

To: The Editor

From: Linlithgow Scotch Hop/Scottish Dance Net

Number of Pages: 3 *For immediate release, images available on request.*

News Release 19 July 2013

Scottish Dancing Tribute to Andy Murray a Hit

Tributes to Andy Murray come in all shapes and sizes - cakes, flowers, and now a dance. Nearly 400 dancers filled Linlithgow Palace courtyard this week enjoying a new Scottish dance 'The Pride of Dunblane' written to celebrate Andy Murray's achievements in becoming Britain's first Wimbledon men's singles champion for 77 years.

The dance represents the different stages of Andy's Wimbledon journey, including the opening and closing of the Centre Court roof, the ever-present towel, and his incredible drop-shot retrieval in the final. There is also plenty of scope for fist-pumping and shouts of "come on!"

The dance was the idea of John Carswell, organiser of the annual Linlithgow Scotch Hop dance, and written by internationally acclaimed dance devisor Ian Brockbank from Edinburgh, with Andy's mum Judy showing her support by retweeting Mr Brockbank's tweet about the dance.

Mr Carswell said: *"I was watching Murray in the semis and just got the feeling that he would go on to win it so I thought that something should be done to honour this. I mentioned it to Ian and we both agreed that it was a crazy idea but that we could do something with it. It's a bit of fun and a simple dance that everyone can join in with. Dunblane is only up the road and what Murray has done should be celebrated."*

Mr Brockbank, who has created more than 50 dances in Scottish traditional form, says: *"I have followed Andy Murray's career since his Wimbledon debut, and I have always been impressed by his dedication and talent as he worked his way into the top four. This year at Wimbledon he looked like he could finally go all the way, so when John contacted me on the day of the semi-finals to suggest writing a dance the ideas started flowing. I tried to create a simple dance which everyone could enjoy so that Andy's achievements could be celebrated at ceilidhs up and down the country. It was great to see the Linlithgow Palace courtyard full of people laughing and dancing it."*

continues

The Pride of Dunblane was premiered at Linlithgow Scotch Hop on Wednesday 17th July. The instructions are available for free download from www.scottishdance.net and www.scotchhop.org.uk.

Elizabeth Foster, Executive Officer of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, attended the premiere of the Pride of Dunblane and joined in the dance. She said, *"It was great to be part of a country dancing tribute recognising Andy Murray's wonderful achievement at Wimbledon. It really caught the mood of the people. I would hope to see the Murray family trying the dance out themselves in the not too distant future. The open invitation is there!"*

The Linlithgow Scotch Hop is a series of open air social Scottish dances, open to all, which runs for five Wednesday nights in the summer in the stunning setting of the courtyard of Linlithgow Palace. The Sports Hall in Linlithgow Outdoor Centre hall is used if it is wet. Tickets for the event cost £7.50 and include tea and shortbread, children under 12 are free, concessions and season tickets for all 5 nights of dancing are also available, look online for more information.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

- Linlithgow Hop Scotch is the brain child of John Carswell. It is now in its 24 year, Historic Scotland paved the courtyard of Linlithgow Palace 25 years ago, and aims to provide lively, friendly and fun Scottish Dancing for All with great Scottish bands in a unique setting.
- To date 35,000 people of all ages and from all over the world have enjoyed watching and taking part in the Scottish dancing all of which is planned and delivered by John Carswell and members of Linlithgow Scottish Country Dance Club.
- Ian Brockbank is the deviser of over fifty dances in Scottish traditional form which are enjoyed around the world. These range from simple dances which can be learned at a ceilidh to dances intended for performance. 'A Trip to Lorient' and 'Festival Interceltique' formed part of Scotland's contribution as the "invited nation" at the annual Festival of the Celtic nations in Lorient, France and show both ends of the spectrum. 'Orwell Lodge Strathspey' was one of the dances in the collection published by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society in honour of H.M. The Queen's 60th Jubilee and presented to her at Holyrood Palace recently. Ian's web site, www.scottishdance.net, is one of the central web sites for Scottish dancing.
- John Carswell has danced all over the world as well as winning competitions, demonstrating, calling and inspiring others to enjoy Scottish dancing for 60 years. He lives in Linlithgow having grown up dancing in south east England and in village halls all over the Highlands and islands. He is keen to ensure our children continue to enjoy Scottish Dancing and is regularly asked by local schools and for International Exchange events to delivery their Scottish Dancing lessons. All of this he does in his own time for no charge.
- Ian Brockbank grew up with ceilidh dances in Forres in North East Scotland. He now lives in Edinburgh and has danced and performed internationally, including in the Edinburgh Tattoo and regular performances in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. As well as devising

dances, he calls for ceilidhs and is a regular teacher of Scottish dancing in Edinburgh. He has also taught abroad, most recently at the Potters Pairs weekend festival in Germany.

- The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, or RSCDS, is the umbrella organisation for Scottish Country Dancing. It is headquartered in Edinburgh and has 170 branches in countries around the world. See www.rscds.org.
- Dunblane, where Andy Murray grew up, is only 22 miles from Linlithgow.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

John Carswell tel 01505 845 698 email johndcarswell@btinternet.com

Ian Brockbank mobile 07880 772552 email ian@scottishdance.net