

SIFD

NEWS



JULY

1995

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

EDITOR: Lily Avery (Mrs.), 16 Willow Drive, Little Common, Bexhill-on-Sea,
E.Sussex TN39 4PX. Tel: 01424 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 Tina Stone and is entitled "Fouesnant Jabadao".
It shows dancers from Fouesnant, on the Brittany coast, dancing Jabadao,
and, yes, the boys really do jump that high!

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CHAIRPERSON: Jill Bransby (Mrs.), "Red Gables", Benslow Path, The Avenue,
Hitchin, Herts. SG4 9RH. Tel: 01462 457791.

SECRETARY: Jeanette Hull (Miss), 24 The Homefield, London Road, Morden,
Surrey SM4 5AS. Tel: 0181 640 5267.

TREASURER: Judith Payling (Mrs.), "Rosebank", 56 Quickley Lane, Chorleywood,
Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5AF.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

& GROUPS LIAISON OFFICER: Alan Morton, 26 Durham Road, Harrow, Middx. HA1 4PG
Tel: 0181 427 8042.

PUBLICITY OFFICER: George Sweetland, 28 Hayes Court, Camberwell New Road,
London SE5 0TQ. Tel: 0171 701 3785.

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S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE - MEXICAN, with JOHN MELVILLE

John Melville, who is in England on a short visit from Mexico, where he has
lived for many years, has very kindly agreed to teach the July day course.
John is an experienced teacher and has researched Mexican dance extensively,
so this should be something special.

Remember to bring your own lunch as the restaurant will be closed. There are
no parking restrictions on Sundays. Cassettes and notes will be available for
purchase. Only official video-recording will be allowed.

Date: 9th July 1995.

Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tutor: John Melville

Fee: £5 members, £6 non-members
£4 concessions

Venue: Studio 10, The Place, Flaxman Terrace, London W.C.1. (near Euston Station).

There will be no S.I.F.D. Day Course in August.

MAGGIE O'REGAN

WRITERS NEEDED

It is hoped that a publication will be produced about the last decade of our history. This will probably take the form of a computer-produced supplement to the already published history, "The Society for International Folk Dancing 1946-1986". (If this supplement is not produced for sale, we would anyway like to have on file some information about the last ten years for possible future use).

With this in mind, we would like to invite members to write short accounts of their group's dancing activities and developments during 1986-1996. We think that it would be of especial interest to read of activities specific to particular groups; for example, trips abroad, new contacts and repertoires, re-structuring of groups, successes and disasters (for example, Rainmakers, how you were edited out of the broadcasted T.V. programme!).

Please send your accounts to George Sweetland (Publicity Officer) whose address is on page 2, by the end of September. We reserve the right to edit these articles.

JILL BRANSBY, Chairperson.

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GOLDEN JUBILEE DANCE, SATURDAY, 12TH OCTOBER 1996

We want as many members and ex-members as possible to join us on this occasion next year. I am grateful to Les Avery for suggesting that we should start trying to contact some of our older members who have lost touch with us. There must be many of our present members who know of such people, and I should be very pleased if they could let me know any details which might enable me to make sure that ex-members know about our Golden Jubilee plans.

I have heard that some members have expressed concern about our venue for the dance - i.e. Camden Town Hall - as they think we shall be dancing on a carpet. This is not the case, as the Lettings Office has assured me personally that the carpet will be removed somewhere outside the dance hall. I also hope that we shall be able to have lots of bright decorations.

KAY KEDGE
9 Barnes Rise, Kings Langley,
Herts. WD4 8AN
Tel: 01923 262763

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EQUIPMENT INSURANCE

Please could all groups with equipment/costumes insured through the S.I.F.D. remember that cover is on a "new for old" basis. So, if the values of the insured equipment/costumes have changed, please could they notify me of replacement values by 31st August 1995 at the latest.

SUSAN TUPPER
107 Cherrywood Lane,
Morden, Surrey SM4 4HD

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

Re the Spring Bank Holiday weekend of dance at Buxton, with Jan Knoppers.

Most international dance activities occur in London and the South and are usually inaccessible to those of us who live in the North. So when we do have an event here it is greatly appreciated by many of us. That the event took place at all was due to Marina Wolstenholme's tenacity and willingness to take a huge personal financial risk, and we do thank her most sincerely for what proved to be a truly wonderful weekend with Jan Knoppers and his inspirational teaching.

Apart from the three North Derbyshire groups, and one or two other friends, the lack of support from the North was both surprising and disappointing. Therefore, we would like to thank, particularly, all who came from far away places - Scotland, West Country, London and the South, to Buxton to ensure the success of Jan's visit. I do hope that we made you welcome here in Buxton, and that you found the venue and the town sufficiently interesting to visit us again.

PAT PHILLIPS, Buxton, Derbyshire

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Dear Lily,

Dave and I went to Buxton last May Bank Holiday weekend when Marina Wolstenholme had arranged for Jan Knoppers to teach. We had a very varied programme, from Hawaiian to Georgian. Dave spent the time walking in the hills but danced in the evening.

On the Monday, we went with Marina to Castleton to see the garland ceremony following the "King" and "Queen", local band, and children dancing to every pub in the village, finishing with the garland being hoisted to the top of the church tower.

Thanks to Marina, Jan, Richard, for a very enjoyable weekend.

STELLA CARTER
14 High Mead, Hockley, Essex

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Dear Lily,

With reference to Nick Green and Roger Wicksteed's "new band", I would like to establish that the name of this group of troubadours should be ВЪПРОС (pronounced Vuhpross) which means "question" in Bulgarian.

We will be playing at the September Balkanplus dance, as Dunav are otherwise engaged in Birmingham, and I am intending to organize a Dance/Workshop/Concert/Party, with Martisorul, at St.Margaret's Parish Institute Hall, Oxford, on Saturday, 7th October (details later). Otherwise, we are available to play at your dance functions for a modest fee according to your budget and expenses. Please contact me or Nick Green to arrange.

ROGER WICKSTEED
47 Jordan Hill, Oxford OX2 8EU
Tel: 01865 511898

Dear Lily,

Spring Bank Holiday Course in Buxton. May I, through your columns, thank all the people who have written to me or 'phoned to thank me for the recent weekend of dancing with Jan Knoppers. Over 40 people attended for all or part of the time, and what a time we had! Once again Jan showed his skill, first of all in the choice of material - dances to beautiful music, some simple, some more difficult, but with his skilful tuition, ably assisted from time to time by Richard Van Der Kooij, they were easy to learn and such fun! Jan seems to have the knack of knowing what will appeal to us and which will give us that "can't wait to get it home" feeling.

I didn't want Jan's carefully planned course to be spoiled by the social dances in the evenings, and we had no common repertoire as a group, so we planned three evenings which were to be truly "social", i.e. every dance had to be for everyone, whether they knew it before or not, so that no-one needed to sit out at all (unless they were totally exhausted!). Thanks to the help of Jan, Richard and Dave Carter, we danced continuously for the three evenings and all the comments were enthusiastic.

Glastonbury Dance Festival. Jan has been invited to teach at the Glastonbury Dance Festival on Thursday, 24th August. This date has yet to be confirmed by the organizers but it is fairly definite, so if you live within reach of Glastonbury, keep the date free, and look forward to a happy dancing day.

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME
"Robin Cottage",
4 Commercial Road, Grindleford,
Sheffield S30 1HA



MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF FOLK ART, 7TH TO 9TH JULY 1995

Doug and Maureen Wells have kindly agreed to take on the additional task of enclosing copies of the Festival programme with this month's SIFD NEWS, for which we are extremely grateful.

Please note that tickets can be obtained from Don and me at the address and telephone number below (which will save paying commission to the Box Office), although we can't take credit card bookings. We can at the same time answer any queries which the box offices can't.

We realize that S.I.F.D. members wishing to attend any of the workshops will probably expect to receive more advanced teaching than might otherwise be the case. If so, and there is sufficient demand, we can arrange this, and therefore some advance warning of this requirement would be appreciated.

We are already pleased by the number of members who are showing interest in coming for the weekend and hope they will help us show Milton Keynes what the sharing of international dance, music and song is all about. We will be hosting over 100 performers in private houses over 4-5 days so we want to give them a big welcome wherever and whenever they appear.

JILL GOURLAY and DON ALLISON
(Don is Chairman of M.K.I.F.)
30 St. John Street, Newport Pagnell
Bucks. MK16 8HJ.
Tel: 01908 610564

GRANTS AND "THE RAINMAKERS"

At a recent S.I.F.D. Committee meeting, during a discussion on funding, I mentioned that "The Rainmakers" had received three grants in their 18½-year history. It was suggested that I write an article on this for the SIFD NEWS in case it would be helpful to other clubs.

In 1982 (six years after our foundation) we received a grant of £200 from the Commission for the New Towns. At this time we met in Stevenage, mainly because of the availability of a cheap hall. The money was targeted to buy a tape recorder/player and some ancillary equipment. We learned that the Commission had some money to distribute before winding up, so it was a question of being in the right place at the right time.

The second grant of £300 came from the North Herts. District Council in 1987. The Council occasionally has money to give away to groups that benefit the community so we pointed to our dancing in old people's homes, disabled centres, youth groups etc. over the years. We heard that because it was coming to the end of the financial year there might be money to spare. Our proposal was for a Coomber tape recorder, which we bought on receiving the grant.

The latest grant we received, in 1993, was from the Arts Council for North Herts. Our proposal was for a speaker and radio microphone, and we received £235 which went towards buying the equipment. Belinda Lansbury (present Chairperson) and the Committee successfully worked for this one.

If our experience is anything to go by, it's certainly worth trying, but so much depends on whether there is money in your area to spare, how well you make your proposals, whether your group is known in the community, and the timing of the requests. I think we have been fortunate but that we have steered luck in our direction. There have been other times when our applications have not been successful.

We also would not have survived in the early days if we hadn't had generous founders who paid for the hall for the first month, held lots of Jumble Sales and ran market stalls to raise funds. We also received (in early 1982) an interest-free loan from the S.I.F.D., just before we received our first grant - Thank You - I hope we were a good investment for the future!

JILL BRANSBY
(Dance Teacher at Rainmakers,
Chairperson of the Club for the
first 13 years).

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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Jenny, Alan and Laura Cant are proud to announce the arrival of Joseph Thomas, born on 28th May 1995. Thanks to everyone for all their kind wishes and cards.

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Many congratulations, and our very best wishes for a healthy, happy future for baby Joseph. Ed.

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MUSIC. Another two tunes from Wilf Horrocks on p.11. This month Wilf has elected to use two tunes that he wrote some years ago. Don't forget to let Wilf know if you would like the music for a particular dance. His number is 0181 642 3629.

SWANSEA REUNION/REVISION, 28TH JULY TO 4TH(5TH) AUGUST 1995

This is a final up-date of the arrangements. For the first three days, there will be dance classes in the mornings; French with Francoise and Michel Piot, *Romanian with Frank Dowling, Israeli with Fiona Howarth, and the possibility of dances from the former Czechoslovakia with Hedy Fromings. There will be a coach outing to the Gower seaside and country during the afternoons, and dancing and video-shows etc. during the evenings. In the latter part of the week there will be fewer classes and longer coach outings to include, possibly, Brecon, the Pembrokeshire coast and the Neath Valley waterfalls. All activities, except the video-shows (i.e. classes, dances exhibition and meals) will be in Fulton (College) House, thus cutting out much of the walking between buildings.

There is effectively no upper limit to numbers, so send in your booking if you would like to come. If you haven't the details and booking form, please get in touch with me. The fee of £190 covers everything except lunches for the week, and there is a reduction if you stay for a shorter time.

Vera Lagden will kindly run a crêche for the benefit of members with children.

Tel: 01792 295194 (work)
01792 403153 (home)
Fax: 01792 295701

JACK RICHARDSON
Chemical Engineering Dept.,
University, Swansea SA2 8PP

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PERFORMANCES IN THE VICTORIA EMBANKMENT GARDENS, LONDON

It is amazing, but true, that this summer is the tenth year that the S.I.F.D. have danced on the open-air stage in the above gardens.

It all began in 1985 when the Westminster Council asked if we would be prepared to join in their 40th Anniversary celebrations and dance on their stage. We happily obliged, and most of the teams who then appeared are still performing ten years later. If someone has spotted that ten years including 1985 and 1995 makes eleven sessions, the explanation is that in 1989 the stage was demolished because of reconstruction work in that area, so there were no performances that year.

Our tenth year on stage there began on 20th May, with the Zivko Firfov group presenting dances from the former Yugoslavia, together with songs from Croatia Macedonia and Serbia. Many thanks to Ken Ward and members of the group for starting the season off for us. The inclement weather in the morning fortunately cleared up, and there were no other hitches to contend with.

On 27th May the Martisorul Romanian Dancers had a somewhat disrupted afternoon. At the last moment they were asked to start earlier than planned, but in the event the stage was not open, the Gardens staff had gone off, and after a lot of hassle the performance started fifteen minutes late! In the middle of their fast and furious Romanian stamping and leaping, a Jazz Group appeared to begin preparing the stage for their own show, and wanted Martisorul off the stage. S.I.F.D. members will congratulate Martisorul for continuing to dance and refusing to cut their programme short. Many thanks to Sorin and all who danced with him.

The majority of S.I.F.D. shows take place in July, so we hope that S.I.F.D. members will go to watch and support our Society. Details are in "What's On" on p.12.

KAY KEDGE

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* N.B. Frank will be teaching some, not all, of the dances previously taught by him at Swansea

As the International Eisteddfod takes place this month at Llangollen, it seems an appropriate time to reproduce the speech made by Lucile Armstrong, when adjudicating with Professor Pinon in 1973, which may be of interest to members. This is reproduced with Lucile's permission; she kindly gave me several of her writings a couple of years before she died. Ed.

"Professor Pinon and I always feel very honoured, yet humble, when we are asked to adjudicate dances and musical instruments at the International Musical Eisteddfod, for two reasons. The first is, of course, the great responsibility to be fair to all alike. The second is the trust laid on us, inherited from our predecessors, who set the standards of adjudication here at Llangollen. I refer now to Miss Violet Alford and her co-adjudicators, Dr. Maud Karpeles and Mr. Douglas Kennedy, whose combined knowledge of folk dance, music and folklore of Europe was unsurpassed.

Those of you who have come here for the first time may wish to know briefly how we set about adjudicating. It is difficult. First we allocate 100 marks to each group. From these 100 we deduct any fault, and the three groups who have the highest marks at the end of the competition are the winners, as we are only allowed to give three prizes. At times we wish we could give more!

The stress is on authenticity of tradition, for which we give 50 marks. That means, 50 marks are the maximum for the dances performed in the traditional style with steps and figures that correspond to the region where the dances come from. We judge each group according to the traditions of its own region. I stress region and not country because there usually exist many different styles in the one country.

Adulterations, embellishments and additions are discounted and marks are deducted from the total for each change, addition or omission. Next, technique is considered, and whether the instruments used are traditional to that part of the country and usual for those dances. We take account of the music, and if that is traditional for the dances performed. Each "change" causes marks to be deducted. For instance, a group whose accompaniment usually consists of a marine conch and drum will get full marks if only those two instruments are used. Whereas another group may introduce guitars, accordions, piano, or any modern instrument for "effect", but will get appropriate marks deducted, however well played the music may be, because those instruments do not "belong" to those dances. Our aim is to keep to tradition and we do not admit stage effects.

It is our purpose to preserve folk dance, music and costume as authentic as possible here at Llangollen. Why? Because we are convinced that the preservation of these treasures of our inheritance are part of our culture - and I speak here for mankind in general. It is our duty to pass them on to future generations as they were handed on to us. To understand them and study them and what they meant to our forefathers is an essential part of our guidelines for the future. Once stage effects are introduced, folk dances will be valueless, for their purpose will be irretrievably lost. Once lost, our roots will be cut and our inspiration will dry up like a cut flower that will bear no fruit. Everything runs in cycles and we need the past to refresh ourselves and to seek inspiration for the future.

Many of you will have experienced the joy of hearing music of past centuries played on the instruments for which the music was composed. Music was composed for a purpose; a gay piece for a wedding, a lament for a death, and so on. And so it is with folk dance. A dance created for bare feet cannot be danced in clogs. A folk dance was created for a purpose in a particular region. The

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style of music was influenced by the instruments. The instruments were made according to what the environment provided. The style of dance was influenced by purpose, music, climate, dress, and examples from various ethnic groups. You cannot mix all these different influences and make "a whole".

Therefore, groups who may aim at showiness and modern "embellishments" for the sake of winning a prize will be disappointed. Stage effects are not part of folk dance.

We ask all groups, therefore, to continue to perform authentic dances of their own region in traditional style. This is worth infinitely more than any temporary glory of a prize."

LUCILE ARMSTRONG

Llangollen, 4th July 1973

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BALKAN DANCE HOLIDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER - 7TH OCTOBER 1995

If the idea of a Balkan Dance Holiday, with lots of fun and laughter, comfortable surroundings and plenty of good food appeals to you, why not try an H.F. Special Interest holiday? This year the venue is the newly-acquired Abingworth House in West Sussex. All accommodation is en-suite, and the house has delightful grounds with tennis court, putting green, croquet lawn and heated outdoor swimming pool.

Cathy Meunier will teach a selection of popular Balkan dances from our ever-widening repertoire. The course is for about 15 people and can therefore be tailored to suit the interests of participants. Afternoons are free to explore the surrounding countryside and you can, if you wish, join one of our guided walks, or simply relax around the house. As this is a new venue and one of H.F.'s top houses, places are likely to get booked up quickly, so if you are interested, 'phone for a Special Interest brochure on 0181 905 9388 (24 hours).

CATHY MEUNIER

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GREEK MUSIC AND NOTES

I know there were a few disappointed people unable to come to Maria's excellent Cretan workshop for various reasons, so if anyone is interested I still have a few copies of the cassette and notes of this and the previous workshop, at £5.50 the set, and also the printed booklet and tape done by Lillian Galatis, at £7.50.

DIKI GLEESON
Oak Lodge, Theobalds Park Road,
Enfield, Middx. EN2 9BN

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IS ANYONE GOING TO BULGARIA - this summer or at any other time in the future? I'm looking for an 8-stringed tamboura, and if you feel big-hearted enough to bring me one back, it would be wonderful! I would appreciate, also, any suggestions/contacts as to how to acquire one anyway. I live in the North-West. My telephone number is 01244 679100. Thank you.

NAWAL GADALLA

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

July 2nd M.C.s: The S.I.F.D. Band

No Sunday Dance in August.

7 to 10 p.m. Admission £3 for S.I.F.D. members, £4 for non-members.



WHAT'S ON IN JULY

- July 2nd DAY WORKSHOP OF ARMENIAN & GYPSY DANCES led by Laura Shannon at Patcham Memorial Hall, Brighton. 10.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. £16 (unwaged) £20 (waged). Please bring lunch to share; hot and cold drinks are included. To book, contact Jan Mulreany, 30 Temple Street, Brighton BN1 3BH. Tel: 01273 721986. Send £5 deposit and s.a.e. for ticket and map.
- July 2nd BALATON HUNGARIAN FOLKDANCE GROUP and PHILHELENES GREEK DANCERS at Victoria Embankment Gardens, London, 3 p.m.
- July 4th to 9th LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD. Folkdance and music competition on the 5th, workshops on the 6th. Full programme from Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod Office, Tel: 01978 860236. Fax 01978 861300.
- July 7th BARNET SUMMER PARTY. The end-of-season shindig with music by Dunav. £4 includes food and drink. 8 p.m. at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. Information from Irene Nicholls, 0181 440 1366. Please note: The club will re-commence activities on 15th September.
- July 7th to 9th MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL. See p.5.
- July 8th CENTRAL LONDON and CROXLEY GREEN FOLKDANCE GROUPS at Victoria Embankment Gardens, London, 3 p.m.
- July 8th ZIVKO FIRFOV GROUP dancing at The Fitzroy Square International Festival, London.
- July 9th S.I.F.D. MEXICAN DAY COURSE. See p.2.
- July 9th KALINKA RUSSIAN DANCERS at Victoria Embankment Gardens, London, 3 p.m.
- July 15th BALKANPLUS, 7 p.m. at Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, London N.W.1. A broad mix of mainly Balkan dances presented by Balkanplus stalwarts and M.C. Dave Carter. Enquiries to 01702 207447. No meeting in August; next meeting 16th September.
- July 16th MERTON PARK and WOODVALE (KENT) INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUPS with IBERIAN FOLK DANCE & MUSIC SOCIETY at Victoria Embankment Gardens, London, 3 p.m.
- July 16th HIGH WYCOMBE FOLKDANCE CLUB PICNIC from 3 to 7 p.m. at Longburrow Hall, Park Lane, Stokenchurch. Cost £2. Wet or fine. All welcome. Bring your own food and drink. More details from Uri Gerson, 01494 523434.

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- July 16th VENTZI SOTIROV'S BALKANPLUS WORKSHOP The great Bulgarian dancer's first British day course and his only London appearance. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. in Studio 10, The Place, 17 Duke's Road, London W.C.1. £9 admission, £8 for season-ticket holders. Please bring a belt. Enquiries to Brian Dowsett, 01992 582717.
- July 17th BULGARIAN WORKSHOP with Ventzi Sotirov at I.B.M. Clubhouse, Hursley Park, Hursley, Winchester. £2.00 7.30 to 10 p.m. Contact: Tricia Strain, Tel: 01794 522108.
- July 19th BULGARIAN WORKSHOP with Ventzi Sotirov at St.Giles Church Hall, 10 Woodstock Road, Oxford. £2.00. 8.15 to 10 p.m. Contact: David Mowat, Tel: 01865 310216.
- July 21st BULGARIAN WORKSHOP with Ventzi Sotirov at St.Ursula's School, Brecon Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol. £5. 7.30 to 10.30 p.m. Contact: James Webb, Tel: 0117 962 9613.
- July 21st to 23rd WOMAD FESTIVAL at Reading. International music and dance from a wide range of countries - N.America (Sioux), Tanzania, Japan, Sardinia, Israel, Macedonia, Laos, Kenya, S.Africa, New Zealand, Algeria, Spain, Belgium, Hungary, India. For further information and booking, ring 01734 591591 (Hexagon Main Box Office).
- July 24th to 28th LINE & CIRCLE FOLKDANCE COURSE with David Mowat (Balkan emphasis, with some regional specialities) at Milham Ford School, Oxford. The course forms part of this year's Oxford Summer School. Details from Richard Speed, Gable End, Hatford, nr.Faringdon, Oxon SN7 8JF, Tel: 01367 710593, or from David Mowat, Tel: 01865 310216.
- July 28th to Aug.4th SWANSEA REUNION/REVISION. See p.7.



S.I.F.D. SHOP

For details of S.I.F.D. goods available, contact Claire Steeley, 34 Broadwater Avenue, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 3HF. For dance tapes and instruction books, contact Eleanor Gordon, 92 Norbiton Avenue, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT1 3QP.



All material for the August SIFD NEWS must reach the editor
in writing by 17th July 1995.

Please print in BLOCK CAPITALS all names of people, places, dances
unless typed.



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of the Editor, unless it is for members' private use.

THE SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Held at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London
on 4th December 1994 at 4pm

Present: Jill Bransby (Chairperson), Jeanette Hull (Meetings Secretary), Judith Payling (Treasurer) plus 33 members

Item 1 Apologies were received from

Lily Avery, Philip Lloyd, Sue Clark, Roy and Peggy Haycock, Diki Gleeson, Robert Harrold, Mona Graham, Margaret Joyner, Dawn and Paul Webster, Fiona Howarth, Anne Leach, Jenia Graman, Joyce Sharp, Irene Goodwin, Julie Korth, Joan Guest

Item 2 Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the Meeting, and were signed by the Chairperson.

Item 3 Matters arising

- 3.1 (4.2) It was reported that C8 is now selling well, and has been well received.
- 3.2 (2.3) Amplification equipment : It was reported that Richard Mellish has taken over the care and transportation of the equipment and that the Committee was very grateful to Richard for taking on this task.
- 3.3 (3.1) Patron - George Sweetland expressed his hopes that this issue is not closed. The chairperson reminded the meeting of the decision taken last year, that "unless someone comes forward with an outstandingly suitable candidate the matter is closed"

Item 4 Chairperson's report

- 4.1 The Chairperson added to her written report, her thanks to Dennis McCarthy as retiring West Midlands branch chairman and secretary, and wished luck to the new chairman, Malcolm Cox and to Juliet Macintosh as Correspondence Secretary and Yvonne Hunt as Minutes Secretary.
- 4.2 The Chairperson thanked Peter Bransby for his help with the strategy review and George Sweetland, Lily Avery and Alan Morton for their hard work, especially Alan who, despite ill health this year, has continued to be a most meticulous and caring Membership Secretary.

- 4.3 The Chairperson thanked everyone for their support, saying that there were so many people involved with different tasks that it was impossible to thank everyone individually in her report. Seeing the "tree" that is published in the News each year showed the extent of the involvement from so many members who make videos, sort out insurance, keep archives, cart equipment around, circulate publicity material, sell dance tickets, run the shops, etc.
- 4.4 The Chairperson thanked the three members who are taking a break from the committee:
Liz Mellish - 8 years including time as Correspondence Secretary, Liz will be doing various tasks for the Music Sub-Committee
Malcolm Shaffer, thanked for help with financial planning and for continuing to work on marketing the CD ROM.
Nick Green, after 5 years on the Committee, including 2 as Secretary, contributing many creative and sensible ideas, will now be Chairperson of the Music Sub-Committee, and has already developed plans for C9 for schools and C10 in 1996.
- 4.5 The Chairperson thanked Janet Woolbar who has chaired the Music Sub-Committee for 3 years and for her work on C8 tape, book and video. Janet is continuing to work on the music Sub-Committee where she will bring her considerable experience and expertise to the latest projects.
- 4.6 The spelling of Lucile Armstrong was corrected.
- 4.7 The report was accepted unanimously.
Proposed: C Steventon Seconded: A Whiteley

Item 5 Treasurer's report

- 5.1 The Treasurer summed up her report by saying she was very pleased to announce that a small surplus had been made, due to the hard work of many people. There was now a good base from which to undertake appropriate projects.
George Sweetland asked if the increase was due to sales of the new tape?
Judith replied that it was the main contributor.
George also asked for a breakdown of the publicity costs of £200
Judith gave the following information:
leaflets £111, photos £20, CCPR £50, Dance World £47

The report was accepted unanimously.
Proposed: A Morton Seconded: K Kedge

The Chairperson thanked Judith for her help to the Committee in providing very detailed budgets.

Item 6 Auditor's report and consideration of accounts

- 6.1 On the subject of reducing costs or increasing income, David Rackham asked if the committee has considered taking advertising or inserts in the News. The Chairperson

replied it had been considered but the Editor was not in agreement, as it would be very complicated and would create the problem of deciding when or when not to charge for notices sent in by members. Production costs were reviewed in detail four years ago. While Lily Avery is happy to be Editor it is not the time to change the system which works so efficiently. The subject of distribution of the News was raised and it was reported that, from past experience, the News cannot be distributed efficiently through any means other than the post. The News was stopped in August one year to save money when it was needed. Frank Flanagan pointed out that the number of sheets sent out is the maximum that can be posted for 19p. Jack Richardson added that we are extraordinarily lucky to have an editor and production staff who will do it every month and that we owe them a very strong vote of thanks. The was endorsed by the Chairperson and agreed by the members present.

The accounts were accepted unanimously

Proposed: Frank Flanagan

Seconded: Joan Richardson

Item 7 Appointment of auditor

- 7.1 Thanks were expressed to D McCarthy and he was unanimously re-elected as auditor.
Proposed: F Horrocks Seconded: John Walford

Item 8 Motions

- 8.1 Constitution clause 42(f) shall read "Subject to confirmation by the committee of the adequacy of the resources available to the Society each affiliated organisation may have two visits from a SIFD teacher purely for the cost of the teacher's expenses - the SIFD pay any fee charged by the teachers".
Proposed: J Payling Seconded: J Bransby

It was pointed out that there was no time period specified in the constitution although it is generally accepted as a year, since affiliation is for a year. A discussion ensued about how funds would be allocated if a limit had to be imposed, the Chairperson emphasised that the purpose of this amendment was to make control possible if it is needed, which it may be if the the number of affiliated groups continues to rise without a corresponding increase in membership income. The plan now is to ensure sufficient funds are allocated by having groups inform Judith of their intentions before teachers are booked.

The motion was accepted

31 votes for

0 votes against

2 abstentions

- 8.2 Constitution clause 20, first sentence shall read " The Executive Committee shall consist of a Chairman, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary , six other members, one representative from each branch and up to three co-opted members".

Proposed: N Green

Seconded: M O'Regan

The motion was accepted

32 votes for

0 votes against

1 abstention

Item 9 Announcement of new Committee

The following members have been proposed and as they are unopposed are deemed to be elected.

Jill Bransby (Chairperson), Jeanette Hull (Hon. Secretary), Judith Payling (Hon. Treasurer), Maggie O'Regan, Anne Leach, Marina Wolstenholme, Helen Ezra, Michael Gilbert and Caspar Cronk

Jill announced that she will not stand for re-election at the end of 1995 and asked members to think about her replacement.

Item 10 Any other business

10.1 It was reported that Frances Horrocks has agreed to take on the job of producing an item for the CCPR diamond jubilee show at the Albert Hall. She described it as a "big showcase for the SIFD". The SIFD will perform a 5-minute suite of Romanian dances. The performance will be in Romanian costume, with choreographies of Hora Mintita, Jianna, Sirba de la Primavera and Hora Femeilor. The CCPR is hoping for sponsorship from Kellogg's, who may advertise the event on cereal packs. There may be a package deal to include hotel and travel for group members. Rehearsals will be in Birmingham, as it is a central point for all groups, on dates chosen to have the least risk of clashing with other events. The SIFD is meeting the costs of rehearsal halls, but not members' expenses. Thanks were expressed to Frances.

10.2 No-one has responded to the Committee to the invitation to make suggestions for events to celebrate the Golden Jubilee in 1996. It was announced that Kay Kedge was willing to organise a big dance in October, in place of the monthly dance. Kay said she would be pleased to have suggestions from members. Anne Leach was assisting Kay. Jack Richardson said he had put his suggestions in the News:

1. a dance at Llangollen

2. an event specifically directed at bringing members in from the fringes

The Chairperson said the dance in London could satisfy no. 2 and invited Jack to think about what sort of event could be held in Llangollen - it's their 50th year too.

Kay is not using the Porchester Hall as the cost is £1600 plus VAT and security is £83 per person employed. She is using an organisation called "Venue Help" to find an alternative.

The Chairperson invited people to pass suggestions to Kay or to the Committee

10.3 Membership Subscriptions

Alan Morton asked on behalf of another member why subscriptions are in fractions of pounds and not rounded up. The Treasurer replied that the standard town rate was increased by a whole pound and the others pro-rata so all have the same percentage increase.

The Chairperson thanked the members who had attended the meeting.

The meeting closed at 6pm