

SIFD News

APRIL

1993



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

EDITOR: Lily Avery (Mrs.), 16 Willow Drive, Little Common, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex TN39 4PX. Tel: 04243 5866. Please note that as from 6th April 1993 this number will be changed to 0424 845866.

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The typing is done by Lily Avery. The printing, packaging and posting is done by Doug and Maureen Wells

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This month's cover is by Caroline Thomas and shows a lady's costume from Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia (from material sent to Caroline by Jenia Graman).

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CHAIRMAN: Jill Bransby (Mrs.), "Red Gables", Benslow Path, The Avenue, Hitchin, Herts. SG4 9RH. Tel: 0462 457791.

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PUBLICITY SECRETARY: George Sweetland, 28 Hayes Court, Camberwell New Road, London SE6 0IQ. Tel: 071 701 3785

GROUPS LIAISON OFFICER: Alan Morton (address above).

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IF YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS, PLEASE NOTIFY THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

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SCANDIA

Scandia Group is seven months old (give or take a Tuesday) and is running its first Cecil Sharp House Sunday Dance on 4th April. We want everybody to come and help us celebrate our thriving babyhood.

We shall be re-visiting all our old favourite Scandinavian, from Coach-and-Horses to Daldanse, as well as trying out some turning and free-style dances. We want to tell you about our trip to Norway too. All this is in addition to our favourite general international dances, so we have a very packed programme.

It should be a great evening. We're really looking forward to seeing everybody there.

ANNE LEACH

A NOTE OF THANKS. My thanks to Kelsey Blundell for typing the final copy of the SIFD NEWS last month. I was out of action, having injured both my hands, and only managed to type the rough draft (with two fingers, for a few minutes at a time!). Thank you, Kelsey, for kindly helping out and making such an excellent job of it. Ed.

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A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

First of all, I would like to thank the Newport Group for sending a donation of £25 to the Society, being the profit on their Balkan Day Course on 6th March. I hope they had a good day's dancing with Liz Mellish and Nick Green. Congratulations to Newport for being the first Group to respond to the challenge that I put forward in the January SIFD NEWS, asking Groups for financial help.

New "Dance With The World" leaflets are now available from George Sweetland. The picture on the front was designed by Gary Hayes, information collated by George Sweetland and Alan Morton, and the leaflet produced on D.T.P. by Liz Mellish. The team saved the Society about £100. We hope that you find the leaflets useful.

At the March Committee Meeting, the main items for discussion were: Honorary Life Membership (see page 8), Constitutional issues (see enclosure), teachers for York Summer School 1994, dance teaching development, and financial strategy.

I look forward to meeting many members at the Eastbourne International Festival, which promises to be another opportunity for the Society to put its best foot (feet?) forward.

JILL BRANSBY
Chairperson

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

Over the past year, I have attended many of the S.I.F.D. Sunday night dances at Cecil Sharp House and usually have a good time, despite sometimes feeling that for a single person there could be more circle dances. Therefore, I would like to say a very special Thank You to the Woodvale International Folkdance Group for their excellent programme (on 7th March) which included varied dances from both East and West Europe, giving us a good mixture of partner and circle dances. Well done, Woodvale.

Yours sincerely,

BARBARA SHAFFER
124 Ray Mill Road East,
Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 8TW.

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WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH OF S.I.F.D.

"Selpar" meet on Tuesdays, 7.30 to 9 p.m. at Queensbridge School, Queensbridge Road (just off the Alcester Road), Moseley, Birmingham. Tutor: Sybil Chapman.

"Heart of England" meet on Wednesdays, 7.30 p.m. at Lyndon School, Daylesford Road, Solihull. Leader: Alf Garton.

"Arden" meet on Tuesdays, 8 p.m. in Heart of England School, Gipsy Lane, Balsall Common, nr.Coventry. Tutor: Grace Pittman.

We are very sorry to announce that Dr. Pug Cyriax died on 14th February 1993 aged 86. Irene Fyffe brought to my notice an announcement in "The Times" but unfortunately this was after the NEWS had been posted including a note saying that Pug would like to see old friends from the S.I.F.D. She still retained links with the Society up to the end. Ed.

Dr. Cyriax came to the Society in the very early days, and we were lucky to secure a teacher of Swedish dancing who knew her subject so thoroughly. "Pug", as she became to us immediately, soon inspired many of us with a love of Swedish dancing, and almost all of the dances of that country now in the repertoire of the Society were originally taught by Pug.

Her grandfather, according to repute, was a sort of Swedish Cecil Sharp, and following in the family tradition Pug was a stickler for authenticity. I remember that on her first appearance we were all told to "get rid of those plimsolls and wear stout shoes". Her help with costumes was invaluable, providing the Society with a large collection of authentic Swedish garments. She was Wardrobe Mistress for the Society for many years.



Pug Cyriax and Bert Price, 1951

In 1953, the "See How They Dance" show at the Royal Albert Hall opened with a Swedish Midsummer Eve display, featuring a maypole, dances, and song-dances, the words learnt phonetically by the dancers. All of these arrangements were choreographed and rehearsed by Pug.

She was an important and well-loved person in the Society, and her death leaves us all a little impoverished.

IRENE FYFFE

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MAX PARRISH BOOKS

I have spare copies of the following books in the Max Parrish series, "Handbooks of European National Dances", for sale at £5 each (plus 50p postage):-

Dances of Finland
Dances of France, No.1 Brittany and Bourbonnais
Dances of Switzerland
Dances of Denmark
Dances of Portugal
Dances of Poland
Dances of Hungary
Dances of Italy

I also have a few of the 1993 Hungarian Costume Calendars left, at £5 (plus 50p postage). LIZ MELLISH, 15 Lancaster Road, North Harrow, Middx. HA2 7NN

THOSE WHO CAN AND THOSE WHO TEACH

There is a saying that those who can, do, those who can't, teach. Perhaps this is the reason that I have become a teacher of folk dances to a group of 10-12 year old girls? Many years ago, when the world was young and so was I, a group of dancers at the University of Sussex beguiled me into becoming a member of IFDS, the International Folk Dance Society of Sussex. After my student days were over, I contributed to the brain drain (!) and emigrated to Finland, ostensibly for one year but eventually, apparently, for ever (I'm still here). For various reasons folk dancing went into eclipse for about 100 years, but in 1990 I decided to make a come-back and started coaching a group of girls from the local school...

The group, Radosna Bojana, has flourished. From their very unauspicious beginnings (Cherkassia kefula and Setnja kolo were ever so difficult at first!) the girls have become an experienced demonstration group, unafraid of audiences up to 600. Cherkassia is nowadays scorned as too simple! At present there are 16 girls in the group, 13 of them from the same class at school. Half of them wear blue skirts and dance boys' steps, the other half wear red skirts and dance girls' steps. Nobody seems to mind! Our programme of dances includes such as Windmühle, Napolian tarantella, Snurrebocken and Ken Ward's Serbian suite from the repertoire of SIFD but also others, such as El Carnavalito (Argentina), Ta'am haman (Israel), Czardas vrteilka (Hungary) and Strip the Willow (England, a foreign country from our perspective).

From their origins as a bickering, self-centred and frequently bloody-minded group of totally uncooperative individuals (to put the situation mildly!), Radosna Bojana has developed into a much more coherent micro-society of dancers who look after each other as well as themselves and have learned how to bury their differences in order to ensure that the show not only goes on but is successful. Of this, as much as of the dances they have learned, I am particularly pleased and proud. In the foreseeable future I hope to be able to arrange international show trips for the group - perhaps at first to Estonia, only a four-hour boat trip away, later further afield. Maybe one day we'll even make it to the UK?

During the past three years, I have received help in various forms from members of SIFD. Special thanks go to Ken Ward, who first introduced me and my wooden legs to the tunes and rhythms of Balkan dance music in 1969 and who also helped me more recently. I am glad to be a member of SIFD again after all this time, and I am also pleased to feel that I have achieved something in making a real show-standard group out of Radosna Bojana. Here in Finland, international folk dancing is quite a rare pastime - I know of no other children's groups. Best wishes to all SIFD News readers, and I hope to meet some of you in an SIFD dance in summer when our family is in the UK on holiday. Then you will understand what I meant in the title of this letter!

Michael J Bailey
Kirjurinkuja 3F42
SF-02600 Espoo, Finland

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This year, the GREEK FOLK DANCE SEMINAR, ANOYIA, CRETE, will take place from 3rd to 13th July 1993. For details contact Yvonne Hunt, Hadjihristou 8, Koukaki, GR-11742 Athens, Greece. Tel: 921 9330.

LILLIAN GALATIS

A NEW PUBLICATION

"Dance Studies, Vol.15", edited by Roderyk Lange. Price £6, p. & p. extra.
From the Centre for Dance Studies, Les Bois, St.Peter, Jersey, Channel Islands
JE3 7AQ.

As one year ends and another begins, Dr.Lange always produces one of his excellent Dance Studies. This one, No.15 in the series, is as always full of interest. Each issue manages to cover a new area or subject for the reader's perusal. In this volume, the subject matter presented is a study by Dr.Lange himself on the religious festival of Galungan in Bali. Jennifer Shennan writes about the Maori dance tradition and her research on it. The indigenous dance terminology is viewed in the context of the Maori language. The accounts on Maori dance are surveyed, and particular references are made to the Haka dance. The third contribution is by Nina De Shane and is on the Ksan dances of the North-West coast Indians of British Colombia, Canada.

The material is extremely interesting and has been presented with lavish illustrations. In today's climate of dance degrees and ethnic studies, these books must be invaluable. These types of studies and the dedicated field workers all help to establish the importance of folk dance and culture in our present society.

ROBERT HARROLD

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SUMMER FOLKDANCE TRIP TO BULGARIA, 20TH-30TH AUGUST 1993

Here is an update on this summer trip, for which I am currently arranging the programme. I expect to have two dance teachers, so that we can benefit from a variety of styles. The dance course, described as 16 hours in the leaflets, can be quite flexible, and if some participants wish it, we can arrange more dance tuition. (It is possible that we may need to pay a little extra for this). The dance, music and singing courses will be fitted around all the other "essentials" for a Bulgarian trip - meeting and dancing with local groups, sight-seeing, shopping, relaxing, eating, drinking and experiencing the friendliness and hospitality of the local people. We will be staying in the beautiful "Alpine-like" Pirin mountains which are part of Macedonia. We also have the opportunity to go walking in these mountains with local guides. Although popular with Bulgarian walkers and climbers, this is a rather unusual opportunity for British tourists.

The dates of the trip make very efficient use of precious annual leave, and for this reason it is advisable to book as early as possible, as these flights will get full. Contact Ita Purton, Secretary of B.B.F.S., on 071 837 2304, for details about booking, or the singing course. If you have any queries or requests concerning the programme of the folkdance course, contact me on 071 482 0906.

CATHY MEUNIER

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SBORENKA BALKAN DANCE GROUP

Here are some dates for classes over Easter and the May Bank Holiday period:-

Monday, 29th March	Last class before Easter break.
Monday, 19th April	First class of summer term.
Monday, 3rd May	No class (Bank Holiday).
Tuesday, 4th May	Special evening with Romanian teachers.
Monday, 31st May	No class (Bank Holiday)

New members and occasional visitors are very welcome to join us. We meet from 8 to 10 p.m. in Studio 9, The Place, opposite Euston Station. Enquiries to me on 071 482 0906. CATHY MEUNIER

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Amongst a surfeit of Balkan dancing - popular though it is - it was a refreshing change to have a taste of something completely different - the day of dances from Taiwan, China and Korea, taught by Robert Harrold at Southampton on 28th February. Different style, mood, and music. Thank you, Robert, for this taste of a different culture. I hope the day courses in March and April are equally well attended.

LILY AVERY

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May 15th. Roberto Haddon and Maggie O'Regan would like to share some of the dances they learnt at the New Year's Course in Nunspeet(Holland) and revise some of those taught by Jan Knoppers at Great Hucklow last year. Dances will be of moderate difficulty and from Israel, Turkey, Armenia, Holland and Bulgaria. Details from Roberto Haddon, 081 553 5016, or Maggie O'Regan, 071 609 7098.

May 29th to 31st. SPRING BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND BALKAN COURSE at Charlbury, near Oxford with Bianca de Jong. For details and application form, send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA. Tel: 071 482 0906.

June 12th to 19th BALKAN FOLKDANCE COURSE at Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight, in a beautiful location overlooking the sea. Afternoons free for walking, sight-seeing, relaxing. Details from Cathy Meunier, 071 482 0906.

June 25th to 27th. DANCING/WALKING WEEKEND at Maryvale, Bramley, nr.Guildford, Surrey. Cost £56. There are a few vacancies. Accommodation mainly in single rooms. Enquiries to Roy Clarke, 33 Cedar Park Road, Enfield, Middx. EN2 0HE. Tel: 081 367 2649.

July 10th to 16th. FOLKDANCING SEMINAR in Bursa-Ulyudag, Turkey, with Turkish folkdance teachers and musicians, followed by a Round Trip from July 17th to 31st, to Ankara, Corum, Kappadokia, Pamukkale, Izmir, Canakkale, Istanbul. Also a Photography Roundtrip from July 31st to August 14th, through Turkey. For information about all these, contact Dorette & Bahri Ertek, Hinterdorf 31, CH-9043 Trogen, Switzerland.

July 11th to 18th. "FOLKLORETRAEF", a combined dance and holiday week in Denmark, at Harslev Efterskole, situated between Slagelse and Naestved. Instruction in folk dances from Vojvodina, Serbia, Vlachs, American Square; concert. Details from Berit Borg, Guldager Stationsvej 111, DR-6710, Esbjerg V, Denmark.

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BULGARIAN DANCE AND SONG

The Bistritsa Grannies, led by dance teacher Dina Ancheva, from the Shop region of Bulgaria, will be visiting England in July. Their ancient songs feature strange and dissonant harmonies, and the Horo are often in an asymmetrical rhythm. The group of nine women will perform the traditional songs and dances of their village and give us a glimpse of their old rituals and celebrations. Dina Ancheva has taught day courses in England for two years, but the whole group haven't performed here since 1987. Last year, they toured France and Italy, winning the silver medal at the Dijon Folk Festival. They hope to perform at festivals and folk clubs around the country, and anyone interested in concerts or day courses, or who could provide useful contacts, is asked to get in touch with Judy Greenwell, 13 Newdigate, Kingsnympton, Kingston, Surrey KT2 7TJ. TEL: 081 546 2979.

A LETTER FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY ON HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The purpose of this letter is to tell all members how many Honorary Life Members I have on record, who they are, and address the problem of finding a consensus as to how to determine how many we should have.

My most recent count indicates that we have 11 Honorary Life Members on record as at 1st March 1993, and they are:-

Mrs. A.Aistrat, Mrs. L.Avery, Miss S.Chapman, Mrs. I.Fyffe, Mr. W.Horrocks, Mrs. K.Kedge, Mr. A.McLean, Professor J.Richardson, Mrs. D.Sloan (overseas), Mrs. M.Webb and Mr. D.Wells

As reported elsewhere, sadly we have recently lost two Honorary Life Members, Dr. Cyriax and Mr. D.V.Hunt.

Mainly for information for new members, the Constitution says that Honorary Life Membership may be awarded by a motion at an Annual General Meeting, with the Member's consent, to any member who is proposed and seconded in writing, and this being sent to the Secretary in time for inclusion in the A.G.M. Agenda, although late motions (non-constitutional changes) can be presented under "Any Other Business". Honorary Life Membership is a special honour and it is normally conferred in recognition of exceptional service to the Society over a significant number of years.

Separately from Honorary Life Membership, the Constitution enables the Executive Committee to confer Associateship on individuals where it is mutually advantageous for them to have a complimentary issue of the SIFD NEWS, for example, whilst they are providing a regular service or an overseas liaison to the Society; this is ended after the conclusion of their services. Associateship includes no membership benefits unless the recipient is a Member or Honorary Member of the Society. Not included in the above list are 12 persons listed as having Associateship of the Society. (Ref. Constitution January 1989, Articles of Association 1, 4, 9 and 10).

It was suggested at the A.G.M. that some balance should be drawn up between recognition for inclusion in the "List of Honours" and numbers relative to our total membership (approximately 630 at present, allowing for seasonal variation). The Committee have since considered setting a limit of approximately 3% of the membership, but as the membership total may vary, perhaps a fixed number of, say, about 15 may offer a better solution. However, the majority of the Committee would prefer not to impose a rigid limit so that there is freedom to recognise truly exceptional service whenever it occurs.

Following this discussion, the Committee, recognising the great significance of Honorary Membership, felt that it might be desirable to formalise the system of proposal. One suggestion, requiring formal proposals in advance, is described in the paper attached to this month's NEWS. Another idea, which the Committee will discuss in the future, is that the number of proposers might be increased.

The Committee would welcome any views from members before the Committee meeting on 9th May 1993.

ALAN MORTON
Honorary Membership Secretary

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S.I.F.D. SOUND EQUIPMENT

In the February NEWS, it was announced that I would be handling requests for use of the S.I.F.D. sound equipment. It was perhaps not made clear that I do not, at any time, house any of the equipment and that, therefore, the system will only work if people who are borrowing it let me know that they have got it, and for how long, and to whom they are returning it or passing it on. Thanks.

MAGGIE O'REGAN, 071 609 7098

EDDY TIJJSSEN will be teaching Bulgarian dances this month at the following venues:-

Tuesday, 13th April at Barlow International Folkdance Group, St.Ninian's U.R. Church Hall, Wilbraham Road, Chorlton, Manchester. 8 to 10 p.m. £3.00. Further details from Joan Wood, 061 881 1077.

Wednesday, 14th April at "Heart of England" Group, Lyndon School, Daylesford Rd., Sheldon, Solihull, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. £1.00. Further details from Alf Garton, 021 6045706.

Thursday, 15th April at Hursley International Folkdancers, I.B.M. Club House, Hursley Park, nr.Winchester, 8 to 10 p.m. £2.00. Further details from Ron Wilkes, 0703 600 872.

Friday, 16th April at Barnet International Dance Group, Church House, Wood St., Barnet, Herts, 8 to 10 p.m. £3.00. Further details from Irene Nicholls, 081 440 1366.

Saturday, 17th April at Balkanplus, The Place, Flaxman Terrace, London W.C.1., 11.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. £8.50. Further details from Frances Horrocks, 081 642 3629. Please note that parking restrictions are in force until 1.30 p.m. This day course will be followed by Balkanplus dance. See "What's On".

Sunday, 18th April at Bristol International Folkdancers, St.Paul's Church Hall, Beaulay Road (off Coronation Road), Sedminster, Bristol, 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. £8.00. Further details from Anne Marshall, 0272 509 889. Please bring food to share. The day will include some revision of Arnside dances.

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GREAT ALNE MAYDAY LONG WEEKEND, NEAR ALCESTER, WARWICKSHIRE
FRIDAY, 30TH APRIL, TO MONDAY, 3RD MAY 1993

1993 is the 10th anniversary of this lively gathering which makes full use of the friendly atmosphere of Great Alne Village Hall. Social dances with a mainly International content are on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. From the Netherlands, Karin Bellaart is coming over again, and her sessions for General International dance will take place each day, 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. This year, Karin will be showing General International dances from the C.D. recently re-released in Holland, called "Doe Dans Basics II". Her charismatic style of teaching alone makes Great Alne well worth a participatory visit.

There will be a range of other workshops (mainly Saturday, Sunday and Monday mornings) offering Morris and longsword dancing, Appalachian Clog, craft skills, and you might even try your hand at juggling. Additionally, there are a variety of instrumental sessions for musicians of all abilities; and children who come are encouraged. Jack Steele will be playing accordion for our International Music, an evening singalong, and for workshops to take part in playing the International Dance tunes.

We use our own small campsite near the hall; tent, caravan or camper van is acceptable. Or you may wish to book local B. & B. accommodation. The bluebell woods of the Alne Hills are superb for walks during the afternoons. You are also most welcome to join any day or half-day's activities. For further information, ring me on 0203 418949. If I am not in, please leave an address on the Answerphone so that I can send you a detailed programme.

ANDRÉ W. HOBRO

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S.I.F.D. DAY COURSES. There will be no day course in April. The course planned for 8th May is Croatian. Details next month.

FOLK COSTUMES OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Part 11. Macedonia - East. Injevo village.

In this my last extract from notes on costumes from my proposed book, I've chosen those from Injevo, which is the fertile hilly region seven kilometres from Radovis; the former mud track has now been tarmac-ed by the villagers and they have a 'bus service. The costumes are not monumental, nor do they have great ethnic qualities but they were, and perhaps are still, being made and worn on special occasions and on a daily basis by the older women. They are complete in their integral parts and have not disintegrated and become shabby and debased. After seeing a very impressive traditional performance at the Ohrid Festival in 1973, I was invited to visit the village by Simeon Kocev, the group leader. I wrote up the visits for SIFD NEWS at the time. I stayed at the village several times, and the St. George's Day celebration, with hundreds of costumes in perfect condition, is something I shall always remember.

The costumes, which are very attractive, are worn in several villages. Some of you may remember seeing them when I brought the group over to Llangollen in 1974, and they later danced at a Balkan party. Two interesting things I remember; on the way to the village, seeing an elderly shepherd with his flock, wearing his white costume with red jacket; and on a Sunday, the girls changing into "civvies" for a group rehearsal and back again for the evening dance in the village.

Fine embroidery is still being done, and in addition to the costumes examples can be seen in the houses, and in the old church which is like a folkcraft warehouse! The women's costume has changed little in outline but some more modern materials have been introduced. For the moment I cannot find the full details of the costume, and write from memory. The chemise is as described for other regions, very basic with minimal decoration to the collar and cuffs, but more to the hem, and in each bottom corner of the back panel a vertical oblong of embroidery. The young girls have more recent designs of stylised flowers, but the older women have geometric symbolic patterns. In addition there is a narrow band of embroidery down each seam. Over this garment is worn a short jacket with long sleeves, made of black "satin", which meets at the front. Called "saja", I believe it to be the remains of a richer garment of black or purple velvet, decorated around the edges and on the lower sleeve in gilt wire (similar to the rich Serbian waistcoats). I have seen these worn by women from mountain villages at the markets in Ohrid and Struga. The current decoration is of much coarser braid and rick-rac. The sleeves are about threequarter length to expose the embroidered chemise cuff. The jacket is of Turkish influence, and over this is worn a long-sleeved basically cut white cotton threequarter-length coat. The edges and cuffs are narrowly embroidered and edged with crochet-work and coloured glass beads. Across the back bottom panel is a broad horizontal band of embroidery. The front bottom corners have embroidered panels on the inside. The corners are worn pinned to the edges of the back panel (in the nature of 18th-century military greatcoats) The cuffs are turned back to expose decoration on the black sleeves underneath. In the winter, a very thick quilted dark red jacket is worn underneath the white jacket.

This winter jacket has very large side panels and is sleeveless. It has a fan-shape from the rear and the embroidered panels of the white rest across the back. It looks very attractive, but the wearer has to go through doorways sideways. This also resembles 18th-century high women's fashion. It is interesting to speculate if there is any link, however unlikely (which came first? The Western Europeans were around at the time!). I'm not sure what else is worn in cold weather, but fur jackets were worn with the fleece inside. It is possible that a longish fur jacket was worn under the red jacket with long sleeves. Over the white jacket is worn a waistcoat of white cotton with woven-in coloured wool and cotton motifs in vertical stripes.

To be continued.

KEN WARD

ADVANCE S.O.S. FOR VISITING GROUP FROM PRAHOVA, ROMANIA.

Exciting news! A lovely group, "Datina" (those on Silviu's Easter trips will have met them) are (d.v., all things being equal etc.) coming over at the end of May, beginning of June 1994. Celia Stone and her group are undertaking to bring them over and "fete" them in Derbyshire, and have twisted my arm to "do something" for them here in London on their way home. It's too good an opportunity to miss - a coachload of dancers, musicians, singers, lovely friends of a few years' standing. And you will love them too. Already I have done a lot of spadework and have a few tentative bookings for them and various slender possibilities, but really everything hangs on.....H E L P.

Realistically, everything hinges on being able to "farm them out". I must be able to find FREE HOSPITALITY for them all for two, possibly three, nights, and this would probably be Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 4th, 5th and 6th June 1994. A bed (or sleeping bag on the floor), breakfast, some sort of meal before the bed, and a packed lunch each day.

I plan to have a large dancing, singing party for the visitors and hosts on the Friday evening, mostly performances on the Saturday, and a day of sight-seeing on the Sunday - either as a whole by their coach or in small groups with their hosts (much easier and probably more enjoyable for them).

As I live on the northern outskirts of London and there are such groups as Barnet, Croxley Green, Hemel Hempstead, Hitchin, Watford and several people living in those sort of areas who patronise some of the London-based dancing groups, I should like to base this enterprise in this general area (wide sweep of North London) where I hope I may get the most support. (I hope the people I have already contacted are encouraging and scheming already!).

Wanted - A Gold Edged List of Angels. I am opening a list of names and addresses and how many spaces offered NOW, so if you live in London itself or North of it, PLEASE PLEASE could you possibly offer a bed/camp-bed/couch/sleeping-bag plus floor space for one, or preferably a pair, of Romanians, for this long weekend? Most of them speak a little English and I would make sure an interpreter was handy where necessary. Hosts could include a friend close by to share this hosting. Of course, if you get appendicitis, or have some other panic, I cannot hold you to your offer, but equally I MUST be assured that you are serious in your offer and committed to keep to it if at all possible. The whole venture will be nightmarish enough without loads of let-downs at the last minute! BUT IT SHOULD BE FUN, and you will be assured of a welcome any time you venture across Europe to see the delights of Romania for yourself.

I SHOULD BE SO DELIGHTED TO BE INUNDATED WITH OFFERS!! Also, ofcourse, any more ideas on sponsoring/possible performances/free or cheap outings for whole or part group etc. etc. (It would be nice to offer a performance at e.g. Queen Elizabeth Hall if I could raise enough money for the deposit). Apart from the welcoming party, there could be other mini benefits for the hosts (e.g. cocktail party at the Embassy?). DO THINK ABOUT IT SERIOUSLY AND LET ME KNOW IF YOU COULD OFFER SOMETHING.

Note: If anyone would like a costume or anything brought from Romania to buy, I think this could be arranged and would give them some pocket money during their trip, which otherwise they won't have! Things like records, cassettes, books, wood carvings, pictures, linen, embroidered blouses, woven items, pottery etc., all traditional Romanian. Let me know now. Everything to do with this trip will be done in order of priority. I am starting all the lists NOW. ALL OFFERS, SUGGESTIONS, REQUESTS to me at Oak Lodge, Theobalds Park Road, Enfield, Middx. EN2 9BN. Tel: 081 363 1506.

DIKI GLEESON

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ALL MATERIAL FOR THE MAY SIFD NEWS TO REACH THE EDITOR IN WRITING
BY 17TH APRIL.

SMUGGLERS LULLABY

(Isle of Man)

A Figure Play slowly.

Intro ----- Chorus

B Figure

Chorus.

Play AB x 3 for the dance six times. On the last time play final two bars more slowly.

CUR SHAGHEY NY GEURRY (Isle of Man)

Intro -----

Play ad lib in a gentle jog.

PETER O'TAVY

(Isle of Man)

Chorus. Play six times very slowly.

Verse

Intro -----

SUNDAY DANCES at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1.

Apr. 4th M.C.s "Scandia", a new group but old friends. General International with a dash of Scandinavian (See p.2).

May 9th M.C. Roy Clarke. Guest musician, Cliff Beck. Interval dancing led by Frances Horrocks.

7 to 10 p.m. Admission £3 for S.I.F.D. members, £3.50 for non-members.

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WHAT'S ON - (See p.9 for Eddy Tijssen's workshops)

Apr. 4th BEGINNERS' DAY COURSE in General International dancing, organized by the Rainmakers at Offley Village Hall, Herts., 11 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Tutor: Jill Bransby. Details from Mark Balaam, 0707 327797.

Apr. 4th SONGSPLUS at Henderson Court Day Centre, 102 Fitzjohns Avenue, Hampstead, London N.W.3, 2.30 p.m. Details from Susan Jordan, 081 452 4174 (home), 071 837 3777 (work).

Apr. 8th to 13th BALKAN COURSE AT ARNSIDE, Morecambe Bay. Enquiries to Helen Green, 110 Gammons Lane, Watford WD2 5HY. Tel: 0923 251528.

Apr.17th BALKANPLUS at Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, London N.W.1. 7 to 10.30 p.m. M.C.s Maggie O'Regan and Catherine Earl (not Nick Green as announced last month. Nick will be M.C. at the next Balkanplus on 15th May).

Apr.24th BEGINNERS' WORKSHOP at Oathall Community College, Haywards Heath, West Sussex. All beginners welcome. Easy dances from Greece, Israel, and the Balkan States. Details from Alex Stillwell, 0444 440889.

Apr.25th EASY FOLK DANCES FROM TAIWAN, CHINA, KOREA, 11 a.m. to 4.30/5 p.m. at Hammond School, Reliance House, Waterloo Road, Chester. Tutor: Robert Harrold. (In aid of UNICEF). £5.00. Notes & cassettes will be available.

Apr.25th KLEZMER DANCE WORKSHOP at the Swarthmore Centre, Leeds, 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. with Laureen Levy. Details and bookings, 0272 246698.

Apr.25th TASTER DAY OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE (part of the "Spring Ball" Festival of Dance taking place in High Wycombe from 23rd April to 2nd May). 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Spring Gardens Arts Centre, High Wycombe. Workshops, displays and sharing in Romanian, Israeli, "Rags Sharqi" Egyptian Dance, Appachian Clog, Cajun. Tutors will include Nick Green, Fiona Howarth, Uri Gerson. Further information from Uri Gerson, 0494 523434, or Eileen Young, 0296 747056.

Apr.30th to May 3rd LONG WEEKEND AT GREAT ALNE. See p.9.

Apr.30th to May 3rd EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL See last month's NEWS for information. Further details from Eastbourne Festival Office, 27 West Street, Seaford, E.Sussex BN25 1EE (send s.a.e.). International dancing takes place in the gym, where soft shoes with no nails in heels must be worn.

Apr.30th to May 3rd WEEKEND AT HALSWAY MANOR, Crowcombe, Somerset. The house is now fully booked as far as twin rooms are concerned but at present there is no waiting list, so let me know if you would like to come if I have cancellations. There are a few places for women only, in the large rooms (they are some of the nicest rooms!). Jack Richardson, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, University College, Swansea SA3 8PP.

S.I.F.D. AFFILIATED GROUPS

ANACHNU ISRAELI DANCE GROUP meets during term time on Tuesdays, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Thomas Tallis School, Kidbrooke Park Road, Kidbrooke, London S.E.3. Tutor: Judy Ingram. Tel: 081 858 5436. Beginners & Advanced.

BALKANPLUS. For information contact Stella Carter (Secretary), 14 High Mead, Hockley, Essex SS5 4QG

BARLOW INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets on Tuesdays, 7.45 to 10.15 p.m. (Children 7.00 to 7.45 p.m.) at Wilbraham, St.Ninian's U.R. Church Hall, Egerton Road South, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester. General International, with emphasis on Balkan and Israeli. Members £1.00. Non-members £1.25. Children's group free.

BESKYDY DANCERS (CZECHOSLOVAKIA) meet every Wednesday during term time, 7.00 to 9.30 p.m. in Room 343, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, 180 Queen's Gate, Kensington, London S.W.7. Nearest Underground: Gloucester Road or South Kensington. Beginners welcome. Live music. Singing. Performances in varied costumes and many different venues. Tutor: Hedy Fromings, 081 699 8597.

BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS meet every Thursday during term (except half-term), 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Claremont School, Henleaze Park, Bristol. Tutor: Hilda Sturge, 10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol BS9 4DU. Tel: 0272 621802. General International with Balkan and Romanian bias.

BROMLEY INTERNATIONAL DANCE GROUP meets on Tuesday, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Raglan School, Jaffray Road, Bromley Common, Bromley, Kent. General International, mainly lines and circles. Tutor: Fiona Howarth

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL^{AL} CLUB meets for social dancing every Monday, 8.30 p.m. in St.Columba's Church Hall, Downing Place, Cambridge. Own band: "Jacob's Ladder". New members and visitors to Cambridge always welcome.

CAPRIOL HISTORICAL DANCE & MUSIC GROUP meets on Wednesdays, 7.30 p.m. at Oldham Community Centre, Union Street, Oldham, Lancs. Early Dance, 13th-19th Centuries. Open all year round except end-June/beg.-July, end-Aug./beg.Sept. Enquiries to Bob Jones, 061 624 1583, or George Dickinson, 061 766 8208.

"DANCEFOLK" NEWCASTLE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets on Thursdays, 1.00 to 3.00 p.m., September to May, in Small Gym, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Kings Walk, Newcastle.

DANCE INTERNATIONAL (WORTHING) meet for General International dancing on Fridays, 7.00 to 10.00 p.m. at Field Place Pavilion, Southern end of the Boulevard, Worthing. (near Durrington Station). Beginners and visitors welcome. Tel: 0903 507381 or 0903 761532

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets on Mondays, end-September to mid-May 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Stockbridge House, Cheyne Street, Edinburgh. General International. Advanced class meets on Wednesdays in St. Ann's Community Centre, South Gray's Close (off the Cowgate), Edinburgh, 7.30 to 9.00p.m. Further information from Dennis Belford, 031 449 5325, or Kirsty Evans, 031 337 4638.

FOLKESTONE DISTRICT NATIONAL DANCE GROUP meets on Tuesdays, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at United Reformed Church Hall, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent. Contact Secretary, Pat Clarke, Folkestone (0303) 249199. 51 Chichester Road, Sandgate, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3BW.

FRITH FOLK INTERNATIONAL DANCE GROUP meets on Thursdays, 7.45 to 9.45 p.m. at King's Arms Hotel, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbys. Leader/Contact: Pat Phillips, 0298 24450.

HARROW FOLKDANCE CLUB meets at various venues on most evenings for English/Playford/American Square/Clog. Some international dance on Mondays. Contact: John Lawes, 081 907 4700.

HAVERING INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets in term time on Thursdays, 8 to 10 p.m. at Harold Wood Primary School, Recreation Avenue, Harold Wood, Nr. Romford, Essex. Tutor: George Sweetland. Secretary: Mrs. Joan Burton, 61 Rutland Drive, Hornchurch, Essex RM11 3EW. Tel: 0708 459836.

HURSLEY INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS MEET EVERY Thursday (except August) at the IBM Clubhouse at Hursley (between Winchester and Romsey). Dances mainly from Eastern Europe, but other countries are represented as well. Beginners evenings are held every first Thursday. Live music most last Thursdays. Dancing starts soon after 7.30 p.m. and continues until 10 p.m. Bar and food available. Visitors and new members welcome.

IBERIAN FOLK DANCE & MUSIC SOCIETY meets on Wednesdays, 6 to 8 p.m. at Swiss Cottage Community Centre, 19 Winchester Road, London N.W.3. Spanish and Portuguese regional dances collected by Lucile Armstrong.

ISRAEL FOLKDANCE INSTITUTE. Call 081 446 6427 or 445 6765 for details.

KALINKA DANCERS meet on Mondays, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Unitarian Church Hall, Ormond Road, Richmond. Specialising in dances of Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Tatarstan. Live music; no previous experience necessary. Tutor: Jenia Graman, 081 876 0514.(eve)

KAYROMA FOLKDANCE GROUP meets on Fridays, 7.15 p.m. at Whitley Bay High School, Whitley Bay, in term time. Visitors welcome. Contact Kaye Lewis-Poole, 0661 852 495. Varied programme from dances abroad, and specialising in Mexico and Spain.

LOIDIS INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets on Thursdays, 7.45 to 10 p.m. at Moor Allerton Memorial Institute, Stonegate Road, Moortown, Leeds, West Yorkshire. Mixed international, including Balkan, Israeli, Greek and Western European. New members always welcome and a warm invitation to visitors to the area wishing to join in an evening's dancing. Further details on 0532 787837.

LONDON TURKISH FOLKDANCE GROUP meets on Tuesdays, 7.30 p.m. at 1A Centre, 1A Rosebery Avenue, London E.C.1. Underground Station: Chancery Lane. Buses 17, 19, 38, 45, 171A, 243. Red Arrow 505. Details from Pauline Welch, 081 393 1919, or Philip Barnes, 081 427 0947.

NEWPORT INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets on Tuesdays, 8 to 10 p.m. (except August) at Brynglas House, Brynglas Road, Newport, Gwent.

NUTBROOK INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets on Thursdays, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Stevenson Junior School, Wadsworth Road, Stapleford, Notts. Also two day courses a year. Great variety of international dances. Contact Gill Morral, 0602 393204.

OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO GROUP meets on Thursdays, 8.30 p.m. at St. Margaret's Parish Institute Hall, Polstead Road (off Woodstock Road), Oxford. Ring Roger Wicksteed on 0865 511898.

OXFORD INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets on Wednesdays, 8.15 p.m. throughout the year, at St. Giles Parish Rooms, 10 Woodstock Road, Oxford. Group leader: David Mowat. Contact: Diana Porteus, 98 Fairacres Road, Oxford OX4 1TG. Tel: 0865 241584.

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets most Fridays, 8 to 10 p.m. at St. Michael's Church Hall, The Broadway, Letchworth, Herts. General International. Contact: Belinda Lansbury, 0462 455711.

TATRY POLISH SONG & DANCE GROUP meets in term time on Fridays, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. usually at POSK, 238-246 King Street, Ravenscourt Park, London W.6. (occasionally transferred to Ealing or Balham). Further details from Renata Urbaniak, 66 Blandfield Road, London SW12 8BG. Tel: 081 673 7359.

TOKAJI HUNGARIAN FOLKDANCE GROUP meets most Sundays during term time at Willowfield Centre, Legrams Lane, Bradford, W.Yorkshire. Tutors: Eva Gazdag and Ruth Richardson, also visiting teachers. Secretary: Rachel Novak, Tel: Bradford 576903.

WIGGINTON INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets at Wigginton School, near Tring, Herts. on Thursdays at 7.45 p.m.

WOODVALE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE CLUB meets at Parish Hall, Borough Green, on Tuesdays, 8 to 10 p.m. General International dancing.

WYCOMBE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets at Sir Wm.Ramsay School, Hazlemere, High Wycombe, on Mondays, 8 to 10 p.m. (apart from bank holidays, and breaks for Christmas and in the summer). Varied programme; Israeli, English, Balkan etc. with instruction as needed. Tel: 0494 523434

ZDRAVETS, EDINBURGH BALKAN FOLKDANCE GROUP meets on Thursdays at 8 p.m. in St. Ninian's Church Hall, Comely Bank Road, Edinburgh, practically all year round. Mostly Balkan with a strong showing from Armenia. All are welcome. Contact Graham Crowder, 031 334 2891.

S.I.F.D. ASSOCIATED CLASSES

GENERAL INTERNATIONAL

Mondays, 7.15 to 9 p.m. in term time, at Hope Valley College, Castleton Road, Hope, nr.Sheffield. Tutor: Marina Wolstenholme. General International with emphasis on line and circle dancers, especially Balkan. (Hope Valley Dancers).

Mondays, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Carshalton High School for Boys, Winchcombe Road, Carshalton, Surrey. Beginners. Tutor: Jeanette Hull, 081 640 5267. (Carshalton International Folk Dancers). PLEASE CHECK WITH JEANETTE REGARDING THIS CLASS.

Tuesdays, 7.45 to 10 p.m. in term time, in the Senior Common Room Bar, Fulton House, University College, Swansea. Contact: Joan Richardson, 0792 403 153. (Swansea University International Folkdance Group).

Tuesdays, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Cheam High School, Chatsworth Road, Cheam, Surrey. Beginners/Intermediate. Tutor: Joy Steventon, 081 542 3831. (Merton Park Group)

Wednesdays, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Merton Institute of Adult Education, Whatley Avenue, London S.W.20. Advanced. Tutor: Joy Steventon, 081 542 3831. (Merton Park Group).

Wednesdays, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. in term time, at Rutlish School, Watery Lane, Merton Park, London S.W.20. Beginners 18 to 35s. Tutors: Brenda and Philip Steventon, 081 397 9649. (Merton Park Group)

Wednesdays, 8 to 10 p.m. at Red Cross Welcome Club, Barton Way, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Herts. (Not in August). Near the library. (Croxy Green International Folk Dancers).

Wednesdays, 7 to 9 p.m. in term time, at Haverstock School, Cogsland Road, N.W.1. Opposite Chalk Farm Station. Tutor: Janet Woolbar. (Central London Group).

Thursdays, 7 to 8.30 p.m. in term time, at Copland Community School, Cecil Avenue, Wembley. Near Wembley Central Underground. Tutor: Janet Woolbar. (Copland International).

Thursdays, 8 to 9.30 p.m. in term time at Northfield School, Falcon Road, Dronfield, Woodhouse, Sheffield. Tutor: Marina Wolstenholme. Mixture of dances as for Hope Valley (above). (Dronfield Dancers).

Fridays, (not August), 2.15 to 3.45 p.m. at Community Association, off Barton Way, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Herts. Near the library. (Croxley Green International Folk Dancers).

BALKAN

Mondays, 8 to 10 p.m. at The Place, Studio 10, Duke's Road, London W.C.1. (opposite Euston Station). Balkan and East European folkdance. Details from Cathy Meunier, 071 482 0906 (evenings), 071 828 1000 Ext.4159 (daytime). (Sborenka Balkan Folkdance Club).

Fridays (1st, 3rd and possibly 5th Friday of each month) at Hanworth Youth Centre, 8 to 10 p.m. Please check with Philip or Mary Dobison, 081 890 8304 for further details. (Feltham Balkan Dance Club).

Most Fridays, September to July, 8 p.m. at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet. Repertoire is mainly Balkan to Intermediate standard. No membership fee. All welcome. (Barnet International Folkdance Club).

EASTERN EUROPEAN

Tuesdays, 7 to 9 p.m. at United Reform Church, Wakefield Street, London W.C.1. (near Kings Cross Underground Station). Contact Leslie Haddon, 081 441 2959, for further details. (Daina E. European Folkdance Group).

HUNGARIAN

Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m. in term time at Haverstock School, Truro Buildings, Crogland Road, London N.W.1. (near Chalk Farm Underground Station). Contact Leslie Haddon, 081 441 2959, for further details. (Balaton Hungarian Folkdance Group).

ISRAELI

Wednesdays, 7 to 9 p.m. at Haverstock School, Opposite Chalk Farm Station, London. Tutor: Fiona Howarth, 081 460 2305. Israeli dance for all levels, termly enrolment but one "sample" visit allowed. (Hama'agal Israeli Class).

POLISH

Jacy Tacy Group meets from time to time. Watch SIFD NEWS for notice of Polish dance meetings open to all. Tutors: Betty Harvey (081 980 9650) and Tony Latham (081 992 9445).

SCANDINAVIAN

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7 to 9 p.m. at Hemmingford Arms (upstairs room), corner of Hemmingford Street and Offord Street, London N.1. Workshops and dances from Scandinavia, with emphasis on Gammeldans and Bygdedans. Further details from Liz Mellish, 081 863 7807, or Casper Cronk, 081 340 4683.

FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

Dances and songs from Croatia, Serbia and Macedonia. The group were meeting on Mondays at Marsham Street but have since changed venue. Check with their Chairman, Fred Wood, for details. (43 Gillmans Road, Orpington, Kent BR5 4LB).

SIFD Constitution

Following discussion at the AGM last December, the Committee has reviewed the Constitution as amended at that meeting. The Committee has taken a number of decisions of principle, and has asked me to propose wording to give effect to those decisions.

While the impetus for the Committee review was the confusion concerning the calling of EGMs under the amended Constitution, the opportunity was taken to address a number of issues where the Constitution is thought to be inappropriate for present circumstances.

The Constitution requires that any proposal for constitutional change is circulated to members in advance of a General Meeting and that such motions cannot be amended at the meeting; they have to be accepted or rejected as they stand. It is important, therefore, that constitutional motions submitted to General Meetings are well formulated and, ideally, reflect a consensus.

The purpose of this note is to set out draft constitutional motions for the next AGM (in November 1993) and to seek comment on them before their formal submission to members, in the hope that any deficiencies may be rectified in advance. Members' comments are therefore sought on the proposals in this note as soon as possible.

Proposed amendments are based on the present Constitution, which incorporates the amendments accepted at the AGM in December 1992.

Motion 1

In Clause 6 of the Memorandum of Association, replace "two auditors" by "an auditor"

In Article 37, first sentence, replace "Auditors" by "An auditor" and "their" by "his".
In second sentence of Art 37, replace "auditors" by "auditor" twice.

Comment: The change to reduce the number of auditors from two to one is in line with practice of the last few years.

Motion 2

Replace Clause 8 by 'The Executive Committee may whenever they think fit convene an Extraordinary General Meeting. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be held within two months of the receipt by the Hon. Secretary of a written request for such a meeting signed by not less than twenty members, or one fifth of the members (which ever is the less). Such a written request shall include details of the business to be addressed at the meeting.'

Replace Article 9 by "The notice of, and agenda for, any General Meeting shall be sent to members not less than 21 days before the date of the meeting. The agenda shall specify the date, time and place of the meeting and shall include all motions, including those proposed by the Committee and, for an EGM, by the requisitioners of the meeting. For the AGM, members shall have any motion that is duly proposed and seconded placed on the agenda, provided the motion is received by the Hon. Secretary by the end of September. In addition for the AGM, the agenda shall include items covering (a) reports of the Executive Committee and the auditor, (b) consideration of the accounts, and (c) election of officers and Executive Committee members for the coming year. The Chairman, at his discretion and subject to the necessary time being available after all business on the agenda has been

dealt with, may accept motions, excluding those involving constitutional change, duly seconded, from the floor."

Comment: These amendments, in which the last sentence of Art 8 and the first three and a half sentences of Art 9 are new, clarify the procedure for EGMs, exactly within the spirit of the procedure for AGMs approved by members at the last AGM. An additional requirement, for the requisitioners of an EGM to specify the business to be transacted has been inserted, in line with conventional practice.

Motion 3

Replace paragraph 1 and the first three sentences of paragraph 2 of Article 27 by "The Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary and six ordinary members of the Committee shall be elected according to the following procedure. Any paid up member of the Society may be nominated by members as a candidate for one or more of these offices, provided that each nomination (a) is in writing signed by two members, (b) contains the written consent of the member to act if elected, and (c) is received by the Hon. Secretary not later than the end of September. If the number of candidates nominated as aforesaid does not exceed the number of vacancies, candidates so nominated shall be deemed to have been selected. If the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies, an election shall be held and the Hon. Sec. shall send out voting papers. These shall be sent to members, and delegates of affiliated groups entitled to vote at the AGM that year, not later than 21 days before the Annual General Meeting."

Comment: The rest of the present Art 27 provides for the return of voting papers 7 days in advance of the meeting, for the counting of votes in secret and for a procedure that allows a person to be a candidate for more than one office.

The present Art 27 sets out an elaborate procedure which would be expensive (about £100 in postage) and time consuming to operate, to the extent that it may be impractical, therefore hindering democracy. The proposed new procedure retains the substance of the present constitution, but ties in nominations to the same date as is now proposed for motions for the AGM, with a requirement that, if necessary, voting papers are circulated at the same time as the papers for the AGM (expected to be with SIFD News). Members then have 14 days, less time for postal delivery, to get voting papers back to the Secretary, with the counting of votes following the same procedure as provided for in the present constitution.

Motion 4

Replace the third sentence of Article 1 by the following "Honorary Membership may be conferred on any person in recognition of services to the Society on the passing at an Annual General Meeting of a motion to that effect. Any such motion, duly proposed and seconded, must be received by the Hon Secretary by the end of September and shall be placed on the agenda for the AGM.

In new Article 9 (see Motion 2) after "constitutional change" insert "and those proposing Honorary Memberships"

Comment: This amendment introduces a requirement that motions proposing Honorary members are submitted to the same timetable as other business for the AGM, consistent with the Committee view that the procedure for conferring Honorary Membership should be made more formal. It is for further consideration whether such motions should require a larger number of proposers or whether there should be a postal vote.

Please send comments to Peter Bransby, Red Gables, Benslow Path, The Avenue, Hitchin, Herts, SG4 9RH.