

Island Fling



MAY/JUNE, 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	Bill Greig	246-1036
2nd Vice President and Membership	Mary Roberts	385-1082
Secretary	Heather Danks	477-0346
Newsletter Editor	Christine Rushforth	477-0340
Treasurer	Merle Peterson	477-8331
Social Convenor	Ian Danks	477-0346
Teacher Representative	Joan Axford	474-1018

Web address: www.viscds.ca

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As I sat at the front of the AGM attendees I couldn't believe the year had gone by so fast. Your directors put in a lot of hours and a few new twists were added to the Society agenda: the Phone Fan Out committee that worked wonderfully in helping remind 55 (good number) members turn out for the AGM; the Dancing in the Park July and August; the executive column to keep members updated on what is happening within the society; and, the Q&A column that was used occasionally. Thank you to all the general membership who gave their support at the socials etc. Three new directors were appointed (see June's report). Janet Rice has offered to take on Ball Weekend Coordinator again and Anne Scott and Janet have been looking at new venues for Ceilidh and workshops already for next year. I am looking forward to this coming year and your directors thank you in advance for your support.

James Scott, President

EDITOR'S NOTE: As you can see this is a May/June issue of the Island Fling. There will be no July issue and the next Island Fling will be a combined August/September issue. The August/September issue will contain the 2004/2005 membership application forms and the schedule and location of the classes (unchanged from last year). Deadline for this issue is August 1 2004. *Christine Rushforth*

EXECUTIVE COLUMN

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting for the VISCDS was held on April 22 at St. Martins In-the-Fields Church Hall at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was preceded by coffee and dessert starting at 7:00 p.m.

President Jim Scott welcomed 51 voting members of the club. Minutes of the previous year's meeting were read by Secretary June Robinson.

Informative and entertaining reports were given by members of the Executive, including Publicity, submitted by Ann Whittaker, read by Jim Scott, Membership, Mary Roberts, Finance, Merle Peterson, Newsletter, Christine Rushforth, Social Convenor Report, Jan Thorsen, Teacher's report and demonstration team, Joan Axford, VJSC, Katie Dunn, read by Jim Scott, Ball Report, Janet Rice and President's report, Jim Scott.

Other business discussed included volunteers for up-coming events including the Highland Games and the Victoria Day Parade.

The election of officers was conducted by nominating committee member, Ruth Slavin.

The following members were nominated:

1 st Vice President	
(Publicity)	Bill Greig
Secretary	Heather Danks
Social Convenor	Ian Danks
2 nd Vice President	
(Membership)	Mary Roberts
Treasurer	Merle Peterson
Newsletter Editor	Christine Rushforth
President	Jim Scott.

All officers were elected by acclamation. The new members of the executive were introduced. Thank you was extended to retiring executive members Jan Thorsen, June Robinson and Thelma Bell. The executive was pleased to see a good turnout of members this year. Thank you to Anne Scott for organizing the pre-meeting refreshments. The meeting was followed by an hour of dancing led by Monica Roots.

June Robinson

Nominating Committee

Thank you to this years Directors nominating Committee. It is never easy to convince members to take a position. Well done. I wish to thank the outgoing directors for their time in office. Ann Whittaker, Jan Thorsen, and June Robinson and welcome the new members Bill Greig, Ian and Heather Danks

Treasurer

Merle Peterson presented a very in depth report on the finances of the Society.

Insurance

As in everything you buy, this year our Societies insurance is taking a massive leap as some companies do not really want to do the paper work on "small" policies and to retain the coverage we have may cost the society as much as an additional \$450.00. Merle is looking into other companies and the possibility of "blanket" coverage with other like societies.

Website www.viscnds.ca

The web site is fully updated for the next few months. Remember if you can get the newsletter this way let Christine know. It does save your money for other important things.

Jim Scott

Hillside Mall Display

Thank you those who turned out to help showcase our Society and to the Dem Team who put on a fantastic show on Sunday afternoon.

Youth Coordinator

At April's meeting we decided to support the committee for the Youth West Conference but after thinking it over the Directors changed the decision and we will help Frankie Chao with a small subsidy to attend representing VISCDS.

2004/2005 Classes

Classes will begin September 13 with Beginners at McKenzie school and all others will follow on the same nights as this past year.

Open House

We will be conducting an Open House at the Beginners Class on September 13. The Phone Committee will give you a call to remind you.

Highland Games

May 23 at Bullen Park Esquimalt. I have a couple of Volunteers to attend our booth but need a couple more. Please call me.

Jim Scott

May Day Parade

VISCDS will have a contingent in the parade that will walk (ride) with the VJSC contingent that includes all Scottish Cultural Societies. Date May 24. Please contact Jim Scott if you are interested in participating.

RSCDS Membership 2004-05

Membership in the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society for 2004-2005 is now due. VISCDS belongs as a group, but in the past, some people have also chosen to take individual memberships. Unfortunately, at time of printing I have not received notification from Edinburgh of the amount of this year's dues. As soon as I know what they are I will phone last year's applicants. I would also appreciate a phone call

(385-1082) from last year's members and any new members, to verify their intent to take RSCDS membership. The cheque is made payable to Mary Roberts, (3891 Savannah Ave. Victoria B.C. V8X 1T6). I shall buy one bank draft for the total amount in ponds sterling and send it to Edinburgh

Mary Roberts.

ONE MORE TIME...

Join us for Spring Dancing

Where: St Martin's in the Fields

When: May 18, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

How much? \$3.00

THEN...

Dancing in Park

Starts July 8 at 7:00 p.m. and is every Thursday. Cancelled if raining at 4 p.m.

SEPTEMBER REGISTRATION

On your registration form in September you will see two new sections.

1. Do you agree or object to your name going on a membership list that can be distributed to those in the Society who want it?
2. Would you like your Newsletter by Internet web rather than a hard copy?

The advantage of Internet is that there are 18 months of back copies at your fingertips as well as saving the society considerable money.

The dates for next season's socials have been finalized, and the venue confirmed. The dates are:

October 16	Harvest social	February 19	Valentine social
November 13	St. Andrew's social	April 30	Spring Fling
January 22	Burns social		

The venue for all these socials will be the church hall, St. Martin In-The-Fields.

The Christmas social this year is being organized by the Victoria Branch, RSCDS.

See you at Spring Fling, May 1st.

Jan Thorsen, Social Convener, VISCDS

30/30 Anniversary Dance

We would like to say thanks to everyone who attended our 30/30 Anniversary Celebration on April 3, 2004. With all the energetic and enthusiastic folks who turned out, we had a wonderful evening, full of dancing and friendship. Mary Ross did a terrific job on the music, and the teachers did a great job of getting us through the dances. They were Bob Anderson, Sheila McCall, Anita Mathur, Pattie Whitehouse and Una Lennam. And wasn't that a great Strip the Willow!

More thanks to all those who brought food and/or flowers, and who helped out in the kitchen. Especially those who helped out in the kitchen!

Everyone else seemed to enjoy themselves too, maybe even as much as we did? If you did, then mark your calendars now for 2009, and we'll do it again! See you all at the dance!

Rosemary and Walter Balfour and Maureen and Jamie Orr

PS We had one dish left behind – it's a small, pale green bowl with "persona" written on the bottom. If this sounds familiar, please call Maureen at 478 5338.

More Ball Weekend News and Information

Although we had professional catering in place for the entire weekend this year and required fewer volunteers, there are some who should be acknowledged. Michelle Campbell, who brought an armful of daffodils to Edelweiss for the Ceilidh and Workshop Luncheon; our "super soup scoopers" Gordon Simpson and Jim Scott who along with their assistants, Alice Anderson and Vicki Simpson added a little levity to the Saturday lunch break and everyone I commandeered to help clear up from lunch to enable us to carry on for the afternoon sessions. The beautiful heather arrangements on the tables at the banquet on Saturday night which were in place again on Sunday at the brunch, were made by Sally McAuley and drew many compliments on both occasions, they did indeed, add a touch of spring at both functions.

My most sincere thanks to one and all,

Anne Scott

Workshop and Ball Committee

The 2004 Workshop and Ball is successfully behind us and we are now starting on the 2005 planning. Some of our executive has retired from the committee and others have shifted positions. We are looking for some new volunteers to join this dynamic team as we plan for the next two years' events. Yes, we are already thinking about 2006, our 30th Anniversary Workshop and Ball Weekend. The Committee is comprised of several heads of sub-committees who meet approximately six times in preparation for the Weekend events. An organizational meeting will be held in June followed by meetings in October, November, January and February and a wind-up meeting in April. If you are interested or have any questions about joining the group, please talk to any member of the committee, Jim and Anne Scott, Mike and Mary Hanna, Ian and Heather Danks, Una Lennam, Alice Anderson, Thelma Bell or Janet Rice. I can be reached at 655-0235 or e-mail gjrice@shaw.ca.

Janet Rice, Coordinator

JOHN DREWRY: THE DANCE MASTER

Who is John Drewry and how did a Leicestershire biochemist end up as a revered creator of hundreds of Scottish country dances?

After attending John Drewry's workshop I was intrigued to discover he came from my own home county, Leicestershire. So when I discovered an article in The White Cockade, the Vancouver Branch newsletter, I asked permission to reprint it. And here is the article written by the Aberdeen Branch after John received it's highest award, the Society Scroll. *Christine Rushforth*

"It is felt that John Drewry's award of the Society Scroll should be marked in our newsletter because many of our newer members know him only as a creator of dances and not as a member of the Aberdeen Branch, living in Bucksburn.

Though he has strong links with Aberdeen, John is a native of Leicestershire where his family were, and still are, farmers. He has many interests besides dancing, including photography, the growing of house plants, cookery and classical music. Although John would be bashful about accepting such praise, he is an expert in all of these. His home is full of his incredible photography and the most beautiful of plants, especially his orchids. Past members of his classes will remember the excellent carrot cake he would bring along to the final class of each

session. His love and knowledge of Mozart, Bach and other great composers is considerable and he is no mean pianist into the bargain.

Despite all of those interests, John's academic calling was pure chemistry, inspired by the influence of his chemistry teacher from school days. From Leicester Technical College, where he was a laboratory technician, he took the University of London External Examinations and graduated with first class honours.

Work took him to Loughborough, Reading, and eventually Whitehaven in Cumberland. There he joined a local climbing group which ran Wednesday evening meetings with talks, slide shows and English and Scottish country dancing. The latter appealed to John and it was not long before he had devised his very first dance, 'A

Trip to Tobermory', a 24-bar strathspey inspired by a walking holiday with a group to Mull. The dance was popular with others in the group and was taken by the teacher, Elizabeth Johnson, to the Summer School at St. Andrews where it appeared on the dance program and was well liked.

John soon joined the Society and the Carlisle and Borders Branch where Margaret Brander was his teacher. By that time John was producing other dances, and it was Margaret who first suggested that one of these be called 'Bon Accord'. Of course there would eventually be a whole book of 'Bon Accord' dances. The most famous of these is probably 'The Bonnie Lass of Bon Accord', which John devised in response to a Jimmy Blair recording of the tune which was played with no chord. That was why John had the idea of the eight-bar introduction with the acknowledgment of partner and corner. Over the years John has produced several new formations – the Rondel. The Whirligig, Petronella in Tandem – and he has used traditional formations in imaginative ways.

John has stories linked to so many of his dances. 'Bratach Bana' was a popular tune and had just been put to words when he devised the dance one evening when camping alone in Strontian. Walking along the shore and listening to the tune on his portable radio, he devised the dance there and then. 'Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran' was a tune particularly well liked by Nancy Dickson; John devised it with her in mind.

Hugh Foss, a retired civil servant then living near Castle Douglas, was clearly an early source of encouragement to John in creating new dances. Foss published his own dances and hosted Saturday events where he taught these dances in the afternoon and organized a program of dances for the evening when Margaret Rae accompanied. Later John would take Nan Main down to accompany.

Foss also taught at weekends organized by Mary Prentice of Stirling and he recommended John to her when she organized her first overseas Scottish country dancing holiday in the early seventies. The plane fare to Majorca, four night half board and the dancing could be had from Glasgow for little more than 20 pounds. John wrote 'The Faraway Isle' for that first trip which has set a trend for one of the fastest expanding holiday types with destinations now to every corner of the world. For the twenty-fifth of Mary Prentice's trips, now to Cyprus, he devised 'Midnight Oil'.

John came to Aberdeen in 1965 to work with the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Aberdeen. In the same laboratory as him was Isobel Cramb and John's introduction to the local dancing scene followed. Thanks to his numerous overseas trips, to dancers world-wide his name is synonymous with his adopted City of Bon Accord. He is in as much demand as ever and only last year he undertook a grueling six-week tour of the US and Japan. His ten days in New York saw him teach every evening, clocking up hundreds of miles through New York State, New Jersey and Connecticut. To get home he spent three nights out of four airborne.

John does it all because people everywhere admire his dance creations, creations which epitomize the very essence of Scottish country dancing. Those same people ask him to teach and to visit the furthest corners of the globe not only because of his great gift, but also because he is an intensely unassuming man who is at the same time one of the kindest and most considerate people one could ever hope to meet. Well done John of Bon Accord!"

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COMING EVENTS - LOCAL

- 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.
- May 18 '04 **VISCDS SPRING DANCING** 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at St. Martin in the Fields, Obed. Cost: \$3.
- July 3 '04 **SCOTTISH FIDDLE ORCHESTRA** trip postponed until July 2005.
- July 8 - Aug 26 '04 **DANCING IN THE PARK** dancing in Beacon Hill Park, Cameron Band Shell co-sponsored with the Branch. Dancing from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Sept 13 '04 **CLASSES BEGIN THIS WEEK**
- Sept 13 '04 **OPEN HOUSE** at the Beginner's class at McKenzie Elementary School.
- Oct 16 '04 **VISCDS HARVEST SOCIAL**
- Oct 29-30 '04 **RSCDS VICTORIA 31ST ANNUAL WORKSHOP**
- Nov 13 '04 **VISCDS ST. ANDREW'S SOCIAL**
- Jan 22 '05 **VISCDS BURNS SOCIAL**
- Feb 19 '05 **VISCDS VALENTINES SOCIAL**
- Apr 30 '05 **VISCDS SPRING FLING**

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

- 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
- 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
- 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 scdmil@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.
- June 26 '04 **OHIO SCOTTISH GAMES** Lorain County Fairgrounds, Wellington OH. Info: www.ohioscottishgames.com
- July/Aug '04 **RSCDS SUMMER SCHOOL** at St. Andrews, Scotland. Check details on the website www.rscds.org
- July 18-24 '04 **MUSICIANS' COURSES** at St. Andrews, Scotland. Check details on the website www.rscds.org
- July 18 '04 **PIPCHA CELTFEST 2004** sponsored by Celtic Performing Arts Summer School and Concert Series. Shawnigan Lake Private School, Shawnigan Lake, B.C. Information please check out the web page www.celticperformingarts.com
- July 25-31 '04 **SUMMER CAMPS Irish Dance and Celtic Music Camp.** Week-long camp overlooking the Nahatlatch River, dancing, rafting retreat at REO Rafting Resort.
- 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

- July 30-Aug 1 58TH ANNUAL PACIFIC NORTHWEST SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES**
King County Fairgrounds, Enumclaw. For more information call 206-522-2541 or
www.sshga.org
- 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 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
- Aug 12 '04 NANOOSE SCD SUMMER PICNIC** 4:00 p.m. at Rath Trevor park, site #2 (near the
beach). Bring your own supper and utensils.
- Sep 4-6 '04 KELOWNA WORKSHOP** Teachers: Elaine Brunken (Dale City VA) and Ruth Jappy
(Delta). Contact: Davina Crowe 250-762-9930 davinacrowe@shaw.ca
- Sept 10-12 '04 FORT WORDEN 2004 Pearls of the Northwest** RSCDS Seattle
Branch Annual Weekend Workshop. Musicians: Muriel Johnstone, Keith Smith, Ralph
Gordon, Calum MacKinnon. Teachers: Vicki Goodloe (KY), Sara Gratiot (CA), John
Middleton (Ont), Ron Wallace (CA). Information: www.rscds-seattle.org
- Oct 16 '04 WHITE ROCK FIFTY-YEAR CELEBRATION BALL** Information to follow.
- Nov 13 '04 NANOOSE SCD 1st ANNUAL ST. ANDREW'S DINNER AND BALL** details
to follow.
- Aug 2005 AGM AND SUMMER SCHOOL** Shawnigan Lake. No further details as yet.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWS LETTER, Aug 1, 2004

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