

SLED NEWS



DECEMBER 1976

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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Frank Flanagan helped with the printing last month, and the collating and packing etc. was done by the Working Party organized by Will Green.

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Chairman: Simon Guest, 65 Crescent Road, New Barnet, Herts.
Tel: 01-440 4862.

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This month's cover is by Lesley Bocrer and is based on the Russian fairy tale about the Daughter of the Snow, which tells the story of a lonely old couple who make themselves a little girl out of snow. She comes to life, but she warns them that if they stop loving her she will melt away again. They dress her in Russian clothes, and every day she goes out to play with the children of the village; but every night she spends dancing by herself in the snow.

One day the snow-girl gets lost in the forest, and a fox brings her home. The old couple promise him a chicken as a reward, but secretly substitute a dog, which chases the fox away. They hear the snow-girl singing in the hut that they love her less than a chicken. The couple rush in, but it is too late - there is nothing left of the snow-girl but a pool of water on the floor.

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THE EDITOR AND ASSISTANT (KELSEY BLUNDELL) WISH ALL READERS
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPERITY IN THE NEW YEAR

CHRISTMAS SKIING TRIP

Alan McLean is organizing a skiing holiday in the Black Forest area, Germany, from 17th December to 31st December. The party will be travelling by mini-bus and staying at Youth Hostels. Would anyone interested in going please contact Alan at 6 Epsom Close, Northolt, Middx. Tel: 01-422 6498.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

One of the principal objectives of Bert Price and others in setting up the examination and badge system was to improve the standard of dancing in the Society by giving encouragement to members who are prepared to put in the effort necessary to bring their knowledge and performance up to the required standard. It would be quite fair and logical then to arrange advanced classes for such people and others who had shown themselves to be capable dancers. It is rather disconcerting, however, to discover, almost by accident, that the Society is supporting a Sunday afternoon class, admission to which is apparently entirely at the discretion and invitation of the teacher.

Whilst I would not wish to criticise the initiative of someone who is prepared to put himself out by getting together a group of enthusiastic dancers, I am far from happy with a system in which only those who are personally known to the leader can take part. The only reference that I can find to the class in the Society's publications is a two-line comment in the "Secretary's Notes" in a News-sheet which came out several months ago. No-one outside the particular circle of invited people will therefore necessarily know of the existence of the class, and even less will he know what to do if he wishes to be invited - and this means that many good dancers and medal holders are effectively excluded.

The present policy has already caused concern amongst several members of the Society who see this as the establishment of an "elitist clique" within their midst. If the Committee has approved this activity in its present form, perhaps they would like to explain why it has been organized so secretively, and why capable dancers have been given so little opportunity of expressing their desire to take part.

Of course, it is open to any member of the Society as an individual to organize a private party, but that is quite different.

Yours sincerely,

JACK RICHARDSON,
University College of Swansea,
Singleton Park, Swansea

Dear Lily,

Although I feel that Jack Richardson's letter calls for a reply from the Committee, I should like to have the opportunity to reply, as teacher of the afore-mentioned Sunday afternoon class, and explain a little about the class and its objectives now and in the future.

I felt the Society needed an outlet for people who had taken the Badges or who wanted to learn some of the dances that one cannot generally do in open class where, in most cases, there are beginners coming and going, and also people who only wish to dance for social occasions. I therefore suggested a class on the first Sunday of each month, so that people could come together from many different classes, along with individuals perhaps no longer class members but who wanted to increase their repertoire beyond a beginners/intermediate stage, not normally catered for in regular classes.

As I did not wish this to be "just another class", I first asked a few people what they thought of the idea, without going into details about an advanced class. Quite a lot of people told me they only came to our dances and classes for the social aspect and the enjoyment, but they didn't care whether the dances were done 'properly' or not. Others said they thought it was time the Society had a class for those who wished to do the dances as near as possible to the way they should be done, also to encourage some younger people to learn the Society's dances with the view in later years to becoming teachers and spreading the word of the SIFD. Many of them, like myself, had looked around the Society and wondered who in the future we have coming along who could, or would, do this.

So I approached Bert Price and the Badge Sub-Committee about starting a class with these views in mind, saying that I, and others, thought the class should be by invitation only, as we thought, and since have demonstrated, that by personal invitation people would be more inclined to join, as it was not "just another class". Bert told me that he thought the idea was a good one, and the time was ripe to try this type of class again. Bert himself had tried to get a class going on similar lines in the past, as one can see if one looks back in the old News-sheets. Also, both Bert and Simon Guest informed me that Simon had had a French Class once which was by invitation only and this was very successful. Bert gave me every encouragement to go ahead with this class and asked me personally if I would take it.

So the proposal was put to the Badge Sub-Committee, and later to the full SIFD Committee, where a few facts were ironed out. I agreed to take the class only if I had the full say in the running of it, as I have found in the past that a class does not run so well with "too many chiefs". I also said, and still say, that I am not setting myself up as an authority for evermore. I made it clear that I only wish to do this for a year, and then find another person to do it for a year. In the meantime, it is intended to ask some of our specialist teachers, and other teachers, to come and teach the class some of their particular dances, the correct style and information about the country and costume. Also in the future it is hoped that members will learn the different methods of dance notation and step/sight learning, and become teachers in their own right.

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To put the class in a nutshell, I would like to repeat what a man once told me. He was the founder of a group of dancers and he said that he only considered the group was a success when he saw them dancing and didn't know any of the dancers and they didn't know him. In that way, he said, he knew he had done his work well as his original dancers had gone on to form groups of their own, as offsprings of his original group, knowing also that his original group was still going. I feel the same with this class, because Bert was the person I feel I owe such a lot to, as he got me interested in the SIFD and its objectives which have given me so many hours of enjoyment and taken me to many countries. The only way I can possibly repay Bert is by hoping that I can have some small part in seeing that the class carries on the good work that Bert did for many years.

Subject to the Committee's approval, I am willing to answer any questions about the class and the whys and wherefores at the A.G.M. on 5th December. I do, however, wish that Jack Richardson had found out a few of the facts, and that those members of the Society for whom this was a cause for "concern" had taken the trouble to approach me about the class. I could then have explained the practicalities in more detail than I can in the NEWS at this time. Then the full facts could have been published.

One other thing I should like to mention is that I do not get paid for taking the class. I use my own equipment and I and the class (which has only met twice) stay on for the evening dance at Cecil Sharp House afterwards, which several of the members would not otherwise attend. This will, I hope, swell the numbers at the Sunday evening Dances now and in the future, which should be to the SIFD's advantage.

PETER OAKLEY,
24 Arun, East Tilbury, Essex

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Dear Lily,

I really should have written this to go in the last issue of SIFD NEWS. It is once more "Happy Birthday" to the SELPAR Group in Birmingham. It is three now! And I was one of the lucky ones who was among the Birthday guests. It started off with Fiona's teaching of Israeli dances. Nothing needs to be said about this, because many others have wound Fiona a well-deserved garland of praise. After that, we all attended the Committee meeting. I hate Committee meetings because usually lots of people, frightfully full of themselves, air their views lengthily on everything and nothing. But well done, Selpar Committee; I enjoyed every word of it and Sybil Chapman is a marvel of a Chairman!

And then the Party Food. Suddenly it was there; like magic. Birthday Cake and all. It was a superb spread and it only confirmed that the Selpar must be a happy group because one only does such work for someone one loves! We did a lot of dancing that night. Everybody was a gleam with joy and good humour. I think that SELPAR has done exceedingly well, and wish the group another year of happiness and good dancing.

KATHI TRIBE,
198 Gilbert Road, Cambridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Contd...)

Dear Editor,

Unthanks for your description of Sardanas. I used to enjoy them till then. If such is folkdancing, give me none of it. No wonder we never have Sardanas in our Social Dances, except those run by the computer bureaux!

WILL GREEN,
90 Wells Way, S.E.5.

ED. NOTE: I am glad that Will's opinion is not shared by the majority of our members; otherwise we would have to change our name to "The Society for Only Easy International Folk Dancing" that can be explained in words of one syllable and counts of only 1, 2, 3 waltz time, and to hell with ethnics! Has Will never heard that the most primitive languages have the most complicated grammatical structures?

S.I.F.D. INSTRUCTION SHEETS

Now that the books have been re-printed, it has been decided to dispose of the loose instruction sheets which were formerly enclosed with E.P. records. These sheets are to be made available FREE to anyone who sends me a large stamped address envelope (approx. 9" x 6"). Dances available are as follows:-

- E.P.1 All, but very few of Hiataamadl
- E.P.2 None
- E.P.3 All except Neapolitan Tarantella
- E.P.4 All, but very few of Fjallnas Polska
- E.P.5 All, but only a few of each
- E.P.6 Kokotek, Fyrmanma Schottische, Sicilian Tarantella, Laura
- E.P.7 All
- E.P.8 Bourree Droite du Pays Fort, Gota, Verde Gaio
- E.P.9 None

As indicated, with some dances there are only a few sheets left, so it will be strictly first come, first served. With the books now priced at £1.00, this is an opportunity not to be missed.

FRANCES HORROCKS,
112 Kingston Avenue,
North Cheam, Sutton, Surrey

SECRETARY'S NOTES

The Committee has decided to go ahead with plans for the Summer School at Edinburgh next year. We are grateful to those members who made their opinions known to the Committee. Those dealing with the arrangements will now seek out the best teachers available and an announcement will be made as soon as possible. The date is to be 30th July to 6th August 1977.

Plans are in hand for a Day Course for non-member school teachers. 29th January 1977 is the likely date, so if you have any friends likely to be interested, please let them know. We will, of course, advertise in the appropriate journals.

EDNA FOSTER, Hon. Secretary

Will Green has decided not to continue with the job of arranging parties to collate, staple, fold and post the SIFD NEWS. The sending out of the December issue is being organized by Margaret Joyner, the January issue by Gaye Saunte. After that, the Committee will be endeavouring to arrange something. My thanks to Will for his help over the past ten months. ED.

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MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN THE
JANUARY ISSUE MUST REACH
THE EDITOR BY 15TH DECEMBER

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COMING EVENTS

On SATURDAY, 29th JANUARY 1977, Woodvale Folk Dance Group will present a "Festival of Dance" at Borough Green Village Hall. More details next month.

SATURDAY, 29th JANUARY 1977, is also the probable date for a Day Course for non-member school teachers. More details of this from the Committee next month.

Another event taking place on this date is the Polish Jumble Sale. See page 10. Also a Day Course as detailed on the enclosed notice.

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ONE-DAY COURSE IN SPANISH REGIONAL DANCES

Date: SATURDAY, 11th DECEMBER 1976
Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Place: HUGH MYDDELTON SCHOOL, CORPORATION ROW, LONDON E.C.1.
Fee: £1.00 for non-members; 50p for members.
Tutor: IRENE WHITAKER

Irene will be teaching the following dances, which are on the list for the Silver Badge examination:-

EL CANDIL from Badajoz (Extremadura)
AVE MARIA from Badajoz (Extremadura)
LA UVA from Olivenza (Extremadura)
MAJADERO from Segovia (Castilla)
EL RONDON from Segovia (Castilla)
JOTA REALITO from Aragon
MATEIXAS from Majorca.

The Bitola Festival and Illenden Den

Bitola is one of the most charming towns in Macedonia. Formally known as Monastir, it still retains some of the atmosphere of a former provincial capital. Some of its buildings have the appearance of a French Colonial town, even reminiscent of New Orleans, with its iron balconies and door and window grids. It also has some rather exotic wooden structures. Its connection with France is no accident; the French War Cemetery and Convent School are historical reminders of former times. Another interesting link is with the common tomato. In Bitola, and the South of Macedonia, one often hears the name 'Frankie' for tomatoes - apparently before the arrival of the French soldiers in the First World War tomatoes were eaten green; it was the soldiers who introduced the habit of eating them ripe!

The town also contains some fine buildings of the Turkish era, and the older part still has the appearance of an Oriental bazaar. The old covered market is at present undergoing restoration and is the largest permanent covered market in the Balkans. The main street is practically unspoilt, and its pattern of two or three storey buildings and shops is not disturbed by the smart new hotel and the theatre which are set back from the pavement.

The Bitola Festival, which was started by Zivko Firfov and Pece Atanasovski six years ago, commemorates the ill-fated 'Illenden' uprising against the Turks, which took place on the feast of St. Illia in August 1903. A Macedonian Republic was set up in the town of Krusevo which lasted only twelve days before being crushed by the Turkish Army, with great brutality. The songs and poems of that occasion are part of Macedonian Folklore. The Festival is limited to genuine village groups, and student and so-called 'amateur' groups are not permitted to participate. Groups from Pirin and Aegian Macedonia (Bulgaria and Greece) can also perform. The Festival commences on 29th July and ends on 1st August, when bonfires are lit in the mountains and people go to picnic and to dance.

The dancing takes place at night in the large basket ball stadium and is televised. The morning rehearsals, which are open, are now also in costume, which provides the opportunity of making a cine record of dance material and enables recordings to be made. In the evening, the stadium is packed to capacity with local people, and it is very much a local festival.

There is a fine new hotel, but Christopher and I stayed at the Secondary School with the Injevo group and all the other village groups taking part in the festival, which gave us the opportunity to dance and listen to music. It was impossible to sleep before 3 a.m. as the groups would be dancing on each of three landings - the drums and zurlas echoed through the building nearly all day long, interspersed with bagpipes and stringed instruments. It was marvellous to be able to join in with the villagers and towns people from various regions of Macedonia; dancing was spontaneous and exciting. One can never recreate this atmosphere in England, no matter how hard one tries.

The festival opened with a procession through the crowded streets and it

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was here earlier that we met two more friends from the group, John White and his Yugoslav wife, Ruska - they were also 'adopted' by the Injevo Group.

The evening concerts were enjoyable; very little choreography was evident but most groups had a theme - a wedding, and preparing the wedding bread, or combing cotton. The Muslim group from Bitola itself, with rich new costumes and a few props, showed the wedding ceremony of shaving the young bridegroom, and the dances in the women's quarters, out of sight of the men. There was a lot of humour - the Injevo Group produced Simo as a hunter who dragged a grotesque stuffed wolf on the end of the line during a final Makedonsko oro. The general standard of performance was high, even among the children, and it is evident that this regional festival among others is stimulating the village folk culture. Apart from the dances and music, one noticed really good new costumes. The television replays were good, and the Yugoslavs could teach us a few things about televising folkdancing in an intelligent and interesting way.

During the festival we made several trips with the group to various villages around Bitola, where they gave performances and stimulated general dancing. To say that some of the facilities and buildings were rustic would be an understatement. In one village, at night, the group performed on a stage of rough planks which had a vertical movement of about six inches, and lit by a bare lamp. It seemed to me that all the village had crowded into the hall; it was so hot! and the new amplification system blasted out enough decibels to satisfy a pop group. In another village on St. Illia's Day there was a little ceremony of laying wreaths, and mammoth speeches! It was a hot day and we were glad to retire after the dancing to the new restaurant where we were fed and watered, and everybody sang with great gusto.

In all, it was a very exciting four days, and it ended with a visit to beautiful Lake Prespa which is shared by Yugoslavia, Greece and Albania.

KEN WARD

Next, Part III. Prespa and a stay at Injevo village.

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CHANGES OF DATE

For reasons of administration, the Chairman of the Badge Sub-Committee, Charles Steventon, has decided to alter the date of the Bert Price Proficiency Badge (Silver) examination to Saturday, 12th February, instead of 29th January. Would all members who are intending to take the examination please note the change of date.

The Norwegian Day Course planned for Saturday, 12th February, has had to be cancelled as Tony Parkins will probably have to go into hospital at that time. We send Tony our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

CANONS FOLK DANCERS meet every Tuesday at Park High School, Thistlecroft Gardens, Stanmore, Middx. (nearest station Canons Park) from 7.45 to 10 p.m. Further details from Joan G.S.Goodman, 13 Woodgrange Close, Kenton, Harrow, Middx. Tel: 01-907 9857.

BARNET INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CLUB meet every Friday from October to June, at Hadley Memorial Hall, Hadley Highstone, Barnet, 8 to 11 p.m. for general European dancing. Leader: Brian Dowsett; Hon. Sec: Janet Heathfield. Telephone 01-368 5345 for details.

WOODVALE FOLK DANCE GROUP meet at Borough Green Village Hall on Tuesdays 7.30 to 10 p.m. General International, some English. Leaders: Mr & Mrs. Nolan, 16 Dryland Road, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent. Tel: 0732 883380.

BARLOW INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday at Wilbraham Road United Reform Church Hall, Chorlton, Manchester, from 7.30 to 10 p.m. Further details from Alan Williams, 47 South Drive, Manchester. Tel: 061 881 7744 or Philip Lloyd, 268 Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester. Tel: 061 881 3613.

MERTON PARK INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Wednesday in term time at Rutlish School, Watery Lane, S.W.20. 7 to 7.30 p.m. Spanish beginners; 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. General International. Musician: Wilf Horrocks. Details from Charles Steventon, 64 Erridge Road, Merton Park, S.W.19. Tel: 01-542 3831.

KENSINGTON SLAVONIC DANCERS meet every Wednesday from 7 to 10 p.m. at Fox School, Kensington Place, Notting Hill Gate, W.8. and every Thursday from 7 to 10 p.m. at Isaac Newton School, Lancaster Road, W.11. Dances from Czechoslovakia taught by Mrs. Hedda Jolly-Klingerova, 69b Grange Road, W.5. Tel: 01-567 2346.

SELPAR (Birmingham Branch of SIFD) meet at Selly Park Centre, Pershore Road, Birmingham, every Tuesday, 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. Enquiries to Rod Perkins, 3 Linnet Close, Bournville, Birmingham, or to Sybil Chapman, 20 Pelham Road, Droitwich, Worcs.

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J U M B L E S A L E

The JACY TACY Polish Group will be holding a JUMBLE SALE on SATURDAY, 29th JANUARY 1977, at 2.30 p.m. at BROMLEY PUBLIC HALL, Bow Road, E.3. These Jumble Sales have always been very successful, with lots to buy in the way of clothes, bric a brac, books, oddments of all kinds. Everyone is invited to attend, for a small admission charge. Come early if you don't want to miss anything.

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If any members have any jumble which they would like to donate, would they please telephone Betty Harvey on 01-980 9650, or Dorothy Bryan on 01-837 2438 or contact any other member of the JACY TACY Group.

ISRAELI COURSE AND INTERNATIONAL PARTY

Gaye Saunte's ANACHNU Israeli Group are organizing a Half-Day Course of Israeli dances for beginners, followed by a Christmas Party of International dancing on SATURDAY, 18TH DECEMBER, 1976, at Invicta School, Invicta Road, Blackheath, S.E.3. The fee for the course is 50p; for the party 75p (including refreshments); Combined ticket £1. Children 50p. Light refreshments on sale between 5.30 and 6.30 p.m. Tickets from Will Green, 90 Wells Way, S.E.5 or Gaye Saunte, 50a Lewisham High Street, S.E.13. or any member of the Kidbrooke Israeli Dance Class. (Please send stamped addressed envelope).

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NEWS FROM THE NORTH

On 22nd October, at the request of the University of Hull, Dept. of Adult Education, Ian and Jean Willson presented an evening course entitled "An Introduction to European Folk Dance", attended by some thirty participants. The course was the result of an enquiry made some months ago to the SIFD but postponed due to Bert Price's untimely death last Easter.

The session began with a brief description of the music and dances of Western and Eastern Europe, illustrated by music on records, followed by a selection of dances ranging in complexity from Cetnya and Die Woaf to Alunelul Batut and Kalamatianos.

The evening was enjoyed by all, and many enquiries about the Society's activities were forthcoming, together with an invitation to present a follow-up session in late January. A small group already exists at the University, run by Judi Irving, an American married to an Englishman. Their repertoire comprises Balkan and Israeli dances remembered from time spent with a folk-dance group in California several years ago.

Perhaps we can look forward to an extension of the Society's influence into the North-East in the near future, since this nucleus of interest seems capable of being developed, maybe an affiliated group. The need is becoming steadily greater for the Society to present a good day course next year in, for example, Leeds, to attract dancers and groups from Sheffield, Manchester, Leeds and, of course, Hull.

Members in the North will be interested to know that the Society is now represented on the Yorkshire and Humberside Movement and Dance Association of the Sports Council, which is currently preparing a Regional Movement and Dance Register to be circulated throughout the district.

Interfolk Leeds, the group run by Ian and Jean, has now been running since the beginning of September, with an enthusiastic regular attendance. The standard of dancing is already quite high, since many of the group's members have attended courses at Swansea, etc.

Finally, Ian and Jean would like to convey, via the NEWS, greetings and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all their friends in the Society.

SIFD ASSOCIATED CLASSES

INTERNATIONAL

Every Wednesday at St. Albans School, Baldwin's Gardens, Grays Inn Road, E.C.1. Tutor: Margery Latham.

Every Thursday at Stainbeck Hall, Stainbeck Lane (off Scott Hall Road) Leeds, from 8 to 10 p.m. Class run by Ian and Jean Willson.

ISRAELI

Every Wednesday at Kidbrooke School, Corelli Road, S.E.3, from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Tutor: Gaye Saunte.

Every Thursday at Henry Fawcett School, Bowling Green Street, Oval, London. (Advanced) 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Tutor: Fiona Howarth.

JUGOSLAV

Every Tuesday at Hugh Myddelton School, Corporation Row, Clerkenwell Green, E.C.1. Beginners 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. Advanced 8.30 to 9.30 p.m. Tutor: Ken Ward. NEW MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO SEE KEN WARD BEFORE ENROLLING FOR THE ADVANCED CLASS.

POLISH

Every Monday at Christopher Hatton School, Laystall Street, Rosebery Ave., E.C.1. Beginners 7 to 8 p.m. General & Advanced 8 to 10 p.m. Tutor: Betty Harvey.

HUNGARIAN & ROMANIAN

Every Friday at Pimlico School, Lupus Street, S.W.1. 6.30 to 9.30 p.m. Tutor: Alan McLean. Beginners are asked to come at 6.30. N.B. Alan McLean's Thursday Romanian class has had to be discontinued, owing to lack of support. The Friday class will continue and will now be for both Romanian and Hungarian dances.

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STOP PRESS

We shall be holding a CHRISTMAS PARTY on SUNDAY, 19th DECEMBER at TREVELYAN HALL, St. Anne's Lane, Gt. Peter Street, S.W.1. 7.30 p.m. Tickets in advance from Dorothy Bryan or Roland Minton, 75p non-members, 50p members including refreshments. Donations of any home-brew or titbits welcome.

* 2 M.C.s *

* 2 MUSICIANS *

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A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

On SATURDAY, 26th MARCH 1977, Ken Ward's "ZIVKO FIRFOV" Yugoslav Group and Betty Harvey's "JACY TACY" Polish Group will give a combined concert - the third edition of 'SLAVA' - at 7.30 p.m. at Islington Town Hall, Upper St., London, N.1.

SUNDAY DANCES

- December 5th Cecil Sharp House, Regent's Park Road, N.W.1.
M.C. George Sweetland.
- December 19th Christmas Party at Trevelyan Hall. See page 12.
- January 9th (Please note date; second Sunday in the month instead
of the first). Cecil Sharp House, Regent's Park Road,
N.W.1. M.C.s Joan and Simon Guest.

7 to 10 p.m.

- Admission for December 5th: 40p members, 50p non-members.
Admission for January 9th: 50p members, 75p non-members.

The demonstration of French dances which was to have been given at Cecil Sharp House in October will take place on Sunday, 5th December.

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WHAT'S ON

- Dec. 4th SELPAR MONTHLY DANCE at Kings Norton Reform Church, Birmingham. 7.30 p.m. Full information and tickets etc. from Rod Perkins, 3 Linnet Close, Bournville, Birmingham.
- 5th *****
* SIFD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. 4.30 p.m. at Cecil Sharp *
* House in 'Storow'. *

- 10th CHRISTMAS PARTY. Barnet International Folk Dance Club will be holding their Christmas Party at Hadley Memorial Hall, Hadley Highstone, Barnet, 8 to 11.15 p.m. Musicians: Caroline Thomas, Henry Morris and the Narodne Group. Tickets 80p including food and wine. Enquiries to Janet Heathfield. Tel: 01-368 5345.
- 11th ONE-DAY COURSE IN SPANISH REGIONAL DANCES. See page 7.
- 11th BALKAN PARTY at Moorfields School, Bunhill Row, off Old St., London, E.C.1., 7 to 11 p.m. Tickets in advance £1 including refreshments, from John White, 10 Durnsford Ave., Wimbledon Park, S.W.19. Tel: 01-947 2417.
- 17th/19th WEEKEND AT DUNFORD.
- 18th ISRAELI COURSE and INTERNATIONAL PARTY. See page 11.
- 19th SIFD CHRISTMAS PARTY. See Page 12.

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY
16 NOVEMBER 1975 AT TREVELYAN HALL, LONDON SW1 AT 5 p.m.

Present: H J Price Chairman
H Whittaker Treasurer
D A Bryan Secretary

and 34 members of the Society.

Apologies for absence were received from Jean & Ian Willson, Frances Horrocks, Joan Liddel, Jean & Jack Richardson and Sylvia Fulton.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 1974

- 1 The Minutes of the last AGM had previously been circulated and were approved.
Proposed: Peter Oakley Seconded: Frank Flanagan
Carried unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING

- 2 There were no matters arising.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 3 The Chairman's report had previously been circulated and was accepted.
Proposed: Roland Minton Seconded: Margery Latham
Carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- 4 The report had been previously circulated and was accepted.
Proposed: Dennis Wood Seconded: Lily Southgate
Carried unanimously.

AUDITORS' REPORT AND CONSIDERATION OF ACCOUNTS

- 5 A question was asked in connection with the manner in which stock on hand is dealt with. Badges and costumes are shown on the Balance Sheet, whereas books, records and tapes are shown separately. H Bailey (Auditor) replied that these items had always been shown in this way, but he would like to recommend that in future badges are included with other stock on hand as all items are bought for re-sale. He will discuss with the new Treasurer. This matter does not affect the result of the balance sheet.

Continued ...

6 A further question related to the circumstances of the loan of £60 to the Balkan/Harrow Green Groups. The need for this money arose because the Groups made a loss on a recent Show. The questioner asked if the Committee had been approached before the event regarding the possibility of a loan being required if a loss was made. Had this been done, the Committee may have been able to help avoid a loss. The Committee had not been advised in advance.

7 The Accounts and Auditors' report were accepted.
Proposed: Wilf Horrocks Seconded: Margery Latham
Carried unanimously.

NEWLY ELECTED COMMITTEE

8 Chairman Simon Guest
Treasurer Dennis Wood
Secretary Edna Foster

Committee members: M Latham W Horrocks
 I Pursall A Maclean
 F Flanagan D Bryan

9 On behalf of all members of the Society, George Sweetland proposed a vote of thanks for the outgoing Chairman, Bert Price, and Treasurer Harry Whittaker.

MOTIONS

10 A Proposal that all membership fees be doubled as from 1 September 1976.
Proposed: H Whittaker Seconded: H J Price

The details of this proposal are:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Full Member	£1.50	£3.00
Double	£2.25	£4.50
Country	£1.25	£2.50
Junior	75	£1.50
Life	£15.75	£31.50
Group Affiliation	£3.15	£6.30
Late enrolment (half-year)	75	£1.50

11 Members were reminded that although the cash balance is fairly healthy at the moment, membership fees are the main source of income, and the rate of inflation indicates that the cost of activities of all kinds will soon be greater than the income. It was felt that 100% increase next September would be better than a small increase in 1976, and another one soon after. Proposal was put to the vote: 27 for, 5 against. 2 abstentions. This matter will be dealt with by the Committee.

- 12 B Proposal that no applications for life membership be accepted until 1 September 1976.
This should be considered in conjunction with A above. The present Life and Honorary membership numbers 46.
- 13 Eleanor and Peter Oakley had applied for Joint Life Membership when they married in July. This was not accepted at the time. The Committee will look into this matter.
- 14 It was strongly recommended that consideration should be given to abolishing Life Membership for the future and introducing a period membership, say 10 years. The member would then re-apply at the end of the period. Fee could be based on two-thirds of actual fee for such a period.
- 15 A request was noted that a list of Honorary/Life members should be published in the Newsletter annually.
- 16 The motion was amended to "Consideration of Applications for Life Membership will be suspended until 1 September 1976". Vote: 27 for, 4 against, 3 abstentions. Amendment carried. Motion B therefore not accepted. This matter to be discussed again at the next AGM.
- 17 C Proposal that the whole of Clause 43 be deleted from the Constitution.
Proposed: H Whittaker Seconded: H J Price. ee e ee
The meeting wished to debate proposal D before coming to a conclusion on Proposal C. Proposal C withdrawn.
- 18 D Proposal that the existing Rule 43 of the SIFD Articles of Association of Constitution be deleted and replaced by a new rule as follows:
"Associated Classes
- a) Class teachers, upon making a request to the Committee, may be granted SIFD Associate Class membership subject to the conditions below.
 - b) The class teacher shall be a member of the SIFD and acceptable as a teacher to the SIFD.
 - c) The SIFD shall not be responsible for the finances, equipment, costumes or internal organisation of the class.
 - d) The SIFD shall reserve the right to terminate their association with the class at any time in the interests of the aims of the Society.
 - e) The class shall re-apply annually to the SIFD Committee if they wish to continue as an Associate Class.
 - f) The class shall be entitled to be listed in the SIFD News.
 - g) Classes may have assistance from the SIFD by way of loans of finance, equipment and costumes and extra publicity, subject to Committee

approval and within reasonable bounds of the SIFD's resources, provided that the class can show at least 75% individual membership of the SIFD. The class may also have an annual visit from an SIFD teacher."

Proposed: L Avery Seconded: W Green

- 19 It was made clear that we were discussing classes and not Groups. L Avery read out the Sub-Committee's report on this subject (which had previously been published in the Newsletter).
Points (a) to (f) in the new rule were accepted. After lengthy discussion on paragraph (g) it was agreed the following amendment should be made
"... provided the class can show at least 75% individual membership ..."
to read "... can show majority (i.e. 51%) individual membership ..."
Proposed: R Clark Seconded: Roland Minton
Vote: 32 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.
A vote of thanks was given to the Sub Committee.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 20 The Chairman was asked if the Constitution was up to date. In view of the fact that various amendments have been issued, the new Committee will look at it and re-issue.
- 21 Second Sunday Dances: This will have to be discontinued if the numbers attending cannot be increased. The general feeling was that it should be continued, but many people do not like Trevelyan Hall. The Committee will look into the possibility of finding a better Hall. A suggestion was made that Groups/Classes in London may take it in turns to run the mid-month dance each month. This suggestion will be explored.

The meeting closed at 6.45 p.m.

Approved:

Signed:

Seconded: