

SIFD NEWS



OCTOBER 2000

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Internet Web Site: www.sifd.org

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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 was designed by Roger Sach from a photograph of two members
of the Zivko Firfov Folklore Group, when the group was performing at Richmond
Fair. The costumes, which are from Bitola, Macedonia, come from the group's
extensive costume collection. The group are holding an Open Evening on 9th
October (see p.9).

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S.I.F.D. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND ASSOCIATION & AFFILIATION RENEWAL FOR 2000-2001

Annual subscriptions became due on 1st September 2000. Appreciation and many
thanks are due to so many members and group officers who have renewed promptly.
Members who have not sent their subscription are reminded that membership lapses
with this issue of SIFD NEWS and that this is the last copy that will be des-
patched to you.

With regard to Association or Affiliation renewal, I refer to my letter of 1st
May 2000 of invitation to renew annual Association or Affiliation, sent to group
leaders. I should like to remind group officers that for inclusion in the next
issue of the S.I.F.D. brochure it is essential that a return is sent some days
before our printer's final deadline of Friday, 6th October 2000.

Annual subscriptions are:

Town Member.. .. .	£17.00
Joint Town Members	£22.80
Country/Overseas Member.. .. .	£13.50
Joint Country/Overseas Members	£17.00
Junior Member	£ 5.30
Affiliation subscription	£29.30 (£24 for Music groups)

ALAN MORTON, Hon.Membership
Secretary & Groups Liaison
Officer

THE NEXT SUMMER SCHOOL?

It was good to read people's reflections on the S.I.F.D. York Summer School in the September issue of SIFD NEWS. At the end of the week at York we collected feedback from all the participants by means of a questionnaire. Thirty-seven responses were received, including some from couples - a very good rate of return - and I am still extracting the messages from them. I am writing now because the questionnaire included requests for comments on the future of the Summer School. Whilst those of you who did not come won't have much to say about the experience of this year's event, your comments on the future are just as important as those of the folk who were there.

If you did not come to York this year and you have ideas which would help making decisions about the future, I should like to hear from you - soon! Decisions will have to be made before the end of the year, whether to go ahead with another Summer School, so letters by 27th October would be appreciated.

The questions we asked at York covered:-

- Preferences for choice of countries, dates, location, type of accommodation.
- What is the Summer School for?
- What would attract more people (you personally, existing SIFD members and others) to come?
- Views on costs of the course and the level of accommodation and facilities.
- Ideas about special activities.
- Suggestions of teachers.
- Offers of help.

I look forward to a heavy post bag!

ROGER STURGE, for York 2000
Planning Group,
10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol
BS9 4DU



A NOTE FOR THOSE WITH INTERNET CONNECTION:

Romania on the Eliznik web site. We are continually adding Romanian pictures and folklore information to our web site. Please take a look at either:

<http://members.aol.com/eliznik/> or <http://www.eliznik.co.uk/>

Martisorul Romanian group web site is still also at the above address.

LIZ MELLISH



JANET HEATHFIELD

It is with sadness that we report the death of Janet Heathfield, for many years the Secretary and stalwart member of Barnet International Folkdance Group, who died on 15th September. Our deepest sympathy goes to her husband, John, and her family.

POLISH DANCES: WRONA GAPA and ÓSMA RANO, SZOT and KOSEDER

with some observations gleaned from the minutes of SIFD Committee Meetings

In the August NEWS *Wrona Gapa* was included in the alphabetical listing of dances proposed for the Sunday dance on 3 September at Cecil Sharp House.

The first two of the Society's series of ten-inch 78 rpm gramophone records were issued in 1953 and number one included *Wrona Gapa* as one of four dances arranged and conducted by Andrew Byrne (in succession to Charles Farncombe) and played by the Folk Dance Sextet. They were ready in time to be on sale at the Society's first *See How They Dance* show at the Royal Albert Hall, 23 April 1953, and the show's programme announced two "Folk Dance Records with Instructions...available in the main foyer and from programme sellers", although not many were sold on that occasion.

The publishing of written music and instructions for dances in the Society's repertoire had been a constantly recurring topic at Committee Meetings since first suggested in February 1947. Advice was sought from bodies such as HMV, the Workers' Music Association and the CCPR. By July 1947 Mary Butterworth and Eve Grant had 'concluded' writing out instructions and awaited the music and in the following March Marion Hill was busy writing out music. In September a Sub-Committee of Irene Weller (now Fyffe) and Bert Price was formed 'to take over the task of music publishing'. Early in 1949 *Meitschi Putz-dl* and *Kujawiak* were printed in handsome double page format at a cost of £5 for 500 copies of each. *Hambo* and *Gamal Reinlander* followed shortly afterwards, but sales didn't go as well as expected and it was decided not to continue in this format, referred to in 1956 as the second series although there is no record of the earlier efforts having born fruit. In January 1950 it was agreed to include music and instructions of 'a simple dance' in the next News Sheet, Bert promising to write the music out. Whether this duly appeared remains to be seen when the promised early copies of the News Sheet reach the Archives. That June a price of 3d per copy was agreed for the music that Gladys Noble was printing and the following month she and her helpers received a vote of thanks for their new venture on music publishing. At the AGM in October she and Jack Richardson were said to be busy on the next three pieces in hope that they would be ready before Xmas. The Annual Accounts for 1950/51 show income of £3.13.6d for sales of these publications. In December 1951 Bert embarked on negotiations with Gestetner for printing another series. April 1952 saw Dr Cyriax copying music for Gestetner to make stencils at a cost of 17/6d per stencil plus 13/8d per 100 copies and in May a price of 6d per sheet was agreed for members, or 5/- for a set of twelve sheets. By October Gladys had been writing instructions to use with the music printed by Gestetner and a price of 4d per sheet was agreed, reduced to 2d in December when she had produced further copies for printing and announced her resignation from the Committee on account of marriage and moving from London. Jack Richardson was to be asked to carry on with copying of music and instructions 'for the original dances 1-21' and it was also to be suggested to him that instructions to accompany the first two records, by then in course of production, should be vetted before going into print.

Since the music and instructions for the Gestetner printing were produced separately, examples of that series are readily identified, unlike those of earlier printings. For example in the case of *Wrona Gapa* there are two earlier versions. One: 'Steps for woman. Man the same on opposite feet' has beautifully handwritten instructions. The other: 'Instructions for men, girl uses opposite feet' is typed in terse style. Neither mentions any hopping in bars 2 and 4. Both these versions have the same music:-



The Gestetner version has a different key signature and introduces syncopation and this is how it was printed in the first volume of the Society's books *A Selection of European Folk Dances*, 1956:-



Off-prints of pages of these books (with their instructions in less blatantly sexist terms) were used to provide the instructions accompanying later sales of the records and it is these that are found inserted in surviving unsold stock. What versions were issued with sales between 1953 and 1956 is unclear.

Wrona Gapa was one of the dances I learned when first joining the Society's beginners' class, run by my mother, in 1962. I particularly remember her insistence on teaching the style of dancing the polka part as she had been taught, with the knee lifted to hip level, the body inclined over it, and turning 'on a sixpence' (the Polish expression 'na talarek' I encountered much later) or in other words travelling as little as possible. Subsequently I matured to one of the Friday classes at the Central YWCA where the accompanist was Barbara Duleba a versatile Polish pianist who played for many of the Society's classes throughout the 1950s and beyond. At one class she observed reproachfully to me that the dance we called *Wrona Gapa* did not belong to that tune at all, but was *Ósma Rano* (8 o'clock in the morning) and should be danced to its own tune. She played it for me and years later I came across it in print:-

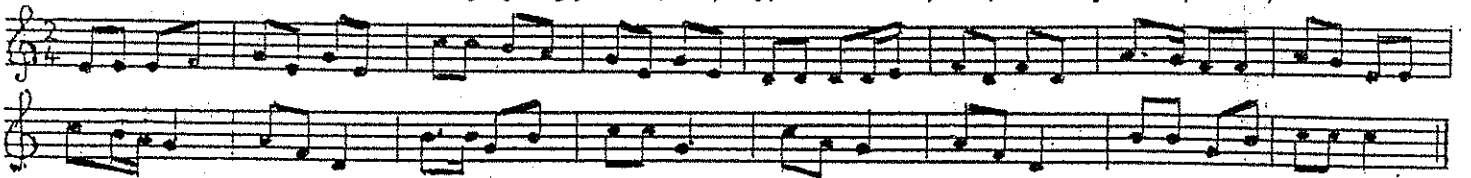


Danced to this music the two parts of the dance (parts A and B in the SIFD instructions) must alternate in more rapid succession with only four bars of each instead of eight. The book I found this in included it among dances of Kaszuby (north Poland) together with *Wrona Gapa*, here in another key but otherwise almost identical to the unsyncopated version of the two earlier SIFD printings (the first example above), with only slight variations of bars 7 and 16:-



Clearly the two dances are distinct. The only description of the dance *Wrona Gapa* that I have found appears in Czeslaw Halski's *Folk Music in Poland*, 1992. A brief paragraph on the dances of Kaszuby concludes: "the more popular is the *Gapa* (giddy head), called in some localities *Wrona* (crow), with its repeated hops on one foot, while the free foot points in the air, heel and toe, front, side or back, recalling the Scottish reel." This Scottish allusion is apt since the tune itself appears to be known as a schottische, being included in the same volume among dances from the Warmia/Mazury regions (further east) as *Szot*:-

Zagrajcież mi szota szota, otrząsnę nogę z błota, by się panna nie brzydziła, ze mną wokół potańczyła...



Among songs from Warmia/Mazury is found *Kosejder* (orthographical variant of Koseder):-

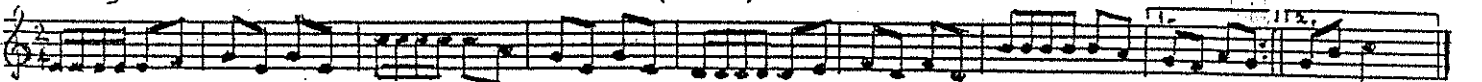
Zagrajta mu szota szota, co obczyszczy skórznie z błota, zagrajta mu tego tego, co je pójde po mojego...



It reappears in Wielkopolska (west central Poland) as *Polka Jarocińska*:-



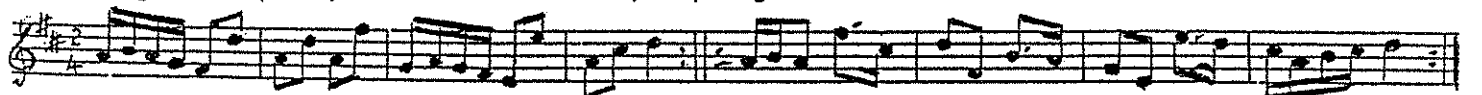
A song from Pomorze (north-east Poland) uses the first part only as *Wele Wele Wetka*:-



Another *Koseider* song from Warmia/Mazury develops this variation further:-



Returning to Wielkopolska, *Wiwat Szocz* echoes this, completing the inversion of bars 2 and 4:-



The Society was not short of Polish teachers in the early years. Eugene Jablonsky of New York is acknowledged as the source of the *Kujawiak* published in 1949. A gold pencil 'suitably inscribed' was presented to 'our Polish friend', John Radzik-Sochacki in October 1950 in recognition of his services to the Society and to the advanced class in particular, and a cigarette case was presented in December 1951 to Tolek of the Polish YMCA for his help to the Society. The Words and Music Sub-Committee responsible for producing the Society's first book was most conscientious in striving for authenticity. Dorothy Weir (now Sloan) prepared *Wrona Gapa* for Book I and she submitted it to Kostek Siemaszko for his approval. "Comments made by Kostek were difficult to understand and Dorothy was asked to discuss this further with him." At the next meeting "the Committee suggested that Kostek's note be included in the instructions." I wonder what this was. And why did Barbara Duleba not voice her misgivings when the record and book were in preparation? Perhaps she did try. I can't have been the first to hear this from her.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

Over the August Bank Holiday, I spent a really enjoyable three days at Rowena Martin's Mini Dance Festival at Roedean School near Brighton. I thought my days of concentrated dancing were over (I just about manage one session a week now!) but I girded my loins, took a "non-dancing" friend and a library book in case, and booked.

It was a lovely surprise to find such a super collection of dances; graceful, slow and from all over the place including Israel, Romania, Russia, Armenia, to mention but a few. It must have taken a lot of hard work to assemble so many good and patient instructors from miles around, and everyone was so helpful and friendly. This all led to my "non-dancing" friend, whom I have tried to recruit for years and years to the S.I.F.D., having a go and getting hooked. She had a lovely time and wants to go again next year!

So, many thanks to all who participated in the teaching, especially Chris Lee who, when teaching some Armenian dances, gave an interesting potted history of how the dances had evolved.

Best Wishes,

LEO DENHARD, 16 Strand Close,
Meopham, Gravesend, Kent DA13 DEQ



THE SARDANA

When I first saw the Sardana being danced in Catalonia, being an experienced folk dancer I hastened to join in (with a male friend as it is danced with alternate male and female dancers in the circle) but I was firmly discouraged from pushing in, especially in the inner ring. And I soon realised why. What at first glance seems to be a simple dance is anything but.

The origin of the Sardana is lost in the mists of antiquity, and in spite of the efforts of ethnographers, historians and folklorists, it remains so. It is danced to a "Cobla" band, traditionally with tenoras (similar to the oboe), flab(v)iol (tiny flute), tambori (small drum), and cornamusa (sort of bagpipe); also now used are tiples (woodwind instruments), trumpets, trombones, fiscornos (brass wine instruments) and a double-bass. The best way to see the Sardana is as I first saw it, in a village square or public open area, with a raised platform for the eleven "Cobla" musicians and the dancers forming rings in front of them.

The dancers, and particularly the anonymous "lead" dancer really has to know the music as the dance consists of unequal parts, "curts" (short steps) and "larges" (long steps) and the number and length of each (separated by a different finishing step) differs with each tune. The dance begins with an introduction to the dance played on the flabiol (flaviol) and each section is called a "Tirada"; there are usually ten tiradas. The style of the "shorts" and the "longs" is different, also the position of the arms, and the experienced Sardana dancer has to count the beats while the "Cobla" is playing, to know when the changes in direction, beat, and rhythm are coming. (One trick I learned was that the experienced dancers give a little squeeze of the hand to the next person in the ring to warn of a change, and it is then quickly passed on).

Just to give you an idea of the complexities of the counting, I am giving over-leaf the instructions which Kelsey Blundell gave me when I asked her for notes on how to dance the Sardana! And for each tune the counting is different!

LILY AVERY

LA SARDANA

Start L foot.

Flaviol.

A music. Two sets of shorts, danced continuously in order to count their length, finishing with a dos parat

and

B music. Two sets of long, danced continuously in order to count their length, finishing with a dos parat

and

A music. One set of shorts, finishing with a tres parat

and

B music. One set of longs, finishing with the simplest division according to the table (which will be either 3 or 5)

and

B music. One set of longs, finishing with the correct division according to the table that will finish with the L foot.

Flaviol.

B music. One set of longs with the normal division as per the table, finishing left.

Flaviol.

B music. One set of longs with the normal division as per the table, finishing left.

The Table

59, 67, 75, 83, 91, 99, 107 has a division of 3, i.e. a tres parat

57, 65, 73, 81, 89, 97, 105 has a division of 5, i.e. 1 short and a tres parat

55, 63, 71, 79, 87, 95, 103 has a division of 7, i.e. 2 short and a tres parat

53, 61, 69, 77, 85, 93, 101 has a division of 9, i.e. 3 shorts and a tres parat

This table applies when you have started the set on the left. If you have started on the right, then 3 becomes 7, 7 becomes 3, 5 becomes 9, 9 becomes 5.

(Kelsey occasionally wrote the equation for the tune being played, on the back of her hand in ink, so that while dancing, with hands held high, she could glance at it from time to time! And if, when in Spain, you think the "leading" Sardana dancer is looking rather pensive, it's probably because he is busy working out the Table!). L.A.



BALKANPLUS, 14th October at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London N.W.1.
7.00-10.30 p.m. £4.00. M.C.: Fiona Howarth. We are delighted to welcome Fiona with her inimitable style and wide range of dances, all making for an evening to remember.

Please note that the next Balkanplus dance will be on 18th November, not the usual weekend.

FRANCES HORROCKS

S.I.

S.I.F.D. WEEKENDS AWAY, 2000-2001

The following two weekends of dancing and walking have been arranged this season:-

DUNFORD, MIDHURST, WEST SUSSEX, 15TH-17TH DECEMBER 2000

Our usual pre-Christmas weekend will be held here again. Dunford is an attractive house, formerly the home of William Cobden, but now a Conference Centre, and is situated in pleasant country at the foot of the South Downs. All rooms are doubles or singles and have en-suite facilities. During Saturday and Sunday morning there will be walks in the locality, but the attractive small towns of Midhurst and Chichester are easily accessible for those who would like an alternative. There will be dancing on Friday and Saturday evenings and on Sunday afternoon. Christmas fare is provided. Total cost of the weekend will probably be about £105.

HALSWAY MANOR, CROWCOMBE, WEST SOMERSET, 4TH-7TH MAY 2001

The Manor, which is situated at the foot of the Quantocks in between Taunton and Minehead, is a folk music and dance centre with a very friendly atmosphere. Both Exmoor and the West Somerset and East Devon coasts are nearby. We dance on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings and again on Monday afternoon. There will be walks in the hills and by the coast, and on the Sunday there will be a full day outing to Exmoor or the coast with coach transport and picnic lunch provided. Total cost for the three days will be about £120. It will probably be possible to extend the visit until Tuesday morning for those who want to avoid travelling home on the Bank Holiday.

Details from Jack Richardson, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, University, Swansea SA2 8PP. Tel: 01792 295194 (work), 01792 403153 (home).

ISRAELI MUSIC & DANCE WORKSHOPS IN NOTTINGHAM

On 12th October, 7.30-10.30p.m. at the Y.M.C.A. (opposite Victoria Centre) £3.00. Musicians from "Tashbain" (Jewish influenced Sheffield story-telling band) will lead a workshop for the first hour (musicians may like to order music sheets and a tape beforehand - £3.00 plus A5 s.a.e. to Jo Veal, 21 Burcot Road, Sheffield S08 9FD). Then dancing with tutor Adrian Pointon.

On 5th October there will be an extra night with the Nutbrook I.F.D.G. at Stephenson Junior School, Wadsworth Road, Stapleford, 7.00-10.00 p.m. £3.00.

For details of both the above evenings, contact John Stewart, 129 Glebe Road, Thringstone, Coalville, Leics. LE67 8NU.

All material for the November issue of SIFD NEWS must reach the Editor IN WRITING by 17th October. Please print in BLOCK CAPITALS all names of dances, places and people, unless typewritten.

ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP - OPEN EVENING

The Zivko Firfov Folklore Group, which specializes in line and circle dances and songs from Croatia, Serbia and Macedonia, is seeking new members. We meet on Monday evenings in term time from 6.45 to 9.00 at Abbey Community Centre, 34 Great Smith Street, Westminster. Nearest Underground Stations are St. James Park, Victoria, Westminster. We are holding an OPEN EVENING on Monday, 9th October, for beginners and more experienced dancers - programme adjusted to match dancers. Please come and join us. Ring 020 8749 4613 or 01634 302190 for further information or to let us know you are coming.

IRENE KEYWOOD

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BESKYDY DANCERS - OPEN EVENING

Following our very successful and enjoyable workshop in June, we are now holding an OPEN EVENING to gain more members on Monday, 16th October, 7.00 to 9.30 p.m. at our regular Monday dance venue, The Holland Staff Club, Imperial College of Science & Technology, Sherfield Building, Callendar Road, off Prince Consort Road, Kensington, S.W.7. Nearest Underground Stations are South Kensington and Gloucester Road. 'Buses: 9, 14, 52.

Our group specializes in Czech, Moravian and Slovak dances. Come and see us at work and join in at any level - from the simplest to the most complex. Live music to accompany us, club bar to refresh us in the interval or afterwards. Do come and give it a try!

For further information, please ring me on 020 8699 8597.

HEDY FROMINGS

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THIS YEAR'S MILTON KEYNES FESTIVAL' VIDED

This year's video is now available. As usual, it is superb quality. Our ex-BBC man has bought some highly expensive new editing equipment and I think the result is his best yet. The groups this year are:-

Georgian dance group - Mamuli. High skill, high energy.

Georgian choir - Lashari. Rich harmony and instrumentals from a 4-man folk group.

Dutch dance group - Paloina. Lots of variety, beautifully presented.

Chinese lion dance. Great performance from a group from Leicestershire.

If you missed the show in Milton Keynes' superb new theatre, then buy the video. Price £13.95 plus £2.00 p. & p. Orders to MKIF, 30 St. John Street, Newport Pagnell MK16 8HJ. Cheques payable to MKIF.

DON ALLISON
Chairman & Artistic Director

A WEEKEND OF SARAKATSANI AND CAPPADOCIAN DANCING

Caroline Simmonds and some other Greek dance enthusiasts are pleased to invite DIMOS GKIKAS to teach a weekend workshop of Sarakatsani and Cappadocian dances in London. Dimos is of Sarakatsani descent and is now living in Nea Karvali. He is a recognised expert of the traditional dances and music of the once nomadic Sarakatsans who for centuries grazed their flocks in the mountain ranges of Northern Greece. Dimos has been instrumental in keeping Sarakatsani traditions alive among the younger generations now living in towns and villages rather than the wicker and rush mountain abodes of their grandparents. His particular strength is in demonstrating the unique style and form that characterise the Sarakatsani performance of dances such as Tsamiko or Sta Tria which are also danced in Central and Southern Greece.

Cappadocians, too, have struggled with the effects of forced re-settlement, in this case leaving their ancestral homes in Asia Minor to live in existing or new villages in Thessaly, Macedonia and Thrace. Nea Karvali, where Dimos resides, is an example of a "new" village where nearly 80% of the inhabitants are Cappadocian. Historically, Cappadocian dancing centered around the special religious celebrations that took place in the churches of particular villages - hence the sense of modesty, sanctity and seriousness that characterises the Cappadocian style. Many dances were performed to the singing of participants playing wooden spoons, small cymbals, and tambourines rather than accompanied by musical instruments - which also adds to the mystical feeling of the dances.

The workshop will be held on the weekend of 18th-19th November 2000 at Wakefield Hall, 7 Wakefield Street, London W.C.1. Due to the size of the hall and the nature of the dances, the number of places will be limited to 35. The cost of the workshop is £23.00 for the weekend, which includes a Saturday evening party, or £15.00 for the Saturday workshop. Please call Caroline Simmonds on 020 7266 4041 for bookings or further information.



WINTER TOUR 2000 TO MACEDONIA

Martin Ihns is organizing a winter tour of Macedonia from 23rd December 2000 to 2nd January 2001. Four days will be spent in the ski resort of Popova Sapka and six days in the capital, Skopje. There will be dance workshops with live music, a special Christmas lunch and some excursions. The cost will be between 1549 and 1699 Dutch guilders, which includes the return flight from Amsterdam, transfers to the hotels, and hotels on a half-board basis.

For more details or booking, please contact Martin Ihns directly in Holland. Tel/Fax: +31 299 47507. Or for a few more details, contact Maureen Felton on 01473 286875, or Jill Waters on 01473 216322.

JILL WATERS



MUSIC. Two more tunes from Wilf Horrocks on p.12. If anyone would like the music for a particular dance, would they please contact Wilf on 020 8642 3629.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I. Nov.4th BULGARIAN WORKSHOP with James Webb. Organized by Barlow I.F.D.G., Chorlton, Manchester. Corner of Wilbraham & Egerton Road South. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. £5.00 all day; £3.00 for one session. Bring packed lunch. Further details from Joan Wood, 0161 881 1077.
- S.I. Nov.11th DAY OF ISRAELI DANCING with Roberto Haddon, arranged by Derbyshire Dancers. Calver Village Hall, 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. £7.00 or £8.00 depending on numbers. There will be a raffle in aid of the group's Romanian projects. Please be prepared to buy a ticket. Tapes and notes from Roberto will be on sale. Enquiries: Marina Wolstenholme, 01433 630183.
- Nov.18th/19th WEEKEND OF SARA KATSANI & CAPPADOCIAN DANCES. See p.10.
- Nov.24th/26th MACEDONIAN DANCE COURSE with Paul Mulders at Whitby. Full or half-days' tuition with social dance evenings and an option to learn Macedonian folk singing. Excellent venue for walking and sightseeing. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board en-suite accommodation £80.00. Two half-days' tuition £15.00, two full days £30.00. Full details and booking form from Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA. Please send s.a.e.
- S.I. Nov.26th ISRAELI DANCE PARTY with Anat at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne. 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Revision of this year's dances plus requests (in advance please). £12.00 (£7.50 concessions). Shared vegetarian lunch. Details from Rowena Martin, 01323 503991.
- Dec.2nd ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP PARTY at Moorfields Primary School, London E.C.1. 7.00-10.30 p.m. Nearest Underground Station: Old Street. Dances from Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia; also from Bulgaria, Greece, Romania. ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY. £6.00 (including refreshments) from Irene Keywood, 133 Third Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD. Tel: 020 8592 4427. Cheques payable to Zivko Firfov Folklore Group; s.a.e. please.
- S.I. Dec.2nd S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH CHRISTMAS PARTY, 7.30-10.30 p.m. at Weoley Village Hall, Weoley Hill, Selly Oak, Birmingham (off Bristol Road South). M.C.: Maggie Kaye. £2.00. Bring-and-share supper. For details of how to get there, ring Maggie on 0121 608 1437.
- Dec.3rd S.I.F.D. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
- S.I. Dec.15th/17th S.I.F.D. WEEKEND AT DUNFORD. See p.8.
- S.I. Jan.28th ISRAELI WORKSHOP with Anat at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne. £12.00 (concessions £7.50). Shared vegetarian lunch. Details from Rowena Martin, 01323 503991.
- Feb.24th/25th ERSIN SEYHAN returns for another weekend of TURKISH dances. £30.00. Further details from Janet Douglas, Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Rose Green, Bognor Regis, W.Sussex PO21 3EQ. Tel: 01243 265010.
- S.I. May 4th/7th S.I.F.D. WEEKEND AT HALSWAY MANOR. See p.8.

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Events covered by S.I.F.D. insurance are marked "S.I." in the margin. Please remember that the onus is on you to mark each event when sending in the notice if your event is covered by our insurance.

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London
at 4.00pm on Sunday 5th December 1999

Present : Jeanette Hull Chairperson
 Alison Scrimshaw Secretary
 Judith Payling Treasurer
 Caspar Cronk Committee Member
 Helen Ezra Committee Member
 Michael Gilbert Committee Member
 Alan Morton Membership Secretary

and 24 other members

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from

Lily Avery	Dorien Bates	Sam & Margaret Bayliss
Sue Chetwynd	Sue Clark	Diki & Sula Gleeson
Roy & Peggy Haycock	Margaret Joyner	Kay & Frank Kedge
Janet Loader	Christine Petts	Brenda & Philip Steventon
Graham Styles	George Sweetland	Marina Wolstenholme
Janet Woolbar		

2 Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the AGM held on 6th December 1998 had been previously circulated to members.

2.1 Corrections

The name of Marina Wolstenholme should be added to the apologies for absence.

2.2 Approval

That the minutes of the previous AGM be adopted as a true record of the proceedings at that meeting was proposed by Jeanette Hull and seconded by Alan Morton and carried unanimously.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4 Committee's Report

The Chairperson elaborated on her written report (already circulated to members) saying that again, due to lack of manpower, less had been achieved during this year than had been hoped.

The committee is losing three members and gaining one so there will be eight members at the beginning of the 1999/2000 year.

Jeanette re-iterated her thanks to the many people who had contributed to the Society over the past year.

That the Chairperson's Report 1998/99 be adopted was proposed by Julie Korth and seconded by John Walford and carried unanimously.

5 Treasurer's Report

The report for year ended 31st July 1999 had been circulated to members and was accepted by the meeting unanimously.

6 Independent Examiner's Report and Consideration of Accounts

In answer to a question from the floor the Treasurer stated that the 'SIFD News' expenditure item in the accounts does include postage. In answer to a further question the

Membership secretary said that the income from affiliation fees was $43 \times \text{£}29.30 = \text{£}1260$.

The accounts and the Independent Examiner's report were accepted unanimously by the meeting.

7 Appointment of Independent Examiner

The treasurer indicated that Denis McCarthy was willing to continue as Independent Examiner for the current financial year and proposed that he be so appointed. The meeting agreed unanimously but for one abstention.

8 Motions

8.1 The following motion was proposed by Jeanette Hull and seconded by Alison Scrimshaw:

That Clause 42(a) in Item J of the Articles of Association be amended to read:

The Committee may, if appropriate application has been made to it, grant affiliated status to an organisation or society, subject to the conditions below.

1. *Application for affiliation, and annual application for renewal of affiliation, shall be in writing in such form as the Committee may from time to time prescribe.*
2. *The application shall include*
 - (i) *confirmation of support for the objects of the Society.*
 - (ii) *an undertaking to do nothing that might reasonably be regarded as in contravention of these objects or bring the Society into disrepute.*
 - (iii) *an agreement to promote the interests of the Society, as appropriate in the circumstances of the applicant.*
3. *The Committee may refuse the application for affiliation or renewal of affiliation if it believes that the applicant organisation or society will not keep to the undertakings at 2 (i), (ii) and (iii) above, or if it finds that the applicant has not kept to those undertakings.*
4. *The Committee shall make such enquiries, or seek such evidence as it sees appropriate when considering any application.*
5. *The Committee shall reserve the right to terminate the affiliation of an organisation or society at any time, in the interests of the aims of the Society.*

Clause 42 (b) to (g) to remain unchanged.

The proposer explained to the meeting that this change was necessary to clarify what was previously unclear and that it would provide guidance to the Committee when considering applications for affiliation.

The motion was carried unanimously but for three abstentions.

8.2 The following motion was proposed by Judith Payling and seconded by Jeanette Hull:

That Clause 6 of the Memorandum of Association and Clause 9 of the Articles of Association be amended to substitute 'independent examiner' for 'auditor', and that Clause 36 of the Articles of Association be amended to substitute 'independently examined' for 'audited'.

The proposer explained that when the constitution was changed at a previous AGM to replace the word 'auditor' with 'independent examiner' some occurrences were missed. This motion corrects that oversight.

The motion was carried unanimously.

9 Announcement of New Committee

Jeanette Hull, Alison Scrimshaw and Marina Wolstenholme are retiring from the committee. Judy Ingram is welcomed as a new member.

The offices of Chairperson and Secretary are vacant.

The committee for 1999/2000 is

Hon. Treasurer	Judith Payling		
Committee members	Caspar Cronk	Helen Ezra	Michael Gilbert
	Judy Ingram	Richard Mellish	

Ex-officio members remain as before.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Teaching Fees

Frances Horrocks raised the subject of the fees which the SIFD pays to teachers. While many organisations pay £15 to £20 per hour plus travelling expenses the Society pays £8 and no expenses. Bearing in mind that conscientious teachers spend many hours preparing notes and cassettes before giving a course £8 per hour does not seem adequate.

It was pointed out that to cover higher fees admission charges would have to be raised and this would almost certainly lead to smaller attendance rather than higher revenue.

It is not reasonable that affiliated groups should be subsidised (in the form of teachers' fees) to an amount greater than their affiliation fee and raising the hourly rate could lead to this anomaly.

According to the Constitution the payment of teachers' fees is conditional on the availability of resources.

The Chairperson proposed and Julie Korth seconded :

that this meeting is in favour of SIFD teachers being paid at rates comparable with those paid by Adult Education Authorities.

This motion was carried by 25 to 0 with 3 abstentions.

10.2 CCPR Festival 2000

Frances Horrocks reported that the CCPR has only (at present) sufficient sponsorship to support one performance and thus she has reservations about the SIFD taking part. Frances will meet the festival producers in January and will canvass our membership through the News to determine the viability of our participation.

10.3 Proxy/Postal Voting

Alan Morton suggested that the Society might introduce postal voting at General Meetings for the convenience of out-of-London members, using the principle of the single non-transferable vote.

Against this idea are the extra administrative work and the fact that postal voters do not have the benefit of hearing the arguments for and against a motion being discussed at the meeting.

It was generally agreed that before postal voting could be introduced the Constitution would have to be amended.

The following motion was proposed :

that the committee be directed to prepare a motion for the next AGM modifying the Constitution to allow for postal voting at General Meetings of the Society.

This motion was carried by 19 votes to 4 with 6 abstentions.

10.4 Non-Dancer Grade of Membership

Alan Morton suggested that non-dancing members might be encouraged to remain in the Society by a reduced membership fee.

Since a large part of each member's subscription goes to the production and distribution of the News only a very small reduction would seem allowable.

Alan proposed a motion

that a concessionary membership rate be introduced for members not able to dance.

The motion was defeated by 15 votes to 2 with 7 abstentions.

10.5 Lucile Armstrong Prize at the Liangollen International Eisteddfod

It was suggested that the value of this prize (currently £50) should be increased. The treasurer pointed out that this prize money comes from an investment fund and that increasing it could only be done by eroding the capital value of the fund or by subsidy from SIFD general funds.

10.6 Eastbourne Festival 2000

Julie Korth reported on the arrangements so far in place for this year's festival and these were deemed very impressive by the Chairperson. Volunteers are needed for stewarding.

10.7 Legacy

The Society has been notified that it is a beneficiary under the will of Gwendolyn Peacher of the USA. No further details are available at present.

10.8 Thanks

Jill Bransby asked that all members should thank the outgoing committee for their hard work for the Society during 1998/1999.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.23pm