

## NEW YORK ANNUAL DANCE LIST

We propose to have an annual dance list of 55 dances: see below. These notes explain how the list is used. This is based on the experience of the San Gabriel Valley Branch in Los Angeles who have been doing this for more than 30 years and have found it successful.

### Aim:

The main aim is to increase everyone's enjoyment of dancing, especially their enjoyment of party nights and balls. Dancers will enjoy these events more because they will know the dances better than they do at present. They will not have to struggle so much to remember dances, and teachers will not have to struggle so much to get dancers through a dance. How will they know the dances better? Because all (or most) dances at party nights and balls will come from the agreed list of 55 dances. Dancers will prepare the dances in class, and they will see the dances at least three times on party or ball programs. The list should also help dancers to build up their repertoire.

### How it works:

1. The Annual List consists of about 55 dances, split between reels, jigs and strathspeys. The dances include beginner, intermediate and advanced dances. The majority of the dances are beginner or intermediate. All basic formations and a good selection of more advanced formations are included. The list has a mixture of RSCDS and non-RSCDS dances and a mixture of set types (2, 3, 4, 5-couple).
2. The dances on the list have a term limit of three years. Each year, one-third of the dances are dropped from the list. They are replaced by a similar number of reels, jigs and strathspeys, making sure to keep a balance of formations and levels of difficulty. During the year, teachers try out dances they think could be added, and then they meet to agree the new list. In our case, they should perhaps meet before the JC Ball programs are devised, as this is the first ball where the current list will be used. For 2011-12, since we did not yet have a list, we have worked backwards, and drawn up a list that includes most of the dances on the JC Ball and Brunch programs devised by Liz and Bob.
3. The full dance instructions are sent to all teachers. In September, a "cue-book" containing cribs of all the dances is sent by e-mail to all members and put on the website. A hard copy of the "cue-book" can be available at the dancing venues.
4. Dance programs for parties and balls are prepared by teachers as is done now. **All** the dances are selected from the Annual List. In the case of "marquee" programs, namely the JC Ball, the Pawling Ball and Summerdance, one or at most two dances from outside the list may be used. For obvious reasons, the list does not apply in the case of Burns night or Drewry night. The list **does** apply to the Pawling Welcome dance and the JC Brunch dance.
5. As a general rule, no more than three **new** dances can be included on a party or ball program. "New" means the dance joined the List this year. Initially, this will not apply, as all dances will be "new" for the first year.
6. To help dancers increase their repertoire, if a "new" dance is on one party/ball program, it should be repeated on the next party/ball program if it is an easy dance and on the next **two** programs if it is more difficult. Initially this may not be realistic, as there are too many "new" dances.
7. Given that the Annual List is carefully chosen, teachers can, over the year, teach all the important aspects of SCD while at the same time preparing their classes for the specific dances at each upcoming event.