



the reel

issued by the LONDON BRANCH of THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Editorial Address: 6 King's Grove, S.E.15. Price 4d. (Free to members of the Branch)

No. 81

OCTOBER—NOVEMBER, 1964

MEMBERS' DANCES

The Royal Scottish Corporation Hall,

Fetter Lane, E.C.4

Thursday, 26th November, 1964

McBain's Band

	S.C.D.	BOOK
1. Todlen Hame	16	6
2. The Linton Ploughman ...	5	6
3. The Deuks Dang Ower my Daddy	19	6
4. Rakes of Glasgow	11	11
5. Sleepy Maggie	11	5
6. Waverley	15	12
7. New Scotland Strathspey		
8. Eightsome Reel		
9. Foursome Reel and Reel of Tulloch		
10. The White Cockade	5	11
11. Ladies' Fancy	13	12
12. Fiddle Faddle	12	5
13. Captain MacBean's Reel	17	3
14. Campbells Frolic	15	3
15. Bridge of Nairn	13	11
16. Mrs. McLeod of Raasay	6	11

Wednesday, 30th December, 1964

McBain's Band

	S.C.B.	BOOK
1. Scottish Reform	3	1
2. Lady Susan Stewart's Reel	5	9
3. Two and Two	19	10
4. Duke of Hamilton's Reel	5	8
5. Lucy Campbell	17	7
6. Bob Sanders	17	9
7. The Camp of Pleasure ...	15	4
8. Sixteensome Reel		
9. Foursome Reel and Reel of Tulloch		
10. Fidget	16	1
11. The Merry Dancers	4	2
12. Lady Auckland's Reel ...	18	2
13. Mr. Wilson's Hornpipe ...	16	10
14. Middling, Thank you ...	15	8
15. Lady Louisa Macdonald's Strathspey	18	4
16. Montgomeries' Rant	10	1

Admittance to these dances is restricted to members of the London Branch and subscribing readers of "The Reel". To avoid overcrowding, the number of dancers will be limited to 140 and for this reason application for tickets for Members' Dances must always be accompanied by members' names where more than one ticket is required.

Remittances, with a stamped, addressed envelope, should be sent to Ian G. Anderson, 41 Banstead Road South, Sutton, Surrey.

Only postal applications for one dance at a time will be accepted, and then not more than two weeks ahead of the date of the dance. Telephone enquiries will not be accepted. Cheques should be made payable to The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (London Branch).

Tickets 5/-, including refreshments. Time: 7 to 10.30 p.m. Place: The Royal Scottish Corporation Hall, Fleur-de-Lis Court, Fetter Lane, E.C.4.

33rd ANNUAL

SCOTTISH CHARITY BALL

(in aid of the Royal Caledonian Schools)

SEYMOUR HALL, Marylebone,
W.1

SATURDAY, 14th NOVEMBER,
1964

7.30 to 11.30 p.m.

Music by

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WEEK END SCHOOL

A weekend school of Scottish Country Dancing will be held at Bisham Abbey, near Marlow, Bucks, from Friday evening (including dinner) until Sunday (after tea), 20th-22nd November, 1964. Applications should be sent to:

Miss Rosemary Tilden,
Beauvallon,
Chestnut Avenue,
Guildford, Surrey.

enclosing a stamped addressed envelope and giving details of class at present attended.

The fee for the weekend (which should not be sent until requested) will be £3 inclusive of tuition, full board, gratuities, etc.

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

Patron—H.M. The Queen

LONDON BRANCH

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OBJECTS :

To preserve and further the practice of traditional Scottish country dances.

To promote and encourage the formation of branches.

To provide, or assist in providing, special education or instruction in the practice of Scottish country dances.

To publish, or cause to be published, descriptions of Scottish country dances, with music and diagrams, in simple form and at a moderate price.

To collect books, manuscripts and illustrations relating to Scottish country dances.

Generally to do such things as are considered by the Society to be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects above stated or any of them.

K.A.S.S. COLUMN

The summer months are usually fairly quiet ones for members of the Kent Association of Scottish Societies as far as dancing, meetings, whist drives, etc., are concerned, as most people take their holidays at this time. Members of the Charing Eight S.C.D. group together with dancers from Clan Clinton, the Deal and District Girl Pipers and Piper C. Oldroyd of the 1st Battalion, The London Scottish, took their holiday touring Germany giving displays of Scottish Country Dancing, Highland dancing and piping. Also in the party were Aelwydd Yr Urdd, a Welsh dancing team, the Balalaika dance group, a Russian dance team from London, with Miss Elinor Bennett Owen the champion harpist of Wales and an English folk singer Mr. Alan Harlow.

This British party was the vanguard of a mile long procession at the famous "Hessentag" Festival at the city of Kassel, and provided 3 hour programmes of Music, Songs and Dances at Wiesbaden, Allendorf and Niederwalluf, as well as visiting the Feldberg and Taunus mountains. The German Societies visited are now interested in coming to Britain in 1965 to visit Kent, Aberystwyth the home of the Welsh Dancing Team, and to tour Scotland.

Some members of the Medway and District Caledonian Society also went to Germany but their visit was to meet friends made when the dancing team from Schwalenberg came to the Kent International Festival of Dance and Song in May, 1963. They did go prepared to dance and on the middle Saturday of their holiday there was a special reception for them. This started with a procession round the town and was followed by a dance in the Festival Hall. During the course of the evening the local group, the Medway team and a group from the nearby village of Schling gave demonstrations of their traditional dances. The most overwhelming feature of the tour was the very hospitable way that everyone was welcomed even by people in the town who were complete strangers.

So much for the past now for the future. K.A.S.S. itself has several activities in the Autumn starting with the Autumn Ball on October 16th which is to be held at the Assembly Hall Tunbridge Wells. Jimmy Shand and his Band will be playing and as there has been a very high demand for tickets these have been rationed to member Societies. From 30th October to 1st November there is a weekend School of S.C.D. which is being held at Kingsgate and this is also well subscribed.

Several societies have also arranged dances for the coming season which looks like being a very full one. Should anyone be interested in any activities of K.A.S.S. or its member societies, which now number 27 and cover all Kent, please contact Fred Scott, Hon. Sec., Westmoor, Rainham, Kent. Tel.: Rainham (Kent) 81213.

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1964-65 were due on 1st July and should be sent to Mr. H. E. Shank, 541 Upper Brentwood Rd., Gidea Park, Romford, Essex, stating which book is required *and enclosing an addressed label with 4d stamp attached*. Receipts will not be sent unless requested.

The 1964-65 subscription copy will be a choice of Books 6-22, any booklet; "Four Set Dances" (1st Series); "Four Step Dances", "16 Popular Dances", "S.C.D. Alternative Tunes", and Miss Milligan's book of 24 graded dances.

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11. Petronella

In my last two articles I made some general remarks about the fitting of dances to tunes. In this and again in the next I will examine a particular dance in detail.

Petronella matches its tune almost perfectly. The original Petronella may have had a push-and-pull poussette without turns. If so it did not fit the tune so well as our present dance. As I am not now concerned with its history I will try to make the points I wish to make by imagining how a present-day choreographer, working from the tune, might produce the dance.

He considers the first four bars. The first two constrict, the third and fourth release or, at least, provide a cheerful interlude. In general, a tune coming down holds a dancer in, going up sends him out. All four bars suggest pas de basque. So he turns 1st couple round on themselves, making them pick out a slightly complicated route for bars 1-2, and then releases them to set, carefree, to their partners. Bars 5-6 repeat 1-2, 7-8 are even more relaxing than 3-4, so he makes 1st couple repeat themselves. With 9-16 repeating 1-8, he gets 1st couple back home.

Then the music bursts out exuberantly, carrying 1st couple down the middle and up again before the choreographer has time to think, but with the repeat of the music he listens to these 8 bars more closely. The tune reaches peaks of excitement on bars 2, 4 and 6. At bar 4 the tune does not quite reach the heights of bar 2, but at the next attempt, on bar 6, it provides a final thrill by getting there again. Then it relaxes for 7-8. This is just made for a poussette, with its turns on bars 2, 4, and the big turn, on 6, followed by the gentle home-going. On bar 32 1st couple look at each other, just as they used to when the same music was played on bar 8 and bar 16. There is also a pleasing touch for 1st man on bar 24 of the dance: the long notes just suit his step close, preparing for the poussette.

Here then is an unusually perfect match. How unusual will appear when one tries to find an alternative tune that is anything like as good. Bars 1-16 of The Persian Dance match well and 17-24 are cheerful, not as exuberant as in Petronella, but they will take 1st couple down the middle and up again all right. But they don't fit the poussette. There is no excitement for the turn on bar 2. It merely repeats bar 1, and bar 4 is even quieter. A good musician, who knew the dance as a dancer, might be able to make bars 2, 4 and 6 sound exciting, but the tune itself does not ask to be played that way.

Chester Castle, the tune suggested in Mrs. Shand's *Old Scottish Music*, is a nice tune, but it doesn't make enough of the setting on bars 3-4. To this tune 1st couple set to each other purely for the sake of politeness and to pass the bars away, not with the wild delight of seeing each other again after their tricky bit of footwork, as they do to the original tune. Chester Castle fails also in the poussette.

Kerr's Collection gives Staten Island as an alternative and its first two bars are almost better than the original tune for turning 1st couple round. Bars 3-4 give a reasonably cheerful setting, but not so good as Petronella and the Persian Dance. Down the middle and up is adequately catered for, but the poussette is a flop, especially at the all-important bar 6.

As an exercise I suggest examining all the poussettes in the S.C.D. Books in conjunction with their music. Personally I give first prize to Petronella by a large margin. Next I place Teviot Bridge, The Rock and the Wee Pickle Tow, Rothesay Country Dance and the second tune for Waverley. Near these I place Circassian Circle (1st tune) and Meg Merrilees. Giving marks for excitement on bars 2, 4 and especially for the climax on 6, I find that depressingly many score zero.

This does not necessarily mean that none of the choreographers constructing these dances were paying any attention to the tune. They may have followed it closely for the first half of the dance and then, as a concession to popular state, made the progression with a poussette.

It is important to remember also that the poussette has changed considerably since it first came over from France at the time of their Revolution. Then it was just a push-and-pull movement, with hand-holds—and no revolution. Later, when gentlemen could decently be seen putting their arms round ladies' waists it became a "two-step waltz", to quote from a book published in 1910. There have been various holds and different methods of phrasing.

The modern choreographer is only concerned with the modern poussette and should not try to match it to unsuitable music unless the dance itself will not be contented with anything else.

HUGH FOSS.

Next, and final, article 12: The Montgomerys' Rant.

THE REEL

If you are not a member of London Branch, order your copy now from: Miss M. Jamieson, 12 Howitt Close, Howitt Road, N.W.3, 7d. post free or 3/6d. for six issues.

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Please mention 'The Reel' when replying to advertisers.

ENGAGEMENTS DIARY

October

24th—Saturday

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB—one-day school followed by a dance in the evening. Full details from Hon. Secretary, Mr. D. Evans, Dundaroch, Paddocks Close, Camberley. Tel.: 4365.

November

14th—Saturday

CROWBOROUGH S.C.D. GROUP—one-day school at County Secondary School, Crowborough, East Sussex, followed by an informal dance in the evening. Full details and application forms from Hon. Secretary, 27 Dynevor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

20th—Friday

FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB—St. Andrew's Dance at the Bourne Club, Frensham Road. McBain's Band. 8-1. Enquiries to Hon. Secretary, Maj. W. J. Dewey, 22 Fernhill Road, Farnborough, Hants. Phone: Farnborough, Hants 1995.

21st—Saturday

EAST SURREY, WEST KENT BRANCH, R.S.C.D.S. A dance is being held at the Y.M.C.A., Croydon, from 7 to 11 p.m. at which McBain's Band will be playing. Tickets 8/6d. Members, 9/6d. Non-Members, including refreshments. Tickets available from Hon. Secretary, Miss J. M. Beale, 67 Bennetts Way, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey. Phone: Springpark 5824.

December

5th—Saturday

MAIDENHEAD SCOTTISH DANCING CLUB. Ball at Maidenhead Town Hall, 7.30 to 11.45 p.m. McBain's Band. Admission 15/- including Buffet. Enquiries to: Miss M. D. W. Wall, 31 Calder Court, Maidenhead, Berks.

8th—Tuesday

INTER-VARSITY CLUB. Anglo-Scottish dance in Chelsea Town Hall, 7.30-11.30 p.m. McBain's Band. Demonstration team. Bar/Buffet. Single Tickets: 5/- at door, 4/- in advance from I.V.C., 117 Queensway, W.2. (Please enclose s.a.e.)

The ENGAGEMENTS DIARY provides Hon. Secretaries of Scottish Country Dance Organisations with means of informing their members of their own and other fixtures with no trouble and little expense. The cost is 2s. 6d. per insertion. We would like to make it as complete as possible and hope that Hon. Secretaries will send details of their arrangements, preferably set out in the manner shown above, to Miss M. Jamieson, 12 Howitt Close, Howitt Road, N.W.3.

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THE ALLAN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS SOUTHEAST-ON-SEA (Affil. to the R.S.C.D.S.)—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. K. Judkins, 62 Avenue Road, Westcliff-on-Sea. Meets on Tuesdays at St. George's Presbyterian Church Hall, Park Road, 8-10 p.m.

BARNES SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE GROUP. East Sheen Primary School, Upper Richmond Road, S.W.14. Tuesday evenings 8-10 p.m. Sept. to May. Visitors welcome. Details: apply Hon. Secretary, Mrs. J. McKenzie, 18, Wallerton Gdns., East Sheen, S.W.14.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH R.S.C.D.S.—Chairman: Dr. E. J. Forbes, 12 Ampton Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 15. Secretary: Peter J. Smith 34 Wroxall Road, Solihull, Warwicks. (SOL 4118).

BOSTALL PARK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING GROUP (Affil. to R.S.C.D.S.)—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. J. Reid, 342 Gipsy Road, Welling, Kent. Group meets Thursday 8-10.30 p.m. in The Annexe (adjacent St. Thomas More's R.C. Church), Long Lane, Bexleyheath. (For details ring Bexleyheath 0986).

BOURNEMOUTH SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB—Meets every Friday, 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. A. Timings, 24 Bury Road, Branksome Park, Poole, Dorset, Tel. Canford Cliffs 78272.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB—Meets every Tuesday, 7.30 p.m. Arnold House Hotel, Brighton. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. S. Halliday, Ellerslie, Falmer Avenue, Saltdean, Sussex.

CAMBERLEY REEL CLUB—Dancing every Tuesday, 8 p.m., at Hawley Hotel, Blackwater. Beginners welcome. Sec.: Mr. D. Evans, Dundarroch, Paddock Close, Camberley. Tel. 4365.

CHELTENHAM SCOTTISH SOCIETY—Scottish country dancing on Friday evenings at 7.30, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall. Enquiries on this and other activities to Mrs. G. L. Ariell-Wright, 40 Lambert Avenue, Shurdington, Cheltenham, Glos.

EAST SURREY, WEST KENT BRANCH R.S.C.D.S. Hon. Sec.: Miss J. M. Beale, 67 Bennetts Way, Shirley, Croydon. Classes in Croydon, Beckenham, New Malden, Upper Norwood, Horley, Reigate, Sanderstead and West Wickham.

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FARNHAM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB—Meets at The Bourne Club, Frensham Road, every Thursday 8-10.30 from third Thursday in September to last Thursday in May, classes and dances on alternate weeks. Sec.: Maj. W. J. Dewey, 22 Fernhill Road, Farnborough, Hants. Tel. Farnborough, Hants 1995.

HAMPSTEAD AND DISTRICT SCOTS ASSOCIATION—Dancing every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at St. Alban's Hall, West Heath Drive, Golders Green, N.W.11. Tuition first and third Tuesdays of the month. New members welcome. Hon. Sec.: Miss C. Roberts, 121 Park Road, N.W.9. Tel. AMB 5338.

HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHLAND GAMES SOCIETY—Chairman: Dr. C. Gillies, 43 Valley Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. (WN5 3343).

1965 HIGHLAND GAMES, Saturday, 19th June.

ILFORD SCOTTISH REEL AND SOCIAL CLUB—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. M. S. Taylor, 147 Mortlake Road, Ilford, Essex. Weekly Reel Club on Fridays at St. Alban's Church Hall, Albert Road, Ilford. 7.30-10 p.m. Tel.: Ilford 4681.

INTER-VARSITY CLUB—Public Dances every Tuesday from 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. at Queen Alexandra's House (near Royal Albert Hall), entrance in Jay Mews. Each dance walked through. Admission 3/-. Club membership is open to undergraduates and young graduates. Details from Hon. Sec., I.V.C., 117 Queensway, W.2.

LEAMINGTON SPA AND DISTRICT BRANCH R.S.C.D.S.—Meets Saturdays (Monthly) at Leamington College. Visitors welcome, Beginners and Advanced Classes also held fortnightly. Enquiries to Hon. Sec.: Miss C. M. Rowe, 79 Leam Terrace, Leamington Spa, Tel: 25963.

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ROMFORD SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION—Hon. Sec.: J. M. Wallace, 118 Saunton Road, Hornchurch, Essex. Club meets every Tuesday from 15th September at 7.30 p.m. at Heath Park Secondary School, Heath Park Road, Romford, Essex.

SALTIRE SOCIETY (LONDON BRANCH)—Hon. Sec.: Miss J. Purves, 36 Langbourne Mansions, Highgate, N.6. Meetings at Royal Scottish Corporation, Fetter Lane, on first Friday in the month, October-May. Also country dancing on Monday evenings in Chelsea.

SEVENOAKS REEL CLUB—Hon. Sec.: Miss D. Day, Sevenoaks School, Sevenoaks. Classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, October to May.

ST. ANDREW SOCIETY (LONDON)—Dancing every Tuesday from October to May at Wimbledon Community Centre, St. George's Road, Wimbledon, S.W.19. Details apply: Mrs. R. Stewart, 27 Keswick Avenue, Merton Park, S.W.19 (LIB 2091).

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	Certificate	Bolt Court	Miss Stamp	Mrs. Draper	6.30 to 8.30 p.m.
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	Advanced	Marlborough School	Miss Gilbertson	Mr. Watts	7.00 to 9.00 p.m.

Marlborough School is in Sloane Avenue, off Kings Road, S.W.3 and near Sloane Square and South Kensington stations.

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Tuesday	Certificate	Rutherford School	Miss Stamp	Mrs. Langstone	7.00 to 9.00 p.m.
	Demonstration	Rutherford School	Mr. Ireland	Mrs. Hayes	7.00 to 9.00 p.m.
Wednesday	Advanced	Quinton School	Miss Jamieson	Mr. Cooper	7.15 to 9.15 p.m.
	Intermediate	Rutherford School	Mr. Summerhays	Miss Wilson	7.00 to 9.00 p.m.

Rutherford School is in Penfold Street (off Bell Street) N.W.1, and near Marylebone and Edgware Road stations. Quinton School is in Marlborough Hill, Finchley Road, N.W.8.

Applications and enrolment fees to Mr. E. B. Power, 208b Adelaide Road, N.W.3.

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Beginners and Elementary Classes: £2. 5. 0. per session; or £1. 2. 6. per term and 15s. for the Summer Term if the two previous terms have been paid.

Certificate Class: £4 per session; or £1 10. 0. per term.

Other Classes: £2 15. 0. per session; or £1 7. 6. per term and 15s. for the Summer term if the two previous terms have been paid.

Fees are payable at the beginning of the Session or Term.

General Enquiries should be sent to Mr. John Appleton, 24 Brushwood Drive, Chorleywood, Herts.

Membership Subscriptions should be sent to Mr. H. E. Shank, 541, Upper Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, Romford, Essex.

Note: Cheques or P.O.'s should be made payable to R.S.C.D.S. (London Branch)

BATH FESTIVAL

There was a true Scottish atmosphere at the Assembly Rooms, Bath, on the 10th June, when 250 dancers from all top line Reel Clubs of the West Country danced to George Miles and the Gay Gordons Country Dance Band.

The Director of the Spa at the end of the dance commented that of all the dances that had taken place during the Festival the Scottish Festival Dance had proved the most successful.