Vancouver Branch Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
Annual General Meeting
September 16, 2016

Agenda and Reports
The Annual General Meeting of the Vancouver Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society will be held at the Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson St., Vancouver, on Friday, September 16, 2016 commencing at 7:30 PM. Members are urged to attend the meeting at which there will be the opportunity to offer feedback on past events, provide suggestions for future events and activities, and to vote in the election of Directors and Officers for the 2016-2017 season. There will be dancing to the music of the Tartan Players following the meeting.

A complete document package comprising the minutes of the 2015 AGM, the financial statement for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, nominations and reports will be posted to the Branch website by September 12. Reports from clubs, Board members, etc. which are to be included in the package should be sent to <chair@rscdsvancouver.org> by September 6, 2016.

Gerry Stensgaard
Chair, RSCDS Vancouver
AGENDA
RSCDS Vancouver Branch AGM, September 16, 2016

1. Call to order
2. Confirmation of quorum (25 members)
3. Safety Announcement
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of minutes of Sept. 18, 2015 AGM
6. Business arising from the minutes of the Sept. 18, 2015 AGM
7. Treasurer’s report
8. Independent inspection of 2015-16 financial statements
9. Appointment of inspector of 2016-17 financial statements
10. Reports from Board of Directors
11. Reports from appointees and committees
12. Reports from area clubs
13. Report of the nominating committee
14. Election of Directors and Officers for 2016-17
15. Appreciation to outgoing Directors and all committee members
16. Presentation
17. New Business - items from the floor
18. Adjournment

Draft Minutes of Sept. 18, 2015 Annual General Meeting:

See AGM 2015 DRAFT Branch Minutes posted on the Branch website <http://www.rscdsvancouver.org/> under Vancouver Branch Board Documents.
REPORTS FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TREASURER’S REPORT

The Financial Statements for June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016 are before you. They show a very satisfactory result for our operations during the year. At the end of the fiscal year, the Member’s Equity was about $29,000 and, in addition, there was approximately $57,000 remaining in the funds donated to the Branch in the past by Mary Wattum and Pearl Holmberg. As stated in a previous report, it had been recommended that the Member’s Equity should be about $22,500 so there continues to be more than enough money available to use for operations.

During the year, all the usual Branch activities occurred and all went very well. A Step Dance class was added to the list of Branch classes and a Step Dance workshop was also offered. Both proved to be very successful.

With regard to the Financial Statements I should point out that the Current Liabilities item “In Trust for YWW in BC” has nothing to do with Branch finances. It is money that the Youth Weekend West committee asked us to hold in trust until their 2017 event. It will be returned to them at their request.

The “Miscellaneous & Administrative expenses” item shows a marked increase. This was due to the fact there was $2,425 worth of cheques still outstanding at the end of the fiscal year which, via the bank reconciliation process, results in a miscellaneous expense. All of those cheques have since been cashed.

Also, note that the Mary Wattum Dance fund is almost exhausted. This fund is used to cover any losses incurred at Branch dance events. Clearly, there is no shortage of funds to continue covering these losses so this is not a problem. It just means we have to designate some other funds for this purpose.

This concludes my second year on the job and it has gone much smoother than the first. Still, it seems I have more to learn so As you know, I have committed to yet another year and look forward to it going even smoother.

Submitted by Laurie Johnston, Treasurer.

Note: Financial Statement from MacKenzie Burgess Kilpatrick Certified General Accountants is posted separately on the Branch website.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

As I conclude my term as Chairman of the Vancouver Branch, I am pleased to report that the past year has been filled with successful and enjoyable Branch events and activities. As usual, the Lady Aberdeen Remembrance Day Tea Dance was the first event on the Branch Calendar. This time it was ably produced by the Burnaby Scottish Country Dance Club. The event was well attended, and the net proceeds of $2,468 were divided between the TB Vets and the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Next came the Betwixt and Between Dance with live music by Mary Ross. This event, organised by Katherine Shearman, was well attended and enjoyed by all. After a short (Cont’d)
post-Christmas lull, Burns Season was upon us. Gillian Beattie did an excellent job running our Burns Supper. Her duties included tracking down the elusive haggis (it was hard to find this year). Our Demonstration Team was busy as usual in January, providing Scottish entertainment at many locations in the lower mainland. Mid-March saw the Love to Dance Workshop and Tea Dance organised by Frances Caruth and Jean Wagstaff. The workshop was taught by well-known local teachers Rebecca Blackhall-Peters and Ruth Jappy, and the Tartan Players provided lively music for the afternoon Tea Dance. Altogether it was an enjoyable and successful event. The highlight of the Branch's year was the Heather Ball, held on March 19th, which was produced by Denise Cunningham and her dedicated committee members. The evening began with a delicious light supper, followed by a Grand March and dancing to the lively music of the Nicol McLaren Trio from Scotland, plus fiddler Judi Nicolson. Rebecca Blackhall-Peters very professionally MC'd the event, and with the great band we had, the dancing was very spirited. At the close of the program, light refreshments were served, and attendees enjoyed an opportunity to socialize. Planning is already underway for the Branch's 2017 Ball.

In addition to the above mentioned events, the Branch ran two Monday night classes and a Wednesday night Program Class. Monthly Ceilidhs, open to all, were put on by Duncan MacKenzie with assistance from Alison Moen, Katherine Shearman and Louise Steinway. The support of the latter trio was particularly appreciated when Duncan had health issues in early 2016. Ladies Step Dance Classes were organised by, and mostly taught by, Kay Sutherland, although guest teacher Elizabeth Miller of Seattle taught a workshop on April 30th. Despite miserably cold, wet conditions, the Vancouver Branch mounted three dance performances at the BC Highland Games on June 18. A tip of the bonnet to all who persevered through the Massed Dancing, the Expanded Demonstration Team performance, and the Dem Team's part in the Grand Finale. Thanks also to Mary Murray and Kay Sutherland for directing the rehearsals. Prior to the commencement of Highland Games rehearsals, the Dem Team's Director Rebecca Blackhall-Peters resigned after six years in the position. The Branch greatly appreciates all the dedicated work Rebecca put into the Dem Team, and we wish her all the best in her new endeavours. We welcome Kay Sutherland as the Team's new Director. The long tradition of summer dancing in Stanley Park continued this season under Alison Moen's management. There were nine Monday evenings of dancing from June 20 through August 15, and only one evening was cut short due to rain.

Slow but inexorable shrinkage of Royal Scottish Country Dance Society membership is prevalent in the majority of Branches around the world. As part of an effort to address this issue, Headquarters in Edinburgh is gathering input from all RSCDS branches. This is being done primarily through such long-distance means as Skype, but as it happened that both myself and Vice-Chair Peter Richards were to be in Edinburgh in late May, we arranged to meet in person with Gillian Wilson, the new RSCDS Executive Officer. Our interview ended up taking almost two hours, in which time we related the ways that the Vancouver Branch tries to attract new members, and the level of success attained. Sadly, despite our best efforts, recruitment of new members is not quite keeping up with attrition of older members. To maintain the vitality of our Scottish country dancing community, we need to continuously recruit new, and ideally younger dancers. Each member is encouraged to keep this in mind, and invite friends and acquaintances to come and try our wonderful pastime. They may well thank you, and we will all be the better for it if they join our ranks.

Respectfully submitted by:
Gerald N. Stensgaard
Chairman, Vancouver Branch RSCDS
VICE-CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

This is my second year as Vice-Chairman of the Branch. I view the promotion to Chairman with some trepidation, tempered by the fact that I will have the support of Gerry Stensgaard who now moves - with some relief, no doubt - to Past Chairman.

It is the task of the Vice-Chair to book the major events that the Branch holds through the year. We have now secured dates for most events until 2018. Dates have been secured for the Burns Supper and Heather Ball until then - so there’s no excuse for double booking the dates. We have been lucky to have booked Luke Brady and members of his band for the next Heather Ball. Dancers who first encountered a much younger Luke at the annual Fort Langley Tea Dance, will remember what an accomplished musician he was. I am sure we will get a great attendance for next year’s Ball.

Last year, I surveyed all aspects of provision of music for the Branch, given the rapidly evolving landscape of music devices - from computers and tablets to small electronic players. As a result of that survey, I organised a teaching session for the teachers in our Branch. I also distributed a PowerPoint which I made up for the session, more widely. The session was well attended and well received. Kerry McDevitt video’d the session. While I had intended to produce an edited version, that has proved to be beyond my technical skills - so I have held individual help sessions for some teachers who required more personalised information. Almost all our teachers now use some method of electronic music to replace our aging Caliphones. However, I have recently been able to replace the Branch’s broken Denon CD player with a brand new unit, thanks to eBay. This unit is now available for those teachers at the branch who would still like to use CD’s.

My other duty is to maintain the Vancouver Calendar of Events. However, as the most up-to-date event information is always posted on our website, leading to a duplication of effort, I have asked Mary Anne McDevitt to maintain both. It just makes sense to do that.

In May, Gerry and I were both in Edinburgh - quite by chance - and we took the opportunity to meet with Gillian Wilson, the new RSCDS executive officer at 12 Coates Crescent. We gave her the Branch’s input into the new vision of the RSCDS and this was well received.

I was also involved, along with Paul Lowe, with providing input into Headquarters new database that maintains the membership lists of the whole organisation. Your executive and membership has a wealth of computer talent - more than headquarters, it seems. We will be working with HQ in the coming year to ensure that the problems encountered in the past season by our very patient Membership chair - Patricia Jamieson - will be minimized.

My thanks go to Gerry Stensgaard for his advice and continued guidance. I hope my first year as president goes as smoothly.

Respectfully Submitted: Peter Richards, Vice-Chair
**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY’S REPORT**

The position of Corresponding Secretary is the conduit for communications from the RSCDS Head Office in Edinburgh, other Branches, and members of the Vancouver Branch to the Branch Board Members. This includes disseminating information received to the appropriate officers, and sending out notices to all the Branch Membership. The Corresponding Secretary is also responsible, on behalf of the Board, for writing to Branch Members - sending Congratulations and Thanks, as well as Get Well Wishes, Condolences, and offering Support.

As I finish my first year as Corresponding Secretary, I wish to thank all the other members of the Board for their support and encouragement, as well as Vicki Downie and Paul Lowe for helping me learn the technical side! It has been an interesting year and I look forward to the second year of my term.

Respectfully submitted by Gillian Beattie, Corresponding Secretary

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY’S REPORT**

**Club Membership 2015/16 Season:**

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All returning RSCDS members received permanent membership cards last year. This year only new and returning lapsed members will receive new permanent membership cards with their new permanent membership number. These cards are laminated to keep them from being damaged.

Edinburgh instituted a new process whereby Branch Membership Secretaries logged onto the Edinburgh website to record membership renewals and registration of new members. Unfortunately, this system was extremely cumbersome and slow. Thanks to efforts from our (Cont’d)
members, Paul Lowe, Peter Richards and Laurie Johnston some changes have been made and, in time, the process should be more user friendly.

All Branch members are encouraged to update their personal information on the Edinburgh website. Once members are registered they simply log onto the website using their email address or membership number and go to My Account.

Patsy Jamieson, Membership Secretary

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Parades:

1. The Celtic Fest parade had an impressive turnout considering the time of year (18 volunteers plus our driver)!

2. The Canada Day parade had 25 enthusiastic volunteers plus our driver!

In each instance, Francis O’Farrell supplied the truck, the frame for the tartans, and much of the labour to decorate it. He also picked up and returned the generator, big and small flags, tartans etc. This applies to the last 4 years, 2 parades a year! And he did the same for the Highland Games! Very much appreciated, Francis!

Displays:

1. Eurofest - for the first time we had a Scotland table in the UK tent for two full days in May (staffed by Sue Sochasky, Po Yu Chan, Janet Mason, Cheryl Jorgensen, with take-down help from Alan Le Fevre). The demonstration team danced on the stage there the first day.

2. Highland Games -  Elspeth Rennie and Helen Hughes looked after our display at the Highland Games in the Cultural Tent, which served mostly as a shelter and practice room for pipe bands trying to keep dry! Also publicizing Scottish country dancing was our massed demonstration team (dripping wet!), our dem team on the track, and again in the grand finale, (a bit less wet, in ponchos). These demonstrations are an important way of letting the community know about our favourite dance form. Too bad a big wet blanket got thrown on the planned visitor participation dancing outside our tent!

Dancing DVD’s: Kerry McDevitt has each year filmed our dance parties and balls, and each year has put together a composite DVD that I’ve shown continuously to visitors at our booths. They get to see dancing in action, with music! Thank you so much, Kerry, for your huge input of time.

Volunteers: You are vital to a successful exhibition, and you deserve many more thanks than can be printed here! Because of you we had an impressive show at the parades, the Dance Scottish massed demonstration, and the booths, where busy beavers helped to set up, take down, and give their time to talk to visitors.

Brochures: The printing of labels and sticking them on promo cards we already have is an ongoing activity. We will soon make new promotional cards bearing the new branch identifying logo. This year we also printed Wedding Ceilidh cards, to be handed out to anyone inquiring about having their wedding reception at the Scottish Cultural Centre.
**Distributing brochures:** They’re no use unless we give them away, and Duncan MacKenzie certainly earns the prize for the best hander-out of brochures. At Stanley Park, at every dem, in every Seniors’ home, at every display booth and table they are given to staff, to onlookers, to other performers at multi-cultural events. A huge thank-you to Duncan! He also printed and stuck on many labels this summer by himself, (when I was away) in order to give out cards at a number of summer ceilidhs.

**Advertisements:** We had an ad in the Highland Games booklet, distributed to all comers.

**Design:** I am indebted to Simon Scott for designing the two feather flags we use at the park, and the roll-up banner which goes on display for indoor events. He also designed the cards we are handing out at present, and special 50th Anniversary handouts. He has designed the ads for the Highland games and other booklets. You will soon see more of his graphic artistry in our newest brochures.

It has been fun being the Publicity Director for the Branch. There are many opportunities for creative thinking, on how to get the word out there more effectively. I could not have done it without many helpers designing, filming, supporting, distributing, informing, hauling equipment, and adding good ideas. I pass on to my successor the support of all of you, and the best of luck in the coming year.

Submitted by Cathrine Conings, Publicity Director

**ARCHIVES REPORT**

Our Archives are a secure place to store records and keep safe the history of Scottish country dancing in the Vancouver community. The Branch Meeting Minutes are filed monthly in our section of the Library and the White Cockade is filed regularly in our safe. In the past year, additional items such as photographs, newspaper articles, books by Jean Milligan and other items pertaining to the history of the RSCDS in Vancouver have been placed in the Archives. If you have anything you think should be archived, please don’t hesitate to contact me at mason@sfu.ca.

Earlier records (1964 - 2002) were moved in 2011 from the Scottish Cultural Centre to Vancouver City Archives to be processed and made available to the public on line. To date the records have not been catalogued and entered to the database. I regularly contact the Archivist and in his most recent email of August 8th he explained that the City records are processed first and will be followed by the Branch records which are being held in top priority but no progress has been made due to lack of resources. I have recently been in touch with Vancouver City Archives Management and hope to receive more positive feedback shortly. In the meantime, we do have access to our records if the need should arise.

Submitted by Janet Mason, Archivist
EVENT COORDINATOR’S REPORT

The Betwixt & Between Social took place on December 28, 2015, at 7:30 PM in the Scottish Cultural Centre. At the break, the catering team provided sandwiches and other savouries, vegetable and fruit platters, fruit punch, chocolates, coffee, and tea. Many of the 90 dancers brought savouries, especially delicious cheeses and crackers, as well as their Christmas baking to share with us. Leftovers were offered to dancers to take home at the end of the evening. Each year we play Christmas roulette to decide how much tea and coffee to make. So far, the estimates have been correct. The urns performed well and we heard no complaints about the taste, strength, or temperature of either beverage. We made an extra effort to prepare as much as we could in advance. We spent 3 hours in the morning and arrived at 5:30 in the evening to get a head start. This allowed many of the catering crew to dance most of the evening, which pleased them enormously. Several dancers commented on how smoothly the catering had gone and attributed it to advance preparation. The catering crew deserve a big round of applause for their success.

Dancers made their way through the pouring rain to the Love to Dance Workshop and Tea Dance, which was held on February 13, 2016, also in the Scottish Cultural Centre. The catering team, in various combinations, shopped on Thursday and Friday, prepared food and located supplies on Friday, and spent 9 hours at the SCC on Saturday to be sure everything for the Tea was set up, served, and washed up. With 62 dancers registered for the Workshop, we planned for 100+ dancers for the Tea after the Dance. This estimate proved to be high because 20+ dancers departed before the Tea. The weather may have affected attendance at the Dance. A number of small paper plates of food were given away when the Tea was finished. Because dancers are not asked to register for the Dance, it is very difficult to know how many will arrive. Lacking the “fishes and loaves” skill, we offer ample hospitality that leaves everyone happy and satisfied. The committee and the Board will consider alternate arrangements for next year to allow us to better estimate the amount of food and beverages to prepare. Everyone must be well notified of any changes beforehand in the brochure, and by announcements at clubs and classes. Otherwise, people will hunt us down in the kitchen looking for food.

The challenge of keeping the tea and coffee hot has been solved with the addition next year of two extension cords in the hall to keep temperatures constant during the Tea. It would be lovely if the SCC bought a new urn that would be solely and exclusively used for tea.

As noted last year, the health inspector wants all dishes washed in the dishwasher. Some items, including those brought by dancers, can only be washed by hand. We will hope the health inspector will be otherwise occupied.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Hankin, Event Coordinator
SAFETY REPORT

The Branch’s dancing activities have been quiet over the past 12 months regarding safety issues. The AED has never been used. There was one incident in June, 2016 when a member injured her left knee during our Highland Games rehearsals. She was treated on the spot and has improved. Both first aid bags have been restocked for the coming year.

Continue to have fun dancing and stay safe and injury free.

Submitted by Sue Sochasky, Safety Officer

HIGHLAND GAMES liaISON REPORT

As you all know the weather conditions for this year’s Games on Saturday 18 June were very unfavourable. It was a downpour! Our Vancouver Branch should be very proud of the dancers who performed to entertain the audience, on three occasions, under such horribly wet and cold conditions. Each one of the dancers is to be admired and thanked for their stamina, enthusiasm and dedication to our dancing and our Branch.

There were some changes at the Games this year. The event started on Friday evening with Pibroch competition and a reception hosted by the United Scottish Societies. On Saturday the Main Stage was located to the north of the grandstand and the Highland Dance Stage to the south. This allowed the centre field to be open for the new Grand Finale. Musician and dancers, including RSCDS Vancouver, participated in this Grand Finale, which concluded with the usual and popular Massed Pipe Bands. The Scottish Cultural Tent was also a new addition where the booths of the various societies, including RSCDS, were located. Thank you to those who donated their time to promote our Branch.

Due to the very unfortunate weather the gate attendance was very low resulting in a financial loss. However, all events on the field went ahead, including our Scottish Country Dancing displays. Our Branch was well represented and we extend our deep thanks to all who braved the elements to put on excellent performances. Sunshine has been ordered for June 2017!

Submitted by Simon Scott, Highland Games Rep

REPORT ON RSCDS NORTH SHORE CHILDREN’S DANCING 2015-16

Classes for children took place Saturday mornings at the Mickey McDougall Community Centre, with Louise Steinway teaching Intermediate and Advanced dancers and Pat Johnson teaching Beginner dancers. The numbers were somewhat down this year, so the Intermediate and Advanced classes were combined. The Beginners class was well attended with several boys dancing.

Highlights of the year included the annual Christmas Party and the Spring/Easter Party organized by members of the Children’s Committee. These events were well attended and provided fun, relaxed afternoons for all involved. Dancers also participated in the Mass Dancing at the Highland Games, and in the Children and Family Evening at Dancing in the Park.

(Cont’d)
Unfortunately the usual demonstration dancing did not take place this year. The Community Centre cancelled its Arts in Action Festival which, in the past, had provided the dancers with an opportunity to participate. It is hoped that some demonstrations can be organized for 2016-17.

The North Shore Children’s Committee has worked for many years to foster the advancement of the next generation of Scottish dancers. They continue to do so with our sincere thanks.

Submitted by Francis O’Farrell, Children’s Program Liaison

REPORTS FROM APPOINTEES AND COMMITTEES

WEBSITE REPORT

The Branch website provides up-to-date information on Scottish Country Dancing in Vancouver, event photos & videos, current news, the Branch Board & Branch Appointments contact information, Branch documents, online access to the White Cockade, online access to Branch membership information & applications, and numerous other resources (articles of interest, links to other related sites).

The List of Clubs & Classes for 2016 – 2017 season has now been posted on the Home Page. I continue to update pages and events, keep the website current, and respond to requests in a timely fashion. However, if you see anything amiss, please contact me at web@rscdsvancouver.org.

The “News” box that appears at the top of every page is not a full report, but rather an ad/tease for an upcoming Branch event or current news. You need to go to the news page to see full details.

I encourage everyone to check out our News Page and Events Calendar for the latest news and event updates. The information in the White Cockade cannot be updated/corrected until the next issue and there can be changes in event dates, times and venues.

Thank you to Darrell McLeod, our website creator, who works in the background to keep our website running. And a special thank you to Paul Lowe who continues to set up the Paypal accounts and online registration for membership, Love to Dance, Burns, Heather Ball and more!

Submitted by Mary Ann McDevitt, Web Manager

WHITE COCKADE REPORT

As the new White Cockade editor, I have just completed my first edition of the newsletter. It has proven to be challenging but exciting, albeit time consuming. I have received a number of positive comments and compliments, which also makes it very rewarding. Thank you to my co-editor, Kerry McDevitt, who provided many of the photos, photoshopped all the photos and provided much needed input. Thank you to my proof readers Cathrine Conings and Merry Wood for catching those typos and to Helen Hughes for input in the printing/mailing process. Lastly, thank you to
everyone who provided articles, notices, photos, updated information and more! I look forward to my next issues over the 2016 – 2017 season. All contributions of articles, letters, photos are welcome, and we will do our best to accommodate everyone.

Submitted by Mary Ann McDevitt – Newsletter Editor

DANCE COORDINATOR’S REPORT

Note: Some sections of this report have been written by teachers who have very generously taken on the leadership of a Branch event or activity. The Board (and the Dance Coordinator more particularly) is most appreciative of the contributions made by these teachers.

Betwixt and Between – Report by Katherine Shearman
As always, the music of Mary Ross was the highlight of the Betwixt and Between dance, held on December 28, 2015. This year, Mary accompanied herself with recorded dance sets played by Alec and Maureen Jappy. This was a wonderful dedication to two brilliant musicians. As in prior years, the dance was sponsored by the Mary Wattum Fund and admission was free to all RSCDS members. Seventy-three members of RSCDS Vancouver attended the dance, as well as a number of out-of-town members. Guests attended from Bellingham, Vancouver Island, Montreal, Salmon Arm, Winnipeg, St. Johns, and Germany.
Admission was collected from 15 dancers raising a total of $225. A raffle to raise money for new sound equipment for the Vancouver Branch raised nearly $500. This was a very timely benefit as the Denon CD player had to be replaced this summer.

The dance program was well received. However, there were a number of newer beginners in attendance which required dances to be walked more than once. As this is a free dance, beginners are likely encouraged to attend. Based on the number of dances, the level of dances, particularly the easiest ones, may have been too challenging. This year we will try to strike a better balance in the program that will attract experienced dancers and accommodate those with less experience.

Heather Hankin recruited excellent assistance in the kitchen and the catering during the intermission was very smooth. The remaining food was plated for people to take away at no cost. The tradition of dancing to music by Mary Ross will be continued with the next Betwixt and Between on December 28, 2016.

We had a request from a Branch member to consider reduced ticket prices for youth. It was noted that over the Christmas holidays, dancers are more likely to have family members wanting to come to the dance. This may be something that should be considered by the Branch for future dance events to encourage attendance.

Love to Dance Workshop - Report by Frances Caruth
Held on February 13, 2016 the workshop was again a successful event. A total of 61 dancers registered for the workshop and a further 26 dancers paid to attend the Tea Dance. We were delighted to welcome many (10) young dancers from Fort Langley.

The evaluations were overwhelmingly positive with issues of room temperature and the long lunch break being the only negatives (we will work on both for next year). As usual, this event would not run as smoothly without our energetic and dedicated volunteers. Tasks range from room set up,
welcoming guests, decorating, catering, cleaning up etc. The catering teams were lead by Jean Wagstaff and Heather Hankin and as in previous years they provided wonderful food throughout the day. Thank you all so much. This was the 6th year that Jean Wagstaff has co-chaired this event with me and her support through all the ups and downs of organizing such an event is truly appreciated.

**Dancing in the Park - Report by Alison Moen**

Dancing in the Park has been great fun this summer. While the sun often didn’t shine brightly, we dodged the rain on all but one night when rain stopped dancing half way through the evening. Despite cloudy evenings and the threat of rain which reduced attendances, we had 30 – 60 regular dancers each week, another 20-30 visitors joining in, as well as 20-30 folk sitting around enjoying the music and the activity. There were many more visitors on our special gala night with the Branch Demonstration Team and the Vancouver Police Pipe Band and on our first night when the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra provided us with wonderful music for dancing. Each club put on a lively program with a great mix of dances providing a nice selection of dances for our new recruits as well as for our experienced dancers. As with all our events, volunteers are what makes for a good program and to all those dedicated folk who helped with the equipment fetching and carrying as well as set up and take down - a heartfelt thanks.

**Social Dancing at the Highland Games, June 18, 2016 - Report by Frances Caruth**

It was a wet day and if you were there you know all about it. Our dancers were heroic! Our shoes were full of water before we even started dancing but dance we did, and from the photographs you would never believe just how wet everyone was. It was a very professional performance by our mass dancers. No one dropped out, we kept smiling right to the end when with great empathy, and our Director, Mary Murray let us leave out the last dance. Many thanks the Mary who provided an interesting choreographed program of dances, to Fran Hiller and her helpers who took on the task of keeping us well informed and in the right place at the right time, but most of all, a very big thank you to the dancers who came and danced despite the rain.

**Ladies Step Dancing – Report by Kay Sutherland**

A total of 10 classes in soft shoe Ladies Step Dance were held throughout the dancing year - most of them at the Scottish Cultural Centre and one class at the Taiwanese Canadian Centre (all classes on Saturday afternoons 1-3 pm). Live music was provided for all classes under the direction of Janet Wright. Fees were $15 per class and a small surplus was achieved after payment for the hall rental, musicians and teacher honorarium. A total of 18 dancers attended at least one class and there were 13 regular attendees. These classes offer very advanced step and dance techniques, and also provide our local musicians an opportunity to gain experience playing Scottish dance music for classes.

A very successful Workshop was held on April 30, 2016 at the Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Centre with Elizabeth Miller from Seattle as guest teacher. There were 24 registrants from Seattle, Vancouver Island and Vancouver. A surplus was generated which the Board has kindly agreed to set aside to fund future Step Dance activities. This was a lively and energetic class, dancing to beautiful music provided by Janet Wright (double bass), Janice Hamilton (fiddle) and Kevin Hamilton (guitar). The dancing and music-making carried on into the evening at a real “Kitchen Party” at the home of Kay Sutherland - with the double bass, fiddle and guitar set up between the stove and the fridge, with another fiddle and cello joining in later. The dancers, some in bare feet, performed for each other with lots of laughter and good spirits – Step Dancing as it was originally meant to be.

(Cont’d)
Step dance classes will continue in the new dance year, the next session starting in October (see Branch web site). I appreciate the ongoing support from the Board and the enthusiasm of the dancers who attend classes. We have a lot of fun.

**Branch Classes - Report by Frances Caruth**

Monday Nights: The Branch continues to offer two levels of class each Monday night throughout the dance year. Mary Murray teaches the more experienced dancers and Katherine Shearman teaches the newer dancers. While the more experienced dancers seem to be travelling more and class size fluctuates though the season, the numbers in the new dancers’ class have been more constant and very encouraging. Many thanks to Gill Beattie for undertaking the administrative duties for these classes.

Wednesday Nights (programme classes): This programme continues to attract a core group of dedicated dancers, quite often augmented by occasional dancers who want to learn the dances for a particular social event. The evening programmes are provided by a group of dedicated teachers who are scheduled to teach once or twice each term. Gill Beattie is there every Wednesday evening providing support and ensuring that things run smoothly. Thank you so very much Gilli.

**Teacher Training Program**

There was no teacher training during the 2015-16 dance year. In anticipation of an examination tour in Spring 2017, the possibility of providing teacher training class in this coming dance year is currently being assessed.

Thank you to all of you who have supported and helped us sponsor and promote Scottish Country Dancing. We can’t do it without you! When you dance we are successful; if you introduce friends to Scottish Country Dancing and our numbers grow, we will be even more successful. JUST KEEP DANCING!

Respectfully submitted by Fran Caruth: Dance Coordinator

**REPORT ON USCS BUSINESS PLANNING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

In 1984 the United Scottish Cultural Society (USCS) was formed. The purpose of the Society as set out in its constitution is:

(a) To acquire and maintain a building to be used by the public at large for cultural and recreational activities;

(b) To educate and disseminate knowledge of the Scottish language, music, dance and art to the public at large.

Not long after the formation of the USCS, under a management agreement signed with the United Scottish Societies Auditorium Ltd., it became responsible for the running of the United Scottish Societies Auditorium. In more recent years, there has been a decline in the membership of the Scottish Societies and in their use of the Scottish Cultural Centre. To assist the USCS Board with the development of a business plan for moving forward, the Board has set up a Business Planning Committee. Fran Caruth is the designated representative for the RSCDS.

This Committee started its deliberations May 2016 and so far, has had three meetings. Discussion to date have revolved around collecting information and coming to an understanding of the current environment. A survey of the member societies has been completed but the results have not yet been summarized. There has been a presentation by the Cultural Committee which has as it’s mission, “to promote the growth and
advancement of the elements of Scottish culture in Metro Vancouver”. The business (financial) aspects of the running of the Society and the auditorium have yet to be reviewed.

The next meeting of the Committee is in early September 2016.

Respectfully submitted by Fran Caruth, on behalf of the Vancouver Branch of the RSCDS — a member society.

CEILIDH DANCE REPORT

2016 marks the 18th year of running the Ceilidh Dances which are sponsored by the Branch. This might have been my last year but I have recovered sufficiently from my stroke that I can still call, with the aid of a mic, to run the Ceilidhs with help for another year. Many, many thanks to Alison, Katherine, Lindsay and Louise for stepping in to fill the void when I was incapacitated. Without these young ladies’ assistance the Ceilidh dances would surely have foundered.

Thanks are due to the many volunteers without whom I 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 Ceilidh dances are indebted to the members of the resident band “Calanais” who are led by Cathy Gibson Gregory and include Carole Berger, Catherine Conings, Kate Dillon, Duncan Whamond and lately Janet Wright (plus some spares from time to time like Louise Steinway and Fran Caruth). They are the main reason these dances are so popular. Thanks, as well, to the Dem Team who came and performed for us all.

The average attendance was down from previous years but still a respectable number. Everyone seems to have fun and there are still a few who sign up for regular SCD classes each year. The hall has been reserved through to April 2017 although this season we are only running 7 dances. I also run Ceilidh dances for various other functions — fund raisers, weddings, etc. at which I promote S.C.D. and the Ceilidh Dances and in this I am grateful of assistance. In August a Ceilidh was held every Tuesday in conjunction with the City of Surrey and the band “Blackthorn”. Alison Moen and I put on two Scottish Ceilidhs. There were then two Irish ones and a final joint one.

Ceilidh Dancing has its own website www.vancouverceilidh.org where anyone can “subscribe” — it’s free! — to receive the newsletter. I have been sending out this weekly e-mail “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.

My 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. We are proud that we have never needed to ask for any monetary assistance.

Submitted by Duncan MacKenzie, ceilidh@rscdsvancouver.org
**BURNS SUPPER REPORT**

The annual Branch Burns Supper was held on Saturday, January 16th, 2016 at the Scottish Cultural Centre, and we were delighted to have Dr. Katie McCullough, Director of Scottish Studies at Simon Fraser University, with us for the evening. The attendance this year matched last year, and we made a small profit. The ticket price was held, for yet another year, at $55.00. There are a large number of people involved in putting on a traditional Burns Supper like ours, and my very grateful thanks go to all those who were involved in making this year successful. My full report and photos can be found in the March-April 2016 White Cockade. I am handing over to a new Chair for the 2017 Burns Supper, to whom I wish every success.

Respectfully submitted by Gill Beattie (Chair of the 2016 Branch Burns Supper.)

**HEATHER BALL REPORT**

The 7th annual Heather Ball danced its way into the history books on March 19th leaving behind memories of a relaxed and happy occasion. There was something old and something new, something familiar and something different, that combined to produce a most enjoyable evening.

The music was provided by Nicol McLaren and his Band specially brought over from Scotland and by fiddler Judi Nicolson from Houston, Texas. What a combination they proved to be as it was impossible not to want to dance to their exciting music and the dance floor was always crowded with enthusiastic and energetic dancers. Truly it was the music that distinguished the ball as exceptional. The dances were mostly well-loved familiar ones with one or two new challenges that kept dancers on their toes. They were chosen by Rebecca Blackhall-Peters who very ably and delightfully MC’d the dancing so that everyone could enjoy the dances without bothering about whether they knew them!

Over 140 members and friends attended the evening that began with cocktails and appetizers in the attractively decorated hall after which a light supper was served. Serving the supper at the beginning and making it light was appreciated as this made the subsequent dancing more comfortable. A St. Andrews Cross Grand March was an entertaining introduction that set the mood for the dance and there was even a safety briefing delivered in verse. An innovation that was well received was serving hot apple juice and shortbread immediately after the dance so that there was an opportunity to socialise with friends and chat about the evening.

Many volunteers helped to make this Heather Ball a success. They are too numerous to thank each one individually but my committee and all others who helped are to be congratulated and thanked for their support.

Overall dancers at this year’s Heather Ball had a good time in a friendly and festive atmosphere. This bodes well for future Heather Balls that bring together so many Branch members to enjoy our distinctive pastime of Scottish Country Dancing.

Submitted by Denise Cunningham, Chair, 2016 Heather Ball Committee
Demonstration Team Report

Management

This year saw significant and unexpected change in management, first with Duncan MacKenzie’s truly unfortunate stroke in early January, and the resumption of Team Manager duties by Sandy Caruth, and then Rebecca Blackhall-Peters’ unexpected exit in April, and the assumption of the Team Director’s role by Kay Sutherland.

It would be remiss of us not to recognize the huge contribution over many years that both Rebecca and Duncan have made to the performance and reputation of the Team, not to mention its dedicated management - our resonant “Thanks” to both.

Membership

The year opened in September 2015 with 27 dancers (8 men and 19 ladies) but fitness and other commitments reduced it to 24 by the summer of 2016.

The vitality of the Team and its ability to entertain and effectively promote Scottish dancing is in no small part dependent upon attracting new members, especially the younger, energetic ones. Scottish Country dancing however has suffered the way so many recreations suffer in this Province of plenty; competing interests have meant that it has dwindled in popularity.

The goal this next season therefore will be to recruit newer dancers and try to raise the bar on energy and the entertainment value of the Team and “Dancing Scottish”.

Engagements

The Activity Record documents 27 functions, the same as the year before –
- 5 in first Qtr (Summer)
- 9 in second Qtr (Fall)
- 9 in third Qtr (Burns)
- 4 in fourth Qtr (Spring)

Following the busy Burns season the Team took a break in February and a second smaller one in April, before rehearsals for the summer season where we were spectacularly unlucky with weather.

Our participation in the EuroFest at Swangaard Stadium could have been really worthwhile but it was destroyed by heavy rain and scant attendance. Much the same happened at the Highland Games where we had a joint Highland Games Team with the Tam O’Shanters, under the direction of Mary Murray and once again swamped by merciless rain.

The shift in the popularity of Scottish country dancing has taken its toll on 2 key engagements the Team has enjoyed for close to 30 years, namely the Burns Supper at the RVYC and it’s place in the entertainment at the St Andrew’s Ball, taken in both cases by a worthy, if different, successor – Shot of Scotch. These losses must give food for thought.

(Cont’d)
Finance

Approximately half the Performances undertaken were done without Fee. The Activity Record thus shows a **Gross Income of $2,150** for the year ended May 31st against Hall Rental and Honoraria Expenses of $3,350.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Sandy Caruth       pp Kay Sutherland
Team Manager       Team Director

REPORTS FROM AREA CLUBS

BURNABY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

The Burnaby Club continues to meet on Monday evenings with beginner class starting at 7:00pm and regular class from 7:30 to 10:00pm at the Scandinavian Community Centre located at 6540 Thomas Street in Burnaby (just north of the Kensington/Hwy #1 interchange).

The Burnaby Club reached a milestone this year when, after 26 years of teaching, Rosemary Coupe retired. We have been blessed with her fantastic teaching for so many years and her parting will leave very big shoes to fill. However, the good news is that Rosemary plans to continue as a Burnaby Club member.

This past season membership stood at 32. Our club policy is that all of our members are also members of the Vancouver Branch RSCDS.

Aside from the fun we have at our regular Monday night classes, there were several special highlights during our yearly activities including the following:

1. The Burnaby Club sponsored the Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance on November 11th.

2. A Christmas Ceilidh in early December included musical performances, singing, special dancing, and fancy food.

3. The Burnaby annual dance to the beautiful music of the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra held at Confederation House on March 5th.

4. The Burnaby Entertainment Team under the direction of Rosemary Coupe performed at five different venues.

5. Our two extra spring sessions classes in May were done jointly with the Deep Cove Club. This proved to be a huge success.

6. Burnaby Night in Stanley Park (June 20th) to the beautiful music of the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra.

7. Burnaby’s annual summer picnic on August 27 was held in the Coupe’s lovely garden.

It was a fun year for the Burnaby Club and our thanks go out to Rosemary Coupe for another great year of teaching and also to Cathrine Conings for piano accompaniment and her help with teaching.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Jackson, President
Glenayre Scottish Country Dance Club

Glenayre classes commenced on Sept. 9, 2015 in the Como Lake School cafeteria. After two weeks at this location it was decided that the floor was too hard for dancing. The club had been informed by our previous class location of Burquist that its fees were to be increased by 250% with one week’s notice. Our executive met with the Burquist hall management to discuss this major increase. In the end, Glenayre decided to increase membership fees to cover the increase in hall rental. During the year two new members joined the club, but unfortunately several other members were also lost.

Club events included a Halloween party, a Christmas Dance with 68 attendees, a Spring Dance, and hosting of Dancing in the Park on July 11. A number of members participated in Dancing in the Park throughout the summer. On Robbie Burns Day, a number of our dancers put on a demonstration at the Astoria Residence in Port Coquitlam, and members also participated in the local Kidney Walk, doing a dance demonstration and audience participation. Twelve club members performed at Burquist (Jewish Community Centre) for Purim on March 24th, including audience participation. This group also joined in some Jewish dancing. Our annual BBQ was held at members Bill and Louise’s home in July, with a good turnout of past and present members and spouses.

Submitted by Sue Sochasky, President

Deep Cove Scottish Country Dance Club

This year marks 30 years since the start of the Deep Cove Club in North Vancouver. We started the club with 12 dancers, some of whom are still dancing with us. Dorothy Hargreaves has been teaching for all those years, first with one class and then a few years later with an advanced class and also the Beginner class. Later other teachers helped by teaching the Beginner class briefly until Kay Sutherland one of our original members took over. This last two years Kay has taken the Advanced class and Alison Moen ( another long time member ) has taken on the Beginner class. Both are excellent SCD teachers and Dorothy is delighted to be able to leave both classes in such competent hands.

We have changed venues a few times over the years for various reasons, but always within the boundaries east of the Seymour river. Our present location just north of Second Narrows Bridge in Maplewood, is very accessible for all.

On our 30th anniversary the club members produced a book of dances written by Dorothy over the years. They worked hard producing this collection in time for our April dance. Thank you to all who bought copies. These are now available from TAC Books or Deep Cove members.

Our 30 year celebration also includes a lunch for old and new members at Mt. Seymour Golf Club, as we look forward to the next 30 years of happy dancing. It has been a privilege for me over 30 years to be involved with the delightful people in our group. I will not be teaching regularly any more, but hopefully will continue shuffling around in class for some time.

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Hargreaves & Annabel Herdman
FORT LANGLEY VOYAGEURS

The Fort Langley Voyageurs have again had a very successful year. We have had a number of young beginners with loads of enthusiasm and energy start dancing with the club, and they have remarked how much they have enjoyed the year. We have also had some graduates of Sandra Crosby’s Scottish Dancers join us. From the Halloween night in October to St. Andrews Dance in November, and from Burns night in January to our final May Tea Dance and year end Barbecue, we have had a wonderful and eventful year. This coming year we will be hosting the Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance in November.

Respectfully submitted by Larry Onatera

GLENEAGLES SCDC

Gleneagles Club gathered at Hollyburn School on the first three evenings of the week from September 2015 until April 2016. Louise Murphy continued to introduce our newer members to the beginning joys of Scottish Country Dancing at our Monday evening classes. She guided and encouraged them so that they are able to attend social dance activities and events. On Tuesdays, Simon Scott lead the challenge class for those interested in furthering their own personal dancing and learning less familiar dances. This class attracts dancers from other areas. The dancers who attend our Wednesday class, also taught by Simon, are the core of our Gleneagles Club and on this evening dances are taught in preparation for upcoming dance programs of our club as well as those in the Greater Vancouver area. We also prepare for our Annual Gleneagles Ball in December. At the Ball, held in the Pacific Ballroom of the Fairmont Vancouver Hotel with music by the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra, Gleneagles welcomes dancers from around the Lower Mainland, Washington State and Alberta.

The Club’s summer event is an afternoon barbeque held in the garden of long time members, May and Ian Loudon. This annual party, which is very well attended by current and former Gleneagles members, is a summer highlight of Gleneagles.

In August, Gleneagles again hosted the last evening of the RSCDS Vancouver Branch sponsored series, Dancing in the Park.

Submitted by Simon Scott

WEST END SCDC

Another good year for the club. Although a small club, the West End enjoyed a successful year starting with our well-received September 2015 Fall Frolic and ending with our DITP night in August 2016. The class prepared for the Lady Aberdeen dance and after that for the Langley dance in May. We are lucky to enjoy dancing to live music every second week (organized by Janice Hamilton of the VFO). New dancers are very transient with numbers varying constantly, but our core group of dancers are always eager to assist any beginners. We had a good turnout of dancers at the Lady Aberdeen Dance, Heather Ball and Fort Langley Tea Dance, and our dancers’

(Cont'd)
hard work paid off when they were able to do many of the dances. Our class picnic was hosted by Duncan & Margaret MacKenzie at their lovely home in White Rock with lots of good food, conversation and dancing on their lawn to the music of Janet Wright, Janice Hamilton and Kevin Hamilton.

We are sorry to say goodbye to Duncan and Denise who have taught the West End class for many years. Duncan and Denise both decided to retire at the end of the 2015-16 season, and Mary Ann McDevitt agreed to take over the class. Unfortunately, due to illness Duncan had to leave before Christmas, and Mary Ann and Denise filled the gap and finished the year. Duncan and Denise have both enjoyed teaching the West End group, and they hope that Mary Ann enjoys it as much as they have. They will return occasionally for support and hopefully some dancing and teaching.

Submitted by Mary Ann McDevitt and Denise Cunningham

**WHITE ROCK SCDC**

A well-attended Fall workshop was held at Sullivan Hall October 25, 2015. Dance wear was again offered at price of $5 with the proceeds going to the Club. A piper is always engaged for the Burns Supper in January, and the Haggis appropriately addressed. Our monthly social events are always well attended. At Christmas time $202 was collected from our members, which was matched by the Club and the amount of $404.00 donated to the Surrey Foodbank. The annual year-end Tea Dance was held May 1, 2016 at the Star of the Sea Hall, at which the Tartan Players provided lively music. By all accounts it was a very enjoyable event. For the first time the last class ended with a social gathering, for which the Club provided refreshments. This was very well received by all Club members.

Our membership stands at 43 members and there are always a number of drop-ins as well. We have five honorary members (octogenarians who have been long term members). Club fees remain at $100 for the whole season or $55 for half season and a drop-in fee of $5.

Submitted by Gerda Barwieck, President
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2016

Directors continuing to serve:

Officers:
- Peter Richards as Chair 1st year of term
- Heather Hankin as Vice Chair 1st year of term
- Gerry Stensgaard as Past Chair 1 year term
- Gill Beattie as Correspond’g Sec’ty 2nd year of 1st term
- Laurie Johnson as Treasurer 1st year of 2nd term
- Sally Marshall as Recording Sec’ty 1st year of 2nd term

Directors at Large:
- Janet Mason as Publicity Director 2nd year of 1st term
- Francis O’Farrell as Children’s Liaison 2nd year of 2nd term

All terms are 2 years, except where mentioned and all have agreed to remain and serve as referenced.

Candidate Directors:

Officer:
- Paul Lowe as Membership Sec’ty for 1 year
- Patsy Jamieson as Delegate Membership Sec’ty for 1 year

Directors at Large:
- Hamish Jackson 1st year of term
- Sandra Anderson 1st year of term
- Anne Brand 1st year of term

This is your candidate slate for 2016. All have accepted this nomination.

Nomination Committee

Sandy Caruth - Chair
Libby Alexander