

## Harrow and District Caledonian Society Dance Class – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2010

### This is the suggested class programme for the Harrow class on 16th June 2010

The class this week will be divided into TWO groups during the first half with all three groups joining together after the interval

#### FIRST HALF

The group in the main hall will have RSCDS-style tuition including points of technique with Rose.  
The dance to be taught will be confirmed on Wednesday.

The group in the smaller carpeted room will be a normal social class with Jim – this week focussing on dances written by or for Harrow members (in preparation for a class on this theme later in a couple of weeks)

#### SECOND HALF

Our theme for our summer season of classes is to learn dances by one or two devisers each week.

The dance deviser featured this week is **James/Jimmy Cosh** who wrote a number of popular dances:

#### WHITE HEATHER JIG (J4x40) 4C set

*J Cosh 22 SCDs+2*

- 1- 8 1s turn RH & cast to 2<sup>nd</sup> place, turn 1½ LH to end between 2s facing opposite sides
- 9-16 1s+2s dance Reel of 4 across, 1s pass RSh to face 1<sup>st</sup> corners
- 17-24 1s turn corner, partner, corner, partner, to end between 3s facing opposite sides
- 25-32 1s+3s dance Reel of 4 across, 1s end in middle between 3s & 4s
- 33-40 1s turn LH, cast to 4<sup>th</sup> place on own side & turn RH

#### THE GARRY STRATHSPEY (S4x32) 4C set

*J Cosh 22 SCDs+2*

- 1- 8 1s+2s & 3s+4s dance ½ R&L, 1s+4s (in centre) dance ½ R&L
- 9-16 2s+4s & 1s+3s circle 4H left ½ way, 2s+3s circle 4H right ½ way, 1s lead up to top All face as for Reel of 4 on sides
- 17-24 All set HS & dance ½ Grand Chain
- 25-32 All dance Reel of 4 on sides

#### IRISH ROVER (R8x32) 3C (4C set)

*J Cosh 22 SCDs+1 (2)*

- 1- 8 1s dance down below 3s & cast up to 2<sup>nd</sup> place own sides  
1L dances RH across with 2s while 1M dances RH across with 3s
- 9-16 1s dance ½ diagonal reel of 4 with 1<sup>st</sup> corners then ½ reel with 2<sup>nd</sup> corners & ½ turn LH in centre to face 1<sup>st</sup> corners
- 17-24 1s dance reels of 3 across giving LSh to 1<sup>st</sup> corners ending in 2<sup>nd</sup> place own sides
- 25-32 1s dance diagonal R&L (1M crossing diagonally down & 1L crossing diagonally up to start)

#### MAIRI'S WEDDING (R8x40) 3C (4C set)

*J Cosh 22 SCDs+2*

- 1- 8 1s turn RH, cast to 2<sup>nd</sup> place & turn LH to face 1<sup>st</sup> corners
- 9-16 1s dance ½ diagonal Reel of 4 with 1<sup>st</sup> corners & ½ diagonal reel with 2<sup>nd</sup> corners
- 17-24 1s dance ½ diagonal Reel with 3<sup>rd</sup> corners & ½ diagonal reel with 4<sup>th</sup> corners
- 25-32 1s dance reel of 3 across Lady with 2s & Man with 3s
- 33-40 2s+1s+3s circle 6H round & back

Our dances this evening are taken from " 22 Scottish Country Dances" by James Cosh:

James Cosh was a very enthusiastic dancer who really loved Scottish music. He was a member of the Glasgow Branch of the RSCDS also founded a social dancing group, the Glenshee SCD Club in 1950 which met in the Langside Halls, Glasgow. The group ran for 40 years under his leadership. He devised about fifty dances most of which were published in little booklets called the Glenshee Collection and Twenty Two Scottish Country Dances, the sales of which raised funds for the National Fund for Research into Crippling Diseases, Children's charities and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

For many of Jimmy Cosh's dances the music came first.

He liked two-step tunes and there are few dancers who will not have heard of **The White Heather** Jig, devised to a tune composed by Jimmy Shand called "Six Twenty" Two Step. This was the signature tune for the Scottish Dance TV programme shown at 6.20 pm. weekly on Scottish Television.

Schottisches were also popular strathspey tunes for him as seen in **The Garry Strathspey**.

He had some original ideas for figures. The diagonal rights and lefts was his invention in **The Irish Rover**, another very popular dance.

Half reels of four to take corners to diagonally opposite places were introduced by Jimmy as in **Main's Wedding** which was published in 1959. This dance known worldwide, its popularity influenced by the well-known tune. In the late 1960's Jimmy wrote in the Reel (London Branch Newsletter) how concerned he was that dancers were not performing the half reels as written in his booklet - he wanted left shoulders in the middle (rather than the right-should that has become common/popular in our local area).

His first composition was Betty's Wedding, written for Elizabeth Steel, written to music by Elizabeth/Betty's brother David Steel. The dance became popular with other Clubs and soon more dances were composed for special occasions or events until, in 1959, a 12 page pocket book titled SIX SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCES by JAMES B. COSH was published.















## Harrow and District Caledonian Society Dance Class – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2010

The contents page of this initial publication is reproduced below giving a brief background to each dance.

1. BETTY'S WEDDING Arranged for the wedding of Elizabeth, sister of Dave Steel the club's original band leader now in Canada.
2. BONNIE GLENSHEE To celebrate the club's 10th anniversary based on an original idea by Wm Orr.
3. THE ROAD TO THE ISLES Danced on the occasion of Mr and Mrs Arthur Miller's departure to Dunedin, New Zealand, in June, 1958.
4. MAIRI'S WEDDING Dedicated to G. B. Bowie, Esq., for his generosity in allowing Country Dancing each Wednesday in his Glasgow Ballroom, «unique» for a Public Dance Hall.
5. LAD O' KYLE In celebration of the bi-centenary of Robert Burns.
6. THE WINDING ROAD To the Scottish Youth Hostel Movement for their encouragement to young people to practise traditional Scottish Country Dancing.

By 1964 the pocket book had expanded to twenty pages and re titled FIFTEEN SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCES by JAMES B. COSH. The expansion continued to include a total of twenty-two dances composed by James (and subsequently 22 plus 1 and 22 plus 2). Besides giving the Scottish dance fraternity such a rich collection of Country Dances the proceeds from the sale of these booklets were passed on to benefit charities. Many of the dances included in this collection are still just as popular as they were when introduced at the Glenshee Club, but now enjoyed by a much larger, world wide, fraternity. This must be the dream of every dance composer and the true mark of success.

James B Cosh's dances (45 in total)

[Betty's Wedding](#) (Medley-32)   
[The Bluebell Strathspey](#) (Strathspey-32)  
[Bonnie Glenshee](#) (Medley-120)  
[Bonnie Shira Glen](#) (Medley-32)   
[Bright And Breezy](#) (Reel-32)  
[Carousel](#) (Jig-32)  
[Deaconsbank](#) (Reel-32)  
[Deanston House](#) (Jig-40)  
[The Dunivard Reel](#) (Reel-32)  
[Eastwood Park](#) (Strathspey-32)  
[The Garry Strathspey](#) (Strathspey-32)   
[Glasgow 1990](#) (Jig-32)  
[The Glenshee Strathspey](#) (Strathspey-32)  
[The Heather Strathspey](#) (Strathspey-40)   
[The Irish Rover](#) (Reel-32)   
[Isle of Bute](#) (Strathspey-32)  
[The Kilt Is My Delight](#) (Reel-32)   
[The Lad o' Kyle](#) (Reel-32)  
[Langside Ladies Jig](#) (Jig-32)  
[The Lauder Legend](#) (Jig-32)  
[The Loch Katrine Jig](#) (Jig-32)  
[MacLeod of Tobermory](#) (Jig-32)  
[Maggie Luv](#) (Strathspey-40)  
[The Magnum Strathspey](#) (Strathspey-32)  
[Mairi's Wedding](#) (Reel-40)   
[Mariqold](#) (Jig-40)   
[The Marlborough Strathspey](#) (Strathspey-32)  
[Miss Kenyon's Strathspey](#) (Reel-32)  
[The Park Hotel, Dunoon](#) (Reel-32)  
[The Phoenix Strathspey](#) (Strathspey-32)  
[The Piper From Stornoway](#) (Strathspey-32)  
[The Renwick Reel](#) (Reel-32)  
[The Road To Braemar](#) (Strathspey-32)  
[The Road To The Isles](#) (Strathspey-32)  
[Royal Exchange](#) (Jig-32)   
[Saint Patrick's Jig](#) (Jig-40)  
[The Scotsman In America](#) (Strathspey-32)   
[Shawlands Cross](#) (Jig-32)  
[The Swilcan](#) (Jig-32)   
[Thro' The Sma' Glen](#) (Strathspey-32)  
[Valletta, La](#) (Reel-32)  
[The Waggle O' The Kilt](#) (Jig-40)   
[The Weaver](#) (Jig-32)  
[The White Heather Jig](#) (Jig-40)   
[The Winding Road](#) (Strathspey-32) 

included in the following publications (total 11)

[Fifteen Scottish Country Dances](#)  
[Glenshee Collection, \(1\)](#)  
[Glenshee Collection, \(2\)](#)  
[Glenshee Collection, \(3\)](#)  
[Glenshee Collection, \(4\)](#)  
[Glenshee Collection, \(5\)](#)  
[The New Glenshee Collection](#)  
[Six Scottish Country Dances](#)  
[Twelve Scottish Country Dances](#)  
[Twenty Two SCD and One Other](#)  
[Twenty Two SCD and Two Others](#)

James Cosh died in October 1995.