

RSCDS, Chicago Branch

The Blethers

Mike Millin, Chair

October 2002

Sue McKinnell, Editor

<http://www.midwestnet.com/clients/piper/branch.html>

2002 Semi-Annual General Meeting: This is official notice, pursuant to the Constitution and by-laws of the Chicago Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, that the Semi-Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 3, 2002. The meeting will be held in the parish hall at St. Josaphat's Church, Belden and Southport, Chicago, Illinois, starting at 6:00 p.m. The main item on the agenda will be review and approval of the treasurer's report. You must be a member of the Chicago Branch to vote at the meeting, but all are welcome to attend.

Fall Dance: The Fall Dance is Saturday, November 16th 7:30 p.m. at the Baker Community Center, 101 South Second St., St. Charles, IL. This year's dance is hosted by Silk and Thistle and is *Frollic on the Fox* 7. The musicians are "O'er the Border" and guest musicians. The band is offering a workshop for musicians from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on the 16th at the home of Susan Conant in St. Charles. You may call (630) 840-8194 or (630) 584-0825 for more information. The program for the dance is offered here and available on the Silk and Thistle website (<http://www.midwestnet.com/clients/piper/events.html>); dance instructions are also available on the website.

Opening Waltz		
Ayr Promenade (variant bars 25-32)	32J3	Goldring: 24 Graded and Social
Braes of Breadalbane	32S3	RSCDS Book 21
J. B. Milne	32R3	Foss: Angus Fitchet
Ladies from DeKalb	32J3	McKinnell: leaflet
Iona Cross	S96+R96 Sq	Mitchell: Whetherly Book 17
Whistler's Jig	32J2 (6X)	Tague: leaflet
Banks of Clyde	32S3	MMM I
Reel of the Royal Scots	32R3	RSCDS leaflet
Interval		
Gae Gordons		
La Bastringue		
C'est l'Amour or The Flirt	32J3	RSCDS Book 34
Linkumdoddie	48R5 Set	Drewry: Rondel Book
Dundee Whaler	32S4 Set	Ormskirk Book 1
Burns Night	32J2	Celebrate 50 Years with Boston
General Stuart's Reel	32R3	RSCDS Book 10
Lammermuir Hills	32S2 (6X)	Goldring: leaflet
Mairi's Wedding	40R3	Cosh: 22 SCD
Closing Waltz		

2003 New Year's Ball: The 2003 New Year's Banquet and Ball will be held on Saturday, January 11th at the Ukrainian Cultural Center. There will be a Brunch and Tea Dance on Sunday, January 12th at the Irish American Heritage Center. The Musicians for the weekend are Earl Gaddis, Dave Wiesler, and Hanneke Cassel. Contact Jeanne Millin at (847) 446-6591 (scotfarquhar@msn.com) or Carlyn Bromann at (630) 469-6029 (Carlyn@core.com) for more information. The dance program for the Ball is available on the Branch website; instructions and the Tea Dance program will be added later.

2001-2002 Committee of Management: Mike Millin, Honorary Chair; Katherine Andrefsky, Honorary Secretary; Carlyn Bromann, Honorary Treasurer; Jeanne Millin, Liz Stake, and Noel Chávez - Members at Large.

Holiday Party: The Branch will hold a Holiday Party on Sunday, December 15th at St. Josaphats at 6:00 p.m. Mark your calendars!

Weekend Workshop 2003: The 2003 Weekend Workshop will be May 30-June 1, 2003 at Stronghold in Oregon, IL. Musicians for the event are *The Music of Spey* (Calum MacKinnon, Andy Imbrie, and Ralph Gordon). Watch this space for further information and mark your calendars.

RCSDS Chicago Branch 2002-2003 Schedule	
Semi-Annual General Meeting, St. Josaphats	Sunday, 11/3 6:00 p.m.
Fall Dance: Frolic on the Fox 7, St. Charles	Saturday, 11/16 7:30 p.m.
Madison Social Dance	Saturday, 12/14
Chicago Branch Holiday Party, St. Josaphats	Sunday, 12/15 6:00 p.m.
NY Ball Walkthrough, St. Josaphats	Sunday, 1/5 6:00 p.m.
2003 New Year's Ball, Ukrainian Cultural Center	Saturday, 1/11/03
2003 Tea Dance, Irish American Heritage Center	Sunday, 1/12/03
Madison Ball	Saturday 3/29
Chicago Branch Spring Dance/Tartan Day, St Jo's	Sunday, 4/6 6:00 p.m.
Annual General Meeting, St. Josaphats	Sunday, 5/4 6:00 p.m.
Iowa Ball	Saturday - Sunday, 5/10-5/11
Workshop Walkthrough, last class St. Josaphats	Sunday, 5/18
Weekend Workshop 2003, Oregon, IL	Friday-Sunday, 5/30-6/1

Do you have Celtic or Saxon Feet?: Long ago, the Germanic tribes of Angles and Saxons invaded Britain and left quite a legacy. Their language evolved into our modern English, their laws formed the basis of English Common Law, and their feet, it is now thought, formed the basis of modern Englishmen.

According to the experts, traditional feet tend to be broad and somewhat pointed. Look and see if your toes form a steep angle from the first to the fifth toe. If they do, that is an English foot. Celtic feet, those from Scotland, Ireland, Wales, the Isle of Man, and Brittany, tend to have a second toe longer than all the others. This is known as the Scottish toe.

The differences in feet might account for bunions on the Celtic-shaped feet, as English shoes are modeled on the English foot – and the wearing of ill-fitting shoes causes bunions.

Archeologists have now discovered that they can tell the difference between skeletal remains found in a six-century cemetery. Not only were the Saxons buried with the distinctive jewelry, their feet were shaped like the modern English foot. They found a distinctive feature in the cuboid bone. It is slightly scrunched on one side of the Saxon foot but more square in Celts.

This offers something for us in genealogy to think about and a fun thing to do at family reunions – the study of the family feet!

---Written by Barbara Bartz in *The White Cockade*, newsletter of the RSCDS Vancouver Branch.

Why do pipers march when they are playing?
A moving target is harder to hit.

Why do all the Scots have a sense of humor?
Because it's a free gift.

Bagpipes are defined as the missing link between music and noise.