



Cape Town Branch
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NEWSLETTER 2

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Hello Cape Town Branch members

In the last newsletter, I mentioned the possibility of Cape Town's piggy-backing on the Pretoria Branch's 40th Anniversary Ball by bringing famed musicians Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith to Cape Town to play for a Cape Town Tartan Ball.

Sadly, however, Muriel cannot make the trip this year so Pretoria's event has been postponed until next February. In the meantime, our feasibility sub-committee (headed by Christopher Gilmour) determined that we have neither the financial resources nor the required numbers of dancers to cover the expense of holding such an ambitious event with overseas musicians. While it's disappointing, the exercise made us think carefully about what we want to achieve in both the short and long term. Certainly in the short term, we intend to stage a smaller-scale event either later this year or early next year and to look at other activities that will promote SCD in Cape Town. As soon as we have more news on this matter, we will inform members. Also in terms of the motion adopted at the AGM, the interclub committee has been dissolved as its activities are now being handled by the Branch committee. However, as balls and birthday parties have traditionally been co-ordinated by this committee, and as it's vital to continue the cordial relationships established between the various clubs, we decided to form a sub-committee with Mary Lister as its chairman specifically to co-ordinate party dates.

Vision for Cape Town Branch

We have now drafted a Vision statement for the restructured Cape Town Branch:

1. To provide a focal point for Scottish Country Dancing in the Western Cape, to co-ordinate and optimise scarce resources.
2. To inspire existing and prospective members of SCD clubs throughout the Western Cape, with a view to retaining and growing membership and nurturing an appreciation for Scottish Country Dancing and traditional music.
3. To provide Branch activities such as graded classes (from beginners to advanced levels), workshops/day schools, teacher training, regular newsletters, an official Branch demonstration team, and an annual or biennial Branch Ball.
4. To run recruitment events to reach potential dancers (young and old) by promoting the fun aspects of Scottish Country Dancing and by fostering links with health and well-being.
5. To run outreach programmes to support dancing in outlying locations (eg Betty's Bay, Hermanus).
6. To encourage existing clubs to continue their active programmes of social events and to co-ordinate such events to suit the local dancing calendar and Branch activities.
7. To encourage RSCDS membership among Western Cape dancers by endorsing the benefits of membership and by stressing the Society's work in promoting and developing Scottish Country Dancing worldwide for the benefit of present and future generations.

The next task is to redraft the Constitution (which, of course, cannot be changed except by a majority vote at a General Meeting).

Watch for Newsletter 3 in the not too distant future. Meantime, kind regards to all RSCDS CapeTown members,

Gill Howser