



TARTAN TRACK AUGUST 2010

TARTAN TRACK

Newsletter of
RSCDS Pretoria Branch



Editorial

Our annual Day School and evening social, which was held on the 5th of June, was a great success. Our guest teachers were Moira Bolton from Pietermaritzburg and Norma Craven of the 51st Club. We would like to thank all our members for making these two events possible. We also appreciate the support of the Midrand SCD group and the 51st Club.

The 2010 Soccer World Cup finally took place. Despite what all the doom prophets had said, it turned out to be the most successful World Cup ever! We had a few overseas visitors join us for dancing. (Please see their comments elsewhere in this news letter).

Our demonstration (dem) team have been quite active this year. A number of articles in this edition are about dems, as well as some photographs. (Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

We are very excited that RSCDS Pretoria Branch in conjunction with the 51st Club and the Midrand SCD group have been included in the latest RSCDS examination tour. After leaving Cape Town, on their way back to Scotland, the two examiners will spend a week in Johannesburg and Pretoria. They will offer teaching classes at the 51st Club on Tuesday the 14th of September and at RSCDS Pretoria Branch on Thursday the 16th of September. On Saturday the 16th of September we will jointly host an evening social with the 51st Club and the Midrand SCD group at our venue here in Pretoria with our examiners as guests of honour. We kindly ask our members to support these three events.

On Friday the 24th of September we will be having a picnic at the Pretoria Botanical Gardens as our contribution for Dance Scottish Week. This event is also in memory of the late Donoveen Meijer, whose idea it was to have a picnic on Heritage Day. She passed away shortly before the picnic was to take place. Please support us in this regard.

We are always trying to find innovative ways to promote SCD. Thanks to Megan Jelley and Rainer Küsel, because they put up a few of our posters at the University of Pretoria; we are now getting quite a few students coming to dancing. Our only qualified RSCDS teacher, Wouter Joubert, is now being kept on his toes in the step-and- technique class.

Thank you to everyone that has been attending classes on Thursdays. Thank you also to Wouter Joubert for teaching us.

Newsletter of the RSCDS Pretoria Branch

Editor: Ryan Nelson

All articles for publication should be addressed to:

The Editor: Tartan Track
P.O. Box 2716, Brooklyn Square, 0075,
South Africa
E-mail: ryan@geminiair.co.za

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RSCDS Pretoria Branch

Teacher

Wouter Joubert

RSCDS Pretoria Branch Committee

Chairman: Ryan Nelson
Secretary: Anna-Marie Arnold
Treasurer and Dems: Gill Wocke
Tea and refreshments: Charlie Gaffney
Announcements: Miles Arnold



Ryan



Anna-Marie



Gill



Charlie



Miles



Wouter

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Greetings Ryan

Many thanks for sending me the newsletter - it reminded me that I had intended to write to your branch anyway. Last Saturday we had the White Rose Festival – an open air Scottish dance festival for adults and children held at a school near Harewood House.

The adults dance pairs of massed dances (about twenty four teams) throughout the afternoon, (see the attached photo) with breaks for the children to do their dances, a few highland dances, and what are loosely described as "solos". When the festival started it was called the Leeds Festival, (because it was held in Leeds), and teams were allowed to offer to dance in one of the solo spots, when they were the only team on the field --- which is why it is called a "solo"! – doing any dance that they wanted.

When the festival was taken over by our group in York we decided that we would change the format of the "solos" – we decided on four suitable display dances, and any number of the groups could enter to perform any or all of them (in recent years our branch has often decided to only dance two of the four).

Why am I writing to tell you about all of this? Well one of the dances chosen as a "solo" last Saturday was the dance "Friends For Reel" written by Irene van Maarseveen for Helen & I. Perhaps you would like to tell Irene that there are now a lot more dancers who have learnt the dance! (I have also taught it in Germany, and Helen has recently taught it in Moscow).

*Malcolm L Brown
York (UK)*



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ryan,

It was lovely to receive your e-mail and all the interesting news of Pretoria Branch. We were delighted to see that Irene had married. Please give her our congratulations and very best wishes.

Elma has represented Sydney Branch at the AGM for some time but Cecil would be very happy to represent Pretoria.

We still have very happy memories of our visit to you and the sightseeing trip you took us on. We treasure the carved figure gifted to us from the Branch and remember the friendship shown at the classes. It is very nice to be kept in touch. Thank you again.

We look forward to hearing from you ,
Kindest regards,
Cecil and Elma.

Hi Ryan,

Now that the hectic month of July is over I have found some breathing space after my trip to your wonderful country and the World Cup and also the annual Australian RSCDS Winter School held this year in Adelaide. Next year it will be held in the Hunter Valley north of Sydney in a town called Nelson Bay. I have included a link in case you or any of your members happen to be in our region during that time.

<http://www.scottishwinterschool.com/>

At the Adelaide school our overseas teachers included Jim Rae from Scotland and Elinor Vandegrift from the USA. I think some of your members may have met Jim at some time or the other. We also brought out the Craigellachie Band from the U.K. We also had the RSCDS President Alex Gray here as well as the new President elect, Ruth Beattie

I had a fantastic time in South Africa and I would like to thank you and the rest of the people I met there for making me feel so welcome the two nights I attended and providing such an enjoyable time. If any of you happen to be in Adelaide and wish to go dancing, I will be most happy to help, my home number is below.

Best wishes and regards

Jim (Tel: +61 8 84310318)

Dear Friends:

My son Chris and I very much enjoyed our evening attempting to keep up with you all at St. Columba's. You all made us feel very welcome.

We returned home on the 30th of June because our U.S. soccer team lost in the Round of 16 on the 26th. If the U.S. had advanced, we would have stayed in Pretoria longer and would have attended your session on 1 July.

By the way, I have on CDs most of the Scottish tunes you used for the dancing. I love Celtic music, whether it be folk ballads or ceilidh.

We wish you continued success in keeping Scottish country dancing alive in South Africa. I don't know when I might be returning to S.A.; but I will be looking for country dancing organisations in my part of Florida and the next time I'm in Scotland (I've been nine times, hope to return within a year -- the flight time is much shorter than to S.A.).
Sincerely,
Marty Lawyer (Florida, USA)



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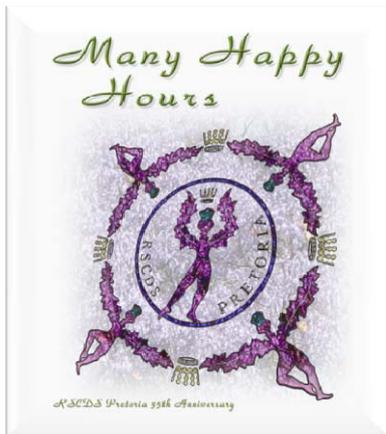


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We invite you to purchase a copy of RSCDS Pretoria's 35th anniversary book of dances. It is illustrated and contains 39 dances, each with music arranged for piano. Most of the tunes are original. Some of the dances were devised by the late Roy Goldring, Iain Boyd, Malcolm Brown and Duncan Brown. Muriel Johnstone and Ken Martlew composed some of the tunes. PRICE: R 70 (excl. postage)

NEWS FROM RSCDS HEADQUARTERS

Upcoming events:

Dance Scottish Week is from Friday 17th to Saturday 25th September 2010. The aim is to promote Scottish Country Dancing by means of demonstrations at well-known or historic landmarks in your town or city.

AGM & Conference Weekend from the 5th to the 7th of November 2010.

Winter School to be held in Pitlochry, Scotland in early 2011.

Meet Anne Naylor

By Ryan Nelson



You are originally from the UK. Where were you born and what made you move to South Africa?

I was born near Liverpool, but grew up in Bournemouth, where I went to school, was married and both our children were born. We emigrated to South Africa in 1974. At that time jobs were difficult to get in England, and Barrie needed to move to gain more experience and promotion. Having lived in a beautiful part of England, we didn't want to go to a more industrial area. So when the chance came to go to South Africa, we decided it would be advantageous for both of us, and for the children's education.

You are one of our most experienced dancers at our branch. How did it come about that you started dancing SCD?

I started Scottish dancing when I was eleven. It was our P.E. teacher's answer to sport on cold wet afternoons, of which there were many. After my son was born, I continued dancing at a Keep Fit class held by an RSCDS teacher.

How long have you been a member of Pretoria branch?

In SA I met Vada Wilson through our daughters who were best friends, and she persuaded me to join RSCDS Pretoria Branch. I have been a member here since 1985. I also joined Scottish dancing in Riyadh, when we lived in Saudi Arabia, and Ross-on-Wye in England in 2000-2003.

What are your favourite reels/jigs and strathspeys?

I prefer strathspeys. It is their formations and the grace of the dance that I like. Favourites of mine are King's Chapel and The Gentleman, but the music to Miss Gibson is lovely and so is the dance. But I also enjoy dancing James Gray, and Miss Johnstone of Androssan.

What are the ones you like the least?

Most dances are enjoyable, except when they are so simple that it is easy to forget "what comes next".

If you were chairman, what would you change or implement at our branch?

I feel it would be fitting if the branch could make allowances for those members who have supported both the branch and the association over a number of years, and have retired and cannot afford the RSCDS fees. I think it is unfair to penalise them at socials, day schools, tec. As long as they are members of the branch they could be given the same consideration as younger members who can afford the full fee.

Please tell us about your other interests besides SCD?

Cooking, reading, quilting, bridge, singing in the church choir, hiking, U3A, the grandchildren and of course, travel.

Please tell us about your family?

Barrie is retired and loving it. Having travelled abroad most of his working life, he enjoys just being at home. Our son, Chris, is a lecturer for British Aerospace and lives in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Jenny, our daughter, is an attorney, married with three children and lives two minutes away from us.

DEM AT GLEN HAVEN



DEM at GLEN HAVEN

By Ryan Nelson

Mr. McDougal, a former headmaster of Hillview High School (Roseville, Pretoria) and resident of Glen Haven retirement village, asked our dem team to dance a few dances on the Saturday afternoon of the 8th of May. We danced three dances namely James Gray, The Dream Catcher and Reel of the Royal Scots. The area where we needed to dance was a bit cramped but we managed nonetheless. The residents thoroughly enjoyed our dancing. Urisa Reungsuwan had just arrived back from Egypt that morning and we were grateful that she took part in this dem. Liebet Joubert kindly handled the CDs and music for us. Dems are great way of promoting SCD.

DEM at NEW HOPE SCHOOL

By Judy Sephton

2010 Will live in our memories as the year of The World Cup Soccer Tournament held here in South Africa, and with it, one of the coldest Winter seasons. But after the cold temperature of this Winter, the warm afternoon of Friday, 23 July 2010 lifted the spirits. Perhaps we could call this dem a coming-out of all the hype and vuvuzela blowing, and icy cold of June and early July into the promise of an approaching Spring, and a chance for a much needed dem.

Impressive was the greeting we received from the organiser, the Head Boy and Head Girl, all dressed in kilts and sashes. Then we were driven by combi from the hall to the upper field where children, parents, teachers awaited our arrival. Tents and flags of different countries gave a festive atmosphere and we, part of the entertainment, were given a most welcome reception.

The occasion ... a school fundraising event titled International Food Day, to which we had been invited to dance.

We were led on to the grassed field by two pipers from Pretoria Boys' High School. The team were Wouter and his daughter, Liebet, Anne and Jean, Olive and Judy, and Ryan and Gill. We danced to a very appreciative audience who applauded heartily. We started with James Gray, followed by Land of the Heather Hills, and ended with The Summer Assembly.

No sooner had we been led off by the pipers than we were each presented with a gift of a chocolate, and vouchers for the tasty fare typical of each country served in its own tent. What a feast it turned out to be, and a well organised occasion, presented with graciousness and hospitality.

Dances that were taught at our Day School:

At the advanced class:

Major Ian Stewart
Dean Bridge of Edinburgh

At the combined class:

The kicking horse
Shores of Solway
On the quarterdeck

An Easter Saturday trip to North West Province

By Jean Fryer

Early in the New Year the dem team were asked to dance at a couple of places in the next few months and practices were organised.

Gill Wocke mentioned in her quiet way that her neighbours had asked her whether we would be prepared to dance on a farm in the Krugersdorp district on Easter Saturday. Everyone looked sceptical, but Gill went on to explain that the Graham clan in South Africa (all Afrikaans-speaking), meet every three years for a gathering on a Trust farm near Krugersdorp.

With her usual efficiency, Gill had lists made up of when, where and most of all who was dancing. We all meekly turned up for dancing practice.

On the third of April at two o'clock, Thelma and Jean set off for Anne's house in Centurion, picking up Olive and Charlie along the way. Charlie was armed with her lunch as she had come straight from work. At Anne's we all decanted into her car and set off for the Total One Stop on the Krugersdorp freeway where we met up with the rest of the dem team. Jeff, Gill, Serena, David (Gill's brother) and his wife were in the lead car with directions.

Thelma drove with Ryan as he was all on his own.

All went well until we turned off the freeway. After seeing many signs to the Krugersdorp district, the Rhino and Lion Park, the Cradle of Mankind, Carletonville, Ventersdorp, Derby, Epsom; we landed up in the Magaliesberg. We will refrain from mentioning the number of u-turns, stops and phone calls. By this time rebellion had definitely set in, as only the lead car had the foresight to bring refreshments, it was nearly five o'clock and very hot.

After a chat with Gill's neighbour on the cell phone we set off once more back the way we had just come to our last stop at Derby. There we stretched our legs and waited for our host to come and show us the way to the Graham Trust farm. About ten minutes later we were back in the cars following our host on a very washed away road.

A general cheer went up when we saw the large sign that told us we had arrived on the Graham Trust farm. What a welcome we got: plied with offers of refreshment and would we prefer to eat before or after we danced.

Speaking of all the ladies, I

think we were all glad to see the nearest bathroom. We then changed while David warmed up his pipes. He then piped us into the community hall with much applause.

Ryan introduced us and we then did three dances: Swiss Lassie, Belle of Bon Accord and The Summer Assembly. We then went out for a rest while David piped once more. We were amazed to be told that people had actually been in tears. Whether it was the dancers or the pipes, I am not quite sure, but we hope it was a combination of both. We then went back in and did three more dances: James Gray, The Dream Catcher and The Reel of the Royal Scots. We were then presented with a laminated copy of the Graham clan crest and thanked very sincerely.

Numerous photographs were taken by all and sundry. We were taken to our hosts' house and sat down to a most welcome potjie of chicken and lamb and had a chat with our hosts.

May the Graham Clan continue to flourish in South Africa for many years to come. We, the RSCDS Pretoria Branch, thank them very much for their very friendly Scottish hospitality.



Dem Team at Graham Clan Gathering



DAY SCHOOL AND EVENING SOCIAL

From left to right:

**Urisa Reungsuwan
receiving her prize during
the draw of the raffle with
our treasurer, Gill Wocke
and our secretary, Anne-
Marie Arnold.**

Dance Scottish Week



17 to 25 September 2010

RSCDS Pretoria Branch invites you for a picnic and Scottish Country Dancing

Where: Pretoria Botanical Gardens

When: Friday 24 September 2010.

Time: 10:30 - 14:30

R20 entrance fee per person

Please bring along a picnic basket with your favourite food and drinks.

Remember your dancing shoes / pumps and a blanket or chair.

Men to please wear their kilts. Ladies to please wear some tartan.

come along • be involved • have fun



www.rscds.org



DAY SCHOOL AND EVENING SOCIAL

**Top: Jane Dyer,
Christine Hanley
and Moira Bolton
enjoying a cup of
tea**

**Left: Geraldene
Chaplog-Louw
with her Mom and
nephew**