

THE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Patroness:
H.R.H. THE PRINCESS ELIZABETH

Objects:

To preserve and further the practice of additional Scottish Country Dances.
To promote and encourage the formation of branches.
To provide, or assist in providing, special location 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

President:

HUGH FOSS, O.B.E.,
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Miss THELMA O. OCKENDEN, 39 Gladstone Road, Croydon, Surrey.
ALASTAIR ROSS, 507 Keyes House, Dolphin Square, S.W.1.
RONALD RYALL, 5 Courtfield Road, S.W.7.
ANTONY LINDSELL-STEWART, 24 Heath Drive, Gidea Park, Essex.

Sub-Committees:

DANCES

s. Allfrey, Mrs. Hutchinson, Messrs. Ferguson, Hutchins, Ryall (Sec.).

CLASSES

Mrs. Hutchinson, Messrs. Ross (Sec.). Stoker.

DEMONSTRATIONS

s. Sandison, Messrs. Ferguson (Sec.). Ireland, Lindsell-Stewart, Ross, and the Instructor of the Demonstration Class.

PROPAGANDA

Miss Stewart (Sec.), Mrs. Thomson, Messrs. Foss, Garvie, Lindsell-Stewart, Ryall, Stoker.

BALL

Miss Stewart (Sec.), Messrs. Ferguson, Foss, Stoker.

RANCH REPRESENTATIVE TO HEADQUARTERS:
Miss Ockenden.

Subscriptions:

ANNUAL 5/-
LIFE MEMBERSHIP £3 3s. 0d.

Those who have paid the annual subscription for four years: £2 10s.; ten years, £1 10s.

EDITORIAL

THE Committee have decided that this season Members shall receive notices of the Branch's doings and intentions in a periodical publication.

This is it.

"The Reel" will appear six times in the season at about six-weekly intervals. It will be distributed free to all Members of the Branch, and complimentary copies will be sent to Secretaries of other branches of the Scottish Country Dance Society and also to Secretaries of societies and clubs in London whose members we think may be interested in Scottish Country Dancing. We believe that many Branch Members will like to hear of forthcoming dances in and around London organised by these societies and clubs, and we are ready to print, (without charge to the organisers, and subject to space being available) notices of their dances in "The Reel." We will normally only have room to give the names of the organisers, date, time and place of the dance, the price of the tickets, and what to wear, but we would be glad if the organisers would send us other particulars also, such as the name of the band and the names of the Scottish dances in the programme, which information we will include if we can.

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 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. When you want to write to us, send your letter to the Secretary of the Propaganda Sub-Committee, and she will see that we get it.

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. The Branch can't afford to pay you for it, but we guarantee to read it. We may publish it—even if we (and the Committee, and the Branch, and the Society, and the Scots) disagree with you.

Write about something connected with Scottish Country Dancing, Highland Dancing, or, if the comparison is interesting, other dancing. But don't assume our readers will understand or be amused by obscure "family" jokes or oblique references to Members of the Branch. Imagine as your reader a newcomer to the Branch, or even a member of another branch.

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

The London Branch DANCES

Dimensions of the floor at the Royal Scottish Corporation Hall, Fleur-de-lis Court, Fetter Lane, make it necessary to limit the number of dancers to 120, and for this reason applications for tickets can be accepted only from members of the Society FOR THEIR PERSONAL USE.

Remittances with a stamped addressed envelope should be sent to:

RONALD RYALL,
5 Courtfield Road, S.W.7.

Applications cannot be dealt with for more than one dance at the time, and not longer ahead of date than two weeks.

Tickets 4/- including refreshments. Times: 7 to 10.30 p.m. Place: Fetter Lane. Band: Mr. Skinner's (excepting two dates).

SATURDAY 8th SEPTEMBER

Programme (Frewer's Band)

	S.C.D. Book
1 Scottish Reform	3-1
2 Monymusk	11-2
3 The Montgomeries' Rant	10-1
4 Dalkeith's Strathspey	9-6
5 Lord Rosslyn's Fancy	15-6
6 The Camp of Pleasure	15-4
7 Fightsome Reel	2-12
8 Foursome Reel	3-1
9 Hamilton House	7-10
10 The Glasgow Highlanders	2-3
11 Lamb Skinnit	14-12
12 Jessie's Hornpipe	8-9
13 The Braes of Busby	9-8
14 Duke of Perth	1-8
15 La Tempete	2-1
16 Waltz Country Dance	4-8

SUBSEQUENT DATES

1951	1952	1951	1952
Sat., 6th October	Fri., 18th January	Thurs., 25th February	(St. Pancras Town Hall— for members and friends)
Sat., 27th October	Sat., 9th February	Sat., 15th March	
Fri., 23rd November		(Frewer's Band)	
Thurs., 20th December		Wed., 16th April	
		Sat., 31st May	
		Fri., 27th June	

The Dances Sub-Committee hope to add two further dates

REMEMBER TO SEND FOR YOUR TICKETS
... now restricted to members, they cannot be purchased at the classes as previously.

THE ANNUAL BALL of London Branch is on 9th May, 1952 (8.30 p.m. to 2 a.m.) at the Hyde Park Hotel. Tickets: 25/- each.

*I'll mak' ye fain to follow me
When once the pipes are playing,
And all the flowers at Edinburgh
Through many reels are straying.*

*Meg Merrilies, the soldiers' joy,
Is fickle as the weather;
But I alone am Peggy's love,
And we shall dance together.*

*My love she's but a lassie yet,
But winsome as a fairy.
The dance begins, and off she goes,
With graces light and airy.*

*The merry dancers leap and twirl,
Grieg's pipes play loud and hearty,
Till cold and raw the morning dawns,
And we break up our party.*

COMMITTEE NOTES

Members and others who have been in the habit of writing to the Hon. Secretary for information or sympathy or just to get something off their chests may be confused by the present array of sub-committees, each with its own secretary, and may begin by thinking they will have to write to three people at once, and end by writing to none at all. So here is some advice.

When you pay your subscription (it is due now if you haven't paid it), send it to the Hon. Treasurer. He will send you a receipt and a Membership Card, which you will need when you go to a Members' Dance. Tell him which Scottish Country Dance Book you would like to have this year. He will tell the Hon. Secretary, and she will send it to you.

If you want to know about or discuss the Branch's dances, classes or demonstrations, write to the secretary of the appropriate Sub-Committee. If your subject is "The Reel," the secretary of the Propaganda Sub-Committee will be glad to have your letter. If you want general information about the Branch or the Society, write to the Hon. Secretary. Write to her, too, if you can't get sympathy or sense from any other Branch official or body, or if you want to commend, contradict or curse the Committee.

24th SEPTEMBER

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 6.30 to 10 p.m. The latter will end after dark and will be under floodlighting. 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.

INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL

The Branch is sending teams to dance in the Festival of Folk Dancing to be held at the Royal Festival Hall in September. Pipe-Major Peter Quinn and Pipe-Major Robertson will be providing the music. Teams from Northern Ireland, Spain and Yugoslavia will also be giving displays.

Performances are being given each evening at 8.0 p.m. from Monday, 3rd September, to Saturday, 15th September, except for Sunday, 9th September. The prices for admission are from 3/6 to 10/-. There will also be short matinees on Thursday, 6th, and Saturday, 15th, consisting of two shows, at 2.30 and 4.15, of approximately an hour each. These are for visitors to the South Bank Exhibition at an additional charge of 2/6 (1/6 for children under 16).

LAST SEASON'S DANCES

In addition to the Annual Ball, reported elsewhere in this issue, the Branch ran several informal dances throughout the past season. The unfortunately necessary closing of the Royal Scottish Corporation's Fetter Lane Hall for bomb damage repair, seriously handicapped our arrangements, and it is a matter for congratulation that it was possible to organise so many dances in other premises at short notice.

Most of these dances were in the Victory Hall in Leicester Square, and proved most enjoyable, being carried through in the usual friendly "party" manner. The programmes were graded in ascending difficulty throughout the series, and an effort was made to issue them some time in advance of the event to allow the members and classes to practise, if necessary.

The organising of almost all the dances was done, virtually singlehanded, by the former Honorary Secretary, Miss T. O. Ockenden, to whom the members express their thanks.

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 the previous occasion, the programme consisted entirely of Scottish country dances, except for two waltzes—inserted, no doubt, *pour encourager les autres*. Considerable though had obviously been given to the composition of the programme, 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 Lam Skinnet. There were twenty-three dances in the programme, and, as someone of a mathematical turn of mind remarked: "If you danced the lot, it worked out at 1/1 each. Moreover, the gourmets will not have forgotten the most delectable buffet supper."

The Ball Sub-Committee followed in year's precedent, and incorporated in its programme a short description of each of the less well-known dances, in order to assist the non-cognoscenti in weaving the 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 were on to the wee sma' 'boors practising madly at Haughs o' Cromdale, The Machine With out Horses, General Stuart's Reel, etc.—and it was not only beginners who were practising!)

Music was by Mr. S. G. Skinner's Band (including his picturesque lady violinist) and the Eightsome and Foursome Reels were danced to the piping of Pipe-Major Angus Macaulay, Honorary Pipe-Major to the Scottish Piping Society of London.

The number of men wearing the kilt was probably greater than last year, and gave added colour to an already animated scene. The spectator could not but realise how sedate and almost funereal modern ballroom dancing is when he compared it with a Ball such as this. Where, save at a Scottish Country Dance, could one find such joie de vivre, such enthusiasm, élan, 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"! However, we shall look forward to our 1952 Ball (on 9th May with eager anticipation.

CLASSES SYLLABUS

Day	Class	Times	Place	Term Fee	Instructor
Monday	Beginners	6.30—7.30	107 Charing Cross Road.	10/- 7/6	Mrs. Hutchins
	Demonstration	7.30—9.30	Ditto.	Mhrs only	Miss MacLennan
Tuesday	Beginners	7.00—8.00	Pulteney Street Schools.	10/- 7/6	Mr. Ireland
	Elementary	8.00—9.00	Ditto	10/- 7/6	Mr. Ireland
	Elementary	6.30—8.30	Cosway St. Schools	17/6 15/-	Miss Ockenden
	Intermediate	7.15—9.15	Barrow Hill Road School	17/6 15/-	Mrs. Stoker
Wednesday	Intermediate	6.30—8.30	St. George's, South Street, W.1	17/6 15/-	W. J. Ireland
Thursday	Advanced	6.30—8.30	Ditto.	17/6 15/-	Mrs. Sandison
	Beginners	6.30—8.30	Cosway St. Schools	17/6 15/-	Miss Ockenden
Friday	A Certificate Class will be arranged if possible.				

CLASSES BEGIN DURING THE WEEK COMMENCING 24th SEPTEMBER, 1951

- "Beginners" Class for those without any, or with but slight, knowledge of Scottish Country Dancing.
- "Elementary" Class for those with knowledge of the basic steps and the easier dances.
- "Intermediate" Class for those with a good knowledge of the basic steps and the principal figures and movements.
- "Advanced" Class: Members should only attend this class after consulting an instructor.
- "Demonstration" Class: This class is open only to members invited to attend.

107 Charing Cross Road, W.C.2 opposite the Phoenix Theatre
 Pulteney Street Schools, Peter Street off Berwick Street, W.1
 St. George's Schools South Street, Park Lane, W.1
 Barrow Hill Road School St. John's Wood, N.W.8
 Cosway Street Schools, off Marylebone Road near Marylebone Station

OTHER ORGANISATIONS' EVENTS

30th November—Scottish Counties Ball (organised by Aberdeen Banff and Kincardine Association, Perthshire Association and Angus Association), Mayfair Hotel, 7.30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Evening, Highland dress or uniform. Skinners Band M.C.: John Armstrong. Tickets: 27/ each, may be obtained from I. Inverarity, 13 Lillyville Road, S.W.6. (A team from London Branch of S.C.D.s will demonstrate three dances during the evening).

13th December—Chelsea Reel Club Ball, Chelsea Town Hall, 8.30 p.m. to 2 a.m. with Reg. Flower's Band and Pipe-Major Angus Macaulay. Further particular from the Hon. Sec., G. E. P. Jacksor, 30a Collingham Gardens, S.W.5.