

The venue chosen for the first weekend away arranged by TAS for their 20th Anniversary was a lovely hotel on the outskirts of Dundee with a beautiful view over the Tay and mostly sunshine, setting the scene for an enjoyable weekend. With two classes, two evening dances and two talks, the programme kept us busy – but meeting up with good friends travelling from near and far, we all spent lots of time just having a blether and catching up.

The programmes for the evening dances were enjoyable, with a clever twist for the Friday welcome dance: All the dances were connected to the places the dancers had travelled from. Dances like *St. Andrews Fair* and *Bonnie Gallowa* were easy to spot, *Mr Iain Stuart Robertson* had us think a little bit, and *Frae a' the Airts* covered the five people who had travelled from outside the UK.

Providing the music for the weekend was Ian Muir, the current RSCDS Music Director. On the Saturday he gave an interesting talk on his musical journey into playing for SCD. The audience followed Ian from the beginning of his musical career, through a variety of musical styles, to his teaching career at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Not everyone in the audience knew that Ian had played the part of L'Accordioniste in the play about the life of Edith Piaf as it toured Scotland.

During his talk, Ian played some captivating tunes as well as some that had us all thumping our feet. When he opened for questions from the audience, there were plenty with each answer from Ian triggering further questions. A great way to get to know more about Ian's background and view on music.

The weekend in Dundee was a great success because of the varied programme, the friendly participants, the welcoming atmosphere and the hard-working committee. Thank you to all who made the weekend a lovely time!

Kristian Vestli