



Roy Goldring receiving the RSCDS Scroll from the Earl of Mansfield

Future Newsletters

The Branch welcomes your news, stories, views, questions etc...

Please send all copy for future newsletters to Catherine Livsey, 11A Hill Top Road, Moldgreen, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD5 9LX. Tel 01484 515257 Email catherine@cld-design.co.uk Copy should be with her at least three weeks before publication for the November, February and May issues, and early July for the August issue.

If for some reason you don't receive any copy of the Branch newsletter please contact Brenda Burnell on 0113 267 6655.

From the Chair

It is with sadness that I start my term as chair. Since the last newsletter we have lost one of the greats in Scottish dancing Roy Goldring. It is a honour for me to follow him as chair. I admired Roy for many things, but mostly for the fantastic dances he wrote. You will find an appreciation of Roy later in this newsletter. I hope it helps to remember Roy with great fondness, as I do, and bring back happy memories of your own.

I would how like to introduce the new committee to you.
Chair Catherine Livsey, **Secretary** Lesley Enoch **Treasurer** Gerry Yates, **Membership Secretary** Brenda Burnell, **Committee Members** Don Andrews, Alan Carr, Irene Dracup, Martin Lee, Susan Carr, Val Hall, Jean Dyson

Please feel free to talk to us about any branch matter or ideas you may have.

And now for the good news. We have 3 exciting branch dances coming up all with excellent accessible programmes for all levels. First the Christmas dance with music from Marion Anderson SCD Band and MC Gerry Yates. Second the January dance music by Ian Muir and MC myself. Roy should have been MC, so I have slipped in a few of my favourite Roy Goldring dances for you all to enjoy. And lastly the February dance with music from George Meikle and MC Jean Dyson. This is the climax to the Musicians Day



New Committee

School, so George will be joined by Musicians from the day, giving an incredible sound for you to enjoy dancing to.

Now for the bad news, at the RSCDS AGM in Perth it was agreed that the subscription fee to head office be increased by £5, see Don's report on the AGM for more details. This will mean that branch membership will be approximately £20 next year. I think this is a small amount for the pleasure we get from Scottish Dancing, well I certainly do!

Happy Christmas and New Year, filled with lots of fun dancing with friends old and new.

Catherine Livsey

Subscription to this Newsletter can be taken out at £3.00 for 4 issues for non Leeds Branch Members.

Contact Brenda Burnell for details and form.

The Branch web site is www.rscdsleeds.org.uk Why not give it a try.

An Appreciation and Memories of Roy



It has been a sad summer for all of us to see Roy become ill and slip away from us in early September but we all have happy memories of him and those who did not know him will have enjoyed some of the dances he has created over the years. He will remain forever with us through his dances and for many generations to come.

Members of the committee have recorded their thoughts:

Roy was a friend and teacher for thirty years who loved his dancing, art galleries and golf. He was a brilliant compiler of some wonderful dances and will be sadly missed by friends worldwide.

Jean

Roy was to me a kind and considerate man. He always asked how I was when we met. I know we have lost a very talented man. His name and dances will live on for ever.

Val

I always sort out Roy to dance a strathspey because he was so elegant and comfortable to dance with. Many of his dances have the same elegance and comfortable quality.

Irene

Although I only met Roy a few times his love for people and art seemed to be expressed in the dances he wrote. In some ways the dances were works of art with music. I will always remember Roy for his beautiful dance Rose of the North to the tune Doreen Goldring.

Martin

Roy will always be remembered for his many dances, known around the world, his legacy will be long lasting. It was always interesting when he took a class and wanted to try out a new dance or do a figure in a different way, the class not always getting to grips at the start. His interest in dancing will be missed by all.

Lesley

I admired Roy very much and thank him for all the great dances he wrote. I remember too his cheeky smile when he managed to get a kiss!

Catherine

It was a strange feeling in September when I made trifles for the Day School knowing that any left overs would not be going home with Roy. He loved his trifle but I'm not

sure it was good for him. We talked often about dances and one conversation sticks in my mind. He was never entirely happy about his first published dance by the RSCDS, The Cuillins of Skye and if you have danced it or taught it you will know why! On the other hand he wished he had devised The Irish Rover. These two dances apart he has left us so many danceable dances that we will all continue to enjoy - thank you Roy.
Brenda



Roy was our second teacher of Scottish Country Dancing, who, with Doreen, pointed Brenda and I along the way we should go. They made a fine partnership (The Partnership, Leeds 40th Anniversary book), alternating the teaching and looking after the tapes.

In fact it was some time before I realised that Roy was also a brilliant deviser of highly popular dances, which will of course be his legacy. He contributed not only the choreography, but also had a wonderful talent for enhancing the dance with splendidly appropriate music. A joy to dance, and a joy to dance to. Yet another partnership.

Don



An Appreciation and Memories of Roy continued

From our travels, we know that Roy was famous throughout the Scottish Country Dancing world for his wonderful dances. We both feel privileged to have known him personally and sometimes see his creative talent at work, as well as share his thoughts on music and art.

Alan and Susan Carr

Although I didn't know Roy well, I have enjoyed dancing his dances and particularly Highland Rambler.

Sue



From HQ

I have received a card from Irene Bennett, message inside:

With sympathy to the Leeds Branch Committee and members on the sad loss of Roy Goldring

From Irene Bennett and the Management Board

Raffle

As Janet Washington couldn't attend the White Rose Festival she kindly donated a voucher for a silk sash in the tartan of your choice from her selection (retail value approx £50). We are going to hold a raffle for this at next years Rose Festival. If any one would like to donate any other quality prizes we welcome them. Contact Don Andrews on 01535 605065, email donald@hbandrews.fsnet.co.uk

Roy was such a talented man. The hallmark of his dances was the fact that they are relatively easy and they just flowed so well. He was always very supportive of my work for Leeds Branch as Treasurer, former Secretary and as MC. My wife and I feel privileged to have known him.
Gerry

Sympathy and condolences from all Branch members go to Doreen and her family. We look forward to seeing her at some of our future events.

Thank You

Many thanks for the cards and letters of sympathy, offers of help and generous donations to the British Heart Foundation received since Roy died.

Dancing has become increasingly difficult for me so I have decided to hang up my shoes. Thanks for the friendship and fun over the years. Continue to enjoy your dancing and help others to do the same.

Best wishes
Doreen Goldring

Sat 15th December 2007 7.30pm CHRISTMAS SOCIAL DANCE West Park Centre, Spenn Lane

Music: Marian Anderson SCD Band M.C: Gerry Yates
Admission: £7, Non-member £8, Full time Education £3,
Children under 11 £2, Spectators £1

Programme

The Happy Meeting	J6x32	Book 29
Fraser's Favourite	R8x32	RSCDS Leaflet
Gang the Same Gate	S8x32	Book 36
Joe MacDiarmid's Jig	J4x32	RSCDS 5 Dances for 1982
The Clansman	R8x32	Book 32
The Lammermuir Hills	S6x32	R Goldring Leaflet
Round Reel of Eight	R1x88	Book 27
Neidpath Castle	S3x32	Book 22
The Peat Fire Flame	R8x40	Bon Accord (Drewry)

INTERVAL

Roaring Jelly	J8x32	Glendarroch (Foss)
Johnnie's Welcome Hame	R8x40	Book 32
Cape Town Wedding	S8x32	Book 39
South from Oban	J8x40	Leeds 10th Anniversary
Inverneill House	R8x32	Book 35
Mrs Milne of Kineff	S4x32	RSCDS Leaflet 32
St Andrews' Fair	J8x32	RSCDS 5 dances 1982
Deil Among the Tailors	R8x32	Book 14

Extras

Jubilee Jig	J8x32	RSCDS Leaflet
The Nurseryman	J8x32	Book 37
Miss Johnstone of Ardrossan	R5x32	14 Social Dances 2000 (Goldring)
S-Locomotion	S4x32	Book 41

Sad News

May Yarker



A FORMER Ilkley dance tutor and respected figure in the Scottish Country Dancing world has died at the age of 93.

May Yarker, born in Greenock, Scotland, worked in Yorkshire for many years, teaching classes in Ilkley and Huby, and tutoring students at the Ilkley College of Housecraft.

Mrs Yarker helped many students gain the teaching certificate of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and her social dances at the college were always a big attraction. Family members believe many former pupils in the Ilkley will remember her.

Educated at Glasgow School of Art, Mrs Yarker became a promising fashion designer with Scotch Wool House. In the 1930s, she concentrated on bringing up her daughters, but she also attended Harrogate Art School, where she learned to work on ceramics, and later enamelling.

But dancing was always her first love. She strongly felt that Scottish Country Dancing should be sociable and fun as well as poised and elegant, and she encouraged this in her pupils.

Mrs Yarker became a teacher and later an examiner for the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) travelling to Canada, the United States, Scandinavia and else where in Europe to teach and examine. One tour in America covered nine states. In 1995 she received the RSCDS Scroll of Honour in recognition of her service to the society.

Another highlight of her life was being invited to tea by the Queen Mother. This was said to have come about when the Queen Mother bought some of Mrs Yarker's artwork at an exhibition, and asked to visit her studio.

Another invitation came the following year when Mrs Yarker and the Queen Mother discussed their mutual love of Scottish Country Dancing and Mrs Yarker showed her a progressive form of the dance The Gay Gordons.

Mrs Yarker remained energetic in her senior years, running her own dance for her 90th birthday party in Thurso, and relatives say it was only in the last year of her life that she slowed down. She died in Thurso in May after a short illness.

Just as she had planned social dances, Mrs Yarker planned her funeral several years ago, requesting that mourners did not wear black, but instead celebrated her long and active life.

The service ended with the beautiful music to May Yarker Strathspey, composed and played by RSCDS pianist Muriel Johnstone, for the dance devised by Ilkley dancer and teacher Roy Goldring.

A lone piper led the procession to her final resting place. She leaves her daughters, Alexis Henderson and Denise Imrie, and grandchildren Iain, Sally, David and Lexy.

Ray Jones

Older members of the Branch will be sad to hear of the death of Ray last Saturday. He was an active member of the Branch in its early and mid years and will be remembered for his delightful singing and great comic items at our Ceilidhs. When the Branch produced its show Breath of Scotland, Ray was there to sing and dance for us. Always full of fun, he was an excellent MC where his communication skills came to the fore. This was evident over the years when he was the MC for our Children's Festivals. Ray always seemed at ease when dealing with people and managed the children in a kindly but firm way - we have missed him very much and really appreciated him coming back to MC our 21st Festival in 1998.

When the Branch made our contribution to the MacNab video, Ray was asked to sing the mouth music for the Hebridean Weaving Lilt. This he did giving our dancers a unique opportunity to dance to such music.

Our thoughts are now with Avril and Ruth at this sad time for them.

George Stirrat



9 April 1938 to 16 May 2007. George's band was a favourite in Leeds for many years. A Memorial Dance was held at The Carmichael Hall, Eastwood on Friday 14th September 2007, with proceeds to The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation. Many musicians graced the stage to play in tribute to George.

Sparks Fly in Perth

If anyone has the general impression that AGMs are, without exception, boring, they should have been in the coaching hall of The Bell's Sports Centre in Perth on the 3rd November 2007.

It all started pretty routinely. The piper piped, and President the Earl of Mansfield came aboard. Apologies were read, a gracious greeting from her Majesty the Queen received, and a group of highly respected and worthy members, all listed below, received Scrolls of Honour.

The convenors of sub-committees then stepped forward to present and up-date their reports.



Friday Night Dance at the AGM

Education and Training: Helen Russell. A year of successful accomplishment, and in 2008 it is hoped that the Summer School will return to University Hall.

Membership Services: Jim Healy. The database is now complete, and will need regular up-dating by Branch secretaries. Miss Milligan's Miscellany has been revised and published in A5 format.

The Society Secretary: Elspeth Gray. Much has been achieved, including the installation, not before time, of central heating in 12 Coates Crescent.

And in every case, of course, much more.

Then the fun began. It was not only 12 Coates Crescent that got heated. Lawrence Boyd, convenor of General Purposes and Finance, stood to present the report of the Trustees. To put it bluntly, as he most certainly did, the governance of the society had not met its responsibilities to members. He was at pains to point out that he did not include the paid staff of the Society in his criticism, just the elected members.

The fact is, the Society is living well beyond its means, and that although current reserves are strong, if losses continue at the present rate the Society will be out of business in approximately three years.

That the financial situation is precarious came as no surprise, as there was on the agenda a proposal to increase membership subscriptions from the current £10 per annum to £15. What came as a surprise was the vitriolic attack on the Society's voluntary management. Weak and ineffective governance was how it was described.

The reports were all received, the new committees announced – with a vacancy on General Purposes and Finance – and the meeting then addressed the motion to increase subscriptions.

Your committee had already debated this motion, and had guided your representatives to vote in favour, as there seemed to be little alternative if the Society is to survive. But there were many in a long and protracted debate that voiced their opposition.

When it came to the vote, though, it was easily carried: 175 votes to 62, with 2 abstentions. It came with a warning. In future, there will be no five year time lag in raising subscriptions. Expect annual increases until financial balance is restored.

The fireworks were over, though they continued to splutter on the Strathspey web site during the following days.

A long and rather acrimonious debate followed on 'Disclosure', which I learnt is Scots for 'Criminal Record Bureau check', which we have in England. Complaints were levelled at HQ, complaints of delays and lost personal documents. Having some considerable experience of this procedure my sympathies were with HQ. Dealing with the CRB at busy times can seem like knitting fog.

Eventually the meeting closed pleasantly enough, thankfully, with a 'presentation' to the Earl of Mansfield, to mark his retirement after 30 years as President, of a cedar of Lebanon to grace his stately home, Scone Palace. This was a 'virtual' presentation. The tree itself, of course, will be delivered direct, presumably by low loader.

To replace the Earl of Mansfield, Dr Alastair MacFadyen was formally installed as the new president 'by show of hands', and made a most graceful speech of acceptance.

Finally, a member of the London Branch proposed a vote of thanks, and included in his extensive list was one Catherine Livsey, in gratitude for the design work she had prepared to grace the many week-end social events. But those would be a totally other story...

SCROLLS OF HONOUR

NOMINEE

- 1 May Macfarlane
- 2 Elinor M Vandegrift
- 3 Masaka Okado Naitoh
- 4 David Cunningham Snr
- 5 Helen Frame
- 6 Kathleen McAdam
- 7 Fiona Turnbull

NOMINATING BRANCH

- Toronto
- Seattle
- Tokai
- Membership Services Committee
- Ayr
- San Francisco
- Richmond, Yorkshire

September Day School



After some initial problems getting into the hall, the day school went well without further hitches. Our teacher was Ann Dix and Ian Slater played for us. The morning session was for less experienced dancers, however the 8 dancers present were all more experienced dancers, and this session proved useful in helping sort out some bad habits which some had got into.

The afternoon session saw over experienced 30 dancers from the north of England being taught some very interesting dances, a few of them don't appear on programmes, two of them being Ann's choice for the evening programme. Thanks to Ann and Ian for an enjoyable day of dancing and music. We all look forward to another day school next year.

Branch Shop

The shop is now well stocked and here are some of the offerings.

CDs

All the RSCDS CDs, including the two new ones – Book 13 and Book 34.

Plus a comprehensive list of over 200 CDs we can get, and any others from Music in Scotland. The list can be downloaded from the website, picked up at a branch dance or posted to you.

Books

Pilling, Originally Ours and Index to Formations and Movements in SCD as well as recent books and CDs produced by other branches such as Birmingham and Banffshire. All the RSCDS books and the pocket editions.

Shoes

Full range of ghillies and ballet shoes, plus others to order

Miscellaneous

RSCDS Ties, slip stop and the latest DVD of We Twa.

If you would like any thing else we are happy to try and get it for you.

Please support your Branch shop!

Highland Day School

The day started with learning the position of the feet, the highland pas de basque and high cuts (with leaps). Then came out the swords. The first step (addressing the swords) went well. We danced around the outside of the swords and tried to put our steps into practice. The second step (pointing) and the third step (quick step) was defiantly more daring. We had to dance inside the swords. Some might have described it as more dangerous. Especially if your feet were in the wrong place at the wrong time. I think everyone had kicked the swords at some point in the lesson.

We put the swords away for the afternoon session and just when we thought we were off the hook we had to learn the complex shuffle step in the hornpipe. We all had a laugh and thoroughly enjoyed the challenge.

It provided an opportunity for new and experienced dancers to learn new, interesting and exciting dances.

Thank you to our teacher Catherine Livsey for her patience, planning and time. I will be looking forward to seeing you at the next highland day school in May.

Eileen Murray



Was it really the Good Old Days?

The Branch has run the White Rose Festival now for four years: because of the conditions two of them have had to be run indoors, obviously not altogether satisfactory because the event is planned as an 'outdoor festival of Scottish Country Dancing', as it always has been since the event was started by the Leeds SCD Club in the mid 1950s.

We do plan quite carefully for the possibility of going indoors: live music (thank you Ian Slater), two good halls both giving the dancers the opportunity to dance the full programme, the best spectator accommodation we can manage; but inevitably we are a bit cramped – because we aren't 'outdoors'.

So, equally inevitably, we get complaints.

Lesley Enoch has kindly given us a reflection on what it used to be like 'in the Good Old Days'....

The Wet Festivals

In the last newsletter Brenda referred to being banished to the sports hall with the children. As festival secretary I remember a lot of headaches as to how to arrange the adult teams to dance. The hall used by the adults wasn't all that large and we could only dance six sets of dancers at a

time. Luckily there was a balcony, so teams not dancing could sit up there, also some stayed in the changing rooms as they were close to the hall. How can I be fair to all the teams, as we used to get over 40 adult teams taking part? Well each group of dances were danced twice, that meant 12 teams could dance each group therefore $12 \times 6 = 72$, and not 80. I always tried to give each team 2 groups of dances, however some groups would enter 2 teams, so it wasn't always right to give them 4 groups of dances, so I would give them 3 groups instead, as the numbers didn't work out. Often if I couldn't make the numbers game balance and a group had entered to do a demonstration dance, I would utilize this as one of their spots. This really was a juggling act. In the end sometimes a dancer would only dance once, and if really unlucky could miss out altogether.

I know the Sports Hall for Brenda wasn't an ideal venue, but I sincerely hope the children did enjoy their days in Leeds.

At least now with the pleasant setting of Gateways School, we have a large sports hall and can dance most of the teams together, even though we are rather squashed together. Let us hope that we have a lovely find day next year.

Lesley Enoch

Sat 19th January 2008 7.30pm

SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre, Spenn Lane

Music: Ian Muir

M.C: Catherine Livsey

Admission: £7, Non-member £8, Full time Education £3,
Children under 11 £2, Spectators £1

Programme

Hooper's Jig	J 8x32	MMM
Back to the Fireside	R 8x32	Book 38
The Duchess Tree	S 8x32	Drewry
Anniversary Reel	R 8x32	Book 36
Mrs Stewart's Jig	J 8x32	Book 35
The Gentleman	S 8x32	Book 35
Midnight Oil (5 couples)	J 5x48	Drewry
John of Bon Accord	R 8x32	Book 33

INTERVAL

Espie McNabb	J 8x32	MMM
Piper and the Penguin(Sq)	R 1x88	Scotia
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	S 8x32	RSCDS Leaflet
The Immigrant Lass	J 8x32	Book 39
Broadford Bay	R 8x32	RSCDS Leaflet
The Rose of the North	S 8x32	Leeds Silver Jubilee
Pelorus Jack	J 8x32	Book 41
The Reel of the Royal Scots	R 8x32	RSCDS Leaflet

Extras

MacDonald of the Isles	S3x32	Haynes
Macleod's Fancy	J 8x32	Book 33
West's Hornpipe	H 8x32	RSCDS 1965
St Andrew's Fair	J 8x32	RSCDS 1982

Sat 16th February 2008 7.30pm

SOCIAL DANCE

West Park Centre, Spenn Lane

Music: George Meikle plus Musicians' for day course

M.C: Jean Dyson

Admission: £7, Non-member £8, Full time Education £3,
Children under 11 £2, Spectators £1

Programme

Brudenell Jig	J 6x32	Leeds 10th Book
Lothian Lads	R 8x32	Drewry
Glasgow Highlanders	S 5x32	Book 2
Kelloholm Jig	J 8x32	RSCDS Lft
Schiehallion	64S/64R	Thurston
Rev. John MacFarlane	R 4x32	Book 37
Monymusk	S 8x32	Book 11
Middling Thank You	J 8x40	Book 15
General Stuart's Reel	R 8x32	Book 10

INTERVAL

Wild Geese	J 8x32	Book 24
Meg Merrilees	R 6x24	Book 1
Strathmore	S 2x40	Book 43
Argyll's Fancy	J 4x48	Graded Book
Gang the Same Gate	S 8x32	Book 36
Swiss Lassie	R 8x32	Book 39
Wind on Loch Fyne	S 3x32	Dunedin 1
Pelorus Jack	J 8x32	Book 41
Trip to Bavaria	R 4x32	Collins

Extras

Major Ian Stewart	J 8x32	RSCDS 35
Maxwell's Rant	R 8x32	Book 18

Adel Christmas Tea Dance

With Music by The Cairns - Pat & Peter Clark

Please join us at Adel Methodist Church Hall, Gainsborough Avenue on Monday December 17th for our Annual Tea Dance

Programme:

R	Nice to See You	Bk 40
J	C'est L'Amour	Bk 34
S	MacDonald of the Isles	Haynes Carnforth 2
J	Tribute to the Borders	RSCDS Leaflet
R	A Christmas Ceilidh	New Forest
J	Ayr Promenade	Goldring 24 Social
S	Miss Milligan's Strathspey	RSCDS Leaflet
R	The Morrison Measure	Goldring A Reel for Alice etc
J	Good Hearted Glasgow	Collins

All dances will be recapped

Dancing starts promptly at 1.45. (The Hall will be open at 1.30)

DATES, DATES, DATES

The many dances arranged locally are listed in the Yorks & North East Scottish Country Dance Diary.

Sat 30 November - 2 December

Malhamdale Weekend

Teacher: Ian Hall

Music: Heulwen Hall

Sat 15 December

Social Dance 7.30pm

West Park Centre, Leeds

Music: Marion Anderson + 1

2008

Sat 19 January

Social Dance 7.30pm

West Park Centre, Leeds

Music: Ian Muir

Sat 16 February

Musicians Day School

Adel Methodist Church Hall,
Gainsborough Avenue, Adel, Leeds 16

Teacher: George Meikle

Social Dance 7.30pm

West Park Centre, Leeds

Music: George Meikle

Sat 1 March

Childrens Festival

Queens Hall, Harrogate Road, Leeds 8

Music: Ian Slater

Sat 15 March

Social Dance 7.30pm

West Park Centre, Leeds

Music: Ian Slater

Full details of these events will be circulated at Branch dances during the summer and posted on the Branch web site www.rscdsleeds.org.uk, where you will find dance programmes and dance reminders.

Application forms and information for all day schools and weekends are also available from Yvonne Tredgett, 17 Aviemore Rd, Warmsworth, Doncaster DN4 9ND. Tel 01302 851174.

Classes

Spring Term 2008

WC 7th January 2008

to WC 10 March 2007

Fees: £3.00 per class,

Single Class Term costs £25.00

Multi-Class (Term for any number of Branch class). £35.00

Classes

Monday Afternoon

1.45 - 3.45 - General/Beginner

Adel Methodist Church Hall

Gainsborough Avenue, Adel, Leeds 16

Teachers: Susan Carr & Don Andrews

Monday Evening

7.45 - 9.45pm - Advanced

Calverley Conservative Club,

Teachers: Catherine Livsey

Tuesday evening

7.45 - 9.45 Intermediate/Beginner

Adel Methodist Church Hall

Teachers: Alan Carr, Irene Dracup

Wednesday evening

7.30 - 10.00 - General/Beginner

Holy Trinity Church Hall

Knaresborough contact Malcolm Frost

for venue 4th Wednesday of each month 01423 872686

Teachers: Ann Baranyai and Malcolm Frost

Thursday evening

7.45 - 10.00 - General/beginner

Brackenwood Community Centre,

New Building, Lidgett Lane, Leeds

Teachers: Brenda Burnell/
Stella Summers

Friday evening - children

5.30 - 7.00 re-commencing again

12th January

Hawthorn Wood Primary School,

Broadway, Leeds 5

Teacher: Brenda Burnell

Sunday afternoon

1.45 - 3.45

2 Dec 2007, 13 Jan 2008,

10 Feb 2008, 9 March 2008

Askwith Village Hall.

Dancers interested in demonstration

work, innovative dances and

technique. All Welcome

Teacher: Catherine Livsey

For more information see www.rscdsleeds.org.uk