

# The Scottish Country Dance Teacher

## TAS Newsletter July 2012

Newsletter of the Teachers' Association Scotland (TAS)

*Chairman: Anne Taylor      Secretary: Oluf Olufsen      Treasurer: Sue Porter*

*Committee: Margaret Harris, Mary Burney, Neil MacPhail*

*Workshop Organiser: Jenny Greene*

*Newsletter Editor: Jimmie Hill      macleodhill@mac.com*

### From the editor

Updating my Mac from Snow Leopard to Mountain Lion (yes!), instead of making life easier, has meant communicating with my previous TAS address list became impossible. If you are reading this, then the problem has been solved! If you are not . . .

The main news for all members is our Autumn Workshop and AGM on Saturday September 1st. There is an application form at the end of this newsletter. It would be good to see as many people as possible, especially after the success of our Spring Workshop. To help us focus at the AGM, I have included the current constitution, which may also be of interest to new members.

JH (ed)

### **TAS Autumn Workshop**

**Saturday 1st September 2012**

**The Diamond Jubilee Book of 6 Dances**

*Teacher: Les Lambert      Musician: Bill Ewan*

**Canon Hoban Hall, St John and St Nicholas RC Church**

**East Main St, Broxburn, West Lothian**

**10.30      Coffee and Registration**

**11.00      Class 1: Jubilee Dances 1**

**12.30      Lunch (bring your own)**

**1.30      AGM**

**2.15      Class 2: Jubilee Dances 2**

**3.15      Discussion session**

**3.45      Finish**

## Bill Clement MBE

Everyone will by now have learned of the sad death of Bill Clement. TAS sends its condolences to Atsuko at this time. We are sure she will have been supported and upheld by the very large congregation who met to celebrate Bill's life in Closeburn Parish Church, in which he was a greatly respected Elder. Later in this newsletter you will find the instructions for a new dance 'Bill Clement MBE', devised by John Wilkinson. We are very grateful to John for giving us permission to publish it. It is a very danceable 32 bar jig; the tune is Bill's and is appropriately named 'The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society'.

## Report from the Inverness Workshop

TAS policy in the past has been to hold one workshop per year in the Central Belt and the second outwith. At our 2011 AGM we decided to go to Inverness this Spring. It turned out to be a very successful day with 55 people attending in the excellent venue, Trinity Church Hall. 35 of the group came from the Inverness/Moray Firth/Skye and the North East, which was excellent.

The day was led by Jean Martin, accompanied by Jennifer Wilson. In the morning session Jean chose dances which she felt were being neglected, always good to be reminded of gems from the past. The dances were *Willie wi' his Tartan Trews* (Book 14), *Red House* (Book 7), and the potentially daunting *Miss Janet Laing's Strathspey* (Book 22). It is always good for us as teachers to be taught and experience another teacher's perspective. For those of us who had never warmed up to *The Dundee Stomp*, I am sure it is now firmly in our repertoires - not to mention the disorientation of petronella-ing to our left as 1st man and 4th lady have to do in *Janet Laing*. Part of the value of being taught is in the private conversations the teacher is often unaware of (Oh, is that how you do that . . . I didn't realise that . . . mmm, I've never taught it like that before).

In the afternoon session Jean gave us a fascinating insight into the contribution made by composers from the North East, one of the heartlands of traditional dance and music culture. The composers were Peter Milne (The Tarland Minstrel), James Scott Skinner (The Strathspey King) Banchory, Annie Shand – musician who was photographed outside Old Wing with Miss Milligan (Aberdeen), Nan Main (Aberdeen), Adam Allardyce (Aberdeen), Bert Murray (The Auld Fiddler) (Aberdeen), Alice MacLennan (Hopeman), Annie Shand Scott (Aberdeen), Willie Macpherson – Elgin, Alastair Hunter (Oban & Aberdeen), Ian Duncan (Keith), George Anderson (Keith), Drummond Cook (Forres), Carole Cook (Forres), Eric Allan (Inverness), Frank Thomson (Perth & Aberdeen), Allan Kindness (Perth), Dennis Morrison (New Machar & Aberdeen), Angela Young (Aberdeen).

The day finished with an informal dance, the dances all featuring lead tunes by some of the composers Jean talked about: *Joie de Vivre*, *Swiss Lassie*, *The Bonnie Tree*, *Napier's Index*, *Summer Wooing*, *The Royal Wedding*, *Inverneill House*, *Pelorus Jack*, *S-Locomotion*, *Johnnie's Welcome Hame*, *Miss Gibson's Strathspey*, and *Jig to the Music*. All in all, it was well worth the journey. Can we have a volunteer to write a report on the next workshop?

## New Park (Book 19)

Having read Bob Grant's excellent article on the Diamond Poussette in *Scottish Country Dancer*, October 2011, I re-visited *New Park* recently with a class – the poussette danced by 1st and 3rd couples from their respective positions. Dancing the poussette as first described in Book 19 was new to everyone and they found it far more satisfying as a formation than the one in *The Manual*. However, the formation is only satisfying if it ends in side-lines and the following promenade begins from side-lines. Beginning the promenade from the middle means 1st and 3rd couples are diddling about in the middle for bars 7 and 8 of the poussette and the 2nd couple must dance in on bar 8 on the left foot - an idea we have come to take for granted, but, in my view, contrived and certainly not 'traditional'. *The Manual* is silent on this matter, unlike *TAC Notes*. Any views? If you have a query about a dance, why not share it with the rest of us? JH(ed)

## Membership Renewal

Just a reminder that along with the workshop application form in this newsletter is your Membership Renewal Form. You can either send it to Sue Porter or bring it along on Sept 1. The TAS subscription year runs from June 1 till May 31 and costs £5.

## Questionnaire Results

You will remember the discussion at last year's AGM about how we spend any excess funds. Here is a summary of the results of the questionnaire which was sent to all members – with thanks to Sue Porter for collating them. I (ed.) have tried to reflect as many views as I could in the following report. 66 members returned forms. One comment was that we could reduce the membership fee in order not to accrue more than one year's running costs. Some may think it already very low at £5. One member suggested more workshops on specific topics of interest. One member pointed out that the main use of funds should be to subsidise TAS workshops because they deliver to a number of teachers at the same time, whereas a one-off grant to an individual is by its nature to a single person. Another member pointed out that the purpose of TAS is to promote SCD teachers in Scotland – not to train them – that being the role of the RSCDS. This member felt quite strongly that subsidising initial training was not in the remit of TAS and funds should not be used in this way.

55 members were in favour of using our funds to subsidise TAS events; only 3 against. Interestingly, we budgeted for a loss of £150 for the Inverness workshop, but only used half of that because of the numbers attending. One member suggested three workshops per year: one in the central belt; one in the north; and one which moved around to 'other' areas.

50 were in favour of subsidising a Basic Skills Teaching Course – with 5 against. It was recognised that this could be of particular value to smaller branches where there may not be a qualified teacher any more.

37 were in favour of a pre-Candidate course with 17 against, perhaps the least popular proposal.

47 were in favour of subsidising a qualified teacher to visit a class or club without one – with 10 against. It goes without saying that this would only be if the group asked for it! There was an idea that this should be an RSCDS expense and not one for TAS.

53 were in favour of advertising in *Scottish Country Dancer* with 9 against. One member was only in favour of advertising where schoolteachers could see it. Another pointed out that TAS membership was growing by word of mouth.

The following were also suggested:

- A TAS Day open to all dancers in order to give newer or less experienced teachers an opportunity to teach – perhaps only one dance each.
- A weekend Teaching Skills refresher course led by a well-qualified teacher or examiner.
- Subsidise a young, unemployed or student candidate.
- Set up a TAS website and use social media more.
- Have a TAS stall at Summer School, Winter School or the AGM.
- A TAS event during Dance Scottish Week to help promote SCD.
- Publish the work done on how to do old dances as a booklet for sale.
- Plan a special TAS event for 2013 - the 90th anniversary.
- Fund a musician to accompany a class where recorded music was the norm.
- E-mail TAS fliers to Branch secretaries.
- All TAS members to receive an annual membership list.
- Subsidising recorded music to anyone trying to set up a new class – eg the loan of an i-pod for a year or purchase of CDs.
- Continue with the notes for dances started by Peter Clark.
- Training for teachers who teach children.

- Develop a short course for teachers just starting to teach adults to help them make RSCDS methodology more user-friendly for adults coming from very different backgrounds.
- Prepare a list of members who can be contacted if help is required.
- Offer one year's electronic membership free to anyone passing Unit 1 - 3 of the Teaching Certificate (as TAC does).

It was encouraging to hear from teachers who wrote to say how grateful they were for the help and encouragement they had received from TAS, some of whom were unable to attend meetings.

## TAS AGM and Constitution

This year the committee has decided to hold the AGM straight after lunch instead of at the end of the day. For your reference, here is our current constitution, agreed at the Annual General Meeting held on Sept 5, 2009.

I The Group shall be known as "Teachers' Association Scotland" (TAS).

II The purposes of the group shall be:

- To foster the continuing development of SCD teachers.
- To provide workshops on the theory and pedagogy of teaching SCD.
- To provide a forum for teachers to meet, exchange ideas and share experiences.
- To assist in promoting SCD amongst non-dancers and excellence in dance for those intending to train teams for festival work.
- To develop support structures for new teachers,
- To keep a database of qualified teachers.
- To provide a newsletter to improve communications between teachers of SCD.

III Membership shall be open to all teachers of Scottish Country Dance provided they are members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) and have paid the TAS annual subscription, which shall be determined by the committee for approval at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

IV The Group shall be lead by a committee who shall have overall responsibility for managing the affairs of the group. The committee shall be the office bearers and three committee members. The Committee has power to appoint volunteers to hold responsibility for specific functions eg. Newsletter Editor.

V The office bearers shall be a chairperson, a secretary, a treasurer and a workshop organiser who shall be elected to stand for a term of office lasting three years. On completion of a term of office they shall be ineligible to stand for any position for a period of one year.

VI The three committee members shall be elected to stand for a term of office lasting three years. (One shall retire each year and shall be ineligible to stand for a committee member vacancy for a period of one year).

VII The end of the financial year shall be May 31st.

VIII A member not present at the Annual General Meeting may not be nominated for any election, unless they have given written consent prior to the meeting. A vacancy caused by an office bearer or committee member resigning prior to the completion of their term of office may be filled on a temporary basis, through co-option by the committee, until the next Annual General Meeting, when an election for a new office bearer or committee member shall be made for the rest of the term of office. by a member elected for the rest of the term of office.

IX All elections and motions previously notified to members, shall be determined by a majority vote at the Annual General Meeting held in the autumn. Twenty percent of the current membership shall constitute a quorum at the AGM.

X The committee shall be responsible for:

- i) keeping funds in a bank account; withdrawals being authorised by two of the office bearers one of whom shall be the Treasurer;
- ii) arranging for an audited income and expenditure statement to be presented at the AGM;
- iii) making preparations for two TAS meetings each year; and a short AGM at the Autumn meeting;
- iv) using regional representatives to enable domestic arrangements at each meeting.

XI A quorum for any committee meeting shall be four.

XII In the event of the Group winding up, after all debts and liabilities have been paid, the remaining assets shall be donated to the RSCDS.

## Forthcoming events of interest Day / Weekend Schools and Workshops

**Sept 1**            **TAS AUTUMN WORKSHOP, BROXBURN, WEST LoTHIAN**

**Sept 8**            **Lochaber Day School, Caol Youth Centre**

Teacher – Janet Johnston            Pianist – Jennifer Wilson

Band – David Cunningham

Contact Anne Smyth

**Sept 15**            **Dumfries Branch Day School and Dance**

Teacher – Graham Donald            Musician – George Meikle

Band – The Lothian Band

Contact Jane Meikle 01387 252544    e-mail: janemjohnston@btinternet.com

**Sept 29**            **Ayr Branch Day School**

Teacher – Eric Finley            Pianist – Jennifer Wilson

Band – David Cunningham

**Nov 2-4**            **AGM Weekend, Aberdeen**

**Feb 24**            **Winter School in Pitlochry.**

**- March 1**            Teachers: Janet Johnston, Johan McLean, Jim Stott and Anne Taylor.

Musicians: Jim Lindsay, David Cunningham, Gordon Simpson and Roger McAndrew.

*If your event is missing, make sure we have it for the next issue.*

**Bill Clement MBE**

A 32 bar Jig for three couples in a 4 couple set.

Tune: "The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society" by Bill Clement

<i>Bars</i>	<i>Description</i>
1 - 8	1 <sup>st</sup> couple set to each other then dance down the centre between 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> couples, cast up behind 3 <sup>rd</sup> couple and dance into the middle joining left hands with partner to face first corners. 2 <sup>nd</sup> couple step up on bars 3 and 4
9 – 10	1 <sup>st</sup> couple set to first corners and turning inwards on bar 10 join right hands with partner.
11-12	1 <sup>st</sup> couple set to partner's first corner.
13 - 16	1 <sup>st</sup> couple turn partner's first corner with left hands to finish in the middle joining right hands with partner to face second corners.
17 – 18	1 <sup>st</sup> couple set to second corners and turning inwards on bar 18 join left hands with partner.
19 - 20	1 <sup>st</sup> couple set to partner's second corner.
21 - 24	1 <sup>st</sup> couple turn partner's second corner with right hands to finish in second place on own sides of the dance.
25 – 32	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> couples dance six hands round and back

Bill Clement is well known in both Scottish Country Dancing and piping circles. Bill has been the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society's piper for a number of years and is a past Chairman of the RSCDS. Bill is also an Atholl Highlander. Bill was awarded the MBE in the 2008 New Years Honours list. Bill happened to be my very first highland dance teacher. This dance was devised in his honour, and is set to a tune of his own composition.

John Wilkinson, November 2008

# Teachers' Association Scotland

## Membership 2012 – 2013

**Annual Membership     £5**  
**1st June 2012 ~ 31st May 2013**

*Title .....*

*Name.....*

*Address.....*

*.....*

*Tel. No. ....*

*Email .....*

*Branch .....*

*Teaching Certificate / Part 1 or Prelim / non Certificated     (circle as appropriate)*

*Food Hygiene Certificate    yes    no    (circle as appropriate)*

*First Aid Certificate         yes    no    (circle as appropriate)*

*Cheque payable to 'Teachers' Association Scotland '*

*Please send this form to*

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

*Sue Porter, TAS Treasurer, Tel 01631 563103    email sue.porter3@btopenworld.com*

# Teachers' Association Scotland

## AGM & Workshop

### Registration Form

*Sat. 1st Sept. 2012 £4 (non members £7)*

*in Canon Hoban Hall*

*St John and St Nicholas RC Church, East Main Street, Broxburn*

*Workshop will include the dances from the new RSCDS Queen's Diamond Jubilee book.*

*Teacher Les Lambert Pianist Bill Ewan*

<i>10.30-11.00</i>	<i>Coffee/Registration</i>
<i>11.00-12.30</i>	<i>Class</i>
<i>12.30-1.30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
<i>1.30-2.15</i>	<i>AGM</i>
<i>2.15-3.15</i>	<i>Class</i>
<i>3.15-3.45</i>	<i>Closing discussion</i>

*Cost of AGM & workshop £4 (£7 for non-members) to include tea/coffee & biscuits on arrival.  
Please bring your own packed lunch. Tea and coffee provided.*

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**Please return this section by 25th August to**

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

*Sue Porter, TAS Treasurer, Tel 01631 563103 email sue.porter3@btopenworld.com*

Name .....

*member £4 / non member £7 (delete as appropriate)*

Contact tel. no. ....

*Cheques payable to 'Teachers' Association Scotland'*