



The Bedford Scottish Dance Group

NEWSLETTER

No. 25 June 2018

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Tony Speaight 19 Feb 1937 – 14 May 2018

Tony was born and grew up in North London where he played rugby, cricket and ice hockey. He did his National Service in the RAF and would often tell of his experiences as a drill instructor. Tony was never short of a word to say so his next job as a travelling salesman suited him admirably. He worked mainly for Bostik the adhesive specialists and he would usually travel about 2000 miles every week visiting large and small companies, advising and selling to them. It was at this stage of his life that he smoked heavily, it was a social grace and way of life for many salesmen.

By 1971, he had moved to Bedford and married Kay who already had two children, Penny and George. It was then that Tony and Kay started Scottish Country Dancing. They made friends with another couple of beginners, Keith and Pam, and soon they were heading off to dance at events around the area. Tony exploited his job as a salesman to maximise his opportunities to dance all over the country. Knowing when all the various clubs met, he would plan his schedule around his dancing, often succeeding in dancing on all seven nights in the week. He was regularly to be found at Pont Street dancing with the London Highland Club. Tony also attended the Morland week in Cumbria where John Drewry used to fine tune his latest formations and dances. Tony would recall how John used a chess board with draughts pieces to plan dances.



Towards the end of her life, Kay was unable to dance and Tony was busy caring for her. After her death, Tony resumed dancing and was a very loyal supporter of the Bedford Group. He also danced regularly in St Neots and was always able to offer advice to beginners. He really did enjoy his dancing.

He had given up smoking but the penalty was developing Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. He had part of one lung removed which left him breathless and limited his dancing.

He was a fountain of knowledge on Scottish dress and would happily talk on this subject to the audiences at dance demonstrations. He took great pride in his collection having made his own sporrans and a kilt. Only last year he bought a second-hand kilt from eBay which he dismantled and rebuilt in his size.

Tony was a man of many hidden talents. He used to do some part time work from home building electronic circuit boards. These were for the Nurse Call system used in hospitals to manage patient requests for assistance. Occasionally he was needed to help install these systems around the country and would have to forego his dancing for a few days. He was interested in railways and would recall travelling of the footplate of steam locomotives. He used to record his holidays with Kay on video and he took great pride in editing these videos, having a spare bedroom devoted to this with a powerful computer driving two very large monitors. Tony enjoyed driving large cars, and with the help of a friend who dealt in second hand cars he would often turn up on a Tuesday night for dancing with a different car. He claimed: "I put the car through the car wash and it came out a different colour!!" In recent years he took up archery, finding the stretching of the chest muscles beneficial to his COPD.

During the 2017-2018 winter, his health suffered. Unable to keep much food at all down he lost about three stone in weight but he was then able to wear kilts which had not fitted him for years. This however did not stop him dancing and even taking part in demonstrations which were organised to be Tony friendly. He had a week in hospital in March but they were unable to pinpoint the real cause of his problems. He was dancing again the next week and continued right up until his unexpected death in May. We will miss his happy smile and enthusiasm.

ANNUAL BALL

Our Annual Ball was held recently on May 19th and was, as usual, a thoroughly successful and enjoyable evening. The numbers were up a little on last year and just fitted the hall comfortably. The band was Alan Ross who we enjoyed very much and who will play again for us next year. George was, of course, greatly missed but his place as MC was taken efficiently and gallantly by John Mullett.

The dancers included a group of students from Cambridge who had requested a quick talk-through before each dance. This proved to be a popular innovation for most people and may well be continued.

Our thanks go to Helen and all the other helpers for their excellent catering and organisation.

JUNE SOCIAL AND AGM

This will be held on Sunday June 24th in Oakley Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. Helen and Keith Rose will MC the dancing and the programme will be as follows:-

Swiss Lassie	R	The Royal Deeside Railway	R
The Rose of the North	S	Glengarry Homestead	S
Flora`s Fancy	J	Quarries Jig	J
The Fireworks Reel	R	The Australian Ladies	R
City of Belfast	S	Midsummer Common	S
Muirland Willie	J	MacLeod`s Fancy	J
Orpington Caledonians	R	Ramadan-ce	R

The A.G.M. will be held during the break and will be dealt with as quickly as possible.

AGM AGENDA

1. To receive apologies.
2. To adopt the minutes of the AGM held on 25th June 2017.
3. To consider any matters arising from those minutes.
4. To receive and adopt the Chairman`s report.
5. To receive and adopt the Hon. Secretary`s report.
6. To receive and adopt the Hon. Treasurer`s report.
7. The election of the committee.

Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Committee Members.

New members of the committee would be very welcome so if you would be willing to join us please contact the Secretary.

Could I please remind you that subs for the next year are now due.

BSDG EVENTS 2018-2019

Sun	14 Oct 2018	Social	Oakley VH
Sun	11 Nov 2018	Social	Oakley VH
Sat	05 Jan 2019	CEILIDH - Peter Scatterty	Bromham VH
Sun	10 Feb 2019	Social	Oakley VH
Sun	10 Mar 2019	Social	Oakley VH
Sun	14 Apr 2019	Social	Oakley VH
Sat	18 May 2019	ANNUAL BALL- Alan Ross	Bromham VH
Sun	23 June 2019	Social & AGM	Oakley VH

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

If you wish your name to be added to or removed from the circulation list for this newsletter, please email Keith at keith@krose.plus.com

SWISS LASSIE 8x32 R

Rosi Betsche, RSCDS Book 39.1 3C/4C longwise set.

THE ROYAL DEESIDE RAILWAY 8x32 R

Ron Arrowsmith, 1987, RSCDS Book 40.9 3C/4C longwise set.

THE ROSE OF THE NORTH 8x32 S

Roy Goldring, 1986, Leeds Silver Jubilee 3C/4C longwise set.

GLENGARRY HOMESTEAD 4x32 S

John Brenchley, 1995, The Kangaroo Paw 4C/4C longwise set.

FLORA'S FANCY 8x32 J

RSCDS Tucson & Seven Pipers Scottish Society, RSCDS Book 49.8 3C/4C longwise set.

QUARRIES' JIG 8x32 J

Kent W Smith, RSCDS Book 36.3 3C/4C longwise set.

THE FIREWORKS REEL 8x32 R

Anselm Lingnau, 2009, my.strathspey.org/u/anselm/dances/, RSCDS Book 48.11 3C/4C longwise set.

THE AUSTRALIAN LADIES 8x32 R

Campbell, 1967, Glasgow Assembly 3C/4C longwise set.

CITY OF BELFAST 3x32 S

Lucy Mulholland, 2007, Belfast Diamond Jubilee Book, RSCDS Book 48.6 3C/3C longwise set.

MIDSUMMER COMMON 8x32 S

Tom and Lindsey Ibbotson, 2013, RSCDS Book 49.3 3C/4C longwise set.

MUIRLAND WILLIE 8x32 J

RSCDS Book 21.9 3C/4C longwise set.

MACLEOD'S FANCY 4x32 J

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RAMADAN-CE 8x32 R

John Drewry, 2000, Turkish Set 3C/4C longwise set.