

INSPIRING SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS

A resource for group leaders, instructors and teachers

INTRODUCTION

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society is developing a set of linked documents, as an aid for anyone leading a Scottish country dance group or who is interested in starting one. This Teaching Resource will enable group leaders to access helpful hints, exercises and information developed and used by Scottish country dance teachers over many years.

It is recognised that dance groups fall into a range of categories, as do those who lead the classes, who may be keen dancers who have had no teacher training, or instructors or teachers trained using one of the RSCDS's teacher training programmes – Basic Teaching Skills, Core Training for Instructors (CTI) or the Teaching Certificate (Units 1-5). Some groups are simply friends who get together because they enjoy dancing, especially to wonderful Scottish music. Others are organised on more formal lines and might be affiliated to the RSCDS, with members who are interested in learning more about the steps and formations that make up the dances. Yet others are run by an RSCDS branch; large Branches may have several different groups, from beginner to advanced technique and demonstration classes. When complete, this resource will offer something for everyone. At the moment, group leaders can explore *Level 1 - Foundation* and use whatever helps them share the joy of Scottish country dancing.

Using the resource

Careful thought has been given to presenting the material in the Teaching Resource at different levels of complexity to enable all teachers, instructors or leaders to access material required for meeting the particular needs of their class.

There will be three levels of detail. *Level 1 - Foundation* includes sections on *Getting Started*, *Lesson Content* and *Additional Guidance*, listing helpful hints about all aspects of teaching Scottish country dancing, and including useful information that may help a prospective class leader to get started (Part A).

Level 2 - Guide and Level 3 - Treasure Chest are still in development. Both sections will contain embedded links to and from the Foundation level.

The *Guide* will provide group leaders with the core information they need to teach or lead a class or group. It will be especially helpful in providing general guidance on presenting the different elements of a lesson or group session. It will, for example, give detailed guidance on teaching steps and formations. The *Treasure Chest* will contain a wide variety of information and ideas that group leaders may find useful. It is hoped that they will enjoy browsing the *Treasure Chest* and be inspired. They will be able to contribute to this level of the Resource by sending in material for the editorial team to consider.

Within the Resource there are frequent references to the RSCDS *Manual of Scottish Country Dancing*, generally known as 'The Manual'. Group leaders should consult this whenever they need complete and detailed descriptions of steps and formations, illustrated with photos. The Manual also contains other very useful information. Specialised videos to help the teaching of dances, steps and formations will, in time, be included in the *Treasure Chest* level of the Resource – it is recognised that it would be useful to see real-life teaching examples.

Below is a summary of the three levels of the Teaching Resource.

Level One - Foundation Level contains introductory information for the topics in Parts A and B, and a brief note on those in Part C.

Part A – Getting started

Social group or formal class?
The group teacher/leader/instructor
Using Music
Planning the dancing classes/evenings

Part B – Lesson content

Planning your lesson for each class/evening session
Teaching dancing
Teaching formations
Teaching dances
Teaching steps
Making progress

Part C – Additional Guidance

Dance evenings and events
Helpful handouts/information for teachers
Helpful handouts/information for group members
Teaching with a particular focus: beginners, workshops
Bibliography

Level Two - The Guide is an expanded version of the topics in Parts A and B, and includes a more detailed summary of those in Part C.

Level Three - The Treasure Chest will be an expanded version of the topics in Part C, and will include further information as it becomes available.