

The Scottish Country Dance Teacher

TAS Newsletter March 2013

Newsletter of the Teachers' Association Scotland (TAS)

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From the editor

This newsletter contains details of our Spring Workshop in Lockerbie. Lets hope it is as successful as last year's in Inverness. The committee has struggled with the date of the Autumn Workshop and AGM due to other events clashing. They have decided that a final decision will be made by members attending Lockerbie.

Rather disappointingly, after all our deliberations, Peter has not yet had any enquiries about Spring Fling bursaries (£60 each when the total fee is £100). This is an issue which no doubt will come up again at our AGM. If you have any young people in your branch or club who are interested in attending, there is more information by Nicola Waugh in this issue.

Thanks to the three people who responded to my appeal for teaching ideas. I hope there will be more in future . . .

Finally, I have included a new strathspey, devised for Mike and Eilean Yates of the North Carolina Branch, *Chasing the Eclipse*. It ends with the interesting Promenade Chain Progression. Eilean is originally from the Borders and Mike is from the north of England. The deviser is Sandy Gallamore. If you would like to watch it, go to youtube.com/watch?v=6iRF8G0ZBgQ

JH

Change to TAS AGM Date

There is a problem with the date of the Autumn Workshop / AGM. The committee has decided to consult members attending the Lockerbie meeting. The TAS financial year ends on March 31st. The AGM has to be held in the Autumn – no fixed month or date.

There are HQ meetings in September. The only committee we don't have any members away at HQ is the Membership Services Committee meeting on September 21st. We have 2 members on Youth Committee, and 5 members on E&T. The hall at Broxburn is available on 21st, but possibly not on the 28th. Peter has put in a pencil booking for 21st and suggests that would be the best date.

Any certificate candidates or courses out there?

There are two dancers in south Scotland contemplating doing their RSCDS Certificate. Neither can attend Summer School and they are not in the same Branch. Obviously, no branch can initiate a certificate course with less than six candidates. Do members know of any other dancers in the south who are trying to find a course outwith Summer School? Additionally, is there any branch considering organising a course? Information to Peter Clark who will try and advise all interested parties of the possibilities of a course running.

Teaching ideas from members

George Watt

Torryburn Lassies (Bk.4) mentions that the same dance is known by different titles but with a different 8-bar ending. So I used the dance in our General Class but shouted out a different 8-bar phrase each time and it proved very enjoyable and I certainly had a lot of fun with it. I would say whether the 2nd couple had to step up and 1s lead up to 2nd place or if 1s had to lead up to the top. I was not that unkind, but apart from that they had to think on their feet and they actually got all the formations right. Ending up with 1s lead up to 1st place and all in for one big circle did seem to finish the dance off on a high.

Margaret McCann

Margaret found that *Up in the Air* (Bk 20) then *Ladies of Dunse* (Bk 26) were good preparation for teaching *General Stuart's Reel*. All three dances have an emphasis on "SET on the right and MOVE on the left", said rhythmically.

Ian Brockbank

One sequence which worked well for me this term with a class of complete beginners was *Balquidder Strathspey* to teach reels of three and corners, followed by *The Dashing White Sergeant* (teaches set and turn corners) and then the *Duke of Perth*. With that sequence I got a class of dancers who had mostly only been dancing a couple of weeks through the *Duke of Perth* and familiar with reels and corners sufficiently for the nice and easy dance. I've also found what a great dance *Saint Andrews Fair* is for beginners. They can get through it on the first night and it feels as if they've really achieved something. And with all the setting there's plenty of opportunity to catch up when things go wrong – it's a very robust dance.

Spring Fling in Manchester

Spring Fling, the RSCDS weekend school run by young people, for young people, will be held in Manchester from 12 -14th April 2013, for participants aged 16-35. Teachers for the weekend are Catherine Livsey, David Queen, and Diane Rooney, and the musicians are Ian Slater, Phill Jones, and Andrew Lyon.

The weekend includes dances on Friday and Saturday nights (which are open to everyone – no age restrictions apply). On Saturday morning, there are Scottish Country dance classes, and in the afternoon, participants can choose between a Ceilidh class, a highland class, or a class on Roy Goldring's dances. Sunday morning sees a dance challenge, which participants will find out about that morning!

Accommodation for the weekend will be at Manchester YHA. Most rooms are en suite, and sleep 4 people each. The advantage of staying in the youth hostel is that you immediately get the chance to make friends with people staying in your room, and, as we know Scottish dancers are friendly and welcoming to new people. Certainly, that is the experience I've had at previous Spring Fling events.

Friday's dance is a 'nice & easy' dance with Ian Slater playing, and Saturday's dance will have music from Scottish Measure. The dances will be held at Sale Masonic Hall. Booking for Spring Fling is open now on the RSCDS website.

For further details of Spring Fling, please see the RSCDS website:

rscds.org/events/spring-fling.html

or the Facebook event:

RSCDS Spring Fling Manchester: facebook.com/events/245545408882518/?ref=ts&fref=ts

If you know someone in the 16-35 age range who might be interested in attending Spring Fling, please pass the details on to them. And we look forward to seeing people of all ages at the Friday and Saturday dances.

Nicola Waugh

Youth workshop in Glasgow

Roy Bain has written to let us know that the Youth Services Committee have organised a Youth Workshop on Saturday, Oct 19, in Milngavie Town Hall. Glasgow Branch are supporting this by organising a dance in the same venue in the evening. More details on the RSCDS website.

Events for teachers

Thank you to everyone who sent in information about events specifically for teachers. I also received information about forthcoming dances. Should we include these or only events such as workshops, day and weekend schools etc.?

TAS address list

TAS intends to reintroduce its membership list issue to all members at the end of this financial year - it will consist of name, and e-mail address or telephone number. If you do not want your name to appear on the list, please send a message to Peter (Tel: 01387 269171, or clarks@pjclark3.plus.com)

Dancing in Schools - CPD training opportunity

Scottish country dancing in Scottish schools Workshop for potential CPD trainers of school teachers Sunday 28th July 2013 University Hall, St Andrews Summer School

Within the Curriculum for Excellence for Scottish schools there is an opportunity for RSCDS-qualified teachers to provide CPD (Continuing Professional Development) courses to Primary and/or Secondary teachers.

With the completion of the resource pack "Jigs and Reels", the Society is now running a combined session to update previously qualified CPD trainers but more importantly to recruit new RSCDS CPD trainers. Several successful CPD workshops have taken place over the last three years.

Are you an experienced RSCDS-qualified teacher:

- *who has experience of teaching either a children's or a beginners class and/or,*
- *who has significant experience of delivering training to adults and/or,*
- *who has extensive experience of working with schools and teachers.*

Are you interested in training primary school teachers and teachers of PE and dance in basic SCD teaching skills?

Would you be interested in taking part in a workshop to explore the issues involved in training schoolteachers to teach country dancing?

Have you attended previous training sessions and are now ready, after some updated training, to deliver CPD training to Schools and Local Authorities in Scotland?

Do you know someone else who would be interested ?

The date and venue for the next workshop will be on Sunday 28th of July in University Hall at St Andrews Summer School. This is the beginning of week 3, timings and further details will be sent out at a later date.

This is a very important initiative on the part of the RSCDS. We hope that you will be interested in taking part and in being on the Society's register of CPD providers for the future of country dancing in Scottish schools. If you are interested in attending, please reply to cpd@rscds.org by 17th May 2013.

Teaching Points on the dances in the Diamond Jubilee Collection 2012

We are grateful to Helen Russell for allowing us to re-print the following notes. She points out that the following points are not exhaustive.

1. The Royal Patron

- Bar 4 1st couple should be on women's sideline at the end of bar 4.
- Bars 13-16 To begin the turn, the man takes a long step down towards his partner. 1st couple finish shoulder to shoulder facing 3rd couple, not back to back, as stated in the original instructions.
- Bars 21-24 3rd couple need to remember to set and cross.
- Bars 29-32 This is a turn requiring short steps. At the end of this left hand turn the 1st woman may stay facing out ready to cast. 2nd couple need to remember to set and cross. 2nd couple and 1st couple can cover as they exit from the cross and turn respectively.

2. The Castle of Mey

- Bar 16 2nd couple finish the double figure of eight flat.

3. Mist o'er the Loch

- Bars 13-16 1st couple, with 2nd woman and 3rd man, dance half rights and lefts on the diagonal.
- Bars 21-24 1st couple, with 2nd man and 3rd woman, dance a variation on half rights and lefts on the diagonal. To begin 1st man dances diagonally up and 1st woman dances diagonally down. N.B. It may help to note that 1st man goes up, down, down and up, while 1st woman goes down, up, up and down.
- Bars 17 and 31 Ensure that hands are released before starting to cast.

4. Rodney's Rant

- Bars 9-16 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance two consecutive half rights and lefts on the diagonal.
- Bar 32 All cover back to place.

5. Orwell Lodge Strathspey

- Bars 13-16 1st couple dance a half reel of four with second corners and finish all on opposite sides in the order 3, 1, 2. 1st couple do not pass by the right, as stated in the original instructions.
- Bars 19-20 and 23-24 In order to give 2nd and 3rd couples room to cast, 1st couple may dance slightly towards each other to start the petronella turn.
- Bars 27-28 2nd couple must turn once round in two bars.

6. Burnaby at Forty

- Bars 21-24, 29-32, 33-40 Long steps to cross diagonally, shorter steps to cast.

Helen Russell, November 2012

Forthcoming events of interest
Day / Weekend Schools and Workshops in Scotland

- Mar 8-9** **Lorn (Argyll) Branch Weekend School, Oban**
Teacher: Janet Johnstone
Musician: Roger McAndrew
- Mar 23** **St Andrews Branch Half-day School**
Teacher: Janet Johnston
Musician: Robert Mackay
Contact: Valerie Fraser on 01334 850054 or rscdsstandrews.org
- Mar 23** **West Lothian Branch Half-day School and Dance**
Teacher: Jimmie Hill
Band: Lindsay Weir
Contact: Kaoru Boode on 01506 207268
- April 5 -7** **Helensburgh & District Branch Weekend**
Teacher: Sue Porter
Musician: Adam Brady
Ball: George Meikle
Dance: Jim Lindsay
Contact: Helen Cameron on 01436 810605 or on helencameron@hotmail.com
- April 13** **TAS Spring Workshop in Lockerbie**
- May 10-11** **Millport Weekend, Isle of Cumbrae**
Teacher: Margo Priestley
Musician: Lindsay Weir
Contact: Jan Sommers on janet.sommers@gmail.com
- May 17-18** **Isle of Skye Branch Weekend**
Teacher: Johan Maclean
Musician: Colin Dewar
- May 17-19** **Duns & District Branch Weekend**
Teachers: Irene Bennett, William Williamson, Lyn Bryce
- Date to be confirmed** **TAS Autumn Workshop in Broxburn**
- Sept 7** **Lochaber RSCDS Day School and Dance, Caol Community Centre, Fort William**
Teacher: John Wilkinson
Musician: George Meikle
Band: David Cunningham
Contact: Sheila Mainland on 01397 772348 or Sheila Goodall on 01397 712798 or Anne Smyth on annem.smyth@btinternet.com

*If your event is missing, make sure we have it for the next issue.
These should be events of particular interest to teachers - workshops and day / weekend schools etc.*

SPRING WORKSHOP, LOCKERBIE, APRIL 13

Dryfesdale Parish Church Hall, Townhead Street, Lockerbie, DG11 2AF

Saturday 13 April 2013 10.30am - 3.00pm

- 10.30am Reception with tea and coffee
- 11.00am RSCDS Project – Reels and Jigs. Presentation by Irene Bennett (past RSCDS Chairman)
- 11.45am Dancing Session – “members experiences of teaching children”
- 12.30pm Lunch. Members to bring their own lunch. Tea and coffee provided.
- 13.30pm “Miss Milligan meets Madge Wildfire” – issues surrounding the reconstruction of traditional dances. A short talk by Jimmie Hill, followed by a dancing session where we shall attempt to reconstruct dances from 1820. Pianist: Pat Clark.
- 15.00pm. General discussion
- (i) Should we have two or three workshops each year?
 - (ii) Location of workshops. eg, north and south with the AGM in the central belt?
 - (iii) Date of next AGM
 - (iv) AOB
- 15.30pm. Close

Return Slip

Name..... TAS Member yes / no

E-mail..... Tel.....

Branch.....

Payment. £4.00 Members. £6.00 Non Members. Enclosed yes / no

Transport:

Please indicate whether able to offer shared transport yes / no

Please indicate whether offer of transport would be a requirement or assistance to be able to attend yes / no

If shared transport is required can we pass your contact details to potential drivers yes / no

Signature..... Date.....

Completed forms with payment to be returned by 1st April 2013 to:

The Treasurer, Les Lambert, 16 Ewing Street, Kilbarchan Renfrewshire. PA10 2JA

Tel 01505 704398.

Chasing the Eclipse

32 Bar Strathspey for 3 couples in a 3 couple set

Bars:

1-8: 1st couple set, dance down below third couple, cast up to 2nd place and pass left shoulder to face first corner. 2nd couple step up on bars 3-4.

9-16: 2nd, 1st, and 3rd couples dance reels of three on the side, 1st man and 3rd woman, 1st woman and 2nd man passing right shoulder. 1st couple finish in the center, facing 1st corner.

17-24: 1st couple set to first corners, dance $\frac{3}{4}$ round partner by the right shoulder, set to second corners, and dance round partner to 2nd place on own side and face out.

25-32: Promenade Chain progression.

25-26: 2nd and 3rd couples turn partner $\frac{3}{4}$ with right hands while 1st couple dance clockwise $\frac{1}{4}$ round the set.

27-30: 2nd man and 3rd woman turn with left hands $1\frac{1}{2}$ times while 1st man and 2nd woman take promenade hold and 1st woman and 3rd man take reverse promenade hold and dance clockwise $\frac{1}{2}$ way round the set.

31-32: 3rd and 2nd couples turn partner $\frac{3}{4}$ with right hands to own sides while 1st couple dance clockwise $\frac{1}{4}$ round the set to end in 2nd place.

The new positions are 3,1,2. Repeat from new positions.

Note: the movement in bars 25-32 was devised by Tim Wilson.

Devised for Mike and Eilean Yates, formerly of Shelby North Carolina, by Sandy Gallamore in February, 2013. The Yates' have been a pillar of dancing in the Carolinas for decades and also been involved in the dancing at the Loch Norman Highland Games almost since the beginning.

Beyond dancing, Mike's passion for viewing solar eclipses have taken them all over the world. You can detect that in the Promenade Chain progression (thanks, Mary!)

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