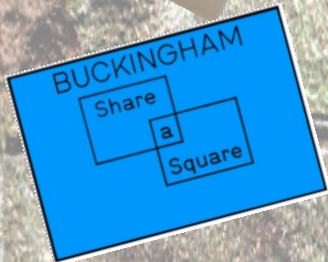


LET'S SQUARE DANCE

(Email version)

May 2020 : Volume 67 : No 5

Published by the British Association of American Square Dance Clubs



What's in this month's magazine

Regular Items

BAASDC Management Team Contact Details (p 38)

Callers' Corner (Paul Bristow) (P 17)

Chuckle Zone (P 6)

Ed Foote article (P 28)

Editor says... (p 3)

FFT article (Annika Lovell) (P 8)

Free listing of Open Dances (p 35)

Inspirational quotes (Ed Foote (P 25)

Letters (Susan Ellis) (P 5)

Obituaries (Irene Dimmer P 26, Frazer Mentiplay, Jean Harley P 32,
Michael Ginger P 33/4)

Presidential Musings (p 4)

Publication Guidelines (P 40)

Puzzle page (P 7)

Puzzle answers (P 25)

SDCCGB Article (Susie Kelly) (P 24)

Six of the Best - Record Review (Paul Bristow) (P 30)

Articles

In view of the rather odd make-up of the magazine this month, I have not included in this contents list all the small items and poems that readers have kindly sent in. You'll just have to read through and find them all !

P 12 Lune Valley Ocean Wavers (Carol Holman)

P 16 Viking Squares

P 18 Memories from Judy (Judy Grummitt)

P 19 Centre pullout of short Square Dance Breaks 2020/2021

EDITOR SAYS.....

Hi everyone. What can I say in this unprecedented situation !

I can say that the magazine contents will be substantially different from usual, in that we won't be getting any reports of Club activities for a while. I've received a number of contributions from dancers - thanks to everyone who sent anything in. There have been quite a number of pieces of poetry come in and I did think of having a 'Poets' Corner', but then decided they would be better spread around.



Please do send in anything that you think might interest our readers; particularly as we will be publishing an additional two issues of the magazine in July and August (but only the pdf version, by email). My deadlines are more relaxed, since I don't have to get the files off to the Printer, but please try to get anything to me by the middle of the month.

As you will see from Susan's musings on the following page, this will be the last printed issue until things return to 'normal'.

Some Clubs are sending newsletters around to their members, and I have extracted a number of pieces from them which I think are worthy of wider distribution.

As I said last month, I am including the centre 'pullout' listing weekends and short Square Dance breaks planned for the rest of 2020 and into 2021. We have no idea when we will be able to start dancing again, and obviously, some of the listed dates have already been cancelled. Please contact the organisers for information.

Peter

P.S. As everyone should be getting a .pdf copy of this by email, I'm including a couple of links to things I think you might like. From the .pdf version, just click on the link; if you don't get the emailed copy, you'll have to copy the link out - character by character - good luck !

'Lockdown' Presidential Musings for June 2020

As I write this in April 2020 we are in Lockdown Week 7. Life as we know it has been turned upside down by the Pandemic and the world of Square and Round dancing is no exception.

The British Association of American Square Dance Clubs has made some drastic decisions and I want to tell you about them. As you may be aware the B.A.A.S.D.C. decided not to charge clubs their Annual fee which covers the expenditure on Insurance and the publication of Let's Square Dance magazine.

Recently our Treasurer, Koli Pluck, pointed out that the cost of printing and distributing the Let's Square Dance magazine by post is around £750 per month of production. If this situation continues until Christmas or even longer (you can do the maths) we will end up spending thousands of pounds. We cannot allow this to happen !!! Especially, as it is not necessary when we have the facility to email the magazine to all Club contacts who can then forward it to their members. This is of course beneficial to the environment and will reduce the burden on Post Office workers.

So this June mag. will be the last printed one until things return to normal. If you are a Club contact who agreed to forward the mag to your members, or are an email subscriber, the mag will continue to be sent to you by email.

If you are not on your Club's email list or you don't belong to a Club (perhaps it has closed) and would like to receive a copy of the magazine by email please tell Peter Wright (Isdmag@talktalk.net) your details. I hope that dancers who have paid for the magazine, and are not on email, will fully understand why we have taken this decision. If you have concerns about this please give me a call.

The B.A.A.S.D.C.'s remit is to support Clubs and we will need this money to do so when this dreadful business is over.

I would just like to thank Clubs who are actively supporting their dancers and the many people who are organising quizzes and other stuff. There is a lot of 'zooming' going on where dancers can chat with each other. Well done everyone. It's vital that we keep in touch. Let's hope it isn't too long before Square Dancers can 'Square Up', and Round Dancers can take a 'hold' and we can risk a 'Yellow Rock'. Keep safe and take care!

We need to keep Round and Square dancing alive and make it great again!



Susan

Dear Editor,

I read with astonishment the article by a 'Paul Martin' in the April edition of L.S.D. (page 17). As you will recall it relates the events at a recent Graduation Ceremony at Worcester Park Wheelers Square Dance Club.



While appreciating that it is the Club's prerogative to refuse to Graduate dancers who have not reached the required standard; however to do so on the actual evening was I feel somewhat harsh.

I have to report that your action has had serious repercussions and all three of the disappointed dancers have reported your behaviour to the B.A.A.S.D.C. In turn we have had to refer the matter to our Legal Department Messrs Do It, Done it, and Sue Em. The dancers are claiming 'Breach of Promise' - something my legal team assures me they have never had to deal with before. The dancers allege that they were led to believe that they would be taught to dance properly and therefore entitled to Graduate, and have been short-changed. They are each claiming damages of £5 to cover the cost of attending the fateful Club night in question - £3.50 for door fee and £1.50 for embarrassment caused.

Now, with reference to a fourth dancer who had to be 'let go' because of repeated 'bathroom incidents'. Strangely his wife has contacted the B.A.A.S.D.C. thanking us for bringing about a resolution to a problem that she has lived with all her married life. She is happy to report that he has now seen the error of his ways and will soon be back dancing. Problem solved!

Your obedient servant

Susan Ellis

(President of British Association of American Square (and Round) Dance Clubs.)

P.S. Is that Paul Martin related to an Alan Martin, a frequent contributor to this magazine?



Chuckle Zone

Oops!!

Saturday morning... Bob's just about to set off on a round of golf when he realizes that he forgot to tell his wife that the guy who fixes the washing machine is coming around at noon. So Bob heads back to the clubhouse and phones home.

"Hello?" Says a little girl's voice. "Hi, honey, it's Daddy," Says Bob. "Is Mommy near the phone?" "No, Daddy. She's upstairs in the bedroom with Uncle Frank."

After a brief pause, Bob says, "But you haven't got an Uncle Frank, honey!"

"Yes, I do, and he's upstairs in the bedroom with Mommy!"

"Okay, then. Here's what I want you do. Put down the phone, run upstairs and knock on the bedroom door and shout in to Mommy and uncle Frank that Daddy's car's just pulled up outside the house."

"Okay, Daddy!" A few minutes later, the little girl comes back to the phone.

"Well, I did what you said, Daddy." "And what happened?"

"Well, Mommy jumped out of bed with no clothes on and ran around screaming, then she tripped over the rug and went out the front window and now she's all dead."

"Oh my god... And what about Uncle Frank?" "He jumped out of bed with no clothes on too and he was all scared and he jumped out the back window into the swimming pool, but he must have forgot that last week you took out all the water to clean it, so he hit the bottom of the swimming pool and now he's dead too."

There is a long pause, then Bob says, "Swimming pool? Is this 854-7039?"

Courtesy of Harmony Squares News

Brian Hotchkies sent me these !

Carla (my daughter) phoned me recently to tell me the Police had just left her place. I said "Why on earth did they come to visit you..??". She replied: "They told me that if I want to exercise by running around my house NAKED, I have to do it INSIDE..!!".

I was talking to one of my Dancers yesterday, and he said that during the pandemic his fuel consumption has been wonderful – he's currently getting three-weeks to the litre..!!

I don't want to brag, but I haven't been LATE for anything in the past TWO MONTHS.

Carla said "I didn't think the day would ever come when I would walk into a Bank wearing a mask, and ask for money..!!".



Puzzle Time

Answers are on page 25

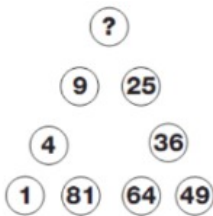
Cryptic Club Names

Below are cryptic clues to the names of some of our Square & Round Dance Clubs

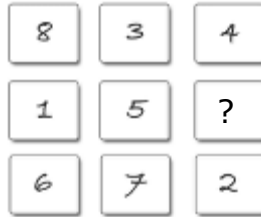
1. Liable to get sand or pebbles in their shoes
2. Need to be all fastened and tied up
3. Won't spin until they're lit up
4. We're 'Enery the Eighth we are
5. Do these jingle jangle ?
6. Way in front of all the rest
7. I hear the sound of the men working here
8. Not all that forward-looking ?
9. Would this be bird talk ?
10. Might this be the one that 'runs like molasses in the summertime' ?
11. Love All
12. I reckon 1999 would do.
13. Could give you a nasty bite
14. Might get a bit cold in places

Number Puzzles (some are easy, some not !)

1



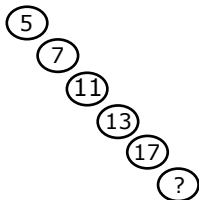
2



3



4



5

2	6	18
4	20	100
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6

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+		+		
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26		16		

Have you ever thought of becoming a session and/or club leader?

A number of dancers have approached us wanting help to run sessions when callers are unavailable. May it be when the regular caller is unwell, on holiday or when dancers want to lead classes themselves, which we find very encouraging.



A few years ago, we designed a Club Leader Training event for dancers who were interested in helping the activity in this way. Initial thoughts were for one or two day seminars as prospective leaders need to understand what is involved in setting up and/or running a session. There is more to consider than you may realise and the training will need to include the following:

- Knowledge of the calls
- Information of where to find recorded material and how to assess it
- Installation and use of music management software e.g square view
- Sound equipment requirements
- Planning sessions, classes, teaching order etc
- Moving dancers without resolving the square
- Benefits and disadvantages of having angel dancers
- Suitability of halls
- Ways of advertising for new dancers
- Managing club finances, set up costs and running costs
- The different aspects of being a leader and how to handle conflicts
- Insurances, equipment safety, licences etc.

Sweden has already taken this idea further having held three different weekend seminars over the the last 18 months. The first one was attended by 8 prospective club leaders and some angels, the second had twice as many attending and the third had over 60 people attending, the majority of whom were interested in leading classes. A fourth session unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the recent Coronavirus. It has been reported many of the participants were leaders in other activities and therefore had some experience leading a group of people.

It is too early to tell how many club leaders will come from these seminars but we find it very encouraging so many dancers in Sweden were interested and we are hopeful this will be the case here too.

Whilst we would like to run some of these sessions soon, unfortunately this will have to wait for awhile -unless we can find a way to arrange for some virtual courses. To help us to plan when and where to run our first event please contact a member of the Future Focus Team if you are interested.

Annika Lovell for the FFT

Lockdown's affecting all of us
from youngest to the old
But let's not go and make a fuss
Just do as we are told.

While you're locked down in your home
Just you, or maybe two.
Your square dancing you still can hone
I'll tell you what to do:

Solo dancing can be done,
if you are all alone.
One couple squares are also fun
if someone else is home.

Just clear the floor and move the cat
so she won't be alarmed
push back the chairs and put the mat
where it will cause no harm,

Then turn the square dance music on
- find something you can play
Then 'square your set' - just two (or one)
and dance your cares away.

Peter Wright

*Editor's note: If you don't have a Square Dance cd, you can
find suitable music on the web; try this one:*

<http://buddyweavermusic.podbean.com/>

While reading through the 1990 'Let's Square Dance' magazines, I came across a report from the Northern Area Federation on their fundraising efforts during the year. The Federation had asked all their member Clubs to try to organise at least one event to raise money for their Children in Need appeal. Many Clubs had responded very enthusiastically, and their efforts, together with a large combined event in Nottingham raised the astonishing total of £4,350 (nearly £10,000 in today's money)! This was distributed among nine local ('Northern') childrens' charities.

Editor

Smiling is infectious,
you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner
and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled I realized
I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile,
and then I realized its worth.
A single smile, just like mine
could travel round the earth.
So, if you feel a smile begin,
don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick,
and get the world infected!

Anon submitted by Di Green

*(Editor's note. I've just seen this
attributed to Spike Milligan)*

I'm normally a social girl - I love to meet my mates
But lately with the virus here, we can't go out the gates.

You see, we are the 'oldies' now. We need to stay inside
If they haven't seen us for a while, they'll think we've upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did before we got this old
There wasn't any Facebook, so not everything was told.

We may seem sweet old ladies who would never be uncouth
But we grew up in the 60s - if you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll, the pill and miniskirts
We smoked, we drank, we partied and were quite outrageous flirts.

Then we settled down, got married and turned into someone's mum,
Somebody's wife, then nana, Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace because our lives were full
But to bury us before we're dead is like a red rag to a bull!

So here you find me stuck inside for four weeks, maybe more
I finally found myself again then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me - I'd while away the hour
I'd bake for all the family but I've got no bloody flour!

Now Netflix is just wonderful; I like a gutsy thriller
I'm swooning over Idris or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze, for when I'm being idle
There's wine and whiskey, even gin, if I'm feeling suicidal!

So let's all drink to lockdown, to recovery and health
And hope this bloody virus Doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll all get through the crisis and be back to join our mates
Just hoping I'm not far too wide to fit through the flaming gates!

(Author unknown. Sent in by Janet Hewitt)

Lune Valley Ocean Wavers



LVOW recruit once every two years in the Autumn. Originally by request and later as a learner caller, I have been providing an extra practice class on Tuesdays for the last 4 groups, which started in the new year following each intake.

This is for those who requested extra practice, were unable to join in the autumn or wanted to learn but could not come on a Monday club night with Trevor Day.

Not being able to join the main club is not ideal but we really don't want to turn any interested dancers away.

My aim is to get them hooked so that they will perhaps find a way to join the main club, or if not, get them to a point where they have mastered MS enough to join the Plus learning programme which is on a different night.

We normally graduate all of our students at the MS programme at the same time, but this round of students were different, having two groups, starting 4 months apart and several unable to attend the main club on Monday Nights.

As with most clubs, some students leap ahead while others struggle and as one of our couples were desperate to go to an outside dance weekend we graduated 6 at MS and 11 at Basic which worked well.

Those who graduated at Basic achieved their MS certificates 4 months later.

Due to age, disability and amount of floor time, there is quite a large range of dance ability within our MS members but they regularly attend which shows they are enjoying their dancing experience.

On a Friday, Plus nights, we have recently graduated 2 dancers at the plus programme, presenting a Plus dangle to show their achievement. From Plus graduation until the learning plus programme restarts we invite any graduated mainstream dancers to join Fridays once a month for MS & Plus to gain experience and to dance with a different caller.

We are so lucky to have John Mee, Di Green, John Kozyra, Cliff Anderton and Trevor Day calling on a rota with Terry McCann and myself doing the odd tip as well.

Being out on a limb our callers have up to 3 hrs to travel each way so we are so grateful to them.

Like most clubs we have dress up days for Halloween, St Patricks, annual dinner dance etc and we have a free Xmas fun party dance for any dancers who wish to attend. Sadly like so many other clubs, due to the virus, several of our dances have had to be cancelled but we are hoping things will be back to normal for our North West & Lakes Weekend in Oct.

We have set up a LVOW whats app chat and zoom video sessions where Di Green has been calling 1 & 2 cpl Dances. Obviously not all club members have joined in, but those who have been involved have had a good laugh. Its a way to keep in touch during lockdown, which I expect lots of you are already doing too.

Keep Well, keep safe, keep in touch. Keep dancing (if you can)

Carol Holman

Hi, my name is Sheila Esson and I have been dancing with ABERDEEN KILT KICKERS since 2017. When I was clearing out a cupboard, as we are all probably doing in this enforced isolation. I came upon a box that belonged to my late father and among the papers was this poem. When I read it I had to laugh as I could hear my father, even when lying in a hospital bed hardly able to breathe on being asked how he was, his answer was always "I'm fine"

I thought I would share it so that everybody could have a laugh as I did.

Take care Stay safe.

Sheila Esson

I'M FINE THANK YOU

There is nothing the matter with me,
 I'm as healthy as can be
 I have arthritis in both my knees
 And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze
 My pulse is weak and my blood is thin
 But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in
 Arch supports I have for my feet
 Or I wouldn't be able to be on the street
 Sleep is denied me night after night
 But every morning I find I'm alright
 My memory is failing, my head's in a spin
 But I'm awfully good for the shape I'm in.
 The moral of this, as my tale I unfold
 It's better to say "I'm fine" with a grin
 Than to let the folks know the shape we are in.
 How do I know that my youth is all spent?
 Well my "get up and go" has got up and went.
 But I really don't mind when I think with a grin
 Of all the grand places my "get up" has bin.
 Old age is golden I've heard it said
 But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed
 With my ears in the drawer, my teeth in a cup
 My eyes on the table until I wake up
 Ere sleep overtakes me, I say to myself
 "Is there anything else I could lay on the shelf?"
 When I was young , all my slippers were red
 I could kick my heels right over my head
 When I was older , my slippers were blue
 But still I could dance the whole night through
 Now I am old, my slippers are black
 I walk to the store and puff my way back.
 I get up each morning and dust off my wits
 And I pick up the paper and read the "obits"
 If my name is still missing I know I'm not dead
 So I have a good breakfast and go back to bed.

Constance O'Neon in 1953

I'll tell you a tale, that's been recently written.
Of a powerful army, so Great it saved Britain.

They didn't have bombs and they didn't have planes.
They fought with their hearts and they fought with their brains.

They didn't have bullets, armed just with a mask.
We sent them to war, with one simple task.

To show us the way, to lead and inspire us.
To protect us from harm and fight off the virus.

It couldn't be stopped by our bullet proof vests.
An invisible enemy, invaded our chests.

So we called on our weapon, our soldiers in Blue.
"All Doctors, All Nurses, Your Country needs you".

We clapped on our streets, hearts bursting with pride.
As they went off to war, while we stayed inside.

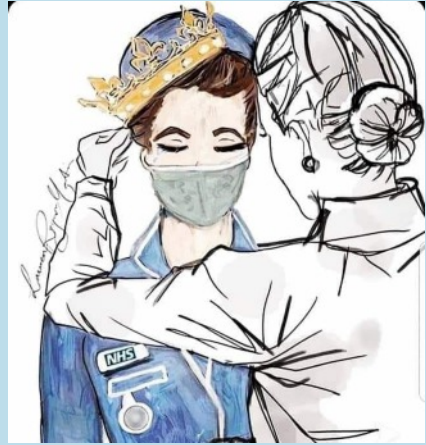
They struggled at first, as they searched for supplies.
But they stared down the virus, in the whites of its eyes.

They leaped from the trenches and didn't think twice.
Some never came back, the ultimate price.

So tired, so weary, yet still they fought on.
As the virus was beaten and the battle was won.

The many of us, owe so much, to so few.
The brave and the bold, our heroes in Blue.

So let's line the streets and remember our debt.
We love you, our heroes, Lest we forget.



Matt Kelly 2020

this letter is for you,

#EmpoweringWomenNow

The you that's had a rough week. The you that seems to be under constant storm clouds. the you that feels that their life is slipping by. The one that has lost faith. The one that blames yourself for everything that goes wrong. To you.

You are incredible. You make this world a better place. You have so much potential and things left to do. You have time. Better things are coming your way, please hang in there. You can do wonderful things.



VIKING SQUARES

Oh! when will we hear Jack say take your partners onto the floor,
Find three more couples and make it four.

It seems a long time since we met
But some of the moves we'll never forget.

Walk around your corner; bow down to your own,
Remember this is square dancing so you're never alone.

We sure can beat this virus thing and carry on,
if we stick to the rules lets hope it won't be too long.

To dancers everywhere
We'll soon meet up and make a square

Until then to all our friends keep safe, stay home,
take care

Let's look forward to the good times we'll share.

Caller's Corner

by **PAUL BRISTOW**
(CALLERLAB Accredited Caller Coach)

Seminar on Calling (for everybody) - would you like to attend and take part?

I have been writing these short articles for some time now; at present there are many, covering a large range of topics. To really make use of this information effectively, it would require a seminar that I would be happy to conduct, in order to expand upon the items that I have presented. This could take place if enough people were interested...

The seminar would be aimed at experienced Callers (but not exclusively) - it would be great if every Club Caller could make it. My intention is that anybody (and everybody) could attend: New Callers, people who are thinking about Calling, or Dancers who just wish to carry on Dancing - but would like to know more about how the Caller does it.

There would be no "microphone sessions" during the seminar; none of those attending would be expected to Call, so no one will be made to feel "uncomfortable". There will be some demonstrations required for various topics, so you might be asked to Dance a little (perhaps there will be a little bit more Dancing, on a social basis, if time permits).

How much it will cost to attend is an unknown; I would not be looking for a fee (just my travel, accommodation and on-site costs). The individual cost to those attending will be a fair share of the total overhead costs. My first thought is a hotel with the appropriate facilities that offers a "convention package"- located somewhere logical (in terms of the people who are interested - and travelling). However, I am open to any suggestions.

The best format would be: six two hour presentations (each one will have an extra 30-60 minutes questions and discussions) spaced over a weekend - one on Friday evening, three on Saturday and two on Sunday. If you are interested in the idea of this seminar, (or if you would like to help with the organisation of the event), please let me know (my contact details are on the "Six of the Best" Record Review page, in the Sting advert).

I have been Calling internationally for more than 42 years (described as an ambassador of UK Calling). I have spent more than 30 years training, to become the most qualified Square Dance Caller Coach in the UK - having achieved the highest qualification that CALLERLAB offers - I would like to have the opportunity to pass on my knowledge.

You may wonder why I am presenting this idea as a "stand-alone deal". Unfortunately, as I have "fallen out of favour" with the Square Dance Callers Club of Great Britain and have been advised by GSI UK that they will not be using my Coaching Skills (and would prefer me not to attend their training sessions). I doubt that these organisations would wish to invest their "Caller Training money" in providing this seminar, which means that any such event would have to be self-financing; as things stand that is how it must be.

I am not sure what my future involvement in Caller Training might be, in the UK - but I felt that I should try to organise something where I can offer my Caller-Training skills to UK Callers and Dancers. Whether this idea works or not, I will go back to presenting articles about Calling - that are intended to be of interest to Dancers, in September...

Memories from Judy

Going on the Editor's comments about not having enough stuff for the magazine - and of course needing to keep busy, I thought about when we hadn't been dancing too long and we went along for the first time to Steam Expo at Peterborough Showground. The attached photos are dated 1985.

We danced to Malcom Davies and Dave White both in the show arena and in a large marquee in the evenings.

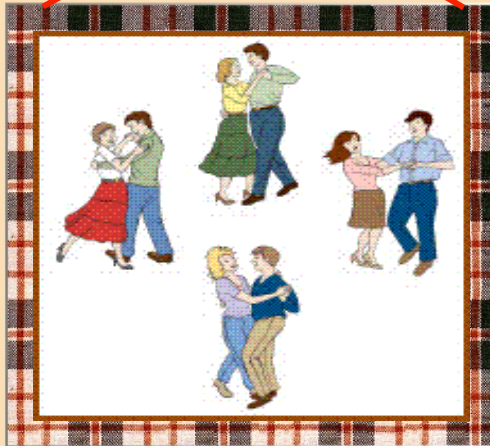
There were dancers from all over the country and we lined up in club colours to go on and do demonstrations in the main arena. We had never seen so many Square Dancers in one place. It was all very thrilling. All the family went along and the children paraded the club banners. For those with caravans the facilities were pretty basic. But what a lot of fun we had.

The photographs aren't brilliant, but I just wondered how many dancers would remember going along.

Regards, Judy Grummitt



DANCING SUSPENDED



Square Dancers, I don't mean to twist your arm or spin your top, but please, be careful if you circulate outside and separate from a safe place. Keep your travel short: you don't know what you could pass thru before you scoot back home; you could sashay past the wrong person or lead right toward some sort of wrong way thar. In such case, quickly do a U-turn back. No matter how you swing it, there isn't any way to wheel and deal with this. You cannot slide thru any loophole. If you touch a quarter that isn't clean, no cloverleaf is going to bring you luck. Just be safe because we can't recycle loved ones.

Round Dancers, when you waltz away from home, watch how you manoeuvre. You don't know what cha could pickup. Whether you're a New Yorker or have Spanish arms, you also need to cut back some of your activities so your life doesn't fishtail out of control. Stay safe in your personal box. This ain't no Jive

There's a new topical take on the Sound of music that you might like to watch (from Centre Squares via Des at Cheltenham.

You may have already come across this one):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMBh-eo3tvE>

And a nice new take on Nessun Dorma at:

<https://youtu.be/uL52AuF4QzY> (thanks again Des)

The Square Dance Caller's Club of Great Britain

www.Callersclub.uk



SUGGESTED EMPHASIS MOVE for June LSD THE FACING COUPLE RULE

This rule starts from facing couples and may be the one the dancers encounter first. It is most frequently used when the caller wants the dancers to Swing thru after having squared thru 4 or may be lead right etc. It's a logical suggestion that from the resultant facing couple, if asked to swing thru the dancers should realise that to swing thru they need to be in a wave. So from facing couples a caller may expect the dancers to step to a wave without it being spelled out. Other moves that start with ends and centres trade are: Spin the top, Spin chain thru at MS as well as Swing Thru
Also from Plus:

Relay the Deucey. Spin chain the Gears Spin chain and Exchange the Gears, All 8 Spin the Top, Fan the Top, Grand Swing thru.

In all the programs the caller may specify left Swing thru, left Spin the Top etc in which case the dancer would step to a left hand wave before completing the move.

The move which could trick the dancers is Fan the Top. After stepping to a Right hand wave the centres will turn Left 3/4. Calling for a Left Fan the Top means the dancers should step to a left hand wave before the centers turn Right 3/4. This feels counter-intuitive to the dancers of course. But Callers enjoy being wicked sometimes.

If the Facing Couple rule is applicable the move's definition will have a comment to that effect. If there is no such comment then the facing couple rule may not be used.

As it was a recent decision to add this comments, I should warn you that only the most up to date definition books have these comments.

Take care, stay at home and soon we'll be back dancing again. It may end up being next year but we will come back.

Love from Susie

Solutions to puzzles on Page 7

Cryptic Club Names

1. Foreshore Shufflers
2. Buttons & Bows
3. Catherine Wheelers
4. Tudor Squares
5. Silver Spurs
6. Trailblazers
7. The Chain Gang
8. Pee a Round
9. Pieces of Eight
10. Lazy River
11. All Square at Zero
12. Around 2000
13. Adders SDC
14. Aberdeen Kilt Kickers

Number Puzzles

1. 16 (1,2,3 etc squared)
2. 9 (all lines & columns =15)
3. 39 ((2x3)-1. (2x5)-2.
(2x8)-3 etc)
4. 19 (prime numbers)
5. 6 ((col1 + 1) x col 2 = col 3)
6. 7 + 9
+ + (Just keep trying !!)
19 - 7

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES

"Whatever you are, be a good one."Abraham Lincoln

"It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."Antoine de Saint-Exupery in *The Little Prince*

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."Maya Angelou

"Animals are such agreeable friends - they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms."George Elliot

"Our task must be to free ourselves by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty."Albert Einstein
(from Ed Foote's collection)

Obituary ~ Irene Dimmer 22nd March 1928 - 10th April 2020

A square dance Lifetime

Irene inadvertently started Tudor Squares in early 1982. She had experienced American Square dancing first through her love of Folk Dancing at the local club in Hemel Hempstead. The club leader would only ever do one or two American squares and always the same few. Irene and Jack with a group of friends started a series of monthly dances solely for Square Dancing with the help of Ian McConnell. Dancers from Ian's club, Country Roads, supported this idea and Susie Kelly happened to be one of Ian's Roadies, thus making her first contact with Irene.

Irene's group organised themselves into a sub committee of the Hemel Folk Dance Club and started considering teaching beginners. Using Bob Ruff's recordings Irene set about teaching this new group of dancers the rudiments of Square Dancing. After a while, feeling that she was getting out of her depth, she recommended that an experienced Caller was now needed. This was how at Christmas time in 1986 Susie became their caller and affectionate friend to Jack and Irene, even though at this point she wasn't really very experienced.

Over the years Irene and Susie worked together to thoroughly teach the Mainstream program, before moving on to the Plus Program in 1988. This was when the group named themselves Tudor Squares. Irene chaired the Committee meetings with efficiency and enthusiasm, her love of dance being her inspiration.

At first the club met only on a Monday calling Basic through to Plus using two rooms in a school. Irene then decided to start a Basic/Mainstream group on a Thursday leaving Susie with the Plus on the Monday. For the next progression Susie found enough dancers who wanted to learn the Advanced programme, bringing together dancers from both Tudor Squares and New City Squares on a Friday at the mid point between the two clubs in a hall at Linslade. Once the group had learned the A1 and A2 programmes the group moved to Hemel Hempstead officially under the name of Tudor Squares. Although Jack and Irene enjoyed the challenge of dancing the higher program, Irene wasn't interested in expanding her skills to teaching and calling the Advanced program.

With the support of various consecutive committees Irene succeeded in her aims and the club became the club with the most dancers in the UK. She suggested several social activities such as an annual coach outing to historic houses and gardens as well as the seaside. The walkers enjoyed a visit to



local beauty spots including a pub lunch. A summer Barbecue and dance was held in Jack and Irene's garden and later in Linda and Chris Gill's. There were two or three evening socials each year for Club members the aim of which was to get all the dancers from all the programs dancing together and each program held a Saturday special dance once a year. Irene was the prime mover in all these activities.

In the year 2002 Irene took an active part in a new National effort to Recruit, Promote and Maintain dancers throughout the UK. Known as the RPM committee they spent nearly 3 years encouraging UK clubs to recruit and keep new dancers and ensured that there was financial support to help if it was needed. Irene continued to think up ideas to further this aim thinking of famous people who might encourage dancers to try Square dancing, even suggesting ways to get on the TV to get more publicity.

With the start of the C1 section at the end of 2007, Tudor Squares became the only club in the BAASDC offering dancing from Beginners through to Challenge, and Rounds.

In 2012 they moved from their home in Hemel Hempstead to a flat in a retirement village in Milton Keynes. This was on one level and self contained so there was no need to go out shopping in the event of bad weather. Being closer to their daughter Rosemary countered being further from Catherine. Once there, Irene started a Square Dance group in the village. This continued to meet every Tuesday until the virus caused all social events to stop, even continuing to meet during Jack's last illness while she nursed him in the flat for several months.

To celebrate Jack's life she organised a dance and party where all who were able contributed towards the evening's celebration.

Her 90th Birthday two years ago was celebrated with her insistence on planning every detail herself. She has seemed to be tireless.

Irene was an example to all her friends in Square Dancing and even more in her family life where she loved to plan Family parties and weekends away in a hotel, gathering around her all those she loved so much. Her Square Dance family mourn the loss of an extraordinary lady who enriched many lives with her leadership and loving friendship.



Irene and Jack test their retirement presents from Tudor Squares (July 2020)

Second in the series of articles by Ed Foote

FUN IN SQUARE DANCING

We all hear "fun" discussed - put the "fun" back in square dancing. But what kind of "fun" do we mean?

There are two types of "fun" in square dancing: (1) DANCING FUN comes from successfully completing a group of calls to an Allemande Left, and (2) SOCIAL FUN, which means talking with people, sharing food, etc.



The original idea of "fun" in square dancing years ago was a combination of both types. People worked at successfully completing a group of calls, and they made sure they knew the calls well enough so they would be successful time and time again. Knowing call definitions thoroughly was important to them in order for them to achieve DANCING FUN. Getting together for a dance naturally resulted in SOCIAL FUN too.

Today everyone is concerned about keeping the "fun" in square dancing, but what kind of fun? SOCIAL FUN! This is constantly emphasized, and this is fine. But what has happened to the other kind of fun - the fun of being able to dance because you are very confident at what you are doing? This has been relegated to a distant second. It almost seems as if the calls are a necessary evil to be endured in order for people to come together to have SOCIAL FUN.

What happens when we relegate DANCING FUN to a distant second? We turn out people who can not dance the Mainstream Basics. When people can not dance the Basics, when they break down on Run, Trade and Circulate - which are the 3 fundamental calls of square dancing - are they having fun? NO!

If people are poorly trained, either by being rushed through class or by having no emphasis by their caller or club leaders on the importance of thoroughly knowing the definitions of the Mainstream Basics, then these people will break down squares on a regular basis. When people break down squares on a regular basis, they lose their DANCING FUN. They become nervous and uptight, and this impacts on their SOCIAL FUN. So they decide to find SOCIAL FUN elsewhere, which means they leave square dancing.

Because people can not dance, we rush them to Plus, where there are a lot of lengthy calls. People can memorize these (from only one position, or course) and so one call will let them dance for 30 seconds, which is 30 seconds without breaking down. Isn't this wonderful? There is nothing more ridiculous, as well as sad, to see dancers who can Load the Boat and Relay the Deucey and can not do Ends Run. But eventually everything comes back to Mainstream Basics, even the execution of lengthy calls, so people keep breaking down.

If dancers would be encouraged to thoroughly learn the Mainstream Basics, if callers would put their material together so that the dancers would understand the Basics, then we would have confident dancers.

Confident dancers are the people who really have DANCING FUN. They have fun completing the calls because they don't break down. They have fun helping others be successful in the square. They have fun goofing around in the square, because they can do this without breaking down the square. Because they have all this DANCING FUN, they have the SOCIAL FUN too. They are not uptight because the person next to them at the food table knows they always break down the square - instead the person next to them knows how well they dance. So they have the total package of BOTH TYPES OF FUN.

I SUBMIT THAT IF WE WANT TO PUT THE "FUN" BACK INTO SQUARE DANCING, WE NEED TO TEACH PEOPLE TO DANCE THE MAINSTREAM BASICS WELL. Give people the DANCING FUN of being successful in the square, not because they were pulled thru, but because they knew what they were doing and this caused success.

We will still have the SOCIAL FUN, but we will also have DANCING FUN, which means DANCER CONFIDENCE FUN, which in turn increases the SOCIAL FUN. If we all work to achieve both types of fun, not just one type, then square dancing will flourish. Remember that 50% is a failing grade. If only SOCIAL FUN is emphasized, then we will fail. We must have both types of "fun" in order to be successful.

Ed Foote

Obituary ~ Michael Ginger

It is with a sad heart that we pass on the news that long time Activ8's member Michael Ginger passed away on Friday 1st May 2020. He had been very ill for some considerable time but still tried to come out dancing, even though over the last few months he couldn't manage a whole tip.

Michael was passionate about Square Dancing and he had a great desire to see his beloved activity flourish and thrive. He was always so welcoming, no matter how he was feeling and as he assisted in a number of classes at various clubs, he helped a lot of new dancers with their learning – always ready to offer advice and tips, as well as being an 'Angel'dancer'.

As a proficient dancer up to C1, he was also a keen supporter of new Callers, happy to dance at various Caller training events and ready to assist newer Callers as they started a new club, or student class.

Latterly he danced with his partner Daphne, who looked after him as his health deteriorated. Our thoughts and condolences go to Daphne.

Michael was a wonderful ambassador for Square Dancing and will be greatly missed.

Simon & Trudy Fielding – Activ8's Square Dance Club

This came in too late for the printed version of the magazine, but I thought it would be good to take the opportunity of including it in this .pdf version. (Editor)

Obituary ~ Michael Ginger



Michael will be greatly missed amongst the dancers of the UK. He had been an enthusiastic and committed dancer since 1988. In the late 1990s he began to suffer from heart problems and had to stop dancing. In 2003 he managed to ease his way back to dancing after a serious heart operation and tried to attend as many clubs as he could until he was fit again.

He was generous with his time and loyalty to several clubs and worked his way through the programs until he reached C2, travelling many miles to get the necessary practice. This never stopped him dancing all the programmes right from Basic, regularly acting as an Angel to

enable new dancers to learn with the benefit of his experience.

He was a regular attendee at all section of Tudor Squares, taking upon himself the unofficial position as administrator of the Basic/Mainstream group taught by Debbie Peel at that point a new caller. He also took upon himself a leading position in the Challenge Tape Group, learning how to manage the recordings to enable the dancers to get the practice from the many expert callers available. This experience gave him an insight into the problems that callers have to face and so he offered his services as Dancer Member on the committee of the London and Home Counties Regional Callers Assembly.

He supported dances all over the country and actively advertised and sold tickets to the dances put on by many clubs whatever programme that was offered. He also travelled to Europe attending the festival and jamborees in various countries. He was an Ambassador for the UK clubs where ever he went.

Throughout his time in Square Dancing he had always been a much sought after partner with the many single ladies. In recent years he found Daphne Smith a very compatible partner at all the programmes he supported and when suffering his last debilitating illness he ended his last few weeks with her, having released himself from hospital into her care.

Our thoughts are with Daphne as she spends these weeks in isolation, hopefully recovering her strength ready for the time we can all gather together to remember Michael and all the other good Square Dancing friends who have died during this distressing period when funerals have not been allowed.

Rest in Peace Dear Friends.

Susie Kelly



**EIGHT WEEKS LOCKDOWN.
I'M JUST FINE, THANK YOU !**

Submitted by Brian Summerfield