

RSCDS, Chicago Branch

The Blethers

Greg Canfield, Chair

November 2006

Sue McKinnell, Editor

<http://rscds-chicago.org>

2006 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 12, 2006. 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. Dancers are invited to bring treats to share after dancing.

Membership Notes: If you have not yet signed up to be a Branch member, David Neuffer is still accepting membership forms and a form is included with this Blethers if you need it.

2007 New Year's Ball Weekend: Also included with this Blethers is a New Year's Ball weekend flyer. Note that this year there is a concert on Friday evening, the Ball on Saturday evening, and a Brunch Dance on Sunday that includes both Scottish and English Country Dancing. Musicians for the dancing are Barbara McOwen, Anne Hooper and Jacqueline Schwab. The finalized programs for the 2007 New Year's Ball and Scottish brunch dance are ready and listed in this newsletter. The programs and cheats will soon be available on the Chicago Branch website, and registration flyers will be out soon. The English country dance early Sunday afternoon (with the same musicians) will be taught by Jacqueline and will have no advance program. Please remember to bring items for the "sweets" table for the Ball.

Weekend Workshop 2007: Remember to keep June 8-10, 2007 open for the annual Weekend Workshop at Beloit College. Elaine Brunken will be the main teacher this year. We are finalizing musicians for the weekend now and will have more information posted to the website and included in future Blethers as it becomes available.

Taken from an Obituary from The Scotsman Friday 28 October, 2005:

Lt-Col Muriel Gibson; Born: 29 November, 1912, in Glasgow; Died: 22 October, 2005, in Edinburgh, aged 92

Muriel Gibson was a well-known and much respected lady in Scotland who was closely involved in many different aspects of Scottish life. She was a proud Nationalist - long before it became accepted - and campaigned for the party and stood for parliament with a dogged determination. She was secretary of the SNP and devoted much time and energy to furthering its cause. She was also secretary of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) and of the Russian Ballet Society, in Crammond. Gibson enjoyed a distinguished career in the Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC) and after her retirement with Ferranti. Margaret Muriel Gibson attended the High School for Girls, in Glasgow, and then joined the educational department of the city's council. On the outbreak of war, she joined the VAD and showed such talent for military life that she was encouraged to join the WRAC. Gibson served in Africa, Italy and Germany and was mentioned in despatches for her courage and dedication to duty. She was always fair and proved an inspiring leader even under the most trying conditions. At the end of the war she returned to civilian life but preferred the WRAC. She rejoined and served until her retirement after 23 years' service with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Her thorough attitude to everything she undertook and her precise military mind ensured that Gibson would be useful in commercial and public office. In 1972, she joined the personnel department of Ferranti where she helped to build up the company in a period of considerable expansion. From there she was in 1975 to be the director of the Red Cross in Hamilton before assuming her last post as the organizing secretary of the RSCDS. There she combined her great love and knowledge of Scottish folk music with dancing, Gibson was one of the honoured guests (along with the Earl of Mansfield) at a gala in 1988 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the society. In 1988, when she retired from that post, the RSCDS decided to commission a Strathspey in her honour. As throughout her career Gibson had received letter which started "Dear Sir", the society gave - with a keen sense of humour that Gibson much enjoyed - the dance the name of the "The Colonel is a Lady". Fittingly, that will be piped at her funeral tomorrow.

2006-2007 Committee of Management: Greg Canfield, Honorary Chair; Noel Chávez, Honorary Secretary; David Neuffer, Honorary Treasurer; Corinne McArdle, Mady Newfield, and Mary Pankonen - Members at Large.

The Truth about Fat: For those of you who watch what you eat, here's the final word on nutrition and health. It's a relief to know the truth after all those conflicting medical studies:

1. Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans or Canadians.
2. Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans or Canadians.
3. Africans drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans or Canadians.
4. Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans or Canadians.
5. Germans drink a lot of beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than the Americans or Canadians.

CONCLUSION: Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you.

New Year's Ball 2007		
Waltz		
Hello Neighbor	32J3	Chicago 25th Anniversary Book
Fair Donald	32S3	Book 29 #4
Beeswing	32R3	Graded and Social Dances 2 by R. Goldring
The Flight of the Falcon	32J3	Anniversary Tensome by B. Priddey
Minister on the Loch	32S3 Set	24 Graded and Social Dances by R. Goldring
Da' Rain Dancin'	32R3	From the Redwood Forest
Interval		
Red House	40R2	Book 7 #2
Lassie Frae Glasgow	32J3	Blackadder Collection
The Blue Mess Jacket	32S4 Set	D. Henderson Kinclaven Pocket Book of Six Scottish Country Dances
Tribute to the Borders	32J3	RSCDS Leaflet #11
The Silver Tassie	32S3	RSCDS Leaflet #1
The Rendezvous	32R3	The Grampian Collection
Interval		
Trip to Gatlinburg	32J3	Tang Leaflet
Knit the Pocky	32R2 - (6X)	Book 11 #1
Balquidder Strathspey	32S3	Book 24 #2
Ellie's Jig	32J3	The Slip Knot Collection
Many Happy Returns	32S3	The Slip Knot Collection
The Montgomerie's Rant	32R3	Book 10#1
Auld Lang Syne & Waltz		

Brunch Dance 2007		
Canadian Barn Dance	Circle (6X)	
Spiers Bruce, The Pole Star	32J3	The Scotia Suite by R. Goldring
Edinburgh Castle Reel	32R3	Children's Book
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	32S3	Leaflet
Follow Me Home	32J3	Book 38
Bob Campbell	32S3	Canadian Book by J. Drewry
Arthur's Seat	32R3	18th Century Book
Interval		
Blue Bonnets	32J2 (8X)	Book 3
Round Reel of Eight	88R4 Square	Book 27
Moment of Truth	32S3	Book 37
The Hunting Horn	32J3	Scottish Dance Archives
The Walled Garden	32S2 (6X)	24 Graded and Social Dances by R. Goldring
The Highlandman Kissed His Mother	32R3	MMM I

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