

19/2/81

This evening myself + Julie Jarman visited Angus Cattenach of

19. Rockcliffe Ave
Whitby Bay.

Angus' parents did not dance but his mother persuaded him to learn. He originally learnt from Johnston Ellwood who was at that time a fireman in Whitby Bay. He was ~~to~~ passed on to Jimmy Ellwood Johnston's father who came to Whitby Bay occasionally to teach him, as Jimmy was a better dancer.

In 1935 at the age of 17 he entered the competition at Stanley. This was the only competition he ever entered. 17 was the minimum age for entry. He beat about 25 other competitors to get 2nd place for which he won a gold medal which he still has. The heats were held on 4 days, and each heat had 3 or 4 dancers. There were semi-finals on Friday night (~ 8 dancers in 2 sets of 4, there being 2 performances). The 4 finalists then danced on the Saturday night.

The dancers performed 10 steps + double shuffles on a glass topped pedestal 3' square + 1' high. He was beaten by Jo Daly, aged 36, of whom he said that he was a 'nice bloke' compared to a lot of the people involved in the competition who were too keen for their own good with the result that there was quite a lot of backbiting and bad feeling. During the course of the competition he beat Jimmy Ellwood although he said that this was nothing to boast about as Jimmy was 66 at the time.

There were 3 judges. George MacIntosh, who stood behind the dancers, and Harry Robinson + Dickie Fanell who stood on either side of the pedestal.

George MacIntosh said that one of the 4 points on which he judged was 'originality'. We asked him about this

and he said that this was how well you made up steps and that everyone did make up steps.

Of the other competitors :-

Johnson Ellwood had his name down to enter but did not dance for some reason.

McSpennen was in his 60's + was dressed in satin breeches - he looked rather odd as he had a pot-belly. Most competitors wore black trousers + white shirts.

Chenlre Haynes was criticised for swinging his arms - Angus said you should stand up straight with arms by your sides.

Waman Doyle was the current holder of the belt + had won it 27 yrs ago in 1908. Angus thought there had been no competitions between 1908 + 1935.

After the competition - during the winter of 1935 + in 1936 he had lessons from George Macintosh who was living in S. Shields at the time, but he gave up dancing + joined a band as a professional saxophone player. He had not danced since.

His clogs were made in Glasgow 'because they specialised in dancing clogs'. They were 'flat shoe' type of clogs though with quite a high heel. (later none than 1")

He said that George Macintosh's wife Tina Royal claimed to be the ladies' world champion.

He said that he danced to a slow hempipe. I asked him whether he had danced to a waltz or a schottische - he said that a schottische was just a slow hempipe.

About 4 yrs ago, Angus was visited by Johnson who told him that he was trying to write a book about dancing. Angus gave him his clogs.

Angus lent us his collection of newspaper cuttings - to copies follows.