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issued by the LONDON BRANCH of THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Editorial Address: 6 King's Grove, S.E.15. Price 4d. (Free to members of the Branch)

No. 100

DECEMBER 1967—JANUARY 1968

EDITORIAL

This is the 100th issue of 'The Reel' -printed blue, like the first one.

To celebrate this occasion Hugh Foss has been good enough to compose a new dance specially for the Branch. We have decided to call it LONDON REEL and have pleasure in including it in this issue.

This issue contains an article by Hugh Foss on how 'The Reel' began. We are indebted to him for initiating this publication, for the interesting articles he has written which have appeared from time to time, and for the joy he has helped to bring to Scottish country dancers in composing new dances.

We also include an article on the history of the London Branch, during the war years by Edward Chaplin and messages from Hugh Thurston who helped the Branch in its early days and who now lives in Canada, from Mrs. R. Keir Ferguson, Robert Ferguson who was secretary of the Branch for many years, and from Alastair Ross, who acted in various capacities in the Branch before his retirement to Scotland and who has been responsible for arranging several holidays in Arran.

We hope you will enjoy delving into the past and would welcome more correspondence which might interest our members, old and young.

Speaking personally as Editor for the past six years, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who has helped me in various ways during my term of office, particularly those who assisted in the distribution of 'The Reel' during the lean period. It is an interest-ing experience but would be greatly helped if members would contribute more correspondence. We cannot include everything but it is a great help when there is a choice of material.

How about a gossip column? Chatty bits of news about people you have met recently who have returned to London from abroad or elsewhere—maybe others would like to know about them.

What hope is there of this being started? It's up to you !!

FLASHBACK I

24th September 1951

Some of our demonstration dancers will be giving displays on the sports arena at the South Bank Exhibition (in the shadow of the Shot Tower) from 3 to 4.30 and from 8.30 to 10 p.m. The latter will end after dark and will be under flood lighting. Peter Quinn will be piping and dancing and Mrs. Hayes at the piano.

If you intend to go along to support the team and see the dancing, be there in good time, as on previous occasions the seating accommodation has been packed out long before the dancing began.



THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY Patron --- H.M. The Queen

OBJECTS :

To preserve and further the practice of traditional Scottish country dances.

To promote and encourage the formation of branches.

To provide, or assist in providing, special education or instruction in the practice of Scottish country dances.

To publish, or cause to be published, descriptions of Scottish country dances, with music and diagrams, in simple form and at a moderate price.

To collect books, manuscripts and illustrations relating to Scottish country dances.

Generally to do such things as are considered by the Society to be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects above stated or any of them.

LONDON BRANCH

Hou. President : James Garvie Hon. Vice-Presidents : Mrs. R. Keir Ferguson Robert S. Ferguson Miss J. Irene Stewart Alastair Ross

Chairman:

P. Alexander Westwood, 2, South Hill Mansions, South Hill Park, N.W.3. Vice-Chairman:

William J Ireland, 138, Burnt Ash Hill, Lee, S.E.12.

Hon. Secretary: Harry G. Draper, 43, Rochester Road, Northwood, Middlesex,

Hon. Treasurer :

Miss Frances Norrie, Flat 6, 346 Battersea Park Road, S.W.11.

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THE FIRST CENTURY

THIS IS THE REEL No. 100, of December 1967. My files help me to recall "The Reel" no. 1, of December 1951.

Between 1945 and 1950 London Branch membership had increased from 80 to 450, but many who joined drifted away. One member of the Committee held the view that the current craze for Scottish Country Dancing would soon pass and Branch membership would then be down again to the hard core of 100 or so, as it had been before the War. He had pleasant memories of the good old days.

I had other views and in January 1951, as Chairman of the Committee, I made a number of suggestions. The document began: "1. The London Branch is growing and should be helped to grow still more'.

Then followed suggestions for standing orders for the Committee and for the formation of Sub-Committees, including one for Propaganda. Among "Other Suggestions" there was:

"28. Branch Magazine ... Branch notices ... could be made more attractive by being issued, free to all Members of the Branch, in the form of a magazine containing also other items that would interest or amuse Members of the Branch, attract new Members or prevent existing Members from resigning.

"29. If such a magazine proved successful this branch could approach other Branches to see if they would combine in producing a joint magazine. The model would be a Parish Magazine, whose outside pages deal with parochial matters and whose inside pages, shared with many other parish magazines, are of more general interest. . . .

"34. For matter intended to instruct and/ or entertain the magazine would probably have to rely on there being three or four Members of the Branch with the requiried ambition, ability and leisure. There may not be any such, but it would be worth risking something to find out."

My other suggestions were made the basis of standing orders, but, for producing a magazine, no-one on the Committee could think of even one Member with the required ambition, ability and leisure.

Then, in May 1951, a new Committee was elected and I circulated to its members a draft of the proposed standing orders and renewed my suggestion for a magazine.

This time the response was immediate. Tony Lindsell-Stewart, a publicity man by profession, had been persuaded to stand for the Committee and, together with a number of fresh aspirants to office, had been elected. He came full of ideas, one of which was to start a magazine. Expecting difficulty in selling the idea, he was overjoyed to find that the Chairman had anticipated him.

Tony edited a broadsheet called the Gidea Park 'Ratepayers' News (I never could understand his mania for inverted commas). This attracted readers, 1600 of them, with articles of general interest as well as information that every 'ratepayer' should know.

At the first meeting of the Propaganda Sub-Committee we decided to take the format of The Gidea Park 'Ratepayers' News as a model for The Reel (but not to call it 'The Reel'). In our first editorial we said, "Much of our space will be taken up with official items about the Branch's General Meetings, dances, classes, demonstrations and so forth, but we hope there will be some left over for correspondence, articles, fiction, verse, or anything else about Scottish Country Dancing that will interest you, our readers.

"To save ourselves trouble we will not say who we are except to make it clear that 'we' in this column will mean we the editor(s), and not the Committee, the Branch, the Society, the Scots, or every thinking man....

"And on you, our readers, we rely for supplying all the correspondence, articles, fiction, verse and so forth that will make 'The Reel' what it will be. So write something and send it to us.... We may publish it—even if we (and the Committee, and the Branch, and the Society, and the Scots) disagree with you....

"So seize this opportunity to show that you can write as well as dance."

Ah well! There was no harm in asking.

Tony and I did not always agree on policy. He aimed only at immediate impact on low-to-medium brows in London. I wanted also to provide something which higher brows, wherever they lived, would file for reference. But Tony's forcibly expressed ideas were always worth considering and he was always prepared to change his mind when presented with a convincing argument.

At that time Scottish Country Dancing had no free press. Many words were spoken, but none written. The S.C.D.S. Bulletin gave only the official view and rarely dealt with research. 'The Reel' was free to be controversial and, in the way of research, was lucky to receive from Hugh Thurston a number of articles whose contents were later included in his book, *Scotland's Dances*.

Branch membership went up to 800 within a year and soon steadied itself at round about 1000. Of course, 'The Reel' was never as good as we hoped, but while there was hope there was life.

I still wonder whether anything can be made of the parish-magazine idea, combining pages of local announcements, different for each participating Branch, with pages of more general interest, including a few items worthy of filing for the use of historians writing for 'The Reel' no. 1000. There is no harm in asking.

H. F.

THE REEL-100th ISSUE

Congratulations to 'The Reel' on its 100th issue! Now in its sixteenth year, it has provided members of the London Branch with details of its own and neighbouring functions, besides articles on different aspects of Scottish country dancing. It has also offered a correspondence column in which anyone can give expression to his/her views.

It is interesting to recall how 'The Reel' came into being. The classes subcommittee had been endeavouring to increase the numbers attending the London Branch classes but, although making good progress, they felt that the lack of a medium of circulating information hampered their efforts. They therefore suggested to the main committee that a leaflet be produced giving days, times and places, etc., of classes. This leaflet could also include details of forthcoming events such as dances, and so on.

Hugh Foss, who was chairman at that time, suggested that while we were at it might we not produce a proper bulletin, giving much more information including editorial and articles on different matters of interest. It was agreed that this would be highly desirable but it would involve a lot more work and the question was who was going to do it.

Hugh then said that if the committee were agreeable he would be willing to undertake the responsibility. His offer was promptly accepted. Then the question arose as to what it was to be called. Ronald Ryall suggested 'The Reel' and 'The Reel' was born!

It was indeed fortunate for the London Branch that on Hugh Foss' shoulders—with so much grey matter above—was laid the task of bringing 'The Reel' into being. It must have entailed considerable time, energy and ability. All these he brought into play.

I have heard many people make favourable references to articles which appeared in earlier issues, "Mr. Light and Mr. Dark", and particularly "The Hielan' Toe Club".

Since these early days it has been found desirable to ease the burden on the editor by having a colleague take over the business of circulation. With a circulation of 1500 copies per issue and with six issues a year, over the years the task is no light one—dealing with advertisers and printers, checking all proofs, getting material in by the deadline date. Pity the poor editors!

To them, however, our thanks are due, and we give them our best wishes for the second 100 issues.

I.A.R.

It must, of course, be a coincidence, but it is a pleasant one, that 'The Reel' completes its first hundred issues in Canada's centennial year. So here are congratulations from the far west to the London Branch, and to editors past and present. My set (complete, in spite of the vagaries of the transatlantic post) are a miniature encyclopaedia, full of such things as invaluable record reviews; the thought-provoking "Light and Dark" dialogues; pieces of research of the most varied kind; and book reviews written by people who know their subject (newspapers and glossy magazines never seem to have reviewers who can really deal with books on Scottish dance).

Imitation is, so they say, the sincerest form of flattery, and since "The Reel' No. 1 appeared, other Scottish dance magazines have started (and some, alas, have finished). Our own magazine, 'The Thistle', is by no means a copy of 'The Reel', but it was certainly inspired by it, and it is probably true to say that had there been no 'Reel', there would be no 'Thistle'.

We all look forward to the next hundred issues.

FLASHBACK II

OUR BALL

The second Annual Ball of the London Branch held in the Hyde Park Hotel on the evening of 4th May, 1951 brought together 240 members and friends. As on no doubt, pour encourager les autres. Considerable thought had obviously been Considerable thought had obviously been given to the composition of the pro-gramme, resulting in a judicious mixture of old and new dances—well-known favourites like Petronella, Circassian Circle, Hamilton House and the Dashing White Sergeant were intermingled with less common dances such as Lord Rosslyn's Fancy, The Camp of Pleasure and Lamb Skinnet . . .

The Ball sub-committee followed last year's precedent and incorporated in the programme a short description of each of the less well-known dances in order to assist the non-cognoscenti in weaving their way through the intricacies. (Tell it not in Gath, but it was not only "beginners" who were glad to have a 'book of the words' to refer to! The writer of these notes knows of at least two pre-Ball "parties" that went on to the wee sma' 'oors practising madly at Haughs o' Cromdale, the Machine Without Horses, General Stuart's Reel, etc., and it was not only beginners who were practising!). . . .

The number of men wearing the kilt was probably greater than last year, and gave added colour to an already animated scene. . . Where, save at a Scottish country dance, could one find such joie de vivre, such enthusiasm, elan, such vigour of performance that someone actually went through the floor?

The Ball committee feel that, no matter what success may attend their efforts in the future, they cannot hope to approach more nearly than this to "bringing the house down"!...

The above is an extract from Reel no. 1-without comment.

THE LONDON BRANCH IN WARTIME

I have kept a record of my daily doings for nearly 50 years, and it has been suggested that readers of 'The Reel' might be interested in the history of the London Branch of the Society immediately before and during the war. So I have dug out my old diaries.

In the following paragraphs I have In the following paragraphs I have outlined the ups and downs of the Society. There is, of course, a more human side to this story, for example we may have felt tired after dancing reels on the 10th May 1941, but we got little sleep that night, for this was the occasion when Hitler threw the might of the German Air Force against London of the German Air Force against London as their final attack before they prepared for the Russian offensive. At the dances in the ballroom at the Rembrandt Hotel we were generally panting for air, as the room had been prepared as a refuge in case of a gas attack and all ventilation had been blocked up.

Until the spring of 1944 the music was generally provided by Miss Kaye, a little old lady. Although she was over 70 she played the piano so gaily, if occasionally rather too fast, that it was a joy to dance, and all the time she looked as if she was enjoying the dances as much as we were.

1938----

In addition to classes, there were occasional Saturday night dances at the Queensbury Hall, at the junction of Harrington Road and Queen's Gate.

1030____

In January 1939 Miss Milligan gave lessons, on three evenings, on the dances recently published in Book 12.

War began at the beginning of September 1939. On the 21st October the Society had an afternoon class/dance at the Rembrandt Hotel, South Kensington, and these continued at fortnightly intervals until the following April. Numbers at first were small, but later on there were 40/50 people present.

The "class" side was soon dropped and they became straightforward dances. There were no dances during the autumn blitz, and dancing started again in March 1941, with a dance at the Basil Street Hotel, followed by four fort-nightly dances in the basement of a café in Tothill Street. In October 1941 dances started again at fortnightly inter-vals at Exter Lane and continued there vals, at Fetter Lane, and continued there, with the usual summer break, until the end of 1942.

On the 23rd January 1943 we started dancing at the Y.W.C.A. in Great Russell Street. It had apparently originally been planned to have both Scottish and ballroom dances but Miss Kaye could only play Scottish dance music and so there was no ballroom dancing. The dances were held here from October to April of each year until the 14th April 1945. There were two exceptions to this statement. On the 10th and 24th March 1945 the dances were held in the Duke of Buccleuch's house at Hyde Park Corner which was then being used as a hostel for Scottish troops.

Throughout the war all dances were held on Saturday afternoons. When the war ended in May 1945 there were many people, like myself, who were very grateful to the Society which, in spite of wartime difficulties, had provided us with facilities to continue Scottish country dancing, to meet many friends and for a short while to forget the horrors of war.

E.C.

THE REEL, NO. 100

In congratulating the successive hard-working editorial staff of 100 issues of 'The Reel', it is interesting to look back at No. 1, and others. Hugh Foss, the originator of the idea of 'The Reel', was Branch President and treated this appoint-ment as a very active one. Many faces whose owners are no longer seen were on the committee, which began about that time to regard itself as working and that time to regard itself as working and not merely decision-making. This it still does, an attitude which made my period as Branch Secretary tolerable and even enjoyable (Reels no. 4 to no. 48). Other landmarks recorded in 'The Reel' were the first visits to London, to play for dancing, of the late Adam Rennie (Reel no. 11), and Jimmy Shand (Reel no. 8), and probably the first jointly organized Anglo-Scottish dance at Cecil Sharp Anglo-Scottish dance at Cecil Sharp House (Reel no. 6). All three events were phenomenally successful, with many dancers—hundreds in Jimmy Shand's case —turned away at the doors. Do we lack some of this bubbling enthusiasm now?

Negative landmarks, so to speak, when we lost the services of well-known and popular officers, are too numerous to mention all. But the commonest name in earlier 'Reels' and not seen since no. 19-and one of the best-known facesmust surely be Ronnie Ryall, who ruled the members' dances with a rod of iron and conspicuous success. His influence lingers on in the present Committee's insistence upon keeping tickets at a very low price. And at Reel no. 27 the name of Isobel Maclennan disappears upon her retirement to the Black Isle; Mac probably did more in those days than any other single teacher to raise the standards of teaching and dancing.

But the most memorable landmark of all is Reel no. 1 itself-its very existence, all two pages of it, still the only Branch magazine of its kind anywhere. Long may it continue, with the aid of the outside contributions which make it a magazine and no mere catalogue.

R.S.F.

The 100th number of 'The Reel' reminds some older members of pre-Reel days, of the war, when a few of us kept the Branch going. I can think of at least once at the Y.W.C.A. when only enough dancers for one eightsome attended. Back at Fetter Lane, catering was a difficulty, overcome by pooling of rations with a case of sandwiches brought from a mystery source by Mr. Garvie. Now we look forward to the 200th issue -good luck to it.

MSF.

GUEST DANCE

Porchester Hall, W.2

McBain's Band

FRIDAY, 5th JANUARY, 1968

7 to 11.30 p.m.

1.	Lamb Skinnet	14-12
2.	Mrs. Macpherson of	1
	Inveran	Drewry
3.	Lady Auckland's Reel	18-2
4.	Lord Rosslyn's Fancy	15-6
5.	Mairi's Wedding	. Cosh
6.	She's Ower Young to Marry	7
	Yet	14-8
7.	Eightsome Reel	2-12
8.	Waverley	15-12
9.	Strathglass House	13-9
10.	Montgomeries' Rant	10-1
11.	Muirland Willie	21-9
12.	Foursome Reel & Reel of	
	Tulloch	
		& 12
13.		Ē
	Edinburgh	
14.	Hooper's Jig	. 99 M
15.	Dalkeith Strathspey	. 9-6
16.	Buchan Eightsome Reel	. 21- 8
17.	Deuks Dang ower my	
	Daddie	. 19- 3
18.	New Park Strathspey	19-11
19.	Miss Jessie Dalrymple's Ree	1 20-9
20.	White Heather Jig	. Cosh

Tickets 10s. 0d. (Buffet available) from : Mr. H. G. Draper, 43, Rochester Road, Please send Northwood. Middlesex. stamped addressed envelope,

The next Guest Dance - Porchester Hall, 29th March, 1968 with McBain's Band.

MEMBERS' DANCES

The Royal Scottish Corporation Hall

Fetter Lane, E.C.4

28th December, 1967. McBain's Band (see Reel No. 99)

20th January, 1968

Brian Hamilton Scottish Country Dance Band

R.S.C.D.S.

			Bo	ok No.
1.	Minard Castle			22 - 8
2.	Grants Reel			14 - 2
3.	Holyrood House			22 - 4
4.	The Carl Cam'	Ower	the	
	Croft			99 M
5.	The Earl of Home			12 - 11
6.	Duff's House			GB16
7.	Captain McBride's			99 M
8.	Bridge of Nairn			13-11
9.	Little Ross Light]	Drewry
10.	Meg Merrilees			1-5
11.	Robertson's Rant			
12.	Frog in the Middle			99 M
13.	The Highlandman	Kissed	his	
	Mother			BB 9
14.	Lord Hume's Reel			16 - 11
15.	Teviot Bridge			5-1
16.	The Red House			7-2
17.	Garry Strathspey			Cosh
18.	Ladies' Fancy			13-12
	2			

16th February, 1968

Stan Watts and his Band

1.	Kiss Under the Stairs		99 M
2.	Quiet and Snug		20-10
3.			
4.			101
5.			
			22 - 11
6.	Hamilton Rant		22 - 2
7.			99 M
8.	Lady Auckland's Reel		18-2
9.	The Duran Ranger		13 - 1
10.	Miss Nancy Frowns		14- 5
11.			
	Strathspey		18-4
12.	Admiral Nelson		19-8
13.	Miss Welsh's Reel		GB13
14.	Foursome Reel and Re	el c	of
	Tulloch		
15.	Argyll's Bowling Green		15 - 10
16.	An' Thou Wert My o	nly	
	Dear		21 - 4
17.	The Lea Rig		21- 5
18.	Reel of the 51st Division		13 - 10

Admittance to these dances is restricted to members of the London Branch and subscribing readers of "The Reel".

Remittances, with a stamped, addressed enve-lope, should be sent to Ian G. Anderson, 41 Banstead Road South, Sutton, Surrey.

Only postal applications for one dance at a time will be accepted, and then not more than two weeks ahead of the date of the dance. *Telephone enquiries will not be accepted*. Cheques should be made payable to The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (London Branch). Tickets 6/-, including refreshments. Time: 7 to 10.30 p.m. Place: The Royal Scottish Corporation Hall. Fleur-de-Lis Court, Fetter Lane, E.C.4.

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ANNUAL BALL

Friday, 21st June, 1968

HYDE PARK HOTEL

Dancing to: McBain's Band

M.C.: John Armstrong

Further details will appear in the next issue.

EASTER WEEK-END

A week-end School of Scottish Country Dancing will be held at Lodge Hill, Pulborough, Sussex, from Thursday (before Supper) to Easter Monday (after lunch), 11th to 15th April, 1968.

The fee, which should NOT be sent until requested, will be £9.15.0 inclusive of tuition and full board.

In order to ensure comfortable dancing we are again limiting the number to 40 people.

Applications should be sent to:

IAN G. ANDERSON.

41. Banstead Road South,

Sutton, Surrey.

enclosing a stamped addressed envelope and giving details of the class at present attended.

CANFORD SUMER SCHOOL 1967

Sunday, 13th August saw the begin-ning of yet another week of Scottish Country Dancing, held annually at this Boys' Public School in Dorset. Although primarily a "School of Music", the "unclassical vamping" on the piano (if Vera Langstone and Angela Stafford will forgive their excellent playing being thus descified!) and the linguing being thus classified!), and the lively cavorting by the class to the strains thereof, were tolerated with mild amusement by the serious musicians on the other courses.

The weather was not very kind, but perhaps this was as well, for Scottish Dancing is warm work. In the absence of John Armstrong, to whom we wish a speedy recovery from illness, the class were put through their paces this year by Robert and Alison Ferguson, who somehow managed to cope with a lively young family, and an even livelier-though not so young-class, with admir-able ease and ability. Despite the rain, many of those who could still stagger after the two morning sessions took themselves into the nearby town of Wim-barne Minster where the ancient Minster themselves into the nearby town of Wim-borne Minster, where the ancient Minster itself, with its historic chained library, proved an interesting spectacle. To the more practical-minded, the local teashop provided unsurpassed cream teas and delicacies never designed to flatter the figure, all served daintily on rose-pat-terned china—a welcome luxury after the austere but utilitarian plastic crockery of the School. of the School.

An unexpected entertainment was provided by the appearance of three boys from Ireland, who at first showed great who later proved to be expert Irish musicians. By the end of the week, some of the class had learned many charming Irish tunes and steps, whilst we can be happy in the knowledge that some Scottish steps will by now have found their way back to Ireland.

Throughout the week, each different course was called upon to "perform", and ours was no exception. The great day-the last, in fact-arrived, and the whole class, in varying groups, gave a grand display of Scottish Country and Highland dancing. When they were suf-ficiently impressed, the audience were invited to join in some of the simpler dances, which they did with audible enjoyment, and no little astonishment at finding that they, too, could dance.

The last night of the week was celebrated with a party, at which the dancers became progressively merrier, and the bottles correspondingly emptier, but when the last scraps of the delicious refreshments had been eaten, and the most stoic of feet would no longer respond to the music, the party broke up, and so ended a most enjoyable course for another year.

LONDON HIGHLAND CLUB

Dances at the Royal Scottish Corporation Hall, Fetter Lane, E.C.4. at 7.30 on the following dates :---

1st, 15th and 29th December

6th, 12th and 26th (Burns' Night) January

also 3rd February.

Flora Argent's band and piper

ALL WELCOME

The Editor, "The Reel". Dear Sir.

Dear Sir, Following criticisms of last year's Fetter Lane programmes, members were invited to submit alternatives. The response was remarkably poor, only six replies being received. Three persons submitted single programmes, one a pair, one a trio and the sixth a full year's group of eight programmes. Without belittling the efforts of the first five, it must be said that a single programme is easy and a pair is not difficult, but a set of eight with few, if any repetitions, is an entirely different matter.

As far as possible, I try to include several popular dances in each programme with particular emphasis on a few easy ones for the less experienced dancers. Dances, with the possible exception of the eightsome and foursome, are not normally repeated during the session and a given figure such as a reel of three, must not appear in the succeeding two dances. Furthermore, all dances must come from readily accessible sources, with the vast majority from Society publications.

Our contributors contravened at least one of Our contributors contravened at least one of these rules. The group of three programmes needs little comment; these did not contain a single "pop" dance and the inclusion of the "Winding Road", "Muirland Willie" and "Schiehallion" in one programme is one of the best ways of reducing Fetter Lane attendances below the economic level. Perhaps our friend had his tongue in his check!

One member worked hard in producing a "colourful" programme with titles such as "Iron Gray", "Red House" and "Black Ness", Would that more members appreciated such ingenuity! A few years ago, I produced a St. Valentine's Day programme—"Kiss Quick my Mither's Coming", "Ladies Fancy" and so on—it wasn't even noticed!

even noticed! The cardinal sin which applied to nearly all the programmes was that of repetition of figures. In one programme, the first two dances contained reels of three, the second, third, seventh and eighth included rights and lefts, three dances in a row had circles, another pair down the middle and back again and five dances in a row had a casting movement in the first eight bars! In another one, the last two dances both contained six hands round, allemand and rights and lefts (which incidentally was also in the prepenultimate dance besides ending dances 2, 4 and 5 with rights and lefts! Finishing a programme with "Admiral Nelson" is asking for trouble! Despite these remarks a sincere thank you to

Despite these remarks, a sincere thank you to all six stalwarts for their efforts. Unfortunately they arrived after this year's programmes had been completed, but as I am sure their authors will now realise, considerable modifications would have been necessary if they were to stand up to Fetter Lane without criticism.

Yours faithfully.

Compiler of the Programmes.

81 Ondine Road, S.E.15.

Dear Sir,

Dear Sir, In spite of the apparent lack of enthusiasm at the A.G.M. re the dance programmes and constant repetition of certain dances, I must say the pro-grammes printed in "The Reel" since September 16th (the first dance of this session) show a marked improvement and a good choice of new and/or little known "odles". I think it is a challenge and quite exciting to do these new dances, and I for one am glad to see them on the programmes. I hope the response will be a very marked improvement in the attendance at the dances held by the R.S.C.D.S. Good luck to the new (?) programme arranger and may he (or she) continue to give us programmes of variety and excitement. and excitement.

I remain,

yours sincerely,

Nancy Owen.

THE WHOLE SCOTTISH WORLD MEETS at the LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST FESTIVAL OF MUSIC & DANCING 1968

Free Syllabus of

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ENGAGEMENTS DIARY

DECEMBER

7th Thursday

CHELSEA REEL BALL. Dance to Reginald Flower's Orchestra at the Chelsea Town Hall from 8.30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Evening dress. Tickets 2 gns., from Miss Mary Bramwell, 228 Lauderdale Man-sions, Lauderdale Road, W.9. Tel: 01-286 6923.

9th Saturday

THE HAMPSTEAD & DISTRICT SCOTS' ASSO-CIATION Annual Ball at Victoria Halls, Bloomsbury Square, W.C.1, from 7.15 to 11.30 p.m. McBain's Band. Pipe Major J. Caution. M.C.: Mike Hawkins. Particulars from A. D. Jones, 12 Norwich Walk, Burnt Oak, Edgware, Middx.

30th Saturday

THE LUCY CLARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB. Dance with McBain's Band, 8 p.m., in the Scout Hut, Amersham-on-the-Hill. Tickets, including refreshments, 12/6d., from Miss Priscilla Francis, Botley House, Chesham. Tel: 2070, or Miss Nora Chisholm, Chesham 2636.

The ENGAGEMENTS DIARY provides Hon. Secretaries of Scottish Country Dance Organisa-tions with means of informing their members of their own and other fixtures with no trouble and little expense. The cost is 2s. 6d. per insertion. We would like to make it as complete as poss-ible and hope that Hon. Secretaries will send details of their arrangements, preferably set out in the manner shown above, to Miss M. Jamieson, 12 Howitt Close, Howitt Road, N.W.3.

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Postage 4d. for a booklet, 6d. for other publications. Apply to Alex. Westwood, 2 South Hill Mansions, South Hill Park N.W.3, and mark your envelope " Bookstall " in the top left hand corner. Cheques or P.O.s payable to R.S.C.D.S. (London Branch).

Won't You Join the Dance? by Jean C. Milligan, 7/6 (paper covers). Postage 74d. A manual of Scottish country dancing by the co-founder of the Society.

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- Bonnie Anne, Over the Dipertury Crooki Don, Brig o'Doon, and MacLaine of Lochbuie. No music is printed, but easily-found tunes are suggested, many of which are in Kerr's Caledonia Collection.
- 4. MacLeod of Dunvegan, Laird o' Dochert's Reel, Lamont of Iveryne.
- 5. Braes of Balquhidder, St. Andrew's Cross, The Black Mill, St Andrew's Nicht.
- Because He was a Bonnie Lad, The Royal Salute, Kelvingrove.
- 7. MacLeou Lochanside. MacLeod of Harris, Rothesay at the Fair,
- 8 Tir Nan Og., From Scotia's shores.
- 9. Lerwick Reel, Miss Fiona MacRae, Silver Tassie. The Border Dance Book of Scottish country dances,

with music, S/-, A collection of twenty-three dances (including La Russe), most of which are not published elsewhere.

- Six Scottlsh Country Dances, by James B. Cosh, with music and instructions, 3/-. (Includes Mairi's Wedding, Betty's Wedding, Bonnie Glenshee, etc.).
- Fifteen Scottlsh Country Dances, by James B. Cosh. Pocket edition, no music, 2/6.
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Members who change their address should notify the Membership Secretary (not the Editor) immediately to avoid copies of the Reel going astray.

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> Saturday, 27th January McBain's Band

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Admission (including refreshments) 5s. 6d. members; 6s. non-members.

Enquiries: Miss H. Jones. Tel: 01-405 4023

Advance Notice

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RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1967-68 were due on 1st July, 1967 and should be sent to Mr. H. E. Shank, 541 Upper Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, Romford, Essex. Receipts will not be issued unless specially requested.

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- BARNES SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP —All Saints Church Hall, East Sheen Avenue, S.W.14. Thursday evenings 8-10 p.m. September to May. Visitors welcome. Details from Hon. Sec., Miss H. M. Moss, 340 Upper Richmond Road West, East Sheen, S.W.14. Tel: 01-876 2997.

- BIRMINGHAM BRANCH R.S.C.D.S.—Chairman: P. J. Smith, 34, Wroxall Road, Solihull, Warks, Tel.: SOL. 4118. Hon. Secretary, J. S. Carter, 21 Meadow Road, Wythall, Worcs. (Wythall 2314).
- BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH R.S.C.D.S.—Associated members and newcomers meet every Thursday, 7.30-10 p.m. Full members meet every Friday, 7.30-10.30 p.m. All meetings Hon. Sec.: Miss S. D. Stacey, 59, Sandbanks Road, Parkstone, Dorset.
- BOSTALL PARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANC-ING GROUP (Affil. to R.S.C.D.S.)—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. J. Reid, 342 Gipsy Road, Welling, Kent. Group meets Thursdays 8-10.30 p.m. in The Annexe (adjacent St. Thomas More's R.C. Church), Long Lane, Bexleyheath. (For details ring Bexleyheath 0986).
- BRIGHTON AND HOVE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB—Meets every Tuesday, 7.30 p.m. Arnold House Hotel, Brighton, Hon, Sec.: Miss M. Howland, 4 Goldsmid Road, Hove, 2.
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- CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY—Scottish country dancing on Friday evenings at 7.30, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall. Enquiries on this and other activities to Hon. Sec., Edgar F. Young, 2, Tivoli Lawn, 8, Tivoli Koud, Chel.comann.
- CONDOVER, Shrewsbury, Junior Scottish Country and Highland Dancing classes, Saturday mornings, Village Hall, Equiries to: Mrs. J. Bemmer, "Strathspey", 4 Station Road, Condover, Shrewsbury.
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- FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB—Meets at The Bourne Club, Frensham Road, every Thursday 8-10.30 p.m. from third Thursday in September to last Thursday in May, classes and dances on alternate weeks. Hon. See, Miss V. E. L. Noakes, 41 Salisbury Rd., Farnborough, Hants. Tel. : Farnborough 43165

- THE GAY GORDONS-meet on 1st and 4th Mondays at 8 p.m. at St. Paul's Church Hall, Tiverton Road, Ruislip Manor, Ruislip, Middx. New members welcome, beginners and others. Hon. Sec., Miss J. P. Beard, 130, Beverley Road, Ruislip Manor, Middx.
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- THE SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR WAL-LINGTON, CARSHALTON AND DISTRICT. Fortnightly Scottish Country Social Dances commence 22nd September and will alternate with Technique Classes commencing 29th September at the Boys' County School, Wallington; 8-10 p.m. For further details please apply to Hon. Sec., Mrs. A. Arnold, 27, Mount Park, Carshalton-on-Hill (Wall, 1367).
- SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB-Hon, Sec.: Miss D. Day, Sevenoaks School, Sevenoaks, Classes on Wednesdays and Thursdays, October to May.
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FEES ARE PAYABLE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SESSION OR TERM

General Enquiries should be sent to Miss C. Mackay. 8, Hollingsworth Court, Lovelace Gardens, Surbiton. Membership Subscriptions should be sent to Mr. H. E. Shank, 541 Upper Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, Romford, Essex,



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