

TAS Weekend, Dundee – 4th to 6th September 2026

Report on Saturday Morning Class - 5th September

A real treat was in store for us on Saturday morning with classes given by Gary Coull and tunes by Ian Muir.

Gary had chosen to celebrate the music of William Marshall, and nearly all the dances featured Marshall compositions; this was the common thread that tied the programme together and Ian rendered them flawlessly, in spite of them being written as fiddle music.

We were introduced to some lesser known and unusual dances. A gentle and sociable start with **Joanna's Jig** to get us going around the room. Gradually Gary began to introduce a bit more of a challenge with the **Road to Tomintoul** which was a fun and interesting dance, with a promenade reel of four, finishing with crown triangles.

Blaven included a formation, which no one had come across before, called “The Fiddich”, and also introduced another lesser-known formation known as “The Wheely Chain” ...rapidly nick-named “The Wheely Bin”! The Fiddich and the Wheelie Chain both grabbed the imagination. The new figures involved all three couples being the moving parts and we had to keep the faith that we would intuitively find our way. It was very satisfying when it all worked! Most people when asked what was your favourite dance mentioned Blaven.

Neptune's Staircase gave us the experience to be on a dancefloor full of 5 couple sets, not an everyday event. Neptune came a close second in the highly unscientific straw poll conducted during the refreshment break. Lastly, we had **Dunideer** which was a good dance to finish with, as it was back to 3 couples, and the only special figure, the "Kissing gate", was thankfully not a brain teaser.

Gary had obviously put a lot of thought and research into the history of the dances, and gave a master class in how to interweave the details with a very light touch. We learnt many interesting and memorable facts which were conveyed with a wonderful sense of humour and positive energy. It was just great to be a participant in class, trying out new dances, and in such a relaxed and convivial environment.

Details of the dances:

DANCE	DEVISOR	MUSIC	BOOK
Joanna's Jig	Gary Coull	Gary and Joanna Coull's Wedding	Banffshire 90th Anniv. Book
Road to Tomintoul	Beryl McGhee	**Marshall's Compliments to Niel Gow	IMPERIAL III
Blaven	Drewry	**Mr Masson, Manse of Botriphnie	Bankhead Book 3
Neptune's Staircase	Jean Atwood	**Lowe's Hornpipe	Alexander Leaflets
Dunideer	Drewry	**Elizabeth Brodie of Arnhall	Bankhead Book 4

** William Marshall

Report by Stephanie Speake and Barbara Gray