

TAS

AFFILIATED TO THE
rscds

Teachers' Association Scotland

www.countrydanceteachersofscotland.org.uk

Chair: Janet Johnston

Secretary: Anne Thorn

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Treasurer: George Watt

Committee: Deirdre MacCuish Bark, Jane Meikle, Morag Barclay, Muriel Bone

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The Scottish Country Dance Teacher Newsletter March 2024

From the Chair

Welcome to your first newsletter of 2024. It's cheering to see the days getting longer and warmer, and the spring bulbs are pushing through. This means our Friday night dance and Saturday workshop in Bridge of Allan is imminent. The committee has pulled from the submitted ideas and hope you enjoy the variety of subjects on offer, and we are delighted to have some new faces leading the sessions. There are plans to record part of the workshop for use in our next submission to the Virtual Teachers' Conference at the end of 2024. Please keep submitting your ideas for future workshops.

The committee continues with its six weekly zoom meetings and preparations for the Autumn workshop on 31st August in Broxburn are in hand.

As you already know we have made some progress with bringing our website into the 21st Century. Our present one is too small with insufficient capacity for any future additions and would cost too much to upgrade. We therefore started negotiations with Fuzzylime and they have taken on board all our requirements. Our new state-of-the-art website at £1,500 + VAT appears expensive but they'll design and develop the site, maintain, host and train up to four people to manage the website. It's big enough for our archive material, workshop reports, photos and has lots of room for future additions. Our website should therefore be easier to negotiate and anyone 'popping in for a wee look' will find something interesting and return in the future. Thanks to everyone for submitting their thoughts, and ideas for inclusion in the new website.

TAS took the opportunity for promotion at the RSCDS Conference week-end and Winter School. We have gained new members and sold some copies of 'Start Dancing!'. It continues to sell along with the supporting music via Bandcamp. Mo Rutherford has now recorded some tracks for step practice and initial sales are encouraging.

I now need you to think about the future of TAS and consider the forthcoming vacancy for Secretary. Anne completes her term of office at the next AGM and our constitution prevents her remaining in post. If you could be interested then please contact Anne for details of the position. If you think someone else would be ideal for the job then please discuss it with them and us.

It looks like we have lots to talk about at our next workshop week-end. Looking forward to seeing you all on 19th - 20th April.

Janet

Music for Step Practice for Scottish Country dancing

Mo Rutherford from Perth on piano

26 tracks for use in any Scottish country dance class



TAS

Scotland's Country Dance Teachers' Association

Obituary

It is with sadness that we record the death of Jane Rattray from Stanley, Perthshire on 21st January. A supportive TAS member of many years standing, she taught widely in Perthshire. She routinely travelled the 18 miles to Auchterarder to teach the class and supported the Stirling Castle Scottish Country Dance Group as a committee member. Her only absence was when bad weather prevented her travel.

MINUTES OF TAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 26TH AUGUST 2023 At 10.45 a.m. in Cardross Parish Church Hall, Cardross

1. WELCOME

The TAS chairman, Oluf Olufsen, extended a warm welcome to the 51 members in attendance.

2. SEDERUNT

Margaret Allen, Diana Baillie, Helen Bain, Roy Bain, Margaret Ballantine, Morag Barclay, Muriel Bone, Abigail Brown, Linda Cullen, Marean Daniels, Margaret Fairgrieve, Eilidh Garden, Ella Greig, Gillian Hardstone, Margaret Harris, Martha Harris, Jimmie Hill, Elaine Hutchison, Janet Johnston, Janette Kirkpatrick, Carol Ann Knox, Kathryn Lawson, Agnes Leighton, Marjorie MacRae, Debra McAlees, Margaret McCann, Fiona McDonald, Mary McFarlane, Jean Martin, Eileen Meany, Jane Meikle, Yvonne Munro, Alice Oliphant, Oluf Olufsen, John Phillip, Lucy Phillips, Sue Porter, Margo Priestley, Jayne Riddet, Thomas Rintoul, Eve Ritchie, Anne Robertson, Helen Rodger, Rachel Shankland, David Smith, Irene Smith, Moira Stephen, Margie Stevenson, Anne Thorn, Lorna Valentine, George Watt.

3. APOLOGIES

Brian Anderson, Irene Bennett, Marion Bennett, Aad Boode, Kaoru Boode-Masaki, Judith Borup, Caroline Brockbank, Ian Brockbank, Wilma Brown, Lyn Bryce, Jeanie Butler, Atsutko Clement, Heather Cowan, Allana Creighton, Fiona Cummins, Lorraine Dick, Margaret Davidson, Fiona Fairlie, Marion Firth, Sheena Gillespie, Christine Grant, Linda Harley, George Hobson, Helen Hobson, Pat Houghton, Zsofi Jozsef, Linda Lawson, Deb Lees, Deirdre MacCuish-Bark, Susan Mackay, Susan MacKenzie, Norma MacLeod, Theresa MacVarish Clark, Margaret McGregor, Tom McKinlay, Fiona Newton, Brenda Pattison, Hugh Porteous, Joyce Porteous, Margaret Pritchard, Jane Rattray, Susan Robertson, Margaret Ross, Lesley Ross, Dorothy Scott, Keith Stacey, Moira Stacey, Anne Taylor, David Taylor, Linda Thomas, Isobel Turner, Wendy West, Irene Whyte.

4. MINUTES OF AGM FROM 27TH AUGUST 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th August 2022 in Dunblane had been sent out to members on the 24th of July 2023. There were no matters arising.

Proposed by Roy Bain
Seconded by Yvonne Munro

5. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Anne Thorn stated that she hoped everyone had received the revised version of the Secretary's Report with the correct date and venue of last year's AGM and Autumn Workshop.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership as of 22nd June 2023 was 115 which is a slight increase on the previous year when membership stood at 105. We still have not returned to our pre-Covid membership of 133.

WORKSHOPS

We held our Autumn workshop on Saturday 27th August 2022 in Dunblane. The format was slightly different from previous years with the AGM being held first followed by the workshop. The workshop was led by Luke Brady who was ably assisted by Fiona Mackie. Luke focused on using music in our SCD classes and participants were kept engaged with the right balance between discussion and dancing. The day was broken up into four sessions: how to effectively use a musician in class, using a variety of music for step practice; how to use recorded music and dance programme writing.

Our Spring workshop was held in Montrose on Saturday 29th April 2023. The morning workshop focused on revisiting once popular RSCDS dances and we were taught by Alasdair Brown. Our musician for the day was Neil Galloway. In the afternoon we focused on "100 years of the RSCDS – what next?" and discussed the quotation "Cherish the past, adorn the present and build the future." The afternoon concluded with Alasdair teaching a few more RSCDS dances which were once popular followed by three dances from the RSCDS Glasgow Centenary Book.

TAS COMMITTEE

At our 2022 AGM two office bearers were appointed to the committee – Anne Thorn took on the role of secretary and George Watt became treasurer. Jane Meikle and Deirdre MacCuish-Bark joined the committee as a non-office bearers. Sadly Anne Smyth felt that she was unable to continue as a committee member and we were very fortunate that Morag Barclay agreed to be co-opted onto the committee.

COMMUNICATION WITH MEMBERS

TAS Facebook Group

George Watt has kept the TAS Facebook page updated and has kindly agreed to continue in this role.

TAS Website

Maira Stephen, who has managed the TAS Website and kept it updated, has kindly agreed to continue in this role.

TAS Newsletters

Mary MacFarlane has continued to produce very informative newsletters.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the TAS newsletters. Mary has kindly agreed to continue as editor of the newsletter.

Proposed by Margo Priestley
Seconded by Fiona McDonald

Oluf Olufsen thanked Anne Thorn for all her work as secretary this year.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

A statement of accounts had been previously circulated to the TAS membership. George Watt began by thanking Lorna Valentine and Anne Thorn for supporting him this year.

In order to book the Montrose venue enhanced insurance needed to be purchased at a cost of £288. This insurance will cover TAS for a number of Workshops, Dances and a Weekend Away.

TAS running costs consist of insurance, webhosting and domain in addition to administration (postage and stationery).

The Treasurer was pleased to report that TAS currently has 92 members.

A number of losses have been incurred:

The 2022 AGM & Autumn Workshop – loss of £138

The 2023 Spring Workshop – loss of £120

As a result the committee has had to look closely at the costing of Workshops. This is the reason that Workshops have increased from £5 to £10 for TAS members (£12 for non-TAS members) which is still very good value. Currently musicians and teachers are being paid at a flat rate of £20 per hour.

The "Start Dancing" initiative has also been a considerable expense but it is a fantastic publication with superb musicians providing the downloadable music.

Publication costs stand at £1,211 and each musician was paid £250. The total musician fee was £1,000. Total income currently on music and books sales stands at £923 so we are on our way to recouping our outlay.

The TAS committee has investigated organising a Weekend away either on our own or jointly with serTA. This will be outlined under AOCB.

Proposed by Lucy Phillips
Seconded by Anne Robertson & Janet Johnston

Oluf Olufsen thanked George Watt for producing the financial report and looking after the fiscal affairs of TAS.

Jimmie Hill added that the book had cost £1,200 to print and that, as of today, the total income from the book from today's workshop and RSCDS Summer School stands at £700. The income from music on Bandcamp is £200 so far.

Sue Porter suggested that the committee look at musician and teacher fees for future Workshops as it may be that choosing a teacher/musician close to that venue might not be the best option as they may not have the skillset required for a particular Workshop. George Watt stated that he felt that the rates would be adjusted accordingly and we would not deliberately exclude someone if we felt they had the relevant skills.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

As intimated in the Secretary's Report, proposals for nominees to fill one office bearer post and two non-officer bearer posts was sent to the membership on the 24th of July 2023. The secretary had not received any nominations in advance of the AGM. The Chairman stated that it was important for TAS to grow and develop therefore he asked for nominations from the floor.

Chairman for 3 years

Janet Johnston

Proposed by George Watt

Seconded by Jane Meikle.

There were no other nominations and Janet Johnston was appointed as the new Chairman.

Oluf Olufsen thanked Janet Johnston for agreeing to take on the role of Chairman. Janet agreed that Oluf should continue to chair the meeting.

Committee Member for 3 years

Morag Barclay

Proposed by Anne Thorn

Seconded by Margaret McCann

Committee Member for 3 years

Muriel Bone

Proposed by Anne Robertson

Seconded by Margo Priestley

There being no other nominees, Morag Barclay and Muriel Bone were both elected onto the committee.

Oluf Olufsen gave a vote of thanks to previous and current members of the committee, the secretary and the treasurer for their dedicated work in furthering the aims of TAS. He thanked Mary McFarlane for the effort she put into producing the TAS newsletter and Moira Stephen for updating the TAS website and constantly looking for ways to improve it.

Anne Thorn thanked Oluf Olufsen for his dedication to the Association and for guiding TAS through, and out, of the very difficult Covid years ensuring that the work of the organisation continued through Zoom meetings.

8. WORKSHOP DATES AND VENUES FOR 2024

Oluf Olufsen stated that despite encouraging members to suggest venues, he had only received a couple of verbal accounts of possible venues. He encouraged members to take time to contact the secretary with regard to possible venues for future Workshops. He was keen to encourage TAS to cover Scotland – north, south, east and west - however the bulk of the membership tended to support Workshops in the central belt. The more information the committee has the better the planning.

Spring Workshop

The following dates were suggested:

13th/20th/27th April 2024

It was agreed to hold the Workshop on the 20th of April. Fort William, Moffat and Lockerbie were suggested as possible venues. Gillian Hardstone volunteered to investigate possible venues in the south of Scotland and to email the secretary with the information.

Autumn Workshop

It was agreed to hold the Workshop in the central belt on the 31st of August 2024.

The availability of the following venues to be investigated:

- 1) Broxburn
- 2) Bridge of Allan
- 3) Cardross

9. AOCB

Jane Meikle stated that pre-covid the members had suggested that TAS should hold a Weekend Away. The following venues had been suggested:

The Atholl Palace, Pitlochry

Peebles Hydro

The Highland Hotel, Strathpeffer.

Jane had contacted the venues asking for prices for March/April 2024 for:
2 night's dinner, bed and breakfast

A wine reception on the Friday evening

Tea and biscuits for Saturday morning

Function room hire for a dance on Friday night, all day Saturday for the workshop and evening dance and possibly Sunday morning

Sunday lunch for those who wished it

The Highland Hotel had not replied to Jane's enquiries.

The Atholl Palace replied with DB&B costs and a wine list which was not very informative given that RSCDS Winter School is held there and they also have experience of accommodating requests from other dancing groups. Perhaps TAS members would prefer to hold it elsewhere?

Peebles Hydro was very helpful and gave a detailed breakdown of costs. 2024 prices looked like about £350 per person but more for single room occupancy. Teacher and musician costs would also have to be factored in. The cheapest rates were January, February, March and November with mid-week being cheaper than the weekend.

serTA have held two weekends- one in Bournemouth and the other in Suffolk. Perhaps if we held it in Peebles they might be interested in co-hosting?

Alternatively TAS could hire a venue for the events but members would be expected to find their own meals and accommodation.

Margaret McCann stated that the Salutation Hotel in Perth was another possible venue as it had been used for Ewan Galloway's Stagger Inn event. Margo Priestley commented that this seemed a fair price and had been to the Peebles Hydro before. Jayne Riddet stated that she had used the Peebles Hydro before and that possibly we could obtain a group discount. Oluf Olufsen added that a Weekend Away might help TAS to

evolve with regard to the social side of Workshops. Anne Thorn asked the membership to raise their hands if they wished the committee to pursue this further. Half of those in attendance voted in favour of taking forward the idea of a Weekend Away.

Oluf thanked Jane for taking this task on board and investigating on behalf of the membership. He added that realistically the committee would have to carry this forward to 2025.

David Smith suggested that it would be nice if it were possible to hold a dance the evening before the Spring/Autumn Workshop as had happened in Helensburgh on a previous occasion.

10.VOTE OF THANKS

Oluf Olufsen thanked everyone for attending and gave special thanks to past and present committee members. He ended by wishing the new committee well in their endeavours.

The meeting closed at 11.55 a.m.

Start Dancing – Do you use CDs for your classes?

The TAS committee are aware that some TAS members do not use digital music and still use CDs for their classes. Jimmie Hill is willing to make CDs of the TAS music for us.

There will be 2 CDs of music to accompany "Start Dancing!" (24 tracks - CD1 tracks 1-12 and CD2 tracks 13-24).

The CDs will come in a plastic case and will be available for the same price as a download on Bandcamp i.e. £12.

There will also be 1 CD for "Step Practice" (26 tracks).

The CD will come in a plastic case and will be available for the same price as a download from Bandcamp i.e. £8.

Please note the CDs will play on CD machines, Coomers and car audio systems but will not look as professional as the CDs commercially available. They will however meet the needs of those who do not use digital music and wish to use CDs for their class.

Please email the TAS Secretary Anne Thorn on Tas.secretary@mail.com if you would like to have CDs made for you.

The CDs can be collected at the Spring Workshop in Bridge of Allan on 20 April OR they can be posted out at a cost of £2.50. Please advise Anne when you email how you wish to receive your CDs (by post or to collect at the Workshop). She would be grateful if requests for CDs are made before 13 April to enable Jimmie to have enough time to produce them.

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Spring Workshop & Dance

All events being held in Bridge of Allan Parish Church Hall, Keir Street
Bridge of Allan FK9 4NW

Dance (Open to everyone)

Friday 19th April 2024

7.30p.m. – 10.30p.m.

David Oswald Trio

£10 Please bring your own mug

Contact Anne Thorn (tas.secretary@mail.com or 07490274871)

Crib on TAS website or Scottish Country Dance Database

Workshop (Open to all SCD teachers of who are members of the RSCDS)

Saturday 20th April 2024

10.20a.m.-4p.m.

£10 TAS Members/£12 non-members

Contact Anne Thorn (tas.secretary@mail.com or 07490274871)

Please bring your own mug and lunch

Payments can be made by BACS

Please use ONE of the references below (n.b. WS = workshop D= Dance)

TASWS your name or TASD your name or TASWSD your name

A/C Name: Teachers' Association Scotland (TAS)

Sort Code: 80-05-40

Account no: 06002469

Spring Dance Programme

J	Centenary Jig	Glasgow 100th Anniversary
R	The Brodick Reel	TAS Start Dancing!
S	The Gentleman	RSCDS Bk 35
J	Farewell to Balfour Road	RSCDS Bk 52
R	Back to the Fireside	RSCDS Bk 38
S	Janet's Cup of Tea	Bannockburn 700
J	The Skeely Skipper	RSCDS Dunfermline 90th Anniv
R	John of Bon Accord	RSCDS Bk 33
S	Miss Gibson's Strathspey	RSCDS Leaflet 18
R	Crossing the Line	J Drewry Bankhead 6
	INTERVAL	
J	MacLeod's Fancy	RSCDS Bk 33
R	Burnt Tatties	TAS Start Dancing!
S	Gang the Same Gate	RSCDS Bk 36
J	Chased Lovers	RSCDS Bk 53
R	The Countess of Dunsmore's Reel	RSCDS Bk 49
S	Mrs Milne of Kinneff	RSCDS Leaflet 20
J	Mrs Stewart's Jig	RSCDS Bk 35
R	Maxwell's Rant	RSCDS Bk 18

Local information

PARKING

Car parking is available adjacent to the church hall. There is a car park on Keir Street and on Fountain Street.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Bridge of Allan railway station is a 15 minute walk from the church hall.

First Bus runs a bus on the hour from Stirling bus station which stops outside the Royal Hotel on Henderson Street (a 2 minute walk from the church hall). It is a 20 minute bus journey.

ACCOMMODATION AROUND BRIDGE OF ALLAN

Hotels (with parking)

Holiday Inn Express (Springkerse Business Park FK7 7XH)

King Robert Hotel Stirling (Glasgow Road FK7 0LJ)

Premier Inn (Forthside Way FK8 1QZ or Glasgow Road FK7 8EX)

Royal Highland Hotel Stirling (Spittal Street FK8 1DU)

Stirling Court Hotel (Airthey Road FK9 4LA)

Travelodge (Goosecroft Road FK8 1JA or Moto Service Station FK7 8EU)

B&Bs/Guest Houses (a short drive from Bridge of Allan)

Drum Farm B & B

Lowefield B & B

Munro Guest House

Springfield Lodge B & B

The Alan Park

From the Editor

Thanks to Anne and Janet for their assistance in bringing together the information contained in this issue. A great deal of work has gone into arranging the Dance and the Spring Workshop – see page 12 for programme details. I hope these events will be a great success.

Happy dancing!

Mary

TAS

Teachers' Association Scotland

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TAS Spring Workshop Saturday 20th April 2024

VENUE:

Bridge of Parish Church Hall, Keir Street, Bridge of Allan, FK9 4NW.

PROGRAMME:

10:15-10:45	Tea/Coffee & Registration. Please bring your own mug/juice/water.
10:45-12:00	How to deliver CPD using “Start Dancing!” Teacher: Jimmie Hill Music: Recorded
12:10-12:30	The role of Active Schools Co-ordinators Angela Hunter & Kim Bruce
12:30-13:15	Lunch (Please bring your own lunch and mug. Tea/coffee will be available).
13:15-14:00	Scottish Schools Working Group - an update from Lorna Valentine Discussion Groups – tips on teaching children & young people
14:10-15:40	The Difference a Tune Makes. Teacher: Deb Lees Musician: David Oswald
15:45	Close

The charge for the workshop will be £10 for TAS members and £12 for non-members payable on the day or in advance by bank transfer using the details below.

Please email tas.treasurer@mail.com and tas.secretary@mail.com if you intend to come to the workshop and indicate whether you will be paying by bank transfer or in cash on the day. If paying by bank transfer, please include “TASWS” as a reference.

Sort code: 80-05-40
Account no: 06002469