

The Scottish Country Dance Teacher

TAS Newsletter June 2016

Newsletter of the Teachers' Association Scotland (TAS)
Recognised as an RSCDS Teachers' Association

www.countrydanceteachersofscotland.org.uk

Chairman: George Watt 01382-642131

Secretary: Jane Meikle 01387-252544

Treasurer: Judith Borup 01738-842789

Committee: Helen Bain, Ross Colwell, Maureen McCrudden

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From the Chairman

At last summer appears to have arrived, and we all hope that it actually stays for a wee while. In the Tayside area, most Branches and Dance Clubs have a Summer Season of dances and I look forward to them very much indeed. I do enjoy teaching dance, but it is grand just to go to a dance for the sheer pleasure of dancing. Our day out in Forres was an excellent event. Both Angela Young and Oluf Olufson presented very well throughout the workshops on older, neglected dances, and Jim Stott enlightened us with a presentation of 'Dance Trad' which caught both the attention and the imagination. Our good friend Frank Thomson provided superb music that just made us want to dance. The whole day had a great atmosphere. Everyone remarked on how much they had enjoyed it, and we must thank Margaret Ross who put so much into making us all feel so welcome in Forres.

Our next meeting will be in our home base of Broxburn for the New Book dances and of course our AGM! We have an excellent team on the Committee led by our hard working Secretary Jane Meikle, and our very efficient and effective Treasurer, Judith Borup. All that is required is a new Chairman, a glorified mouthpiece, to take the helm! So dinnae be blate, step forward, and enjoy working with this superb team.

George T. Watt

From the Editor

This Summer newsletter is necessarily full of information relevant to the AGM meeting in August: Minutes of last year's meeting, Secretary's Report etc. Unfortunately, the report on the Forres workshop is not yet available, so it will appear in the Autumn issue.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, this will be my last. I have been editor since 2010. It is time for someone else to take it on. I would like to thank Peter Clark and Jane Meikle for being such efficient secretaries and making my life so easy. If you are interested in taking on the production of the newsletter, please be in touch with Jane before the AGM.

Date for you diary – Saturday 27 August in Broxburn!!!

We hope that as many members as possible will be able to attend our Autumn Workshop and AGM in the usual venue of Canon Hoban Hall in Broxburn. Like last year we have invited a team of young teachers to take us through the dances in the new book. More details later in this newsletter.

However, more importantly, come and meet with other teachers, meet old friends and make new ones, share your teaching problems and realise that we are all in the same boat!

AGM 2016 – bring this newsletter with you!

Notice of Annual General Meeting, the Agenda, and Notice of Elections

All members are invited to attend the AGM to be held immediately following the workshop on Saturday 27 August in Broxburn.

If you have any matters of other business not covered in the agenda below, please let Jane Meikle know in advance of the meeting.

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 29 August 2015.
3. Secretary's report (printed in this newsletter)
4. Treasurer's Report (printed in this newsletter)
5. Adoption of committee's recommendation to hold the TAS subscription fee at £5 for 2016-2017
6. Elections: a) Chairman b) 1 committee member
7. Appointment of Newsletter Editor
8. Date and place of next AGM in 2017 - Broxburn? Saturday 26th August or 2nd September?
Appointment of Autumn Workshop Organiser
9. Date and place of Spring Workshop(s) 2017
Appointment of Spring Workshop Organiser
10. Any Other Business notified in advance

Secretary's Report 2015 - 2016

Membership

The Spring Workshop in Forres attracted 10 new members following a successful recruitment drive by the Treasurer Judith Borup, bringing the total TAS membership for this year to 136.

Workshops

Two very enjoyable workshops were held during the year with good attendances at each.

At the workshop prior to the AGM at Broxburn, Ian Brockbank, Heather Cowan, Amy Drysdale and Rachel Shankland led sessions on the new RSCDS Book 49, accompanied by Adam Brady on keyboard.

Following the survey on 'Neglected Dances' carried out the previous year, the Spring Workshop in Forres focused on this theme and was led by Oluf Olufsen and Angela Young, accompanied by Frank Thomson on accordion. An update by Jim Stott on the recent RSCDS teaching package 'Dance Trad' was also included.

Thanks must be given to the workshop organisers at each event: Marjorie MacRae (Broxburn) and Margaret Ross (Forres) who ensured everything ran smoothly at each of the venues.

TAS Website

Neil McPhail has restored the TAS Website and Moira Stephen has taken over responsibility for updating and managing the Website.

TAS Facebook Group

To try to attract a wider audience and also younger members, TAS now has a presence on Social media.

RSCDS Website

Progress has been made with TAS being mentioned on the RSCDS Website. Due to the way the website was originally set up, Teachers' Associations can't be added as a tab at the top of the Home Page at the moment. There is, however, a link to each of the Teachers' Associations websites: Click on 'About Us' in the menu at the top of RSCDS Home page – the drop down menu has a link for 'Teachers' Associations' - click on it to find TAS.

TAS Newsletters

Jimmie Hill has produced three very informative newsletters this past year. Unfortunately, as intimated in the last newsletter, Jimmie shall be resigning as Newsletter Editor at the AGM. Thanks must be given to him for all the work he has put into producing the Newsletters over the past six years.

Jane Meikle, TAS Secretary, June 2016

Statement of Accounts 2015 - 2016

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND			STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR JUNE 2015 - MAY 2016		
	2015/6	2014/15		2015/6	2014/15
INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
Membership fees	645.00	635.00	Insurance	86.38	82.98
Membership fees - April Workshop	20.00		April 2014 Workshop:-		
			Hall rent		133.42
<u>Autumn Workshop:-</u>	240.00	184.00	<u>Autumn Workshop:-</u>		
Donations - Fees	15.00	120.00	Hall rent	105.00	105.00
Travel		60.00	Teachers fee	60.00	60.00
			Teachers travel	17.40	60.00
<u>Spring Workshop:-</u>	212.00	158.00	Musician fee	60.00	80.00
			Musician travel	20.00	15.00
			Refreshments	22.29	16.30
			<u>Spring Workshop:-</u>		
			Hall rent	10.00	155.00
			Teachers fee	63.75	45.00
			Teachers travel	168.50	54.00
			Musician fee	100.00	60.00
			Refreshments	44.45	10.00
			<u>Misc/Sundries</u>		
			Membership cards		39.82
			Stationary	56.87	10.44
			Postage	95.82	90.73
Total Income	<u>1132.00</u>	<u>1157.00</u>		<u>910.46</u>	<u>997.69</u>
Less Expenditure	910.46				
Surplus	<u>221.54</u>				
Bank balance 31.5.15	2418.82		Prepared by	Name	Judith Borup
Bank balance 31.5.16	2705.06			Signature	<i>J Borup</i>
	<u>286.14</u>				19.6.2016
Petty Cash 31.5.15	64.60		Examined by	Name	Peter Thomson
Petty Cash 19.4.16	0.00			Signature	<i>P Thomson</i>
	<u>-64.60</u>				25 th June 2016
	<u>221.54</u>				

Teachers' Conference

The fourth Teachers' Conference is being held in Perth, UK on Friday 4th November at the start of the RSCDS Conference Weekend and AGM in 2016. More details on the RSCDS website.

Teachers' Association Scotland – Minutes of AGM, 29 August 2015

At 3.40pm in the Canon Hoban Hall of St John Cantius & Nicholas Parish Church, East Main Street, Broxburn.

TAS Chairman, George Watt, extended a warm welcome to the 54 members in attendance.

Present

Emma Allsop, Fiona Allsop, Brian Anderson, Helen Bain, Roy Bain, Margaret Ballantine, Morag Barclay, Irene Bennett, Aad Boode, Judith Borup, Ian Brockbank, Lyn Bryce, Mary Burney, Peter Clark, Pat Clark, Ross Colwell, Linda Cullen, Fiona Cummins, Amy Drysdale, Edna Ewen, Betty Ferguson, Marion Firth, David France, Christina France, Neil Grant, Jenny Greene, Ella Greig, Margaret Harris, Annabel Harrison, Jimmie Hill, Janet Johnston, Les Lambert, Kathryn Lawson, Norma Macleod, Marjorie MacRae, Kate McArdle, Margaret McCann, Maureen McCrudden, Mary McFarlane, Eileen Meany, Jane Meikle, Yvonne Munro, Alice Oliphant, Oluf Olufsen, Sue Porter, Margo Priestley, Rhoda Purcell, Jane Rattray, Susan Robertson, Margaret Ross, Ann Routledge, Rachel Shankland, Moira Stephen, Margie Stevenson, Anne Taylor, Anne Thorn, Lorna Valentine, George Watt.

Apologies

Apologies were received from 50 members:

Marion Bennett, Muriel Bone, Kaoru Boode-Masaki, Wilma Brown, Jeannie Butler, Atsuko Clement, Allana Creighton, Margaret Fairgreive, Jim Ferguson, Linda Gaul, Frances Grant, Martha Harris, Doris Hepburn, Margaret Hill, George Hobson, Helen Hobson, Patricia Houghton, Connie Irvine, Mike Johnson, Margaret Lambourne, Deirdre MacCuish Bark, Susan Mackenzie, Norma Macleod, Theresa MacVarish, Jean Martin, Fiona McDonald, Margaret McGregor, Tom McKinlay, Yvonne Munro, Catherine Paris, Brenda Pattison, Margaret Pritchard, Janet Renton, Helen Rodger, Lesley Ross, Barbara Savill, Dorothy Scott, Mervyn Short, Irene Smith, Anne Smyth, Sybille Spaegele, Keith Stacey, Moira Stacey, Sue Steele, Jim Stott, John Sturrock, Elspeth Walker, Sheila West.

AGM Minutes of 30 August 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th August 2014 had been published in the July Newsletter.

Matters Arising:

The secretary reported that our suggestion of publishing a book of new young people's dances specifically for festivals was not accepted by the Society, since it was intended to publish another book of children's dances in 2017.

The secretary had written to both the RSCDS Chairman (2014) and the new Chairman about the status of TAS. In the letter, a request was made to make the conditions for granting RSCDS affiliation to Dance Groups and Teachers' Associations to be identical. There had been no replies and TAS still did not appear on the RSCDS Website as requested. Aad Boode informed those present that he had asked at the RSCDS AGM in November 2014 about the details of all Teachers' Associations being on the RSCDS Website, as TAC is the only one listed – as a Branch. He had also enquired if TAC have Delegates, and if so, why, as in their own Constitution they do not have the word 'Branch.' The Chairman had responded that it would be looked into, but nothing further appeared to have happened. Sue Porter intimated that discussions were currently in progress at Management Board meetings regarding the position of TAC and she agreed to make enquiries re. TAS.

Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Jimmie Hill, seconded by Jane Meikle. Agreed.

Secretary's Report

The secretary's report was provided in the July Newsletter in which he gave an outline of this year's activities. He expressed his thanks to George Watt, Les Lambert and the committee for their support and help during his tenure as secretary.

Treasurer's Report

A Statement of Accounts had been previously circulated. There had been another drop in membership to TAS. The excess expenditure over income was £159.31. The balance at the end of the year was £2483.52. The meeting unanimously agreed to the committee's recommendation to keep the membership fee as £5. After discussion, Les Lambert proposed and Oluf Olufsen moved that fees only be collected annually. Agreed. Aad Boode proposed and Judith Borup seconded the adoption of the statement.

Election of Officers 2015 - 2016

The only nomination received was for Treasurer, proposed by Peter Clark, seconded by Les Lambert, and agreed by all present. Judith Borup becomes the new treasurer.

No one had come forward to be the new secretary. After some time, Jane Meikle offered to help – she was duly elected after a proposal from Margaret Harris, seconded by Ann Taylor.

The Bank Mandate would be amended in accordance with the Constitution.

There was no appointment of Workshop Organiser. Margaret Harris offered to look after refreshments at the next workshop, and Marjorie MacRae offered to attend to refreshments if Broxburn Hall was used in future.

There were no nominations to the committee. Fortunately Maureen McCrudden volunteered – accepted.

Date of next meeting

It was agreed the next AGM would be held at Broxburn, on Saturday, August 27th 2016.

AOB

Next Year's Workshops

It was agreed that the August meeting be held in Broxburn again.

The meeting generally thought only one other workshop should be arranged. After some discussion, Margaret Ross offered to examine the possibility of going to Forres.

Website

The website had been closed down, since we had failed to keep up with the maintenance fee. Moira Stephens offered to start a new website if that is what is required. Peter Clark agreed to contact Neil McPhail and Bill Austin to find out if the problem with the original website can be rectified.

Subcommittee Report on the "Neglected Dances" project

Margaret McCann circulated an analysis of the replies that had been sent into the secretary each month. Kate McArdle gave a verbal report of the difficulty in making a scientific outcome, since there had been a different number of replies to each book of dances. There was a short discussion and the subcommittee was left to see if they could suggest any activity related to the results for the next workshop.

Members' Contact List

Helen Bain requested that the Contact List, when next published would give members' home branch details in addition to their e-mail/telephone number. Agreed after some discussion.

Vote of Thanks

Jimmie Hill moved a vote of thanks to Peter, the retiring secretary and Les the retiring treasurer.

The meeting closed at 4.05pm.

The status of TAS within the RSCDS

Is TAS an RSCDS affiliated group or not? Over the years this issue has never been resolved. Past chairman Peter Clark spent much time on this and Aad Boode brought it up at last year's AGM in Perth. The following is a summary of where we are from our Secretary, Jane Meikle.

On the understanding that TAS was an Affiliated Group of the RSCDS, several attempts were made over the last year to get TAS included in the list of Branches and Affiliated Groups on the RSCDS Website, but with no success.

Following recent discussion within our committee regarding the payment of an affiliation fee, it transpired that TAS is not an Affiliated Group as such. It is, however, affiliated to the RSCDS as a Teachers' Association. Letters sent to TAS in 2009 made clear that following the examination and approval of the TAS application and Constitution by the Management Board and E&T Committee, TAS was recognised officially by the RSCDS as a Teachers' Association – not a Branch or Affiliated Group but a Teachers' Association in its own right. The Management Board had agreed the previous year (2008) that the fee for Teachers' Associations was set at zero so we had no fee to pay.

Below is an extract from the RSCDS Rules and Procedures, updated 2015:

20. Teachers' Associations

Associations of Teachers of Scottish Country Dancing may affiliate to the Society and become Teachers' Associations of the Society provided that the following conditions are fulfilled:

- (a) All members of such an Association are members of the Society.*
- (b) The aims and constitution of such an Association are approved by the Management Board.*
- (c) The Association must agree not to engage in activities which in the view of the Society are prejudicial to the interests of the Society or its Purposes as defined in the Society's Articles.*

The decision as to whether or not a Teachers' Association will be allowed to affiliate to the Society will be at the absolute discretion of the Management Board. A Teachers' Association, as a condition of affiliation, will pay an annual affiliation fee as determined by the Management Board.

In summary, all appears to be satisfactory for TAS:

- Management Board & E&T approved our TAS Constitution in 2009
- TAS are recognised as a Teachers' Association of the Society
- We meet all the conditions in the RSCDS Constitution
- There is a link to Teachers' Associations on the RSCDS Website
- The fee set by Management Board in 2008 for Teachers' Associations was zero so we have no fee to pay at present.

Please note that TAS members should also be members of the RSCDS. This, however, does not prevent teachers or group leaders who are not members of the RSCDS from attending TAS Workshops.

I hope this clarifies the status of TAS within the RSCDS and the subject can now be closed.

Jane Meikle / June 2016

Dumfries Branch Half Day School

Saturday 24th September 2016

Teacher - Janet Johnston Musician - Ian Muir

Band for Evening Dance - Ian Muir & his Scottish Dance Band

See website for further details www.dumfries-rscds.org

Or contact Dumfries Branch Secretary Janette Kirkpatrick 01387-253456

Some basics from the past

Thomas Wilson was without question one of the most important and influential country dance teachers and writers in the history of the Country Dance. His most influential publications appeared in the early years of the 19th Century. One of the most important is his 142-page *Analysis of Country Dancing*, which appeared in 1808. My copy is the third edition of 1811. The book was printed in London by James Gillett, Crown Court, Fleet Street. It was published by J S Dickson, 18 Ivy Lane, near St Paul's Cathedral. Ivy Lane was in Paternoster Row and was where Samuel Johnson set up his Ivy Lane Club - a literary and social club.

Interestingly, the book could be bought direct from the author at his home in Bedford Row or from 'all booksellers in the United Kingdom'.

It may come as a surprise to all Pilling-users that in his diagrams, circles denote men and squares denote ladies. In earlier dance manuals of the 18th century ladies were referred to as 'women', but Wilson preferred 'ladies'. The RSCDS has come full circle by returning to 'women' in its dance instructions.

Turning

Early in the book Wilson explains that the term 'turn' means both hands and the term 'swing' means right or left hand.

Allemande

Wilson is quite explicit on this. A couple 'allemande' by dancing round each other back to back. It would take 4 bars of music.

Footing

This is a term which appears a lot in early dance instructions. Wilson makes it clear that 'foot' and 'set' mean the same. "It is merely dancing in your place to fill up the time of the music."

Corners

The term corners has two meanings. 1st and 2nd couple can 'foot corners' by facing in diagonally and setting to the opposite person, 1st man sets to his corner, 2nd lady, while 1st woman sets to her corner, 2nd man. When he means corners as we use the term today, the term he uses is 'contrary corners'.

Lead down the middle

For Wilson leading down the middle was invariably a progressive movement. His rule is that as soon as 1st couple pass 2nd couple, they move up to top place. 1st couple return to 2nd place.

Casting off

Casting off one place for Wilson took 4 bars - what we call a long cast. He makes it clear that he did not like 'a sudden turn' in casting off as it has 'a disagreeable effect.' This is why in the original instructions for *The Frisky* on which the RSCDS dance is based each turn and cast takes 4 bars each. Thus, our bars 1-8 originally took a more relaxed 16 bars.

Rights and Lefts

This common formation has several variants. In Wilson's 1811 edition 1st lady changes place with 2nd man, 1st man changes places with 2nd lady; then repeat. He mentions that the 'chain figure' (our rights and lefts) is often substituted for his figure. Our rights and lefts was common in the mid-18th century, then became standard as it was the 'chaine anglaise' which come from France with the arrival of the quadrille post-1815.

Poussette

In fast time Wilson describes poussettes where the couples move round each other without progressing and half-poussettes where progression takes place. It is clear that the poussette was danced with a travelling step akin to our skip change. His diagrams make the movements explicit.

It is interesting that Wilson says very little about steps. The whole focus of his work is on formations and how they can be combined, and, of course, etiquette.

J. Hill

Autumn Workshop and AGM
Saturday, August 27th
Topic: Book 50

Canon Hoban Hall, St John Cantius and Nicholas Parish Church,
East Main Street, Broxburn, EH52 5RJ (A699)

Teachers: Emma Allsop (Aberdeen Branch)
Carol-Ann Knox (Lochaber and Glasgow Branches)
Fiona Mackie (Dundee Branch)
Musician: Andrew Nolan (London Branch and Edinburgh)

Cost: £4 for TAS members and £6 for non-members of TAS

- Teachers' Association Scotland (TAS) invites all Scottish country dance teachers to a workshop for teachers - no qualification required.
- Dancing sessions will cover the newly published dances in Book 50.
- The TAS AGM is an opportunity to get involved in the functioning of TAS and to raise and discuss relevant matters.

Programme

10.30	Registration and collection of subs - with coffee etc
11.00	Morning Session: Six dances from Book 50
12.45	Lunch - bring a packed lunch. Tea / coffee provided
13.30	Afternoon Session: Remaining dances from Book 50
15.15 - 16.00	AGM

*If you would like to attend, please e-mail the Treasurer, Judith Borup:
j.borup@btinternet.com
or phone 01738-842789
ideally before 20 August!*

Teachers' Association Scotland

Membership Renewal June 2016 - May 2017

Workshop Application 27th August 2016

Name

Branch

Address

.....

.....

Post Code

E-mail

Tel

Personal details – mark appropriate qualifications held

RSCDS Teacher's Certificate Full / Part / None

Certificate for First Aid / Food hygiene

Fees due: Membership £5.00 Workshop £4.00

I enclose £ Signature..... Date.....

Treasurer: Judith Borup, 11 Taylor Avenue, Methven, Perth, PH1 3EF

j.borup@btinternet.com