

NEWS SHEET

January 1956

The Monthly Journal of the Society for International Folk Dancing

Chairman:	Secretary:	Editor:
H.J. Price, 70 Meadowcourt Rd., S.E.3.	Marie Le Fort, 3 Selwyn Road, E.13.	John Fraser, 62, Loudoun Rd., N.W.8.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

At the Extraordinary General Meeting, on December 1st last, at Imperial College, the Society resolved by 28 votes for to 17 against and 4 abstentions to incorporate as a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. The speeches pro and con followed a pattern similar to that of the G.M. last May. One new fact did emerge, namely that, according to some recent parliamentary decision, we already are a "legal entity" - along with a whole clutch of other "legal entities."

The Meeting, large by ordinary standards, would probably have been a sight larger if it had not been for a heavy fog. As it was a decision of such importance called for a larger attendance than 49 members.

After voting in principle the Meeting then proceeded to debate some 26 amendments to the draft Memorandum and Articles of Association, standing in the names of Jack Richardson, Dr. Heath and Peter Van Der Linde. This list was about half completed by 10.30 p.m. when it was decided to adjourn in order to give members a chance to cope with fog-affected transport.

It was decided that a further Extraordinary General Meeting should be called by the Committee in order to complete the business. Thursday January 19th was suggested as a likely day

MORE NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

No prizes will be offered to anyone guessing the names of members most appropriate to each of the following resolutions.

In 1956 I will

1. Get to Committee Meetings on time (Signed:.....)
2. Make only two corny puns per News Sheet (Signed:.....)
3. Attend one class at Carlyle School (Signed:.....)
4. Submit no more than 20 resolutions to G.M.s (Signed:.....)
5. Dance with a girl I wouldn't take yachting (Signed:.....)

HIKING AND FOLK DANCING HOLIDAY IN AUSTRIA

Heinz and Ilse Striegel are preparing for next summer a two-week hiking and folk dancing holiday in Austria. It is intended to visit some of the villages where folk dancing is still alive and practiced, and, at the same time, to enjoy the scenery of some of the most beautiful parts of Central Austria. The tour will be conducted on a simple youth hostel standard, and the cost will be definitely less than £1 per day and person, exclusive of fares. The number of participants will be limited to 20. Physical fitness will be expected but no alpine experience will be required.

Members who are interested in this tour are requested to give their names and addresses, as soon as possible, to Heinz and Ilse Striegel,

13, Southwood Mansions,
Southwood Lane,
N.6.

Telephone: MOUNTVIEW 9936

who will in turn give all applicants further details as and when they emerge from the preparatory work.

HUNGARIAN FOLK DANCES

John Ungar has prepared a collection of Hungarian steps, entry figures and dance sequences. It was hoped to publish John's notes on the basic steps in this issue, but, for reasons of time and space, they will not now appear until the February News Sheet.

DEMONSTRATION NOTES

On Friday, November 11th, after the Swedish class, the team went to the British Engineering Co. at Edmonton. This was arranged through Charles Steventon and as it was the annual Apprentices' Social we thought it would be a happy hunting ground for new members. I believe the Personnel Manager was rather taken with the idea of starting a folk dance group in the firm! The evening went very well and owing to the fact that transport was provided by Steve, Dorothy Weir and members of the audience, we were able to donate £1 of the expenses to the costume fund.

A small team of two couples and musician went to Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, Nov. 12th to launch a National Dance Party in new territory for the C.C.P.R. Our one and a half hours of teaching and demonstrating were much enjoyed and it was suggested by the organisers that it was a pity we hadn't taken the whole afternoon. The girls were very well behaved and picked up the dances quickly. The organiser of Physical Activities in Kent asked if she could call on me after Christmas to discuss the possibilities of distributing our records more widely in Kent schools.

Steve took a team to the Indian Students' Hostel on Nov. 17th. This was a return visit and this time the proceeds were donated to the Flood Relief Fund. I understand that the temperature in the hall was tropical and the smell of curry all pervading backstage but that the dancing was greatly appreciated.

We paid yet another visit to the Wimbledon Baths on Saturday, December 3rd for the C.O.P.R. National Dance Party. I think that this was the fourth visit. This time instead of sharing the afternoon with the English and the Scots we had the whole afternoon to ourselves from 5.15 to 6.15 p.m. We had a team of two couples only and all worked very hard. Ken Ward helped me out by teaching some French dances and one or two Kolos, and Mary and Simon Guest did trojan work getting the children into sets or circles and watching at one end of the hall while Ken and I did the other end. Quite an afternoon.

On Saturday, Dec. 10th we were once again invited to demonstrate at the Ramblers Reunion. This function used to take place at the St. Pancras Town Hall but their membership has now outgrown this accommodation. I think that their numbers are now in the region of 4,000 and I note that they are now a limited company!! This year the Reunion was held at the Festival Hall so we had a team of six couples and a rehearsal beforehand to do justice to it. I think our dancing was above average and even Mourrie our severest critic, (as he should be: after all he has to watch most of our demonstrations) was reasonably satisfied with the performance. We broke with tradition and went on with Hopak instead of finishing with it, and, as we had six couples, we finished with Vava Vadmal. It was a ballroom floor and very hot under a battery of lights but we enjoyed dancing.

Bob Symes took a team to the Dulwich Music Club on Monday, Dec. 13th. This was a return visit and although the audience is mostly elderly they are very enthusiastic. Bob reports: "We danced before a small but keen audience and taught seven little dances and showed more than twice that number. Although this was my first attempt at teaching they responded quite quickly - always assuming that they did not know them already!"

May I once again thank all the dancers who took part in these demonstrations and especially those who did extra work for me.

MARGERLY LATHAM

REPORT ON SURREY CREST

In line with our policy of keeping members up to date with all aspects of the Society's activities we despatched a Special Correspondent to the Austro-Hungarian-German course held at Surrey Crest in the first week-end in December. Apart from a mild attack of frost-bite, a heavy cold and an injured knee he returned in pretty good shape, and after we got him thawed out he made his report.

"The course was well attended and the general consensus was that it was both successful and enjoyable. The three teachers, Ilse, Joan and John Ungar did splendid work - the last receiving an assist from Margaret Harris. The food was surprisingly good and the sleeping accommodation, in the dormitories at least, not as damp and dreich as rumoured. I understand that the chalets were much cooler and indeed I overheard one such inhabitant crooning softly to himself a little ditty to the tune of "My Old Man Said Follow the Band," which, if I got the words correct went something like this:-

My friend Len
Said, "Spend the week-end,
In that chilly chalet cross the way."
I brought a bag with me warm things in it,
I went to be just for 'alf a minute,
Then I shivered and quivered,
Quivered and shivered etc etc.

CORRESPONDENCE

Sir,

I have a serious complaint to make regarding the dances at Drury Lane concerning the actions of certain male dancers (including prominent members of the SIFD) who ought to have more sense, and I hope this will urgently be dealt with as it has caused embarrassment to female dancers also to gentlemen who bring along lady friends often for their first time at the SIFD, and who go away with an extremely bad impression of the Society. Some will call this complaint prudishness, however, prudery does not enter into the matter as it is only a matter of common sense decency. This complaint for which too strong words cannot be found, concerns the changing of clothes by males in the presence of ladies in the little room off the main hall.

Frequently men strip off shirts and trousers in a method more common to a bedroom and it is positively indecent for men to have trousers undone shirts off etc when ladies are present. One male recently stripped off completely except for the briefest of brief pants with ladies present, one of whom registered disgust, yet when I pointed out to this male the answer was "let them leave the room as one must change somewhere!!"

One never sees ladies strip off petticoats, blouses, vests or bras etc in that room so it can only be assumed that if they find it necessary to change they do so in the apartment marked "Ladies" and there is no reason why gentlemen cannot change in the apartment marked "Gentlemen" thus leaving that room clear for the depositing of clothes, shoes etc.

No one would object of course to either men or women changing shoes in that room but shirts and trousers, well??!!

One never sees such indecency at any other type of folk dancing whether English, Scottish, American or the host of other national groups so why should it be done at the SIFD which incorporates all these group dances. Such as this is not the way to encourage new members or to make the Society prominently known and respected as is desired by the recent move to make the Society into a Company.

Yours etc,
James McIntosh,
Finchley, N.12.

(While we have not as yet been back stage at Drury Lane we understand that changing accommodation is extremely cramped but perhaps no more so than at many demonstrations or even on many popular public beaches. And we do live in a day and age when a certain amount of latitude is given in this particular. On the other hand it should be perfectly possible to change without giving offence or causing embarrassment to others. The Committee, therefore request that all men - and women - engaging in this changing procedure conduct themselves with the same discretion that they would show on, say, Brighton beach.

ED.)

PANEL'S PROGRESS

The Advisory Panel on the accreditation of teachers at a recent meeting held at Dr. Cyriax's apartment approved a suggested programme of training and examination of candidates for the Society's General Certificate.

Training should continue to be given at the Friday class but more advanced dances should be taught. Among such dances likely to be included:- Carinthian Landler (Austrian), Step Stately (England), Skralat (Sweden), Jamaja Labajal (Estonia) and Cigandi Kemeny Csardas (Hungary). Teaching practice could also be given at the Friday class during brief revision periods at the discretion of the instructor-expert. Instruction in theory would have to be arranged privately between candidate and instructor.

Examinations are not likely to be held until the autumn at the earliest: viva voce again to be arranged privately; practicals also to be arranged preferably not at the advanced class.

Among other matters the Panel stated that in general they were very satisfied with the standard of dancing at the Friday class; they suggested the formation of a special Demonstration Club (see below), and asked that the attention of M.C.s be called to the doubtful authenticity of some of the dances included in general programmes.

QUARTERLY PROGRAMME

It is hoped to have the new quarterly programme in the hands of members within a very short while. In the meantime your attention is called to the first month's edition on the next page.

On the opening night of term we welcome an old friend of the Society, Chaim Morris who will be teaching us Israeli dances which we are sure will prove a very popular addition to our repertoire.

You will notice that the Social Dance has been transferred to a Wednesday in the hope that attendances at this general dance will improve - if not then we shall have to drop this item from our program.

In the place of the Social Dance we have included for the first time and in response to repeated representations from several people, a Demonstration Practice; this will be a monthly event. Any member who seriously wants to join the demonstration team is urged to attend these evenings, where, however, no dances will be taught but where the emphasis will be on style, polishing up and on general presentation. Attendance at the Demonstration Club will not, of course, automatically ensure one's membership of the Demonstration Team.

BLRT PRICE

JANUARY PROGRAMME

Classes and Dances at Carlyle School, Hortensia Road, S.W.10

Times: 7.30 - 9.30 pm.

Music: Mme Duleba

Tuesday, Jan.	10	Israeli	Chaim Morris
	17	Balkan	Phillip Thornton
	24	Demonstration Club	
	31	Balkan	Phillip Thornton

Wednesday, Jan.	11	Ukrainian	Irene Fyffe	M.C. Bob Symes
	18	Social Dance		Simon Guest
	25	Portuguese	Steve	May Hendrie

Friday, Jan.	13	German	Joan Richardson
	20	Hungarian	John Ungar
	27	Hungarian	John Ungar

Classes in Scottish Dancing. Given by Marie Le Fort, Churchill Gardens Estate, Pimlico, S.W.1.

Sundays, 3.30 - 5.30 pm.

Dances at Inns of Court Mission, Drury Lane, W.C.2.

Time: 6.30 - 9.30 pm.

Music: Mourrie Pfeffer

Sunday, Jan.	1st	Ken Ward
	8	Mourrie Pfeffer
	15	Ron Coultrup
	22	Roly Minton

Dance at Cecil Sharp House, Regents Park Road, N.W.1.

Time: 6.30 - 9.30 pm.

Music: Wallace Collection

Sunday, January 29th.

M.C. Bert Price
