

DUBLIN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

31st August 1998

No. 5.

NEW SEASON ALMOST UPON US!

Enjoying this spell of warm, late-August weather makes it difficult to think of the start of the "winter" activities. But with the football season having started almost a month ago (was there really a close season?), the beginning of dancing in three weeks time is perhaps not really too soon. To confirm the date announced in our last Newsletter, we begin on **Thursday, 24th September 1998**, at 7.30 p.m. at our usual venue, the Presbyterian Church Hall, York Road, Dun Laoghaire.

At the end of last season I suggested that we should consider the future of how we run the club and therefore I propose that our first evening should be an evening of social dancing with time to discuss the various issues during a longer than normal break. I outline some of my thoughts on this later in the Newsletter.

I trust that you all had an enjoyable summer and feel the benefit of whatever break you were able to take, and I look forward to seeing you again on the twenty-fourth.

ST. ANDREWS

Although golf did not originate in St. Andrews, the town has become recognised throughout the world as the '*home of golf*'. Similarly, it may be considered the '*home of Scottish Country Dancing*'. Each year almost 1,000 people from all over the world visit the town to attend the Summer School of the R.S.C.D.S.

This year Dublin had five attendees – Hazel, Maedhbh, Aad. Kaoru, and myself. My views on the time spent there are coloured by the intensity of the Teacher's Certificate course. Perhaps Hazel or Maedhbh might

produce for a future Newsletter an article giving us the views of those who go purely for enjoyment, and who have time to do things other than classes and homework.

I should add here that I was unsuccessful in the examination – making a bit of a mess of my teaching exam, I'm afraid!

However, we send our congratulations to **Marjorie Falconer** who passed and is now fully certified, sorry, certificated. We wish her well in her future teaching, particularly with the group at the Scots Kirk in Lausanne which she takes each week.

THE FUTURE

When Sandy Pate, who founded the Club in the sixties, retired back to Scotland in 1989 I was asked to take over the running of the Club. This I was pleased to do, and continued, with some small amendments, in the way he had done. So, over the years I have operated without any formal committee or office-bearers to take decisions concerning our club. Alan Corsini has been our Treasurer but otherwise we have had no formal structure.

For the last year or two, however, I have felt that we should formalise things somewhat, particularly when we are being asked to dance on an increasing number of occasions, and organise what is hoped will become an annual dance. Towards the end of last session, therefore, you will recall that I asked that we consider appointing a committee to run the Club.

Among the questions we should be asking ourselves are the following:

- Is the hall suitable, particularly if the answer to the next question is 'Yes'?
- Should we make a determined effort to increase our membership? We have not really made a big effort in the past, relying on word of mouth.
- How should we respond to the growing number of invitations to dance at churches, retirement clubs etc.? You will see elsewhere in the Newsletter that I have received requests from two clubs for us to dance in November and December. I have indicated that in principle we would be prepared to come along, but that I must await the start of the season to find out who is willing to dance. I feel uneasy about committing the members to such events, yet at the same time there is no mechanism for reviewing the requests.
- Would other members of the Club regularly take evenings throughout the season? The Club would benefit from other people's teaching and choice of dances.
- What kind of evenings do we want? Should we have two very separate parts to our evenings – instruction and social dancing, or should the instruction be an integral part of the whole evening?

Some of these questions can be answered in a general meeting, but others need a small group representative of the membership to examine and resolve them both now and on an ongoing basis. In other words I believe the time has come for us to have a formal structure of a Committee and Office-bearers to run the Club. On the twenty-fourth I would like to resolve that issue and discuss generally the points raised above, together with any others you wish to raise.

DANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Helen Beany has passed me the instructions for a dance published in *The Rocky Horror Scottish Country Dance Collection*. These are printed on the last page and should be learned for demonstration on

I'm sure, like me, you will recognise some of the formations!

Thanks, Helen, for sharing this with us.

REQUESTS TO DANCE

Over the summer I have received two requests for us to put on a display similar to what we did at the ICA in Artane. The details are as follows:

Glasnevin Active Retirement Group: We have been asked if we would go along on a Saturday evening - 14th (or 21st) November. The group meet in the hall of the Church of Our Lady of Dolours, near the Botanic Gardens, and Saturday is the only day they can get the hall. There would be about 25-35 people attending, and it would last from 8 o'clock to shortly after 10 o'clock.

Irish Countrywomen's Association – Ardcath Guild: This invitation arising directly from the visit to Artane, is from the Ardcath Guild which meets near Ashbourne, County Meath. The date suggested is Thursday 3rd December, again beginning at 8 o'clock.

I would hope that we can assist these organisations who are very keen to have an evening of display and participation. We can decide on these outings on 24th September.

BELFAST DAY SCHOOL

The Belfast Day School is being held a couple of weeks earlier this year on Saturday 10th October 1998. I would thoroughly recommend this day school, although I cannot attend myself this year because of a prior commitment. Attached is a copy of the notice and application form, and I will be pleased to collect the forms and send one sterling cheque to Evelyn Redmond.

If anyone is going I will arrange for us to dance through some of the dances on the Dance programme on 1st and 8th October. Please let me know on 24th September if you wish to go.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- ☛ Thursday, 24th September 1998: Club restarts – 7.30 p.m. ⌚
- ☛ Saturday, 3rd October, 1998: H.F. Walking Club Barn Dance
Brighton Road Methodist Hall. Rathgar,
Caller: Alan Corsini –at 8 o'clock ⌚
- ☛ Saturday, 10th October, 1998: Belfast Branch Day School;
leaflet attached.
- ☛ Saturday, 17th October, 1998: Dublin Scottish Benevolent Society of St.
Andrew Table Quiz. York Road Church
Hall, at 8 o'clock ⌚
- ☛ Saturday, 10th April, 1999: “Annual” Dance.

John Gibson.

The Rocky Horror Scottish Country Dance Collection

No. 13
The Berlin Bungle
(Jig)

Tune: Anything in 11/16 time

Collected locally

This dance begins with two chords. All bow/curtsey on the first chord; as this is actually the last chord from the previous dance on the tape, the next chord just serves to add to the general confusion...

MUSIC	DESCRIPTION
<i>Bars</i>	
1	1st couple stare vacantly into space.
2-7	1st couple set to partner (right foot only) and realise that they should, in fact, be crossing over giving right hands. They lurch across the set, colliding with 2nd couple (who step up on bars 3 and 4) cast down to second place, turn one another with left hands and finish in the middle of the dance facing first corner.
8	Having arrived one bar too soon, first couple extend right hands to first corner and lean forwards expectantly.
9-16	1st couple turn first corners right hands, then each other with left hands, turn second corner with right hands, then each other with left hands to finish facing first corner. (Note: the elbow grip is recommended here - ensure that the thumb is pressed firmly into the crook of the other dancer's elbow, giving them a dead arm.)
17-24	1st couple dance a reel of π^* with first corners.
25-30	Reels of three on the side, 1st couple starts by passing 1st corner by the left shoulder, 2nd couple move off on bar 28, or when 1st lady hisses "Reel of three!!", whichever comes first.
31-32	1st couple crosses over to own sides in second place.
33-41	2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance 6 hands round to the left (nine steps) and back (seven huge leaps). On bar 39, 2nd and 3rd couples let go their partners's hands, so that 2nd man and 3rd lady go spinning uncontrollably to the edge of the dance floor. This figure is sometimes known as the 'whiplash'. Repeat, having passed a couple (or out, due to loss of blood). At the end of the repetition, dancing couple blips to the sottom, except on the last time through, where only the bottom two men change places and end up bowing to the wrong partners.

*The reel of π (or 3.1415926...) is a hybrid of the reel of 3 and the reel of 4, hence the name. 1st man starts by passing 3rd lady by the right shoulder, whilst 1st lady passes second man by the left shoulder. After the collision on bars 19-20, 2nd man stops dead, raises both arms 'in disgust', and returns to place, whilst the 1st couple and 3rd lady continue with a reel of three.

Seem familiar?...