

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Chicago Branch

May 1987

# The Blethers

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Ingrid Kendall, President

Kenneth Schoon, Editor

Branch Status Approved: The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Edinburgh, has approved our application and has accepted Loch Mich as a full Branch of the society. (The other SCD groups in the area were invited to join with us in the formation of the Branch, but declined for various reasons.) A public meeting, required by the Society, was held May 3rd. Those at the meeting adopted the name, Chicago Branch, RSCDS, which we will use after the workshop is concluded at the end of this month. Our Loch Mich officers will continue as an interim committee until the Annual General Meeting next month.

The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, June 14, 1987, at 6:30 p.m. at the Palos Park Village Hall. The election of officers for the new Branch will take place then. Speaking of elections:

Nominations for officers can be made by any full member. In the next few days, all full members will receive a list of officers and their duties. Please use the enclosed form and mail or hand it to our secretary, Barbara Bowker. Nominations must be received by Wednesday, June 3rd. Nominees will be asked, of course, for their consent before names are placed on the ballot.

From Ingrid: Thanks to everyone who contributed to our group throughout this last year. We are exceptionally lucky in that all our members are supportive. Many folks took on specific responsibilities, always giving something of themselves, completing projects on time and coming out smiling.

Lake Geneva Workshop Filled Up!! For the first time our summer workshop at George Williams College, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, has all filled up and we have had to establish a waiting list. The workshop looks like it will be our best yet. We are pleased that so many wanted to attend and yet sad that not everyone who has applied will be able to attend.

Homewood-Flossmoor Dance Party May 21st. Ingrid's group at Homewood is having its first dance party, Thursday night at the Marie Irwin Community Center, on Ridge Road at Highland Avenue, near downtown Homewood. The fun begins at 7:30 and should conclude by about 9:30. Come if you can and support this new group.

The Fermi-lab group will also meet on Thursday the 21st. Dancing is in the barn at the Fermi-lab near Batavia. Call Dave or Avril for details. (879-9248).

Memorial Day Weekend: Class will be held as usual. Last chance to practice the dances for the evening dances at the workshop.

An Alternate location for our Sunday classes would still be very useful-- so please keep your eyes open. There was good attendance the last time we danced at the Masonic Temple in LaGrange, but that building will soon be sold and likely would no longer be available to us. We would like to find a location with 2 wooden floors, a piano and a kitchen, with plenty of parking, of course, and near public transportation.

Our Summer Schedule will begin June 7th. Summer classes are informal and taught by various members of our group as we give our regular instructors a well-deserved vacation. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up for the Sunday of their choice. No (teaching) experience needed. As before:

Summer Classes are cancelled if the official Chicago temperature, at O'Hare Airport reaches 90 degrees. (Even if the temperature goes below 90 by 6:00, the building is still too hot for dancing.)

Summer Dance Party at Racine: The last SCD party at Racine will be held Saturday, June 27th at 2:00 p.m.. Sisters Dorcas and Leticia will be spending the next several years in Rome. Let's all "escape to Wisconsin" and support this wonderful group.

Demo Team Video: The soon-to-be-the-hottest summer video of the Chicago Area is bound to be our own Demonstration Team's dance video. A taping of our group was made recently and will be available for publicity and for organizations which might want to ask the group to perform. Funds used to have the taping done came from demonstration team earnings, not regular group funds.

In case you'd be interested: 50% of our groups' income comes from Sunday class fees, 25% from annual dues, and 25% from special events such as dance parties. Most of the demonstration team proceeds these last couple of years have been used to support the workshop at Lake Geneva.

Fall Dance: September 19th. Why not mark your calendar now?

Loch Mich T-Shirts: Future valuable antiques!! Breaks the ice at parties! Terrific to wear at dance class. Not all sizes and colors available. Offer not to be repeated. Will be available at the workshop. Last chance to get yours!!

Congratulations to Madison SCD on their 10th Anniversary. They celebrated with a great ballad and dance workshop last month attended by several of our group.

Detroit Workshop with Bill Hamilton will be Saturday, June 6th. Anyone who would like another weekend with Bill, or who is on the waiting list for our workshop might want to attend this workshop at Historic Fort Wayne in Detroit. Details are on the notice board.

Scottish Home Picnic, July 11th at the beautiful grounds of the Scottish Home in North Riverside, Illinois. Hot food, beer and soft drinks, crafts, games, SCD and Highland dance demonstrations, Pipe Bands, much more. Plan to spend the whole day at the home. It's always been a great day to relax and enjoy good fellowship and entertainment.

Chicago Highland Games Cancelled. An unfortunate combination of events has caused the cancellation of this years' games. We all hope that they will be scheduled again as usual next summer.

Mailing List: Please protect the privacy of our members by keeping copies of our mailing list for your own personal use only. Recently a copy was given to a candidate for political office who sent notes asking for money. We do give our list to local organizations sponsoring activities which we think that our members would want to know about such as the Nicht Wi' Burns and the Highland Games committees.

From the Quarries: David, Avril and Ralf Quarrie would like to thank everyone for their thoughtfulness and support following the sudden death of David's mother on April 3rd. The beautiful gift of flowers sent by the group to the family home in Cambridge was greatly appreciated. It is a great comfort in this sad time to know that we have so many good friends who care.

We miss you. Whenever members miss class (and this editor has missed more than his share recently), they miss out on all the good exercise, the fun and the fellowship. We may not think about it much, but the other members of the group "miss out" also--they miss the other members' humor, assistance and experience. Perhaps the following, reprinted from The Reel Thing, newsletter of the San Diego Branch, says it best:

Joining a social group such as ours carries with it no heavy obligations. In general you join because you want to, you come whenever you feel like it, and you don't have any pressures or obligations. None-the-less, belonging to an RSCDS branch does carry a few expectations. Your fellow members expect you to be there most weeks so that you don't fall too far behind in learning the new dances.

In a fairly direct sort of way, you will get more from the dancing if you come regularly and faithfully each class night. You'll get to know your fellow dancers better and you will enjoy yourself more as your technique improves and your knowledge of the dances reaches a state where you can enjoy the music, the people, and the movement, rather than worrying constantly about where you have to go. So come each class night, support our special functions, parties and meetings . . . though you may not think it, the activity of the group is diminished every time you stay away.

Many thanks to all those who have made this year's classes so enjoyable:  
to our instructors Dave and Avril Quarrie  
to our demonstration team coach, Martin Mulligan and  
to Jeannette Parrot who has organized all our teas following class.

Thanks also to those who have helped the editor with The Blethers this year:  
to Ingrid, Barbara, Jeanette and Fiona for supplying information and  
to John Collins for supplying mailing tables on such very short notice.

Have you heard? Scottish tunes played by the Midlothian Pipe Band have been aired several times in the morning recently on radio station WNIB.

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FOR SALE: Ballad Harp, 22 nylon strings, walnut, handcrafted by Frazier of South Bend, Indiana, never played, excellent condition. 32" high (with storage stand) 18" wide. Write Annabeth Packard, 2003 Welwyn Avenue, Des Plaines, IL 60018, or call (312) 298-7933.

FREE: Water softener to anyone who will disconnect and remove from Ingrid's home. Call 957-4494.

## Calendar:

May 21	Dance Party	Inwin Community Center, Homewood
	Dancing at Fermi-lab	
May 29-31	Chicago Area Workshop	George Williams College, Lake Geneva, WI
June 6	Detroit Mini-workshop	
June 7	Summer schedule begins	
June 14	Annual General Meeting	Palos Park Village Hall 6:30
June 27	Dance Party	Dekoven Foundation Racine, WI 2:00
June 28	No class	
July <del>16</del> <sup>11</sup>	Scottish Home Picnic	Scottish Home, North Riverside
Sept 19	Fall Dance Party	

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Address Connection Requested