

Island Fling



May 2010

Vancouver Island Scottish Country Dance Society
P.O. Box 30123, Saanich Centre Postal Outlet
Victoria, B.C. V8X 5E1 Canada
Affiliated with the RSCDS, Edinburgh, Scotland
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Executive Committee

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Treasurer	Keith Sinclair		klsinc@shaw.ca
Social Convener	Wendy Turner	250-479-5549	wgturner@shaw.ca
Teacher Representative	Bob Anderson	250-479-6719	

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It's hard to believe we've come to the end of the dancing season which was wrapped up by the colourful and lively Spring Fling Social on Saturday, April 24th. A wonderful array of Spring flowers decked the stage and we enjoyed the decorations which were artfully arranged by the Tuesday afternoon Social Class who hosted the evening. Pat Blair kept us on our toes with a well chosen program of dances including her own delightful dance aptly named "Dancing for Pleasure".

At the AGM on April 20th, a new executive was voted in to office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank past-president, Joan McIntosh for her dedicated and tireless contributions to the club. She gave generously of her time and astounded us with her wide range of talents. Here's hoping she'll continue to surprise us with her delightful baked goods. Thanks also to the other retiring members of the Executive: Riki Sato, Kathryn Deegan, Gael Forster, and Gordon Hawkins.

We were very pleased that this year's Ball weekend was so successful. Seventy-nine dancers attended the Ball and we had participants from Vancouver (13), Salt Spring Island (11), Bellingham (3), Galiano (2), Courtenay (2), and one each from Powell River, Coquitlam and Seattle. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful floor at the attractively redecorated Edelweiss Club and the lively music of Calum MacKinnon and Muriel Johnstone. The Sunday Brunch and Ball drew 92 dancers to the C&PO's Officers Mess where we were once again treated to the music of Calum and Muriel.

Dora Dempster, President.

EXECUTIVE COLUMN

Newsletter

This May Island Fling is my last edition. Thanks to all those who encouraged me in my newsletter duties the past two years. Please send submissions for the September newsletter by August 10, 2010 to Andrew Harley.
Gael Forster

Correction to Valentine's Social writeup in March Island Fling:

Monica's Way was written FOR Monica, as correctly noted in the January Island Fling with the instructions to the dance.



Spring Fling

About fifty smiling faces enjoyed the upbeat atmosphere at the Spring Fling Social on April 24th. We had more than enough food after pleading with other classes to contribute. I extend a real sincere thank you to the many people who brought food to share.

Thanks also go to Pat Blair who did a super job of leading us through the dances and keeping us all on track.

Irene Booth

Thank You From Zimbabwe

With the proceeds {over \$1000 Can} from the dance and auction on October 17 2009, plus donations from friends and relatives, these funds were used as follows:

30 goats for orphans; Rope for the goats; 60 mosquito nets; Cancer treatment for a lady with AIDS; Nails to repair school benches; Christmas dinner cow for the patients; Cow for staff for Christmas; small gift to three helpers; Exam fees for one student

All donations made to VIDEA were used for text books for eight schools and a small amount for school fees and uniforms.

These donations are appreciated very much. I appreciate your trust and plan to return to Zimbabwe this fall.

Lorraine Irvine

Member Spotlight

This month: Wendy Turner, Social Convener



How did you get introduced to SCD and when did you join VISCDS?

I was a highland dancer as a child. I started SCD in my teens with the Stave Falls Scottish Country Dancers. I joined VISCDS in January 2010.

Which class do you usually attend?

I attend the basic class on Tuesday evenings.

What appeals to you about SCD?

I enjoy the exercise (both physical and mental) and getting to meet new people.

What other hobbies do you enjoy?

I enjoy reading and have been learning to knit. I am a member of the Red Hat Society and enjoy a variety of activities with the "girls".

What occupation do you have?

My occupation is a receptionist for a large dental practice.

What is your ideal vacation?

My ideal vacation would be somewhere tropical with tasty drinks and no schedule.

Youth Weekend West

It is that time once again, when young dancers from across Western Canada and the US gather to learn, polish or brush up on dancing skills while meeting other young dancers. This year, YWW will be in Victoria on May 21-23. We welcome all dancers or potential dancers between the ages of 12ish and 30ish, and of any skill level, to the entire weekend of dancing. Please see www.youthweekendwest.com for more details.

The all ages events are:

- ❖ A dance workshop with guest teacher Graham Donald from Cardiff, Wales ~ Friday, May 21, 1:30-3:30pm at the James Bay Athletic Hall, 205 Simcoe St., Victoria. \$15
- ❖ A music workshop (for instrumentalists) with Calum MacKinnon and Lisa Scott ~ Saturday, May 22, 1:30-3:00pm at the Edelweiss Club, 108 Niagara St., Victoria. \$15
- ❖ The Youth Weekend Ball ~ Saturday, May 22, 7-11pm at the Edelweiss Club, 108 Niagara St., Victoria. Music by Calum MacKinnon (fiddle) and Lisa Scott (piano). Light refreshments provided. Youth \$18.50, Adult \$25.

Please contact the registrar for details: deborah.mullan@mac.com, 250-590-2214

Victoria Wyllie de Echeverria

COMING EVENTS - LOCAL

All local events held at St. Martin in-the-Fields Hall, 550 Obed 7:30pm unless otherwise noted; please bring your own cup, plate and napkin to the socials.

- May 3** **VISCDS Spring Dancing, \$5**
If this is your first year dancing you may want to get more practice by joining the May Social Dancing evenings on Mondays. These evenings are designed to give newcomers from the Basic Class a chance to dance with more experienced dancers. It's fun and you will be warmly welcomed.
- May 8** **6th Annual Tartan Parade**, from Centennial Square (Victoria City Hall) at 11am down Government Street to the Legislature lawns, features local pipe bands, highland dancers, and heavy event athletes. Around 11:30 am, the pipe bands will march and play tunes, dancers will do a massed Highland Fling, and the caber will be tossed! Free.
- May 10** **VISCDS Spring Dancing, \$5**
- May 17** **VISCDS Spring Dancing, \$5**
- May 21-23** **Youth Weekend West**, Musicians: Calum MacKinnon (Seattle, WA) fiddle, Lisa Scott (Portland, OR) piano, and Mary Ross (Victoria, BC) accordion. www.youthweekendwest.com
- May 22-23** **Victoria Highland Games**, Topaz Park. VISCDS will have a booth on Sunday May 23 from 10am to 4pm.
- June 4-July 30** Bob and Alice Anderson host **summer dancing** on Friday nights from June 4 to July 30. \$6.
- July 8 - 29** **Dancing in Beacon Hill Park, RSCDS**, Cameron Bandshell, Thursdays 7-8:30pm; free

NOTE: Dance Programs for many of the listed events are available from the VISCDS newsletter editor or the listed contact/websites.

**VISCDS
Annual General Meeting
April 20, 2010**

Place: St. Martins in the Fields Church Hall

Forty-eight (48) voting members, a quorum, in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35, with President Joan McIntosh presiding.

Minutes

The minutes of the last AGM were read by Heather Shave, and a **motion** to accept the minutes was made by Linda Foley, seconded by Rick Deegan. **Carried.**

Reports:

The following reports were presented and printed copies submitted for filing:

Teachers – Bob Anderson

Linda Foley thanked all the teachers for their work in providing entertaining and challenging classes.

Treasurer - presented by Gordon Hawkins who answered questions from the floor. The investment account has regained the loss of last year, and is treated separately from the chequing account.

President's Report - presented by Joan McIntosh

Ball Coordinator – written by Rosemary Balfour, and read by Walter Balfour.

The following reports were emailed to the membership on April 18, 2010; printed copies available

Publicity – Dora Dempster.

Membership – Riki Sato

Newsletter - Gael Forster

Social Convenor - Kathryn Deegan

Demonstration Team – Joan Axford

Victoria Joint Scottish Council – Katie Dunn

Moved by Noel Kinnon, seconded by Gordon Simpson to accept all the reports. **Carried**

Other Business

- 2010 Class changes --

The teachers recommended that the Tuesday afternoon class be discontinued due to low attendance. Eight dancers had registered for this class, and two sets are needed for a successful class. Concerns about night driving were voiced by some members. A trial session may be tried to see if numbers increase.

The combining of the Wednesday advanced and demonstration practices raised a number of questions. A schedule will be drawn up, with a month usually having three advanced classes, and one dem team practice. Before a performance, the dem team may need two practices in the month. All advanced dancers are welcome at the dem team practices, and may provide more dancers for the dem team.

- Highland Games, at Topaz Park – VISCDS will have a booth on Sunday May 23, 2010. Volunteers are needed for two hour shifts. The Demonstration Team will be performing, but which day is not known yet.

Election of Officers:

Mary Roberts presented the slate of nominees, and conducted the election --

President – Dora Dempster

Publicity/1st Vice President – Margaret Gray

Membership and 2nd Vice President – Catherine Thomson

Secretary - Heather Shave

Treasurer – Keith Sinclair
Social Convenor – Wendy Turner
Newsletter Editor – Andrew Harley

There being no nominations from the floor, all positions were filled by acclamation. Leona Brown will assist Wendy Turner, the social convenor.

Joan McIntosh thanked Mary Roberts and Catherine Mick for so ably serving as the Nominating Committee. **Moved** by Joan McIntosh, seconded by Kathryn Deegan to accept the new executive. **Carried.**

There being no further business, a **motion** to adjourn was put forward by Joan McIntosh, seconded by Dora Dempster. **Carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

**President's Report
Annual General Meeting
April 20th, 2010**

As the 2009/10 dancing year is winding down, I hope that our members have finished this season with improved skills, greater confidence and a continued enjoyment of Scottish Country dancing.

This has been a transitional year with changes emanating from the 2009 cancellation of the annual Ball Weekend and subsequent review of membership Ball Survey responses. Decisions made after extensive discussion at an extraordinary meeting of the Executive held last May were:

- a) Workshops would be held in the morning and afternoon at St. Martin Hall on January 23, 2010, with a combined Ceilidh/Robbie Burns Social in the evening
- b) Ball to be held on March 27th, 2010 and Sunday Brunch with social dancing at the C&PO's Mess on March 28th.

The success and continuation of these events will need to be reviewed by the new executive. In particular, I would stress the importance of eliciting more volunteers to assist with the organization of these functions to minimize the workload of individual committee members.

Our Workshops, held in January for the first time, were reasonably well attended by members and a few out of town guests. Ruth Jappy was inspiring as she masterfully taught a morning Experienced level and an afternoon Basic/Intermediate class. Live music provided by the very talented local accordionist, Mary Ross, also helped to guide us, with Ruth's direction, through the steps and dances with relative ease. From the positive feedback received and a profit after expenses were paid, I would say that the Workshops were very successful.

The Ceilidh/Robbie Burns social was well attended by approximately 70 dancers. The new combined format included the traditional Piping in and Address to the Haggis and the addition of talented performers who provided Acts interspersed throughout the evening's lively dance program. We were also fortunate and delighted to have Mary Ross provide live music once again. Thank you to the many volunteers from the Monday Social class and Dora Dempster who all helped to make this event a special and successful one.

Last fall, the executive was faced with the challenge of finding volunteers to form the 2010 March Ball Committee. It was November before we had a full team, with Rosemary Balfour cordially agreeing to coordinate the committee consisting of Dora Dempster, Rick Deegan, Maureen Orr, and Anne Scott. I must commend and sincerely thank Rosemary who worked capably and tirelessly to ensure that every detail of planning was thoroughly organized. I would also like to give special thanks to her committee for their respective contributions and support. From the very positive feedback we have received, both weekend events

were enjoyed by all participants and therefore a great success. Rosemary has submitted to the executive, recommendations based on feedback from committee members and teachers.

Financially our Society is solvent and cushioned by an investment currently valued at approximately \$14,000. In the past number of years our Treasurer has applied for and received \$2,000 in Gaming Funds, which helped to subsidize class costs. As I'm sure many of you are aware, there were fairly substantial cut backs in allocation of these funds this past year and we did not receive the \$2,000 Grant for 2009/10. The good news is that we have not raised our membership or class fees for a number of years, despite rent increases. The future of St. Martin Hall is uncertain at this time, but it is hoped that we will have continued use for the duration of the next dancing year. We have been informed by the Church that they will keep us apprised as decisions are made by the Diocese.

Monica Roots, who announced her retirement after 25 years teaching with Van Isle, was honoured at our Valentine Social and presented with a gardening gift certificate in appreciation of her dedication to Scottish Country dance over the years. Although her commitment and proficient teaching skills will be missed by many of our members, Monica assured us that she and her husband Walter will continue dancing as participants in our classes.

In 2009 a Website Redesign committee, chaired by Dora Dempster, was formed to develop specifications for a new VISCDS website and to obtain proposals from prospective designers. Thank you Dora, Gordon Robinson and Gael Forster for contributing your time and expertise towards the development of this project - we will look forward to the "the new look" and ease of navigating a new site when it is completed.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the executive members for their dedication and support during the past year. In addition to carrying out their respective duties so capably, each of them has also gone the "extra mile" to generously contribute time and special skills when needed.

Thank you also to: the teachers for their commitment, guidance and patience throughout the year; the Class Reps for following through with their responsibilities so ably; and all members who have willingly volunteered their time to help throughout the year.

Five out of seven executive members will be new in the 2010/11 dancing year and I would urge the VISCDS members to give them full support and assistance when volunteers are needed. I wish the new President and his/her executive members all the best in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan McIntosh

Ball Coordinator's Report for VISCDS 34th Ball Weekend, March 27-28, 2010

I was asked in late November 2009 to join the ball committee, which consisted of Joan McIntosh, Dora Dempster, Rick Deegan, Anne Scott and Maureen Orr. By this time all the major decisions concerning the weekend had been taken, so my job was to coordinate all aspects of the weekend from that point on.

The decisions that had already been made were the following:

- 1) to change the customary format of our ball weekend by having the Ceilidh and workshops earlier in the year, as part of our Burns celebration.
- 2) in May the decision had been taken to book the main hall of the Edelweiss Club for the ball, and not to have the customary formal banquet beforehand.
- 3) the CPOs' mess at CFB Esquimalt was retained as the venue for the Sunday morning social and brunch.
- 4) by early July the guest musicians Muriel Johnstone and Calum MacKinnon had been hired, and their fee of \$1,500 agreed upon.
- 5) the musicians had been booked to play at both the ball and the Sunday morning social.

- 6) crib sheets for the dances on the ball program were to be put on the website, and booklets handed out at the door.
- 7) the admission prices for the weekend's events had been set by the ball committee in October and had been advertised in the November newsletter, and included early bird rates.
- 8) there was to be no silent auction fund-raiser for the ball weekend, which in the past has helped keep the event in the black by raising at least \$1,000.

When I joined the committee in late November I discovered that no budget had been drawn up. I drafted one, which immediately confirmed that the weekend as planned would result in a considerable deficit. I notified the executive, and they lent their support to continuing with the ball weekend, especially since our 2009 one had been cancelled.

A major part of my job was to ensure that costs were kept to a minimum. Our cost cutting measures included using email instead of postage wherever possible, having only 2 ball practices to save on hall rental and honoraria, not buying any flowers or new decorations, not mailing out booklets, and arranging for billets for the guest musicians instead of a hotel. At this point I wish to thank Gordon and June Robinson, and also Joan McIntosh, who kindly offered to billet the musicians and their spouses. Shortly before the ball weekend Ned and Ann Easton (who live very close to the Edelweiss) invited the musicians and spouses to stay with them, and this very gracious offer was accepted. We managed to reduce the deficit to below \$600.

On the Saturday afternoon Linda Foley, Jamie Orr and Walter Balfour helped us decorate the Edelweiss, and Michelle Campbell provided two beautiful flower arrangements from her garden for the stage. In the evening a number of dancers commented on how lovely and inviting the hall looked. 79 dancers registered for the ball, 36 of whom were members of VISCDS. We had a fine start to the evening with Walter Roots as the Marshall for the Grand March, and Jamie Orr as piper. Our 2 MCs for the evening were Walter Balfour and Pattie Whitehouse, and refreshments were served during the intermission. The fine music by Muriel and Calum was much enjoyed by the dancers. I received numerous positive comments from dancers during the ball and the next morning too, who all appreciated having the excellent dance floor, and also such a great selection of dances at the ball. I wish to thank our teachers who drew up this year's ball program.

92 people attended the Sunday social and brunch, sponsored at the C&POs' mess by Jim Scott. Half of the registrants were members of VISCDS. Joan Axford, Pat Blair, and Gordon Robinson led us through their selection of dances, accompanied once again by the superb music of Muriel and Calum. Muriel then played a lovely selection of tunes she had composed for Jim Scott at Anne's request to celebrate their upcoming Golden Wedding. A fine brunch was served, and farewells said to the dancers who had visited us from Lantzville, Qualicum, Courtenay, Edmunds Washington, Vancouver, Coquitlam, Bellingham, Powell River, Salt Spring Island, and Galiano Island.

I would like to thank the members of my small but hardworking ball committee, Rick Deegan (booklet), Dora Dempster (publicity), Maureen Orr (registrar), Anne Scott (brunch), and especially Joan McIntosh who was my right hand woman throughout.

From all the compliments we have received we know that this was a very successful ball weekend, and the committee recommends that next year's ball again be held at the Edelweiss. Three members of the committee are staying on, and we hope that new members will volunteer to join the committee and plan a successful event for 2011.

Respectfully submitted
Rosemary Balfour
2010 Ball Weekend Coordinator