Billy Forsyth SCOTTISH DANCING SHOES

Proprietors: ANNE FORSYTH and World Champion Highland Dancer BILLY FORSYTH



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BILLY FORSYTH MBE

Twice winner of the World Highland Dancing Championship, Billy has extensive experience as performer, manager and director of stage, arena, television and cabaret shows in Scotland and around the world. He has adjudicated at Dance Championships on every continent, toured and performed across Canada and the United States, and demonstrated and lectured in such diverse locations as Tokyo, Japan, Quito in Ecuador and Karachi, Pakistan. For over 20 years he has been Highland Dance Director for the world famous Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and in recent years his Tattoo team has performed in the Amsterdam Arena, the London Palladium, at the Royal Windsor Castle Tattoo and further afield at the Nova Scotia International Tattoo in Canada, the Basel Tattoo in Switzerland and at the Netherlands National Tattoo, in addition to many other events in Continental Europe. In 2005 he was responsible for the dance component of "The Edinburgh Military Tattoo, A Salute to Australia" in Sydney NSW, and this followed his similar responsibility at the Millennium Year "Edinburgh Tattoo in New Zealand". Almost 200 dancers were involved in each of those events. In 2010 members of the team were again in Australia as part of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. He has visited Japan on many occasions demonstrating and adjudicating at Highland Games and International Events and for the last few years has accepted invitations to take dancers from his Tattoo team to Scottish Festivals in Japan.

Billy (and his Allan Water Dance team) performed at the Vale of Atholl Pipe Band Highland Nights in Pitlochry, later becoming Compere of the event, a role eventually taken over by his son Colin. Having many connections with 'The Vale', his eldest son Kenneth played with them for many years, he took on the role of Band Manager, organising a number of overseas visits to Canada and the United States and being involved in their many concerts and recordings.

In March 1965 Billy was appointed by the Southern California Highland Dancing Association as their delegate to SOBHD. He was elected SOBHD Chairman at the AGM in 1973 and re-elected annually as Chairman until 1996 when he took over as President. He became an Independent member in 2005, served as President until 2006 and was appointed an Honorary Member of SOBHD in 2008.

In June 2007 Billy was awarded an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List and was presented with it by Prince Charles at an investiture in Buckingham Palace, London.

Billy markets his own design of Highland and Scottish Country dance shoes, selling to retailers, instructors and dancers all over the world.