

Vancouver Branch  
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society  
Annual General Meeting  
September 18, 2020

Agenda and Reports



# Branch AGM Notification

The Annual General Meeting of the Vancouver Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will be held **online via Zoom** on Friday, September 18, 2020, beginning at 7:30 PM.

Members will be sent an email invitation to the Zoom meeting on the morning of Friday, September 18. Members who would like some help accessing Zoom may contact [president@rscdsvancouver.org](mailto:president@rscdsvancouver.org)

Because the AGM will be by Zoom, members are urged to pay their dues online at [rscdsvancouver.org](http://rscdsvancouver.org) at the earliest opportunity in order to be eligible to vote at the meeting. Members can follow the prompts to pay by credit card. The deadline for payments is 9:00 PM on Thursday, September 17, to allow time for the Membership Director to finalize the attendance list for the Zoom invitations, which will be sent Friday morning.

The meeting will be recorded and posted to the Branch website where it will be publicly available. Members preferring privacy may turn off their video.

Below is the agenda for the AGM along with reports from all Board Directors and Appointees and many of the clubs. For information regarding Nominations for the 2020-2021 Board, please see the Nominating Committee's Report below.

The financial statements for the 2019 - 2020 fiscal year will be posted to the Branch website as soon as they are received from the inspectors.

At the AGM, there will be opportunities to offer feedback on past events, provide suggestions based on provincial health guidelines for future events and activities during the pandemic, and vote in the election of Executive Directors and Directors-at-large for the 2020 - 2021 season.

Everyone is encouraged to attend this first-ever, and we hope last, virtual AGM. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to gather together as a dance community to continue our friendships and enjoy some lively conversation.

Heather Hankin  
President, RSCDS Vancouver Branch

# Agenda

RSCDS Vancouver Branch Annual General Meeting, September 18, 2020

1. Call to Order
2. Confirmation of Quorum
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes of Sept. 27, 2019, AGM
5. Business Arising from the Minutes of the Sept. 27, 2019, AGM
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Report of the Independent Inspection of 2019-20 Financial Statements
8. Appointment of the Inspector of 2020-2021 Financial Statements
9. Reports from Board of Directors
10. Reports from Appointees and Committees
11. Reports from Area Clubs
12. Report of the Nominating Committee
13. Election of Directors and Officers for 2020 - 2021
14. Appreciation to Outgoing Directors and All Committee Members
15. Presentations
16. Announcements
17. New Business including Items from the Attendees
18. Adjournment
19. Visiting in Breakout Groups

Draft Minutes of the September 27, 2019, AGM are found at

<https://rscdsvancouver.org>

Click on the "About Us" tab. Click on "Board Documents".  
Scroll down to "Minutes from RSCDS Vancouver Branch AGMs"

# Reports from the Board of Directors

## President

This is the second and final year of my two-year term as president of this amazing Vancouver Branch. What a year it turned out to be. We were celebrating the first increase in membership in six years, delighting in many wonderful events and classes, and looking forward to the Heather Ball, the Highland Games, and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary party for Dancing in the Park. Then, everything shut down due to the novel coronavirus.

What follows is a brief summary of the year from my vantage point but beyond it is the heart of these documents - the voices of the people who worked creatively and tirelessly to bring us excellent classes, marvelous events, impressive workshops, and good governance.

Because of the lockdown due to rising cases of COVID-19, I've asked the Directors, Appointees, and Clubs to each submit a report of activities over the past year. They describe their jobs, classes, events, and other activities so well. It's inspiring to hear the visions they have for their tasks, their enthusiasm, ingenuity, incredible work ethic, until everything came to a screeching halt this spring. As we move toward the fall, their reports bring each writer's voice alive. It's another way to remember and savour the way we were - and will be.

The remarkable news from 2019 – 2020 is that our membership increased for the first time in six years. It was definitely a team effort. It is so important to attract new members while the Branch is strong and there are lots of people on the dance floor. When Dr. Bonnie Henry moved us to Phase 3 of re-opening, the hope was that everyone would follow her advice to go outside, take a walk, ride a bike, or just jog up and down to keep bodies exercised and happy. As she says, this is not forever. This is for now. Your Board promises you that we will dance together again!

So, for now, reminisce with me about the past dance season:

- \* Following Dancing in the Park, the August Welcome Dance brought 33 new people to the SCC along with many long-time dancers;
- \* The Gleneagles Fall Tea Dance featured a special performance by the North Shore Children's Class;
- \* The White Rock Fall Workshop was lively and fun;
- \* At the Bellingham Fall Dance, we presented Marion Heath with a Vancouver Branch Award for her years of teaching and support of SCD;
- \* The Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance hosted by Glenayre raised \$2,300 which was divided equally between Honour House and the Kidney Foundation;
- \* We danced the night away at Fort Langley's St. Andrew's Dance in the heritage Fort Langley Community Hall;
- \* Delta Borderers Afternoon Tea Dance was a loving tribute to Alex Jappy with recorded music by the master accordionist himself;

- \* The beautiful 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Gleneagles Ball launched the Christmas season with music by the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra;
- \* Two days later, we enjoyed the warm and wonderful Glenayre Christmas Dance;
- \* The Betwixt & Between Dance continued the festivities with music by Mary Ross;
- \* Several Ceilidhs with live music by Calanais attracted many young people;
- \* Dancers wanting more opportunities found them on Vancouver Island, in Bellingham and Seattle, and around the world.

In January, our 2020 year began with an outstanding Burns Supper including delightfully original speeches – one was sung! The Dem Team was applauded with enthusiasm at numerous venues during the Burns season. February followed with excellent instruction, first-rate music from the Tartan Players, and great dancing at the Love to Dance Workshop and Tea Dance. March found us dancing in the sun-filled Confederation Centre to unamplified music by the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra at the Burnaby Spring Tea Dance. We were all revved up to enjoy the Heather Ball when the unthinkable happened – strong directives to go home and stay home to protect our health and the health of everyone around us.

Congratulations to each of you on your response to the peril of the COVID-19 pandemic. You went home and you stayed home! When we moved to Phase 2, you followed physical distancing rules, washed your hands, and kept your bubbles small.

Thank you for your support of your Board, Appointees, and Clubs during this time. It has been a challenging spring and summer and remains so as we contemplate the fall and winter. But be not dismayed. Dancing will begin again.

In summer 2019, Janet Mason and I wrote “What Would Happen If the Branch Disappeared?” Never in our wildest dreams did we imagine that dancing itself would vanish for a time. Let’s remember that we went into lockdown stronger than ever. Your Board is busy considering each upcoming event and evaluating whether to proceed with it or not. If there is any safe possibility, your Directors will seize the opportunity.

In the meantime, every disappointment has its silver lining. We can’t dance but we can still enjoy the fun and friendship of Scottish Country Dancing. Your Board is hatching plans for a fall pilot for a Zoom variety show. Ideas include stories about SCD in Vancouver’s early days, videos of performances by the Dem Team and others, perhaps live step dance performances, some fun and nonsense, interviews to reveal lives beyond dancing, and breakout groups so we can get to know one another better.

This is a superb chance to learn who we are as individuals – our hobbies, our careers, our hopes, our dreams, the travelling we’ve done, the trouble we’ve gotten into. Technology makes it so easy. We’ll give everyone the help they need to join in the fun.

Many, many thanks to each of you for your kindness and support. Serving as your president was an unexpected honour and will always be a treasured joy.

**Heather Hankin, President, RSCDS Vancouver Branch**

## **Vice-president**

My second year as Vice-president of the Vancouver Branch has definitely been unusual as classes and events have been cancelled since March. The Burnaby Spring Dance was the last scheduled event that was held due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

My main responsibility has continued to be confirming and cancel room bookings with Darryl at SCC to ensure that the Centre is available for branch events.

I have continued to be on the Recruitment and Retentions Committee working to develop plans to expand Branch membership and to spread information about Scottish Country Dancing to the community at large in order to attract new dancers.

I look forward to restarting our next dance season when it becomes safe to do so.

**Vicki Downey. Vice-president**

## **Corresponding Secretary**

I have been Corresponding Secretary for the RSCDS Vancouver Branch for the past 5 years, and have thoroughly enjoyed the responsibilities of the position, which include being the principal contact with RSCDS Head Office in Edinburgh, and dealing with other correspondence to the Branch - ensuring that information goes to appropriate Branch Directors, or is sent out to the Membership at large, though much of the information from RSCDS now comes directly to all Members via email.

During my tenure, the monthly Dancing Dates, and weekly information during Dancing in the Park, have been added through MailChimp - the Email Marketing Service used by the Branch - to help keep Members up to date and well informed.

As I reach the end of my term as Corresponding Secretary, I want to thank all the Branch Members for their support and encouragement. I always enjoy hearing from you.

My special thanks go to my fellow Board Members – I have enjoyed working with you all very much, in serving our Scottish Country dancers.

And very many thanks to Paul Lowe for his technical help.

**Gillian Beattie, Corresponding Secretary**

# Dance Coordinator

It goes without saying that this has been a very strange and unusual year for our dance community.

The year started off well with a full year of dances and classes scheduled.

Classes in all our clubs started in September 2019.

**Monday Branch classes** had a very good registration (45 dancers) and we were able to run a Beginner Class taught by Katherine Shearman and an Experienced class taught by Mary Murray. The enthusiasm, energy and commitment of the Beginner Class was energizing for us all. Their classes were from 7:00 to 9:00 while down stairs classes ran from 7:30 to 9:30. There was the option for the more advanced beginners to join the Experienced class at 9:00 pm if they still had energy to spare (and a few of them did!). The Experienced class continued to enjoy interesting and challenging dances introduced and coached by Mary. Everything was going well and then along came the Corona Virus.

The last Monday night classes were held on March 9, 2020.

In the months following the cessation of dancing, the Branch Classes "Experienced" group have held monthly social Zoom sessions while Katherine has been providing weekly virtual lessons to some of the beginners – nurturing their enthusiasm.

Many of our dancers have been enjoying the weekly newsletter and virtual dance class provided by RSCDS HQ in Scotland. A magnificent effort by a dedicated team of dancers and musicians.

The **Wednesday Night Program** class also started in September and provided classes to review dances for upcoming socials and for evenings when there were no socials to prepare for, we danced dancers' choices, teacher's choices and dances from the newly published book of Favourites. Wednesday nights come into their own in the Spring when we have many dances to prepare for. Unfortunately, the dances and the classes were cancelled due to Corona Virus and the last class was on March 11, 2020.

## **STEP DANCING**

See separate report from Kay Sutherland, the Branch's step-dance teacher.

## **DEMONSTRATION TEAM**

See separate report from Kay Sutherland, the team Director.

## **THE BETWIXT AND BETWEEN – Katherine Shearman**

This was a lovely evening dance, sponsored by the Branch and the Mary Wattum Fund. It was held on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Free admission was provided to 86 RSCDS dancers including folk from across the country and the USA. Katherine Shearman organized the evening and provided us with an interesting program of dances – some familiar and some new. Mary Ross, playing one of Alex Jappy's accordions, provided us with magic music keeping our feet moving and our spirits high, all evening. Sandy Anderson and

Chris Cardinal with their trusty helpers provided a lovely array of treats at the end of the evening.

### **LOVE TO DANCE WORKSHOP AND TEA DANCE – Fran Caruth and Jean Wagstaff.**

The 2020 workshop, held on February 22, was well attended. Seven more than last year (64) attended the classes and the dance attracted approximately the same number of additional dancers (27) as in the years before. The teachers were Richard Bennett (Salt Spring) and Heather Graham (Bellingham). The class musicians were Julie Smith, Lucasz Wiczorek, Cathrine Conings and Natalie Thompson. Based on the evaluations returned at the end of the workshop, the participants really liked the teachers and were particularly enthusiastic about dancing to “live” music. The Tartan Players provided lively music for the afternoon tea dance. The workshop is a major catering challenge. Jean Wagstaff, Fran Hillier, Sandy Anderson and Chris Cardinal provided great leadership to a group of faithful helpers and everyone had a delicious lunch as well as afternoon tea. The whole event is planned and implemented by the Love to Dance Planning Committee. They do a great job and we owe them a major vote of thanks.

### **DANCING AT THE HIGHLAND GAMES – JUNE 20 - CANCELLED**

This much-loved activity was cancelled for 2020 due to the Corona Virus. Given that on the designated day – June 20<sup>th</sup>, it absolutely poured with rain, maybe this was our blessing.

### **DANCING IN THE PARK – June 22 to August 17, 2020 – CANCELLED.**

We are extremely sad about missing this year’s Dancing in the Park. Heather Hankin, assisted by Fran Caruth and Alison Moen, had worked to develop an enriched season of dancing to celebrate this being the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of dancing at Stanley Park. The current plan is to delay the celebrations until 2021.

### **RSCDS GIFT TO TEACHERS.**

The Vancouver Branch through the generosity of the Pearl Holmberg Fund has provided to all actively teaching Vancouver Branch teachers, a copy of the new RSCDS Publication and THE associated CD. It is a beautifully annotated and illustrated book called Thirty Popular Dances. Many of the dances in the book are familiar to our dancers and the stories about the dances are fascinating. Already many of us have shared stories as we taught the dances and of course we will do that again. The teachers are extremely appreciative of this generous gift from the Branch.

### **CONCLUSION**

There has been and there will continue to be much discussion about the ways, means and timing of returning to our favourite past time of Scottish Country Dancing. We will continue to:

- Heed the guidance provided by the British Columbia Public Health Officer;

- Gather insights and information from other jurisdictions as all Scottish Country Dancing regions around the world have been affected by the pandemic and we will learn from them as we can;
- Be creative – listen to the ideas and preferences of our dancers;
- Aim to be back on the dance floor as soon as it is deemed safe to do so.

In the meantime, stay active, stay well and we hope to see you all soon.

**Fran Caruth, Dance Coordinator**

## Membership Director

There were 248 members in the Vancouver Branch this year, up from 235 in 2018-19.

Membership included: 15 life members, 2 affiliates, 10 half-year, 38 joint, and 145 single adult memberships.

The Branch included 17 groups from across British Columbia and 1 from the state of Washington:

Bellingham, WA (2 members)	Nanaimo (3)
Burnaby (25)	Naramata (1)
Deep Cove (20)	Salt Spring (2)
Delta Borders (10)	Unaffiliated (4)
Fort Langley (4)	Branch Class (76)
Glenayre (34)	Vancouver Island (9)
Gleneagles (27)	West End (10)
Inverglenn (1)	White Rock (17)
Kelowna (2)	Whitehorse (1)

Classes and social dances were cancelled from mid-March through June 30<sup>th</sup> because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Subsequently, 2 items regarding membership were submitted for publication in the *White Cockade*. One article explained that membership fees did not cover dancing per se but rather the organizational and administrative activities that facilitate dancing and must be in place for dancing to resume. It explained that 57% of the membership fee was used to pay each dancer's membership in RSCDS Edinburgh, another 21% was used to pay insurance costs and the remaining 22% was used to cover Branch expenses such as those for the website, the newsletter, publicity, office supplies, postage, and rental of meeting rooms. The second article included membership fees for 2020-21 and instructions for payment via PayPal (i.e., credit card) or mailing a cheque to the membership director's home address.

**Barbara Kisilevsky, Membership Director**

# Publicity Director

During early 2019 and throughout the summer, I was immersed in our recruitment project prior to the campaign rollout in August/September. The Recruitment & Retention (R&R) committee had set the goal of a 5% membership increase by January 2020. We had identified our objectives and strategy and had written detailed plans with a timeline for completing each task. We encouraged and included input from club presidents and had several brainstorming sessions to ensure we had a workable plan that each club could put in place. For more detail, please read the **Recruitment & Retention Report** below.

Publicity as usual took place in the fall. I updated our rack cards advertising clubs and classes, arranged for printing and delivered to display areas in the SCC, to retailers such as TartanTown and McLaren's in Gastown and to community notice boards. Several clubs designed and printed their own promo cards in an effort to bring in new dancers to their clubs.

Potential events were written into my Publicity plan for 2020 but we were stopped in our tracks by the Covid-19 shutdown early in the year. I had applied and been accepted for the BCIT Multicultural Festival in March where we planned to have a table display and Burnaby club had agreed to do a dancing demonstration. Unfortunately, we had to cancel. Also very unfortunate was the cancellation of the BC Highland Games where SCD plays such a prominent part.

We subscribed this year to the online social group Meetup and 130 people found it interesting and became members. I had planned to advertise Dancing in the Park and fall classes but until we get the all clear to continue our dancing, everything is at a standstill.

## Recruitment & Retention Committee

We had formed a Recruitment & Retention (R&R) committee with the mandate to grow our membership by 5% in 2019-2020. By the end of 2020, we had reached our goal! Naturally, we lost some previous dancers but we had a net increase of 13 which brought our membership total to a fabulous 248 when in previous years we had seen a gradual decline. This was tremendously encouraging. What contributed to the success?

- **Involvement of the entire dancing community:**

We drew up a detailed promotional strategy with a timeline showing what had to be accomplished prior to campaign rollout in August/September. This was discussed and revised following several meetings with our club presidents. This meant the club presidents were on board and through them their club membership. As a result, we had many new dancers come along with a friend or acquaintance, and others who had heard about SCD through word of mouth.

- **Dancing in the Park & the Introductory Class:**

Our Vancouver Stanley Park is the venue for "Dancing in the Park" during July and August, the dance program and music organized by a different club each Monday evening. The music draws in large crowds, visitors and locals alike. Each evening that summer, Duncan MacKenzie put in a herculean effort

collecting contact information from all who were interested in our SCD and personally emailed all 100 to let them know about a free introductory class we were putting on for beginners the week after DITP ended. This was a tremendously successful class with 35 brand new people and many of our current dancers also attending to help make the new dancers feel comfortable and to direct them to a class near each of them.

Yes, we were on a roll and preparing in 2020-2021 to continue with our various strategies to “get the word out” that dancing is good for body and mind. The unexpected happened, the coronavirus has shut things down since March and all is now on hold until our health authorities tell us we can dance once again.

I have so many people to mention as I wind down my 5 years on the Board. My gratitude and thanks go to my fellow Board members who have all been wonderful co-workers and friends. I am extremely grateful to the expertise of others who have assisted with projects and offered invaluable advice when needed. And many thanks to all the volunteers who have so willingly and cheerfully over the years come out to help at events and displays. It is this team effort that makes Vancouver Branch such a vibrant organization. I know my successor will continue the good work and I pass on my very best wishes.

**Janet Mason, Publicity Director**

## **Event Coordinators**

### **Betwixt & Between Dance**

The annual Betwixt & Between dance in December was a well-attended event.

As the number of dancers who will attend is always unknown, I have found it much easier to provide refreshments for this event since changing to hot savory snacks instead of the traditional sandwiches. Dessert items are generously provided by the dancers and are very much appreciated.

Setting up the food tables and clean up after requires fewer volunteers thereby allowing the dancers to enjoy dancing to the last waltz.

The volunteer spirit of the dancers who assisted in many ways is greatly appreciated.

**Sandy Anderson, Event Coordinator**

### **Love to Dance Afternoon Refreshment Summary**

It seems such a long time since the Love to Dance Workshop, 5 months approx. How things have changed. Who would have known that we would be in a lockdown situation back then?

Tea, coffee and cookies were on the refreshment list, but needless to say, we were very fortunate to have lots of donated goodies from our fellow dancers.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Sandy was unable to attend. No problem. There was lots of assistance and offers to help with the set-up of the refreshment tables. I feel that this year was much better than last year, with not too much food left over.

I think all went well, and clean up was pretty good with lots of help from fellow dancers. I also managed to vacate the premises not too late.

I would like to thank all who volunteered to assist, no names as I'm sure I would miss someone! Let's hope we will be having a LTD next year.

**Christine Cardinal, Event Coordinator**

## **Equipment Manager**

- During this year, the RSCDS-Vancouver Branch decided to reduce from four to two the number of cupboards where the Vancouver Branch equipment is stored, due to the establishment of annual fees, for each cupboard, by the Scottish Cultural Centre.

- It was necessary to review all the items so that only the essential items for RSCDS classes and events were kept.

- A rearrangement in the storage of the items kept was carried out, and a new list was created with the contents of each of the two cupboards (Hallway Cupboard and Cupboard Under the Stairs).

- A copy of each list was attached to the inside of the door of each cupboard, along with the "Equipment check out / check in listing" (external events)

- Three additional lists have been created listing some of the smaller items:

1- Cables, microphones and extension cords

2- First Aid items (mandatory and additional items). This list includes the checklist of mandatory items, which must be carried out annually by the Equipment Director

3- Tartan Tablecloths, Runners, Placemats - All tablecloths and runners were measured and labeled with the measurements obtained

- A list with photos of Electronic items was maintained

- All electronic equipment used in the Branch events has been checked and they are in perfect working order.

- The items requested for all events held during this year by Vancouver Branch were provided and after each event they were placed back on site.

**Tereza Cabral, Equipment Manager**

# Reports from Appointments & Committees

## Nominating Committee

### Branch Nominations for the year 2020-2021

#### Returning to the Board (no vote required)

##### Executive Directors

Treasurer	Stewart Cunningham	1 year left in term
Recording Secretary	Sue Biddle	1 year left in term
Dancing Coordinator	Frances Caruth	1 year left in term

#### New to the Board/Returning to Current or New Position (vote required)

##### Executive Directors

President	Vicki Downey	2-year term
Vice President	Fran Hillier	2-year term
Corresponding Secretary	Arden Williams	2-year term

##### Directors-at-large with specific responsibilities

Past President	Heather Hankin	1-year term
Publicity	Cathrine Conings	2 -year term
Membership	Barbara Kisilevsky	2 -year term
Events Coordinator	Christine Cardinal	2- year term
Equipment Manager	Tereza Cabral	2-year term
BC Highland Games Rep	Sandra Anderson	2-year term

**All nominees have agreed to stand.**

Respectfully submitted

**Barbara Fancy, Chair, Nominating Committee**

## **Archivist**

Tereza Cabral is pleased to replace Anne Brand, as Archivist at RSCDS - Vancouver Branch as of June 2020. Many thanks both to Anne Brand, the former Archivist, for her help in clarifying the duties of Archivist and to the Board of Directors for the opportunity to be the new Branch Archivist.

Continuing the policy of focusing on electronic storage, when possible, and avoiding duplication of documents in different files, the Vancouver Branch Archivist's emphasis is to store the following documents monthly and / or annually:

- White Cockade (electronic and physical)
- Vancouver Branch Minutes (electronic)

Miscellaneous photos and covers of dance programs can be found in the White Cockade, which publishes them periodically.

Following in the footsteps of the former Archivist, Tereza encourages members wishing to donate materials that are not included in the White Cockade, such as photos or articles, to continue to send them to the Archivist by PDF. The Archivist can then save them and eventually put them on a USB stick. Only materials that do not lend themselves to this process will be accepted in physical form.

Tereza looks forward to working with the Board and the membership to ensure our documents are safely stored for posterity.

**Tereza Cabral, Archivist**

## **Burns Supper**

On January 18, 2020, in celebration of Robbie Burns, 164 people, including our invited dignitaries, attended an evening of merriment, dinner and dancing. Branch President Heather Hankin, spouse Richard, together with ladies Po Yu Chan and Patricia Hollingdale, greeted entering guests. Among people arriving, there were many happy conversations over a glass of wine, or even with a wee dram. Again, this year, Dan Kilby and Family, ably tended the bar.

The entire hall was beautifully decorated, under the unerring direction of Seoris Harrison and her assistants. As Sally Marshal masterfully lined up the Colour Party, people took their assigned seats. There were greetings from the Burns Chair, Carolyn Stephens-

Farrell, who introduced Peter Richards, our emcee for the evening, who successfully kept the programme running smoothly and on-time. Next, Sandy Marshall piped-in, first, the Colour Party, then he fan-fared Isobel James preceding the Haggis, itself ceremonially borne-in by Phil Holton. Whereupon Isobel duly offered a highly entertaining, authentically Scottish, "Address to the Haggis".

President Heather Hankin now graciously welcomed the entire assemblage, she herself ingeniously incorporating wonderful snippets of Burns' own verse. Mary Murray decorously recited "The Selkirk Grace", immediately leading to everyone's enjoyment of the delicious roast-beef buffet, thanks to *Jon's Newtrition Kitchen*.

Over coffee, tea and Louise Murphy's wonderful shortbreads, the evening's entertainment commenced: "Rabbie" Burns under the guise of Hugh Aspinall, made a quick appearance, to deliver "The Toast to the Lassies", and then to offer, in turn, to the men a bit of timely, relevant "Advice". Cheryl Jorgenson, accompanied by Catherin Conings, sang a poetic, highly entertaining "Reply from the Lassies". Hamish Jackson led the "Toast to the Queen". "The Immortal Memory of Burns as the People's Poet" was welcomely received, kindness of Scottish Studies, invited specialist, Dr. Katie McCullough, following which, we all raised our glasses to Robert Burns.

After these presentations, the superb Dem Team, *Strictly Scottish*, gave a marvelous performance. Right away, we all took ourselves to the floor, dancing the night away. Fran Caruth, who, with her Team, had developed the programme, led us through some easy and not-so-easy dances. Kerry McDevitt took photos throughout the evening. All in all, a wonderful evening!

Unfortunately, this Burns Supper has not broken-even financially, due to a number of external, relatively unforeseen, circumstances, several of which have, in fact, surfaced for the first time: additional insurance-assessment, (related to liquor-consumption coverage), newly imposed glass-rentals, (heretofore not an issue), credibly increased catering costs, and a number of complimentary tickets being issued. Clearly, the committee for 2021, and each committee thereafter, would have to consider these new, permanently-ongoing, additional costs, for purposes of tracking increases, and of setting a revised, (each year's), ticket-pricing.

On the other hand, this cannot diminish the many, many thanks to everyone, especially, to Jill Beattie and to Roberta Esau for their fine work regarding ticket sales, Patsy Jamieson for her graphics, Mary Ann McDevitt for the White Cockade, and also including those who have not been mentioned; indeed, for all these combined efforts, our gratitude in making this event happen, such a memorable "*Homage*" to Our Poet.

**Carolyn Stephens-Farrell, Chair**

## **Ceilidh Dance**

Five Ceilidh Dances (which are sponsored by the Branch) were held last season. This will be the 22nd year of the Ceilidh dances and the band members turn up without being asked and are ready to play for any dance that we find. The Ceilidh dancers are

indebted to the musicians who are now led by Catherine Conings and include Carole Berger, Janet Wright, Natalie and many others. The live music is the main reason these dances are so popular.

Alison Moen does all the teaching and calling. She has also taken on all of the weddings and such events of which there are quite a lot. Alison is due a hearty vote of thanks from all of us but especially from me. She is very capable and is well liked by all the dancers. If any other dancers (not necessarily teachers) would like to learn to call ceilidh dances and help Alison at these ceilidhs or other events, please let us know.

Thanks are due to the many volunteers without whom we would not be able to continue. The main volunteers are Bonnie Volker, Francis O'Farrell and Gil & Richard Beattie but many more come and quietly do all the small things that make the dances run smoothly.

The average attendance was about 55 for the five dances last season with a large percentage of males and young dancers. Everyone has fun and there are still a few who sign up for regular SCD classes each year. The hall has been reserved through to April 2021 for the seven monthly dances. We welcome RSCDS members to come along and give us their support and assistance. There are cards advertising the dances which can be given out for promotion. We also run Ceilidh dances for various other functions – fund raisers, weddings, etc. at which we promote SCD and the Ceilidh Dances.

Ceilidh Dancing has its own website [www.vancouverceilidh.org](http://www.vancouverceilidh.org) and its own newsletter to which anyone can “subscribe” – it's free! I have been sending out the “Ceilidh Dance newsletter” for many years which apart from promoting the Ceilidh dances also lists all the local RSCDS and club events as well as other Scottish happenings.

Our thanks to the Branch for continuing to sponsor these events – the financial aspects are included in the Branch financial report and continue to show a net profit.

**Alison Moen and Duncan MacKenzie**  
[ceilidh@rscdsvancouver.org](mailto:ceilidh@rscdsvancouver.org)

## **Vancouver Branch Demonstration Team**

Our dance year began with rehearsals starting on September 26, 2019, in the Cairngorm Room at the Cultural Centre. The noise from Band practice through the partition was much less troublesome than previously and the extra space compared with the Caberfeidh room upstairs was very helpful.

At the request of Glenayre Club, we learned The Red Poppy for the Lady Aberdeen Dance (RSCDS Vanc website). We danced a modified Reel of the 51st Division at Circle Craft (also on video) and were asked back to dance at the Dundarave Festival of Lights in West Vancouver. We video'd some new dances with no previous video

available which are now available online. I have been contacted by teachers from Australia and UK who viewed the videos and were very complimentary.

After Christmas, we resumed rehearsals on January 9, 2020, for a busy Burns Season. We continued with classes until February 20, 2020, to try out and video dances for future performances. We had planned a break for a month but, due to the CoVid19 pandemic, we have been unable to resume any dancing all. Therefore, there have been no expenses and no income.

Our performances are either for large gatherings or for senior's homes and these are currently banned under Public Health guidelines. It remains very uncertain when this situation will change.

On a good note, the Demonstration Team generated a positive financial outcome for the year with income exceeding expenses by a substantial margin. (The Treasurer has full Activity and Financial Records)

The team is very much a cohesive group effort with committed members cheerfully donating their time to make it all work.

Special thanks to Katherine Shearman for taking on the Team Manager position.

**Kay Sutherland, Team Director**

## **Vancouver Branch Step Dance Class**

All classes held at the Scottish Cultural Centre, Caberfeidh Room.

**Teacher: Kay Sutherland**

**Live music: Janet Wright, Janice Hamilton and Kevin Hamilton**

### **Classes:**

**Introduction and review** - Saturday October 12, 2019, from 1-3pm. Cost **\$15**

**Series of three classes.** Cost **\$45**

Saturday November 9, 2019	1-3pm
Saturday November 16, 2019	1-3pm
Saturday November 30, 2019	12MD-2pm

**Libby Alexander** acted as registrar collecting and recording all fees including refunds for missed classes.

A total of 4 classes were held and 15 dancers attended at least one class including two men. Of these, 9 dancers were also members of the Demonstration Team. They were able to use the dances they learned as part of the Demonstration Team performances during Burns Season, greatly enhancing the variety of the program.

The fees (\$15/class) covered all class expenses and there was a surplus of \$72.

Financial details were sent to the Treasurer (Stewart Cunningham) and approved by him.

This was an enthusiastic and energetic class with an emphasis on accuracy of footwork, timing and deportment.

Live music greatly enhanced the dancing experience.

**Kay Sutherland, Step Dance Teacher**

## **Graphics Consultant**

The Graphics Consultant position was created upon the dissolution of the Graphics Committee. The Graphics Consultant assignment is to oversee the use of the Vancouver Branch logo. In order for our Vancouver Branch Branding to be easily recognized, it is important that our Branch logo is presented consistently in all promotional materials and is used as widely as possible. The logo should appear in the top left corner of any document or promotional material. An additional logo for a particular function should sit separately and be smaller. There is more detailed information regarding the logo on the Vancouver Branch website.

I am available to help with the design for publicity materials for any Vancouver Branch purpose. I have either produced or helped with the design of posters, flyers, placemats, booklets, tickets, advertisements and more. Understandably, the Graphics Consultant works closely with the Publicity Director. Janet Mason and I have collaborated on many of these projects.

As our dancing season was cut short this year, there has been no need for these promotional items. It is to be hoped that we will, in good time, be able to once again enjoy our Scottish Country Dancing and the friendships we value.

**Patsy Jamieson, Graphics Consultant**

## **Heather Ball**

The planning of the 2020 Heather Ball began as in previous years. I confirmed the returning committee members and reached out to new members. One of the goals for this year's committee was to stagger terms so subsequent committees would be a mix of experienced and new members. With the committee established, we began planning.

June 2019 to February 2020 was business as usual. We confirmed the musicians, a location for the Sunday concert, secured the caterers, booked publicity and discussed décor, to name but a few of the tasks. When the committee met in mid-February, we were on-target for ticket sales and were feeling confident "our plans were coming together."

It's hard to believe that in a few short weeks, our discussions shifted from "*when* the Heather Ball happens..." to "*if* the Heather Ball happens." The volume of emails and phone calls increased exponentially and, as the news reports became increasingly bleak, we made the decision to cancel the event.

As I cancelled our commitments, I was met with understanding and compassion. No one asked for compensation for unmet commitments; they knew the decision was outside of our control. Even the airline eventually "came round" and extended the travel vouchers' expiry date from the original one year to a full two years. The dance community rallied, too – many of our guests requested their ticket become a charitable donation. This generosity enabled us to cover the expenses we had incurred and create a small buffer for the next Heather Ball – whenever it may be.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my "HB2020" Committee: Alison Moen, Katherine Shearman, Cathrine Conings, Susan Stensgaard, Mary Murray, Stewart Cunningham...and our two 2021 "Heather Ball trainees", Sandy Anderson and Pat Hollingdale. I am so appreciative of the work the committee put into planning a successful event.

**Gail Urquhart, Chair**

## **Privacy Officer**

It is now one of the conditions of the BC Societies Act that we have a Privacy Officer for the Branch. I have agreed to fill that position.

I am discovering what the duties of a Privacy Officer are. As one might expect it involves looking at what information the Society holds about its members in the databases that we use and the necessity of requiring each item of Information. I will be reporting my findings back to the Board at the November Board meeting.

In the meantime, I am available to you, the membership, should you have concerns about any of the information that we hold about you. To date, having been involved for many years with the organisation at the executive level, I am confident that we have been exemplary custodians of your data.

**Peter Richards, Privacy Officer**

## **Website**

The Branch website provides up-to-date information on Scottish Country Dancing in the Vancouver area, event photos, current news, the Branch Board Directors & Appointments contact information, Branch documents, the White Cockade (newsletter) online, Branch

membership information, and numerous other resources (articles of interest and links to other related sites).

This past year has been a learning curve for me. The newly upgraded website and changes in web technology, combined with the migration to the improved hosting environment, have been challenging. Once figured out, many things are, in fact, easier to update. However, I am still in a learning curve with some alignment and resizing photo issues. I expect that, too, will all come together.

A big thank you to Darrell McLeod, who handles all the technical issues and upgrades for the website, and to Paul Lowe, who sets up all those online registrations, PayPal, and maintains the Membership database. They make the website work!

Going into my eighth year as Website Manager, I look forward to the time I can post new dancing photos and events. In these uncertain times, I am proud to be a part of RSCDS Vancouver and SC Dancing.

**Mary Ann McDevitt, Website Manager**

## **White Cockade**

The White Cockade is published on the 1st of September, November, January, March, May and July. The deadline for submissions is the 10th day of the preceding month (i.e. October 10 for the November/December issue). All contributions of letters, articles, photos, etc. are welcome. We will do our best to accommodate everyone as space permits, but it may be necessary to edit an article or put it over to another month.

I have now completed my fourth year as Newsletter Editor and it has been quite a year! Through the Fall and Winter, we enjoyed all our favourite classes and social events with our dancing friends. There were lots of photos, news and stories to share. While the Burnaby club managed to squeak in their Spring Dance, the pandemic brought an abrupt halt to our favourite activity.

In May, the newsletter went to online electronic issue only and remains so at this time. Many thanks go to the dancing community for your contributions to our newsletters and keeping us connected. Thanks also go to my husband, Kerry McDevitt, for his input and all those photos he takes and edits to give me the best pictures. And to Mary Anne Mackay, who managed the 'mail out' phase of the newsletter prior to going online only.

I look forward to the time we are dancing once again and hope you continue to enjoy our RSCDS Vancouver Branch White Cockade!

**Mary Ann McDevitt, Newsletter Editor**

# Reports from Area Clubs

## **Burnaby Scottish Country Dance Club**

This has been my first year as president of the Burnaby Club, and it has certainly been an unusual one!

Looking at the year in retrospect, we had 24 full-year members, 3 half-year members, and 6 drop-in dancers by March, with attendance and membership increasing in the winter term.

The Entertainment Team did 11 performances, plus a special one for Nell Bird on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Nell is our only Honorary Life Member. Our classes began September 16 and ended March 9. We had 2 keen beginners from January on, and Rosemary gave them and other relative newcomers an hour's instruction from 6:30-7:30; then all of us danced from 7:30-10.

We were lucky to hold our annual dance March 8 with the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra playing; it was well attended and, we felt, successful. The votes regarding unamplified sound were 98% for, in that particular venue. It turned out to be the only club dance of the new year, as everything went into lockdown due to Covid-19 a week afterwards!

We held our executive meeting April 3 via Zoom, and our AGM dated April 10 was in email form, asking members to vote Yes or No to our slate of nominated new executive members; no one had any objections, so all were received and "sworn in" by April 18. They are: Social Convenor-Bev Doyle, and two members-at-large, Alison Loveless and Leslie Clauson. Otherwise, no changes.

We decided to give a rebate in September for the 3 missed classes in March, but we had to raise the yearly fees. The drop-in fee will remain \$7.

We informed members of this year's healthy financial position (whew!), and set out hopeful plans for the 2020-2021 season, to start September 14 at the Scandinavian Cultural Centre.

Fortunately, Rosemary will continue as our teacher, BUT it isn't looking likely that we will be able to resume dancing in September. Stay tuned and stay safe!

**Cathrine Conings, President**

## **Deep Cove Scottish Country Dancing Club**

Our classes ran smoothly in the Fall and we were pleased to welcome five or six newcomers to our Beginner/Intermediate class.

Our AGM and party were held in September (a successful switch from our usual Winter event); the AGM attracted a good portion of our membership and was followed by an enjoyable social.

We are so lucky to have wonderful teachers: Kay Sutherland teaches the more experienced dancers on a Monday and expertly keeps us challenged and entertained with a wide variety of dances. The Tuesday beginner/intermediate class is in the capable hands of Alison Moen whose cheerful and effective teaching has brought a number of new dancers into the Scottish Country Dancing fold.

In common with other Clubs, all the fun and progress were brought to an abrupt halt in March because of Covid-19. We continue to be hopeful, however, that 2021 will be a better year and that we will be able to resume classes sooner rather than later, when it is safe to do so.

Although our April Deep Cove dance had to be cancelled, we are tentatively planning for a dance in April of 2021 and very much hope that this can take place.

We are proud of our Club members' involvement in the wider Scottish Country Dancing community in Vancouver. Mary Ann McDevitt keeps the news flowing with the White Cockade and Kerry McDevitt captures the dance action with his photography at various dance events.

Kay Sutherland puts in many hours of work in her artistic direction of the Branch Demonstration Team, and several Deep Cove dancers perform regularly with this group.

**Linda Robertson, Club Manager**

## **Fort Langley Voyageurs**

Our year began in September 2019 with the Halloween night in October and the St Andrews Dance in November and our annual Burns night in January of 2020. This year, being our 20th Anniversary year we had made big plans for our annual May Tea Dance and our year-end Barbecue and some other plans for our anniversary, but it was not to be. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, one by one we have had to cancel all of our plans.

We ended our dance classes in mid-March. Now after social distancing and hibernating since March we are wondering what will happen to our dancing for this coming year. Since most of our club members are seniors, we are more susceptible to some of the severe consequences of the virus. So just as most other clubs are also wondering, what should we do?!?!?

**Larry Onotera, Representative**

# **Glenayre Scottish Country Dance Club**

Glenayre had a great year of dancing. Our club is fortunate to have the luxury of 2 teachers providing instruction. Thanks to Jean and Fran, for their enthusiasm, planning efforts and instruction.

We had a very busy fall, starting with 5 potential new members coming to our trial sessions with 4 members all new to SCD. Starting off with Halloween Nite, hosting Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance, Christmas Party and a Christmas social get together. After the Christmas break, squeezed in a Burns Day demonstration at Astoria Retirement Residence while ramping up for our Spring Dance.

Unfortunately, our year came to an abrupt halt due to the public health crisis. Our traditional spring dance, summer club BBQ and Dancing in the Park have been cancelled. Club AGM was held via email during the time of the initial strict COVID measures.

From a financial perspective, expenses exceeded income and we had to draw upon our contingency fund. This year's deficit condition was a result of reduced membership and cancellation of our spring dance.

Sue Cowan and Hazel Robb have reached the end of their terms on the club executive and have transferred respective responsibilities to Greg Weir and Anne MacKillican. It takes a personal commitment, energy and attention to make the various club things happen.

At this point what next season holds is clouded in mystery. Currently the club is not planning for a September start with a definite possibility of no classes at all in the new year. It will be a big challenge to start up if there is a season without dance. We all miss the social interactions with our dance friends.

**Darrell McLeod, President**

# **Gleneagles Scottish Country Dance Club**

During the past dance year, September 2019 to March 2020, Gleneagles held three weekly classes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Our dance classes were suspended in mid-March due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Monday 'beginner' class introduces newer members to the joys of Scottish Country Dancing at the WV Seniors Centre. The Tuesday and Wednesday classes are held at Hollyburn Elementary School. The Tuesday challenge class is for those interested in furthering their own personal dancing and learning less familiar dances. This class attracts a number of dancers from other areas. The Wednesday club class is for experienced dancers focusing on the upcoming dance programs of our club as well as those in the Greater Vancouver area.

At our 56th Annual Ball, held in the Pacific Ballroom of the Fairmont Vancouver Hotel, Gleneagles welcomed over 100 dancers from around the Lower Mainland, Washington State,

Alberta and Ontario. Mary Murray expertly briefed the dances and the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra provided inspiring music.

Our annual summer barbeque, usually the summer highlight of Gleneagles Club, was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the past year, the members of our club danced and videoed 18 of the 35 dances devised by Simon Scott as a tribute to his decades-long contributions to our club and the larger dance community. We hope to complete a video catalogue of Simon's dances in 2020-21.

Our club faced several unexpected challenges this year. Simon Scott had a health problem in September 2019 that precluded his teaching of the Tuesday and Wednesday classes. Louise Murphy, who expertly taught our Monday class for many years, departed in late October. Our club greatly appreciated the teaching contributions made by Mary Murray, Alison Moen, Helene Nelson, Katherine Shearman and Aislinn Kenyon during the 2019-20 dance year.

**Doug Nelson, President**

## **North Shore Children's Class**

We started the class September 16th with an enthusiastic group including our helpers Anna McBean, Ann Dekock, and Erin Bernard when she was available. I taught my younger children easier dances with help from the older children. The experienced children were keen to learn more advanced dances which they picked up really fast. We were getting along quite well.

Branch President Heather Hankin paid us a visit which was very nice of her.

In October, we were invited to perform for the Gleneagles dance in the intermission. Two of the older girls performed a step dance taught by Gail Urquhart. Then all the children danced "Reel for Jeannie".

The Christmas party was a success with good attendance from parents and guests.

Thanks to our helpers Helen Hughes, Margaret Duff, Roz Kerr, highlighted by Pat and Drum Cavers.

In March, we were preparing for our Easter party when everything stopped due to Covid19.

**Patricia Johnson, Teacher**

## **West End SCD Club**

We are a small club with one set of core members and another set of part time / drop in members. Our classes averaged 15 dancers from September to December. The average

dropped to 13 in January and 10 in February – a combination of injuries and covid-19 concerns. By early March, with the full support of the class, I decided to cancel classes due to the pandemic.

While we were still dancing, classes focused on upcoming socials as well as some dances with a “difference”. My experienced dancers were patient and wonderful with helping the newer dancers get through some of the trickier dances. I always had one dance just for the experienced dancers. Again, we were lucky to have live music at times over the year and very much appreciate the musicians, who so generously give their time and talent.

I send emails updating everyone on cancelled events, Dance Scottish at Home and other stuff. Less than half keep in touch and I expect the numbers will drop the longer we are unable to dance. While we eagerly await the time when we can dance again, we have no estimated date to resume classes.

**Mary Ann McDevitt, Teacher**

## **White Rock**

The 2019-2020 dance year was going to be a relatively quiet one as far as planned club activities went when it came to an abrupt end mid-March due to the COVID -19 outbreak.

We had no special dances to organize other than our traditional May Tea Dance to be held in a new location this year, Elgin Hall, marking the end of the spring season.

The annual Fall Workshop taught by Maureen Lyon was well attended and remains a favourite on our calendar.

At our last class in February, we helped one of our long-time dancers celebrate his Leap Year birthday (90 something!) with cake and his favourite John Drury dance. He had a knee replacement a couple of years ago but was back at class within a few months dancing in his usual elegant manner.

As we all endure the restrictions necessary to allow us to begin dancing again, we remain hopeful that all our dancers, especially the newer ones, will be anxious to get back on the dance floor with renewed enthusiasm.

**Sandy Anderson, President**