**JOHN OF BON ACCORD**

Roy Goldring of Ilkley in Yorkshire devised this dance for John Drewry (in many people’s eyes the greatest SCD devisor of all time), to honor Drewry’s contribution to the RSCDS. Goldring himself actually has more dances published by the RSCDS (32) than Drewry (20), but Drewry has devised many more dances (800+) than Roy Goldring (200+). Drewry has also devised numerous “named” formations many of which have been published by the RSCDS, his first one “The Rondel” in “The Silver Tassie” was in the 1st leaflet the RSCDS ever produced in 1966. This led Miss Milligan (co-founder of the RSCDS) to know him at “Mr Rondel”, superseded after John of Bon Accord was published when he was referred to as “John of Bon Accord, himself”!

Drewry spent his professional career in the Biochemistry department of the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, but actually hales from Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire-England. When the dance was devised he actually lived in “Bon Accord” Crescent but the motto of Aberdeen is also “Bon Accord”, so the title of the dance may refer to both. The term “Bon Accord” from French literally meaning “of good agreement”, but when used between friends can mean “Friend not Foe”. It’s use dates back to the 1308 when “Robert the Bruce” stormed Aberdeen Castle, and gained entry by the “back-door, side-door, trap-door” with the aid of a “5th columnist” inside the castle. As all educated Scots were fluent in French through the “Auld Alliance” with the Catholic King of France, the password was “Bon Accord”! Bruce “razed the castle to the ground”, and modern “Castlegate” has taken it’s place.

  

MOTTO Castlegate

  

The University of Aberdeen is the 3rd oldest in Scotland & the 5th oldest in “The English Speaking World”, constantly ranked in Europe’s top 100.

5. University of Aberdeen (1495)

4. University of Glasgow (1451)

3. University of St Andrews (1410–1413)

2. University of Cambridge (1209)

1. University of Oxford (1096)

The dance itself launces with 4 sequential & progressive ½ reels-of-3 on “short” diagonals across the dance, 1st couple dancing in sequence: RIGHT Shoulder with 2nd lady; LEFT Shoulder with 2nd gent; 3rd lady & 3rd gent. The 1st Gent must dance up one place on the ladies’ side after the 1st & 3rd ½ reels to enter the 2nd & 4th

½ reels, while the 1st lady always starts each ½ reel in the centre facing her partner. Try explaining THAT to someone with ESL, so you’ll just have to come to class to learn it!