

The Scottish Country Dance Teacher

TAS Newsletter February 2019

Newsletter of the Teachers' Association Scotland (TAS)

Recognised as an RSCDS Teachers' Association

www.countrydanceteachersofscotland.org.uk

Chairman: Jimmie Hill

Secretary: Susan Mackay

secretary@countrydanceteachersofscotland.org.uk

Treasurer: Sue Porter

Committee: Janet Johnston, Anne Robertson, Jayne Riddet

Newsletter Editor: Mary McFarlane marymcfa@gmail.com

From the Chairman

Dear Fellow Teachers

I am delighted to tell you that our Scottish Schools Working Group has been taken under the umbrella of the Management Board as an official Society working group. Those of us who were on it and produced the report, which we printed in last year's July newsletter, have stepped aside as the new group is re-constituted with Roy Bain as the Coordinator. Roy is in the process of recruiting people from all areas of Scotland who are currently involved in teaching in and supporting primary schools. This all stemmed from Peter Clark's suggestion of a book of simple dances for primary schools at our AGM in 2017. So TAS can be proud of the fact that we now have Scottish Schools firmly on the Society's agenda. I am sure we all wish Roy and his team every success.

The other ongoing project is the book of simple country dances for children. We have 24 dances and they are ready to be tested by anyone with a children's class or working in schools. Some of the dances were written by teachers; some by children; some tried and tested but not published by the Society; and some devised by the groups at our workshop in Helensburgh last Spring. They all fit the rules for Festivals and could be used at Days of Dance, and any beginners class for children or even adults.

The committee has put together a very varied programme for our Perth Workshop on 6 April. It's all homegrown talent – Oluf, Sue, Janet, Anne and Roy – with Mo playing. Hope to see you all there.

Jimmie Hill

From the Editor

What better way to spend a dark winter's evening than exercising to our traditional music in the company of friends, but Spring is on its way and it is nearly time for our next workshop. The programme can be found on page 4. I have also included details of a couple of forthcoming events where members will be made very welcome. As usual, Jimmie has pulled out some interesting snippets from the Archives: dancing a 2-couple dance from 4th place can be hard work; nine times through anyone?

Please pass on information about the TAS Spring Fling grants to young dancers you know (criteria below, application form on p5) - there's still time to apply.

TAS Dates for your diary:

Saturday, 6 April 2019

The Spring Workshop will take place on Saturday, 6 April. The venue is St Matthew's Church of Scotland, Tay Street, Perth PH1 5LQ.

Please see page 4 for further details about the event.

Saturday, 31 August 2019

The Autumn Workshop and AGM will take place in Canon Hoban Hall, Broxburn.

Spring Fling: Paris, 19th April 2019

As discussed at the AGM last year, it was agreed that TAS would offer grants for dancers who would like to attend Spring Fling in Paris at Easter this year. Please pass on this information to any dancers whom you think may be interested.

TAS has 5 awards of £100 per dancer. Applications are invited from eligible dancers using the application form on page 5.

- Applicants must be resident in Scotland and be between the ages of 16 and 25.
- The grant will only be paid to applicants registered for the Spring Fling.
- Grants will be awarded on a "first come, first served" basis.
- Closing date for applications for funding is 16th March 2019
- Successful applicants will be asked to write a report on their experience at Spring Fling for the TAS newsletter

News about the Dancing Achievement Award

The new Dancing Achievement Award (DAA) will be launched at Summer School in 2019 and at TAC at about the same time of year.

Anne Taylor will be giving a short presentation on the new DAA at our Spring workshop.

E&T Committee are looking to train suitably qualified RSCDS Teachers to become assessors for the DAA. If you are interested in becoming an Assessor please contact Anne Taylor annegranttaylor@hotmail.com so that your name can be added to a list for Assessor Training.

The Gay Gordons

Why are the Gordons gay? The answer is that all Scottish clans traditionally had their own epithet! So, we had the Greedy Campbells, the Dirty Dalrymples, the Gallant Grahams, the Light Lindsays, the Haughty Hamiltons, the Sturdy Armstrongs, the Gentle Johnsons, the Lucky Duffs, the Setons Tall and Proud, the Handsome Hays, the Trusty Boyds and, of course, the Gay Gordons! So, if you have ever told a class that the Gordon Highlanders were a happy bunch, rubbish! It's the clan Gordon. Now who is going to devise The Dirty Dalrymples?

Jimmie Hill

Something else we take for granted

Country dances have always varied in length. In the early 1800s you could choose which version of a dance you wanted to dance: the 16 bar version, the 32 bar version or even the 48 bar version. With very few exceptions, dances were for two or three couples in a longwise set 'for as many as will'. Today we have dances for 2 couples, 3 couples, 4 couples, 5 couples. We dance 2-couple dances in sets of 4 couples and increasingly in sets of 3 couples.

When the Society decided that the four-couple set would be the standard, some time in the mid 1900s (about the time of the Second World War), that worked well for 3-couple dances. Each couple got to dance the dance twice with rests. But have you ever thought about 2-couple dances in a 4-couple set? The first three couples dance the dance three times each and then the 4th couple only dance it twice. Does anyone have any theories as to why we don't ask the band to play it nine times? Then all four couples would dance the dance three times.

Jimmie Hill

Forthcoming events

RSCDS Helensburgh Branch are holding their 41st Weekend School from 29-31 March. For further information and to download the Application Form go to <http://rscds-helensburgh.org.uk/branch-weekend/> Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, 15 March. For additional information please contact Helen Cameron, Weekend Secretary, whose contact details are on the application form.

RSCDS West Lothian will be hosting the Lothian Branches Joint Dance on Saturday, 6 April. The dance will take place in the Canon Hoban Hall at Broxburn. Music will be provided by Stuart Anderson and his Band. Contact secretary@rscdswestlothian.org.uk Programme information can be found on the website: <http://rscdswestlothian.org.uk/events/> (*Editor's Note: If you have energy left, there's plenty of time to travel to the dance in Broxburn after our Spring workshop in Perth! I hope to see you there.*)

Teachers' Association Scotland, TAS

TAS Workshop - Saturday 6th April 2019 Perth

Venue: St Matthew's Church of Scotland, Tay Street, Perth PH1 5LQ

Teachers: Oluf Olufson (North Ayrshire Branch)
Sue Porter (Oban & Lorn Branch)
Janet Johnston (Stirling Branch)
Anne Taylor (Convenor-Elect E & T Committee)
Roy Bain (Helensburgh Branch)

Musician: Mo Rutherford

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

- Teachers' Association Scotland (TAS) invites all Scottish Country Dance teachers to a workshop for teachers – no teaching qualifications required
- Dancing sessions mixed with opportunities for discussion – see below for details

Workshop Programme:

10.30 Coffee / Tea and Registration
11.00 Neglected Dances 2 - Oluf Olufsen
12.00 Making a Balanced Dance Programme - Sue Porter
13.00 Lunch, please bring your own
13.45 Dances from Branch Books - Janet Johnston
14.45 How well do you know your music - Mo Rutherford
15.15 The new DAA - Anne Taylor
15.45 Update from Scottish Schools Working Group - Roy Bain

If you would like to attend please email -

treasurer@countrydanceteachersofscotland.org.uk

preferably by 30 March.

Car Parking

There is a small car park at the side of the church which fits around 6 cars but it is a first come first served basis. Along at the end of Tay street there is all day parking at the South Inch carpark and there is also a multi storey carpark around the corner in Canal Street.

Teachers' Association Scotland

Spring Fling 2019 Grant Application

The grant being offered by TAS is £100 per applicant.
Applicants must be resident in Scotland and be between the ages of 16 and 25.
The grant will only be paid to applicants registered for the Spring Fling.
Grants will be awarded on a "first come, first served" basis.
Closing date: 16th March 2019

Name

Address

.....

.....

Tel. No.

Mobile

Email

.....

Would you be prepared to write a short report on the event for the TAS Newsletter? Yes /
No

Signature.....

Date.....

Please send the completed form to the TAS Treasurer:

Sue Porter, Schiehallion, Grianach Gardens, Oban PA34 4LB

email: treasurer@countrydanceteachersofscotland.org.uk

TAS is the association for all teachers of Scottish country dancing in Scotland.

For use by TAS

Date application received

Cheque no.