

# Island Fling



**FEBRUARY, 2004**

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

**Web address: [www.viscds.ca](http://www.viscds.ca)**

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

Now that January is over and we are Burn'sed out and had our fill of Haggis for a couple of months we can really concentrate on the New Years Resolutions. The Dem team has been exceptionally busy (see Thelma report) as has your Ball Committee. All is falling into place. I had a chance at public speaking again at a Burn's function and this time I used my notes. Please note in out of town events the "Love to Dance" back to basics workshop in Vancouver Feb 14th. That I know is a really fun event with our own Liz Gray as one of the teachers this year. I have been in touch with the Parks Board and the very successful and fun evenings dancing in the park with alternating Thursdays with the Branch are in place again. Jan and June are lining up the Spring/Summer schedule and making the bookings now as venues are getting harder and harder to obtain.

*James Scott, President*

## EXECUTIVE COLUMN

### Executive Meeting 22nd January

This was a shortened meeting as most of the criteria had been dealt with.

#### Treasurer.

We are looking into moving our investments to another broker that will give us better returns and at no extra cost or risk. Your Executive will confirm this at the next meeting after having looked over the suggestions and discuss it with the treasurer.

#### Publicity

We are, as you already know putting on a large recruiting campaign this year for VISCDS dancers. Ann Whittaker has been very busy and you can see ads in different places around town. We have been in touch with "Go" Magazine and are hoping to have them come and film the various classes at the Spring Workshop as they only work during the day.

#### Youth Coordinator

Frankie Chao (Big Tuba) has offered his services to promote our Society into the younger adult groups he works and plays with. Frankie is a music teacher at Lansdowne.

#### Delayed Classes

Due to the weather last month the Lower Intermediate and Advanced Technique classes were cancelled on the 6th. Lower Intermediate last class will now be March 30th and Advanced Technique April 13th. Venues are the same.

#### Demonstration Team

On Dec. 5th we performed as a special item during the Victorian Christmas Choir Festival at the Conference Centre Theatre. When having performed at such a function, I personally, and I am sure all of us, feel so very proud to be able to be a part of something so special and it is what makes all the commitment and hard work practicing worthwhile.

For those of you who attended the Christmas social, no, that was NOT our new dresses we were wearing for our performance. We keep them for serious engagements.

The Burns weekend was rather hectic. Saturday, 24th we performed at Summergate Lodge at 7:15 p.m. and then at the Peninsula Eastern Star dinner at 8:00 p.m. Sunday we were dancing at

Broadmead Lodge at 11:00 a.m. and the Burns' Tea at St. Andrews Kirk at 2:30 p.m. We certainly appreciated our new dresses, no ironing in between performances and they looked just as fresh at the end of the 4th performance as they did for the 1st one.

After a short break, it will be back to practices again for some Spring engagements coming up. *Thelma Bell for the Demonstration team.*

#### Phone Fan Out

Now I have all the names (approx 146 members) I will get the names out during the next couple of weeks. Thank you for being so patient. Jim

#### Q & A

##### Q. Where are the latest VISCDS Core Book supplements? P.

A. Due to technical difficulties (missing disc) The 2003 supplements will be incorporated into the 2004 supplements and distributed with the September memberships. Core Book Supplements (additions 2002). Apparently some dancers did not get this one. I have given copies to the class reps (God Bless 'em) and they will give you one if you did not receive it.

#### Open House

My sincere thanks to Liz and "more experienced" dancers for hosting an open house for beginners and other interested people on January 5th. The weather was not in our favour but we managed 5 sets. We saw nine new dancers two of whom had danced before and are attending lower intermediate and three or four who started in beginners. One lady attending has taken ill and will start in the fall while another three have said they will attend the "Dancing in the Park" while getting a little fitter and will join Liz in the September start up.

*Jim Scott*

#### Next Executive Meeting

Feb. 26, 2004. Any new business to be in to June Robinson by Feb. 20 2004.

*Jim Scott*

### A Real Guid Nicht!

Ilka Januar, near the time o' ma Burth, the Power's that be – nae tellin' whither I'm upstairs wi' the Lord or doon in the hothoose wi' the De'il – let me gang aroun' the globe tae speer how ma memorie is bein' minded. This time, ma Speerit cam down tae the toun o' Victoria, intae a Kirk Ha' - an Episcolaupian ane at that! Faith, cuid ye see me near the Hoose o' Prayer – it wad mak Holy Willie wet himsel'!

A' the folks were haein' a fair guid nicht wi' a' the jigs and strathspeys and the guffawin' and babblin'. Wi that thrang o' folk a' gaithert thegither, the ruif near cam aff! A' the musick cam frae a wee box that thae kept poking. The musick makars must hae been gie wee dwarfs tae get intae that contraption wi' their instruments! A' but the musick was grand.

Syne it wis time for the haggis tae be brocht forth. Jamie Orr, a braw lad, gi'ed the bags a heeze an, in a' thair finerie, cam fower men, Bob Anderson with a dram or twa, Rob Robinson wi' his sword drawin oot, Alex McAuley the trencher bearer, an Gordon Simpson wha gi'ed ma Address sae well a' the folk war aside thairsels in wunner.

Syne thae a' had plenty tae eat fur the dancers brocht plenty o' fuid. Efterwards, the dancin' stertit up aince again.

Afore the thrang o' folk left, thanks were spake tae a' the helpers in preparin' the Ha'. Ma Speerit was well pleezed wi' the whale evening! R.B.

#### For the Sassenachs:

Ilka, each	musick makars, musicians	heeze, squeeze
speer, enquire	gaithert, gathered	aside thairsels in wunner,
speerit, spirit	ruif, roof	amazed
haein', having	gie, very	fuid, food
guffawin', laughing	syne, then	stertit, started
babblin', chatting	fower, four	whale, whole

#### Take Your Ghillies Down Under

If you get an opportunity to dance with the Cairns Scottish Country Dancers, do it. You have to get yourselves half way around the world first, but they sure are fun! Part of our planning a trip to Australia was to look on the web for Scottish Country Dancers whose schedules coincided with our travel plans. The Cairns group dance in Redlynch, a town about 10 km outside Cairns, and meet Tuesday evenings, which suited us. We were picked up at our Cairns hotel by John and Jean Bell and greeted like old friends. Anne Archdeacon, the instructor helped us through a few different manoeuvres, but the excellent instruction we get in Victoria stood us in good stead. It was a hot, humid summer evening so dancers were in light clothing, shorts, not kilts, with several in bare feet. A young American woman from the music department of the local university, keen to work in this genre, played the fiddle for some of the dances. The dancers were co-operative, appreciative guinea pigs. At about 11:00, Anne and her husband, John, drove us back to our hotel. We were damp with sweat, well exercised and feeling like we'd been with friends.

We were particularly taken with the name of a group from The Rocks district of Sydney, who call themselves Scots on the Rocks, but the timing didn't work. Next time. *Jan Thorsen and Ruth Slavin*

### GENERAL NEWS

#### VISCDs 28TH ANNUAL WORKSHOP & BALL March 26, 27, 28, 2004

Mike Hanna reports that the registrations are coming in at a steady rate. He has been away for a short time but will take all applications in post-marked order when he returns so be sure to get your forms in to him as soon as possible. Don't forget, you can sign up for all or any one of the events this year. If you have any questions please call Janet Rice at 655-0235.

#### BALL RAFFLE TICKETS

Just a reminder regarding the raffle tickets that are currently being distributed by the class reps (we hope!). Please support our Ball Weekend AND help out your class rep by taking a book to sell. We always have a wonderful assortment of prizes for our raffle and hopefully this year will be no exception. We do rely on donations so please have a think and perhaps you will find something you would like to donate.

*Heather and Ian Danks*

## BALL DANCE PRACTICE NIGHTS

Practices for Ball dances will be held at St. Martin in the Fields Church Hall on Obed Ave., on Wednesday nights on March 3, 10 and 17. There will be a \$2.00 per night charge. If you have any questions please call me at 655-0235 or e-mail [gjrjce@shaw.ca](mailto:gjrjce@shaw.ca) or contact Mike Hanna at 479-4901, e-mail [sainfoin@shaw.ca](mailto:sainfoin@shaw.ca). The schedule of dances is as follows:

March 3 John of Bon Accord  
The Hazel Tree  
Triumph  
The Robertson Rant  
Polharrow Burn  
Saint John River  
Mrs. Stewart's Jig  
Montgomerie's Rant

March 17 Machine Without Horses  
Bees of Maggie Knockater  
The Silver Tassie  
The Jubilee Jig  
Double Dose  
Gang the Same Gate  
West's Hornpipe  
The Hazel Tree

March 10 The White Heather Jig  
Double Dose  
Sarona  
The Blooms of Bon Accord  
Mrs. Stewart's Jig  
Gang the Same Gate  
Rest and Be Thankful  
John of Bon Accord

The order of the dances may be changed at the teacher's discretion

*Janet Rice, 2004 Workshop and Ball  
Coordinator*

## QUERN

Quern is a group of 14 Scottish musicians from Linlithgow who visited Victoria two years ago. Quern will be on Vancouver Island area from May 5, 2004 until their final performance at the Union Club on May 13. Visit their website [www.local.co.uk/linlithgow/quern.htm](http://www.local.co.uk/linlithgow/quern.htm) For more information please contact Robert Bell at 477-1980 or Ian Sutherland at 382-0327.

## THE POWER OF HANDS

Newcomers to Scottish country dancing may assume that the key to their full enjoyment of dancing lies in its footwork. Footwork is certainly the most noticeable and impressive element in our dancing, and sets it apart from other forms of social dance. And sometimes it may take many years to master the niceties of a precise pas de basque or a strong yet elegant strathspey step.

However, the true key to giving and receiving pleasure in Scottish country dancing is literally in our hands. Hands, not feet, are the points of contact between dancers, and their use makes dancing social. Fortunately, effective handing can be learned fairly easily. Rather than demanding exceptional physical aptitude, good handing demands empathy with our fellow dancers and attentiveness to their needs.

In a sense, hands and arms actually control the movement of our feet. When we turn our partner, the angle of the arms will set the distance the feet must travel. Also, the steadiness of the arms can make the turn either smoothly circular or choppy elliptical. But careful interaction is needed: in a tight turn, both partners must give the same degree of tension in the arms so that both benefit from their partner's help. Feeling that tension through the hands and returning it is a mutually satisfying way of attending to one another's needs.

Hands also guide and lead. In dancing down the middle and up, dancing in promenade hold, and dancing in allemande hold, we think of one partner leading and the other being led. Once again, though, partners should be equally attentive to one another. The partner who leads must put himself mentally in his partner's place-in formations such as the allemande, the "following" dancer has a longer track to dance, and gentle guidance is needed rather than hauling. Similarly, the dancer who follows the lead should respond to the gentle pressure of the hands.

In turning formations, partners are meeting as equals. The shaking-hands hold is an excellent way of ensuring an even balance between them. Once hands or wrists are twisted, a forcing of one partner by the other replaces that mutual interaction. In two-handed turns, of course, one dancer gives hands with palms upwards and the other with palms downwards, but the gentle, steady upwards pressure from one side

should be met with similar downwards pressure from the other.  
 The same attentiveness to other dancers should occur when hands are given to two or more other dancers. Advancing in lines of three, for example, becomes dynamic and exciting when the centre dancer purposefully gives hands to the other two and all three move in unison. The shape of double triangles is made visible by hands and arms, and attentive corners enable dancing couple to stay back to back. Hands, then, help to create the figures we dance-the feet simply follow the path set by the arms and hands. But more important, the careful and considerate use of hands helps us make dancing more enjoyable for others, and thence for ourselves. *Rosemary Coupe, The White Cockade, Vancouver Branch RSCDS reprinted with Rosemary's kind permission*

## THE VISCDs VALENTINE SOCIAL

**FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> 2004, 8:00 p.m., St. Martin in the Fields Church Hall, Obed.**

Core Book unless noted below

JUBILEE JIG	8 x 32 J	B	
THE WHITE COCKADE	8 x 32 R	B	
THE STAFFIN HARVEST	4 x 32 S	I	
*PINES OF PITLOCHRY	8 x 48 J	A	
THE ROTHESAY RANT	4 x 32 J	A	BIRMINGHAM BK. 8
SUMMER ON THE CLYDE	4 x 32 S	B	
*TRIBUTE TO THE BORDERS	8 x 32 J	A	
BRATACH BANA	8 x 32 R	A	
MISS GIBSON'S STRATHSPEY	8 x 32 S	A	
**JESSIE'S HORNPIPE	8 x 32 R	B	
THE IMMIGRANT LASS	4 x 32 J	I	
MRS. STEWART'S JIG	8 x 32 J	I	
BREAK			
BEA'S DELIGHT	8 x 32 R	I	RSCDS BK 43
CLUTHA	4 x 48 R	B	
MACDONALD OF THE ISLES	3 x 32 S	I	GLENDARROCH SCD SHEETS
*SEATON'S CEILIDH BAND	4 x 64 J	I	
Extras – Time Permitting			
FAREWELL TO AUCHTERADER	128 BAR J	A	
MCLEOD'S FANCY	4 x 32 J	A	

\* No walk through – no talk through

\*\* Briefing only

## COMING EVENTS - LOCAL

- Feb 21 '04 **VISCDS VALENTINES SOCIAL** St. Martin in the Fields Church Hall
- Feb 28 '04 **SONA SOCIAL** 7:30 p.m. at Duncan United Church
- Mar 6 '04 **ANNUAL CEILIDH** sponsored by the Canadian Scottish
- Mar 26/28 '04 **VISCDS BALL WEEKEND** (see details this issue)
- Mar 28 '04 **KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN** - sponsored by the Victoria Joint Scottish Council. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Kirk
- Apr. 3 '04 **TARTAN BALL** Edelweiss Hall, 108 Niagra St. Cocktails at 6:00 p.m. and dancing at 7:00 p.m. Music by Denis Jackson Trio. Cost: \$35 per person. Info from Jerry and Katie Dunn 598-6547 or Irene Feir 652-5773. Note: the TARTAN BALL in 2005 will be held on April 2.
- Apr 22 '04 **VISCDS AGM** 7:30 p.m. at St. Martin in the Fields. Dancing after the AGM.
- Apr 24 '04 **RSCDS BEGINNERS BALL** Cadboro Bay United Church Hall
- May 1 '04 **VISCDS SPRING FLING**
- May 12 '04 **VICTORIA GAELIC CHOIR ANNUAL CONCERT** 7:30 pm, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Tickets available from choir members or at the door.
- July 3 '04 **SCOTTISH FIDDLE ORCHESTRA** trip postponed until July 2005.

## OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

- Feb 7 '04 **COMOX VALLEY VALENTINE DANCE** Music by Alex Jappy.
- Feb 14 '04 **NANOOSE SOCIAL** St. Stephen's Hall, Qualicum Beach at 7:00 p.m. Cost \$5.
- Feb. 14 '04 **LOVE TO DANCE WORKSHOP - Back to Basics Workshop and Beginner's Ball** Vancouver Branch workshop. Teachers: Coordinator and Contact: Wendy Swaine 604-984-6998 [swainew@telus.net](mailto:swainew@telus.net) Peter McClure from Winnipeg and Liz Gray from Victoria and Fran Caruth from Vancouver.
- Feb. 21 '04 **SEATTLE SPRING WORKSHOP AND DANCE** Congregational Church of Mercer Island. Teacher: Sarah Harriman, Music: Lisa Scott and Calum MacKinnon. Contact Irene Paterson 425-438-8977.
- Feb 21 '04 **SALTSPRING WORKSHOP** Fulford Hall. Teacher Liz Gray. Contact Harvey or Laura Moore Phone/fax 250-537-0721 or [winecellar@saltspring.com](mailto:winecellar@saltspring.com)
- Feb 22 '04 **SEATTLE TEACHERS' WORKSHOP** 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Richmond Highland Recreation Centre, 16554 Fremont Ave. N., Shoreline. Contact Irene Paterson 425-438-8977.
- Feb. 26/Mar 2 **RSCDS WINTER SCHOOL PITLOCHRY, SCOTLAND**
- Feb 27 '04 **DELTA BORDERERS SOCIAL**. Contact Ruth Jappy [alexruthjappy@hotmail.com](mailto:alexruthjappy@hotmail.com)
- Feb 28 '04 **SONA SOCIAL** 7:30 p.m. at the Duncan United Church Hall
- Mar 13 '04 **MUSIC WORKSHOP AND DANCE** Albany California. Featuring Muriel Johnstone and Alasdair Frase. Info at [hmackay@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hmackay@sbcglobal.net)
- Mar. 5-7 '04 **WINNIPEG WORKSHOP** Teachers: Ruth Taylor and John Middleton. Music: Ron Krug and Ken Natrass. Contact Christine Wallace 204-489-4595.
- Mar. 20 '04 **DELTA BORDERS SPRING FLING** Gizeh Temple, 3550 Waybourne, Burnaby. Music: Bobby Brown. Contact: David Blakemore 206-524-6685.
- Apr 2-4 '04 **INTERBRANCH WEEKEND WORKSHOP** Camp Cedar Glen, Julian, California. Muriel Johnstone and John Taylor. Details later.
- Apr 3 '04 **NANOOSE SOCIAL** St. Stephen's Hall, Village Way, Qualicum Beach at 7:00 p.m. Dancing followed by a light supper. Cost \$5.
- Apr 10 '04 **SALMON ARM WORKSHOP** Teacher: Rosemary Coupe. Contact: Margaret Zsadanyi [zsadanyi@jetstream.net](mailto:zsadanyi@jetstream.net)

- May 1 '04 WORKSHOP FOR BASIC AND INTERMEDIATE DANCERS AND TEA DANCE** sponsored by the Nanaimo Scottish Country Dancers. Dover Bay High School, Nanaimo. Teachers: Ruth Jappy and Rebecca Blackhall-Peters, Music: Alex Jappy. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Contact David Handley 758-7228.
- May 1 '04 SKAGIT BALL** Mount Vernon. Music Muriel Johnstone and Calum Mackinnon.
- May 1 '04 SAN DIEGO SPRING BALL**
- May 3 '04 NSCD WORKSHOP AND TEA DANCE**
- May 7-9 '04 PEARL HOLMBERG WORKSHOP** hosted by the Vancouver Branch.
- May 14-16 '04 YOUTH WEEKEND WEST** The second annual Youth Weekend West will be hosted by the Western Washington University SCD club in Bellingham. Contact Sophia Yeckley email: [summer\\_solstice@hotmail.com](mailto:summer_solstice@hotmail.com)
- May 16 '04 DAVID McPHAIL MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT AND DINNER** at Eaglecrest Golf Club, 2035 Island Highway East, Qualicum Beach. A 9 hole Texas Scramble starting at 1:00 p.m. Dinner at approx 5:00 p.m. followed by dancing. Non golfers welcome to dinner and dance. Details Jill Atwood [atwood@island.net](mailto:atwood@island.net)
- May 23 '04 HYACK FESTIVAL CEILIDH DANCE** 8:00 p.m. Arenex, Queen's Park New Westminster.
- June 4-6 '04 MONTREAL WORKSHOP** St. Anne de Bellevue. Contact Peter White 514-488-2509 [scdmfl@yahoo.com](mailto:scdmfl@yahoo.com)
- June 19-20 SAN DIEGO SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES** Brengle Terrace Park Vista.
- June 19 '04 PUGET SOUND CROSSROADS DANCE** Friday Harbour. Contact Elinor Vandegrift 425-488-7643 or Bill Paterson 360-378-4992.
- July/Aug '04 RSCDS SUMMER SCHOOL** at St. Andrews, Scotland. Check details on the website [www.rscds.org](http://www.rscds.org)
- July 28-Aug 1 HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL** Dalhousie University. Teachers: Ron Wallace, Elaine Brunken, John Drury, Jane Smarzik, Colleen Putt and Margan Dawson. Music: Keith Smith, Elam Grech, Jim Aulenbach and the Macadains. Contact Lydia Hedge 902-827-2033 [lydiahedge@accesswave.ca](mailto:lydiahedge@accesswave.ca)
- Aug 6-8 '04 RSCDS SUMMER WORKSHOP AND SOCIAL IN ST. JOHN'S NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR** Dancing on the Edge. Contact: Pat Rivers at [patrivers@roadrunner.nf.net](mailto:patrivers@roadrunner.nf.net) or 709-579-4218
- Aug 4-16 '04 DANCING IN SCOTTISH CASTLES AND WALKING SCOTLAND** Contact Ken McFarland 1-800-822-3435.
- Aug 8-15 '04 TAC SUMMER SCHOOL** Waterloo, Ontario. Teachers: Marjorie McLaughlin (San Diego), Fiona Miller (Lethbridge). Contact: Marie Ziccarelli 716-826-2614 [zmrezz@aol.com](mailto:zmrezz@aol.com)
- Sep 4-6 '04 KELOWNA WORKSHOP** Teachers: Elaine Brunken (Dale City VA) and Ruth Jappy (Delta0. Contact: Davina Crowe 250-762-9930 [davinacrowe@shaw.ca](mailto:davinacrowe@shaw.ca)

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWS LETTER, Mar. 1, 2004**

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