

# RSCDS, Chicago Branch

## The Blethers

Ree Grisham, Chair

May 2000

Sue McKinnell, Editor

**2000 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 Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 14. 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 the election of a new Committee of Management. You must be a member of the Chicago Branch to vote at the meeting (but others interested in the Branch are invited to attend). We will also continue discussion of the RSCDS plan for reorganizing the Society presented at the SAGM last fall.

**Tartan Day:** The Tartan Day dance at St. Josaphat's on April 1<sup>st</sup> was a great success! We had a large number of dancers in attendance, including friends from Milwaukee and Indiana. We can all thank Melissa Whitson for another fun dance program.

Tartan Day at the Silk and Thistle class at Fermilab was another success. Class members brought food, books, and other information about Scotland to the dancing April 4<sup>th</sup>. Fermilab always loves a party and had a fun one that night.

**Weekend Workshop 2000:** If you have not yet signed up for the Weekend Workshop this year, there is still time to do so. The workshop is May 19<sup>th</sup> through May 21<sup>st</sup> at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL. You should have received an application in the mail, but if you didn't or have misplaced yours, you can download one from the branch webpage at <http://www.midwestnet.com/clients/piper/branch.html> or you can contact Noel Chavez at [noel.chavez@uic.edu](mailto:noel.chavez@uic.edu) or (708) 848-9218. We have excellent teachers (Robert McOwen and Avril and David Quarrie) and musicians (Terry Traub, Hanneke Cassel, and Barbara McOwen) lined up for this event.

**Meanings behind the names of a couple of familiar dances:** *The Wild Geese* – the “wild geese” were Irish Jacobites who went over to the Continent with the exiled James VII. *De'il Amang the Tailors* – the de'il was a spinning top that was let loose amongst an array of skittles with the object of knocking them all down. —with thanks to the members of the *Strathspey* mailing list.

**Highland Mist Ball, St. Louis, MO:** The Highland Mist Scottish Country Dancers of Missouri will hold their annual June ball Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. For information go to <http://members.aol.com/paradisemo/highland.html> or call Judie Chaboude at (636) 946-4174.

**1999-2000 Committee of Management:** Ree Grisham, Honorary Chair; Dorothy Pesch, Honorary Secretary; Greg Canfield, Honorary Treasurer; Jeanne and Mike Millen and Mike Fitak, Members at Large.