



# RSCDS Bristol

Volume 7 Issue 2

March 2005

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY IN BRISTOL

RSCDS Bristol Registered Charity 1059608

This issue:

- Chairman's introduction
- The making of Burns Night
- RSCDS AGM
- Website Update
- Results of Questionnaire
- General Information

## Hello from our New Chairman

As you know, I took over from Keith as Chairman of Bristol RSCDS at the AGM in October last year. We thank Keith for all he has done in the last two years. I am looking forward to my time as Chairman and hope to serve you well.

We are settling into our new venue and have already this year had a successful day school and another well attended Newcomers dance.

The Burns supper was another fantastic evening and many thanks are due to Andrew and Lesley for this. I am pleased to see that they are already thinking about next year - although how Andrew will outdo his arch of balloons I do not know!!

Our Summer Dance is on 21 May and Frank Reid and his band will be playing for us - a great treat. We will be trying out a new venue, St. Monica's, which is on the Downs and has a lovely hall.

The results of our questionnaire are summarised in the newsletter. If you have any comments on this or other matters please do contact me, Rhona or other members of your committee - we are there to represent you, the members.

The committee has been trying to think of ways to bring our dancing to a wider public in Bristol. Sadly the

World Day of Dance is not being celebrated in Bristol this year but we hope to join in with events in 2006. However, as you will see below, the idea of "taster" sessions is now being explored.

Next term our beginners have a few weeks of classes and then we hope that some of those who have been learning with Barbara will join us in the main class for the rest of the term. I am sure they will be made welcome by regular dancers.

We finish this year on 30 June, giving us some extra time for dancing, and ending with a live music dance night. So enjoy the rest of our dancing year!

Caroline Dunn

## Share your Memories

The RSCDS are looking for contributions to build a collection of *Members' Memories*.

If you have any interesting stories, anecdotes, photographs or recordings you would like to submit, please do not hesitate to contact a committee member (or forward direct to headquarters).

## Spreading the word?

The idea of spreading the word about Scottish Country Dancing to other areas of Bristol has been a long-standing topic of debate.

Peter and Trisha are investigating the options for holding introductory "taster" sessions in other areas of the city such as Bradley Stoke or Emerson's Green. Suggestions and support from members will be more than welcome I'm sure.

## RSCDS AGM Weekend

The Society AGM took place on the afternoon of Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2004 at Perth, as part of what is now known as the "Conference Weekend", because it includes a number of other activities.

Reporting first on the AGM, we were pleased to see our Honorary President, Lord Mansfield, back in the chair, having been prevented from attending in 2003 by poor health.

Robbie Shepherd, the well-known SCD music broadcaster opened with what Jim Healy described as "an amusing but thoughtful speech". The majority of the business was routine. Irene Bennett, Convenor of Membership Services, was the sole nominee for Chairman-elect.

A motion for a 20% reduction in subscription for under-25 year old members was passed, but a reduction for multi-member households was defeated.

The weekend got off to a flying start with the Friday evening ball in the Bells Sports Centre on the edge of the North Inch, with 90 sets dancing to Alastair Wood and his band playing for a programme devised by New Zealand Branch.

Saturday morning started with the Members' Forum ("The floor is yours"). For this, Jimmie Hill considered the formation of Teachers' Associations as a way to provide more support to Society teachers, and Alex Gray gave a comprehensive review of the new examination structure.

The Branch Forum, organised by Toronto (Canada) and Boston (UK) followed. There was considerable discussion on "Teaching Aids",

Promotional Material”, and “Membership Categories”. No conclusions were reached but there were a number of ideas for the Management Board and Committees to consider.

After the AGM, Saturday ended with an enjoyable dance to Ian Macphail’s band, the programme organised by East Lothian Branch.

Sunday morning had optional workshops: “dealing with the press”, one for Youth Co-ordinators, and “devising dances”, led by Derek Haynes. There was also a meeting for members of the newly formed International Branch.

The weekend closed after lunch on Sunday.

Andrew Smith.

### The Magic of Burns How it all happens

Burns Exciseman Whisky  
An idea was born!

Colours?

Gold – Whisky? Grain?  
Silver – Streams? Springs?

The **gold** of the grain and the **copper** of the stills?

**Yesss!**



The step from here to having single malts for the table names, using the actual labels, seemed logical.

However, some distilleries would not send labels “for security reasons”, but their labels floated off the bottles with cold water, and it is marvellous what can be done with a scanner and digital camera.

Several drams later (purely for research you understand) and an insufficient response from the

distilleries made a Speyside visit essential.

Although too late for the tour at Glenfarclas a photo of a still in the car park, for the menu, made the visit worthwhile. (Sad people!)

Andrew wanted to do something different with balloons, but Lesley was not too sure what he really meant!

She thought his idea of arched balloons too ambitious without experimentation, so, despite protestations of, “Trust me, I’m an engineer” a fraught afternoon was spent in painstakingly measuring fishing line, tying loops, attaching balloons at appropriate intervals, and *voila!* Andrew’s lounge was transformed by a perfect arch of gold and copper balloons complete with curling golden ribbons!

In artificial light the line was virtually invisible, which made moving round the room an extremely chancy business, often resulting in menacing growls from Andrew.

One evening, while concentrating on the budget, Lesley became increasingly aware of Andrew’s sporan slowly inching across the floor .....more water needed in her dram?

She then realized with relief that Andrew, while preparing the rest of the arches, had anchored one end of the line to his sporan on the far side of the room.



For the tops of pillars, bottles of whisky propped at an angle against a hole-punch were photographed by Andrew, helped by his glamorous assistant holding a large sheet of background (blotting) paper.

Lesley’s “whisky” blending skills were tested when colour-matching substitute whisky (ginger ale and weak tea) for each miniature balloon holder for the tables, hence the health warning against sampling them.

Keith’s successful Sacramento search for gold and bronze streamers meant that the tasks were nearing completion..... now only the confetti to cut up.

Another dram anyone?



Sincere thanks to everyone who assisted – it couldn’t be done without you

Ideas for next year’s Burns Supper are already forming.....

Andrew & Lesley

[and many thanks to Hugh Davies for the photos taken on the night]

### World Day of Dance - Bristol to miss out

29<sup>th</sup> April 2005 has been declared by UNESCO International Dance Council as World Day of Dance.

We had hoped to join together with other groups from the area on this day to help publicise the benefits of dance and spread the enjoyment of SCD in particular.

Unfortunately, although Bristol City Council has now appointed someone to review their Dance Strategy, they are not in a position to sponsor any events this year.

Rhona and Caroline have met with the Council to discuss their plans and hopefully there will be some progress on this for future events.

## A word from our Webmaster

Now that almost everyone appears to have access to the internet, it seems appropriate that we keep you up-to-date with our own WWW presence.

So it's over to Peter Wright, our webmaster, for a few words.....

Did you know that what I write at my end is not necessarily what YOU see on your screens?

I surround the content of the pages with a code which instructs your web browser how to interpret and present the information.

There are several browsers around: Internet Explorer, Safari, Netscape, Firefox, Mozilla and iCab to name only a few.

Unfortunately, despite so-called 'standards', these programs can all interpret the code slightly differently and, although I design the pages on Safari and do checks on the first three named browsers to eliminate most problems, some glitches can still get through.

For example, we currently have a problem with one of the fonts I use - Bertram Let. It seems that some of you do not have the font 'installed' on your computers so it gets interpreted into a curly, fantasy font which is difficult to read!

So, the moral is, do let me know if you experience dissatisfaction with the pages. I will then be aware of problems which might otherwise be hidden from me.

By the way, you would be well advised to avoid Internet Explorer. Being the most widely used by far, it is also subject to more hacking and virus attacks.

Why not try the highly praised *Firefox* (free from [www.mozilla.org](http://www.mozilla.org) with Thunderbird email) or *iCab* for Macs (from [www.iCab.de](http://www.iCab.de)) and use Eudora (designed by a woman) for email.

As far as web-site developments go, before long I aim to include a record of the history and past

events, people, etc. associated with the branch which will hopefully prove a valuable archive.

We have also been considering a "recommended suppliers" page with YOUR suggestions of where to go for kilts, shoes, CDs, etc. (avoiding any commercial advertising!)

But it's over to you to let me know what you think, please.

*Peter Wright, webmaster*

## Recap Questionnaire

At the end of last year, a questionnaire was circulated to members primarily requesting feedback on the level of recap/walkthroughs and the general structure of our Dance programme.

In total, 32 responses were received and you will find a summary of the results below.

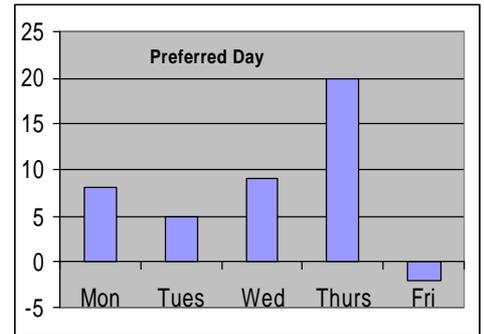
Number of replies (of 32)	Preferred Day					
	New Season	Day School	Burns	Newcomer	Summer Dance	Ball
1. No recap	1	2	0	0	2	22
2. Some recap	7	16	0	0	19	6
3. Mostly recap	18	8	5	2	8	3
4. Most W/Thro	4	4	20	3	2	0
5. All Walkthrough	2	2	7	27	1	1
Average Results:	3.0	2.6	4.1	4.8	2.4	1.5
Median Results:	3	2	4	5	2	1
Current Situation:	3	2	4	5	2	1

Responses were reasonably diverse (as you may expect). However, taking into account all the replies, the dance programme does already appear to be reassuringly balanced and in line with members' preferences.

Thursday remains the preferred day for classes; however a number of respondents felt Wednesday was also acceptable. A major driver appeared to be ensuring we do not clash with Westbury Scottish club.

As well as the 'voting' feedback, a number of very useful comments and suggestions regarding the venue, classes and programme were received. These were all

appreciated and will be considered by the committee during their future discussions.



Thanks to everyone who took the time to respond – we hope you found it useful too.

*Mike Innes*

## More Scottish Fyre

Keeping up the tradition from the previous newsletter, here's another great Scottish recipe you may wish to try (especially if winter hangs around much longer). The classic Scottish soup, it is best made the day before to allow the flavours & textures to develop fully

### Scotch Broth

1 (2lb) **neck of mutton**  
 3oz **pearl barley**, washed & drained  
 3oz **dried peas**, pre-soaked & drained  
 1 large chopped **onion**  
 1 large chopped **leek**  
 1 medium diced **turnip** (or is that swede?)  
 3 diced **carrots**  
 2 tbsp chopped **parsley**  
 water

In a large pan, sweat the onion in a little lard to soften, add the meat and water to cover. Bring to the boil, skimming of any deposit from the surface.

Add the barley & peas and simmer for 30 minutes. Add remaining vegetables and simmer till just cooked.

Remove the lamb bone and allow to cool then trim off the meat, chop it roughly and return to the soup. Add parsley just before serving.

## STOP PRESS!!

David Hall has recorded a new CD for the RSCDS. It provides music for Book 10. The book has FOUR full length strathspeys and two at 16x8 (32x4) and reels and jigs.

Peter Wright says "It is a delight and you have danced to it several times. It is a top-ten 'must have'."

## RSCDS HQ Events

### RSCDS Summer School 18 July 2005 – 14 August 2005

St Andrews  
See RSCDS website for more info

### RSCDS AGM 5 November 2005

Details to be confirmed

### RSCDS Winter School February 2006

Pitlochry  
Details to be confirmed

## Bristol Branch Events

### Haytor Weekend 1 – 3 April 2005

Haytor, near Bovey Tracey  
Band: Hugh Ferguson and Dalriada

### Summer Dance ## New Venue ## 21 May 2005

St Monica's, Westbury-on-Trym  
Band: Frank Reid & his SCD band

### New Season Dance 15 October 2005

St Peter's Church Hall, Henleaze  
Band: David Hall & SCD band

### Day School

#### 12 November 2005

St Peter's Church Hall, Henleaze  
Teacher: Angela Young  
Musician: James Gray  
Evening: Peter & Edna Russell and Jimmy Coleman

### Burns Supper & Dance 21 January 2006

Redland High School for Girls  
Band: Hugh Ferguson and Dalriada

### Newcomers' Dance 18 February 2006

Monks Park School, Horfield  
Band: Scottish Measure

## Bristol Class Dates

Join us once again for fun nights of Scottish Country Dance on the following dates:

### Beginners' Class

Thursday nights  
from 7.45 – 9.30pm

6 January – 24 March 2005  
14 April – 28 April 2005

The Studio  
Redland High School for Girls

### Intermediate/Advanced Class

Thursday nights  
from 7.30 – 10.00pm

6 January – 24 March 2005  
14 April – 30 June 2005

Main Hall  
Redland High School for Girls

Dance/Music Nights:  
24 March 2005  
12 May 2005  
30 June 05

### Technique Class

Wednesday nights  
from 7.30 – 9.30pm

5 January – 16 March 2005  
13 April – 22 June 2005

Fairfield School, Montpelier

*Details for 2005/06 to be confirmed*

## Class Teachers 2004/5

Beginners:  
Barbara De Winton: 0117 962 2724  
[dewinton@talk21.com](mailto:dewinton@talk21.com)

Intermediate/Advanced:  
Peter Wright: 01761 462874  
[peterwri@mac.com](mailto:peterwri@mac.com)

Technique:  
Fiona Grant: 0117 924 3595  
[fiona@freespiritfilms.co.uk](mailto:fiona@freespiritfilms.co.uk)

## Bristol Branch Committee 2004/05

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## RSCDS Finances & General Purposes C'ttee

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## Useful Web links

RSCDS Bristol Branch  
<http://www.rscdsbristol.info>  
Webmaster: Peter Wright

RSCDS Headquarters  
<http://www.rscds.org>

Grand Chain  
<http://www.scottishdance.net/>

Strathspey Server  
<http://www.strathspey.org/>

## Newsletter

Editor: Mike Innes

Next Issue: October 2005