

A HISTORY OF THE GLENEAGLES
SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB
(From 1962 to 2004)

Ray Eagle, FSA Scot

"True grace in motion comes from art, not chance,
as those move easiest who have learnt to dance."

A HISTORY OF THE GLENBAGLES
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(From 1902 to 2004)

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"The dance is made to move from left to right,
as they move across - the feet jump to dance."

FOREWORD:

When I was asked to write the history of our club my first reaction was to decline, until I thought of the fun and friendship that Maureen and I have enjoyed since we joined in 1972, and the many friends we have made over the years. I then felt an obligation and the task soon became a 'labour of love' as, going through the minute books names appeared (some unfortunately no longer with us) and events came back to mind.

From a personal point of view, Scottish Country dancing is strongly associated with my love of the Highlands and many tunes transport me there - provided a true feeling of the Highlands comes through the music. Other than dancing at ceilidhs on Skye in the late 1940s, I began Scottish Country dancing while in the British Army in Hong Kong through 1950/51. One dance I learned there was the recently revived "*Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh*", devised by Allie Anderson and Florence Leslie, with music written by John Robertson to commemorate the title bestowed on Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip after their marriage in November 1947. Over the years I have had opportunities to dance in Scotland and it always gives me a special thrill to experience that meeting of dance form, music and location.

I hope this history has captured the flavour of Gleneagles and its members. We owe a debt of gratitude to the teachers, beginning with Mary Brandon (Shoolbraid) through to our principal teacher May Loudon. They all sought to instill a high standard of dancing, yet showed tremendous patience when a new dance did not come together as it was intended. Scottish Country dancing is going through a difficult period, with the decline in numbers emigrating from Britain, but this history reveals that there has been hand-wringing before and yet the club has remained vital over the years and there is always the pleasant surprise of finding that, just when we least expected it, someone new would come along and make rapid progress from beginners to advanced, and I am sure this will continue. So, here is the history of our club, and I hope I have done justice to it and its changing kaleidoscope of members throughout the years.

Ray Eagle

February 2005

1970-1971
I was asked to write the 1970-1971 report on the progress of the work done in the field of the study of the history of the city of London. I have to report that the work has been carried out in accordance with the programme of work approved by the Council in 1969. The work has been carried out in accordance with the programme of work approved by the Council in 1969. The work has been carried out in accordance with the programme of work approved by the Council in 1969.

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An excerpt from the novel "Tunes of Glory":

"Colonel Barrow disappeared into the ante-room when the dancing began. The noise from the hall grew in gusts and it was soon clear the style of dancing was diverging very far from that laid down by the Pipe-Major at the early morning classes.

The Colonel could stand it no longer. It was as if he had known all along that the party was building to this. When he saw the scene in the hall he grew pale with anger. There were two sets dancing the Eightsome Reel; the first was lively, but that was excusable at the end of a party. That however, could not be said for the second set. The whole floor was shaking and the glass in the door to the officers' mess was rattling as the dancers leapt about the room swinging, swaying and shouting. When they saw the Colonel the noise increased, and a moment later Lieutenant Rattray inadvertently let go of his partner as he swung her vigorously, so that she spun like a top across the floor, lost her balance and fell - right at Colonel Barrow's feet."

Incredibly, this scene from the novel "Tunes of Glory" and so well portrayed in the 1960 film version was, in early 1962, largely the inspiration for Dean and Jean MacKay and their friends Stewart and Eileen Cameron to inquire about starting a Scottish Country Dance class in West Vancouver.

Basil Barrow's (John Mills) protagonist was Colonel 'Jock' Sinclair, DSO (Alec Guinness). He had come up from the ranks and was beloved by the men, who resented the intrusion of the Eton and Oxford educated new colonel, hence the inexcusable behaviour of 'Jock' and a few of his fellow officers at a cocktail party. The scene took place in the glorious setting of Stirling Castle and with the Highland uniforms and the dancing to the pipes, no wonder it stirred some of the audience with thoughts of taking up Scottish Country dancing!

The MacKays and Camerons persisted in their inquiry and found there were several classes around the Lower Mainland. They also contacted other friends and neighbours on the North Shore and found enough interest to begin searching for a teacher.** They were put in touch with Mary Shoolbraid, who agreed to take on these 'raw recruits' as Dean referred to themselves. At that time Mary was one of the few certified teachers in the Lower Mainland. There was also Mrs. Thomas (Eleanor) Bingham, Mrs. Mary MacNab and Hugh Thurston who, in 1957 had moved from Bristol, England to Vancouver to teach mathematics at U.B.C. With his expertise in teaching and dance composition he added much to Scottish Country dancing in Vancouver. Gradually, more people were certified as teachers. Mary later married David Brandon and moved to the U.S. Eventually David's job took them to Hawaii where they lived for several years.

(** In fact there had been Scottish Country dancing on the North Shore many years earlier - see Appendix 5)

Mary Shoolbraid wrote the popular beginner's dance, "*Mamie's Jig*", named after her mother. Mary's brother, Murray Shoolbraid played the piano for several years in "Schiehallion", the band begun in 1975 by the two Ians (Brady and Price). Murray followed the late George Will, who played in the band's early days. Also playing in the band were Celia Collin on the fiddle, Davene Browne on double bass and the late Derek Hill on drums. Hugh MacCready was an alternate drummer in the band. (Hugh's wife, Jessie, is a popular Scottish country dance teacher. Celia is a highly acclaimed landscape and seascape painter.)

In those early days there was some resistance to formalizing a club. As Dean MacKay pointed out in a 1987 letter to long-time Gleneagles member Ann Ferries, 'meetings, minutes and electing club officers were not for us,' so for several months the group functioned as a class only, just paying dues sufficient to cover the rental of the Gleneagles Golf Club. Dean wrote: "We turned out once a week to stumble and laugh our way through the rather strange patterns and steps of Scottish Country dancing, all in high good humour." He also remembered Mary's gift for teaching, but added: "By golly, when she set out to teach us there was no larking about . . . and her Scots accent got broader as she became more exasperated with our somewhat clumsy efforts." One of her favourite lines was that these neophyte dancers were like 'plunging horses.' In an October 2002 telephone conversation with Mary Brandon she recalled one night when, emerging from the class, it had snowed so heavily that Lions Gate Bridge was closed to traffic. Fortunately she was given a bed by a couple from the dance group.

Aside from the McKays and Camerons, among the early dancers were Jack and Connie Thompson, Mary and Di Evans, Johanne and Helen Nordwall (now Helen Stewart), Sheila Gairns, Phil and Geraldine (Pat) Knight, Ian and Joyce Cowan, Ian and Rhody Lake, George and Norma Connolly, Sheena Campbell, Betty Grant, Marjorie Henson, Art and Eileen Halsall, Barbara McPhail, Margaret Gilchrist, Georgie Dunham, Brian Stroup, Charlie and Peggy Greig and, of course, Ann Ferries. Ann recalls that many of these people lived close enough to Gleneagles, and later to St. Monica's to walk to classes. Some of the women had danced before, particularly Georgie Dunham and Betty Grant. An effort was made to keep male and female dancers about even, with an unspoken rule: "If your own husband won't join, then bring someone else's!" However, some reluctant husbands were dragged along kicking and screaming that "they wanted nothing to do with this stupid dancing" though they did eventually join - and to their surprise began to enjoy it. One couple who were asked by Mary Brandon to come and help out were Ken and Eileen Bennett, because they had danced in Mrs. Bingham's class in Vancouver. This did not stop Mary from slapping Ken's knees on one occasion, with the admonishment "Get your knees out Ken!" Ken and Eileen were active with the Lady Aberdeen group and Ken still provides the music for the very successful Lady Aberdeen Remembrance Day Dance each November 11.

(Ann and her husband John, a North Vancouver eye specialist, were married in South Africa in 1952 and moved to U.K. for several years where they lived in John's hometown, Aberdeen, before coming to Vancouver in the late 1950s. Like many dancers, Ann recalls the fun of doing '*Strip the Willow*' and other such ceilidh dances at the Simonstown naval base near Cape Town. In Scotland Ann took lessons both in Aberdeen and Glasgow, but it was not until arriving on the North Shore that her keenness truly developed

Along with her friend Emil McAdam, Ann began dancing in Mrs. Bingham's North Vancouver class in 1959 but when she and John moved to West Vancouver in 1962 she joined Mary Shoolbraid's new class. Ann has danced regularly on the Gleneagles demonstration team almost since its inception, and in 1997 she was honoured when John Drewry wrote "*Ann of Gleneagles*" for her 65th birthday.)

The group met without any formal status at Gleneagles Golf Club for about a year, but when the club-house was leased to Regency Caterers in early 1964, the classes were moved to St. Monica's Church hall. In April 1964 a committee was formed and officers elected. Dean MacKay became its first President, Betty Grant the first treasurer and Margaret Gilchrist the first secretary. In deciding on the

club's name at this first formal meeting, it was a natural to call it the Gleneagles Scottish Country Dance Club. By the Fall of 1964 there was so much enthusiasm that it was decided to organize a Ball.

Having now seen the club's progress thus far, from its beginnings to thoughts of a first Ball, it might be time to digress slightly and examine where the idea to form the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society came from in the first place. Scottish Country Dancing ('country' comes from the French *contre*, ie with two facing lines) goes back many centuries. By the 1700s Scottish Country Dancing was highly developed and there were any number of reels to choose from, but after Culloden, when Highland dress and music were proscribed, this dance form was discouraged. However, those that escaped with Bonnie Prince Charlie to France, carried on their Highland traditions in safety, and soon variations were added from the French dance patterns, particularly the *pas de basque*, the *pousette* and the *rondelle*.

A good description of Scottish Country dancing is provided by two keen observers, Dr. Samuel Johnson and his companion James Boswell in their August to November tour of the Hebrides in 1773 (see Appendix 1). Another description of dancing in Scotland was provided a few years later by Elizabeth Grant of Rothiemurchus in her autobiography, "Memoirs of a Highland Lady", which covered the period from 1797 to 1827. (see Appendix 2)

Credit for the initial revival of Scottish Country Dancing must go to Mrs. Stewart of Fasnacloch. She was born Ysobel Campbell in December 1882, daughter of Colonel Duncan Campbell, Laird of Inverneill and Ross in Argyllshire. There were already two sons and two more followed her. In 1909 Ysobel Campbell married Ian Stewart, 12th Laird of Fasnacloch, then a Captain in the Scottish Horse. By the early 1920s, Ysobel Stewart had become active in the Girl Guide movement, first as a Guide Company leader in Galloway, Ayrshire and then as Camp Director for Scotland and Head of Training. In 1921 she accepted the post as Commissioner for Ayrshire. A talented needle-woman, she had won prizes for her spinning, weaving and knitting, but music also played an important part in her upbringing at Inverneill. Her father was a piper and taught Ysobel to play the pipes. She became good enough that she sometimes adjudicated with him at local competitions. Duncan Campbell was a Gaelic speaker and made sure that his children were fluent in the tongue. Ysobel became a proficient singer of Gaelic songs.

Her family was also keen on dancing reels and jigs and it was a shock to find that the Guide Companies in Scotland were taught only English Country dances. She was very keen to teach Scottish Country dancing to her Guides, but upon asking why this was not already happening she was told that there were no books available. Ysobel Stewart showed her determination in an account written in November 1948 in which she said: ". . . this want of a book seemed to be universal so I set to work to write one. Taking a blank book with lines for music on alternate pages I wrote out descriptions of the dances I had always known and danced as a girl in Argyll. I copied the music on the opposite page. I showed this book at a Commissioners' Conference and found agreement as to the manner of carrying out the dances."

She sought the help of James Diack of the music publisher Patersons, in finding someone who was equally keen on reviving Scottish Country dancing and was put in touch with Jean Milligan. Miss Milligan, as she became affectionately known,

was a highly qualified physical training instructor, who had also been trained in nursing. It was a fortunate meeting of the minds and Jean Milligan received Ysobel Stewart's suggestions enthusiastically. Both were determined to revitalize the grace and form of Scottish Country Dancing as opposed to that used at County Balls frequented by the gentry. Although up to this time many dances appeared by name on ball programmes, and the formations were largely followed, the steps left much to be desired. The 'skip-change of step' and the pas de basque had all but disappeared. Even now in Scotland there is a great difference between the standard of dancing at a County Ball and a Royal Scottish Country Society Ball. Callum Buchanan who, along with his wife Jenny were one-time Gleneagles dancers (they now live in Fortrose on the Black Isle) coined the 'other' dancing the "County Shuffle!"

(In the May 2000 "White Cockade" Geoffrey Selling's piece, "The Reelers" explains the differences that might be encountered at a County Ball. See Appendix 3)

On Monday, November 26, 1923 the following notice appeared in the Glasgow Herald, under the heading 'SCOTS COUNTRY DANCES':

"A meeting of all interested in above will be held in the Athenæum, St. George's Place, tonight at 5 o'clock."

Nowadays it is inconceivable that a three-line newspaper notice of a meeting that same day would draw people, but even then, the two women who had been responsible for it were on tenterhooks when at the appointed hour they waited with the Chairman for the evening, Mr. F. H. Bisset, assisted by James Diack. Incredibly, over forty people attended - and that, fellow dancers is where it all began.

From that meeting a committee was formed and the name Scottish Country Dance Society was given to the fledgling organization. The annual membership fee was five shillings, and it remained at that until 1967, when it was raised to seven shillings and sixpence. Only three months after that inaugural meeting, in January 1924, Book I was issued and 1,165 copies were sold.

By the time the Gleneagles Club was formed, the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (as it became in 1951) had a world-wide membership with over one hundred branches. In 1957 the first branches in Canada were formed, in Toronto and Montreal, following the first North American visit by Miss Milligan. The Teachers' Association of Canada was established in 1958.

Miss Milligan continued visiting branches well into the 1970's and kept active in the affairs of the Society right up to her death on July 28, 1978 at the age of 92. By the 1950's, Mrs Stewart's health began to fail, due to the onslaught of rheumatism, but she still maintained a keen interest in R.S.C.D.S. affairs and remained an Honorary Vice-President though she found it increasingly difficult to attend meetings from her home in Ardrishaig, Argyll. In 1955 she emigrated to South Africa, with its kinder climate, where she joined relatives. From there she still kept up a correspondence with the staff at Coates Crescent, and occasionally visited R.S.C.D.S. branches and clubs in her new country. Mrs. Stewart died on October 15, 1968 at the age of 86, so both of our founders lived well into old-age and saw the Society not only flourish, but become truly international.

It is quite certain that when the MacKays and Camerons decided to take up Scottish Country dancing back in 1962, they had no idea what they were about to unleash on the North Shore. The chosen location for the first Ball was the Gleneagles club-

house. This was quite an undertaking but the enthusiasm and determination knew no bounds. The organizers were adamant that it would not be just 'canned music and cookies' but a real roof-raising bash with live music, properly catered and with a wet bar.

In his letter to Ann Ferries, Dean recalled calculating the cost of the Ball at over \$1000 - while the club had maybe \$20 cash in coffee money. A date of Saturday March 6th 1965 was confirmed and, undaunted, the committee got to work. It was discovered that an accordion band had been formed in Powell River. It was named the 'Teuchter's Band' led by Murray Black, and in fact was well known to Vancouver dancers as they had been playing for workshops at U.B.C. for two or three years. The committee got quotes from caterers; lined up a liquor license; hired bar-tenders - and had 300 tickets printed at \$2.50 each*. To encourage non-Scottish Country dancers to come along, half of the programme was to be ballroom dances. All the dance groups around the Lower Mainland were contacted, as well as Victoria and N.W. Washington.

(*with a hot or cold buffet listed at around \$2.25 per person and whisky at \$5.60 a bottle, the low price of admission is not surprising. But where were the Scots on that evening? - because far more Rye was consumed than Scotch)

Requests for tickets came in steadily, but despite this there were a few unsold tickets by the evening of the Ball. Nevertheless it was a huge success, especially when some locals, attracted by a piper marching up and down in front of the club-house came to see what it was all about - and three couples rushed home to re-appear formally dressed with money in hand. Then a loaded station-wagon appeared, filled with dancers from Whidbey Island. In sending out the invitations to the groups outside the Lower Mainland, Dean MacKay said: "Dress is optional, though most of the local dancers will be dressed 'as formally as they can.'"

A surprising number of men had donned formal Highland dress and their ladies wore long white dresses and tartan sashes. Many of the dances will be familiar to present-day dancers: *Hooper's Jig*; *Cadgers in the Cannongate*; *Waltz Country Dance*; *General Stuart's Reel*; *The Glasgow Highlanders*; *McLaine of Lochbuie*; *Bonnie Stronshiray*; *The Montgomeries' Rant and the Duke of Perth*, but *The Lad With The Plaidie* * and *Rory O'More* are seldom seen on programmes now. The Ball marked the official founding of the club and from then on, the number of people wanting to take lessons expanded rapidly (*devised by Hugh Thurston).

When Mary Shoolbraid left for the United States her place was taken by Harvey Barnes, who had come out from Glasgow in 1954. He had just passed his preliminary teachers certificate, which was conducted by Miss Milligan out at U.B.C. Harvey and his then wife, Paulina, taught at Gleneagles until Harvey moved to Montreal for a year in 1967. Simon Scott took over and remained one of the principal teachers for over twenty years.

With such a new enterprise it was expected that the interest of some people would quickly wane, but there were many stalwarts who became dedicated dancers. Some are still involved, if not actually dancing. As well as Ann Ferries, six couples in particular came on the scene very early and have remained in touch. These were our own principal teacher May Loudon and husband Ian, Andrew and Joan MacArthur, Andrew and Alison Steele, Jeanette and Phillip (Pip) Stigger, David and Elsie Foreman and John and Wilma Beltz. The Steeles moved to the Sunshine Coast in the 1970's and formed a dance group there, which

is still going strong. Joan and Andrew were on the Vancouver Demonstration Team for many years.

(In the 1960's Jeanette Stigger was a missionary teacher with the Universities Mission to Central Africa, and Pip worked for the Tanganyikan Government - now Tanzania. Dancing in Dar-es-Salaam was such hot work they always took along a bottle of beer and a towel. Arriving on the North Shore in 1965 with two young children, Jeanette recalls her alarm while driving to classes on the busy Upper-Levels Highway - as compared to the quieter, though rougher roads of Central Africa. Pip taught African history at S.F.U. for many years and in 1985 Jeannette was ordained into the Anglican church. Her first calling was as curate at West Vancouver's St. Francis in the Woods but she then moved to North Burnaby as rector of St. Nicolas Church until retirement.

David and Elsie Foreman must hold the record for long-term dancing in foreign cities. By the time they finally returned to Gleneagles, having left in 1974 for David's appointment with an international grain company in Asia, they had danced in Singapore for seven years, followed by Tokyo and Hong Kong for four and a half years in each place. They attended many balls in these locations, served on demonstration teams and, occasionally, when no one else was available, acted as instructors.

John Beltz has been a long-time member of Gleneagles, but his R.S.C.D.S association goes back many years because his mother, Phyllis, (a well known B.C. mountaineer) danced with Mrs. Bingham in the 1950s. John grew up in the Dutch East Indies where his father was an oil industry geologist. In the 1950s John took law at U.B.C., where he was introduced to Scottish Country dancing by fellow student Pat Thomas who held classes in an old army shack on campus. John met student teacher Wilma there, who was a proficient Highland dancer. Upon graduation he began practicing law, but switched to teaching for several years including a spell in Borneo where he became a District Education Officer under the Columbo Plan and John recalls attending a St. Andrews night at a local golf club there, where he was roped into a Scottish Country dance demonstration.)

In January, 1966 a weekly class was begun at Gleneagles School, while the Intermediate class remained at St. Monica's Church Hall, though by the Fall it too had moved to Gleneagles. Plans were begun for the second Annual Ball, to take place on March 5th. The price had gone up to an exorbitant \$3.75. The dance programme included an *Eightsome Reel*, *Scottish Reform*, *The Montgomeries' Rant*, *Monymusk*, *Rest and be Thankful*, *Glasgow Highlanders*, *Waltz Country Dance*, *Hooper's Jig*, *Duke of Perth* and three dances that have not been on recent programmes: *Frae Scotia's Shores*, *We're Noo Awa*, *Dr. Robertson* and again, *The Lad Wi' the Plaidie*. For the benefit of non-Scottish Country dancers the programme was again interspersed with ballroom dances.

Obviously the task of counting sets had not become the simple task it is today, as there is a note on one of the pre-Ball meeting agendas: "We need more marshals for the sets; possibly four or six and they could be issued with a colourful armband (Sgt. at Arms)." (Can the lack of decorum have been that bad?)

In the interval, Mary Evans had taken over as club secretary until April 1966, when the first full formal slate of officers was elected. Ian Lake was elected President, Andrew MacArthur and the late Derek Morys-Edge as Vice-Presidents, Philip Knight as Treasurer and Marjorie Henson as Secretary. (Derek Morys-Edge was also an officer in the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada and was later active in creating the Trans-Canada Trail network)

On April 21, 1967 a special event took place, organized by the Vancouver Branch, to which Gleneagles club members received an invitation. It was a dance to honour Mrs. Eleanor Bingham and Mrs. Betty Stuart for their many years of dedication to Scottish Country dancing. Mrs Stuart was the principal pianist for Mrs. Bingham's classes. (see Appendix 4: Early Years)

In March 1968 Andrew MacArthur took over as club President, with Ian Loudon and George Connolly as Vice-Presidents and Andrew Steele became Treasurer. Marjorie Henson continued as Secretary and remained a dancer for many years. In August of 1968 Elspeth Gadsby took over as Secretary. By this time more names had appeared that have remained with the club over the years: Art and Fran Ruegg, Alan and Anna Brown and Robert and Rosemary Coupe.

(The Coupes met at Hugh Thurston's class at U.B.C. before moving over to Gleneagles, where Rosemary later taught the beginners' class for several years after gaining her preliminary teachers' certificate at St. Andrews. She now teaches in Burnaby and is editor of the *White Cockade*, the impressive Branch newsletter.

Andrew MacArthur was also the Vancouver Branch Chairman from 1981 to 1982. He was noted for his wild 'heuchs' while dancing, which was acknowledged when, at the 1981 Vancouver Branch Ball he was presented with a T-shirt that had "*The Happy Heucher*" printed across it. It should also be noted that the dance *MacArthur Park* was written for Joan and Andrew by Simon Scott and the music was written by Ian Price and Murray Shoolbraid)

The first formal request to dance in public came in June 1968 when the Club was asked to perform at the Park Royal shopping centre to dance at two locations; by the Woodward's Department Store inner west entrance on the North Plaza, and by the Eaton's Department Store entrance on the South Plaza.

At the September sign-up, club fees were recorded for the first time and were set at \$6.00 for the September to December term. In a letter to the Vancouver Branch dated September 9, 1969 a request was made for a teacher for the coming Fall and Winter sessions. The letter ended on a prescient note: "For the past two years we have enjoyed the teaching of Simon Scott and both classes have been most happy with him, therefore, if it is at all possible, we would appreciate having his services once again." A reply was received and Simon was once more secured.

At the 1969 A.G.M., Andrew MacArthur remained as President and David Foreman and Jack Thompson were nominated as Vice-Presidents, while Margaret Fyfe took over as Secretary. A slight change of venue was introduced in September when the basement of the Presbyterian Church at 29th and Marine Drive was acquired for the beginners' class, which May Loudon taught. The 1969 Ball was planned for December 6. By now ballroom dances were less frequent, but again a few of the Scottish Country dances on the programme are no longer familiar, such as the *Ellwyn Strathspey*, *Speed the Plough*, *the Dundee Civic Jig* and *Angus MacLeod*. *The Dalkeith Strathspey* was popular into the Seventies, but has not been danced for some time. *Angus MacLeod* was danced for the first time in many years at a March 2002 class under May's direction (May recalled being pregnant with their now adult son, John, when Ian came home and told her about this 'wonderful new dance' the class had learned). The Teuchters had played for the Balls up to 1968, but their leader, Murray Black, moved to the Maritimes and the band broke-up. It was now back to records for the December 6, 1969 Ball - and the ticket price had crept up to \$5.00.

A new couple joined the Club in 1969, Stan and Sue Ward, already experienced dancers who arrived from Perth, Western Australia, where they had danced regularly, though they were both originally from the U.K.. They had the distinction of having danced to Ian Powrie's band, whose move from Scotland to live in Australia, gave rise to the ever popular dance "*Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder*." Stan composed a dance in honour of the Gleneagles club titled "*Eagles of the Glen*."

By the time the November 1970 ball came around it was decided to purchase a tape-deck machine to solve a jumping needle problem with records. In the meantime, at the September 22 A.G.M. the Presidency had changed to David Foreman, with Art Ruegg as Vice-President. Andrew Steele and Margaret Fyfe remained Treasurer and Secretary respectively. The Ball date of November 28 gave some concern as it was Grey Cup weekend and also St. Andrews night, which meant the Branch Demonstration Team would be unable to entertain at the Ball. Nevertheless the date remained and fears of too many people getting into Grey Cup fever proved groundless because the Ball was a great success.

A departure in 1971 was that as well as a Ball, there was a Guy Fawkes Party on November 5th (dancers from the U.K. will remember taking their stuffed Guy Fawkes dressed in cast-off clothing around the neighbourhood in a wheel-barrow or trolley and asking "A penny for the Guy?" - before it was placed on a bonfire). The party was to be held in the West Vancouver's Community Centre Annex and Andrew Steele volunteered to make suitable decorations for a Guy Fawkes theme. There was general enthusiasm from the planning committee, which now included two names, Don and Mary Pool, who were to become very familiar to many, many dancers, and in 1971 Mary became social convenor of the Gleneagles Club.

With the Club in its seventh year, there was enough interest each September from people wishing to join, to have a sizable Beginners class. Because of this a need arose to judge the readiness of members to move up to the Intermediate (or in some cases Advanced class) when classes began each September. The Executive Committee agreed that the move up should be by invitation only and it fell upon Simon Scott to be the judge as to who was ready. Another question brought up was the use of 'cheat sheets' and it was agreed that these were acceptable.

At about this time another couple with an Australian connection joined Gleneagles. This was Keith and Adele Wade who danced in the early 70s and returned recently after an absence of several years. (Although they are Canadians, Keith had chosen to move to Canberra where he did his Doctoral Thesis in high altitude tropical botany at the prestigious Australian National University. His field work was carried out on a New Guinea mountain - at over 11,000 feet! Neither had given any thought to Scottish Country dancing but Keith's professor, a Scot, introduced them to it and when they returned to Vancouver they carried on, firstly with Mary Murray's Carisbrooke class and then to Gleneagles where they danced regularly until the late '70s when the demands of a growing family intervened. They were determined to come back, but it was about fifteen years later, in the mid-90s that they once more located their dancing shoes and returned regularly to May's Wednesday night class.)

At a March 1972 executive meeting a number of issues were raised. One was to encourage club members to take out membership in the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Gleneagles was not affiliated with the Vancouver Branch* and therefore members did not yet have an automatic R.S.C.D.S. membership with the

annual club subscription. By the May 1972 A.G.M. this became a requirement. The other 'weighty' matter discussed was that sashes be worn by women dancing as men.

(*The Branch was formally incorporated after the Gleneagles Club was formed)

In the early part of 1972 there was much discussion about dancing standards, and how to improve it. A March 13 letter was sent to all club members by President David Foreman in which he outlined some thoughts on this:

"After Easter the Beginners' Class on Mondays will be discontinued [presumably for the balance of that year only]. In its stead some of our more experienced dancers will be invited by our instructor to partake in a progressive class on Mondays. Everyone is invited to attend on Tuesday evenings, which will continue unaltered from April 11 to May 9.

Once again we draw your attention to membership in the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. As a club we draw considerable benefits from the local Branch despite not being affiliated. We would urge you take out individual memberships, for in all branch classes it is compulsory."

At the May 9, 1972 A.G.M. Andrew Steele became President, Ian Loudon became Vice-President, Don Pool took over as Treasurer and Fran Ruegg became Secretary. Mary Pool remained Social Convenor. Andrew Steele first addressed the issue which had occupied the previous executive committee: "The President called for members to give their opinion as to how to improve the standard of dancing in the club. Various ideas were suggested, which included repeating dances each week and instituting one new dance and dropping one dance each session. Lastly, having a change of teachers once a month.

A question raised at the first meeting of the new executive was that of recruiting new members, and several methods were proposed including more coverage in the two newspapers then serving the North Shore, "The Citizen" and "Lions Gate Times." Also church bulletins and even 14 1/2" X 9" bus posters were suggested.

The fees had gone up to \$10.00 per term, though this did include \$2.50 Branch membership. By now the club was accumulating funds and by May of 1972 the closing balance was \$415.55. The use of Hollyburn Elementary School continued, and in view of what has happened in subsequent years with budgetary constraints, it is interesting to note that the 1972 West Vancouver School Board fee schedule pamphlet had this statement printed right on the front: "It is the policy of the West Vancouver School Board to encourage the use of school facilities."

Gleneagles was particularly lucky in that the long-time janitor at Hollyburn Elementary, Tony Mew, was most cooperative and was not in the least worried if classes went a little overtime. He was always warmly applauded for his cooperation by the combined classes at the end of term parties.

Recruiting went well in the Fall of 1972, and a large Beginners class was formed which included Ray and Maureen Eagle and John and Margaret Wilton, along with their daughter Jan. Newcomers that year were fortunate that the very first night of dancing, at Pauline Johnson School, was taught by Simon Scott.

In early 1973 the club was informed that Simon would be unavailable for an indefinite period, due to an offer to work in Italy. A farewell party was arranged for him on March 3 and one of the highlights planned was entertainment by an unusual group called the 'Abdomen.' This remarkable dance form has not been

seen for several years (some might say 'thank goodness!') but it consisted of eight men with faces painted on their stomachs, under an oversized bonnet held in place by crossed arms inside it. A miniature kilt completed the illusion of strange-looking little men. There were eye-holes in the bonnets but they provided very limited vision. It was always performed by dancing a regular popular dance, but of course, with this limited vision the likelihood of disorientation was high, and this is where the huge amusement of the onlookers came in. The other difficulty was for the men who danced on the ladies side and they were the most prone to sometimes wander off out of the dance entirely! One memorable demonstration at a Burns' Night in the old North Vancouver Royal Canadian Legion was further complicated by the presence of support stanchions at regular intervals around the dance floor.

To ensure continuity of classes in Simon's absence, teaching was shared between May Loudon, Alan Brown, Alison Steele and Stan Ward, all of whom had gained their preliminary teaching certificate in 1973. New Executive Committee members that year were John Wilton and Stan Ward; Anna Brown became Social Convenor. Once more the question of dancing competency came up and it was decided that the decision to move a new dancer from Beginners to Intermediate or from that level to Advanced would be at the discretion of the teachers. It would not be up to the individual dancer to decide where they might fit.

On July 6 in the summer of 1973, Don and Mary Pool offered their garden for what was billed in the minutes a 'Splash and Steak Party.' It was a huge success and the tone was set for many years to come. The arrangement was that if the Saturday weather was unsuitable, the party would be re-scheduled for the Sunday. In over twenty-five years re-scheduling was only necessary on two occasions at the most; an incredible record. In earlier years music was set up on the lower lawn below the pool area for Scottish Country dancing, though latterly this was discontinued.

Whoever was responsible for the 1973-74 Fall/Winter publicity showed considerable flare. A September 20 Editorial in that long departed North Shore weekly, "The Lions Gate Times", saluted the Gleneagles Club under the banner "Anniversary time for Dancing Club":

"The North Shore community might well be named "Little Scotland" as it is liberally sprinkled with Scottish street names such as Argyle, Balmoral, Caledonia and Gleneagles. The skirl of the pipes and the swing of the kilt as North Shore youngsters perform the Highland Fling, bring the true sights and sounds of Scotland to our parks and halls.

Scottish dancing is not, however, entirely the prerogative of the young, and each fall adult members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, dust off their shoes and gather at various centres across the North Shore for the start of another season of classes, socials and balls, dancing reels, jigs and Strathspeys to the beat of Scotland's finest bands. The classes are open to all adults and are not confined to any nationality. At Hollyburn School in West Vancouver there is a special evening for beginners. For information call . . ."

In the same week an even more intriguing item appeared in "The Citizen", which produced this editorial comment:

"Some public relations people will do anything to get space. We bend our knee to the unnamed but hardly undistinguished PR type who, in a successful effort to plug the weekly Scottish Country dancing classes at Hollyburn School wrote an appealing piece on this dance form."

No wonder this descriptive item caught the editor's eye:

'The darkening evenings herald the first frosts of fall, to be followed by white snow caps along our North Shore mountains. The keen skiers will be lining up for their pre-season exercises - up on the toes, bend your knees - etc. Effective but not very entertaining. How about doing it to music? Really? Why not join a Scottish Country dance class? Oh, yes, we have the same exercises but just to warm up for five minutes. After that it's two hours of fun with some great beat music (Scottish of course). Skiers, we await your reply.'

(An accolade for anyone who can claim to have written this)

At the September 25, 1973 A.G.M. Simon Scott, having returned from his assignment in Italy, was welcomed back as principal teacher. The December 1st Ball programme was made up of dances that have a very familiar ring to those members who danced during the early 1970's and included such then favourites as *J.B. Milne*, *The Frisky*, *Pinewoods Reel*, *Sugar Candie*, *Cadgers in the Cannongate*, *Miss Milligan's Strathspey*, *General Stuart's Reel* and *Dalkeith's Strathspey*.

By early 1974, such was the keenness for dancing, with a growing club membership, that a children's class was organized under May's direction. Eight children had already signed up and May correctly anticipated more as word got around. (An earlier children's class at St. Monica's had not lasted for long)

At the May 14, 1974 A.G.M., Ian Loudon was appointed President, with Alan Brown as Vice-President. Don Pool remained as Treasurer and Anna Brown took over as Secretary while Prim Jones became Social Convenor. Elected to the committee as members at large were Stan Ward, Stan Mitchell and Bill Dickson (Prim and Doug Jones, as well as Stan and Thelma Mitchell, had joined the club the previous year and entered into club activities with keenness). Originally from the U.S., Bill and Janet Dickson added their unique flair to the club. Bill was a professor of economics at Simon Fraser University and was also a first-class piper, often playing at functions on campus. Bill died in 1979. Janet (now Janet Mierau) is both a piper and skilled Highland dancer. She also taught both beginners and intermediate classes.

An interesting request was made to the Club that year. It was to attend a B.C. Guides and U.S. Girl Scouts Gathering at the Peace Arch Potlatch Camp. A large contingent of Gleneagles dancers put on a display for the girls.

When dancing resumed in the Fall of 1974 there was one difference to previous years. Gleneagles Club appeared in the North Shore Night School advertisement as a night school class, though it was also acknowledged that 'word of mouth' was an equally effective recruiting tool. An indication of the club's success was a concern about finding enough suitable locations and extra teachers. Irwin Park Elementary was rented for one of the extra classes. There were also enough interested young people to form a special teen-age group, who danced in the basement of the Presbyterian church. By now the bank balance had increased to almost \$1,200.00 including \$500.00 in a special 'rainy day' account.

Two members of the executive committee, Fran Ruegg and Alison Steele, were invited to a Vancouver Branch meeting called to discuss an idea by Ian Brady for a Scottish Country Dance Week. There was enough interest that the idea was approved, to take place in August 1976. Unfortunately the plan was eventually dropped, though in later years other week-long events took place in Vancouver.

Plans for the 1975 Gleneagles Ball began early in the year when an anonymous donation of \$500 was made to the club to ensure live music. A date of December 6 had already been selected and the committee approached three bands to sound them out about playing. These were Andrew Rankin, Angus MacKinnon and Stan Hamilton. It was finally agreed that Angus MacKinnon* and his "Scots Canadians" had made the best offer and he was selected to play for the Ball, to be held once again at the Gleneagles Golf Club facility. In fact because of new, somewhat irksome regulations at the golf club it was decided to find another location. After looking at a number of possibilities, the auditorium of Carson Graham School was chosen. It was such a large space that 350 tickets were printed, at a cost of \$15.00 each, and because the auditorium had a balcony it was suggested that supper only tickets be sold for \$8.00 to non-dancers to watch from the balcony.

(Angus MacKinnon came to live in Vancouver in 1990. He was honoured at the 2003 Betwixt and Between when for the dance *Cornriggs* Alex Jappy played the tune "Angus McKinnon's Hornpipe", composed by Angus. There is also a dance of the same name devised by John Bowie Dickson, who wrote *Pinewoods Reel* and *Postie's Jig*. Angus has been playing the fiddle since he about four years old and for many years played with his two sisters, one who played the piano and the other the accordion. After passing an audition they played on B.B.C. Scotland.)

The 1975 Ball, held at Carson Graham School, was the most successful to that time and tickets were sold as far away as Toronto, California and Hawaii. There were so many out of town people that a list of nearby hotels and motels were distributed to all inquirers. Despite the plainness of the Auditorium, when the decorating was completed it looked more like a ballroom, especially as it was large enough to allow the tables to remain. There was a 'castle' backdrop made by May Loudon and Prim Jones, while Stan Ward and Crawford Laing* created the special lighting effects. Some of the 1975 Ball dances have fallen out of popularity, such as *Circassian Circle*, *Grant's Reel*, *Ca' the Ewes tae the Knowes*, *None so Pretty*, *Just as I was in the Morning*, and *The Red House Reel*.

(*Sheila and Crawford Laing were long-time dancers and contributed their energies to the club throughout the 'seventies and into the 'eighties. They now live in Steveston)

At the April 27 1976 A.G.M. Ian Loudon stood down as President after being in the position for two years, and Alan Brown took over. There were several changes; Stan Ward became Vice-President, Jean Stepanick (who had joined with husband Larry) became Secretary, Joyce Horton as Social Convenor. Ian Loudon remained on the Committee as Treasurer and members at large were Joan MacArthur and Ray Eagle. The Treasurer reported a closing balance of \$1095.61 and the incredible sum of \$2611.00 had passed through the club's books that year.. There were ninety-two paid-up adult dancers and some that will be remembered by long-time dancers are Daisy and Jim McColl, Duncan and Monica Macdonald, Peter and Cathy Murphy, Bobby and Margaret Ralston, Jean Teske, Will and Wendy Thompson, Dennis and Marjorie Sallaway, Patricia (Patsy) Arrott. Many, including Geoff Walker are unfortunately, no longer with us. Like several dancers over the years, Geoff and his wife Pat began at Carisbrooke* and joined Gleneagles later. Geoff was so keen that he took in every party that he could, including trips to Bellingham and he would take other dancers down there as well. He was also a very keen hiker and enjoyed getting into the local mountains on his own. Roz Kerr, one of 'Charlie's Angels', as the original group of ladies in Charlie Dobie's class liked to call themselves,

recalls driving to Bellingham with Geoff. Roz also danced for a while in Deep Cove before joining Gleneagles.

(*Many Gleneagles dancers started off at what had become known as Charlie Dobie's class, which had been going for several years at Carisbrooke School. It was in fact originally begun by the St. Andrews and Caledonian Society and Mary Murray was the first teacher, recruited by Bob Menzies, a colleague at the Standard Life Insurance Company. The class grew into a large group, with three levels of dancing, and teachers included Alan Brown and Barbara MacPhail before Charlie took over. He taught there for several years until he and Margaret moved to Grand Forks. Clayne and Cathrine Conings taught the class for a time after that. There was also a group of ladies taught by Charlie at St. Andrews and St. Stephens Church, who called themselves 'Charlie's Angels.' Sadly, Charlie Dobie died of complications with kidney disease and diabetes in November 2004)

It was mentioned previously that many women took up Scottish Country dancing before their husbands (or partners) joined. This was the case with Roy and Helen Edgell. Helen joined Gleneagles in 1973, but it was a full three years before Roy could be persuaded to join - and he never looked back. They were active members of the club for many years and danced on the Gleneagles Demonstration Team, Roy until 2002, when he had to give up after a by-pass operation. Alan and Hilary Blair also danced on the Gleneagles demonstration team, having joined Gleneagles in about 1970. They had previously danced at the recreation centre when Barbara McPhail taught there. Alan had come to Vancouver from Glasgow in 1964, while Hilary had worked in New York. They returned to Hilary's home in the London suburb of Carshalton for their wedding in 1968, then settled in Vancouver.

To mark the end of his two-year Presidency of the club, Ian and May Loudon hosted the July 1976 summer party, with dancing on the lawn and a piper to entertain the guests, which included several out-of-towners.

An application was made for the Gleneagles Club to be affiliated with the R.S.C.D.S., head-quartered in an imposing terraced house on Edinburgh's Coates Crescent. Members would still be part of the Vancouver Branch so this arrangement was agreed to and the affiliation of the Gleneagles Club was confirmed in Edinburgh. In subsequent 'year books' our club has appeared as a separate entity in the affiliated clubs section.

In 1976 a useful addition was made to the local dance scene with the advent of *Schiehallion*, Vancouver's own Scottish Country dance band. It quickly gained in popularity and was soon taking bookings throughout 1976 including twice by Gleneagles, for the Fall party and for the Ball. Once again the Ball was held in the Carson Graham School Auditorium, and as it was the 13th Annual Ball, special care was taken to have a "13th" theme., with black cats and horseshoes on the tables. There was great excitement over the fact that for the first time in the Lower Mainland a club would have music provided by a strictly local band - and they did not let us down. It was a memorable evening, especially with the unusual table decorations. The programme was superb, with all the favourite dances at that time and once more, people came from far and wide.

One amusing incident made the rounds for a while, following the Ball. The committee, helped by other volunteers, had worked hard during the day to get the auditorium ready. Some left it a bit tight to return home to change and get back in

time to begin welcoming the guests. Ray and Maureen Eagle lived in Deep Cove at the time, and rushing back to Carson Graham at around 6 p.m. they were caught in a radar trap by the iron bridge at the foot of the Upper Levels Cut. Ray put his flashers on to let the policeman know he had been caught and proceeded up the Cut to the gravel area by the roadside. Determined not to get out of the car in his 'Highland finery' he waited until the policeman came to him. When he peered in the car he said "My, you're smartly dressed, where are you off to?" Ray replied, "We're going to a Highland Ball and we're late!" Without writing a ticket the policeman said "On your way" ending with the usual admonishment "And don't let me catch you speeding again!"

There were two newcomers at the 1976 Ball, who remained a fixture with Gleneagles until recently when they have become avid Ballroom dancers. They are Tom and Irene Money and they have danced on both the Gleneagles and the Vancouver Branch Demonstration Teams. Tom retired from U.B.C. a few years ago, where he was a professor of chemistry. They have had several sabbaticals in Scotland over the years, when Tom taught at the University of Stirling and they joined the Scottish Country dance group at the Dunblane Hydro Hotel, where Jim MacLeod and his band were the regular musicians. The Moneys now have a 'flat' in Largs, on the south side of the Clyde estuary and they spend several months of each year there. (Sadly, Jim MacLeod died in the spring of 2004)

When Tom and Irene first returned to Stirling in 1979 a citation was awarded to Tom from May Loudon entitled "The Pointed Foot Award" An edited version follows:

"For consistent effort in flashing a toothy smile - and trying to look good and kind of happy in demonstrations, despite dry/nervous gums.

For tholling* the physical ailments that beset all temperamental 'artistes' and, who are on occasion forced to dance on concrete . . . (*auld Scots for suffering)

For putting up with the quirks, idiosyncrasies and distractions of other members of the May Loudon Troupe and appearing imperturbable while fellow dancers stray and get lost in demonstrations.

For injecting your inimitable brand of humour into 'teach's' valiant efforts to improve the Troupe's technique.

For undertaking to assume 100% responsibility for driving the said May Loudon's Troupe bus if and when we ever make the "BIG TIME" in show biz.

We hope your success in getting us top billing, but more importantly, an all-expenses paid trip to show off our dancing skills (and/or handicaps) in any theatre of good repute in Bonnie Scotland during your forthcoming trip, so that we can all be sure you continue to dance your way through life."

The first important date on the 1977 calendar was a Vancouver Branch Workshop Weekend held at the Hotel Vancouver on April 23 and 24. Although not a Gleneagles function, several members played a major part in it, including May Loudon, who was asked to be one of the instructors. It was an incredibly successful weekend, with many dancers from out of town. Other instructors came from Eastern and Central Canada, the U.S. and Scotland. A Ball was held in the British Columbia Ballroom on the Saturday evening.

On May 7 Jane and Ian Price were married in Christchurch Cathedral, with a reception at the Gleneagles Golf Club. It was in every sense a Gleneagles wedding (the first of three), because both Jane and Ian were active club members at that time and continued for many years after, and both served on the management committee. Ian's late father, Hugh, had been an officer in the London Scottish and

brought his sword over from the U.K. for the cake cutting ceremony (which would not be an easy thing to do at present with security so tight) Along with Ian Brady, Ian Price was largely responsible for forming the Schiehallion band and later played a significant part in the formation of the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra, which he led. Jane was born in Ireland and is a champion Irish dancer, competing and winning medals both there and in Canada. She began Scottish Country dancing in 1969, going briefly to Mrs. Bingham's class before switching to Gleneagles. After university Jane went into teaching and for many years taught French in a Coquitlam High School, from which she retired in 2002. Although now dancing infrequently, Jane and Ian remain firmly in touch with many Gleneagles dancers, both previous and current.

1977 was the Queen's 25th year on the Throne and several events were planned in June across Canada to mark the occasion. In West Vancouver, the Park Royal Shopping Mall again asked the Gleneagles club to dance in the mall and a Demonstration Team was organized to perform there.

The summer party was held at the home of Howard and Marjory Meredith in Lion's Bay. Their unusual home was situated on the mountainside, with an almost 180 degree view over Howe Sound from Horseshoe Bay to Woodfibre. Because of limited access, construction of the house was very labour intensive, with Howard and Marjory digging out the trenches for the foundations by hand and the building material was slid down to the site in a chute from the only access road up the mountain.

The house was built on the Golden Section principal, devised by the early mathematician Leonardo Fibonacci, which is based on a numerical sequence that dictates the size of the rooms, the windows, the doors and the relationship of one to the other. The wooded garden was reached by winding paths, creating a magical and peaceful setting enjoyed by those who attended that year's summer party.

(In recent years Howard's artistic skills have come to the fore and he won great praise for his decorations at the Millenium Ball. Dare it also be said that his artistic flair is evident in his unique attire at Scottish Country dance functions).

When dancing resumed in the Fall a tape-deck had been acquired and much of the music had been recorded onto tapes from the records that had been in use for so many years. Many clubs and branches had gone over to tapes and it was a milestone for Scottish Country Dancing, making the teacher's job so much easier in being able to restart a dance, or select the appropriate number of bars to demonstrate particular steps.

Another milestone, on December 3, 1977, was moving the annual Gleneagles Ball to the Pacific Ballroom of the Vancouver Hotel. It is the perfect setting for a Ball, with its elegant decor and there was a general agreement that the move was timely. It has been the venue for the Gleneagles Ball ever since. *Schiehallion* provided the music once again and the majority of the dances would be familiar to present day dancers, with the exception of *Scotch Mist* and *Bauldie Bain's Fiddle*, which have not been danced in recent years, though the latter re-appeared on late 2003 programmes. The price for this event was an unbelievable \$15.00. Throughout December many parties take place in the hotel and the dancers had to get used to spectators from these parties crowding the doors to the ballroom, all with a look of disbelief at the elegant scene in front of them, looking like a film-set, with the vast majority of the men in formal Highland dress, the women in long gowns, the live music and the enjoyment reflected on the dancers' faces.

In July 1978, dancers world-wide received the sad news of the death of Miss Jean Milligan, co-founder with Mrs. Ysobel Stewart of Fasnacloch, of the Scottish Country Dance Society (see earlier reference). In December of that year a letter went out to all branches from the Edinburgh Headquarters over the signature of Chairman Duncan MacLeod. It gave due praise to Miss Milligan, stating:

" . . . she salvaged Scotland's cultural heritage of country dancing and established it firmly, not only in its native soil, but world-wide.

We owe to her the knowledge of hundreds of traditional dances . . . without her determination, enthusiasm and utter dedication to the aims of the Society, none of us today would be enjoying those innumerable, enjoyable dances and happy social occasions which Scottish Country Dancing provides."

The letter went on to suggest that a Jean Milligan Memorial Fund be established to be used, "in principal to expand the aims of the Society and to benefit branches, affiliated groups and members generally." The Gleneagles Club sent £15 towards the Jean Milligan fund.

Present day dancers will note that the programme for the December 8, 1978 Gleneagles Ball was an interesting mix of the familiar and the long forgotten:

<i>Pinewoods Reel</i>	<i>Gates of Edinburgh</i>
<i>The Linton Ploughman</i>	<i>Neidpath Castle</i>
<i>Balmoral Strathspey</i>	<i>The Frisky</i>
<i>Red House Reel</i>	<i>Polharrow Burn</i>
<i>Corn Rigs</i>	<i>The Belle of Bonaccord</i>
<i>Stuart's Fancy</i>	<i>Jennifer's Jig</i>
<i>Hamilton Rant</i>	<i>Cadgers in the Cannongate</i>
<i>The White Cockade</i>	<i>Maxwell's Rant</i>
<i>The New Rigged Ship</i>	<i>Rest and be Thankful</i>
<i>Bees of Maggienockater</i>	<i>The Cuillins of Skye</i>
<i>The Laird of Milton's Daughter</i>	

Extras: *The Silver Tassie/ The Montgomerie's Rant*
and *Farewell to Auchterarder*

The 1978/79 members included people who remained with the club for several years, and some who have remained in touch although they no longer dance. David Agar, now living on Vancouver Island was on the demonstration team, as was Shirley Veal, who married Frank Wallace and they later moved to Quadra Island in the Gulf Islands. She still teaches a class there. Her daughter Alison married Gerald Moen and they danced at Gleneagles until baby-sitting arrangements became too complicated and Gerald gave up while Alison moved to the Deep Cove class and also now teaches a beginners childrens' class. Peter and Ann Buitenhuis remained members of Gleneagles but by the latter half of 2004 Peter's failing health prevented him from dancing and he died in November 2004. (Ray Eagle met Peter in 1974 when they were both on a bus taking Montreal dancers to Burlington, Vermont to dance at the University there. Also on the trip was John Bowie-Dickson, who devized *Pinewoods Reel* and *Postie's Jig*. Peter taught Canadian and American Literature at McGill University, but came to S.F.U. the following year). Olive Gilmour danced for several years and was on the demonstration team. Margaret Jackson and Daisy McColl still dance and, like many long-time dancers, now dance at the West Vancouver Seniors' Centre. Gleneagles stalwart regulars then included Eric and Pat McBean and Arthur and Kay Holmes. Dorothy and Ian Hargreaves danced regularly at Gleneagles in the late 1970s. Dorothy is now the principal teacher in Deep Cove.

By this time the Demonstration Team was well into its stride and taking on more and more commitments under May Loudon's direction; in all, fifteen demonstrations during the 1978/79 season, including a concert at the Centennial Theatre, and most unusually, a demonstration at the Hotel Vancouver for a large international medical convention. The demonstration team's participation was requested by Dr. George Goodman, a Scot, who was one of the principal organizers of the conference. Also in December of 1978 the Demonstration Team was invited to take part in a 'Renaissance Festival' at Hamilton High School in North Vancouver, a two day event that included many old dance forms such as Elizabethan court dancing.

Some of the original dancers at the time of the team's formation were: Tom and Irene Money; Stan and Thelma Mitchell; Roy and Helen Edgell; Anna Brown (and occasionally Alan); Ian Loudon; Olive Gilmour; Ann Ferries; Barbara Mercer; Hilary Blair; Jean Stepanick; David Agar; Shirley Veal, Ray Eagle, and Peggy Anderson (sometimes known as Maggie) Alan Brown danced on the Branch Demonstration Team for many years and retired from it in 2003..

It was not always easy to find regular accommodation for demonstration rehearsals and it required moving around once in a while. For a time, through the help of Olive Gilmour, who was a teacher at Balmoral Secondary School, practises were held in the cafeteria there. Other times found the demonstration team practising at the West Vancouver Recreation Centre and, on at least one occasion a most unusual location; a large meeting room in the old Vancouver Sun and Province building on Granville Street, arranged by Roy Edgell, who was then Assistant Production Manager for both newspapers.

At the 1979 A.G.M. there was a change of directors, with Ray Eagle taking over the Presidency; Dennis Sallaway as Vice-President, Alan Brown as Past-President, Jean Stepanick as Secretary, Shirley Veale as Treasurer; Hilary Blair as Social Convenor and Joan MacArthur as Member-at-Large.

There was a request from the Silver Harbour Manor Seniors' Centre for the demonstration team men to perform the *Abdomen* dance on Fathers' Day, June 17. This was agreed to, but because the outfits had become a little faded Prim Jones (who was also the tummy painter) was asked to give them a make-over. For the next few weeks the men assembled in the Jones' basement to practice the dances, with much hilarity, while wearing the oversize 'bonnets.'

Also in June each year, summer "Dancing in the Park" begins. By 1979 the programme had been going non-stop for almost thirty years, begun by Mrs. Bingham in 1950. The original location was on the tennis courts, but was later moved to the Ceperley Playground. It is amazing, considering Vancouver's uncertain weather, how infrequently dancing has had to be cancelled because of rain. (see Appendix 5: Stanley Park)

Contact with other dance groups was maintained, especially the Victoria and Seattle Branches, from where dancers came to support both the Vancouver Branch Ball and the Gleneagles Ball - and also "Dancing in the Park." An annual Fall workshop and dance is arranged each year by the Seattle Branch, which is held at Fort Worden on the Olympic Peninsula (where the film "An Officer and a Gentleman" was made). When the date was announced for the 1979 workshop and

dance, a large group went from Gleneagles. Fortunately this outstanding Pacific Northwest event remains as strong as ever.

The setting, in a one-time U.S. Army camp complete with old gun emplacements, is magnificent. A short distance out of the historic town of Port Townsend, the camp has water on two sides with miles of beach to walk along and explore, while in almost every direction there are mountains. There are sufficient well-maintained buildings to hold any number of classes and there are locations off camp to hold a dance on the Saturday night. Accommodation has two levels, barrack buildings which offer small single rooms and shower facilities, and the 'officers' row' houses in which more comfortable rooms can be rented and they also offer nicely furnished common rooms, dining rooms, and a kitchen. With a ferry ride from the west side of Whidbey Island to Port Townsend it makes for an interesting and enjoyable weekend.

The 1979 Ball was set for December 21st, the closest ever to Christmas. The Schiehallion Band even managed to incorporate the tunes *Jingle Bells* and *Rudolf the Red-nosed Reindeer* into the music for one of the regular dances!

Three dances appeared on the programme that obviously did not remain popular - because they have not been on any programme since. These were *Happy Returns*, *Bob Campbell* and *Braw Sir John*. Also included was a new dance called *Gleneagles Dominie*. There is again a significant Gleneagles connection to this dance. It was devised by John Drewry, a University of Aberdeen mathematics professor who, over the years has written many interesting and unusual dances. This one was in honour of Simon Scott, but the three tunes written for the dance were composed by Ian Price and were titled *Simon Scott*, *May Loudon* and *Janet Dickson* and each of them received an original music score from Ian. (mention has already been made of John Drewry's *Ann of Gleneagles* for Ann Ferries and, in 2003 he also composed *The Eyrie in the Glen* for the 40th Anniversary of our club)

In the Spring of 1980 a large group of Gleneagles dancers went to the Seattle Ball in the newly restored Olympia Hotel, which boasted a very attractive ballroom. At the time the U.S. and Canadian dollar was just about at par, which made it a very attractive and inexpensive weekend. Playing at the informal ceilidh following the Ball was a fiddler, then unknown to the Vancouver guests. It was Calum MacKinnon, now a popular visitor to Vancouver along with his own Trio, who played most recently in April 2003 for the Pearl Holmberg Teachers' Workshop and Saturday evening dance.

In the summer there was great excitement when it was learned that Simon Scott had met Carol Blackmore, a flight attendant with Canadian Pacific Airlines, and that they had become engaged. Their wedding took place on June 21, 1980 at St. Francis in the Woods Anglican Church and was attended by several Gleneagles members. The reception took place in a newly completed West Vancouver house designed by internationally known architect Arthur Erickson, with whom Simon occasionally collaborated in his profession of architectural photographer.

The Gleneagles Club arranged a dance in their honour, which took place in the hall where we now dance, St. Andrews and St. Stephens Church in North Vancouver. Simon designed Carol's wedding ring and then wrote a dance titled *The Blackmore Lass*, based on its intricate configuration. The club's present to Simon and Carol was a mohair blanket in Black Watch tartan.

At the 1981 A.G.M. held on April 28th Ray Eagle stood down as President and Dennis Salloway* took over, with Tom Money as Vice-President. Shirley Veale remained as Treasurer and Jean Stepanick as Secretary. Newcomers to the committee were, Ann MacIntosh as Social Convenor and the members at large, as well as Joan MacArthur were Jane Price, Thelma Mitchell and David Schine. The following year Jane Price took over as Treasurer and Maureen Eagle joined the committee as a member at large.

(*Dennis later joined the Vancouver Branch Board of Management and in 1986 became Chairman. After stepping down in 1989 he took on responsibility for the C. Stewart Smith Fund)

In an effort to improve the sound equipment, when it was discovered that the Seattle Branch were using a very compact tape recorder called a Superscope, several were purchased by Lower Mainland clubs. It was one of the first machines to have a slowdown dial. As they were not available in B.C. the machines were purchased with the help of the Seattle Branch and a few Gleneagles members also purchased machines for their own use. However, it still required stand-alone speakers and the Califone remained the machine of choice for most groups in Vancouver.

The July 25, 1981 Summer Party had a different location (because the Pools were away) - just across the street to the heritage home of Prim and Doug Jones, whose basement was a favoured location for many 'Abdomen' practises

For most of the 1980's the Gleneagles Club enjoyed a period of stability, as did the Vancouver Branch. Dancing in the Park continued and provided recruits each year. The Vancouver Branch Ball and workshop moved to U.B.C., with its greater facilities. Even while emigration from Britain continued to decline, there was sufficient interest from Canadian-born people, some with Scottish roots, to keep Scottish Country dancing growing, although there was a slight decline overall.

On the positive side, several new couples and individuals joined Gleneagles and remained as members either for as long as their respective jobs kept them in Vancouver or, in other cases, remained active for many years. Some are still members. Two notable couples whose stays in Vancouver were all too short were Calum and Jenny Buchanan and Bob and Alice Forbes. Calum (a native Scot) worked for the Standard Chartered Bank, an old established U.K. banking company with branches world-wide and he came to Vancouver in 1980 as a senior employee along with Jenny and their children. Jenny was from Australia and had been dancing for many years. Calum on the other hand was sure that his few years with Gleneagles improved his dancing greatly from that of his days in Scotland when, he claimed, people were as likely to turn up in their 'tackity boots' even with caked mud (or worse) on them! The Forbes and Buchanans were also active members of the West Vancouver Presbyterian Church, where Calum was an impressive lesson reader. It was not long before they were all on May Loudon's demonstration team (Calum having by now forsaken his boots) until in 1983 they left for Calum's next posting in Oman. It is possible that Calum and Jenny hold the record for dancing as residents in exotic places. Through postings with the Standard Chartered Bank they have danced in Jakarta, Bahrain, Oman and Nairobi. They now live in Fortrose on the Black Isle and enjoy the dancing opportunities that Scotland offers, with an occasional return to Australia.

Bob Forbes was raised in Ontario, of Scottish parents and graduated from Queens in mechanical engineering. In 1960 he went to study and work in the UK. While

employed at the Wiggins Teape mill near Aberdeen he met Alice Campbell and they were married in October 1961 in Aberdeen's St. Machar's Cathedral, sailing for Canada soon after. As Bob's job responsibilities progressed they moved frequently until in 1980 they came to Vancouver where Bob became Vice-President of West Fraser Timber. In the next six years Bob and Alice were actively involved in Gleneagles and the Presbyterian Church. It was a sad moment when they left for Montreal in 1986, where Bob took a senior position with Domtar.

Another couple who joined the club at about this time were Ron and Lydia Rice. Ron came to Vancouver in the early 1980's to join the GVRD staff, but moved to Expo '86 to head on-site transportation planning and transportation exhibitions. He was an adjunct professor at U.B.C. and after Expo '86 Ron was invited to McGill University as a Professor of Transportation Planning. In a phone call with Lydia in April 2003 she said that they were never able to replicate the fun and friendship they experienced with the Gleneagles Club. (Sadly, Ron died of cancer in August 2000, but Lydia said that she is always grateful for the years they had in Vancouver)

All three couples added much to the club and to the Demonstration Team and it was a great pity when they left Vancouver; the Buchanans to Oman, while both the Forbes and the Rices departed to Montreal. However, before Bob and Alice Forbes left, Bob became Vice-President and at the May 1984 A.G.M. he took over as President, with Roy Edgell becoming Vice-President. Maureen Eagle took Jean Stepanick's place as Secretary and Alice Forbes became Social Convenor. Rae Tod joined as a member at large.

At their first committee meeting it was decided on a small increase in the annual fee to \$34 (Including the RSCDS portion) Even at that modest fee, the club had accumulated just in excess of \$3000, most of which was in a savings account.

It was disappointing that after a long association between the Gleneagles club and Hollyburn Elementary, there were signs of a problem when in the previous season several evenings had been cancelled without warning because of school activities. A letter of complaint was sent to the School Board, with a copy to the Mayor, pointing out the valuable service that the club rendered each year with participation in the Community Days, as well as the Demonstration Team entertaining at local seniors' homes. Apologies were received and the arrangement carried on for some time, but worse was to come in later years. A departure from the 1984/85 Season's opening party at Highlands United Church was a day-long workshop at this now familiar location. The teachers were Simon Scott, May Loudon and Janet Dickson.

Despite the success of the workshop and party, and a very informative article in the North Shore News by Hilary Blair, when classes resumed there appeared to be a general falling off in the numbers signing up, to such an extent that it was brought up at the October 21 committee meeting and a questionnaire was devised for a telephone canvass of members to find what lay beyond the "... general apathy about attendance and punctuality."

The replies were not earth shattering; several people blamed their work-load for not being able to attend regularly, or to be punctual. Some thought more class discipline was required and the teachers should be more demanding of people to learn a dance without every couple in the set having to go through it. One suggestion was to sprinkle the evening with more popular dances, rather than

only teaching new ones. There was general satisfaction with the quality of the teaching. Perhaps Hilary Blair hit the right note in the soul searching when she commented that ". . . these things go in cycles - and maybe it was time to reduce to two classes and expand again later when recruitment picked up."

In 1984, amidst all this gloom, there were some new members, but one would stand out in her enthusiasm for Scottish Country dancing, which remains to this day. It was in that year Phyllis Aylsworth joined Gleneagles. Phyllis was brought up in Vancouver and had been exposed to all forms of dance when young. Her brother Pat is a piper and in fact played his small (Northumbrian) pipes for the Gleneagles Wednesday class in March 2003 when he was visiting from London, Ont. When Phyllis moved to the North Shore in 1984 she saw Hilary Blair's 'North Shore News' article, which had Roy Edgell's phone number as a contact. To make sure that a potential convert would not be lost, Roy offered a ride to the next beginners class - and soon Phyllis became a very active member, joining the Executive Committee and then the Demonstration Team. In 1988 Phyllis became the club's first female President. Another couple who started dancing about this time were Neil and Jackie Wilkie, although they began at Carisbrooke and then moved to Dorothy Hargreave's class in Deep Cove before becoming members of Gleneagles, also joining the demonstration team.

An opportunity was presented for Gleneagles members to take part in a major dancing event when the July 1984 B.C. Summer Games was held in the Swangard Stadium (and billed as the largest games in B.C. to that date). On the first night a Tattoo was performed following the opening ceremonies, which included a large contingent of Scottish Country dancers, Highland dancers, ten pipe bands, three brass bands, and an R.C.M.P. Drill Team. There was, however, one great disappointment - for some reason the organizers failed to have it mentioned on the programme notes (or to mention it over the loudspeakers) so that by the time the performance was ready to begin at least 50% of the audience had gone home. Despite this, those that remained enjoyed it immensely.

The Tattoo continued as a summer Sunday afternoon event in 1985 and 1986. The name 'Taptoe' was used in place of Tattoo, which was explained as an old military term to do, as I recall, with the placement of sentries who marched behind a drummer around the fort or garrison. In any event these events provided more occasions for Gleneagles dancers to perform. The 1986 summer events was filmed by a local T.V. station and, typical of cameramen, they chose not to film the splendid sight of the formally dressed dancers being led onto the field by a pipe band and instead focused on two children running up and down in front of the grandstand. Both years after the performance finished, all the participants were invited to the Burnaby Lake Pavilion where a spread was put on and drinks were provided. For whatever reason, the event has not been repeated, which is a pity because it was quite a spectacle, and was different to the Highland Games.

Despite the poor Advanced class numbers, the 21st Annual Ball, held on December 1, 1984 was a resounding success and well supported by other branches and clubs. Interestingly, with the exception of two dances, *Inverary* and the *Munro Rant*, it was a programme of long-standing favourites, most of them still very popular today:

<i>Mairi's Wedding</i>	<i>Highland Fair</i>
<i>Clutha</i>	<i>Polharrow Burn</i>
<i>Inverary</i>	<i>Munro Rant</i>
<i>Gates of Edinburgh</i>	<i>Pinewoods Reel</i>

<i>Mamie's Jig</i>	<i>Corn Riggs</i>
<i>The Silver Tassie</i>	<i>Sandy Butterly</i>
<i>Bratach Bana</i>	<i>MacDonald of the Isles</i>
<i>Round Reel of Eight</i>	<i>The White Cockade</i>
<i>Staffin Harvest</i>	<i>Maxwell's Rant</i>
<i>The Montgomeries' Rant</i>	
Extras: <i>The Dundee Whaler</i> <i>Argyll's Fancy</i>	

By the A.G.M. of 1985 the Advanced class showed a slight improvement in numbers, and eighteen beginners had registered. The total club membership was now 124, a 17% increase over the previous year. A slight change took place in the committee make-up, with Ian Price taking over as Treasurer, Lydia Rice replacing Maureen Eagle and Rosemary Coupe taking over as Social Convenor from Alice Forbes.

It was by now confirmed that despite a shaky beginning and much negativity, in 1986 there would be an Exposition in Vancouver, which was also the City's Centennial Year. Already the Vancouver Branch were planning events and a letter seeking ideas was circulated to all Lower Mainland clubs asking for input. A committee was formed by the Branch and was chaired by Jim Gordon*. A week-long workshop was proposed, with morning classes only, to enable participants to visit the Expo '86 site or simply sight-see. There would be social events planned for the evenings with the week culminating in a Ball. The Gleneagles committee expressed their interest in seeing that Scottish Country dancing was well represented during Expo '86 and were keen to help the Branch Committee in any way they could to make it a success. (*Jim and Audrey Gordon were long-time members of Gleneagles. Jim was Branch chairman from 1983 to 1985 and Audrey taught for many years at the branch classes)

Suggestions from Gleneagles were many, such as: A whole week of Scottish events on the Expo site - pipe bands; Highland and Scottish Country dancing; special Clan Days, with clan societies from around N. America to participate. The idea was to feature dances, pipe tunes etc. that equate with particular clans. Another idea was to ask the Mormon genealogical centre to have a display, and help people trace their Scottish roots. There was another suggestion to feature famous Scots in B.C./Canadian history. Perhaps have a day devoted to Robbie Burns, with selective reading of his poetry - and a prize for the best reading. The most ambitious suggestion was to invite the internationally known economist Kenneth Galbraith to give a talk on his Scottish roots. At the September 1985 committee meeting Ian Loudon was appointed to represent Gleneagles on the Vancouver Branch Expo '86 Committee. An independent North Vancouver committee had been set up and had booked July 6 for a 'Highland Day.' As the club's emphasis was to work with the Vancouver Branch Expo plans it would be left to May Loudon to decide if the demonstration team should be involved with the North Vancouver citizens' efforts. At a later committee meeting May confirmed that the demonstration team would offer assistance to them.

In 1985 an ambitious plan was brought to fruition that would affect all Scottish societies in the Lower mainland. The United Scottish Auditorium on 12th Avenue and Fir Street, dating back to 1938 was sold for \$640,000 and the building demolished. There was, in any case a concern that several thousand dollars would have to be spent to bring the building up to code. A new site was purchased at 73rd and Hudson Street near the Oak Street Bridge, where land was much cheaper, and a new building was commenced. The RSCDS had not become active participants in

the old centre until the 1950's when they purchased two of the thirty-three shares in the auditorium.

A committee representing the United Scottish Cultural Society was struck to manage the new Hudson Street facility, made up of representatives of the various Scottish organizations. A request was made to the various Lower Mainland clubs to make a contribution towards construction and a plebiscite was distributed to Gleneagles members for their wishes on this. When the results came in, a clear majority voted to make a contribution and to pledge \$500, with a stipulation that a further donation be considered at a later date if needed. Despite a profit from the sale of the original site and the purchase of the cheaper Hudson Street site, a large sum of money would be needed to complete the building and so a mortgage was arranged.

On Saturday October 12, 1985 the annual Fall Party and workshop took place. It was a special occasion in that it celebrated the 10th anniversary of the formation of the Schiehallion Band. Hilary Blair had another publicity piece in the North Shore News, with a large portion devoted to the band and its leader, Ian Price. In her introduction Hilary said:

"The music and dance of Scotland have earned a special place in the hearts of many nationalities. The ebb and flow of the dance formations, the swirl of the kilt and the lively music are a feast for the eye and the ear.

If you have watched Scottish Country dancing in Stanley Park on Monday evenings this past summer and longed to join the fun, now is your chance to move out from the sidelines." She then listed the many classes to be held over the following months both on and off the North Shore."

In praising the band she described the members as being amateur musicians from a variety of occupational and musical backgrounds, all holding full-time jobs, but whatever these were, their musical skills were of a very high standard. It is worth noting the dance selection for the 10th anniversary. Many dances are still enjoyed despite the number of new dances that have appeared (and disappeared):

<i>The Flowers of Edinburgh</i>	<i>Jennifer's Jig</i>	<i>Monymusk</i>
<i>The Irish Rover</i>	<i>Gleneagles Dominie</i>	<i>MacDonald of the Isles</i>
<i>Reel of the Royal Scots</i>	<i>Bratach Bana</i>	<i>Mamie's Jig</i>
<i>John MacAlpine</i>	<i>The Reel of the 51st</i>	<i>Schiehallion</i>
<i>MacArthur Park</i>	<i>The Montgomeries' Rant</i>	<i>The Highland Lass</i>
<i>The Luckenbooth Brooch</i>	<i>The Royal Wedding</i>	<i>Trip to Bavaria</i>
<i>The Belle of Bon Accord</i>	<i>Wild Geese</i>	<i>Marie's Wedding</i>

Extras were: *Angus MacLeod* and *Postie's Jig*

The next significant event was the 1985 Ball with, once again, Schiehallion playing. The programme was different to the October party; *The Round Reel of Eight*; *Robertson's Rant*; *Glasgow Country Dance*; *The Garry Strathspey*; *Lady Susan Stewart's Reel*; *Corn Riggs: Gramachie*; *Clutha*; *Sandy Butterly*; *Polharrow Burn*; *Neidpath Castle*; *Argyle's Fancy* and *Joe MacDiarmid's Jig*

There were other events in 1986 besides Expo. One of the advantages of Scottish Country Dancing is that with determination and armed with the booklets from Edinburgh, or notices of special events, one could dance around the world. It's just a matter of 'have shoes will travel!' In the minutes for early 1986 is a notice from Hawaii for a weekend workshop with the grand title of the 'EIGHTH HAWAII INSTITUTE OF SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING - HONOLULU, FEBRUARY 14 -16, 1986. Fully certified teachers were promised and the limit was 75 dancers, so it was an

exclusive weekend, held at the University of Hawaii. It is worth noting that the principal teacher in Hawaii at that time was Mary Shoolbraid (Brandon), who had taught the original Gleneagles classes.

When the 1986 A.G.M. took place on April 23rd the membership had climbed back to 148, which put all three class levels on a firm footing once again. At this A.G.M. a new slate of officers was elected, with Roy Edgell taking over as President, Peter Evans as Vice President, Phyllis Aylesworth (now Gaskell, having married Dan Gaskell in April 1987) as Secretary. Hamish Jackson became Treasurer, Marie Evans took over as Social Convenor, and Maureen Hood filled the new position of Membership Secretary.

(Peter and Marie Evans quickly became active members. Peter had been a Fleet Air Arm pilot and had completed his pilot training in Canada just weeks before the war came to an end with the dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan. He died in 1989 of cancer, but Marie continues to dance at the West Vancouver Seniors' Centre. Hamish Jackson and wife Carolyn, though both from Scotland, began Scottish Country dancing in London at the Pont Street Presbyterian Church, where classes were held. They came to Canada in April 1967 and Hamish found work in his accountancy field in Prince Rupert for a couple of years before coming to Vancouver and resuming dancing in about 1973).

Despite the early lack of interest for Expo '86, as the site began to take shape, Vancouverites became more enthusiastic, until in the weeks leading up to the opening, the excitement was palpable. The Vancouver Branch committee worked hard in planning the late August week-long workshop to be held at St. George's School. Elspeth Rennie, the Expo Committee secretary sent a letter to all Lower Mainland clubs outlining the week's programme: On Sunday - a welcome BBQ, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday - evening dances to be hosted by clubs, while Thursday would be hosted by the Expo Committee. On Friday the Vancouver Branch would host a ceilidh and the week would culminate with a Banquet and Ball. Gleneagles and the Glenayre Club jointly hosted the Tuesday evening dance.

The week is still remembered as one of the highlights for the Lower Mainland, with dancers from as far away as New Zealand, Australia, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and from all parts of the United States and Canada. Local dancers were very generous in ferrying those out-of-towners who stayed with relatives or friends in various off-campus locations and time was provided most afternoons for visits to the Expo site or general sight-seeing.

Vancouver responded in full measure to Expo '86. The exhibits were outstanding and the weather was generally good. Scotland was well represented, especially by the Strathclyde Police Pipe Band, which at that time was high on the list of world championship bands. There were Scottish days with local dancers performing in all types of dancing, Scottish, Highland and Step. When finally the curtain came down in October, there were actually tears shed. In the middle of Expo the new Scottish Cultural Centre at 8886 Hudson Street was opened and the Gleneagles Demonstration Team was invited to dance during the official ceremonies.

The Scottish Country dancing activities associated with Expo seemed to give a much needed spur and when the September 9th Gleneagles' registration night came around all three classes had respectable numbers. The teaching schedule for the Fall session was different from usual in that throughout September, October and November teachers were moved around the classes. Also more teachers were drawn upon so that as well as the three main teachers, May, Simon and Janet

Dickson, the services of Audrey Gordon, Liz Johnston, Alan Brown and Dorothy Hargreaves were used and rotated among the three levels. (Liz was a one-time member of Gleneagles and a very popular teacher)

In 1986 Schiehallion provided the music for both the October 11th Fall Dance and the 23rd Gleneagles Ball, again at the Hotel Vancouver on December 5th. The Fall Dance was held at the West Vancouver Recreation Centre instead of the Highlands United church hall, and a one-day workshop was held at the North Vancouver Y.M.C.A. Two dances appeared on the Ball programme, that would seem not to have caught on since they have not been seen on any programme since. They were *C'est L'Amour* and *Couteraller's Rant*. The rest of the programme consisted of dances that are generally still popular.

The 1987 Spring Dance, held on May 2, was billed as the 25th Anniversary of the Gleneagles Club and the publicity invited dancers to meet some of the Gleneagles' founding members and to dance some of the dances popular in the early days of the club. Three were chosen from the first ball programme: *Hooper's Jig*, *General Stuart's Reel* and *The Lad with the Plaidie*. The *Dundee Civic Jig* was also danced, which was very popular in the early days. The evening was to be a gala event with balloons and a large banner. Janet Dickson was to pipe, with Dean MacKay, the Club's first president to lead the Grand March.

Before the dance took place the A.G.M. was held on April 29, when Peter Evans took over the chair, with Voldy Mierau as Vice-President, Mary Crickmore as Secretary and Tim Vondette as Treasurer. Marie Evans remained Social Convenor and the Intermediate Class rep was Pat Johnson, who with her friends Imelda Beesley and Virginia Tanner have remained constant stalwarts of Gleneagles.

(The 'Three Musketeers,' Imelda, Pat and Virginia have been dancing since the early 1980s. Imelda started dancing first, and introduced Pat, who came from Holloway in North London and had done English dancing. She then introduced Virginia and Mary Wright. This was when the beginners class was held at Pauline Johnson Elementary, with Janet Dickson teaching. Imelda, who comes from Castlebellingham in the Southern Irish county of Louth, wanted to take up Irish dancing but could not find a class, so thought she would try Scottish Country dancing instead. She soon became enthusiastic enough to entice her friends along and they have all become a vital part of our club. Imelda also teaches two classes of water aerobics on the North Shore; one at the West Vancouver Seniors' Centre and the other at Fitness World. Virginia, who taught ballet and tap in U.K. and Australia before coming to Canada in 1968 with husband Ray, settled on the North Shore after a year in Denver, Colorado. She taught Pat's daughters and when she and Ray moved to West Vancouver, with the encouragement of Pat she decided it was time to join Gleneagles.)

Unfortunately there is no record in the minutes of attendees for the 25th Anniversary Dance, so it is not known how many of the original dancers were present, but an article in the North Shore News by Hilary Blair indicated that Mary Brandon was present and Dean and Jean MacKay did in fact lead the Grand March and reminisced about the club's early days. Murray Shoolbraid wrote a poem to celebrate this 25th Anniversary:

The 25th, the Silver Year
 Since founding of Gleneagles,
 Our hearts and feet persuades to greet
 And Scottish minds inveigles.

It was in 1962
 That some brave souls, excited,
 Would make a class - it came to pass,
 And Mary was invited.

They struggled on with pas-de-basque,
 Skip-change of step, and reeling,
 And in poussette did not forget
 To show the social feeling.

So while the first decision may
 Have seemed quite rash and drastic,
 In all the years they've had no fears,
 But stayed enthusiastic.

So let's get on to celebrate,
 As swift and keen as beagles,
 To dance away the festive day -
 The 25th Gleneagles.

One sad item to note is that it was the last official function at which the Schiehallion Band played for Gleneagles, because in June of that year the band members regretfully decided that after 11 years, the time had come for them to move on.

1987 was West Vancouver's 75th Anniversary of Incorporation and the Gleneagles Club was asked to dance in Ambleside Park on June 16th. It was enjoyed so much by the public that the club was asked to repeat it on July 22nd. This was in addition to the regular Monday night 'Dancing in the Park.'

With the break-up of Schiehallion, Alex Jappy stepped into the breach with his Trio which included Alex on the accordion, his daughter Maureen on the piano and Fred Collins on drums. Alex still plays for many dances around the Lower Mainland. Ruth Jappy is the very able teacher for the Delta Borderers and also teaches 'old time' dancing as well. The 1987 Ball, once again held at the Hotel Vancouver, had a programme that current dancers would recognize at once, other than the *Reel of Mey* and there were one hundred and ninety-two dancers present. (Fred Collins returned to Toronto and later went on to become an entertainer in his own right as a piano player and singer of Scottish songs)

At the first committee meeting in 1988 there was a report that the record equipment broke down again on the first night of dancing and the cost of repair was \$64.00. There was general agreement that new equipment must be purchased and teachers should be encouraged to go to tapes (it is interesting to note that despite the introduction of Califone and Superscope players a few years earlier, records were still in use into the late 1980's). In any event, once again new equipment was purchased at a cost of almost \$1000.00 and included a variable-speed cassette player with separate speakers and a microphone system. May set about converting the remaining records to tapes. Fortunately the reserve fund in early 1988 was in excess of \$4000.00 after all the 1987 Ball expenses were taken care of, so the cost of the new equipment did not make a serious dent in the funds.

In February an invitation to all Lower Mainland clubs was received from Chemainus on Vancouver Island to attend a two day 'Ceilidh' in July. Because it was

several months away the matter was tabled until later and would be circulated to all Gleneagles dancers before the end of the Spring session. It was, as we shall see, an unusual and very different event. The invitation came from the Chemainus Festival of Murals Society and the Sona Scottish Country Dancers to take part in the 'Super Ceilidh' on July 8 and 9. The ceilidh was to celebrate the historic contribution made by the Scottish people who settled in the Chemainus Valley. The invitation also pointed out that Chemainus was once a dying mill town, but is now a bustling community visited by over 300,000 people a year, who enjoy the twenty-one larger than life murals that serve to celebrate the town's past.

In the meantime, on April 27, 1988 Phyllis Gaskell became the first woman President of the Gleneagles Club, with Voldy Mierau as Vice-President. John and Joyce Toomer became Treasurer and Membership Coordinator respectively. Virginia Tanner took over the Social Convenor role and Mary Crickmore continued as Secretary.

(Like so many, John and Joyce Toomer began dancing in Charlie Dobie's Carisbrooke class in 1985, having watched a performance by the Vancouver Branch demonstration team at the Kitsilano Showboat that summer. As there was no Beginner's class Charlie kindly arranged for new dancers to come half an hour early for extra tuition. John and Joyce transferred to Gleneagles and eventually joined the demonstration team.)

A few days beforehand, on Sunday April 22, another event occurred which, while not a Gleneagles function was endorsed enthusiastically by members. It was a Two Hundred and Fifty-Sixsome master-minded by Ian Price, which took place in the quadrangle on the Simon Fraser University Campus. It was a resounding success, made all the more so by the participation of the now world-famous Simon Fraser University Pipe Band, who played for the dancing. Gleneagles provided a large contingent and the event was entered into the Guinness Book of Records. (The Simon Fraser Pipe-band has won the World-Champion Pipe-Band contest in Glasgow no less than four times, beginning in 1997.)

An official invitation came for the Gleneagles Demonstration Team to perform at the Chemainus weekend and a large contingent from the club went over to take part in the weekend. On Saturday July 8, at 10.30 a.m. in glorious weather, the Sooke Highlanders Pipe Band led a parade through the town, ending at the Ceilidh site. There was continuous entertainment on the large stage. Gleneagles was represented by both the Demonstration Team and Ray Eagle singing, accompanied by Alex Jappy on the accordion. In the evening a dinner dance was held at the Ladysmith High School to live music provided by the Hop Scotch Band.

In the park where the activities took place was a newly constructed water-wheel and a dance was written to commemorate it by local dancer Morley White, named the "Water Wheel Reel." Another featured dance was "Staffin Harvest" because it was written by H.P.C. Mitchell, who lived in nearby Duncan. While on a visit to Skye he watched the harvest being gathered near Staffin on the Trotternish promontory at the north end of the island.

When in August the notice went out to advise people of the September registration night, there was also a note of congratulations to Maureen Hood, who had gained her Preliminary Teacher's Certificate at the St. Andrews Summer School. Maureen had now joined the high number of Gleneagles members who went on to become teachers, most of whom are still active.

One annual event on the Vancouver Scottish Country dancing calendar which has been held for several years is the November 11th Lady Aberdeen Scottish Country Dance Society's Remembrance Day Tea Dance, a gathering to which many Gleneagles dancers attend regularly. Now that the new Scottish Cultural Centre was being used more frequently for dancing events the Remembrance Day Tea Dance attendance increased steadily and it has become a hugely successful event with up to nearly two hundred dancers attending. Aside from the hard work of the Lady Aberdeen members, perhaps part of its success is the fact that it follows on from the morning Remembrance Day parades, and all they mean in remembering the thousands of soldiers throughout the Empire (and later the Commonwealth) who gave their lives in two world wars.

A feature of the Tea Dance is the *Reel of the 51st* (the 51st Highland Division), many of whose members were captured at St. Valéry in 1940. The dance was composed by one of the 51st Division's officers at the German prisoner of war camp Oflag VII B, and those dancing as 'ladies' wore a handkerchief around their upper arm. There was also an officers' pipe band formed in the camp.

At the Lady Aberdeen Tea Dance, in accordance with the P.O.W. camp's tradition, the dance is first performed by only the men before opening up as a four couple reel.

(See Appendix 4A - More on the Lady Aberdeen Scottish Country Dance Society)

The 1988 Ball was held on December 16 and as it was billed as the 25th Annual Ball there was much preparation for this important milestone in the Club's history (Strictly speaking the 25th Anniversary Ball should be held in 1990, as the first official ball was March 9, 1965). Silver fans were ordered to present to the ladies as they arrived, and red pens with the Club's name embossed in white lettering were to be at each place setting. An anniversary cake was ordered from the Vancouver Vocational Institute and George Will was asked to write a Strathspey to be included on the Ball programme, which he named "Gleneagles."

The programme was:

<i>The Highland Lass</i>	<i>A Jig for Mrs Dunn</i>
<i>Machine without Horses</i>	<i>Gleneagles Dominie</i>
<i>Gleneagles</i>	<i>The Old Man of Storr</i>
<i>Clutha</i>	<i>Miss Milligan's Strathspey</i>
<i>St. Andrew's Fair</i>	<i>Mrs Stuart's Jig</i>
<i>Belle of Bon Accord</i>	<i>Scottish Reform</i>
<i>Pinewoods Reel</i>	<i>Garry Strathspey</i>
<i>Happy Returns</i>	<i>The Learig</i>
<i>Extras: Polharrow Burn , Silver Tassie & College Hornpipe</i>	

At the club's A.G.M. in April 1989 it was reported that membership had fallen from 142 members in 1988 to 115 paid-up members. When the lapsed members were contacted, all gave valid reasons for dropping out. Once more there was a concern over the decrease in membership and various suggestions came from the floor as to how this could be overcome. Following one suggestion, information cards were printed and members were asked to distribute them to libraries, public notice boards, church halls and any other locations that might attract people to learn about the club's activities. Posters were also printed and displayed around the North Shore. It was later reported that as a recruitment tool they were not very effective, because when, at the start of the 1989 Fall session, new members were asked how they heard about Scottish Country dancing, not one mentioned seeing

the posters. Despite the worries an impressive eighty-two dancers attended the Spring party at Highlands United Church hall.

There was a slight change on the Executive Committee when Voldy Mierau stepped down as Vice-President having joined the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir, and Katherine Gissing was voted into the position. Shortly after the A.G.M. it was learned that Past President Peter Evans had died from cancer, which he had fought bravely. Marie continued to dance, which she still does at the West Vancouver Seniors' Centre.

In July 1989 the Chemainus Ceilidh Weekend was repeated and a good contingent of Gleneagles' dancers went across for it. Fortunately the weather behaved again and it was a glorious day, capped off with a dance in the evening at the Ladysmith High School.

An unusual event in 1989 was the first "Dance Around the World" (also called 'Reel-Aid'), scheduled for August 5th. Under the chairmanship of Alastair Aitkenhead there was an ambitious full programme with a cassette tape of all the music available from Edinburgh. The programme was:

<i>Triumph</i>	<i>Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich</i>
<i>Miss Allie Anderson</i>	<i>St. Andrew's Gardens</i>
<i>Miss Milligan's Strathspey</i>	<i>The Cuillins of Skye</i>
<i>The Duke of Perth</i>	<i>The Earl of Mansfield</i>
<i>Tribute to the Borders</i>	<i>Hamilton House</i>
<i>Glasgow Highlanders</i>	<i>Frae Scotia's Shores</i>
<i>Flowers of Edinburgh</i>	<i>Frae a' the Airts</i>
<i>Miss Gibson's Strathspey</i>	<i>McLeod's Fancy</i>

BBC Scotland's programme "Take the Floor" took up the concept and broadcast from the St. Andrew's Summer School. In Vancouver the dancing took place at 2 p.m. at Ceperley in Stanley Park, where the Monday night dancing is held. Gleneagles provided a large contingent of dancers and also added to outdoor dancing programmes by having Wednesday sessions in Ambleside Park during the month of July.

At the first committee meeting of the Fall session the members learned of an offer from Jackie Wilkie's sister, Dr. Marjorie Newton of Edinburgh, to make a quilted club banner, to be 4 feet by 3 feet, on which would be displayed the St. Andrew's Cross together with a theme of the Lion's Gate Bridge backed by the North Shore mountains. There was unanimous agreement that this would be a wonderful thing for the club to have and Marjorie was asked to proceed.

The 1989 December 15 Gleneagles Ball took place once more at the Hotel Vancouver, to the music of the Alex Jappy Trio. The programme would be familiar to present day dancers - with one exception - a dance called *The Kiss Under the Stairs.*, which has, as far as can be ascertained, not been on a program before or since.

The new banner duly arrived in March 1990 and was presented officially to the club members at the April 25 A.G.M. The appearance of the banner was a total surprise to club members and was met with unanimous approval. It has been displayed many times since. A warm letter of thanks was sent to Marjorie Newton.

At the A.G.M. there were several changes on the executive committee. Kathleen Gissing (a professional engineer) became President and Howard Meredith took the Vice-President position. Julie King replaced Mary Crickmore as secretary (Julie and her mother Betty lived in Deep Cove and were keen dancers for several years through the late 1980's and early 1990's). Joyce Toomer took over membership while John Toomer remained as Treasurer. The new social convenor was long-time dancer Moyra Heyerdahl. Another member who became the Intermediate class rep was Elizabeth Breuer. Elizabeth has remained a strong member of Gleneagles and in 2001 she married the Rev. Jim Smith, another keen member and a Presbyterian minister.

For the third year running an invitation was received from the Cowichan Sona Dancers to attend the third annual Chemainus Ceilidh. Unfortunately, 1990 was to be the last year of this novel event, in its outstanding setting. For whatever reason no more were planned and now the Sona Dancers are no more. It is to be hoped that one day it will be revived because the event drew a large number of dancers from the Lower Mainland and it surely would again.

At the 1990 A.G.M. there was a discussion about finances, the Club's account at the North Shore Credit Union having reached \$5,700. One member was concerned about the size of the balance and suggested that a generous donation be given to charity. It was quickly pointed out that it was not a large reserve when the club could be faced with rent increases for school space, plus the possibility of looking outside Vancouver to bring in a band for a future Ball, perhaps from Scotland. It was finally resolved to investigate the purchase of a term deposit for most of the surplus.

Another item which was discussed was a problem with the Hotel Vancouver. After having held the annual Ball at the hotel since 1977 and, in the intervening fourteen years, being courted by the management, they were now, for the second year, reneging on confirmed dates. The December 7 date for the 1990 Ball was moved by the hotel to November 7 - far too early. From the hotel's point of view December was the time for office Christmas parties and dances. If a request came in for a company dance where more liquor would be consumed than by Ball attendees, the hotel felt justified in giving priority to the former. It had not been a problem before, but it can only be assumed that with the increase in so called 'dot-com' companies in the early 'nineties with younger staff and greater disposable incomes, in the eyes of the hotel management their patronage was of greater importance. It was agreed at the A.G.M. that until an alternative location could be found, all the club could do was to 'roll with the punches.' However, despite this, the Ball went off well and the hotel laid on complimentary tea, coffee and cookies at the end, so it was really the issue of dates that had caused concern.

It should be noted that four dances on the 1990 Ball programme have not proved popular here and have seldom, if ever, appeared on programmes since. These are the *Back of Bennachie*, the *Oriel Strathspey*, *The Misses Cramb of Linlithgow*. and *Kendall's Hornpipe*. (The *Oriel Strathspey* is still danced in Scotland and was on the Inverness Glen Orrin Dancers' programme as recently as July 2003)

At the April 24 A.G.M. John Toomer took over the Chair from Kathleen Gissing and Len Miller became Vice-President. Julie King remained on the board, but changed to Treasurer, while Dorie Smith took over as Secretary. Joyce Toomer and Moyra Heyerdahl remained in their positions as Membership Secretary and Social Convenor. It was reported at the AGM that in view of the healthy state of

the funds the committee would try to procure the services of Stan Hamilton's Band from Toronto, plus fiddler Alistair Fraser for the 1991 Ball.

May Loudon made mention of a special Scottish Country dance event as part of the forthcoming 1991 B.C. Highland Games, to be held on Saturday June 29. The B.C. Highland Games has been an annual fixture for many, many years, possibly begun sometime during the 1890's by the St. Andrews and Caledonian Society. For several years it was held at the Brockton Oval in Stanley Park. Many organizations have contributed to the continuing success of the Games, among them the B.C. Highland Dancing Association. However, Scottish Country dancing had not played a vital role until the late 1980's. At that time the Games were held at Delta's Deas Island Park, on the south bank of the Fraser River. In 1991 a big effort was made to promote Scottish Country dancing with a plea for all Lower Mainland groups to participate in a competition - but a competition with a difference - known as 'The Great Set Competition' - the objective being to encourage (quote) 'non-believers' into taking up dancing. The competition's main aim was not technique, but for the team judged to be the happiest and to have the most smiles. The compulsory dance was *The Belle of Bon Accord* and the other was to be free style and the choice of each team.

Judges were Jean Hudson, Ruth Jappy, Liz Johnston and May Loudon. Gleneagles won, but in asking Duncan MacKenzie about his recollections of the event (albeit twelve years later) he thought that the Gleneagles set was mainly from the demonstration team (and May and Liz were Gleneagles members). However, the other judges were obviously satisfied, so it could not have concerned them too much. Though billed as an annual event, it was the only year of the competition. There was also a 'sixty-foursome' danced that same year and because of these activities, Scottish Country dancing now plays a more prominent role at the B.C. Highland Games.

In July, for only the second time since its inception, the summer party was rained out on the Saturday (the first time was in 1980), but it was fine on the Sunday, so that is when it was held.

When the September 1980 sign-up came along the club membership was confirmed at 107, including sixteen beginners, an indication that membership was holding well. Unfortunately the sign-up numbers for new members were not consistently reported in the year-by-year minutes of each October committee meeting, so it is hard to make a year-to-year comparison. Nevertheless, looking back at the periodic hand-wringing over numbers, it is an indication of the wide fluctuations in membership.

The good news was that both Stan Hamilton and Alistair Fraser had been confirmed and by the time the 1991 Ball took place on Friday, November 29, 187 tickets had been sold. Although other venues were examined, the Vancouver Hotel's Pacific Ballroom was again chosen and, once more, with the superb musicianship of Stan Hamilton's band and the addition of Alistair Fraser's playing, it was a night to be remembered.

The programme was a good mixture of old and new, including some of the dances previously mentioned as not appearing too often - and one which would appeal to all dancers with Jacobite leanings - *Over the Water to Charlie* (*The White Cockade* also has a Jacobite connection because it was the emblem of Bonnie Prince Charlie's 1745/46 ill-fated attempt to retake the British Throne for the Stuarts):

<i>The White Cockade</i>	<i>Clutha</i>
<i>Mrs Stewart's Jig</i>	<i>Over the Water to Charlie</i>
<i>Prince Rupert's Fancy</i>	<i>Neidpath Castle</i>
<i>Back O' Bennachie</i>	<i>The Montgomeries' Rant</i>
<i>The Linton Ploughman</i>	<i>Bees of Maggieknockater</i>
<i>The Village Reel</i>	<i>Ellwyn Strathspey</i>
<i>Shiftin' Bobbins</i>	<i>Reel of the Royal Scots</i>
<i>The Silver Tassie</i>	<i>Machine without Horses</i>
<i>Maxwell's Rant</i>	<i>Farewell to Auchterarder</i>

A sad note towards the end of 1991 for Lower Mainland dancers was the death of George Will, the original pianist of the Schiehallion band, due to cancer. George was not only an exceptional pianist and very able dancer, he also wrote many dances, among them *Hunt the Gowk* (Fool), *Gang the Same Gate* and *Gleneagles*, a strathspey written for the club's 25th Ball. A donation was made by the club to the U.B.C. Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund.

In February 1992 a letter was sent out from Edinburgh to all affiliated groups worldwide reminding them to renew their membership in the R.S.C.D.S. An interesting item was the offer of a cassette with two of the speeches given by Miss Milligan at the Summer School, with excerpts from three others. It had been her practice for many years to address all the students in each intake. With her enthusiasm for dancing it can only be guessed at how inspirational her talks must have been.

By March 1992 the membership had reached 115 - and the beginners formed a high proportion of the club membership. Because of the healthy state of the club funds it was decided by the committee to have another out-of-town band for the 1992 Ball. It was a San Francisco band called 'Fiddlesticks and Ivory' with seven musicians comprising three fiddlers, a pianist, double-bass player, accordionist and drummer, who had played together for over six years. The Toomers and Millers had danced to the band at the Asilomar Weekend in California and had rated them as 'fantastic.' By the time of the A.G.M. on April 22 a contract had been signed with the band. A few weeks before Asilomar Weekend the band had produced a recording with the imaginative title "Ghillies on the Golden Gate."

Unfortunately at the April 22 A.G.M. this did not meet with a general consensus among the members, many of whom felt that a local band should have been booked as there had been out-of-town musicians at the 1991 Ball. It was not generally known that several members of the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra had made it clear they might have left the group by the time of the 1992 Ball, which was confirmed in a later letter from Rosemary Coupe. Two long-time Gleneagles members felt strongly enough that they wrote letters to the committee expressing concern over the decision to bring in the outside band when there were local groups who deserved support and whose musicianship was not in question, although members of the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra had clearly stated that they did not wish to play at this particular Ball. The other concern was the cost of bringing a seven member band all the way from San Francisco, with the need to provide airfare and accommodation. It necessitated a 20% increase in the cost of Ball tickets and one of the writers pointed out that a growing number of retirees within the membership were on fixed incomes.

However, Rosemary's letter gave a different perspective. She wrote: "I too have heard 'Fiddlesticks and Ivory' when they played for the 1991 Teachers' Association

weekend in San Francisco. Musically they are in a class of their own; their sound is clear; their arrangements inventive, and their dynamics astounding.

. . . Ian Price has told me that the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra does not want the pressure of unceasing engagements . . . the fiddlers play for the pleasure of playing together. I do not have the sense that they are particularly looking for bookings [especially] as the size of the group varies, which does not suggest their priority is to groom themselves for highly polished performances.

Since Gleneagles is the only club (outside the Branch) with the resources to bring up 'Fiddlesticks and Ivory,' the committee may want to think of this in terms of the benefit to all Lower Mainland dancers.

. . . I'd like to concur with all the club members in thanking the committee for the fine work you do for us."

And so it was confirmed that 'Fiddlesticks and Ivory' would play for the 1992 Ball on November 27, and at the A.G.M. the decision was accepted by the general membership. Fortunately the Victoria Branch was keen to take advantage of the band's presence in B.C. and a dance had been arranged there the following night, so this would help defray the cost of bringing the band up from California. (Fiddlesticks and Ivory played for the May 29, 2004 Langley 5th Anniversary Gala)

At the 1992 A.G.M. Len Miller was elected President, with David Foreman as Vice President, Secretary 'B.J.' Coombs; Treasurer Julie King, membership Joyce Toomer and Imelda Beesley taking over as Social Convenor.

(Len and Cathy Miller began dancing in the late 1970s, as a means of rehabilitation for a badly broken leg which Len suffered in a 1975 motor-cycle accident while in the Vancouver City Police. They joined the Branch in the days when the principal teachers were Margaret Zadworny and George Will. Despite the initial pain Len persisted and became good enough that when he and Cathy transferred to Gleneagles they were invited on to the Gleneagles demonstration team. When a few years later Len met his surgeon, the doctor was in disbelief and said he didn't think Len would ever walk properly again, never mind dance!

Over the years B.J. and her husband David have danced only intermittently with Gleneagles because, as a professional engineer, he works on contract in various parts of the world. They would dance for a few months and then be off to some overseas location when he signed on for the next contract)

Soon after the A.G.M. another hurdle was placed in front of the club when a letter was received from the West Vancouver School Board informing the members that the club would henceforth have to negotiate directly with the West Vancouver School District instead of Continuing Education, as had been the practice in the past. Whereas the rate per member had been \$5 per year it was to be increased to \$27.50 per member under the new arrangement. Even worse, because of cutbacks in janitorial staffing, Hollyburn Elementary would no longer be available and classes would be moved to Pauline Johnson School, which has a cement floor in the gym

Joyce Toomer wrote to the School Board pointing out the long-standing arrangement to rent Hollyburn Elementary for weekly classes throughout each term. She also emphasized that the Gleneagles Scottish Country Dance Club was non-profit and it provided valuable volunteer services to the community, entertaining in various care homes, at the Lions Gate Hospital Extended Care Unit and at the West Vancouver Community Days. Joyce asked if, because of this bond with the community, special consideration could be given in reducing the proposed rate increase to a more manageable level.

There was a partial resolution; the club was allowed to continue at Hollyburn Elementary for the 1992/93 season and the per member fee increase was reduced from \$27.50 to \$13.50. A letter showing the club's appreciation was sent to Superintendent Doug Player, with particular thanks to staff member Sharon Pierce, commending her efforts on Gleneagles' behalf.

At the sign-up for the 1992 Fall session 113 dancers registered, a small increase over 1991. There was disappointment that the Fall Workshop and Dance attendance was poor and there was a question about its continuance. Fortunately, at the November 12 Committee meeting there was better news over ticket sales for the November 27 Ball, with 155 sold or guaranteed. Numbers would be kept to 196 total to ensure comfortable spacing for the sets. Teacher Liz Johnston had generously offered to put up the band members following the Ball. Transportation had to be carefully worked out, with volunteers needed to pick up the band at the airport, then to take them out to Liz's house in Surrey at the end of the evening. The following day they had to be taken to the Tsawwassen ferry terminal for the trip to Victoria and then the final pick-up at Tsawwassen to return to the airport.

The Victoria Branch and the Van Isle club were combining forces for their November 28 dance. The November Branch newsletter mentioned the excitement of Victoria area dancers at this wonderful and rare opportunity to dance to a seven-piece band. The whole weekend went off without a hitch and both events were talked about for many weeks afterwards.

When dancing resumed in January 1993 it was still at Hollyburn Elementary, but the Committee was advised that a move to Pauline Johnson would be necessary in March, as Hollyburn would shortly undergo major renovations. Surprisingly, in view of the earlier information regarding lack of janitorial facilities, it was suggested that Hollyburn would again become available once the renovations were completed. It later transpired that janitor fees for three nights a week would be financially unmanageable for the club, so Len Miller suggested striking a sub-committee to look into other locations.

In May of 1993 Gleneagles lost another long-time dancer when Charles Young died. Many will remember him as a courtly gentleman who in Scotland might be described as 'kenspeckle.' He looked like a smaller edition of James Robertson Justice (and also spoke in the same authoritative manner). Charles was an instructor in history at Langara College and was an active member of the West Point Grey Branch, Royal Canadian Legion where he could be found taking a leading part in the Burns' Night celebrations, singing Scottish songs with a good tenor voice. He also wrote a book with the intriguing title "Twenty Four Men Good and True", which embraced the lives of twenty-four members of Branch 142 (West Point Grey) Royal Canadian Legion, twelve each from WW I and WW II. Charles also helped as a volunteer at Citizenship Courts.

From the September 1993 sign up the classes remained at Hollyburn Elementary through to April 1994, but it became evident that a new location would have to be found for September and beyond. At the 1994 A.G.M. Voldy Mierau took over as President and he immediately set about finding a suitable space. Over the years several dances had been held at St. Andrews and St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church in North Vancouver. The hall was more than adequate and had a good wooden floor. Upon inquiry Voldy found that it could be rented for a reasonable rate. The Wednesday class and the Thursday Beginners' class would be held there,

with the Intermediate Monday class taking place at St. Catherine's Anglican Church on Ridgewood in North Vancouver.

One welcome piece of news was that the number of registrants signed up that September was 112, up from 94 the previous year. Dorie Smith, who had recently acquired her Preliminary Teachers Certificate had taken over the Beginners class with Hellen Stephen. Maureen Hood took over the Monday night Intermediate class and taught it for several years. She had taken her Prelim at St. Andrews in 1988 but had begun a children's class, the Children's Delbrook Scottish Country Dancers the previous year, with financial support from the Vancouver Branch. The class is still going, but she now has the help of Alison Moen with the Beginners and daughter Colette's help with the Advanced class. Maureen also teaches a seniors' group at the West Vancouver Seniors' Centre.

The 1995-96 slate of officers produced a mixture of old and new names; Peter Buitenhuis became President and Elizabeth Breuer took the Vice-President's position. Anna Brown was once more secretary, taking over from Joyce Toomer, while the Treasurer's role was taken over by David Mackie. Beryl Skinner took over Membership and two newcomers became joint social convenors - Mary Kempton and Jean Wilson. Bill Brown, Hellen Stephen and Elizabeth Slieker became respectively Monday Class rep, Wednesday class rep and Thursday class rep. Dave Mackie reported that the Club's bank surplus was now \$6,900.53, the highest it had ever been since the club's inception. However, there was no concern expressed this time about the amount, or using some for a special event - and in fact it later went even slightly higher.

(Elizabeth Slieker had danced in Edinburgh at the Royal Overseas League while taking midwifery training, but as a couple she and John danced briefly in Jessie McCready's class in Vancouver in the 1970's then 'faded away' until joining Gleneagles as beginners in the 1990's under Dorie Smith and Hellen Stephen. Mary Kempton comes from the English seaside town of Bournemouth where, at a private school she did Scottish Country dancing. In Vancouver she began classes in the late 1950s at the old Scottish Cultural Centre on Fir and 12th, but did not continue and it was not until well into the 1990s that Mary took it up again.

It is worth mentioning at this point that most of the above mentioned members have remained active in the club and have made great contributions, especially Hellen Stephen, but also Dave and Hazel Mackie and Elizabeth Breuer (Smith). Dave Mackie took over as Treasurer from Julie King in 1994/95 and has held the position ever since.

(The Mackies grew up on Deeside, where Hazel began dancing at school, eventually entering dance festivals. She lived on the south side of the Dee in the farming community of Maryculter, while Dave lived at Peterculter, on the north side. Though several miles apart, they could see each other's houses - and Hazel knew when Dave's car was in the driveway! They came to Canada in 1967, first to Montreal, then in 1973 to Vancouver. They joined Gleneagles in 1982. Hazel is on the Branch Board of Directors and currently coordinates the Burns' Supper - and is the Gleneagles Club Social Convenor. She also sings with the Bach Choir. Elizabeth Smith began her dancing in Charlie Dobie's Carisbrooke class in 1985 before moving over to Gleneagles the following year and is now club President (second time around) as well as being on the Gleneagles' Demonstration Team. Beryl Skinner is another long-time dancer who with her husband Jim emigrated from Scotland in 1960, first to Calgary. Beryl graduated from St. Andrew's University in 1948 but does not recall any evidence of a Scottish Country Dance Summer School at that time; however she does have the distinction of

having been taught by Alastair Aitkenhead when she lived in Ardrossan. Alastair Aitkenhead was later Chairman of the R.S.C.D.S, serving from 1988 to 1991. Another long-time dancer, Dorothy Earnshaw and her husband Hartley also joined the same year as Elizabeth Breuer. Unfortunately Hartley's health did not allow him to continue dancing and he passed away in June, 2004.)

Another long-time member of Gleneagles who also danced in Charlie Dobie's class is Helen Hughes. Helen began dancing with the Girl-Guides in Scotland in the late 1940's. She also has the distinction of having danced in Mrs. Bingham's class in Vancouver in the early 1960's. Helen's husband, Al, is a great supporter, and helps out whenever and wherever a willing pair of hands is needed.

Other long-time club members are Moyra Heyerdahl and Moraig Biagi, both originally from Scotland, Moraig from the town of Kilmarnock, where she danced at school on Saturday mornings. Like Helen she remembers doing the simpler dances then in vogue such as the *Circassian Circle* and *Petronella*. Moraig joined Janet Dickson's class in 1984. Moyra is from Glasgow and grew up in Queen's Park. She did some dancing at school, but not as much as others remember doing. Like Moraig, she came to Vancouver in 1955. Her husband, Tom, is Norwegian and was not too interested in Scottish Country dancing, so it was not until 1984 that Moyra also joined Janet's class and has remained a keen dancer ever since.

While mentioning those who have made a contribution to the club it would be remiss not to include a couple, now regretfully both passed on, who danced through the 1980's and into the 1990's; Frank and Norma Tschumi. They were elderly when they came to Scottish Country dancing, both well into their eighties, but danced well and enthusiastically. Frank had come to Vancouver from Switzerland with his first wife and joined the electrical engineering company, Spilsbury and Tindall Ltd., where he worked for many years. When his wife died he became re-acquainted with Norma, a friend from his youth and still living in Switzerland, who had become widowed. He invited her to come to Vancouver and within a short time they decided to marry. Frank continued dancing well past his ninetieth year and eventually ran the Friday morning class at the West Vancouver Seniors' Centre. He and Norma not only travelled widely, but did kayaking and canoeing around the Gulf Islands. In March 2000 at the age of 93, Frank suffered a stroke and died soon after. In early 2002, Norma, in her late eighthies, developed leukemia and died in Lion's Gate Hospital in September 2002. They were a wonderful, gentle couple and many people look back with fond memories of their hospitality in the Swiss-style home they built in the upper British Properties and at their cabin on South Pender Island.

At the 1996 A.G.M. held on April 24, the Presidency was taken over by Elizabeth Breuer, and Alan Brown (who had been on the committee back in the late 1970's) became Vice-President. A concern was expressed about the cost of hall rentals as both St. Catherines and St. Andrews & St. Stephens had raised their rents 'dramatically'. The club had no option but to go along with this as both halls were very adequate for the purpose, but any further increases would need to be questioned and a plea put in to hold the line. Fortunately, before the September start-up, word was received from St. Andrews and St. Stephens that it would hold the line at \$37.50 per evening

There was a minor crisis with teaching in 1996-97, as Dorie Smith wished to take some time out because of a family situation and Maureen Hood was admitted to hospital for major surgery and would be out of action for several months. Janet

Mierau and Hellen Stephen agreed to take over their classes. At the November 24th 1996 Executive Committee meeting a dire prediction was made that due to a decrease in club membership it might be necessary to break into the club's \$5000 G.I.C. to keep the general funds from going into the red. Fortunately, by the time of the 1997 April 23 A.G.M. this had not been necessary.

At the 1997 A.G.M. Alan Brown became the President for the second time, the first time being the 1978-79 session. (Dr.) Jim Smith became Vice President and a new name was added to the executive committee; Keith Errington, who took over membership, while John Slieker became Monday class rep.

1997 saw a big departure in the Annual Ball arrangements. Because of declining cooperation from the Vancouver Hotel's catering staff it was felt that other locations should be explored. After contacting several hotels it became obvious that there was little likelihood of a better location being found - or that the club would receive any better consideration. Finally after talking to the catering manager, a novel idea was presented. This was to hold the ball on a Sunday afternoon and into the early evening.

At that time of the year darkness comes so early that it would not spoil the atmosphere of the Ball and, having agreed it was good idea it was just a matter of working out the logistics, such as when to arrive, when to have the dinner and what time the dancing should start and end. The date was set for Sunday December 14 and it was not only a great success, with 159 attendees a profit of \$460 was made on ticket sales. The Ball has been held on a Sunday ever since.

There were some changes to the executive at the 1998 April 1 A.G.M. Louise Murphy took over from Anna Brown as Secretary. David Edgar joined as back-up Treasurer and Elizabeth Slieker replaced husband John as Monday class rep while Gleneagles stalwart and long-time teacher Hellen Stephen became the Wednesday class rep. Susan Kinnee joined the committee as Thursday class rep.

(Pat and David Edgar joined Gleneagles at the same time as Keith and Norma Errington after trying ballroom dancing. They saw a demonstration team perform at a Burns' Night in the Fraternal Order of Eagles' hall in North Vancouver and decided they would like to try it. They joined Hellen Stephen's Beginners' class and soon felt confident enough to attend the first workshop and Ball held at Whistler in 1997.

As a teenager in the 1970s Louise would go to watch the dancing in Stanley Park and then practise the steps at home. A dancer she recalls as Jack, realizing she had been coming for several weeks invited her to dance (dancing was not so inclusive to spectators then). She joined Carisbrooke under Mary Murray, and because of her knowledge acquired in the Park, she was able to go straight into the Intermediate class. After living in the Fraser Valley for several years Louise returned to the North Shore and joined Gleneagles, briefly dancing with Maureen Hood's Intermediates, but was soon invited to the Advanced class and then to join the Demonstration Team.)

Shortly after the A.G.M. news came of the death of Bob Blackie, one of the most popular of Canada's internationally known Scottish Country dance teachers, who came to Vancouver regularly to teach. He travelled as widely as our own Mary Murray and, indeed the two were good friends and taught together frequently. His death at 62 was attributed to asbestosis from his days working on heat shield units while in the R.A.F. Bob's travels teaching Scottish Country dance took him to

Australia, Indonesia, Russia, Singapore, and just about every major city around North America. Bob was short and stocky with a powerful figure and was a skillful Highland dancer. It was a privilege to watch him do the Highland Fling with such superbly controlled foot-work. At his memorial service in Toronto there were over 900 people and he was given a full obituary in the "Lives Lived" column of the *Globe and Mail*.

In 1998 the club experienced another dip in numbers, so much so that the Beginners' class was cancelled and the few new members who registered were moved into the Intermediate class. Yet ironically, the club funds were so healthy that ideas were put forward by the executive to dispose of some of it. One suggestion was that CD equipment be considered, but after investigation it was found that not only would it be expensive, with costs in the \$1000 range, but also it would be difficult to change speed without adding an extra attachment at more cost. The committee decided not to proceed for the foreseeable future.

Needless to say, the fall-off of new dancers caused the committee considerable consternation and much thought was given to finding ways to improve the situation for the coming year. A single-sheet flyer was designed by Dave Mackie for distribution in libraries, churches, or wherever bulletin boards could be found. A special emphasis was placed on Capilano College, where younger people might be encouraged to sign up. One novel idea was to offer a ceilidh to the congregations of the two churches where classes take place, partly as a 'thank you' for the use of the church halls and partly as a recruiting tool. The ceilidh would be followed by lessons in some of the simpler dances. An advertisement would be placed in the North Shore night school programme brochure (which presumably had been dropped in previous years) and also a 'bring a friend' night would be scheduled for the first night of dancing in January 1999.

At the executive meeting on November 1, 1998 the question of briefing came up. The briefing of dances was a topic that raised its head from time to time, with opposing sides firmly entrenched in their views. It was noted at the meeting that all the dances at the Branch Hallowe'en party had been briefed and it was thought that, had this been known ahead of time there might have been a better turn-out. After some discussion it was left that May Loudon would decide which dances should be briefed at Gleneagles events, rather than indicate on the programme ahead of time, otherwise people might come to rely upon the briefing. (It is now, of course, accepted practice to brief and because newer dances seem to be, on the whole, more complicated than most of the older ones, many people regard it as a definite aid.)

By February 1999 there was a full set of beginners - still not enough for a separate class - so they danced with the Intermediates and Maureen Hood gave them separate instruction. It was about this time that due to personal circumstances Dorie Smith announced that she was unable to continue teaching. Her mother, Zoe Gardiner, an Order of Canada recipient for her work with mentally challenged adults in Edmonton had died and Dorie moved back there to keep the home going, where she remained for several years before returning to the North Shore. Unfortunately a recurring back problem has deteriorated in the intervening years and Dorie is no longer able to dance.

At the March 24, 1999 A.G.M. a new slate was declared. (Dr.) Jim Smith took over as President and Elizabeth Sliker became Vice-President. Louise Murphy stepped down as Secretary and, as no one came forward to take the position, it was

left as a TBA item (Maureen Seddon took over the position but was unable to continue beyond February 2000 due to family commitments). Social Convenors were long-time members Pat Johnson, and Margaret Duff as well as Jennifer Bell. Alan Brown was thanked for his successful term as president and also for his years of service to the club, including his presidency in the 1970's.

(Jim and Marie Smith learned basic Scottish country dance steps at school in Glasgow, but it was not until they became neighbours of Jim and Mary Murray in the 1980s that they began to dance seriously. Aside from four years as a Royal Navy doctor, the sea still called Jim and Marie and they spent four years ocean sailing in the early 1980s in a boat they built themselves - and continued sailing into the 1990s.

Margaret Duff also came from Scotland and grew up in the small village of Benmore, north of Dunoon. Nearby was an estate which had belonged to the Younger family (makers of a popular beer). The grounds are now known as the Younger Botanic Gardens and the large house was used for public functions when Margaret was a teenager. Ceilidh dances with live music were held there regularly. Margaret's mother was 90 on November 3, 2004 and danced until recently at Women's Institute dances in the restored village hall. Benmore is near the hill 'Rest and be Thankful' and whenever Margaret returns home, the dance of that name is usually put on the programme for her. In 1994 she saw Helen Hughes' ad for the Carisbrooke classes at the time that Cathrine Conings was teaching, and signed up.)

When September came around it produced an influx of new members and so numbers for the Beginners' night became healthy once again. It was an exciting time as preparations were by now underway for the approaching millennium. There had been a request that Gleneagles not hold a 1999 Ball as, with the sanction of the Vancouver Branch, Duncan MacKenzie was organizing a December 31 Millennium Ball to be held at the Mickey McDougall Recreation Centre in North Vancouver. However, after much discussion it was decided to go ahead with a Gleneagles Ball because there was a distinct possibility that the club would not be able to return to the Vancouver Hotel if a year were missed, especially as extra conditions had been attached to the rental agreement. Likewise the very popular Branch 'Betwixt and Between' dance would also go ahead. Elizabeth Slieker was voted to represent Gleneagles on the Millennium Ball committee.

The Gleneagles Ball was well attended despite the fact that the Millennium Ball was to take place barely three weeks later. In fact a profit of \$800 was reported at the February 2000 executive committee meeting. The Millennium Ball was also a huge success, with music provided by the popular John Ellis band from Scotland. The space at the Mickey McDougall Centre is large, but with the help of Howard Meredith's wonderfully designed decorations the hall looked very attractive.

At the March 29, 2000 A.G.M. Elizabeth Slieker took over as President, with David Edgar as Vice President. Mary Wright took over as Secretary. Due to improvements with CD players one had been purchased by the club and Jim Smith was able to transfer some of the old tapes onto CDs.

There was considerable concern about increasing costs. The fees to Edinburgh had been raised and the Vancouver Branch was now charging \$40.00 per member to cover this. Also the two hall rentals had increased by 25%. In consequence the club fees were raised to \$90 single and \$160 double. In a letter to R.S.C.D.S. Headquarters from Elspeth Rennie, the Vancouver Branch Corresponding Secretary, she expressed the concern of the Gleneagles executive committee over

the increase in membership fees. Part of the reason for the fee increase was the large number of Life Members within the organization world-wide, but particularly in the U.K. which, in the words of then R.S.C.D.S Chairman Linda Gaul "... certainly does provide us with a dilemma." She went on to explain: "... many Life Members gave their money to the Society as an act of faith when the organization was trying to build up its capital reserves. . . but now that membership numbers are falling their impact is becoming more noticeable. The position of Life Members is to be considered at the next meeting of the Finance Committee."

Elsbeth suggested that they be asked to make a once only additional contribution - "in recognition of the years of service and pleasure the Society has given them through the years."

Headquarters clearly stated that there could be no reversal of the membership fee increase and it was pointed out that, in fact, there had been very little opposition to it globally. Fortunately the Gleneagles club continued to grow, in contrast to the universal picture of falling membership painted by Headquarters and at the A.G.M. David Foreman pointed out that Gleneagles accounted for 105 of the 365 Branch members in the 1999/2000 season.

The growth of Gleneagles created a problem for its teachers, especially May Loudon as Teacher Coordinator and a partial solution was a request put out for guest teachers until more teachers were qualified from within the club. Wendy Swaine, a qualified teacher, was a great asset at this difficult time, and two members who were studying for their 'prelims' - Phyllis Gaskell and Scott Macdonald, helped to cover the shortage. Wendy was the Branch Teacher Coordinator from 2002 through 2004.

When the 2000 pool party was held in the usual location at the home of Don and Mary Pool, no one had any idea that it would be for the last time. It was, as always, a success and the weather that day was sunny and warm, as club members had come to expect. At the end of the party Ian Loudon jokingly asked Don how long he and Mary could be expected to continue. Don replied "As long as we can."

Within a week Mary had suffered a debilitating stroke from which she never fully recovered and was transferred from Lions Gate Hospital to G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Unit to try to help her regain the use of her arms and hands. In the late summer the Pools purchased a house in Coldstream, near Vernon, above Kalamalka Lake, with easterly views down the Coldstream Valley to which they moved in February 2001. Don had the house especially fitted out for Mary's comfort and they were able to enjoy it for last few months before she died the following July. Don has since re-married, but continues to keep in touch and occasionally visits with the dancers at the West Vancouver Seniors' Centre when he is in town.

In early 2001 there was news of another 'Gleneagles wedding.' Elizabeth Breuer had become engaged to the Rev. Jim Smith, a newcomer to dancing, but a North Shore resident since 1994, who was interim minister at Cook's Presbyterian Church in Chilliwack. The 2001 Spring Party was given in their honour, with a specially decorated cake. There had not been a Gleneagles wedding since Simon and Carol Scott's in 1980, so it was looked forward to with great excitement. The wedding took place on April 21 at St. Christopher's Church in West Vancouver, followed by a reception at which many Gleneagles members were present. At a

dinner for invited guests in the Gizah Temple, one of the highlights was the Gleneagles Demonstration Team dancing *Brigadoon*.

Following the 2001 A.G.M., Elizabeth Sliker and David Edgar remained in their respective positions as President and Vice-President. The new Social Convenors were Derek and Maureen Seddon, along with Pat Edgar and the special Spring party fell under their guidance. Barb Wagner (now Barb Bell) joined Dorothy Earnshaw as the Advanced class reps. Barb has been the Vancouver Branch Treasurer for the past three years and also dances regularly with Alison Steele's Sunshine Coast group, where she has a home.

(Derek and Maureen were married in 1995 after having both lost their partners, and one summer Monday evening went to watch the dancing in Stanley park. Having decided to give it a try they joined the Burnaby club and then the Branch before moving to the North Shore, when they joined Gleneagles in 1997. They are also very keen lawn bowlers - but are not the only Gleneagles dancers that have this dual interest, because in the same club are the Slikeres, the Smiths, Hellen Stevens, Moyra Heyerdahl and Moraig Biagi. In fact at one bowling club function the group put on a dancing demonstration in the hope of getting more recruits.)

In April 2001, with both Phyllis Gaskell and Scott Macdonald successfully passing their Prelims, Maureen Hood advised May that she wished to resign from teaching. This caused some consternation as Maureen had been a valuable and dedicated teacher. However she has continued with the children's' class and also the Tuesday afternoon West Vancouver Seniors' class at the Seniors' Centre.

When the summer party was announced, it was natural for long-time club members to think back over the many years of hospitality by Don and Mary Pool and the sudden, unexpected reasons why that chapter of the club's history came to an end. May and Ian Loudon offered their spacious garden for the 2001 party and, once again July 21st dawned warm and sunny. Attendance was good and, in lieu of swimming, people played lawn games

Before the 2001 Fall start-up, Elizabeth Sliker was approached by Kristi Lind-Izaat who offered to play the piano for one of the Gleneagles classes. Numerous classes around the globe dance to piano music and with a pianist of the calibre of Kristi it is a very pleasant experience. The executive needed little persuading and it was agreed she should play for the beginners on Thursday evenings, which she did for a couple of seasons before moving to Naramata in 2002, but still plays regularly for Lower Mainland dance events - and is becoming more and more involved in dancing and playing in the Okanagan.

The 2001 Ball was held on December 9, again at the Hotel Vancouver, with 179 tickets sold and again strong representation from the young dancers of Stave Falls. However, there was a departure from the norm in that May Loudon contacted Lucy Hyslop of the Vancouver Sun and the Ball was given full coverage, including a lengthy article by Karen Gran accompanied by several photographs. As an offshoot, coverage was also given in papers in Victoria and Edmonton as well as the "Bright Lights" section of the North Shore News.

With the resignation of Maureen Hood, the Intermediate class was taken over by Cathrine Conings for the Fall season and, starting in January 2002, Marie Disiewicz became the Intermediate class teacher. (Cathrine, a long-time dancer, is the principal pianist for the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra and she also taught the Carisbrooke class for about six years from 1991)

At the 2002 A.G.M. held on March 27, Elizabeth Sliker remained President, with David Edgar as Vice President. Mary Wright remained Secretary and Dave Mackie continued as Treasurer. There was also no change in the Social Convenors, but Anne Brand and Margaret Stenhouse became the Intermediate class reps.

A special event was held in May when a surprise party was put on for May's 70th birthday at the Burrard Yacht Club. It was also the 25th anniversary of the Demonstration Team and all present and previous members were invited. Simon Scott wrote a dance for May titled *The Lady of Wishaw*. Those that were unable to attend, such as the Forbes, the Buchanans and Lydia Rice sent special greetings. The Gleneagles Demonstration Team has made an enormous contribution under May's direction. In almost thirty years of entertaining, to the North Shore and beyond it has danced in every West Vancouver Community Day programme since 1976 and has also participated in numerous Burns' Suppers, Royal Canadian Legion functions, the Kitsilano Showboat and such diverse locations as Waterfront Park, the Capilano Suspension Bridge, the inauguration of the Royal Hudson steam train's run to Squamish, plus special events on Quadra and Galiano Islands, and at Chemainus. (Regrettably, after the January 2005 Robbie Burns' activities, May decided that she could no longer continue as leader of the Demonstration Team and it was disbanded.)

Soon it was time for the 2002 start-up of Dancing in the Park. It was a great pity that, having written previously of the relatively few times rain occurred to spoil the event, in 2002 for the first time Gleneagles night was rained out. However, because the rule laid down several years ago that if it is raining at 4 p.m. the evening is cancelled, it does not mean that the actual evening is necessarily wet. Sometimes by a cruel coincidence it is the briefest shower and the evening clears beautifully. Also if it happens to be raining where the person who makes the decision lives, they will order the dancing cancelled though it may not have rained at all in Vancouver. On one evening in 2002 enough dancers showed up to make up two or three sets - and they were in disbelief that the dancing had been cancelled, but the decision had been made because of a shower that had lasted no more than 20 minutes. The same thing happened in 2003 with Burnaby's live music night provided by the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra. Fortunately the same event in 2004 went off without a problem.

When dancing resumed in September several beginners signed up and by the time a few late-comers had paid their dues the membership was close to 100. This was reflected in the success of the 2002 Ball, held on December 8 and once more in the afternoon, when 190 dancers attended and a profit of \$1400 was made. In addition to the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra, Calum MacKinnon played as well.

Early in 2003 it was learned that Bobby Brown and his Scottish Accent Band would be performing on March 14 as a fund-raiser for the Scottish Cultural Centre. This would be an additional boost to monies received from the Gaming Branch in 2002, enabling the floor to be refinished and the chairs re-upholstered. Bobby's band is widely acclaimed and bears comparison with the best Scottish Country dance bands in Scotland, so the concert was a sell-out. The only problem for the many dancers attending such events is having to sit and listen, when the natural inclination is to get up and dance to such inspiring music!

At the 2003 A.G.M. Elizabeth Smith took over the Presidency again and Anne Brand became Vice-President. Pat Edgar took over as Secretary. Dave Mackie and Keith Errington remained respectively Treasurer and Membership

Secretary. Following on from the A.G.M. a Spring Session was announced once again and the club was fortunate to have Rosemary Coupe, Wendy Swaine and Mary Murray; three very able teachers who made those extra Wednesday evenings very lively (see bios appendices).

(Anne Brand started dancing in Ottawa in 1999 where she spent a year after retiring from a teaching career in elementary schools in the Fraser Valley. Anne had begun to research her Scottish heritage - both Chisholm and McRae - and Scottish Country dancing was an outcome of that. Returning to Vancouver Anne settled on the North Shore and was put in touch with Gleneagles where she is now a regular dancer in the Advanced class.)

News had come from R.S.C.D.S. headquarters early in the year that a major Scottish Country Dance event had been planned, to take place on June 14, 2003. This was a World Day of Dance, with the concept that at noon local time, clubs and Branches world-wide would put on a programme, with an emphasis on two dances: "*The Gay Gordons*" and "*Jubilee Jig*." All the Lower Mainland clubs, and several in the Interior entered into the spirit of the occasion and included several more dances. Our own club danced at Lonsdale Quay, with a good turnout, and a bonus was a visiting group of Irish dancers from Edmonton who not only joined in, but also put on a demonstration as well. Fortunately the whole Lower Mainland was blessed with clear skies, which added to the success of the day.

The R.S.C.D.S. international organizer for the day was Rob Sargeant of Inverness, a long-time dancer and dance composer, assisted by another Inverness dancer, Peggy Rose (whose e-mail address has in it the wonderful word "opporchancity." A few days before the event Robbie Shepherd of B.B.C. Scotland gave a segment of his "Reel Blend" programme to the World Day of Dance and as well as Rob Sargeant, Ray Eagle, in his capacity as the Vancouver Branch Publicity Director was also interviewed on the programme to add an international perspective.

One interesting breakaway from dancing at noon was the Isle of Skye group who decided that they would hold their event at eight o'clock in the evening so as to dance at the same time as Vancouver. This fact was communicated by Skye dancer Rob Corcoran, who said the dance would be held in the Dunvegan Village Hall, which is not far from Dunvegan Castle, ancestral home of the MacLeods, and one of the longest continuously inhabited castles in Scotland,

Two nights later, on the 16th, Dancing in the Park began and, fortunately, Gleneagles' night was fine in 2003. The summer party, again held at the Loudons had the biggest attendance yet. The youngest attendee was four month old Keiran MacDonald, the son of proud parents Scott and Anne.

In 2003 the December Gleneagles Ball was billed as the Ruby Ball, which was the correct year for the formation of the club, but the first Ball was held on March 6, 1965 at the Gleneagles Golf Club. A mini history of the club complete with photographs was produced to give as a memento to all those attending. The programme, danced to the music of the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra, with Calum MacKinnon as special guest fiddler, was as follows:

<i>The Highlandman's Umbrella</i>	<i>The Anniversary</i>
<i>The White Heather Jig</i>	<i>Polharrow Burn</i>
<i>12 Coates Crescent</i>	<i>The Silver Tassie</i>
<i>Gleneagles Dominie</i>	<i>Sandy Butterly</i>
<i>Pelorous Jack</i>	<i>General Stuart's Reel</i>

Culla Bay
Davy Nick Nack
Mrs. Stewart's Jig
 Extras: *The Belle of Bon Accord*
Bratach Bana

Land O' Cakes
Roaring Jelly
Mairi's Wedding

As this club history is closed off at the end of 2004, despite much hand-wringing over the years, with great concern expressed about the dearth of Scottish Country dancing, especially since the immigration changes of the 1970's, we are nevertheless strong. The club's membership stands at 95 and the Branch membership, which does not include nineteen separate groups, such as the two at the West Vancouver Seniors' Centre, is slightly in excess of 380. We must not forget the success of the 2003 Vancouver Youth Week, with the enthusiasm and energy that was palpable. Another one took place in May 2004 in Washington State and a third is scheduled for May 2005, again in Vancouver.

The yearly President's Report presented at each A.G.M. is always a good barometer of the club's success or weakness because it reflects on the strength of each class and the programmes throughout the year. As a summary of where we are as the dancing season winds down, it would be appropriate to finish with Elizabeth Smith's 2004 President's Report:

"The past year has been very successful, with an active calendar of events:

It started with our Spring 2003 Party, followed in the summer by Dancing in the Park and the largest ever summer BBQ party, held at the Loudon's home. We had our usual Fall Party and the year's topper was our 40th Anniversary Ruby Ball.

We have welcomed several new-comers to the Beginner Class and some were adventurous enough to even attend the Ruby Ball. Participation by Intermediate & Advanced dancers at the Beginners' Classes has been most appreciated and I urge you to continue to support this class. Helping the beginners fosters encouragement for them and enjoyment for everyone.

On the same note I would encourage advanced dancers to avail themselves of the opportunity to attend the Intermediate Class on a Monday evening. Many of the dances taught are the same as those being taught in the Advanced Class and would provide an extra opportunity to reinforce those dances - and the Intermediate Class would appreciate having a greater number of sets.

I would like to heartily thank the volunteers and committee members who helped with the planning and decorating at our Spring and Fall parties. It is important for our members to support our functions, as well as to attend those of other clubs. The Summer BBQ was well attended. Many thanks to Ian and May Loudon for opening their home and garden. During the summer when there is Monday night dancing in Stanley Park we delight visitors & Vancouverites alike. Thank you for coming out for our night in July and remember that we attract new people by demonstrating our love of Scottish Country Dancing.

Gleneagles 40th Anniversary Ruby Ball was a big success and the Committee must be commended for all of their dedicated work to make the ball special. It was a glorious affair and we are very fortunate that many outside our club also look forward to this, the grandest social event of the season.

Let us acknowledge our teachers for their hours of preparation, skill and perseverance. Let us thank them for faithfully showing up, putting up, and living up to our expectations. Thank you, Scott, Phyllis, Marie and May. Thank you also to Wendy, Simon and Fran for helping out when our regular teachers were absent. We regret the loss of Phyllis and her fine teaching but wish her and her husband a happy experience in their new community.

Finally, please give thoughtful consideration to volunteering on the club Committee. We enjoy the classes and parties, but it takes the extra involvement of a few members to organize these events and conduct the business of the club. I am grateful that the current Committee will stand for another year. Although, we are not averse to having a lively election. Congratulations for a year well done and we look forward to the next!"

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Smith

The year 2004 was rounded out with the Gleneagles Ball which took place on Sunday December 5th. The Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra was at its best and looked so smart up on the stage with their matching waist-coats. A large contingent of the young and energetic Stave Fall dancers came once again. The dances were a good mixture of old and new with such favourites as *Maxwell's Rant*, *Neidpath Castle*, *Mairie's Wedding* and *The Bees of Maggie Knockater*. A recently revived dance was added to the programme, *The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh*, first danced in the late 1940's to celebrate the Royal couple's marriage in November 1947.

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