time they attend a class. ***If you choose this option be sure to bring your card to class with you each time you attend.***

2011/12 Socials

Faced with increased costs for halls for Socials we have also had to raise the fee for Socials to \$10. The RSCDS, Victoria Branch Executive asked us to consider sharing the responsibility for organizing Socials this year. For 2011/2012 we have agreed that each club will take responsibility for running half of the regular monthly socials for the season. (less work for our class volunteers!) We will also be running a 50/50 draw at each Social with the winner getting half the proceeds of the draw (the other half will go to the club).

We are still searching for a replacement for the Social Convener's position on the Board. In the interim, Wendy Turner has agreed to take on the role of Acting Social Convener until we can fill the Executive position. With far fewer Socials to convene this year, I am hoping that a member will come forward to assume this position. Wendy would then be willing to take on the role of assistant Social Convener. Please contact me if you are interested.

Website

We have added a video gallery and an SCD resources webpage. We hope to add the Core Book to the SCD Resources webpage but in the meantime have provided a link to the Scottish Country Dancing Dictionary which includes a listing of You Tube videos of popular dances as well as access to Crib instructions (a shorter though potentially less accurate version of dance instructions) along with descriptions of dance formations and a Dictionary of Dance terms.

Looking forward to seeing you all again as our busy season resumes.

Dora Dempster, President

Newsletter

Deadline for the next newsletter is September 21, 2011. Please send submissions to aharley@shaw.ca

Membership

The registration form for 2011/12 is available on the website, in the Fling or at the September classes. Please submit your forms promptly to Jenny Laing. Fees are due September 1, 2011.

CHANGE TO DROP-IN FEES

As many of you will remember, it was decided at the AGM to move to a punch card system for drop-in fees. You'll find the opportunity to buy 10 drop-in classes for \$60.00 on the membership form; please be sure to mark Punch Card, and it will come to you through your class rep. Cards do not expire, and more can be purchased as yours run out.

VISCDS Open House

There will an Open House for the Basic class on Sept. 6th at Dance Victoria, studio 1, 2750 Quadra Street, North Entrance, one block north of Hillside, on the west side of Quadra. Any dancers who are available to help welcome prospective new dancers are invited to come along.

VISCDS CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 2011

Dancers should consult with their current teacher before moving to a more advanced class. All dancers are encouraged to dance in other classes below their level as this helps less experienced dancers progress faster and makes the classes more enjoyable.

BASIC CLASS (starts September 6th) **NOTE that the first class will held at Dance Victoria. Starting September 13th the class will be held at the Eastern Star Lodge.**

Tuesdays 7:30 - 9:30 PM Eastern Star Lodge, 3281 Harriet Road

Teacher: Gordon Robinson

In the basic class you will learn the five basic steps of Scottish Country Dancing and the various formations that make up the dances. You will become familiar with the concept 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.

INTERMEDIATE CLASS (starts September 8th)

Thursdays 7:30 - 9:30 PM James Bay Athletic Association Hall, 201 Simcoe Street

Teachers: Pat Blair and Rob & 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 provide dancers with the opportunity to experience a broader range of formations and dances.

ADVANCED CLASS (starts September 7th)

Wednesdays 7:30 - 9:30 PM All Saints Anglican Church, View Royal, 287 Pallisier Avenue

Teachers: Joan Axford and Bob Anderson

For experienced and upper intermediate level (minimum 2 years) dancers who wish to maintain and improve their dancing skills. Dancers will work on all aspects of technique including "tidy up" old formations and introducing more complex formations and transitions.

EXPERIENCED SOCIAL (starts September 12th)

Mondays 7:30 - 9:30 PM St. Martin In-The-Fields Church Hall - 550 Obed Avenue

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 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.

DAYTIME SOCIAL (starts September 7th)

Wednesdays 1:30 - 3:30 PM St. Martin In-The-Fields Church Hall - 550 Obed Avenue

Teachers: Pat Blair

A daytime social class for dancers who have attended a basic class and are familiar with basic formations and dances. Emphasis will be on Core dances, new dances and upcoming social program dances.

Zimbabwe Benefit Dance

September 17th. 7:30 at St Martin In-The-Fields Church Hall, 550 Obed Avenue, Cost \$10

This is a fund raiser for children of Zimbabwe. Donations needing tax receipts should be made to VIDEA, a Victoria charitable organization supporting education.

Program:

Hooper's Jig

The Barmkin

Belle of Bon Accord

Australian Ladies

Luckenbooth Brooch

Minister on the Loch

Trip to Bavaria

The Falls of Rogie

Pelorus Jack

Maxwell's Rant

The Quern

Farewell to Auchterarder

Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan

Deer Friends

Quarries Jig

Bratach Bana

Extras

Bonnie Ina Campbell

Polharrow Burn

Harvest Social
October 15th, 2011
St Martin In-The-Fields Church Hall
7:30 pm; \$10.00

Dance name	Bars type	level	Source
Machine Without Horses	8x32J	B	RSCDS Bk 12
Corn Riggs	8x32R	B	RSCDS Bk 4
New Scotland Strathspey	4x40S	B	E. Elder Edinburgh Univ 50 th Anniversary Collection
Granville Market	8x32J	B	RSCDS Second Graded Book
Mary Erskine	8x32H	I	Core
Castle Douglas	8x32S	I	Goldring Twelve More Social Dances
The Laird of Milton's Daughter	8x32J	I	Core
The Harvest Moon	8x32R	I	J. Drewry Bankhead Book 4
Autumn in Appin	4x32S	A**	Core
Three Creeks Shore	8x32J	I	Core
Bratach Bana	8x32R	I	Core
Staffin Harvest	4x32S	I	Core
Break			
Setons Ceilidh Band	4x64J	I	Core
Gary Strathspey	4x32S	I	Core
Follow me Home	8x32J	I	Core
Extras			
MacDonald of the Isles	3x32S	I	Core
Mairi's Wedding	8x40R	I	Core
** No Briefing			
Hosted by the Wednesday Afternoon Class			

NEW SCOTLAND STRATHSPEY (\$4x40) 4C set E Elder Edinburgh Uni 50th Anniv

- 1- 8 1s & 3s set & cross RH, 1s set to 2s & turn RH, while 3s set to 4s & turn RH
9-16 All dance reel of 4 on sides
17-24 All circle 8H round & back
25-32 All dance Grand Chain
33-40 1s turn RH while 3s cross RH, 1s on opposite sides change places LH with 2s, RH with 3s, LH with 4s & 1s turn RH 1½ times

THE HARVEST MOON (R8x32) 3C (4C set) J Drewry Bankhead Bk 4

- 1- 8 1s cross RH, cast 1 place & dance Fig of 8 (M round 2s & L round 3s) while 2s & 3s set & cross to opp sides
9-16 1s cross giving RH, cast round their 1st corner (pstin) & dance between the 2nd & 3rd cpls, cast to 2nd place in the centre facing up as the 2s & 3s, set, then petronella into centre & set, 2s+3s turn RH to face up ready for:
17-24 2s+1s+3s dance Allemande
25-32 3s+1s+2s set, cross RH & chase ½ way clockwise

CASTLE DOUGLAS (\$8x32) 3C (4C set) R Goldring 12 Soc Dances

- 1- 8 1s dance in & cast 1 place, meet in centre nearer hands joined facing 2L, set to 2L turning to left to face 2M, set turning to face Men's side
9-16 1L dances RH across with 2s while 1M dances LH across with 3s, 1s turn about to face each other, set & turn 2H to face 3M
17-24 1s set to 3M turning to face 3L, set turning to face Ladies side & dance LH/ RH with 2s/3s, 1s turn about to face each other
25-32 1s set & petronella turn on to own sides, 2s+1s+3s all turn partners 2H



St Andrew's Social
November 19, 2011
St Martin in the Fields Church Hall
7:30 pm; \$10.00

Dance name	Bars type	level	source
Good Hearted Glasgow	32-J-3	B	Knapman – Leaflet
The Flowers of Edinburgh	32-R-3	B	Bk 1, No 6
Summer on the Clyde	2-S-4	B	SCD Archives 22
Tribute to the Borders	32-J-3	I	Pkt 87, No 19
The Reel of the Royal Scots	32-R-3	I	Pkt 87, No 15
Sands of Morar	32-S-3	I	Bk 45, No 6
Berwick Johnnie	32-J-3	B	Graded Bk, No 14
Maxwell's Rant	32-R-3	B	Bk 18, No 10
The Belle of Bon Accord	32-S-4	I	Deeside 2
The Highland Fair/ Muirland Willie	32-J-2 32-J-3	B A	Graded Bk, No 6 Bk 21, No 9
Clutha	48-R-4 sq	I	Bk 31, No 2
The Balmoral Strathspey	32-S-4	I	Bk 22, No 3
Break			
St Andrew's Fair	32-J-3	B	5 SCD for '82, No 2
MacDonald of the Isles	32-S-3 set	I	Carnforth Coll 2
The White Cockade	32-R-3	B	Bk 5, No 11
Extras			
The Minister on the Loch	32-S-3 set	I	24 Graded/Social
Mairi's Wedding	40-R-3	I	Cosh – 22+2

Ceilidh 2011, August 20th



VISCDS held their second successful Ceilidh this year on August 20th at the Victoria Dance Studio. As it was open to the public free of charge, and well advertised, many newcomers dropped by to see what it was all about, and hopefully caught the dancing bug. Capably emceed by our own Dora Dempster, many VISCDS members attended to welcome and help novice dancers through the steps, and encourage people to consider Scottish dancing for exercise and fun.

The evening began with some simple dances briefed by Joan Axford, which had most everyone up on the floor. Once the newcomers saw they could indeed join in, follow the instructions and move to the music, it set the pace for the evening, and the floor was full from then on.

Joan's dances were followed by entertainment provided by several young Highland dancers from Kathleen Laurie & Bon Accord Schools of Highland Dance. Also some high stepping, hard stomping Irish dancers from the Victoria School of Irish Dance hit the floor with grace and energy to wow the audience.

Gordon Robinson on violin was joined by Jamie Orr on the small pipes for a wonderful duet of familiar music. Jamie showed off his multi talents during the evening as he blew the small pipes, large Highland pipes and danced up a storm with the Dem team. Good thing he has retired and can now put his hobbies to good use!

Our also multi talented Gordon then briefed the next set of dances, keeping all of us from getting too cooled off with a lively mixture of jigs and reels. There seemed to be a smooth flow to these dances as the more experienced dancers helped to keep the sets moving in sync.

Next up was the exciting new (to me and perhaps others) duo of Gavin Duncan on fiddle and Ian Johnston on guitar, who brought us familiar and toe tapping music. This was followed by our own Dem team showing off their dedication to Scottish dancing with a medley of dances, led by Joan Axford.

As the dem team left the floor, Gavin and Ian moved in to provide the music for the last set of dances briefed by Rob & Sue Langridge. It was fun to dance to live music, and I hope to hear this music again at one of our socials in the future.

Rob asked Gavin to slow the music down a little to help the sets manage "Time to Meet". Gavin said he was used to playing everything top speed at the Ceilidhs in Scotland, but was happy to comply with slowing it a little.

At the finish of this set of dances, Jamie then piped in the Dem team for their final performance of another medley of familiar dances. It's always amazing to watch them move from one formation to another, sometimes with a tempo change, without skipping a beat. Well done Joan and Dem team, it's a joy to watch all of you move so gracefully in sync.

So the evening wrapped up with tea, coffee and refreshments, as people lingered to talk and catch up with friends. Thanks to all who participated with bringing food, welcoming people and helping novice dancers. Another great success!!

Margaret Mercer



The Old Time Dance Society

Dedicated to the Enjoyment of Old Time Music and Dance

Old Time and Sequence Dancing

Old Time & Sequence dancing resumes in Victoria with a basic level workshop for new & returning dancers. The class will be held at **St. Martin In-The-Fields Church Hall - 550 Obed Avenue** on September 18th, from 1pm – 4pm. The cost is \$5.00 per person. Refreshments will be served, and everyone is welcome.

Please contact Willie McDermot for more information:
250-743-5312 or otdance.vic@shaw.ca

Spring Fling Report, April 2011

The Tuesday afternoon class, who hosted the spring Fling on April 16th, 2011, were very pleased with the successful outcome of this dance. It was held at St Luke's Church Hall which is a pleasant, cheery hall with a great dance floor and a large, handy parking lot in a central location.

Many volunteers were on hand to decorate the walls with posters of Springtime Poems kindly loaned for the evening by Linda Foley. Tartans were draped here and there and beautiful bunches of spring flowers were on display. It didn't take long to decorate which was a good thing as dancers arrived eager to get on with the evening. There were five sets of dancers plus extras in attendance.

It was great to see a few dancers from the Basic class enjoying themselves and it is always a delight when Walter and Monica Roots arrive from Galiano Island to take part in our celebrations. Thank you Walter and Monica for your extra efforts. We really appreciate your company.

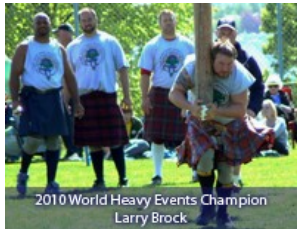
The selection of dances really contributed to the success of this evening. There were many dances for beginners and a few familiar favorites. Three new dances were introduced to the challenge the dancers. They were "Links with St Petersburg", "The Flower of Glasgow" and "The Compleat Gardener". The scripts for these dances had been published, one per month, in the Feb, March and April Fling. There were 18 dances in all. Pat Blair not only briefed the dances but also had to fill in on occasion to complete a set.

This was a bonus night for the Door Prizes. Pat Blair donated two vases of beautiful silk flower arrangements, and Leona Brown provided potted plants and Easter Chocolate Goodie Bags for the lucky winners.

Jackie Storey, Linda Foley, Leona Brown and Wendy Turner arranged the food donations to create a table of elegance. There was a wide variety of treats for all to nibble on.

Trip to Bavaria, the last dance of the last social of this dancing year was given everyone's best effort and was a fine conclusion to this evening.

Sheila Eaglestone



The 2011 Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival

The 2011 Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival were held on this year on May 21 and 22 at Topaz Park. On Saturday, May 21, VISCDs manned a tent to advertise our group and to recruit new members. This year we were located in a central area, with a good view of the stage and other games events. The day started cool and drizzly, but ended up sunny, bringing many Victorians to the park. Many passed by our tent to view the posters and displays and to chat a bit. Twelve people signed an interest sheet and asked to be contacted for the summer ceilidh and fall open house. The Dem Team danced in the morning, the first performance of the day. In the afternoon, Dora heard a great fiddler, Gavin Duncan, on the stage and signed him up to play for the August ceilidh.

Thanks to Rick Deegan, Gordon Hawkins, Jamie Orr and Gordon Robinson for putting the tent up and taking it down and to all those who volunteered and who supplied pictures, posters and decorations.

Margaret Gray



Demonstration Group:

The demonstration group has been busy this spring and summer. We danced at the Highland Games, Heritage Days at Beacon Hill Park, and at Whippletree Junction. All were good opportunities to encourage others to try Scottish country dancing. If you are interested in learning some interesting dances, being a member of a team and getting out in the community, the demonstration group is for you. We are looking for additional members so if you would like to join us, please contact Joan Axford at 250-474-1018. We also have a lot of fun!

Joan Axford



Inter generational Family Scottish Country Dance

Inter generational Family Scottish Country Dance Classes start Sept.17th for six weeks. This is an introductory session for young people ages 8 and up to learn this popular folk dance with an adult of significance (adults may not attend without an accompanying youth!). The classes will be held at Centennial United Church on Saturday mornings from 10:30 - 11:30. The six week session costs \$40 for two "family" members, and \$5 for each additional family member. Pre registration is required. Please contact Kathryn Knowles at (250) 598-3490, or kathrynknowles@shaw.ca for further information and/or to register. A second six week session will be starting immediately following, on Oct 29th.

Kathryn Knowles

Salt Spring Simply Scottish II, Salt Spring Scottish Country Dancers

As you were so good in supporting our Simply Scottish event in 2009, we are pleased to let you know that the follow up is happening in June 2012. All the information can be found from the website. We hope to see some of you at next year's event. The first registrations are already in !!

http://web.me.com/ssiscdanceclub/home/Simply_Scottish_II.html

Salt Spring Simply Scottish II Committee.

Remembering Bobby Brown



You cannot have danced in Toronto without knowing Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent band – they have been part of RSCDS Toronto since 1977. Robert Watt Brown, was born in Dennyloanhead, Scotland, in 1941. He was proud of the name Watt; one of his forebears was James Watt (1736-1819), inventor of the steam engine. Bobby grew up in a family devoted to Scottish music. His mother, Jean Day, was known throughout Scotland as a concert soprano, often performing with Harry Lauder and Will Fyffe. His father was a fiddler, and several uncles were pipers and drummers. Uncle John Day formed one of the early dance bands. As children of a nationally known singer and a “passing fair” violinist, Bobby and his sisters all had music lessons. As a wee boy, Bobby played the mouth organ, and later the piano. He emigrated to Canada in 1957, joining his sisters Christine and Jean. Since he could only afford to buy an accordion, he learned to play it and was self-taught.

Through Jean, he met a trio of Scots musicians playing for Scottish country dancing in Hamilton. Two of these were Stan Hamilton and Bobby Frew, both new immigrants to Canada. Soon Bobby Brown was added as second accordionist. For the next 17 years, the two Bobbys and Stan, with an evolving back-row of bass and drum players, comprised the great band known first as “The Flying Scotsmen.” Despite a fulltime career, Bobby maintained a gruelling schedule as an individual performer and a key member of one of North America’s most respected bands. This band appeared at the New York World’s Fair, Grand Bahamas hotel, and at numerous Scottish country dances, Burns suppers, Highland games, Celtic heritage festivals across Canada and USA, and on national television.

In the early ‘70s, Bobby became a full-time musician. He formed the Cape Breton Symphony Fiddlers and The Scottish Accent band and worked on stage with Scottish and Canadian performers, including: Moira Anderson, Andy Stewart, [Hamish Imlach](#), Robin Brock, Alex Beaton, Peter Glen, John Carmichael, Billy Meek, Rita MacNeil, Edith Butler, Rankins, Ashley MacIsaac. Bobby was heard on radio and appeared on television.

His recording company produced recordings of Scottish Canadian Music by various artists. The Scottish Accent and The Cape Breton Symphony recorded over 20 albums.

His company leased rights to produce Scottish recordings in Canada by Jimmy Shand, Jim MacLeod, and Ron Gonnella. When the Toronto Branch was involved in BBC Radio Scotland’s “[Take the Floor](#)” with Robbie Shepherd, Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent broadcast live from Toronto. Bobby was musician for many candidate and branch classes. Countless newcomers have experienced him as their first musician and a number of teacher candidates will recall that noisy chord when he thought they had been talking too long.

It’s been a great privilege for Toronto-area dancers to have known Bobby and enjoyed his music. He will be sorely missed. Our deepest sympathy to Lisa and to Laird.



- **Keith Bark** [Toronto Association Set&Link, June 2011]

COMING EVENTS - LOCAL Scottish Country Events

2011

Sept 6 VISCDs Open House, Dance Victoria, studio 1, 7:30 pm
Sept 17 Zimbabwe Benefit Dance, St Martin In-The-Fields, 7:30 pm. Cost \$10
Oct 15 Harvest Social, St Martin In-The-Fields, 7:30 pm
Nov 19 St Andrews Social, St Martin In-The-Fields, 7:30 pm
Dec 10 Christmas Social with Mary Ross, St Martin In-The-Fields, 7:30 pm
Dec 31 New Year's Eve Social, Lutheran Church, Cedar Hill Crossroads

2012

Jan 21 Burns Social. Les Passmore Seniors Centre, 286 Hampton Road
Feb TBD Dance Days Ceilidh
Feb 11 Valentine's Tea Dance. St Luke's Anglican Church, 1.30pm
Mar 17 VISCDs Workshop/St Patrick's Social, Henderson Hall, 1163 Yale, Oak Bay
Apr 28 Spring Fling. St Luke's Anglican Church, 3821 Cedar Hill Cross Road

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

Sept 9-11, Fort Worden Evergreen, Annual Weekend Workshop.
Nov 12, Oceanside Scottish Country Dancers, Old Fashioned Gala
Dinner/Dance/Live Music, Qualicum Beach Community Centre
www.oceansidescd.net
June 15-17 Salt Spring Island Scottish Country Dancers, Simply Scottish II 15-17 June , 2012
http://web.me.com/ssiscdanceclub/home/Simply_Scottish_II.html

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