

RSCDS Cape Town Branch

November 2012

NEWSLETTER No 5

Chairman's report

RSCDS AGM/Conference Weekend

For me, the AGM/Conference weekend started on Thursday afternoon, when slightly travel weary I arrived in Aberdeen to be cordially welcomed by Jean and Iain Martin. It was super to see them and, once again, I greatly enjoyed their kind hospitality.

RSCDS music director and pianist, Maureen (Mo) Rutherford, featured traditional and contemporary Scottish music from North East Scotland, in particular some compositions by the late Ian Powrie. It was interesting to hear the way in which 18th

It was a truly memorable four-day visit, steeped in Scottish music and dance.

After an early supper, I was given a choice – an early night to catch up on sleep or accompany the Martins to a music concert. You can guess which option I chose! And what a superb start it proved to be to a truly memorable four-day visit, steeped in Scottish music and dance.

Staged in Aberdeen University's Elphinstone Hall (one of Old Aberdeen's iconic granite buildings), the recital, by award-winning fiddler, Raemond Jappy, and former

and 19th century music has influenced today's Scottish Country Dance music ... just one example is Miss Barbara Hay's Favourite, composed by Robert Mackintosh (1745-1807) that is today's tune for Best Set in the Hall!

Friday provided another memorable evening. Jean invited three extra guests for supper – Linda Gaul (a past RSCDS chairman and well-known Summer School teacher for many of us), Barbara McOwen from



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Introductory Course – a resounding success

Led by Campbell Tyler, assisted by various club teachers, the Branch held a highly-successful six-week Introductory Course.

It attracted a number of enthusiastic newcomers plus a few dancers who came along for a revision of SCD basics. Most evenings saw two sets on the floor.

Feedback has been entirely positive and there has been a request for a refresher course early in the new year to prepare the novice dancers to join in next year's dancing activities at the various clubs.

Boston (who was to receive a Scroll of Honour at the next day's AGM) and Jimmie Hill (who was to be our teacher at the next morning's class). Barbara and I had an immediate point of contact since Cape Town and Boston were the first two overseas Branches to be formed back in 1950. There's some debate about which was actually first!

Then off we went to the start of the weekend 'proper' – the dance at the Beach Ballroom in Aberdeen, at which 480 dancers enjoyed the music of

Frank Thomson's Band, with a programme devised by the Isle of Islay Branch. What a great evening it was, meeting up with old friends, reconnecting with numerous familiar faces from previous Summer and Winter Schools, and, thanks to being under Jean's wing, introductions to others I might otherwise not have met.

Saturday morning's class, led by Jimmie Hill with Frank Thomson again providing the music, was enjoyed by 111 dancers.

The AGM

That afternoon saw 193 delegates representing 102 Branches at the AGM.

Re-elected RSCDS President, Dr Alastair MacFadyen, chaired the meeting. He read a message from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who happily continues as our Patron; and went on to present this year's crop of Scrolls of Honour.

When it came to the re-election of the Vice Presidents, the Cape Town Branch was momentarily in the limelight,



as Elspeth Gray had primed me (as one of the delegates who'd travelled the longest distance!) to propose the reappointment of the VPs. As a result, the delegate from Cape Town was called to the microphone to do the honours. The challenge was remembering their aristocratic names – The Honourable Peregrine Moncreiffe of Moncreiffe and The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine!

Ruth Beattie, who has so ably handled the chairmanship for the last two years, handed over the chain of office to John Wilkinson who now takes over for the next two years.

Next, the results of the elections for management posts were announced. As we had handed in our voting forms at registration, the results were simply announced (and a complete

list appears on the RSCSC website for those who wish to know who's who).

Delegates also approved the Management Board's motion to increase the annual subscription by £1, to £16, from July 2013.

The Ball

After the AGM we had time (just!) to go home, snag a fast snack, and don our glad rags, before returning to the Beach Ballroom for the Civic Reception that preceded the Ball.

Some 450 dancers then 'danced the night away' to music from Craigellachie and a programme devised by Sydney Branch. Another memorable evening.

Sunday workshop

Next morning's finale was a workshop led by Linda Gaul.



DON'T MISS PRETORIA'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY BALL

The RSCDS Pretoria Branch is celebrating its 40th anniversary with a Ball, to be held on February 2, 2013, at the Wingate Park Country Club,

A major attraction is the presence of renowned musicians Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith.

Tickets are R300.

A number of Cape Town dancers are planning to travel north for this event. So, if it's not already on your agenda, please see if you can add it!

The programme is on the Cape Town SCD website (www.scd.za.net). While most of the dances are well known to most of us, there are two new dances on the programme. Given sufficient demand, we will hold a special class to teach these dances in January.

Change to Society's Status?

Thanks to Tom Kerr for this report:

At a Question Time Meeting on Saturday morning, the main topic was the proposal to change the Society's legal status to that of a Company Limited by Guarantee. Should the Society face any litigation the Trustees would be protected whereas they're not at present. Any damages awarded against the Society would be limited to £1.00 per Branch. The legal status of overseas Branches has yet to be established.

Greatly enjoyed by 108 dancers, her theme was 'Something Old, Something New'. The new part was The Royal Patron from The Diamond Jubilee book.

Luke Brady provided the music.

Fireworks to finish

My Scottish sojourn was completed by a train journey north west to Inverness and a visit to Philip and Catherine Paris in Tain (Ross-Shire).

Here, among other things, I enjoyed more dancing – this time attending Catherine's class in Dornoch where (as the date was November 5!) she taught Fireworks, a dance she devised for the Inverness Branch Diamond Jubilee (and to round out the story, Philip composed the music).

DEMONSTRATIONS

Another key Branch function is running the interclub demonstration team. This team, comprising dancers from Bergvliet, Claremont, Fish Hoek, Lynfrae and Rondebosch, recently gave displays of Scottish Country Dancing at St Andrew's Nicht events on two successive Saturdays – first for Pinelands Caledonian Society and then for Cape Town Caledonian Society. Both were very well received.

Summer School 2013

Booking is already open for Summer School, the annual round of classes, dances and workshops held at St Andrews in July and August.

If you want to improve your dancing and meet dancers from around the world, we encourage you to think about going to Summer School. For one week, you'll be totally immersed in Scottish Country Dancing, and there are few people who attend who don't want to go again, and again.

To find out more, visit the RSCDS website (www.rscds.org) or chat to any of the previous participants (Gill Loubser, Heather Hodgson, Rosemary Keen, Gill Gordon, Barbara Swanepoel, Kim Mills, Campbell Tyler).



CAPE TOWN BRANCH NEWS

Since the 2012 AGM, we have welcomed five new members to RSCDS Cape Town Branch: Ingrid Gilmour, Linda Fasham, Lorna Morrissey, Mary Lister and Margaret Reid.

In addition, Campbell Tyler, whose primary membership is with the International Branch, has joined the Cape Town Branch as an Associate Member.

Thanks to all members for their ongoing support!

Who's who on the Branch committee?

Chairman: Gill Loubser

Membership Secretary:
Rosemary Keen

Treasurer: John McFarlane

Publicity/Newsletter Editor:
Gill Gordon

Committee members:
Christopher Gilmour and
Kim Mills