

CDS Boston News



Summer 1991

Editor Shag Graetz
Art Director Herb Jacobs
Circulation Manager David Harrison
Contributors:

Irene Howard, Joe Kynoch, Jocelyn Reynolds, Ted Sannella, Mary Stafford, Chris Walker, Clayton Wilcox, Francis Worrell



BACK TO THE Y! (?)

One of the major issues at recent Board meetings has been the location of our dances. Because informal polls to determine dancers' preferences were inconclusive, we have decided to pursue a long-term lease with the Cambridge YWCA. We are very close to an agreement, so we will (probably) be dancing in Cambridge next season. Look for a special inaugural dance early in the fall.

Of course, no location is perfect for everyone, but the Board felt that continuity was very important. If anything should change in our relationship with the Y, or should the environs change significantly, we will have an escape clause to protect us.

The Y has been significantly refurbished. All the issues regarding the condition of the building have been addressed: the bathrooms replaced, the leak in the second-floor water pipes fixed, the windows in Hannum Hall replaced. A new ventilation system has been installed, and both Hannum Hall and the lobby have been completely remodeled. The gym has been stripped of the ugly asbestos-covered pipes overhead, and the floor and walls are being refinished.

There is now a separate entrance for residents on Bishop Allen Street. The Temple Street entrance is being rebuilt, and will be exclusively for people using the community spaces.

At this writing, the principal provis-

sions of the lease with the YWCA are

- A five-year term, with an option to renew for five more years
- Use of both Hannum Hall and the gym. We guarantee a total of 114 uses each year, though we are trying to reduce that to 100. (Currently, we run 40 weeks each of American and English dances.)
- Rental for Hannum Hall will be \$132 a night, and will remain fixed for ten years. After a couple years of inflation, the price will look very good. Gym rental will be \$115. Both spaces will be available on weekends.

---Joe Kynoch



PARTY!!



The Last Wednesday Night...

Would you believe another season is near its end? It's true---the last Wednesday-night English dance of the season is June 12th. This is traditionally a party dance, with many different teachers and simpler dances with minimal teaching. We will provide a festive table, cold drinks, and paperware; you bring a pot-luck dessert to share at the break.

The English Dance Committee is planning next season even as you read this. We need your input to serve you best. Please let us know what you would like to see in next year's program. Write us c/o the Boston Centre Office, or come speak to us at a Wednesday dance.

**The
PRESIDENT'S
Corner**

It's officially Spring, time for changes and growth---all that stuff. Changes are taking place within CDS as well. For example, me, the new president. So what have I done for you lately? Nothing yet, but call me in a few months.

Let me try to explain some of the reasons I agreed to become the president of a Society I have heard described as "CDS-BC: Continually Disgruntled Society---Bitching Constantly". First, I like to dance: English, New England, Morris, Sword, and others too. I like the great music and musicians we have in this area. Second, I want to dance more---as much as family, job, and other commitments allow. I like the dances we put on, the weekends at Pinewoods that we run, and the special events and classes we offer. I want to see these continue. Not least, I want to see my kids enjoy dancing and Pinewoods as much as I have, and to see new people become involved in the traditions we maintain.

I do mean we. I often sense that people feel as though Boston Centre were a kind of Orwellian institution which more or less benevolently provides us with recreation, sending out newsletters and announcements that occasionally mean something to the members. But more of us should take an active part in the functioning of the Boston Centre. Many of you must have ideas for improving the quality and quantity of our activities---please share them.

For example, I would like to have us put on a workshop for English dance musicians. For another, perhaps we could start a new dance for people living further west of Boston.

But only real people can make these things happen. We need your help. To remain viable, we have to be more than Tuesday and Wednesday night dances and a couple weekends at Pinewoods.

OK, I'll put the soapbox away (for a while). I want to thank the outgoing officers and directors for their contributions during their terms.

To our new Past President, Gordon Talley, through whose (continuing) efforts, Boston Centre is finally establishing procedures to deal with our finances in a rational way. We are fairly flush (as you know if you attended the annual meeting in March), but we need this money to support ongoing programs that might not bring in much cash.

To Allan Wechsler, for his dry humor and witty minutes. Being Secretary is a tough job, and he did it very well.

To retiring Board members Lista Duren, Deborah Kruskal and Karen Mueller, both for their contributions as Directors and for continuing to help in organizing our Pinewoods weekends and other special events.

Finally, welcome to the new officers and Board members: Secretary Marcie Morgenbesser, Directors Nancy Cruz and Clay Wilcox, and new Nominating Committee member Irene Howard.

---Joe Kynoch

WANTED!

The Boston Centre badly needs a personal computer and printer, both for office use and for the secretary. If you have either---or both---and would like to donate them to us (or sell real cheap), please call the office, 617/354-1340. We'd like either a Macintosh or a DOS system (IBM PC or clone); please, no CP/M machines, PCjr's, or other orphans.

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The Playford Ball Revisited

March 16th, a pleasant, warmish day with intermittent sunshine, apparently encouraged dancers to attend the afternoon Playford workshop. Congratulations to Barbara Finney, Brad Saylor, and Jacqueline Schwab for running an excellent workshop with efficiency and good humor.

The Ball was a great success. Lisa Greenleaf made our name tags (with some help from me). Charity Stafford, Jenny Mosely, Susan Turner, and Allan Wechsler hung the floral banners and put bouquets in the windows, on stage, and in the entrance hall. Sandy and Bob Borden provided the delicious cakes and other refreshments, with help from Clay Wilcox. Helene Cornelius led the dances; Peter Barnes, Earl Gaddis, and Jacqueline Schwab provided the music. And let's not forget all the hands that lifted the piano from the floor to the stage (and back again), or those who set up and removed the refreshment tables.

The English Dance Committee is already planning the 1992 Ball, and we welcome your comments. Tell us what you liked---and what you didn't like---about this year's Ball. We promise we'll listen and try to grant everyone's wishes. Write us c/o the Boston Centre Office, or come speak to us at a Wednesday dance.

---Mary Stafford

Playford Revisited: Skellamefago

by Francis Worrell



Lead up all a D. forwards and back, set and turne S. $\dot{\sim}$ That againe $\dot{\sim}$ First Cu. armes once and a halfe betweene the 2. into the second place, set each to the 2. Cu. and change places with your owne $\dot{\sim}$ Do this Change to the last, the rest following.

Sides all, set and turne S. $\dot{\sim}$ That againe $\dot{\sim}$ First Cu. slip down betweene the 2. turne each your owne, then turne each others Wo. turne your owne againe $\dot{\sim}$ Do thus to the last, the rest following.

Armes all. Set and turne S. $\dot{\sim}$ That againe $\dot{\sim}$ First foure take hands a crosse and goe round, first man change places with the 2. Wo. first Wo. change with the 2. man, then change both with your owne $\dot{\sim}$ Do this, change to the last, the rest following.

Reproduced from modern Mellor edition of the First Edition of Playford.

[I have inserted an F# key signature to correct an error in the original. --PW]

"Skellamefago" is dance number 34 in the First Edition of Playford. It is one of a group of dances, designated by Playford as "longways for as many as will", which consist of three parts introduced by doubles, sides, and arms, respectively. In each part the figure is progressive. Unlike the common duple minor longways, the progression starts with only the first couple dancing with the second. As this couple progress down the set, more and more couples get involved until all are dancing as in a duple minor set. Each couple dance the full length of the set both ways; when they reach their starting place, they stop dancing, and the set winds down in reverse order from the start. For convenience, I call this the "Essex Progression".¹

Playford's editorial standards were not always the best. Some dances were carelessly notated, or poorly crafted. So with "Skellamefago", but a few corrections produce a very nice dance, still in the spirit of the original.

In the first part, if Couple 1 is to end up in second place, clearly Couple 2 must get out of the way, so I have added the instruction that Couple 2 cast up to first place. The figure will be even smoother if Couple 1, after setting to their respective neighbors, give right hands, and turn halfway to place. Already holding right hands, they can easily do the arm-right that starts the next round.

In the second part, after the slip-and-change, "Turne each your owne" seems to say that both couples 1 and 2 turn partner once around. But they cannot then turn "each others Wo" simultaneously, because the women are in corner positions. Moreover, these figures require ten bars of music, and only eight are available. My solution is that only Couple 1 turn, and only half way. Now the men are next to "each others Wo.". Couple 1 now turn their (original) corners once around, then turn each other to place. This is, essentially, the second figure of "The Country Coll", except that instead of the couple "chang[ing] places with your own", they "turne each your own".

When Playford says to turn, without specifying hands, it is understood to mean with two hands. But the resulting figure is smoother if Couple 1 turn by the right hand halfway round, turn their corners by the left hand, then partner by two hands, leaving Couple 1 holding two hands, ready to do the slip.

There remains only the matter of timing. The two half turns normally use two bars of music each, the full turn four, for a total of eight, but only six bars are available. It can be managed if one considers the sequence of three turns as a single figure, a sort of chain, in which the first two turns do not use the full four measures.

The third figure requires more time than the music allows. I have replaced the two corner changes with the following: Couple 1 go to their corner positions while Couple 2 cast up, leaving Couple 1 improper. Couple 1 now change with partner back to place. Here again, a modification will improve things. Have Couple 1 give right hands as they cross to corner position, and keep hands as they cross to place. Still holding hands they can go easily into the star.

Instructions follow. Numbers in parentheses thus, (4), are the numbers of measures for the figure. The instructions are for three couples, but the dance can be done by any number, with the appropriate number of repetitions².

- I A1 (8) Up a Double and back. Set and turn single.
 A2 (8) All that again.
 A3 (4) Couple 1 arm right once and a half, progressing to second place, improper, while Couple 2 cast up to first place.
 (2) Couple 1 set to new neighbor (original corner).
 (2) Couple 1 give turn by the right half way to original places.
 A4-A8 Continue the figure to end of progression.³

- II A1 (8) Side by the right shoulder. Set and turn single.
 A2 (8) Side by the left shoulder. Set and turn single.
 (2) Couples 1 and 2 slip and change, Couple 1 inside.
 (6) Couple 1 turn partner half way round by right hand, turn new neighbor (corner) once around by left hand, turn partner half way round (two hands) to place.
 A4-A8 Continue the figure to end of progression.

- III A1 (8) Arm right. Set and turn single.
 A2 (8) Arm left. Set and turn single.
 A3 (4) Couples 1 and 2 star right.
 (2) First man and woman cross to corner place, holding right hands, while Couple 2 cast up.
 (2) Couple 1 turn by the right hand to proper place.
 A4-A8 Continue the figure to end of progression.

My thanks to the members of our dance group in Barnstable who tried the dance out, made some suggestions, and certified it.

Notes

- 1. See the first paragraph of "Playford Revisited: The Gun, or The Valiant Captain", in CDS Boston News, December, 1989.
- 2. A note on the progression: with three couples the order of active couples is 1&2, original 1&3, original 2&3, original 2&1, etc. It may be easier to think of it as being: top couples, bottom couples, top, bottom, etc.
- 3. This is the Essex Progression.

This is the last of Francis Worrell's investigations into Playford's "Essex Progression" dances. We'd like your comments regarding this series, and your thoughts about this type of feature in general. Would you like to see more of them? Less? None at all? Please let us know. ---shag

Calendar

For the latest information on events in the Boston area, call the Boston Centre office, 617/354-1340. A recorded announcement will bring you up to date.

BOSTON CENTRE PROGRAMS

(Except where noted, all telephone numbers are in Area Code 617)

Continuing Series

TUESDAYS: NEW ENGLAND SQUARE AND CONTRA DANCE

St. John's United Methodist Church, 80 Mount Auburn St, Watertown, 7:30 - 10:30 PM

Callers: 1st Tuesday - Tony Saletan, 2nd - Ted Sannella, 3rd - Tony Parkes, 4th and 5th - special programs and guests.

Last dance of the season, 11 June. **NOTE:** This will be Ted Sannella's last regular monthly appearance, so expect something special.

Musicians: Rotating groups of first-class players

Contacts: Arthur Anger (H)899-8702, (W)253-7044 or Betsy Opitz (H)899-8702

WEDNESDAYS: ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE

St John's United Methodist Church, 80 Mount Auburn Street, 8:00-11:00 PM

Instruction in basics 8:00-9:00, requests 10:15 - 11:00. **End-of-Season Party:** 12 June

Teachers: Helene Cornelius, Barbara Finney, George Fogg, Rich Jackson, Robin Rogers-Browne, Brad Saylor, Jackie Schwab, Chris Walker

Musicians: "Bare Necessities" (Peter Barnes, Earl Gaddis, Mary Lea, Jacqueline Schwab), Karen Axelrod, Pat MacPherson

Contact: Mary Stafford, 782-7266

"FIRST FRIDAY" ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE

Church of Our Saviour, Monmouth St, Brookline, 8:30 - 11:00 PM

Last dance of the season, 7 June. Various leaders

For dancers thoroughly familiar with basic English Country Dance figures. Dances will be taught.

Contact: Mary Stafford, 782-7266, or call CDS office, 354-1340.

Meetings

Meetings are open; all members are welcome, but call ahead to confirm date, time, and place.

Board of Directors: 3rd Weds, 6:00PM, St John's Church, 80 Mt Auburn, Watertown. (354-1340)

American Dance Committee: 2nd Tues, 6:45PM, St John's Church, 80 Mt Auburn St, Watertown (899-8702)

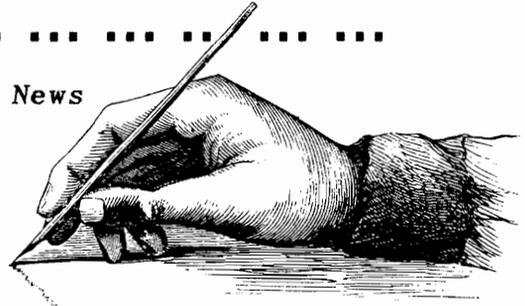
English Dance Committee: 2nd Weds, 6:00PM, Demo's Restaurant, 64 Mt Auburn, Watertown. (782-7266)

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How to Send Stuff to the CDS Boston News

Please send all submissions, including letters, to

CDS Boston News
c/o Shag Graetz
49 Stow St
Acton, Mass 01720



Hard copy should be typewritten or printed; draft-mode dot-matrix printer copy is OK, but please use a dark ribbon. For longer items such as feature articles, a DOS-format ASCII file on a 5¼-inch double-density (360KB) floppy disk will save time and help avoid editing mistakes. I'll return your disk if you request it, otherwise consider it a donation to the Boston Centre. Graphics (music, drawings, etc.) must be hard copy, at least for now.

The deadline for the next issue is

30 JUNE 1991

EVENTS BY FRIENDS OF THE BOSTON CENTRE

Regular Events

Andover, Mass: **Contra dance** with Dan Pearl, Tony or Beth Parkes.

3rd Fridays, Old Town Hall, Main St. Last dance of the season: 17 May.

Call Candy 508/470-2797

Arlington, Mass: **Contra dance** with Roaring Jelly and guest callers

3rd Fridays, St John's Episcopal Church, 74 Pleasant St. Last dance of the season, 21 June.

Dances will resume in October.

Call Kim, 894-4464

Bowdoinham, Me: **English Country dance** with the Merrymeeting Musical Menagerie. Guest callers.

4th Sundays, 7:00-10:00, Bowdoinham Community Hall, School St. Dances continue through the summer.

Call Greg 207/666-3090 evenings, 207/786-6110 weekdays

Brookline, Mass: **English/Scottish dance parties**, with Pat MacPherson, Robin Rogers-Browne, and Brad Saylor. Music by Pat MacPherson, Karen Axelrod, and friends.

Church of Our Saviour, 23 Monmouth St. Last dance of the season: Saturday, 25 May

Call Brad 508/475-0791 or Robin 508/897-8629

East Derry, NH: **English Country dance** with Brad Saylor, music by the Derry Aires

3rd Sundays, 7:00-10:00. Last dance of the season: 19 May

Call Lee 603/432-8558

Providence, RI: **Contra Dances** with guest callers and music.

3rd Saturdays, 8 PM, St Martin's Church, 50 Orchard Ave.

18 May: Mary Desrosiers with the Cheshire Cats. 15 June: Susan Elberger with Whistler's Daughter.

Call 401/828-3229 or 508/636-8168.

Special Events

The Fourth Annual "Fried-For-All", 15-16 June, Sheffield Grange, Rte 7, Sheffield Mass.

Weekend of workshops and Saturday evening party, devoted to dances from the books published by

Fried (pronounced "freed") de Metz Herman.

Music: Larry Wallach and Barbara Greenberg

Call Penelope Lord, 413/274-6352

Hands Four Spring Weekend, 17-19 May, The Inn at East Hill Farm, Troy, NH.

Workshops and parties devoted to traditional squares and contra dancing. Staff: Larry Edelman, Tony and Beth Parkes, Bob McQuillen

Music: Yankee Ingenuity & Friends; Swinging on a Gate

Call: 617/643-4039





*The WINNER of
the Chris Walker
Challenge!*

OUR ENGLISH PERENNIALS

In the last issue of the News I challenged members to identify the ten English country dances that had each been done at least once every season for the past 27 years. Seven members responded; the winner was Karen Axelrod, with four correct choices. I have accordingly donated \$40 to the Boston Centre in her name.

These are the ten "basic" dances:

Six from Cecil Sharp

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Childgrove | Old Noll's Jig |
| Indian Queen | Orleans Baffled |
| Lilliburlero | Scotch Cap |

Three from other interpretations [of Playford-style dances]

The Dressed Ship (The Apted Book of Country Dances)
 Prince William (Holland as seen in the English Country Dance)
 Sadler's Wells (Country Dance Book, New Series)

And one "other"

The Quaker's Wife (Community Dances Manual, Vol 7)

This list includes duple- and triple-minor longways and three-couple set dances, with music in five different keys and four different time signatures. They employ a wide variety of movements and patterns, and are a very good basis for our dancing.

The challenge was really quite difficult. The records of this 27-year span show that five more dances were included in all but one season, while another twelve were in all but two. Altogether, 27 dances each appeared in at least 25 different seasons. So let's relax the criteria of our challenge and compare entries with this larger list. As expected, all scores improve dramatically, but the winner is again Karen Axelrod, with seven correct choices. Congratulations, Karen; when you're hot, you're hot!

---Chris Walker

Time to take off the Cardigan?

No AMC-CDS Weekend This Year

The Country Dance Weekend at Cardigan Lodge in New Hampshire, sponsored jointly with the Appalachian Mountain Club, has a long and venerable history. However, CDS participation has steadily declined in recent years, while costs keep going up.

The Board therefore decided in March to cancel the 1991 event. It may be time to consider alternatives to this September weekend; the Board will welcome any thoughts and suggestions you might have.

---Clay Wilcox

[The News would welcome your recollections, impressions, or a short history of the weekend. ---jmg]



THE CALENDAR

There's a lot of dancing going around, and many of us are interested in more than one kind. One way to keep posted is through newsletter calendars. It's a good thing, then, that there are also a lot of newsletters going around, so you don't have to depend on just one. We have at most eight pages to work with here, and the Calendar already takes up two of them, so we often have to decide what to leave out.

On the whole, we list only English and (North) American traditional dance events, plus others in which these forms have a significant place, such as English-Scottish dances or the New England Folk Festival. "English traditional" means whatever we do on Wednesday nights: Country, Morris, Sword, etc. "American Traditional" generally means Eastern square and contra-dance styles: New England, French-Canadian, and Appalachian.

Some things that don't get listed are obvious: Balkan workshops, ballroom and other popular-commercial styles, Western swing, etc. Others, such as predominantly Scottish or Irish dance events and general-purpose "international" dances, are sometimes a judgment call, and may depend on how much room there is. If you have a question about a possible listing, please call me at 508/263-6469.

---shag

The Ritual Committee Thanks You...

Another dancing year is drawing to a close, so it's time to wind this one up and look forward to the next.

Some thanks are in order. First to Deb Small, for the idea of trying Saturday workshops. It worked well; we morris and sword dancers seem to prefer one-day killer sessions to weekly series. This has also given us the opportunity to invite out-of-town teachers and students to come dance with us; that has been fun as well as workable.

Next, thanks to the members of the new Ritual Committee, Rebecca Jordan and Karen Mueller, for all their work. And the Committee's thanks go to those of you who have taught or danced with us and given us your ideas.

Next year, in response to those ideas, we will have more Saturday events. We're scheduling both Cotswold and Northwest Clog Morris, Rapper, a day of clog/step dancing, and an oft-requested musicians' workshop. We hope you will join us.

---Jocelyn Reynolds



THIS JUST IN: An Advanced Rapper workshop with TONY POILE (founder of Greenwich Guard) is scheduled for Saturday, 5 October 1991.



Wednesday **SUMMERDANCE** Series

Save your Wednesday evenings during July and August! Come to the Summer-dance varied-fare series at the Masonic Hall in Porter Square, 1950 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge. The series is jointly sponsored by CDS Boston Centre, NEFFA, and the Folk Arts Center, and will feature evenings of English and English-Scottish country dancing, swing, Cajun, Bulgarian, and maybe a few surprises. Watch for fliers as soon as everything is in place, or call the office for information. All dances start at 7:30 PM, and will include light refreshments. The first three people to bring window fans will get in free.

---Irene Howard

ELECTION RETURNS!

Being unopposed, everyone on the recent ballot was elected to office. Here are the officers and Board members of Boston Centre for 1991-92:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| President | Joe Kynoch |
| Past President | Gordon Talley |
| Vice-President | Arthur Anger |
| Secretary | Marcie Morgenbesser |
| Treasurer | Harvey Cohen |
| Directors: | |
| | Kathleen Burns, Nancy Cruz, Earl Gaddis, Tom Hannaford, Herb Jacobs, James Polk, Deborah Small, Jocelyn Reynolds, Clayton Wilcox |

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