

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Chicago Branch

May, 1991

## The Blethers

**Thomas Watkins, Chair**

**Laurie Walter, Editor**

**Blethers editor:** As of this issue, I am assuming the editorship of The Blethers, the best Scottish Country Dance newsletter in Chicagoland. Please address comments, communications, brickbats, etc., to me at 3538 W. 212th Place, Matteson, IL 60443, (708) 481-8894. Once again, thanks to Ken Schoon for his years of noble service to this publication, to Peg Schoon for her support thereof, to Chari Wurtzel for temporary editorship during the transition period, to Kent Smith for managing the mailing list, and to anyone else I've forgotten.

**Annual General Meeting** of the RSCDS-Chicago Branch will be held Sunday, May 5, at 5:30 PM in the St. Josaphat Parish Hall. All members should plan to attend; there will be dancing and tea afterwards.

**There is still time** to sign up for the exciting, dynamic, RSCDS-Chicago Branch weekend workshop, May 31-June 2, at Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana. Three great teachers, a fantastic live band for the Saturday night ball, live music for classes and the Friday evening dance, partying, and a general good time for everyone are offered. Contact Marian Smith, 2329 Hartrey Ave., Evanston, IL 60201, (708) 869-7803 to get in on the fun and learning.

**Ball walkthroughs:** Jeanette Parrott will lead walkthroughs of the dances for the weekend workshop Friday evening dance and Saturday evening ball on Sundays before regular dance class. These walkthroughs will be held on May 12, 19, and 26, at 4:30 PM at St. Josaphat Parish Hall.

**Going-away party for Michaels:** We always hate to say goodbye to good friends but they have the unfortunate habit of moving away. On May 19, we will bid farewell to Allan, Phyllis, Robin, and Thorne Michaels, who are moving to Seattle, Washington. There will be a special tea and presentation of personal gifts to Michaels; also, we will be dancing their requests that night (save me a dance, Allan!). Plan to be there.

**News of farflung members:** David Quarrie, former teacher and beloved life member, now of Newport News, VA, has been having considerable trouble with his back recently. Surgery to remove "leaked-out" disc material seems to have been very successful and he expects to be dancing up a small storm at our workshop. Talk to him for all the details or to your editor for pictures of intervertebral discs, spinal cords, etc. Dorota Krynska sends her best from Poland. But speaking of ailing backs, Terry Spoering has also been having painful problems and will be a non-dancing workshop attendee. Be sure to stop by and give her a (gentle) hug.

**ScotReel events in May:** ScotReel, our Branch class in the south suburbs, has a dance on Saturday, May 4, 7:30 PM, at the Flossmoor Community House, junction of Carroll Parkway and Hutchinson Road in Flossmoor; cost \$5.00. Also, on Thursday, May 30, their regular dance class (also at FCH) will be taught by guest teachers and former Loch Michigan stalwarts Kathie and Yoshi Yukishige, currently of the Toronto, formerly of the Osaka, Branch. (Yoshi is a life member of our Branch and his departure from Chicago is immortalized in the dance "Yoshi's Farewell.") See the enclosed leaflet for all the details on their class. For more information on ScotReel events, contact Melissa Whitson, 244 Powell Street, Clarendon Hills, IL 60514, (708) 655-4154.

**English Country Dancing in May:** Barbara Cool and Tom Senior will have their usual fourth Wednesday of the month English Country Dancing on May 22, 8:00 PM, at the Trinity Church of the North Shore, 1024 Lake Avenue, Wilmette. In addition, there is dancing at Keenan O'Malley's, 2125 West Roscoe Street, Chicago, on Wednesday, May 8, at 8:00. Music for both events is by Eddy and the Frayed; admission still only \$1.00; call Barbara or Tom at (708) 433-8704 for further information.

**Moving on to June** brings us to the Illinois St. Andrew Highland Games, to be held June 15 at Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine, 555 31st Street, Downers Grove, IL. Pipe bands, Highland and Country dancing, athletic competitions, booths, and a general good time make this a not-to-be-missed event. The Highland Games dance will be held the previous evening (see enclosed flyer) and includes live music, shortbread, and a chance to see all your friends. What the flyer fails to mention is the price for dancers: it is \$10.

**Moving on to June** also brings us to several summer schedules. Regular

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Sunday night Branch classes will be held three Sundays per month (one class with potluck) during the summer at Fox Center, Oak Park, IL. Dancing is from 7:00-9:00 PM; potlucks start at 6:30; admission is \$3.00. The dates are June 9, 16, and 30 (this last with a potluck); July 14, 21, and 28 (potluck); and August 4, 18, and 25 (potluck). Then on September 8, regular classes at St. Josaphat start up again!

ScotReel social dances are June 20 and 27, August 15, and September 5 and 12. July 18 is the tentative date for an outdoor social dance and picnic; on September 14, a Saturday workshop and fundraiser will be held from 1:30-5:00 PM, cost \$10 including Scottish refreshments. ScotReel's regular classes resume September 19 for a ten-week session; please sign up ahead of time. Contact Melissa Whitson, 244 Powell Street, Clarendon Hills, IL 60514, (708) 655-4154. The social dances will be at the Flossmoor Community House, corner of Carroll Parkway and Hutchinson Road in Flossmoor; talk to Melissa concerning the venue for the other events.

Also in June, the Racine SCD group is holding a potluck and dance on Saturday, June 22, at the DeKoven Center, Racine, WI. Pick up a leaflet at Sunday night class for more information.

The Scottish Home Picnic at the Scottish Home, 28th and DesPlaines Avenue, North Riverside, IL, will be held on July 27. A good time is always had by all and the money helps our friends at the Home.

Last but not least, concerning our Sunday evening guest, Mary: she is a member of the St. Josaphat parish. Since we are guests of the parish, let's make an extra effort to make her feel welcome.

U.S.D.A. definition of Haggis (thanks to Terry Spoering): "Haggis, Scottish: Made of grated liver, heart, of a sheep combined with oatmeal, suet, and seasoning, usually stuffed into a pig's or sheep's stomach and boiled. A meat pudding, formed like a sausage." Somehow it tastes a bit better than it sounds.

**Calendar of events:**

May 4: ScotReel dance, 7:30 PM, Flossmoor Community House, Flossmoor.  
May 5: Annual General Meeting, 5:30 PM, St. Josaphat.  
May 12, 19, 26: Ball walkthroughs, 4:30 PM, St. Josaphat.  
May 19: Going-away party for Michaels, dancing 6:00, St. Josaphat.  
May 30: Special ScotReel class, Flossmoor Community House, Flossmoor.  
May 31-June 2: RSCDS-Chicago Workshop, Valparaiso University.  
June 9, 16, 30; July 14, 21, 28; August 4, 18, 25: Summer dancing, Fox Center, Oak Park (see details inside).  
June 14: Highland Games dance, 7:30 PM, Downers Grove YMCA.  
June 15: Illinois St. Andrew Highland Games, CCOM, Downers Grove.  
June 20, 27; August 15; September 5, 12: ScotReel Summer dancing, Flossmoor Community House, Flossmoor.  
June 22: Racine potluck and dance, DeKoven Center, Racine, Wisconsin.  
July 27: Scottish Home Picnic, Scottish Home, North Riverside.  
September 8: Regular Sunday night dancing resumes, St. Josaphat.  
September 14: ScotReel dance and fundraiser, 1:30 PM.  
September 19: Regular ScotReel dancing resumes, FCH, Flossmoor.

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Address Correction Requested