



B.C. HIGHLAND NEWSLETTER

The official newsletter of the British Columbia Highland Dancing Association.

June 2003

Your Executive members for the 2002-2003 dancing season.

President

Glenna Urbshadt 604-224-5479

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Past-president

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Executive at large

Fraser Fraser (Alan)

Kelly Harder

Nancy Lee

Angus Mackenzie

Dave Moralek

Annette Oliver

Cheryl Rafter

Sharon Sullivan

Shannon Watt

Non-Voting executive

Susan Rowe-Sleeman

Diane Tikkane

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you going to be here this June 28th? Are you going to the Highland Games in Coquitlam? Then we need you to VOLUNTEER to help us out at the Dancing Competition. Please contact Susan Rowe-Sleeman to add your name to our schedule. Contact her by phone 604-552-2696, or by email srowe@shaw.ca

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 17th 2003

Burnaby North Baptist Church

977 Albert Street, Burnaby.

Be there at 7:30 PM

UPCOMING COMPETITION

CITY OF VANCOUVER

CHAMPIONSHIP

And Regular Competition

June 28th. 2003

Coquitlam Town Center Stadium

Coquitlam

DID YOU SAY GOLF!

FOUND

Pair of Sunglasses in the men's washroom at the BC Closed Competition
In New Westminster

We would like to send our next newsletter and other dance info. to you via e-mail, please send me a note to bchdanews@telus.net and I will make sure your address is on our e-mail list.

Catch us on the web

www.agspider.com/bchighlanddance

BUY AND SELL

The store is closed for now but if you have any items over the summer please contact me and I will make sure that your items will be in the first newsletter in September. Please contact Dave Moralek by phone 604-272-6566, or by email to bchdanews@telus.net

ASK YOUR EXECUTIVE

(We do listen)

Do you have any thoughts, suggestions, comments or anything that the executive should know? Do you have any comments on a past competition? Any suggestions that may help a competition run smoother? Please bring your notes to the next Annual General Meeting September 17th, 2003 (see first page for address). What you can't make it to the meeting! Send your note to bchdanews@telus.net Subject *Comments*. And we will discuss it at the next meeting and will get back to you.

GOLF! Count me in, just tell me where and when!

70 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG

Next year BCHDA will be celebrating 70 years of Highland Dancing. We would like to present some special events to commemorate the past 70 years, but we need your help to suggest events. Please help us get the ball rolling. Start thinking now and send us your ideas. Please contact Dave Moralek @ bchdanews@telus.net with your fantastic suggestions.

If you have any items that would be of interest to our members, and you would like them in our next newsletter please let me know. Phone Dave Moralek at 604-272-6566 or e-mail me at bchdanews@telus.net The next newsletter deadline is August 15th 2003.

WORLD RECORD SET IN BURNABY

Dateline Burnaby BC Swangard Stadium Friday May 30, 2003. It may not be an annual or even repeated event but for 260+ highland dancers from across the Lower Mainland and Victoria with the accompaniment of the White Spot Pipe Band these dancers ranging from 4 years old to adults danced their way into the Guinness's Book of World Records. They had to dance the Highland Fling continuously for 5 minutes to reach their goal. And they did!

THE ANTICIPATION



THE CAN-CAN?



THE WARM UP



THE FINALE



For more pictures go to www.whitecapsfc.com

Who is Donna Cooper?

She is the helpful person that is usually seated behind a table at many, if not all the local competitions...waiting for you to ask her questions about Scotdance Registration or that missing Dance Card. And if you were at the April 13th competition you would have had the pleasure of seeing Donna being “thrilled” at being presented with a Life Membership to BCHDA.

The following memoirs depict Donna’s fifty year connection to BCHDA.

Donna and her family moved to Vancouver from Winnipeg in 1950. At that time Donna Joined the Mary Isdale McNabb Dance School and soon after entered her first competition. Her parents Don & Essie Fraser became immediately involved. Donna’s Dad had been a Highland Dancer and could be seen judging at local competitions. The Fraser’s were both Life Members of BCHDA holding executive positions for two decades. Donna’s Mum was Competition Secretary for many years. Her Dad was Vice President and was on the Platform Committee with Jim Ritichie (Marilyn Merry's Dad). On the day of the competition he could always be found either marshalling or at the scoring table with Harvey Gallaher, Roy Treasurer and Phil Yandle. Her Mum was Competition Secretary in March 1971 when she died of Cancer...Donna and her Dad agreed to finish the year for her. That promise lasted five or six years until Liz Johnston took over. Donna’s Mum always expected her daughter to help and Donna can remember sitting on the Livingroom floor sorting medals, trophies, judges sheets, lineup sheets etc because her Mum believed that being prepared ahead of time resulted in a smooth competition day...a lesson Donna still lives by today.

BCHDA was a member of the Pacific International Competition circuit and held Games every July 1st for years and years...until recently when they requested help from fellow members of the Scottish Cultural Association and now host the dancing competition at the BC Highland Games.

Years ago the Highland Games were held at such places as Brockton Oval in Stanley Park, UBC Varsity Stadium, Empire Stadium and Ambleside Park in North Vancouver (most do not exist anymore...pity).

Who is Donna Cooper Continued.

BCHDA held monthly winter competitions to give dancers practice for the summer Games. These six winter competitions were held at such places as the Cambrian Hall around 18th & Main, Mount Pleasant Church Hall and the old Scottish Auditorium at 12th and Fir (where we ran up and down stairs between the two halls). At each of the six competitions if you were lucky you went home with a certificate. Points were accumulated over the six competitions and trophies and medals were presented at the conclusion of the winter competitions. There was always a Windup Party where parents and teachers donned 'bits and pieces' of kilts and to everyone's delight performed a mock competition...Helen Upton, BCHDA's Madam President', often acted as 'The Judge'. Donna remembers her parents along with the Gallaghers, Ritchies, Allens, Topps, Mrs. Logan (Liz Johnston Mum) etc dancing the Quadrilles.

Donna remembers winning a "Fifth" in the Novice Class (there was no Beginner) and then having to move up to Amateur (Premier). Donna won the sword of Jasper three times and placed 3rd overall in the Adult World Championships in 1964 behind Billy Forsyth of Scotland and Ada Bloor Watson of Edmonton.

Donna has been involved with the BCHDA for years doing whatever was necessary...but mainly scoring since she was elected Scotdance BC Registrar in 1994. Donna really enjoys working for the dancers. And yes, there are times when Donna questions herself...but then she recalls receiving a hand drawn picture from a little one, thanking her for something she had done...little things like that make it all seem worthwhile for Donna!

Donna is thankful for the many memories and friendships she has established through the BCHDA and she looks forward to being involved for many more years!

She would like to thank the BCHDA membership for honoring her as a Life Member...she will always treasure it.

Thank you Donna for all that you and your family have done for BCHDA and Highland Dancing over the last half-century.

Going to the Highland Games in Coquitlam?

Following is a revised platform schedule that you may be interested in. It's a little different from the one that was mailed out as some of the classes have been split.

Also please note the times that dancers should arrive.

Championship 8:00 am.

Primary 10:30 am.

Beginner & Novice 11:00 am (Nationals first).

Intermediate noon.

Premier Nationals, 1:00 PM.

Please enter the stadium from the North Gate. This may be the only gate that will be open early!

Catch us on the web

www.agspider.com/bchighlanddanceT