

SOCIETY
FOR
INTERNATIONAL
FOLK
DANCING

FEB 51



ET

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING.
NEWS SHEET

FEBRUARY,
1951.

Hon. Treas;
Mr. H.J.Price,
70, Meadowcourt,
S.E.3.

Hon. Sec;
Miss M.J.Le Fort.
3, Selwyn Road,
Upton Manor, E.13.

CLASSES AT CARLYLE SCHODL, HORTENSIA RD; CHELSEA, S.W. 7.30.p.m. - 9.30.p.m.

			MC	MUSIC
WEDNESDAY	7th.	ESTONIAN.	GLADYS NOBLE.	IVOR SOBER. MDM.B.DULEBA.
"	14th.	SWEDISH.	Dr.CYRIAX.	JACK RICHARDSON.
"	21st.	GENERAL.	MARY BUTTERWORTH.	HORACE MAITLAND.
"	28th.	POLISH.	OLGA LEROMSKA.	CHARLES FAWKES.

ADVANCED CLASSES.

FRIDAY.	2nd.	SWEDISH.	Dr.CYRIAX.	"
"	9th.	POLISH.	OLGA LEROMSKA.	"
"	16th.	KOLO.	PHILIP THORNTON.	RECORDS.
"	23rd.	SWEDISH.	Dr.CYRIAX.	"

INNS OF COURT MISSION, DRURY LANE, W.C. 6.30.p.m. - 9.30.p.m.

SUNDAY.	4th.	IVOR SOBER.	JIM TITHERADGE & BAND.
"	11th.	JIM TITHERADGE.	" " " "
"	18th.	HENRY SCHUSTER.	HENRY SCHUSTER & BAND.

PADDINGTON HALL, PORCHESTER HALLS, QUEENSWAY, BAYSWATER, W.2. 6.30.p.m. - 9.30.p.m.

SUNDAY.	25th.	IVOR SOBER	music by	JIM TITHERADGE & BAND.
---------	-------	------------	----------	------------------------

The HARROW GREEN FOLK DANCING GROUP will be having a visit from
Dr. Cyriax and Gladys Noble.

At the Committee Meeting on Thursday Jan. 18th. Irene Weller asked the Committee to relieve her from the duties of Demonstration Secretary. The Committee have with regret accepted her resignation, and wish to place on record their appreciation for all the work she has done on behalf of the Society, they feel sure all Members will agree that Irene has carried out onerous duties conscientiously.

The Committee has asked Marjory Latham to fill this vacancy and she has accepted. Marjory will have Irene's full support and all Members are asked to co-operate with her in this difficult job.

The Committee felt that now Irene has more time to spare, she would be able to give a little to the work of looking after costumes, etc; so have asked her to take over the job of "custodianship of present costumes, books and further study of Folk Costumes". You may not know, but Irene has already done a great deal in this respect and it is something she is willing to carry further.

In view of this new work Irene is taking on, she requests Members who have postcards of National Costume or photographs of our folk dances taken at week-ends or dances, will let her have them for the various albums she is compiling, the people in the photos need not be in costume.

DEMONSTRATIONS.

On Thurs; Jan. 4th some of the Demonstration Group gave a display for the Council for Education in World Citizenship at the Central Hall, Westminster. The dancing was very much appreciated by the several hundred students present. Loudest applause went to Bert and Ivor for their "Oxdans", who were not only funny in the right places, but were perfect in timing and steps. Oxdans was not just an amusing piece of miming, but a dance as well. So greatly has the costume problem advanced, that all the group were able to change into a different outfit for the second half - men as well.

On Thurs; Jan. 18th a small group gave a demonstration for the St. George's Social Club, Pinner. I understand the evening was most enjoyable to all concerned.

In February, we have been asked to give a display at the Jubilee Re-Union of the Camping Club of Gt. Britain & Ireland, at the New Horticultural Hall. In March, we are demonstrating for the Loyal Order of Moose, Croydon.

Irene Weller.

WEEK-ENDS.

We regret being unable to book Hillside Guest House for our usual February Dance week-end, but are pleased to advise all Members that we have arranged a week-end at Surrey Crest International Guest House from March 2nd. to March 4th.

Surrey Crest is situated in North Park Lane, Godstone, Surrey and is reached by Green Line Coach from Baker St; Marble Arch, Hyde Park Cnr. or from Victoria; book to Godstone Green.

Surrey Crest is approached by a private lane a mile from the nearest Main road. The house is 500ft up on the South side of a hill which rises gently to 780ft and with the exception of 3 or 4 houses the surrounding country is virgin and unspoiled.

The accommodation is in small bungalows or chalets and bedrooms are for one, two or three persons.

Heating is maintained day and night, running hot water is instantly available, either in the bedroom or close at hand.

There is an excellent reading room and, of course, a fine ballroom. On Saturday afternoon a class will be held between 2.30.p.m. and 4.30.p.m. and again at 5.30.p.m. to 6.30.p.m. and a general dance will be run in the evening after dinner.

The surrounding country is ideal for long or short rambles and horse riding is available, also, Archery, Tennis, Fencing, Badminton, Darts, Chess, Table-tennis, etc; can all be indulged in.

Charges for rooms with 2 or 3 beds is 26s.0d. and for single rooms 31s.6d. from Friday Dinner (7.30.p.m.) to Sunday tea (4.30.p.m.)

Since we have booked for a party of 30 only, Members wishing to come must give their names with 10s.0d. booking fee to a Committee Member immediately.

Many times I have asked for contributions to the News-sheet, I have had promises in the past, but this month one of the Committee has decided to write:-

"As a contrast to the rather earthy flirtation of the Bavarian Landler, we would now like to show you the fiery abandon of the Italian Tarantella". After that we might easily switch to the dresden china-like daintiness of the Meitschi Putz-di, the despair of Vo Sadu Li, the feathery flirtation of Butterfly Polka, the soulfulness of Kajawiak, the sarcasm of La Danza.

Much as our demonstrations are, how very much more they might be; the 'much as they are' bit is my own - other more informed opinions differ. I say 'much as they are' because, I can see how much I have acquired since, three years ago, I started learning folk dancing, and through what a small source.

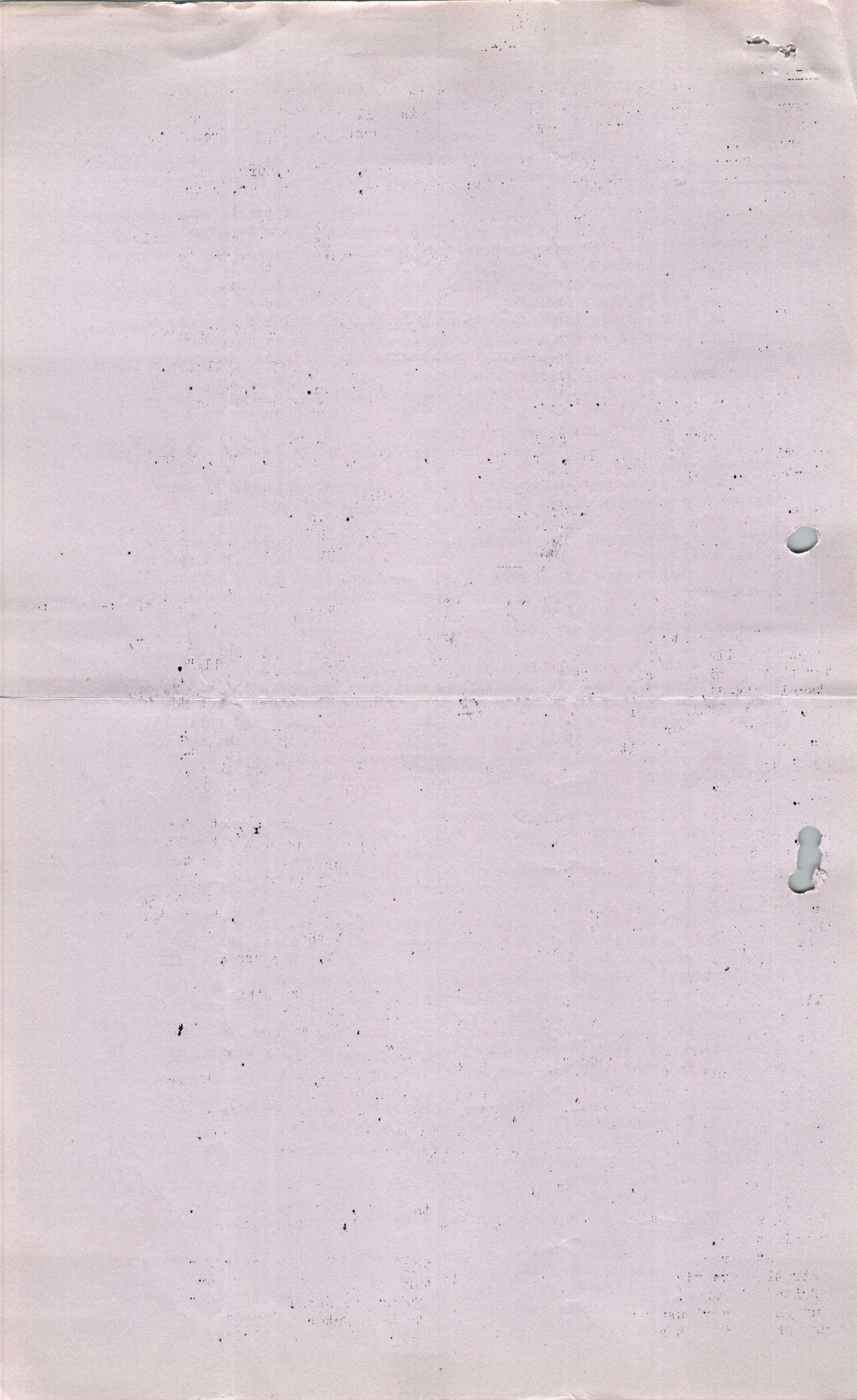
With the exception of Swedish dances (thank you Dr. Cyriax), Estonian dances, (thanks Gladys and Mourie), Kolos (thanks Philip) and odd dances taught by passing instructors, all the other dances have been passed on to me by two people and their various partners and to them I owe that kaleidoscope of joy and achievement which the dances have brought to me. There may have been others before them in our Society but during the three years of my knowledge, these two by their efforts have spread the knowledge - to the extent that some of us now are able to teach the simpler dances to newcomers. I speak, of course, of Mary and Irene.

Most of you must agree with me too, I think, when I say that for the gruelling and thankless task of teaching the more difficult dances and for encouraging and instilling into our dancing that polish, finesse and accuracy without which a demonstration is best not undertaken, Mary and Irene are the only two people with the necessary knowledge, experience and ability.

No doubt with the vast field that our dances cover, they have their differences on points of method, spirit or the dance - even on details of the steps themselves and these differences, if they exist, can only make their efforts less fruitful - it is not for me to contrast or compare them here. My wish is to emphasise the colossal achievements already brought about by their joint and collective efforts.

Our own efforts, of course, are by no means inconsiderable and I do not wish to give the impression that I think they are, because I do not. The two things must go together between teacher and pupil, which brings me to my main topic.

At a recent Committee meeting we were trying to fix a teacher for demonstration practice at a Friday class and it turned out that one of our lady friends is unable to arrive in time to take future classes. The other told us in all seriousness that she did not wish to take future classes because she felt that spasmodic and unequal attendance of men and girls,



and a general lack of serious practice and enthusiasm render her efforts futile and ineffective. Their seriousness forbade any doubts as to their sincerity.

I rememberes a demonstration practice where the boys outnumbered the girls by about 14 to 4. This along made a farce of practicing Hopak; the men having to dance twice and stagger though it twice in order that each girl might have a partner.

The Members of the Committee were dismayed at the thoughts provoked and which I hope this article will bring home to you.

Perhaps Mary and Irene are over-critical or expect too much - maybe they are not critical enough. For my part, I think that where a dancing teacher gives praise and encouragement when it is due, then he or she cannot be too critical - the more exacting the better. Maitres de Ballet are legion in this respect.

How can we assure them both that their work is appreciated and is by no means futile? The problem of lack of men dancers is real and difficult. So come on, you men.

Being by no means the least of the offenders I can speak freely without being accused of preaching. By a process of self-questioning it appears that my own attendance, although at times unavoidably prevented through vocational affairs, has not been quite so regular as it might have been.

As to my efforts whilst at classes, I had thought I was doing fairly well but the depth of feeling invoked by these things has spurred me on to an even greater effort, by which I hope, (and I hope we can all do the same) to bring about that sparkle and feeling to our dancing that will be a pride, credit and joy to ourselves and to Mary and Irene - and an even greater revelation to our audiences.

Mary and Irene are to us what we, in turn, are to the community at large - the only available source of what International Folk Dancing can be and can mean to us. We can all see that with its spreading wider, our work will be greater in quantity and more arduous in nature - but how pleasant and satisfying. Let our work be thorough, exact and reliable.

Let our Tarantellas bring with them the warmth of the sun and the smell of the orange groves - make our audiences hold their breathe at the lightness of the Butterfly Polka - make them sad with Vo Sadu Li - make them grip their seats at the thrill of Krakawiak, Karapyet - make them, in short, know what they miss.

Make them unable to help wanting to dance with us.

MAKE THEM DANCE.

Jim Titheradge.

FOOTNOTE

As you will see elsewhere in this news-sheet, Irene has resigned from the position of Demonstration Secretary since this was written, but I am glad to think - she will be helping Marjory and will also be helping with and taking demonstration practices.

Jim.

We would like to welcome the following new Members who have joined since the last news-sheet. We hope you will enjoy dancing with us and look forward to welcoming your friends.

Messes. Cherry Charlish, Valerie Sherriff, Enid Gentry, Kathleen Mc. Guire.
Messrs. Peter Vanderlinde and Terence Keegan.

BLOOD DONOR
REVENUE
AIRE & LI
URGENT

LONDON, E.C.1
9-AM
7 FEB
1951

Mr J. Richardson
16, Woodcote Lane
N.21

181
2
12