



THE BLETHERS



Bryan Luce, Chair

Laurie Walter, Editor

Errata: As many of my alert readers have no doubt noticed, the last issue of The Bletthers was incor-rectly labelled "March, 1996," identical to the previous issue. In fact, the last issue was May's. Apolo-gies to all compulsive filers. Also, I consistently misspelled Liz Stake's name last time. Sorry, Liz!

Summer dancing continues as we speak at Fox Center, corner of Jackson Blvd. and Oak Park Ave. in Oak Park, 6:00-8:00 PM, August 18 & 25.

Regular dancing is soon to begin at all our Branch classes.

Loch Michigan/St. Josaphat (see next item!) kicks off at 6:00 on Sunday, September 8, at the St. Josaphat Parish Hall, corner of Southport and Belden Aves. in Chicago. Teachers will be Melissa Whitson and Tom Senior. Open House on Sunday, September 15: bring your friends!

ScotReel has its last Summer dancing on August 29. Then for Fall, there is a free Open House on September 12 with the regular class beginning September 19. All events are at the Marie Irwin Center, corner of Ridge Rd. and Highland Ave. in Homewood. The class is \$20 for Homewood residents, \$30 for non-residents, for 11 sessions. Call Ingrid Kendall at (708) 799-4011 for information or the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District at (708) 957-PARK to register.

Silk and Thistle present "Frolic on the Fox," an informal Scottish ball, on September 21, 1996, at 7:30 PM at the Baker Center, St. Charles, IL. Music by Claudio Buchwald, Susan Connant, and Howard Strong. Refreshments will be served. For information, call Doug and Susan Jensen (708) 232-9089, Mary Helen Polensky (815) 756-7182, or Mady Newfield (708) 584-0825. Otherwise, this group dances regularly on Tuesday evenings at Fermilab, Batavia IL. Call one of the above for information.

Loch Michigan lives!!! In 1987, the Loch Michigan Scottish Country Dancers initiated the formation of the Chicago Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS). In order for the new branch to become known within the Scottish Country Dance world, the Committee of Management felt it impor-tant to refer to the founding Loch Michigan SCD as the Chicago Branch. Regretfully, the name "Loch Michigan" was put on hold with the intention that it would be resurrected in the future as we grew to more than one group within the Branch and the Branch itself was well established.

The Branch now encompasses three groups of dancers with perhaps the prospect of others in the future: Silk and Thistle, ScotReel, and the original class which meets on Sunday evenings. These groups all work together as the Chicago Branch toward furthering and enjoying SCD. We feel confident that the Branch is established in the SCD world.

The Committee of Management consider that now is the time to dust off our name and have made the decision to again refer to the original class (Sunday evenings) as Loch Michigan SCD. "Old timers" will do so with pride and affection and we'll all find it easier to distinguish between the three groups as we go on together to the even greater achievements ahead. (COM, 5/20/96)

[Some of the old-timers even have "Loch Mich" T-shirts! But for you young 'uns, don't feel left out: there are still some ladies' T's and golf shirts of the new batch left.]

Semi-Annual General Meeting: The Semi-Annual General Meeting of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Chicago Branch, will be held on November 3, 1996, at 6:00 PM in the St. Josaphat Parish Hall, corner of Southport and Belden Aves. in Chicago, followed by social dancing. All members of the Chicago Branch are invited to attend. Non-members may also attend but may not vote on Branch busi-ness. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in May of 1996, will be distributed to the mem-bership.

Milwaukee Halloween Dance: The Milwaukee Scottish Country Dancers cordially invite you to attend the 5th Annual Halloween Dance on Saturday, October 26, at 2:00 PM in St. Paul's Church, Milwaukee WI. Potluck supper to follow. This dance is dedicated to Sr. Dorcas Baker in celebration of her 10th year as an RSCDS teacher. St. Paul's Church is located on the corner of Knapp and Marshall in downtown Milwaukee. Cost \$7; please bring a dish to share. Raffle! GREAT prizes!! It's a masquerade! Wear your favorite costume! Questions? Call Miss Laura Smith at (414) 747-1632.

Minutes of the Committee of Management meetings (April, May, June 1996): *Minutes of April 21st meeting*--1. Motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 1996, COM meeting--passed. 2. The Members' Handbook draft was briefly discussed and it was agreed further modifications were still needed. The next step will be discussed at the next COM meeting. 3. Maurice Cohen and Ken Heinemann have agreed to be candidates for the Election Committee. 4. The COM unanimously accepted the draft New Year's Event Checklist based on a document created by Barbara Cool when she chaired the event. It addresses the unique actions needed to plan the New Year's Event and is to be used in conjunction with the Branch Special Event Plan. 5. Motion to authorize Tom Senior to purchase the recommended sound system at a cost of approximately \$500--passed. 6. Bryan has asked the insurance agent to check the liability exclusion clause related to leased property and is confirming the minimum coverage value for Branch property, since Branch property value is probably under \$5,000. 7. The agenda and reports for the AGM were reviewed. 8. The April 29th Friday night social was canceled and the final social for this semester will be held on Friday, May 10th. 9. Headquarters has issued a Newsbrief about the effect on the RSCDS and its branches due to changes in the UK charitable laws, which will be distributed at Sunday night classes in April and at the AGM. 10. Motion to ask Joan to negotiate with Fox Center for the Sunday evening dates beginning June 23rd through August 25th from 6:00-8:00 PM for Summer dancing sessions, at a requested price of \$35/night--passed. 11. The Branch's participation in the Highland Games being held on Saturday, June 15th, at the Oak Brook Polo Grounds, was discussed. Bryan will solicit a potential Event chairperson to organize the Branch's booth for the Games. 12. Motion for the Branch to become a member of the Chicago Folk Dance Council at an annual cost of \$15--passed. 13. Motion to give \$100 to the Weekend Workshop to support the scholarship funding--passed. 14. Liz reviewed the current financial status: with a current loss of \$418.95, the checking account balance is \$1,859.79 with \$3,159.41 in two Bell CD's, totaling \$5,019.20.

Minutes of May 20th meeting--1. Motion to approve the minutes of the April 21, 1996, COM meeting--passed. 2. The COM reviewed a new draft of the Members' Handbook and agreed to further modifications including setting up the Advancement Policy as a separate document. 3. Bryan indicated he is having difficulty getting a rider to waive the exclusion on comprehensive insurance liability for leased property from the current insurance agent but will continue and explore other possibilities. 4. The COM drafted a tentative calendar for the 1996-97 year. 5. Liz has been in contact with the accountant who has experience in filing IRS 990 to finalize the Branch non-profit status when the provisional period expires on June 30, 1996. With a 90-day period, the COM concurred the paperwork needs to be completed by August 30, 1996. 6. Motion to designate the Sunday night class, "the Loch Michigan Scottish Country Dancers" (the original group name prior to becoming a Branch), to distinguish it from the other Branch classes under the Chicago Branch sponsorship--passed. 7. Liz indicated that the cost for the Fox Center has gone up to \$40/hour, increasing the total cost to \$80 for each Sunday session *versus* \$60/night last Summer, and a check of \$280 has been submitted. Current funds available are \$626.99 and there was discussion on the need for fundraising to increase Branch revenue, possibly obtaining airline tickets to be raffled. 8. The COM reviewed the crucial need for a Publicity Chairperson and reviewed potential candidates.

Minutes of June 23rd meeting--1. Motion to approve the minutes of the May 20, 1996, COM meeting--passed. 2. Proposed revisions to streamline the Members' Handbook draft were discussed and approved, with the final revision to be approved at the next COM. Minor revisions to the Basic Class welcome letter for the Fall were also approved. 3. Motion to give Bryan permission to investigate alternative insurance carriers for the Branch insurance needs, due to the poor response regarding the liability exclusion for leased property--passed. 4. The COM discussed the minutes of the June 12th Teachers' Meeting, particularly ways to insure new dancers are encouraged to continue their participation. 5. Motion to allow basic dancers to join classes at any time during the year and for Basic Class attendees to pay the same per class rates as those set for the Intermediate/Advanced Class at the Sunday night Loch Michigan SCD--passed. 6. Cindy Perkins has agreed to be the Publicity Chairperson for the coming year. 7. Motion to ask Bob Grant and

Johan MacLean to be the Branch's delegates to the Headquarters AGM in November, 1996--passed. 8. Liz reviewed the Branch's current financial status, with the checking account balance at \$530.26 and a loss for the year thus far of \$325. The possibility of soliciting donations to help the financial situation was discussed. Liz also presented a preliminary budget for the next year indicating the need to raise membership fees and possibly class fees. 9. Motion to raise the price of Sunday night Summer dancing at Fox Center to \$4/night--passed. 10. Motion to approve signing the new Branch License Agreement with Headquarters--passed. 11. Robin reviewed the notice provided by Headquarters of the 75th Anniversary Celebrations for the Society in 1998. The COM discussed arranging a social weekend with a Saturday night dance as the 75th Anniversary event and potential locations. 12. It was confirmed that all Branch classes are required to provide a financial report to the Branch treasurer to be sent to Headquarters as part of the Branch report. (Thanks once again to Robin Gaston, outgoing Secretary!)

Answers to last issue's quizzes: *Drinking quiz:* 1. A deoch and doruis is the Gaelic for the "drink at the door," the last drink to speed the parting guest. 2. Sugarolly water is made by mixing sugar, licorice, and water in a bottle. It is usually kept beneath the bed, the theory being that it will get blacker there. 3. Atholl Brose is made of heather honey, oatmeal, and whisky. 4. A quaich is an old Scottish drinking vessel. 5. A Scots pint is about three pints Imperial measure. 6. The Scots favored claret because of the "Auld Alliance" with France; the English were allied to Portugal, so they favored port. 7. The most important single ingredient of whisky is the water. Other ingredients and the process affect the product less. 8. A "richt guid willie waught" is a hearty bumper of good drink. 9. Bonnie Prince Charlie gave the recipe for Drambuie to the MacKinnon Clan. It is still kept secret. 10. The liquid shipped from Glasgow to London every night is water. The Glasgow supply, from Loch Katrine, is the purest in Britain and London wine and spirit merchants have found it the best water to "reduce" rum which is too strong to be drunk in its original state.

*Dance quiz--*1. The "Eight Men of Moidart" were Bonnie Prince Charlie and seven supporters. He landed at Moidart to start the rebellion of 1745. 2. Madge Wildfire was ducked as a witch in Sir Walter Scott's novel, The Heart of Midlothian. 3. The 'Guid Man of Balangigh (pron. "ba-lan-GHEE")' was King James V. 4. The Oriel Strathspey depicts a church window. 5. Clutha is the River Clyde (in Gaelic). The dance commemorates a 19th-century ferry service on the Clyde. 6. The Reel of the 51st Division was the first modern dance adopted by the Society, whose early goal was the preservation of old dances rather than the promotion of new creations. Queen Elizabeth (now the Queen Mother) played a key role in having it published. 7. Fasnachloich is in Appin; it was at the funeral of Mrs. Stewart of Fasnachloich that the suggestion was made that "Autumn in Appin" would make a good title for a dance. 8. The Balquidder area is MacGregor country. On the pronunciation issue there may be differences, but "bal-WHID-er" is generally preferred to "bal-KWID-er." 9. Cuillins are mountains. Harry Lauder is probably the most famous singer who in "The Road to the Isles," sang, "...the far cuillins are pullin' me away..." 10. John of Bon Accord is better known as John Drewry. 11. Corn Rigs, The Silver Tassie, and The Lea Rig all recall poems by Robert Burns. 12. Oxtown Reel, Iona Cross, and Snowflake Strathspey are all 6-couple dances. 13. Aberdeen, Glasgow, Bavaria, and Holland have all had Trips taken to them. 14. Donald Bane was King of Scotland and had the distinction of being crowned twice, once in error because of a false report that his older brother was dead, and once after the older brother's actual death. 15. The Lanes of Au are in Munich. 16. Jennifer, Genevieve, and Euan all have Jigs named for them. 17. Airie Bennan, Polharrow Burn and Scotch Mist are all 5-couple dances. 18. The Duke of Perth, Broun's Reel, and Pease Strae are all names for the same dance. 19. The yellow-haired laddie was Bonnie Prince Charlie (Charles Edward Stuart, or The Young Pretender) and he was born (and died) in Rome. 20. Strip the Willow and The Hebridean Weaving Lilt are both danced to the running step.

CALENDAR:

Loch Mich--

ScotReel--

Silk & Thistle--

Sep 8	Fall dancing begins	12	Open House	3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Class
	15	Open House	19, 26	Class	21 "Frolic on the Fox"
	22, 29	Class			
Oct 6, 13, 20	Class	3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Class	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Class
26	***** Fall Dance *****				
27	No class				
Nov 3	***** Semi-Annual General Meeting *****				
10, 17, 24	Class	7, 14, 21	Class	5, 12, 19, 26	Class
		28	No class		
Dec 1, 8	Class	5	Class	3, 10, 17	Class
15	***** Holiday Party *****				
22, 29	No class			24, 31	No class
1997!!!					
Jan 4	***** New Year's Ball *****				
5	No class				