

LET'S SQUARE DANCE

November 2021 : Volume 68 : No 11

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EDITOR SAYS.....

As I write this, things are beginning to get back to 'normal' -whatever that is ! Let's just hope we don't have to go backwards.

Sad to see the demise of Nailsea Diamonds after 33 years, but good to see the formation of a new Club in the area - Severnside Squares (see page 11).

I heard the sad news of Julia's death a few days ago. I well remember her from many years ago, calling in her long cowboy boots and very short skirt.

We have a number of reports from Clubs / events this month; thanks to all those who sent something in.

It'll be December next month. If your Club would like to send Christmas Greetings , please let me have them early in the month.

Happy Dancing



Peter

STOP PRESS

The BAASDC AGM took place on October 30th. A report will appear in the December issue, but the salient points were as follows:

Reports were received from the President, Treasurer and the various Area Federations, all of which reported good signs of the recovery of real dancing and appreciation was expressed for the efforts made in zoom dancing.

It was proposed that a small group should be set up to examine the BAASDC Constitution and volunteers to join this group were asked to contact the Council Secretary.

David England was elected as our new President, Geoff Holdsworth as our new Secretary, Susan Ellis took up her old role as PRO and Roy Evans was elected as an 'ordinary' Council member. All these were unopposed. Koli Pluck remains on the Council as Treasurer.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, allow me to introduce myself. I am David England, the new President of BAASDC.

For those of you who do not know me, I graduated in 2006 at White Rose Squares Harrogate, along with my wife Sandra. We also danced at Harmony Squares and The Chain Gang.

We were encouraged to go to Saturday evening dances and once we were able to dance Plus we started to go to weekend events, making friends with dancers from other parts of the country and abroad.

We were taught A at Pannal Partners and over the Pennines at Chain Reaction. On moving to Nottingham we danced Mainstream / Plus at Dial A Square and A at AStacks Squares and Lace City SDC. Unfortunately only AStacks Squares is still dancing.

We started to learn C1 at the introduction courses at the Lytham Week, and now dance it twice a month in Nottingham.

I was Chairman of the Northern Area F3edreation for five years and Vice-President of BAASDC for two years.

I am honoured to be BAASDC President and along with the other members of the Council, aim to restore the reputation of BAASDC, which has unfortunately been tarnished in recent times.

The new Council is a mixture of old and new. Susan Ellis (PRO) and Koli Pluck (Treasurer) both served on the council last year, and will bring experience and continuity. Geoff Holdcroft (Secretary) and Roy Evans (Member) are both new to the Council, but both bring experience in running clubs, which I am sure will be of great value as we go forward.

I would set the aims of BAASDC as in the short term trying to minimise the number of clubs closing due to Covid-19, and medium term to help clubs increase the numbers of dancers. The recruitment of dancers is a problem that has been around as long as I have been dancing and there have been many efforts to reverse the decline but there are some clubs that are able to recruit and we should start by looking at their experiences.

I look forward to seeing you in a square sometime soon.

David England



From an old allemander

SOCIAL SQUARE DANCING ?



This is not new! We have really just come full circle!
There are still a few of us who remember square dancing back in the days when that is exactly what square dancing was all about. No-one "taught" us. If someone extended a left fore-arm and turned you right round, you discovered that was an "allemande left", or if the caller called "lead right", it was obvious where you should go. There were no levels or progressions, no class distinction, no-one was better than anyone else, and you were welcomed at any other clubs or dances anywhere. Prospective callers often learned one song and tried it out, adding more when they felt they could, so they too learned by trial and error.

Fun and friendship developed naturally, amid much laughter.

Jane.

Amendments to Clubs' Directory.

The following Clubs have notified us of changes to their details in the Directory:

Page 1 - Bristol - delete Monday A1/A2 for Centre Squares

Page 2 - Delete reference to Thornbury Squares (C1 etc.)

Page 3 - Bristol. Add Saturday P Severnside Squares Mike Belsten
01454613743

Page 4 - Hertfordshire -Sunday - Cuffley SDC Amend tel no to 07860826805

Page 5 - Somerset. Delete Nailsea Diamonds

Page 10 - delete the A1/A2 posting for Centre Squares

Page 11 - Cuffley SDC. Amend Phil Peel tel. to 07860826805

Page 13 - Delete Nailsea Diamonds

Page 14 - Add new entry: **Severnside Squares Plus Saturday**
Caller: Mike Belsten. Meet 2nd & 4th Saturdays 2 - 4.30 pm at Olveston
Parish Hall, Upper Tockington Road, Tockington, Bristol, BS32 4LQ
Contact Mike Belsten Tel. 01454613743 email: mikebelsten@btinternet.com

(End)



Chuckle Zone

Student Writes Home

Dear Dad,

School is really great. I am making lots of friends and studying very hard. With all my stuff, I simply can't think of anything I need, so if you would like, you can just send me a card, as I would love to hear from you.
Love, Your son.

The Reply:

Dear Son,

I know that astronomy, economics, and oceanography are enough to keep even an honors student busy. Do not forget that the pursuit of knowledge is a noble task, and you can never study enough.
Love, Dad

My goal for 2021 was to lose 10 Kilos. Only have 14 to go.

A recent study has found women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.

Senility has been a smooth transition for me.

I may not be that funny or athletic or good looking or smart or talentedI've forgotten where I was going with this.

I love approaching 80, I learn something new every day and forget 5 other things.

A thief broke into my house last night. He started searching for money, so I got up and searched with him.

Just remember, once you're over the hill, you begin to pick up speed.

It's weird being the same age as old people.

When I was a kid I wanted to be older ... this is not what I expected.

Chocolate is God's way of telling us he likes us a little bit chubby.

It's probably my age that tricks people into thinking I'm an adult.

Marriage Counsellor: Your wife says you never buy her flowers. Is that true? Him: To be honest, I never knew she sold flowers.

Never sing in the shower! Singing leads to dancing, dancing leads to slipping, and slipping leads to paramedics seeing you naked. So remember .. *Don't sing!*

Musings from your Public Relations Officer November 2021

Before I became President, I was the Public Relations Officer and since then, as no one has ever applied for the position I was stuck with two Council responsibilities. Wearing two hats was fine, as I have always been very happy to do whatever I can for the Council. Now that I have handed over the Presidential Crown, I am still wearing my other hat, but, as anyone who knows me, I am a real hat fan, so that suits me just fine.

Sadly I have to report that ever since I flagged up the loss of the B.A.A.S.D.C banner, last seen at the European Convention held in Stratford-upon-Avon in a fishing tackle bag, there has been neither sight nor sound of it. Needless to say the search continues. Its next appearance should be in 2023 when the Association celebrates its Platinum 70th Birthday. Perhaps to avoid any embarrassment, the present keeper (someone must have it) could deposit it at the lost property office of their local police station with instructions for collection by an official. No names no pack drill!

Many years ago I read the classic novel by Nancy Mitford called *Love in a Cold Climate*, written in 1949. Dancing at weekly club nights reminded me of the title, and got me thinking about Dancing in a Cold Climate. Following the Government guidelines to pay heed to ventilation in indoor venues, I think we must think carefully about what to wear as we drift through Autumn and Winter Draws On!

I have devised a simple check-list that may help you choose your dancing outfits.

LAYERING UP : from thermal underwear through tights, worsted skirts, leggings, trousers, jumpers gilets to the top coat. Remember puffa jackets despite being lightweight can be bulky and do not lend themselves to easy movement. Take care not to end up looking like Mr. Blobby or the Michelin Man (remember them, now that does show your age). You may find you are bouncing around the square instead of gliding effortlessly.

HEADWEAR : needs careful consideration. We all know the importance of the tea-cosy in keeping the tea hot. However, wearing a tight-fitting beanie or balaclava could make for difficulties in hearing the calls and the comments of other dancers telling you where to go. So O.K. you don't want to know, that's your choice, I am merely pointing out, there are pitfalls !!

SCARVES : all I am going to say is remember Isadora Duncan in the Bugatti ?

FOOTWEAR : Any shoes, boots or slippers that double the size of your feet, are clearly inappropriate for dancing, although they will without doubt keep your feet warm. Maybe doubling up on socks is one answer, or soaking your feet in a bowl of hot water between tips would be a better solution.

HANDWEAR: fur-lined mittens, tempting they may be, are clearly not conducive to maintaining adequate hand contact in a square. The wearing of yellow Marigold gloves, with a triple-layer of natural rubber latex, will just get you talked about and as for gauntlets don't even go there !

However, for you traditionalists just double or treble up on the petticoats and frillies and keep a warm coat or shawl handy to wrap around yourself between tips. And as for the lady dancers, well ?

Let's make Square and Round Dancing great again.

Susan Ellis

Returning to dancing in West Wales

At long last Aeron Valley Diamonds here in West Wales we were informed that we could now return to dancing at the beginning of October at our usual Monday night venue. All our members were eager to get going.

Talking to many friends across the border, it would seem that dancers in various areas have to comply with different restrictions at the halls where they dance. Some only requiring that the attendees be "double Jabbed" others include, not using kitchens, using hand sanitation, good ventilation etc.

The hall we use has required that we submit our own Risk Assessment before being allowed to dance at the hall. It had to be resubmitted on two occasions. This was to ensure it covered all the requirements that the Welsh Assembly had put in place, or what our hall management had interpreted them to be. (*Shown on next page*)

I accept the main priority is the safety and wellbeing of our dancers, but I do wonder if this is bureaucracy going a little over the top.

Due to the required strict compliance with the regulations, which would allow little socialising and the high increase of infection in our local area, we have decided to wait until the New Year before reopening the club.

It would be interesting to know what clubs in other areas have had to comply with to return to dancing?

Roy Evans Aeron Valley Diamonds

**Aeron Valley Diamonds Square dance club.
Hall covid Risk Assessment & procedure.**

The club will ensure it's members comply with the procedures laid down in the hall Risk assessment.

Anyone who has been advised to self isolate or experiencing Covid symptoms before leaving home should not attend club night.

On arriving at the hall:

The club organisers will arrive in advance of the club members. They will unlock the hall and open the ventilation points and ensure all safety materials are in place, any likely contact area will be sanitised prior to club members arriving

At the entrance to the building:

Hand sanitation station, individuals temperature taken, anyone showing a raised temperature will not be allowed to enter the hall. A record of attendance will be kept together with contact details for at least one month.

In the building:

On entering the building face masks/visors will be worn. These may be removed when dancing. When sitting out masks/visors will be worn and sitting socially distanced observed.

Prior to dancing, members will collect their own plastic chairs from the store. They will wipe the chair with anti-bacterial wipes provided. They will only use that chair throughout the evening. At the end of the evening they will wipe their chair with anti-bacterial wipes and return to storage.

Hand sanitizer provided by the club will be available to use at all times especially in between dances.

To abide by Government legislation, dancers will be required to dance in the same square for the duration of the evening. Two couple dancing will be introduced where possible. This will be reviewed as and when legislation changes.

Members will be required to bring their own refreshments as use of the kitchen will not be allowed.

Vacating the hall:

Club members will leave the hall via the route designated with as little contact to fixtures as possible. An organiser from the group will be the last to leave the hall ensuring all contact points on doors etc. are sanitized. Any used cleaning materials bagged, sealed and disposed of away from the hall.

October 2021

VIKING SQUARES



SQUARE DANCING IS BACK!! I can say that for sure. **SATURDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2021 – VIKING SQUARE AUTUMN DANCE.** Our first dance since the restrictions came into force following our Birthday Dance back in March 2020.

What a triumph - the atmosphere was electric – so many happy smiling dancers. Oh what joy of being back to dancing with so many special people. Some we've known for many years – others newer to the square dancing world but nevertheless very important to us. We were so pleased with the numbers which

far exceeded our expectations.

Our thanks must go to Trudy and Simon Fielding and Nick Wright for making it such a wonderful night. We look forward to seeing them all at our camp out over the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebration weekend in June 2022. (If you've not been to one of our camp outs yet please give it some thought and come along – if you don't have a caravan, motor home or tent there are a number of B & B's not too far away – you'll get a very warm welcome)

We also thank everyone who came along from near and so very far away for your support and to let you know you made it such a special night.

Yes there were lots of hugs – and how we've missed them over the past 18 months! And lots of catching up and banter took place. How we have all missed the social interaction that goes along with square dancing.

And yes there were a few mistakes – "Spin chain and exchange the gears" Who leads? Where do I go?" My mind's gone blank!! Some of the phrases that were heard but a few re runs of moves and as they say it's like riding a bike – you simply do not forget everything – and the fun and laughter overcame all of this and we just simply re grouped and carried on.

We know there are a few dancers that are still very unsure about going along and mixing with others but we say please make an effort if there is a dance taking place near you – go along you'll be glad you did. The organisers will have tried to make it a safe environment for you to enjoy a night of dancing.

p.s. on this occasion no photos – we were all so busy enjoying ourselves no one had time to take any!! So you'll just have to let your imagination run wild and think about the expressions on people's faces as they danced the night away after such a long break.

Let's keep on dancing!!

Judy Grummitt

A Diamond To A River

After 35 years Nailsea Diamonds has unfortunately closed. The price of the hall increasing and the number of dancers decreasing made it impossible to continue. That's the sad news, the good news is that a new Club, Severnside Squares, has started and we are dancing the plus program on the second and fourth Saturday afternoon of each month. The club is situated 2 miles from the old Severn Bridge on the English side. On the 9th October we had 25 happy dancers coming from local clubs that have either closed or are still running. Having three squares made it a really nice atmosphere and not having to travel in the dark an advantage. All dates are now booked for the rest of this year and next, if you are ever in the area you will always be welcome. Please contact Mike Belsten mikebelsten@btinternet.com or ring 01454613743. Lets not let Square Dancing die. When the club is established, mainstream and new dancers next.



Mike Belsten

Heyford Hoofers Square Dance Club

Back in 2002, the Heyford Hoofers moved from their "ancestral" home of Lower and Upper Heyford to the fast-growing metropolis that is today's Bicester. This was to combat falling attendances and to try and attract new dancers otherwise there was a strong chance of the club folding.

At times since then life has been a struggle for the club, but current day membership numbers have stabilised and indeed seem to be growing again. Like many clubs, Covid hit us hard and there were times when even its organising committee wondered if the club would ever return to holding weekly club nights.

But we stayed in touch with our members, sought their views and are trying to implement them. Over the past 19 years, home has been a community hall in one of Bicester's large housing "villages." That is now unavailable to us as our regular Tuesday evening slot has been taken by another organisation. Our members have insisted that Tuesday must be square dancing day and evenings were the best times to meet. So, the search was on for a new hall.

And we may have found it.

St Edburg's Church Hall nestles behind its church and is named after St Eadburh, a 9th century nun of some mystery, who must have done saintly things in this area of Bicester. The hall was opened in 1967 but found to be too expensive to run and a smaller hall, covering part of the same site, was opened in 1992. We booked it for 12th October as a return to square dancing venue and our members flocked to the new venue...well 17 of us, anyway, including 3 new dancers. Just as encouraging was the fact that 9 others apologised for their absence and insisted that they would be happy to join us on future Tuesdays. No hall is perfect, and we know we were spoilt by the facilities at our previous home. It is more expensive and that needs to be watched but it has a good dance floor, and we enjoyed a 2 hour snappy session, hosted by our long-standing caller Bob Billingham.

The Heyford Hoofers are back! So too, is our famous Christmas in July dance on Saturday 2nd July 2022 at nearby Arcott. Further details to be announced.

Chris Davis



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For Tickets please contact Kath Sammars : 0118 9471360

Square Dance Callers Club of Great Britain

For enquiries and membership
applications contact

Susie Kelly

2 Crossbridge Cottages, Thornborough
Road, Thornton, Bucks, MK17 0HE

Tel: 01280 816940

e-mail: susie@graybo.co.uk



Six of the Best

Reviews of Square Dance releases
from other labels by

PAUL BRISTOW

(owner and producer of STING & SNOW records)



The Night That Marshall Flippo Came to Town ~ Flippo's Friends

Rhythm Classic RC 203 *(Original Artist: Johnny Cash)*

A tribute to Marshall Flippo, one of the most loved and successful Callers, whom we lost last year. It is based on "The Night Hank Williams Came to Town" which was written by Bobby Braddock and Charlie Williams, originally recorded by Johnny Cash for his 1987 album "Johnny Cash Is Coming to Town". A wonderful piece of well produced music, featuring seven of the top US Callers - all of whom were personal friends of Flippo!

Mainstream Choreography: *Heads Promenade Halfway, Sides Square Thru Right and Left Thru, Eight Chain Six, Swing the Corner Lady and Promenade.*

Knock Three Times ~ Andy Allemao

Blue Star BS 2632 *(Original Artists: Tony Orlando & Dawn)*

This song was released in 1970 and was originally just credited to "Dawn" - no mention of Tony Orlando, who (at the time of release) was working for a different label); it hit No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 in January 1971 - and achieved the same in the UK. It was written by L. Russell Brown and Irwin Levine. Blue Star have had to re-arrange it to make a Square Dance but it works just fine; good music, supported by a good vocal.

Mainstream Figure: *Four Ladies Chain Three Quarters, Heads Promenade Halfway, Lead Right, Circle to a Line, Slide Thru, Pass Thru, Allemande Left.*

Teach Your Children Well ~ Chris Froggatt, Hayley Froggatt

Knee Deep KDM 146 *(Original Artists: Crosby, Stills Nash & Young)*

A song by Graham Nash, written when he was still a member of the Hollies - but never recorded by them; the track first appeared on the CSNY album "Déjà Vu" in 1970. The lyrics reflect on the "societal implications of messages given to children about war and other issues". Knee Deep feature a Steel Guitar sound - in the style of Jerry Garcia, of the Grateful Dead (who played on the original); Chris provides a very effective vocal!

Mainstream Figure: *Heads Square Thru Four, Circle to a Line, Pass Thru Wheel and Deal, Double Pass Thru, Cloverleaf, Pass Thru, Swing, Promenade.*

Hey Good Looking ~ Sam Tajima

Rawhide RWH 1242 *(Original Artist: Hank Williams)*

Hank Williams wrote this in twenty minutes, during a plane trip with Jimmy Dickens, in 1951; it was inspired by a 1942 song - of the same title - written by Cole Porter. The track also featured the playing of the "Drifting Cowboys Band" and was recorded at the Castle Studio in Nashville. Rawhide have used a style very faithful to the original, with a "Walking Bass" that works really well; Sam Tajima from Japan provides a great vocal!

Mainstream Figure: *Heads Promenade Halfway, Walk in Square Thru Four Right and Left Thru, Veer Left, Ferris Wheel, Square Thru Three, Swing.*

What's in a Kiss ~ Jeffrey Garbutt

Silver Sounds SSR 414 (Original Artist: Gilbert O'Sullivan)

From 1980, this was the first single that Gilbert O'Sullivan released when he returned to recording following a brief hiatus brought about by a legal battle that he fought with the record company for whom he worked (he won the case and received all the money that he was owed). A song asking a simple question; "made over" here by Silver Sounds - some well recorded music, with a wonderful vocal by Jeffrey Garbutt from Australia!

Mainstream Figure: *Heads Square Thru Four, Right Hand Star, Star Left Touch a Quarter, Split Circulate, Boys Run, Pass the Ocean, Girls Trade.*

Christmas Stuff ~ Kip Garvey, Carol Hilliard (Reardon)

Riverboat RIV 1063 (Original Artist: Nathan Carter)

The title track, from the 2014 album by English-Irish country singer Nathan Carter (his sixth album), which peaked at No. 8 on the Irish Albums Chart; a well written song with a very pleasant message about the things that we used to do at Christmas and how we would like to do them again. Riverboat presents this with a Swing Rhythm, using some top quality instrumentation; vocal tracks are by Kip and Carol - with a Harmony option!

Mainstream Figure: *Heads Square Thru Four, Swing Thru, Boys Cross Run Chain Down the Line, Flutterwheel, Slide Thru, Swing and Promenade.*

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

www.musicforcallers.com



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(a song from 1990 - by Dutch singer: René Froger - from the album: "Midnight Man")

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The Square Dance Caller's Club of Great Britain

<https://www.Callersclub.uk>

CAUGHT SPEEDING

Calling to 5 different groups over the last month has interested me in observing how different the speed of dancing is since 2019-20.

I'm not one of those fast moving callers who feels it's necessary to call at 128 beats a minute. I find I'm watching the feet on a circle left and judging my speed accordingly.

With the latest computer programs that will change tempo and key individually this allows me the freedom to enjoy singing the song or delivering the calls in a timely manner for the dancers in front of me.

When we were playing records, you know those black vinyl discs with a hole in the middle, if you played the music faster I had to sing higher and if slower I could sing lower. Small changes didn't notice but it was comical sometimes if the voice on the flip side of the record was too fast it sounded like the Chipmunks and if too slow sounded as though it came from the callers boots. Today's technology however allows these changes to speed and key to be independent of each other.

This month I have called to a group that had a couple of brand new dancers. So by judging the ability of those two dancers to comprehend what was instructed I could start off slow but by the end of the evening allow more speed to be used so making those dancers feel the excitement and exhilaration we all feel when we dance.

Yet another group only needed a couple of tips to show me they hadn't forgotten anything so I was able to try to use every move in that program just to reassure them they were solid.

In yet another group with just one new lady it was the so called experienced dancers who were having more trouble than she was. So it just goes to show that each group you call for needs individual attention to give them the best experience you can.

This is called 'judgement' and at every dance a caller calls they have to make these on the spot decisions. This is one of the first hurdles the new caller has to leap, so please be kind to new callers and give them your total support. They may have to learn by their mistakes so your tolerance will be greatly appreciated. But what ever you do don't inundate them with unskilled advice. They will have a mentor working with them who will put them on the right path.

So welcome back to our wonderful world of Square Dancing. Show your appreciation and support to all our callers, it's just as hard for them to fit back into their role after the 18 months shut away from the world as it is for you, the dancers..

Just have fun

from Susie

Caller's Corner
 By **PAUL BRISTOW** (CALLERLAB
 Accredited Caller Coach)

UK CALLER
 TRAINING FOUNDATION

The only three Formations, from where an Allemande Left can be called...

In previous articles I wrote about the fact that - when using Symmetrical Choreography (as most Callers do 99% of the time) - the Corner is never more than 3 moves away for an Allemande Left. I also wrote about the Four Allemandes (and why there are actually Five of them!) and how knowledge of the location of these - and the ability to recognise them - will allow a Caller to find a valid Allemande Left in 3 moves or less.

In this article, I want to look at another way of approaching the same problem; that is: "recognising the situation(s) from where a successful Allemande Left can be Called". It is said that that everybody's brain works differently and (because of that) - sometimes - considering a question from a different point of view can provide an obvious and easier answer; this might be useful for anyone that finds the other systems confusing. Here is an alternative way to look for a "way out" of any situation that a Caller might create...

The simple concept is that there are only three formations from where an Allemande Left can be called; two of these are utilised in the idea behind the Four Allemandes - the other one describes the 5th Allemande formation - not found in 2 X 4 choreography.

Formation (1) Eight Chain Thru: where Dancers stand to begin an Eight Chain Thru

Formation (2) Trade By: where the Dancers stand to begin a Trade By

The above are both 2 Dancer by 4 Dancer (2 X 4 Formations) and (as I have mentioned previously) almost all choreography can be expressed in these terms; however, any that cannot be expressed in terms of 2 X 4 Formations will sit in Formation (3) shown below.



Formation (3) The "O" Formation: Choreography in which all Eight Dancers working around the "Flagpole Centre of the Square", are involved; maybe a better name for this Formation would be something like: "General 8 dancer Flag-Pole-Centred Circle or Star", it would include the Static Square (from where everything starts), all 8 person Circles (e.g. Alamo Style rings, Single File Promenades, Weave the Ring, etc.) and all the Eight person Star Calls (e.g. Allemande Thar, *including Wrong Way Thar*, Ladies Chains etc.).

I have not attempted to show any diagrams of the "O" Formation; as there are so many but they are easy enough to "imagine" and even draw, if necessary. The letter "O" can also stand for the term "Opener"; this is an essential part of the vast majority of Singing Calls (and is also known as the "Middle Break" or "Closer") - it occurs three times in many Singing Calls, without changing Sequence or Partner Relationship; "Openers" are also used in Patter choreography; if Callers were to use only "Openers", with care there would NEVER be any danger of getting the Dancers crossed! However, when using this type of Choreography to satisfy the Dancers, Callers must be as inventive as possible...

Hogsmill's Bournemouth Bonanza – September 2021

Just three weeks after tentatively taking our first steps back onto the dance floor, we re-entered the wider world of square dancing at the Marsham Court Hotel in sunny Bournemouth. It was wonderful to be dancing together again! For many people it was their first dance for 18 months - initially, it seemed very strange to be holding hands with friends after months of standing two metres apart but everyone was amazed how easily the moves returned to memory.

As all the bookings had been confirmed during the pandemic, many of our original dancers had felt it was too risky to attend this year which left vacancies for those people who were keen to get out and about again. Many of these were A dancers who were happy to join a Mainstream and Plus event after eighteen months without a dance.

There were 57 Dancers from various clubs - Otter Squares, Pieces of Eight, Worthing Squares, All Square at Zero, Lazy River, Yellow Rocks, Chalfont Grand Squares, Tudor SDC, Cuffley SDC, Cranford SDC, Waggoners SDC, New City Squares, Listers SDC, Activ8s, Alamo and CD Squares and our own Hogsmill dancers, enjoying a weekend of fun and refresher dancing at Mainstream and Plus with an introduction to A.

As billed, it was a weekend of fun (see our website for photos by the pool and on the dance floor and facebook for videos):-

<https://hogsmillsquaredanceclub.weebly.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/hogsmillsquares>

Friday night saw a floor resplendent in traditional square dance attire gradually regaining confidence as Granville and Ian gently reviewed the Mainstream and Plus programmes, everyone singing along to all the old familiar tunes.

The Mainstream workshop 'Squolk' saw Ian testing our mental agility with some inventive Square and Folk dance mash ups, accompanied by some very catchy songs.

In the afternoon five squares of dancers joined Granville's "Introduction to A Session", offering some interesting revision for all the A dancers whilst maintaining the fun of learning for the Plus dancers.

Saturday evening saw Granville singing from the list of favourite songs, as chosen by individual dancers with their own dedications. Ian reviewed some of the moves from the Saturday morning session including many of the well-loved original moves such as daisy chain which were new to younger dancers. By now everybody knew lots of the other dancers and a convivial evening ensued with a swift raffle and many people joining us in the bar afterwards.

(Continued on next page)



Sunday morning again saw a selection of "Dancers' Requests" and we finally remembered to take the group photos. Thank you to Penny Warner and David Hewitt who stepped up and entertained us during the open Mic session. Thanks also to Kevin Lovell who, having spent a relaxing weekend as a dancer, performed an excellent guest tip.

This was a great weekend for interaction with the wider world of square dancing. On Saturday morning, we were delighted to welcome Doreen Bird, distributing flyers for her "A" dance in Torquay next year with Paul Bristow and Bronc Wise. On Sunday morning, we were honoured by a visit from Koli Pluck, the BAASDC Treasurer who brought flyers for the Swedish Convention. Susan Ellis, the BAASDC President had been dancing with us all weekend and was my pool buddy on the first evening when I was very impressed to hear of her career as a synchronised swimmer in her youth. We were pleased to welcome many dancers who have offered years of service in their own clubs, sharing their experience with newer dancers. The staff at the hotel were exceptionally friendly and helpful and with the support and teamwork square dancers are famous for, we had a wonderful time and are already looking forward to dancing with old friends and new next September.

Wendy Spencer

Obituary ~ Julia Beckley (equity name JULIA JACKSON)

Julia was born 21/06/1942 and as her Mother and Father were both keen square dancers she became immersed in the 'square dance world' from a very early age. When she, and her new husband moved to Braintree in Essex, there were no square dance clubs in her area so she bravely decided to try and teach local friends basic dance moves, with herself doing the 'calling'. Later on in life she visited the USA for the first time, for a holiday organised by an experienced square dance couple. As was normal, anybody in the 'group' who could call was asked to 'call a guest tip' when they visited different clubs. The result was that upon the return to England, her fellow travellers asked her to 'call' at their clubs.

Her reputation as a caller grew until she became one of the top 'in demand' callers in the Country.

In the 70's she decided to branch out and organised her first 'square dance' holidays in the UK and Jersey etc. In the early eighties she bravely organised her first USA square dance holiday. Every one of her fourteen USA holidays commenced at the National Convention and then involved a further two and a half weeks travelling and dancing in some amazing places. She always said it was a holiday with square dancing - not a square dance holiday. Having visited places such as Hawaii, Mexico, Las Vegas etc. etc., she calculated that, with our own travels, there were only eight States we had not visited. In this country she ran over thirty holidays and amazingly, many couples came with us time and time again.

Other square dance highlights included an appearance at the Royal Albert Hall and many many 'fun' Square Dance evenings for high profile companies including Kodak, Rolls Royce, Hilton Hotels and Holiday Inns. In fact I first met JULIA when, as a senior manager at Holiday Inns Head Office, and at the advice of my assistant, I booked Julia for a staff fun dance at the Bristol HI Hotel. The rest is history! Thirty six incredible years together followed.

Other highlights included making six records, forming the JayDees western dance club ('Julia/David') which we ran for 13 years- it is still going 16 years later. She appeared acting in several TV shows as an Equity member, became a 'brilliant Painter' of animals, which she loved. We actually had over a hundred ducks, six goats and a couple of pet sheep - not forgetting our incredible dogs who, many will remember, at her Sing-along-a-Julia Dances. We both played in a Ukulele band for five years and she also played the Piano and guitar. An incredibly talented lady whom I will miss very very much.

As she wanted, she is buried at a 'Natural Burial Ground' in a 'meadow' in 'rolling countryside'.

Rest in peace my Darling.

David Beckley

Obituary ~ Richard Tinson (20/8/40 - 14/10/21)

Sadly Richard passed away in the arms of his wife Anthea on 14 October 2021 after a short illness. He will be much missed by the many square dancers (UK, USA and elsewhere) who knew him.

He was born in Leeds on 20 August 1940. He trained and qualified as an electrical engineer for National Grid and, as well as working in the UK, he had spells working in the USA and Saudi.



He learnt to square dance in the USA in the mid-1960s while working in Connecticut. He and his then wife Mary and three children returned to Nottingham, England but he did not return to square dancing until a work-related move took him to Harrogate where he joined White Rose Squares.

After a while, his work took him to Saudi Arabia where he continued to square dance and also began calling and teaching.

On return to the UK, he continued his calling and teaching activities at Cloverleaf Squares in Bradford where he met Anthea who, at that stage, was new to square dancing. About 2 years after meeting, Richard and Anthea started a basics/MS club, Wharfedale Spinners in Guiseley, Leeds. They married in May 1994.

A member of Caller's Club, Richard was very highly regarded for his patient and thorough teaching skills which equipped his dancers well for dancing outside the club. In time, Richard and Anthea progressed to the Advanced programme and eventually joined The Pacesetters on the other side of the Pennines. They went on to learn C1, C2 and C3A.

As Challenge dancers, they regularly danced at the twice-yearly Advanced & Challenge weekend dances organised by Jean & Trevor Knott at various venues in the Midlands, most notably Wombourne, near Stourbridge. When the Knotts decided to wind down, Richard provided valuable support to Anthea when she joined forces with Rosemary Turton to keep those weekends going. That entailed bringing in and hosting many top callers (such as Ed Foote, Dave Wilson, Lee Kopman, Ben Rubright, Barry Clasper, Ross Howell, Sandy Bryant, Mike Jacobs, and Anne Uebelacker), ferrying them around and providing them with accommodation and hospitality during their stay in the country.

Richard and Anthea were very keen caravanners and travelled in their touring caravan to many events around the country at all dance programmes. They were staunch supporters of the Lytham Festival events and he called some C1 teach sessions there.

When Richard retired from work, they decided to discontinue running the Wharfedale Spinners club and began to spread their wings, travelling especial-

(Continued on next page)

ly to the USA to spend long stays at Mesa, Arizona where they could square dance, along with the many American friends they acquired, virtually every day of the week to popular callers such as Dave Wilson, Ben Rubright, Todd Fellegly and Bill Haynes.

Even though he had retired, Richard continued to work part-time primarily in a teaching capacity for National Grid, being highly regarded by his work colleagues. He also continued to call for White Rose Squares and Pannal Partners after closure of the Wharfedale Spinners and he continued to dance all programmes up to C3A even after, in recent years, enduring major spinal surgery and two knee replacements.

He was a real gentleman who was always ready to lend a hand, helping others at the caravan sites, setting things up at square dances, encouraging dancers new to the different programmes and sharing his wide experience and knowledge of square dancing. He has been a real credit to the square dance community in terms of his dancing and calling abilities but, above all, he will be fondly remembered for his dry wit and the fun and friendship he and Anthea shared with everyone fortunate to come in contact with them.

Our thoughts go out to Anthea and their 4 children and 13 grandchildren for the loss of a much-loved husband, father and grandfather.

Tony Collingwood

OPEN DANCES November 2021

Sat 13 th Afternoon	WAGGONERS SQUARE DANCE CLUB Tea Dance Simon & Trudy Fielding MS Tel 01992 441083 / 07719 961611 (David)	RA SG14 2LX
Fri 19 th to Mon 22 nd	The Southport Weekend Brian Summerfield, Paul Preston, Amy Richardson MS, P, R(Ph II - IV) Tel. 07952591868 (Brian)	TO PR8 1JS
Fri 19 th	CONTROUND EIGHTS 31 st / 32 nd Birthday Dance Eric Webb & Guests Yel. 01235 834778 (Eric) (See advert P13)	Oxon OX13 6BR

OPEN DANCES December 2021

Fri 3 rd To Mon 6 th	A Taste of Christmas Di Green & Terry McCann MS, P Tel. 01983 402141 (Trouville Hotel)	IOW PO36 8LB
Sun 5 th Afternoon	L&HC RCA Christmas Dance Simon and Trudy Fielding Easy MS Tel. 077 966 955 75 (Kevin)	LU6 3RJ
Sat 18 th	Lune Valley Ocean Wavers Christmas Party Dance Trevor Day SSD, MS, P oceanwavers2000@yahoo.com (Sheila)	RA Lancs LA2 6NB
Sat 18 th	Northern Area Christmas Dance Paul Bristow and Amy Richardson M, P, R Tel. 07971975338 (John) or 0790315316 (Judy)	Notts NG12 5AN
Sun 19 th (Aft)	A.S.A.Z. A1,2 Improvement Workshop Kevin Lovell A1 A2 Tel 077 966 955 75 (Kevin)	LU6 3RJ
Tues 28 th	A.S.A.Z. Twixmas Dance Kevin Lovell MS, P Tel. 077 966 955 75 (Annika)	PL LU6 3RJ
Thurs 30 th To Sat Jan 1 st	ACTIV8'S SDC Swanwick New Year Celebrations Simon & Trudy Fielding & Judi Read M, P, R Ph I-III Tel. 01582 735118 (Simon/Trudy)	TO Derby DE55 1AU
Fri 31 st 21.00 - 00.15	TILEHURST SDC New Year's Eve Dance Kevin Lovell MS, P Tel. 0118 9471360 (See advert P13)	TO RG10 9TT

OPEN DANCES January 2022

Sunday 9th (Aft)	A.S.A.Z. A1,2 Improvement Workshop Kevin Lovell A1 A2 Tel 077 966 955 75 (Kevin)	LU6 3RJ
Friday 21 st to Sun 23 rd	AERON VALLEY DIAMONDS Torquay Weekend Mike Belsten and Leah Tinsdeall MS, P Tel. 01545561159 (Elaine & Roy)	TO Devon TQ2 5JJ
Sat 29 th	CORINIUM SQUARES Birthday Dance John Boxall MS, P Tel. 01285 885507 (Huw) or 01285 656360 (Alan)	TO RA Glos GL7 1RE

REGULAR VIRTUAL DANCES November 2021

Every Monday 3 pm	C1 Zoom Dance Di Green & Terry McCann C1 workshop https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89035956452?pwd=VTYraWdmbUltSEE5SDRqNE1UNIR0UT09 Contact Di on digreen21@gmail.com
Each Tuesday 4 pm From 9 th	A2 Zoom Dance Di Green A2 https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89812836418?pwd=aHJoMERFVnM3ZG53TVZ0cTF0Rk1qZz09 Contact Di on digreen21@gmail.com
Each Wednesday 4 pm From 10 th	Plus Zoom Dance Di Green & Terry McCann Plus https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81744783048?pwd=djFqNWxtS0dmeGtJb0FzR3B0eGxkUT09 Contact Di on digreen21@gmail.com

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The BAASDC Council is supported by a small Support Team who have offered to fulfil specific tasks because of their expertise. Details of these together with contact details for the autonomous Area Federation representatives are given on the following page.

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Free listing of open Dances - Club contacts are expected to check the events calendar on the BAASDC website (www.uksquaredancing.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.

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

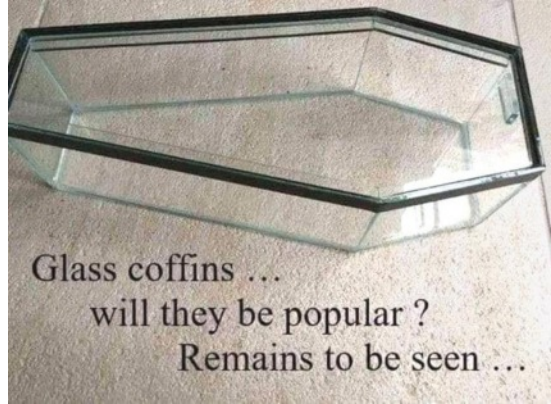
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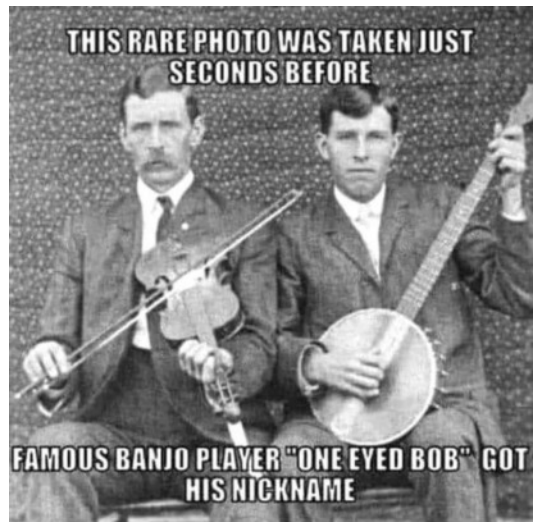
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