

LET'S SQUARE DANCE

(Email version)

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EDITOR SAYS.....

Hi everybody. Well, Spring appears to be here, even though it's had a cold start. I just couldn't resist the picture of the blackcap for the front cover. Hope we'll soon have some Square Dance related pictures to brighten up the cover pages !



Stephen sums up the present Covid situation for us on page 5 and Paul presents another Fun move on page 21 - I can remember doing this one - years ago !

Sad news from Thornbury Squares I'm afraid. (page 24) We will miss them.

Hopefully, things will soon be looking up.

Keep smiling

Peter

Directory amendments.

The following Clubs have notified us of changes to their Directory entries

Page 3 Berkshire

Tuesday B/M Tilehurst Square Dance Club Ray Turner 01189 417577
A1/A2 Tilehurst Square Dance Club Ray Turner 01189 417577
Wednesday M/P Tilehurst Square Dance Club Ray Turner 01189 417577

Page 4 Gloucestershire Corinium Squares both entries

Amend Contact to Alan Edwards 07841 694110

Page 10 and 11 Corinium Squares both entries

Amend Contact to: Alan Edwards 07841 694110 Email alan151162@gmail.com

Page 5 Nottinghamshire Bramley Squares

Amend Contact to Roy Goldsbrough 07709 338388

Page 9 Bramley Squares Contact: Roy Goldsbrough Tel: 07709 338388

Email: roy@goldsbrough.co.uk

Page 16 Tilehurst three entries Last two lines

Contact: Ray Turner Tel: 0118 941 7577 Email: info@tilehurstsdc.co.uk

or Terry Tel: 01189 543855. Club Website: <http://tilehurstsdc.co.uk/>

Presidential Musings for May 2021

Having just watched the funeral of the Duke of Edinburgh I am feeling very nostalgic as I was lucky enough to meet him. As a teenager I went to Buckingham Palace and after a well-rehearsed curtsey, I shook his hand, looked into his beautiful pale blue twinkly eyes as he presented me with the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award. I felt a great sense of achievement as I had worked hard for all the awards Bronze, Silver and Gold. It is a wonderful scheme for young people. Luckily young people all over the world still have the opportunity to take part and develop useful and life-long skills and interests. I know I did!

Continuing the theme of Royal connections it was on a tour of Canada visiting the capital Ottawa that the Royal couple were photographed enjoying a hoedown. When this was reported in the Daily Telegraph, it caused something of a sensation, and led to the creation of the British Association of American Square Dance Clubs. This was formed in 1953 by Mildred Bhuler, Tommy Cavanagh and Pete Morris. It gives me great joy to report that the B.A.A.S.D.C is still alive and kicking some 68 years later. This means of course that we shall be celebrating our 70th Birthday in two years time.

Having recently returned to playing croquet in groups of 6, socially distanced of course got me thinking about how 'The Rule of Six' could possibly be transferred to Square Dancing. In the past it has been commonplace for Squares to be 1 dancer short and the challenge of trying to dance with 7 people was called 'ghosting'. Sometimes it went well, sometimes it didn't!

'Ghosting' and dancing with 'phantoms' - well now, isn't that exactly what happens in Virtual Square Dancing on Zoom? The majority of the dancing is for two couples which can include up to three phantoms, but some Callers are calling for 4 couples involving up to 6 or 7 phantoms in preparation for dancers returning to 'real' dancing as we know it.

Again this got me thinking that with dancer numbers dropping perhaps Callers should entertain the idea of calling to smaller numbers. Whatever the numbers of dancers who show up the Caller could adapt his calling to include calling for two couples, or other configurations. If dancers are prepared to 'ghost' then there is plenty of scope for dancing to take place whatever the numbers. This could provide a solution to the problem of diminishing numbers resulting in Clubs having to close.

We are all aware that Club nights are not just about turning up to dance; they provide a valuable opportunity for social interaction and after a long time of social distancing we can all reap the benefits of that. Bring it on!

Let's make Round and Square Dancing great again!

Susan



The Present Situation.

Over the last few months both at work and in a volunteer capacity I have been considering and implementing the Governments Guidelines on Coronavirus. The following is a list of observations I have gathered during this time and they may be of use to anyone considering a time table for reopening a social activity.

Hopefully this will give you the confidence to examine what is available both on-line and from local sources, so that you can make good informed decisions. As always It is important that you verify everything, as changes can be implemented at any point.

The starting point is to be aware that Coronavirus restrictions remain in place.

- You must not meet indoors in a social gathering with anybody you do not live with, unless they are part of your support bubble.
- Adults can only use an Indoor leisure facility to exercise on their own, or with their household or support bubble.

From no earlier than the 17th May

- You can meet indoors in a social gathering with up to six people or a group of any size if they are from only two households.
- Indoor facilities will reopen for exercise however social distancing and other restrictions will still apply.

From no earlier than the 21st June

- The government hope to be in a position to remove all legal limits on social contact.
- Square dance sessions will be able to resume

Covid is likely to remain a part of our lives for some time, for example 'hands, face, space'. It is possible that some restrictions may be extended and this could change the restart date, due to the physical contact that is involved. If this does happen it will be for the purpose of keeping us safe.

Both the British Association and Callers Club have confirmed that the public liability insurance they offer members is in place and active. It should be noted that neither of these includes any form of cover for event cancellations.

Hope to see you all very soon in a square when it is safe to do so.

Stephen

Dates and restrictions are available from the Government Road Map

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021>



Chuckle Zone

A one legged cannibal gets back from holiday. He says to his fellow cannibals "that's the last time that I'm going self catering".

Class re-union

A very old widow and a very old widower went to their class re-union and not surprisingly, there were not all that many people left. But they had good fun - the six of them, and in the end, four decided to go for dinner together.

And it was jovial, they had a little drink and a little flirt, and they loved it. So much so, that the widower said to the widow "Will you marry me ?" And she said "Yes, I will". "Oh" he said "How wonderful - who would have though of that ?" And they all went home to their homes.

But the next morning, he said to himself "Did she say Yes or No ?" I know I was thrilled, but I'd better ring. So he rang her up and he said "Hello Darling; I asked you to marry me yesterday, "Yes" she said "I haven't forgotten that". "Did you say Yes or No ?" He asked. So she said "I said 'Yes', of course - but I'm so glad you rang because I'd forgotten who'd asked me".

A group of American tourists entered a pub in Cork, Ireland. One of the Americans said, in a loud voice, "I hear you Irish think you're great drinkers. I'll bet \$5,000 that no one here can drink 20 pints of Guinness in 30 minutes."

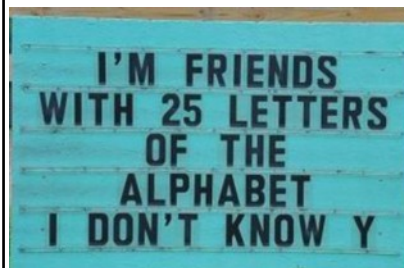
The pub was silent but the American noticed one Irishman leave. No one took up the bet. Forty minutes later, the Irishman who left returned and said, "Hey Yank, is yer bet still on?"

"Sure" said the American, "20 pints in 30 minutes for a bet of \$5,000 ." "Grand, " replied the Irishman, "so pour the pints and start the clock."

It was very close but the last drop was consumed with 2 seconds to spare. "OK Yank, pay up" said the Irishman.

"I'm happy to pay, here's your money" said the American. "But tell me, when I first offered the wager, I saw you leave. Where did you go?"

"Well sir", replied the Irishman, "\$5,000 is a lot of money to a man like me, so before I took on the bet I went to the pub across the road to see if I could do it!"





Puzzle Time

(Answers on page 18)

A mercurial quiz this month.

1. What's the chemical symbol for mercury ?
2. What is mercury's atomic number ?
3. What is the freezing point of mercury ?
4. What is the name used when mercury is alloyed with another metal ?
5. What is the length (in earth days) of the planet Mercury's year ?
6. By what name did the Greeks know the Roman God Mercury ?
7. What date did the Romans celebrate Mercury's birthday ?
8. Which day of the week was the Roman 'Mercurii Dies' ?

And some number puzzles. What replaces the ?

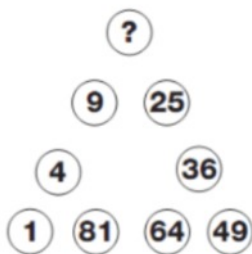
1

8	3	4
1	5	?
6	7	2

2

2	6	18
4	20	100
??	21	147

3



Two Passions Collide

All of you love Square Dancing – you wouldn't be reading the association's magazine otherwise. But, though some may disagree, there is more to life than Square Dancing – family is one and holidays are another.

One of the favourite holidays many of us enjoy is Luxury Cruising, and it is this second passion that I want to discuss...

My wife, Annika, and I regularly holiday in the States (well we did before Covid), often taking a Cruise while there. We have done Caribbean Cruises, Mexican Riviera Cruise, been through Panama Canal, and even did a Cruise around Hawaii for our honeymoon. What we have never managed to do is take a Cruise on one of the Square Dance Cruises which are available in the US.

Being able to enjoy the relaxation and excursions while cruising AND Square Dancing each day too. What could be nicer? Surely as close to "Heaven on Earth" as you can get.

Square Dance Cruises used to be regular events in Europe too – though not for many years, and the options available in America diminish each year. So, we wonder, along with many of you: Will we ever be able to enjoy a Square Dance Cruise?

I am pleased to say that the answer is actually Yes!

Rather than wait for the stars to align such that our planned vacation matches the limited availability of a Square Dance Cruise, we have decided to arrange our own... With the encouragement and help of several All Square At Zero dancers, Annika and I will be arranging the first, of what we hope will become an annual, Square Dance Cruise in May 2022.

The inaugural cruise will depart from Southampton on a 7-night sailing to the Norwegian Fjords. As well as seeing the beauty and splendour of the Fjords themselves, exploring 4 Norwegian coastal towns and enjoying the opulence of a modern cruise ship, there will also be 8 Square Dance sessions – one each afternoon (late enough to explore during the day yet early enough to dine and enjoy the ship's nightlife), and 2 others late morning on the days at sea.

The details for the cruise are coming together (see the advert on page 23) and those interested should contact us at kevin@allsquare.uk to make sure you are kept informed and get first dibs of the limited spaces available

I hope that many of you fellow Cruise Lovers will join us in combining two great passions...

Kevin Lovell.

Some more quotes attributed to our Callers

"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawnmower is broken" – Ed Foote

"There are two seasons in Canada...Winter and January." – Chuck Jordan

"All mankind is descended from apes...but it is more obvious with some people." – David Cox

"One thing that you can't argue with about baldness...it's neat. – Jet Roberts

"I have a complete physical exam every seven years. I was really shocked to find out how much stronger the Earth's gravitational pull has become since 2011 " – Brian Hotchkies

"Eternity is a terrible thought. I mean, where's it all going to end? – Buddy Weaver

"Have you ever noticed that man is the only animal who makes friends with the victims he intends to eat until he eats them?" – Bob Elling

"When I was a boy, the Dead Sea was only sick". – Tracy Brown

"Electricity is really just organized lightning. " – Bob Shiver

"Morning comes whether you set the alarm or not"- Tony Oxendine

"There are two kinds of people in the world, - those who believe there are two kinds of people in the world and those who don't" - Ken Ritucci

"A day without sunshine is like, you know, night" - Charmaine Jameson

"The scientific theory that I like best is that the rings around the planet Saturn are entirely made up of lost airline baggage." - Wade Driver

"It always astounds me that so many people want to "know" the universe. I have trouble enough finding my way downtown " - Mel Wilkerson

"Through years of experience I have learnt that air offers less resistance than dirt" Jaden Frigo

"I always wanted to be somebody, but now I realize that I should have been a bit more specific"- Ken Bower

"If you want a guarantee, buy a toaster"- Teresa Berger

"I have to believe in luck. How else can I explain the success of people that I don't like!"- Darren Taylor

"It is neither possible nor desirable to travel at the speed of light, as your hat would keep blowing off"- Kip Garvey

(From Barry Wonson's 'Around the Square)



Six of The Best

Reviews of Square Dance releases
from other labels by

PAUL BRISTOW

(owner and producer of STING & SNOW records)



Born to be Wild ~ Justin Russell

Royal RYL 1513 *(Original Artist: Steppenwolf)*

A 1968 song that was written by Mars Bonfire (pen name for Dennis Edmonton of "The Sparrows"); most notable for being featured as the opening number in the 1969 film: "Easy Rider", Starring Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper, with Fonda as the producer and Hopper as the director. This is a very smooth version, in a country style with a modern feel, made all the more effective by the extremely talented Justin Russell on the vocal!

Mainstream Choreography: *Heads Promenade Halfway, Square Thru Four Touch a Quarter, Scootback, Boy Run, Star Thru, Pass Thru, Trade By, Swing.*

Sweet Home Alabama ~ Wade Driver

Rhythm Records RR 417 *(Original Artists: Lynyrd Skynyrd)*

Taken from the 1974 album: "Second Helping", by southern rock band: Lynyrd Skynyrd it became their second hit single - probably the most well known song after Freebird; it was written by bandmembers: Ronnie Van Zant, Gary Rossington and Ed King. Rhythm have duplicated the feel of the original and produced an outstanding version for Square Dancing, some great music, with Wade Driver, doing his usual terrific job on the vocals!

Mainstream Choreography: *Heads Square Thru Four, Right Hand Star Heads Star Left, Slide Thru, Square Thru Three, Swing and Promenade.*

It Takes Two ~ Patty Greene & Tony Oxendine

Chic CHIC 3070 *(Original Artists: Marvin Gaye and Kim Weston)*

A hit song from 1965, recorded on the "Tamla" label in Motown, it was taken from the album: "Take Two" and was written by William "Mickey" Stevenson and Sylvia Moy; it became the first hit for Marvin Gaye in the UK. The instrumentation on the track was played by "The Funk Brothers" and "The Detroit Symphony Orchestra". Chic have made a great job on this arrangement and the vocal, with Patty and Tony is quite fantastic!

Mainstream Figure: *Heads Square Thru Four, Right Hand Star - Halfway, Heads Star Left - Halfway, Right and Left Thru, Pass Thru, Trade By, Swing.*

Take Your Time ~ Cliff Anderton

Shindig SP 1131 *(Original Artist: Buddy Holly)*

This song was the "B" Side to "Rave On", which was released in 1958; it was written by Buddy Holly and Norman Petty, a very smooth and gentle track in the old words "a slow one"! Shindig provide a steady feel, perfectly aligned with the original; a very effective beat for Square Dancing featuring another UK Caller: Cliff Anderton on the vocal. Cliff has used some very clever choreography; his rich warm voice adds a lot to the sound!

Mainstream Figure: *finishing with Touch a Quarter, Single File Circulate, Boys Run, Square Thru Three, Trade By, Do Sa Do once-and-a-half, Swing.*

Try a Little Kindness ~ Bill Harrison

Riverboat RIV 1043 (Original Artist: Glen Campbell)

This song is the title track from the first of four albums that Glen Campbell released in 1970; Glen often mentioned that it was one of his personal favourites. It was written by Curt Sapaugh and Bobby Austin and was also covered by a large number of country stars. The lyrics are about helping out your fellow man, wherever - and whenever you can. Bill's vocal is supported by some top quality, up-tempo, "bouncing" ESP music!

Mainstream Figure: Heads Flutterwheel, Sweep a Quarter, Pass Thru Swing Thru, Boys Run, Half Tag, Scootback, Boys Run, Slide Thru, Swing.

I'm Satisfied (With My Jesus) ~ Ray Brendzy, Robert Townsend

Lou-Mac LM 322 (Original Artist: ??????????????????)

Now this is an absolutely wonderful Gospel song - a real "hallelujah" track! I could not find any details about the tune, which makes me wonder if this might possibly be an original song? The music is well recorded, lots of Gospel Country instrumentation - and a terrific rolling beat that will lift the spirits of any Square Dance floor; Ray and Robert give their very best on the vocal track; the recording comes with and without harmony.

Mainstream Choreography: Heads Promenade Halfway, Sides Square Thru Right and Left Thru, Eight Chain Six, Swing and Promenade back home.

Hear and buy all the newest Square Dance releases - by "clicking" on "Recent Additions" at:

www.musicforcallers.com



web-site - web-site

STING PRODUCTIONS AMBASSADOR CLUB

PRODUCING MUSIC FOR DISTRIBUTION BY:

STING & SNOW RECORDS



web-site - web-site

www.stingproductions.co.uk

April STING RECORDS Releases:

(Originally included on the 2019 Edition of the Sting Productions Ambassador Club)

STING 21918 You've Got To Hide Your Love Away (Paul Bristow)

(a track from the Beatles' 1965 album: "Help", that also appeared in their second film)

STING 21916 When You're Love Is Alive (Thorsten Geppert)

(a track by the very popular Danish Folk-Rock band: Neighbours)

STING 21910 I'm Alright (Thorsten Hubmann)

(a track from Jo Dee Messina's 1998 album of the same name, written by Phil Vassar)

Check Web-Site/shop for special deals on purchases of 10, 20 or 40 tunes

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e-mail paul@stingproductions.co.uk

Square Dance Update



As we approach the half way stage of the Governments Road Map out of lockdown you could be forgiven for wondering where is the guidance for reopening square dancing. Over the last month Barbara, the BAASDC secretary has been inundated with requests for information on how and when clubs can reopen. The answer is not simple; indeed Susan the president often reminds us in her musings that we just don't know.

Fortunately, despite this, the reality is that behind the scenes the volunteers who make up the Association and Callers Club committees

have been hard at work on a number of ventures which will help with the processes of reopening and sustainability.

We are today pleased to announce that the Guidance on the Reopening of Squares is complete and will be published to the websites on the **24th May**. Additional details and the Guidance will then be sent out to all member clubs and callers with the June issues of Lets Square Dance and News & Views.

At this time the roll-out of the vaccinations and the gradual reopening of the economy does appear to be going well, however we must continue to be cautious. The publication has been left this late to ensure that any changes to the restrictions to be announced in early May that may affect our dancing, are included. Simon, the president of Callers Club, reminds us that the key is the removal of all the limits on social contact. The situation around the world is still very precarious and both the Association and Callers Club are very aware of how fragile things are.

Hopefully if the date does not change, we will be able to resume Square Dancing from the 21st June. This may or may not be with certain restrictions. For updates on Squares and Rounds please continue to refer to the websites and read our publications. Any questions can be sent to the appropriate secretary listed below who will be happy to assist.

BAASDC	Barbara	baasdc.secretary@gmail.com	07985 644 335
SDCCGB	Susie	susie@graybo.co.uk	01280 816 940

Stephen Pearson

NEWS FROM VIKING SQUARES

Our 2020 Camp Out plans had been well underway, however COVID 19 scuppered this and like the rest of the country everything came to a standstill.

Much later in the year we took another look at things and felt that surely we'd be back to "normal" or something like normal by May 2021 and we began to make plans for our camp out once again, but unfortunately this was not to be. The Country has come a long way but not far enough yet for Square Dancing events to carry on at the moment.

We are, of course bitterly disappointed as we were especially looking forward to meeting up with everyone after such a long break. However not to be deterred we began looking at **2022** only to find that the May Bank Holiday has been moved and next year to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and will take place a week later – celebrations starting on Thursday 2nd June.

Hence we would like to announce Viking Squares Fun and Friendship Camp Out has been renamed Viking Squares Queen's Platinum Jubilee Camp Out celebration. This will be a 4 day event that, and we can assure you it will be full of Fun and Friendship. Our usual stage team will be there to make it a very enjoyable event. Trudy and Simon Fielding calling squares at Mainstream and Plus levels and Nick Wright cueing rounds for us. The dates are Thursday 2nd June until Sunday 4th June inclusive. Extra nights camping will be available on Wednesday 1st June and Monday 5th June.

We would like to welcome our regular square dance campers back again and would also like to encourage any dancers looking for a square dance break to come along and join us. You too will be made very welcome. A caravan/motor home or tent is not necessary as there are B & B's available locally and we can advise on these if you contact us.

Please see the BAASDC web site for more information and contact numbers.

Carol, Pete, Mick and Judy (Vikings Camp Out Team)

URGENT APPEAL FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

In five months time, October 2021, the British Association of American Square Dance Clubs will need a new SECRETARY.

PLEASE READ ON

On the next page of this magazine you will see a job description. If you think you could fill the vacancy then please get in touch. We will give you lots of support and help. As an optimist I'm sure that there is someone out there who can fit the bill. All meetings are done on Zoom!

Any chance it could be YOU ? Thank you
Susan Ellis

As you will have seen from the appeal on the previous page, the Council will need a new Secretary after the AGM in October. Retiring Secretary Barbara has produced a list of the Secretary's duties, so that any volunteers can see what is involved.

Prepare Council meeting Agendas (in consultation with President) and circulate.

Record Zoom Council meetings and transcribe Minutes; circulate.

Maintain data base of Club Contacts.

For 'Let's Square Dance' Magazine, maintain data-base of overseas readers, Club Contacts and (previous) subscribers.

Liaise with distributor of Magazine.

Keep oversight of website and Facebook site.

Respond to email/telephone queries.

OBM (Zoom) - arrange agenda and distribution.
Record and write Minutes for distribution to all Clubs.

AGM (Zoom) - arrange agenda and distribution.
Record and write Minutes for distribution to all Clubs.

Administration of all Council appointments.

Please consider whether you could serve our activity in this way and contact Barbara (baasdc.secretary@gmail.com) if you need any further details.

Next in the series of articles by Ed Foote.

WHAT TO DO IF A CALLER USES AN INCORRECT DEFINITION

Most caller know the definitions of calls. However, sometimes newer callers have not studied the definitions thoroughly, and sometimes more experienced callers may not know that a definition has changed. This is more likely to happen at Advanced and Challenge, but it also occurs at Mainstream and Plus. As a dancer, what do you do?



It is most important to never voice objection out loud from the set. This will embarrass the caller, and your status with other dancers will drop because of your having caused this embarrassment. Simply go along with whatever the caller wants for the rest of the tip.

When the tip is over, go up and talk privately with the caller. Be sure other dancers are not near so as to avoid embarrassment. If you are absolutely sure the caller is wrong, it is best to avoid saying so right away in your conversation. Instead, see if the caller can figure it out for himself/herself, because the caller will accept the idea better this way. Do this by asking what the caller wanted and ask how this fits with the definition as you understand it.

At this point one of two things will happen: (1) The caller will admit that he/she might have been stretching the definition, admit he is not sure of being correct, and will drop the idea until he gets more information; or (2) the caller will defend his position and keep using the call in the same way.

If the caller decides to continue using the call improperly and you know you are correct, then you should point out to the caller how his/her definition is incorrect. Do not hesitate to say you have danced it differently to other callers if you have done so, and even consider naming these callers as your authority. The caller's mind may not change, but you have done your part by planting the idea. The caller may research this after the dance or change his mind later on if other dancers say the same thing.

Dancer responsibility. It is the responsibility of every dancer to tell a caller when material is being used in violation of established definitions.

Some dancers cringe at this idea. They say: "I would never tell a caller he/she is wrong." Unfortunately, such thinking works to the detriment of the square dance activity. If a caller is using material incorrectly, this is adversely affecting hundreds or even thousands of dancers. Every time the caller uses the call incorrectly, the dancers think this is the correct definition, and thus the dancers learn a wrong definition. If a dancer knows the correct definition and refuses to bring it to the caller's attention, then that dancer must share the blame equally with the caller for the spreading of incorrect definitions.

(Continued on next page)

Many dancers today know more about call definitions than some callers. These dancers may dance to many callers and take time to actively study definitions. If these dancers share their knowledge, this can only serve to help the square dance activity, especially when those who don't know (such as callers) are in a position to influence hundreds of dancers.

What if the caller takes offence at being told he is calling something wrong? Too bad. The activity is bigger than any caller. If a caller takes offence at being told a call is being used incorrectly, that is the caller's problem and is a sign the caller is insecure. The activity is best served by the caller being told when incorrect call definitions are being used, so that other dancers do not continue to be taught wrong.

One word of caution: Be sure you know what you are talking about when discussing call definitions with a caller, be able to defend your position, and be sure you are correct. Otherwise, the caller will have you on the defensive instantly. But if you are correct, then it is your responsibility for the good of the square dance activity to alert callers when they have used an incorrect definition. Be sure you are right, then go ahead.

Editor's Gripe !

I've often mentioned my objections to the use of the word 'level' instead of 'programme' when referring to Basic, Mainstream, Plus, Advanced and Challenge. If I receive an article using the word 'level' in this context, I always ask the author for permission to change it to 'program' before going to print.

My reason for this is that to me, 'level' infers being higher or lower (better ?) and this idea is borne out when the term 'higher level' is used. I don't believe that someone who dances the Challenge programme is necessarily 'better' than anyone who dances Mainstream; in fact I've many times seen an Advanced or Challenge dancer foul up a Mainstream square.

An American Caller once told me that when he starts to teach a new A or C class, he asks "What is the first move in the A1 (or C1) program?" He gets various answers, but then says "No, it's 'Circle Left' and don't you ever forget it !"

We also seem to get the occasional dance program which list an 'A1 star tip'. Why the 'star' ? The word adds no information, but always gives me the impression of elitism.

Right – I feel better now !

Peter

I Opened a Book

"I opened a book and in I strode.
Now nobody can find me.
I've left my chair, my house, my road,
My town and my world behind me.
I'm wearing the cloak, I've slipped on the ring,
I've swallowed the magic potion.
I've fought with a dragon, dined with a king
And dived in a bottomless ocean.
I opened a book and made some friends.
I shared their tears and laughter
And followed their road with its bumps and bends
To the happily ever after.
I finished my book and out I came.
The cloak can no longer hide me.
My chair and my house are just the same,
But I have a book inside me."

— Julia Donaldson

Submitted by Barbara Scott

Answers to the puzzles on page 7

Mercury Quiz

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Hg | 5. 59 |
| 2. 80 | 6. Hermes |
| 3. -38.85 deg C | 7. May 15 th |
| 4. Amalgam | 8. Wednesday |

Number puzzles

9. (Each row totals 15)
- 12 (In each column, the top number plus 1, multiplied by the middle number)
- 16 (Working clockwise from 1, sequence of 1,2, 3 etc squared)

Caller's Corner **UK** CALLER

By **PAUL BRISTOW** (**CALLERLAB** Accredited Caller Coach) **TRAINING FOUNDATION**

U.K. History of Square Dancing: Tommy Cavanagh - one of the first and best!

Tommy Cavanagh was one of the three founders of the B.A.A.S.D.C. (the others were Pete Morris and Mildred Buhler). When I started dancing, in 1975, people told me that Tommy was the top Caller in the country; the B.A.A.S.D.C. held its 25th anniversary at Picketts Lock, in Enfield (1978) - and Tommy was the Caller. It was a wonderful dance - a sell-out event, with 1500 Dancers from all over the UK - Tommy did a fantastic job!

I had the chance to dance to Tommy several times at various dances; he often worked with a live band who provided the music. Tommy was the Club Caller at three London clubs: "Lister", "East London" and "Kensington Kuntry Kusins". A full-time professional Caller; on one occasion, he was employed as a Caller on an animated advertisement for "Potato Waffles" - the waffles were shown "Square Dancing on screen" - with Tommy's voice-over providing the Calls for them! Tommy Called in many overseas locations.

During his Calling career Tommy was asked to record a large number of Square Dance records; most of the tracks on this list are tunes that I can recall being used at dances that I attended in the UK. British Callers were very supportive of Tommy, he was held in the highest esteem - both here and internationally; here is the list with a few notes:

- Cocoanuts** - (I've Got a Lovely Bunch of...) Sets In Order 150
- Chaining The Ocean** - (A Life on the Ocean Wave) Sets In Order 157
- Roll Out The Barrel** - Sets In Order 163
- Charmaine** - Scope 503
- Bertie** - (Burlington Bertie from Bow) Scope 511
- Ma** - (She's Making Eyes at me) Scope 530
- Don't Dilly Dally** - (My Old Man Said "Follow the Van") Hi Hat 405
- Greenwich Village** - (he was a Greenwich Village Caller...) Hi Hat 415
- The Big Bass Drum** Hi Hat 418
- Who's Your Lady Friend?** - Hi Hat 433
- Good Old Square Dance Days** - Hi Hat 441
- Marrienne** - Hi Hat 469
- Canadian Pacific** - Top 25355
- Who Were You With Last Night?** - Top 25361
- Cocoanuts** (I've Got a Lovely Bunch of... - New Music) - Hi Hat 5017

Tommy had a label of his own: "Big Ben", which released a "Dual Mono" recording (the vocal was on the Right-hand channel and the music only was on the left-hand channel), which meant that - by using a Stereo Record Player - you could play the music without the vocal, thereby making it useable by any Caller. The title was "Square Dance Time" and I have one of those records it was an EP (each side contained a Patter and a Singer so the record comprised two tips!). I assume that this was just a "one-off" production.

History is an important Caller School topic and consequently, I would love to know a lot more about Tommy and the other Association founders, can anybody provide details?



The Square Dance Callers Club of Great Britain

www.Callersclub.uk

KEEPING YOUR CLUB DANCING

Having had such a long time at home with no dancing it is easy to understand the doubts in people's minds about the wisdom of starting the club's meetings again.

Don't worry if you think you'll have forgotten everything. I can assure you that within half an hour or so you will have remembered where your feet have to go, where your hands have to go and where your smile has to go.

I hope that those of you who have been participating in the virtual dances will be patient with those who haven't and just relish the feel of dancing with 8 people in the square again instead of just one or two real people and six or seven imaginary ones.. Yes, maybe those who haven't danced at all didn't realise you could dance like that, won't have experienced the challenge of dancing just your part of the moves. Even though it's been a challenge it has kept the square dance world together. New friends have been made around the world, people will have met in a virtual square, anywhere in the world, who will never have had the chance to meet in real life and probably never will..

Some of our callers have taken up the calling challenge to provide facilities for Virtual dancing using Zoom technology on laptops, smart phones and other devices. For the dancer this has involved being able to imagine where other dancers are in the square. For the caller it has meant imagining those dancers too and making allowances for the tiny technical delays in timing to keep everyone together. They help the dancers too by telling the dancers which hands they should be holding, whether it's a real person or one of those phantoms. Luckily for the dancers if they get it wrong there's no one to see so no squares will break down. Because of the different time zones around the world there are probably virtual dances you could join any time of the day or night.

Many dancers have not tried this challenging way to practice dancing because of a lack of technology but for those who have, it will have been a brilliant way to keep the moves in your memory

We still don't know for sure when it will be safe to start dancing again. It is hoped that everyone will soon have had their two vaccinations and that these will protect us once we start not having to practice social distancing. It will feel strange and scary to be meeting people in numbers again. Probably it will feel safest if we keep our hands sanitised between dances and may be keep our masks on so we are not breathing on each other. But hopefully the jabs will soon make this a thing in the past and just one jab a year, like the flu jab, will be enough to protect us all. Until then, following government advice, the BAASDC and the SDC-CGB have been issuing advice to callers and dancers about what precautions we should take to keep healthy once we start dancing with our friends again.

Just wait for that call or email from your club leaders to let you know when they are ready to open the Hall doors. It may be the end of June or not until September but be assured everyone is doing their best to make it safe for you. So keep in touch and keep safe till then.

Susie

Calling For Levity – Fun stuff to do

I have been having a bit of a fettle – a rummage amongst my calling notes, compiling some of my favourite fun calls and ideas, from non-listed calls to bonkers stuff made out of my own head! Last month I shared a Bucket Of Worms with you; this month we will look at a call involving Snorting! Before the great reveal, here are the calls credentials:

- A party night call - a 'let your hair down' call
- Great for first nights
- Not much opportunity to go wrong!
- A different action to most of our listed calls
- Fast teach
- Variants available
- Sassy name – Intriguing! Another candidate for the 'Best Call Title' award!

With fond affection I recommend to you...**RIP 'N SNORT**

Start: Circle – usually 4 couples moving with hands joined.

Destination footprints: (Where will I finish)? Back where you started!

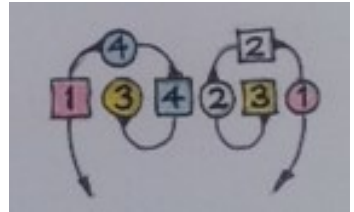
Definition with acknowledgement to "The Handbook of Modern Square Dancing" by Jay King...

'From a circle with hands joined. Those designated (No. 1 Couple, No. 2 Couple, Richest Couple, Happiest Couple, Sexiest Couple, etc.) will lead through an arch formed by the couple across from them. This lead couple, after going through the arch will let go of inside hands and separate, but **everyone else keeps hold of hands**. The lead couple pulls all the others with them through the arch and the arching couple turns under their own arms without letting go. All join hands again in the original circle'

It's all quite gracious when the designated couple is Nos.1,2,3 or 4, but upon hearing 'happiest' 'sexiest' 'youngest' etc there is a mad rush to the centre of the set, heads bowed like a bull; compelling the opposite couple to react by forming an arch!

If you have danced this call correctly the arching couple should have a broken arm each. Seriously though - It's great to actually do the full fat version, involving turning under your own arm without letting go of your partner's hand. If you prefer not to twirl, you can momentarily let go of your partners hand and opt out of the twirl – it won't harm the outcome!

I like to ponder where the names of calls have come from. Walk 'N Dodge, sorry - Walk And Dodge for example, is descriptive of the actual dance action, whilst the naming of other calls leave you scratching your head. With regard to Rip 'N Snort, I can see a tearing action – the 'rip' as each half of the set go their separate ways under the arch, but I can't spot a snort anywhere - can you? If a caller asks if you want to Rip 'N Snort – give it a try!



Paul Preston

Revival of Square Dancing

There is a strong belief that our Square Dance activity is failing around the world because too much emphasis is placed on learning more and more new material and climbing through the programs and there's not enough time spent on simply enjoying the friendship, the fun of dancing together and joy of movement to music.

Here is my own approximation of the time line of the growth and decline of the activity.

- Pre 1900: Immigrant folk dances used at celebrations in immigrant communities throughout the States.
- 1900-1920 American 'Traditional' folk dances emerge from combined sources.
- 1920-1940 American Squares appearing in Ballrooms and discovered by Henry Ford who dispatched Benjamin Lovett around the country to write down what dances he found.
- 1940-1960 American squares spread around the world with the American forces following their postings around the world after the war. There was a boom in the activity in Britain following Prince Phillip and Princess Elizabeth photographed dancing during their Royal tour of Canada in 1951
- 1960-1970 Square dancing becomes complicated by too many new moves
- 1970-1990 With the formation of the programs dancer numbers stabilise
- 1990-2000 Recruitment of new dancers diminishes but the higher programs increase
- 2000 All programs diminish as the original enthusiasts pass away. Biggest hall at conventions is the Advanced hall

From this you can see how the trends have changed from the beginning of the last century. You can see that the period between 1920 and 1990 was fairly stable, that's 70 years when the Basic and Mainstream were the predominant programs and in every decade after that the activity is less recognised and so less popular. The main reason for this is put down to the fact that it takes at least a year for the dancers to become competent at the Mainstream program and so advertising is not done very frequently and then only when a new set of dancers are required to start the process again.

Now the Great and Good are promoting a program of about 50 moves which could be taught in 12 weeks so allowing for 3 or 4 new groups to be taught in a year. The aim with this Social Square Dance program is to increase the number who are dancing a simpler program of moves and one that is the

(Continued on next page)

destination program, ie: not connected to the escalator to the Plus, Advanced and beyond. With more frequent advertising in the social media and other localised publications the word may eventually get out this is great fun, friendly and good for your brain and body and ultimately accessible to more people. Hopefully the activity will grow and spread again.

For this to happen we need more callers spread around the country and teaching with the SSD program could be just the tool to achieve this dream.

If you are an experienced dancer and feel able to aid in this effort please contact Trudy and Simon Fielding, Gene Turner, Cliff Anderton, Kevin Lovell, Howard Nichols, Stephen Pearson or me, Susie Kelly for help and guidance in taking on this worthwhile task.

Susie

All Square At Zero

Square Dance CRUISE

May 2022

7-day Norwegian Fjords

Sailing from Southampton, 13th May 2022



Plus & A1 (and a little A2)

called by
Kevin Lovell

£50 per person for the dancing

+ Discounted Cruise from £699pp

(£200 below normal cost per cabin)

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More info at **www.allsquare.uk**

e-mail: **info@allsquare.uk** call/text: **077 966 955 75**

THORNBURY SQUARES

Well, very sadly I've decided not to reopen Thornbury Squares whenever we may have been able to. Our numbers have been declining over the years, and Covid may still be stopping us holding hands and yellow-rocking for a while yet. The school where we meet will not want us because of hygiene and extra disinfection either. It was the right time to finish, on a high.

I want to thank everyone, firstly in the club itself, but also all the wonderful dancers and callers we've danced with and to over the nearly 30 years we've been in existence. Andrew and I started the club in November 1992 with a wonderful core of dancers in a grotty little hall. Maggie and Brian Taylor bought us our fantastic panda mascot, whom we named Woo Woo. Pandas then appeared at every dance, all lined up on the stage watching us having such a good time.

Then when Andrew died in 2001, John Boxall fantastically took over the calling, such a hard act to follow. Mike Speake also called sometimes with his lovely voice and personality, until moving away from the area. When John retired Mike Belsten took over, again keeping us all interested especially with his lovely singing calls. Stefan also called for the club giving us the more technical aspect. My heartfelt thanks to them all.

Especially in the early days the club had such fun-all the men seemed to love dressing up for the graduations! Any other excuse too! Once we moved out of our grotty hall into a much bigger venue we sometimes had nearly 100 for just a plus night-a real dance every week, with dancers coming from many other clubs too. It was a wonderful atmosphere. We must have had hundreds through our books over the years. We had fantastic New Years dances, birthday and graduation dances. Roger Spires made us such wonderful cakes for every birthday too-so many thanks. We also performed in the Bristol Millennium Square on "The Perfect Day", and did a demonstration at the zoo, plus all the May Day demos in Winterbourne too. Who could forget when so many of us went up to Lytham, Andrew calling with Paul, James and Neil, and Teresa and Paul? Then in 2002 a lot of us went and did a spectacular Chinese display with Mike Speake calling for us. Most of the club were part of a Chinese dragon-fantastic memories.

In 1996 we ran our first Plus weekend in Thornbury, a great success. We then took it down to Woolacombe for a few years in a hotel. In 2011 we held our first Torquay weekend with John Boxall and Mike Belsten calling, also a great success. Though I've decided not to run it any more I am so glad that Roy and Elaine from Aeron Valley have decided to take it on next January 2022, with Mike and Leah Clarke calling. It will be such fun to meet up with everyone after Covid.

In 1997 Andrew was asked to call in the first European Convention, so we took nearly 50 of our dancers on a coach trip to Hochheim in Germany. Such a wonderful experience for us all. He called again in the next European in Helsingborg, west Sweden. We thought we must have a new outfit to wear. At the time our colours were black and white, like Woo Woo. Nick Wright found

LET'S SQUARE DANCE ~ May 2021

some panda material in America, so we all had skirts and shirts made up in it. 96 of us went to Sweden, on the same plane and 2 coaches. We all wore our panda outfits for the Saturday parade and photos, absolutely fabulous. I don't think any of us will ever forget it.

So, after that potted history, I should like to thank everyone from this country and abroad whom we've ever danced with or to. Mostly though, all the wonderful Thornbury Squares members. I'm sure I shall still be dancing somewhere as will others. Take care everyone and "Keep dancing",

My love and virtual yellow rocks to you all,

Sue Elliott



The Club at Lytham in 2002



Andrew, Sue and the Club at the European Convention in Helsingborg

Obituary ~ Denis Bristow 1928-2021

Some sad news for those of you who knew my father Denis Bristow; Dad passed away - very peacefully - on Thursday 25th March, he was 93 years old. He leaves his wife, my mother, Pamela to take care of us now.



Mum and Dad were first introduced to Square Dancing by Connie and Derek Cheney in 1975; Ron Hepden (Club Caller at "Up To the Centre SDC" - in Burnt Oak, Edgware), was due to marry Rosemary - their oldest daughter - and six years later I would marry their third daughter, Hazel. Soon after I met Hazel, my sister Katrina met her future husband: a young Caller from Essex, by the name of Terry Chapman.

One way or another, the entire Bristow family became involved in Square Dancing, we travelled with Mum and Dad on many of the OASIS events, to every one of the Peterborough Camp-Out festivals and as well as dancing several times during the week, we would always be found at a Saturday night dance somewhere in the UK.

Dad served on the Committee of "Up To the Centre SDC" and was involved with the annual Barbecue Dance, Friday Fun Dances and Christmas Dances that were held every year. My parents became members of several other Clubs; including: "Rockin'8s", "Black Arrows", "6 T 8s", "Wheel & Deal" and "Circle & Swing".

Dad played a significant role in many Square Dance events where I was Calling and - working together - we ran very successful tours in the United States and Canada.

Mum and Dad travelled extensively and very regularly, to Square Dance festivals in the UK, as well as to many events and locations around the world, annual events became definite dates on Dad's diary. Very little time was spent sitting at home; it was a 30 year Romance - that lasted as long as their legs would allow!

Dad leaves behind four children, eleven Grandchildren, three great grandchildren and a whole host of friends and acquaintances made through Square Dancing!

Thank you for everything, Dad - God bless you.

Paul Bristow

REGULAR VIRTUAL DANCES June 2021

Every Monday 5 pm	Zoom Dance Di Green & Terr McCann Plus https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81339537507?pwd=VVdGRG51VURqdM5kbHFPMTloaXp0UT09 Meeting ID: 813 3953 7507 Passcode: MonPlusT&D Contact Di on digreen21@gmail.com
Every OTHER Monday 3pm	Zoom Dance Di Green C1 review https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86292362662?pwd=cUhaMExrWCtITUI3Q1FENE0vdzJZUT09 Contact Di on digreen21@gmail.com
Every Tuesday 7.30 pm A1 8.45 pm A2	Zoom Dance Di Green A1, A2 https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89348598305?pwd=VVBwNkJXeWRUb1BLZ3F3ZzhsVElyZz09 Contact Di on digreen21@gmail.com
Ever Friday 8 pm	Zoom Dance Di Green C1 https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85359681095?pwd=NUI0NzUxcVFOY1A1T2pmNEx4N01DQT09 Contact Di on digreen21@gmail.com
Every Friday 6 pm Basic 7 pm MS	Zoom Dance Julianne Burr and Guests Basic & MS https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8751237862?pwd=Y2EwcDIKRThJenZFUKVTc0pmOG03dz09#success Contact Walt Burr on waltburr@web.de
Sat 5 th and 19 th 6.00 pm to 7.30	Zoom Dance Kevin Lovell Plus https://us02web.zoom.us/j/71441264031?pwd=bVAzSlZJdzN3c2xKMzhrSDdOWXFQQT09#success (ID 714 4126 4031, Password: ASAZ-VSD) Contact Kevin on kevin_lovell@hotmail.com

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DEADLINES FOR COPY

Obituaries - 23rd of the month preceding the publication month. (as early as possible would be appreciated) with an accompanying photo if possible. Forward details direct to the editor (LSDmag@talktalk.net).

Free listing of open Dances – Club contacts are expected to check the events calendar on the BAASDC website (www.ukssquaredancing.com) to avoid clashes and then submit details using the website's EVENT SUBMISSION FORM found under 'help' and then 'Forms' at least **TWO weeks** before the publication month.

Short letters relevant to this edition - 23rd of the month preceding the publication month, direct to the editor (LSDmag@talktalk.net).

All other items including advertisements - 20th of the month preceding the publication month. Forward details direct to the editor (LSDmag@talktalk.net).

All items submitted will be reviewed and assessed for suitability for inclusion but their publication cannot be guaranteed . Authors should be aware that the editor may modify text and layout according to relevance and the space available.

ACCEPTABLE FORMATS

For text submissions - Hand written, typed or e-mail, (ODT, Rich Text or Word). Note that this publication uses Verdana 9pt font as a default.

For graphics submissions - gif, jpeg, jpg, png, tif, ppp and bmp.

Photographs should be to the highest possible resolution.

Please avoid mixing text and graphics

ADVERTISEMENTS

When submitting adverts, please ensure that your advert fits into the size and shape that you require. (¼ page is 60 x 90 mm, ½ page is 125 x 90 mm and full page is 125 x 185 mm) particularly if you are sending it as a .pdf or Word file. If you have any difficulty with this, the Editor will be able to advise and help to compose or recompose as necessary.

ADVERTISING RATES

<i>Size/Entry</i>	<i>Club Rates</i>	<i>Size/Entry</i>	<i>Club Rates</i>
¼ page	£10	½ page	£20
Full page	£30.00		

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BAASDC OBM & VIRTUAL SQUARE DANCE

Saturday 15th May 2021 via Zoom

Meeting 15.00 – 16.00 with presentation by Di Green and Kevin Lovell about V.S.D. This will be followed by a

Virtual Square Dance 16.00 – 17.00 Callers:

Di Green, Terry McCann, Kevin Lovell

Calling MS, Plus and one A1 tip

This event is **OPEN TO ALL** but you need to register in advance, no later than 8th May by going to

baasdc.secretary@gmail.com

Please come and join us, we would love to see you.
Not tried Virtual Square Dancing before ? Why not
come and give it a try! You may be surprised!