

# LET'S SQUARE DANCE

March 2022 : Volume 69 : No 1

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## *EDITOR SAYS.....*

Hi again everyone.

Quite a lot of news in from Clubs this month; thanks - keep the reports coming please.

Brian Hotchkies remembers an experience in China (P 14) and Paul Preston gives us a second part of his comments on Square Dance Call names (P 16). If you're over 60, please give the exercises on Page 11 a try.

There are a number of weekend events and holidays planned for 2022 so we have included a listing of them (Page 33) in addition to the normal monthly listings.

Keep Dancing



*Peter*

## **PRESIDENT' MESSAGE.**

Hello Everyone.

How time flies when you are enjoying yourself square dancing. It does not seem a month ago since I was writing my contribution to the February issue.

Talking about the February issue, how many of you were as disappointed as I was?

Let me explain.

I regularly read a walking magazine where a picture of the editor' dog is hidden somewhere in it's pictures. When I saw the image of Peter, our editor, in a mirror in one of the photographs of Aeron Valley' Torquay weekend I thought he had introduced a similar competition. I re-read the magazine looking for the rules etc. thinking of prizes. Was it tickets for the European Convention in Vienna or an all expenses break to dance at one of our more remote clubs? Alas, no rules, no competition, hence the disappointment.

On a serious note, the magazine is *your* magazine and *your* opportunity to tell the rest of us what you and your club are doing. Peter longs for the day when he has too much copy of an issue.

It is very pleasing to see that the majority of clubs are now meeting again, which means that we can dance and catch up with friends we have not seen for nearly two years which I know has been hard for many of you.



Enjoy your dancing.

*David Eagland*

Dear Editor

It' great to be back

After such a long time not being able to socialise with long time Square dance friends it was great to be able to converse and dance with some old friends.

I was lucky enough to attend the Corinium Squares 33<sup>rd</sup> Birthday dance in January. I was met by friendly smiling faces of dancers that I had not seen for over 5 years and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. John Boxall kept the grey cells working with some tricky set ups which a couple of years ago would have been a lot easier but after a 2 year break for some dancers it took a bit of thinking about. I would like to thank the club for having the courage to go ahead with the event thereby giving confidence to their dancers to attend this dance and hopefully other dances in the near future.



Keep smiling and keep safe.

*John Webb*

Dear Editor,

For those with memories going back to the mid-1990's, please be informed that past vice-president and past president of the Association Peter Baker, suffered a blood clot to his right eye on 24 October 2021 resulting in him being declared severely sight impaired – blind – from 4/11/2021. Notwithstanding this dramatic change to his lifestyle, he still retains his sense of humour, his independence – many would say stubbornness – and his fond memories of his square and round dancing friends and acquaintances., He wishes everyone as good a health as possible and much enjoyment in the activity, one which he is unfortunately now unable to enjoy after some 45+ years.

He would be pleased to have contact by email to [peterj.baker@gmx.co.uk](mailto:peterj.baker@gmx.co.uk).

Wishing everybody well,

*Peter*



# Chuckle Zone



From Andy Phillips to my ageless friends

An Irishman and an Englishman walk into a bakery.

The Englishman steals 3 buns and puts them into his pockets and leaves. He says to the Irishman, "That took great skill and guile to steal those buns. The owner didn't even see me."

The Irishman replied, "That's just simple thievery, I'll show you how to do it the honest way and get the same results."

The Irishman then proceeded to call out the owner of the bakery and says, "Sir, I want to show you a magic trick." The owner was intrigued so he came over to see the magic trick.

The Irishman asked him for a bun and then he proceeded to eat it. He asked 2 more times and after eating them again the owner says, "Okay my friend, where's the magic trick?"

The Irishman then said, "Look in the Englishman's pockets."

**Musings from your Public Relations Officer      March 2022**

First, I must grasp the nettle and get it over with. I must apologise to Janet Hewitt and others whose birthday falls on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Last month I described it as the most depressing day of the year. But, please remember that I don't make this stuff up! It is not I who decided to give that label to that date. Does anyone know who did? If so please let me know! So I can ask them a few questions! Phew that's done and dusted !!

Today as I sit at home watching the Winter Olympics Games I have been told to 'stay at home' as my neck of the woods is being visited by wild and windy Storm Eunice. I thought the plea for us to 'stay at home' sounded familiar; we got used to having our freedom of movement curtailed during the lockdown.

I think it is sad to hear that there are still many Clubs that have not yet re-opened and many dancers who are worried about returning to dancing preferring to 'stay at home'. According to the meteorological calendar Spring starts on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Spring is called the King of Seasons as the weather becomes warmer with increased daylight. In fact a time of new beginnings. So let's hope that closed clubs will reopen their doors and dancers will feel more confident about returning to dancing.

Square and Round dancing was an endangered species before Covid and now our situation has become even more precarious and fragile. It is sad that there are so few clubs teaching and of course there is the added problem of a dire shortage of Callers. No Caller equates to No Club! If something happens to your Caller is there anyone who can take their place? Clubs may have to think about amalgamating or rethinking their modus operandi.

My dancing diary is slowly filling up with dates for dances, a cruise, weekend events camp-outs and not forgetting the 'big one' the European Convention in Vienna in July. As usual I'll support as many events as I can, which means less time 'staying at home'. I am looking forward to meeting up with many of you again this year.

As I started my Musings with a 'depressing' date, I am thrilled to be able to end them with a date with the opposite sentiment. March 20<sup>th</sup> is the International Day of Happiness, now that's much better isn't it?

Let's make Square and Round dancing great again !

*Susan Ellis*



## Aeron Valley Torquay Weekend 2022



We have always enjoyed the January weekend in Torquay and were looking forward to the blissful moment when Covid released us, and we were able to enjoy it again.



And then Sue Elliott announced that she was no longer in a position to organise it, and would not be running it again. Could we really let such a popular weekend die? It had been on the calendar for so many years. Initially run by Colin Pett and then by Sue, these were auspicious shoes to be stepping into. But we made up our minds that we could rise to the challenge.

We have run weekends in our own Aberaeron hall for a few years now, but had never dealt with a hotel before. Could it be that difficult? Sue was immensely helpful, giving us all the information on who, in the hotel to deal with and how to go about it. The Carlton Hotel then proved to be equally helpful, and before we knew it we had 36 rooms booked, and the ballroom at our disposal for the weekend in January 2022.

Our deposit to the hotel had to be paid immediately, and then came the heartstopping wait for potential dancers to pay their deposits to us, and replace our outlay! We need not have worried. The applications came flooding in, and our places were soon filled up. We even had a waiting list!

Of course there were concerns, this year in particular. Dancers felt 'rusty' and worried that they would not remember the moves. But then, so did our callers, Mike Belsten and Leah Tinsdeall (formerly Clarke, but now an old married lady!) What would the Covid situation be when the weekend arrived? How would the dancers be? What health and safety measures would be in place at the hotel?

Again, thankfully, no problem. The in-hotel requirements were that everyone wore masks around the hotel. Sanitisers were everywhere, and in every alcove in the ballroom. We requested that all the dancers took flow tests each morning before breakfast, and no-one reported a positive result.

We all sanitised after each tip. As a 'private party' we were not required

*Continued on next page*

to wear masks in the ballroom, very much in line with the clubs which have already started up again, and once we all relaxed, the weekend went swimmingly.

Our callers, Leah and Mike had promised to keep it straightforward, this year, to ease people who have not danced for a year or so back into the swing of it. And yes, it worked! So many smiling faces.

Mike's partner, Diane, organised the raffle and collected £120 for Cancer Research UK. David Eagland introduced himself as the new President of the BAASDC.

Several members of staff were very interested in what we were doing. We put on a tip for them to join in on Saturday night. They now have information about local clubs, who will, we hope, send publicity to the hotel if and when they take on beginners.

Saturday night brought out some talented dancers at the after party. David Eagland and his ukulele treated us to a singalong, Square Dance Lauriat Brian Chapman entertained us with some old songs and several of his brilliant poems, Peter Wright gave us an amusing story from his childhood which still holds good today, Leah, with her mother, Jo, encouraged some intrepid dancers to join her in a fast line dance and Mike tested our musical knowledge with a quiz.

3 squares of dancers stayed at the hotel for an extra night on Sunday night, and Mike put on an extra little dance for us from 8.00 to 10.00 pm. A bonus we had not anticipated, but very much enjoyed.

So, our thanks go to Sue, for pointing us in the right direction, to the hotel, for making it all so easy for us, to our lovely callers Mike and Leah, for giving us a great weekend, to Diane for organising the raffle, to the performers who entertained us at the after party, and of course to you, the dancers, for braving the restrictions and helping us to make the weekend a success.

Torquay weekend January 2023, here we come.....

*Roy and Elaine  
Aeron Valley Diamonds*

*Jill spotted this and thought that it tied in well with the PRO's mus-  
ings last month.*

A little poem from a magazine 'Smiling Through'

Have you thought of what a smile can do?  
You give it away –it's returned to you!  
It gladdens the young and it comforts the old.  
A smile of compassion works wonders untold.  
It cannot be borrowed or stolen away.  
You'll still spare a smile when tomorrow's today  
It brings understanding, promotes kindly touch.  
The cost is so little, its value so much.

I thought this Youtube clip was great. Hope you can open it.-

<https://youtu.be/TJwpbZzUElc>

If it doesn't open, try searching YouTube for "High Technology applied"

*(Editor)*

## **Aeron Valley Diamonds Torquay Weekend**

A New Year and a new dancing opportunity ! The January 2022 Torquay weekend was a very enjoyable well attended dancing experience with excellent calling by Mike Belsten and Leah Tinsdeall. Our friendly hosts Roy and Elaine Evans had put together a varied and well organised programme under the new management of Aeron Valley Diamonds. The Carlton Hotel has a spacious ballroom, very good food and facilities.

Our hotel was not far from the historic Torre Abbey which boasts the 800 year old Grade 1 listed Spanish Barn where approximately 397 prisoners captured during the Spanish Armada raid were held.

After a lovely weekend dancing our journey home took on an unexpected cheese theme as we were stuck in traffic near Bristol and diverted to nearby Cheddar Gorge. Cheddar Cheese is still made in the village and some is matured in caves in the Gorge. One of our fellow dancers had also already alerted us to the possibility of obtaining Single Gloucester Cheese from Gloucester Services Farmshop on the M5 which is apparently the only motorway service area that sells it.

Altogether it was an unbelievable weekend.

*Nick Tillotson White Rose Squares*

### **EXERCISE FOR PEOPLE OVER 60**

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side.

With a 5lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your side and hold them there for as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute and then relax.

Each day you will find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10lb potato bags. Then try 50lb potato bags and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms out straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level).

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.

*From Alan Moss*

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**WAGGONERS BRING IN THE NEW YEAR 2022  
AT SWANWICK IN DERBYSHIRE**

Ten members of Waggoners, including Trudy and Simon, travelled north on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> December arriving in the late afternoon to spend the night in the Holiday Inn Express, Pride Park, Derby – we had decided that we would be too tired to drive, set up the hall and take part in two dances all in one day so added an extra night to our break. After having a meal at the hotel everyone retired to our room where beer, wine and soft drinks were dispensed from David's "bar" (a small suitcase). After breakfast the following morning we mostly lazed around until it was time to leave although one of us had to make a hasty trip to Marks and Spencer as they had forgotten to pack spare trousers and Penny and Bob wanted to tweak the walk they were to lead on New Year's Eve.

We all arrived at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, in the early afternoon of Thursday. Trudy, Simon, Sandy, Bob W, David H, Roy, Bob F and Janet F started decorating the dance hall while Janet H and Penny went to oversee checking in for the dancers, issuing room keys and the complimentary biodegradable water bottles.

By 3.15 p.m. the hall was ready and dancing commenced with Trudy and Simon



calling Mainstream and Plus and Judi Read cueing Rounds. The last two Waggoners in our party, Petra and John, joined us for some late tips.

After we had eaten our evening meal in the Chatsworth Dining Room, we went to change, most of us into traditional Square Dance attire, and made our way back to the dance hall. During the evening judging took place of the decorated hats with a "New Year" theme. Waggoners were well represented with Janet and David H, Penny and Bob W and Petra and John all taking part. Janet's hat, depicting Big Ben

*Continued on next page*

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at midnight, won first prize of a tin of shortbread biscuits with Petra and John being awarded second place.

On New Year's Eve morning Penny and Bob led a group of 11 on a 5-6 mile two hour walk around the local area. Due to very muddy conditions, they were unable to walk on the original planned route, which meant Penny and Bob had to take the group on an alternative course on slightly firmer ground.

While the walk was taking place Janet and David H hosted a table quiz with quizzers choosing their own team names which included "Tears 4 Fears", "Famous Five Plus One" and "Pat's Table". "Pat's Table", consisting of five Waggoners - Sandy, Petra, John, Bob F and Janet F - together with Pat and Jenny, were the winners and were presented with a bag of mixed sweets to share.

After lunch Judi Read cued an introduction to Round dancing which Penny and Bob attended and this was followed by a Squares workshop where Trudy and Simon showed us how interesting the Mainstream programme could be with expansions to various calls: Wheel & Deal from facing lines; Swing thru from Left Hand Ocean Waves and Left Swing Thru from Right Hand Ocean Waves; Zoom, including from a column; And a quarter more (from the Glossary of Terms) - using Right & Left thru and Wheel & Deal; Square Thru and Pass to the Centre from Ocean Waves.

Following another enjoyable meal we went to change into our Square Dance clothes for the evening and returned to the Main Hall where dancing commenced. During a break in dancing, we shared a buffet of cheese and biscuits. Just before midnight we each took a glass of bubbly to toast the New Year, listened for the sounds on a radio of Big Ben striking twelve and then linked arms for the traditional singing of "Auld Lang Syne". After clearing up the party popper streamers, we returned to the dance floor for our first tip of 2022.

On New Year's morning, after breakfast, checking out of our rooms and loading our luggage into our cars, we returned to the Main Hall for an Open Mic morning M.C'd by Simon. David was the first guest caller, opening with some sight patter to be followed by Carol and Alan Gerry with a duet of "We Got Love" which, after some 52 years of marriage, we hope they do! Eric Webb entertained us with some Contra Dancing and Penny was the last guest caller with some patter followed by her "Wouldn't it be Lovely?"

Trudy and Simon closed the New Year celebrations with their duet "Don't it make you want to go home?" after which the decorations had to come down and be put away until next time.

Bookings are now being taken for the 2022/2023 New Year celebration - we'd love to have you join us!

*David and Janet Hewitt*

## A WONDERFUL CHINESE DANCING EXPERIENCE

Brian Hotchkies (Australia)

Although the featured photos were taken several years ago, I thought that with the current interest in the "Winter Olympics", the "Birds Nest", "Square Dancing", and "China", this article may be topical..??

Since 2010, I've been invited by the organizers of Square Dance Clubs in Beijing to conduct Workshops, and to call for Special Festival Events in that City.

It was during one of these visits in 2018, that Vicky Sun, who is one of the leading Callers & organizers in the Beijing region, told me that she'd organized a demonstration, featuring nine sets of Dancers. These Dancers were currently in the final training stage to perform a routine of *Progressive & Exploding Squares* at a Weekend Square Dance Festival for which I was calling. The venue would be a special Function Room at the Olympic Stadium (frequently referred to as the "Birds Nest").

Several days before the Festival, all the Dancers involved with the demonstration, gathered for a *dress rehearsal* at an open area adjacent to the Olympic Stadium. Vicky invited me to inspect the routine in order to offer a critique, and advice regarding technicalities of the performance.



During the rehearsal, a film crew arrived from a local TV Channel to obtain footage of the event. The crew also asked if I would mind doing an interview for them, with Vicky acting as my interpreter.

A number of photos were taken during the course of the session, including those two featured with this article.



The Demonstration, and the Festival were both very successful. What an absolutely amazing experience it was to call in such an iconic venue.

*Brian Hotchkies*

## **CORINIUM SQUARES 33rd BIRTHDAY DANCE.**

Cirencester's Corinium Squares resumed dancing in September last year following the enforced lockdowns of the last two years, and decided that it was high time things got back onto an even keel, and so decided to 'bite the bullet' hold a Birthday Dance on 29th January to celebrate 33 fantastic years of square dancing in Cirencester.

In view of the uncertainty surrounding organised events it was decided to use our smaller Club night Hall rather than the expensive Deer Park School Hall which has been the normal venue for our dances, and to make a top limit of 50 dancers. In the event 34 dancers attended what turned out to be a thoroughly enjoyable evening, dancing to our own Club Caller John Boxall.

We were honoured by the attendance of Mr John Webb, and many long time supporters of Corinium Squares over the years including dancers from Bristol, Cheltenham and the surrounding area.

Chairman Alan Moss, himself a club member since it's formation, called upon founder member and long-time Club Caller Peter Wright to do the honours and cut the beautiful celebration cake made by member Jill Townsend.



In the hope that Covid will now settle into the background of our lives, the committee are busy looking at holding another open dance in mid to late June to which all are invited.

*Alan Moss (Chairman Corinium Squares).*

## **Our Call Names Part 2**

Last month we looked at the first word of some of our call names and found that there are 16 'Scoot' <something> and 14 'Pass' <something> calls in our programme lists. For each and every Scoot call the dance action was written to start off the movement in the same way. Similarly, for every Pass <something> call whether it is Pass Thru in the Basic programme or Pass The Axel at C1, the dance action starts off exactly the same. Similar consistencies in call names run throughout our programme lists and we take such cohesion for granted.

Now, you would expect such structure and consistency between our call names if they were all invented by the same group or individual, or if there was an authority in place to regulate and organise call names, but that wasn't the case when most of our listed calls were written in the 1960's and 70's – in fact far from it.

Call authors flooded the activity with their own new ideas and dance patterns, but there was no official database, clearing house or similar organisation to bring order and constancy to the call names or definitions. On top of that, call authors didn't always foresee the need to write up their movement meticulously so if the call became popular each caller could easily interpret the call differently and unknowingly or otherwise modify the calls definition during teaching. For example, some callers added extra starting formations to the call – and so on. So, by the time a move became popular it may well have been quite different to what the author had intended. Even more surprising then that our listed calls are now so unified!

So, amongst all of this, how did our call names, dance actions and programmes achieve some sense of consistency? Without the use of digital mass communication, a number of different activities influenced the name of a new movement.

A dancer, Bill Burleson maintained a log of new calls as they emerged which he published as an encyclopaedia and similarly Jay King published a dictionary, both of which helped inventors determine whether their new creation was indeed new (or similar to) calls that had gone before. When deciding upon a name, many authors will have taken their cue from previous listings. Many of the new calls featured in dance magazines and caller note services of the day also acted as a steer for authors looking for direction when naming their new call.

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The unrestrained explosion of new movements - many with non-descriptive call names, was too onerous for most dancers to learn, retain and enjoy, leading to the intervention of The Gold Ribbon Committee who published the Sets In Order 50 basics list (Dec 1968). It was an effort to bring a degree of stabilisation and standardisation to the activity. The committee gave a strong indication that they favoured calling terms that tell the dancers what to do – calls that described the dance action and gave the best chance of dancers learning and retaining the movement.

The caller's body CALLERLAB came later and made the creation and maintenance of standardised lists and call definitions a top priority. Whilst call names in themselves were not changed, call definitions were subjected to more change by way of revisions - to better suit the programme that they were allocated to (for example). The authors original work has been tweaked somewhat in order that our programmes have some consistency.

Some older calls had little documentation about how they should be danced, starting formations etc and so definitions were drafted to reflect how most dancers were actually dancing the call. It's amusing to think that there is some sort of truth in it when callers cheekily tease wayward dancers by saying 'Right - from now on I think I'll just call what you are dancing'!

*Paul Preston*



## Six of the Best

Reviews of Square Dance releases  
from other labels by

**PAUL BRISTOW**

(owner and producer of STING & SNOW records)



### **I Been to Georgia on a Fast Train Baby ~ Tom Manning**

Solid Gold SG 235 (Original Artist: Billy Joe Shaver)

A song written and recorded by award winning "Outlaw Country" singer Billy Joe Shaver - who wrote numerous songs for artists such as Patty Loveless and Willie Nelson. This track is taken from his debut album: "Old Five and Dimers Like Me", released in 1973. It tells the tale of a farm-boy from the US and mentions what it was like to be raised in a rural situation. Great fast-feeling music in a "fast-train" style with Tom on the vocal!

**Mainstream Figure:** *Promenade Half, Square Thru Four, Touch a Quarter Scootback, Boy Run, Pass the Ocean, All Eight Circulate, Swing, Promenade.*

### **Shakin' ~ Tony Oxendine**

Riverboat RIV 1075 (Original Artists: Sawyer Brown)

Sawyer Brown are an American Country Music band and this is the title track from their second studio album, released in 1985; the song was written by the lead vocalist: Mark Miller, together with the band's producer: Randy Scruggs - the album hit number three in the charts. The song is all about a Girl that is "shakin'" - i.e. dancing energetically, in a manner that the singer likes! First class music, with a terrific vocal by Tony Oxendine!

**Mainstream Choreography:** *Heads Promenade Half, Right and Left Thru Sides Square Thru Four, Swing Thru, Boys Trade, Turn Thru, Allemande Left.*

### **Desiree ~ Joe Saltel**

Arrowhead ARROW 1155 (Original Artist: Neil Diamond)

A great song written and recorded by Neil Diamond and included as a track on his 1977 album: "I'm Glad you're here with Me Tonight". The single reached number one on the U.S. Easy Listening chart. Telling the tale of a young man's "first love", the song uses a good pounding beat to provide a great dancing rhythm. Arrowhead provide a first-rate interpretation of the original instrumental - and Joe Saltel's vocal track is outstanding!

**Mainstream Figure:** *Promenade Half, Square Thru Four, Right and Left Thru Veer Left, Couples Circulate, Chain Down the Line, keep this Girl Promenade.*

### **What Could be Better Than This ~ Phil Pierce**

Sharp Shooter SS 1072 (Original Artist: Joel Evans Orchestra - feat. Adam James)

This is taken from an album named: "Give Love a Chance", which was released in 2019; a Big-Band sound - playing a Jazz song - with a Swing rhythm, telling us how good life is turning out to be for the singer! This feels a lot like a "Frank Sinatra / Dean Martin" type of song - but has a pounding heartbeat type Bass Rhythm, which works really well. The music is great and Phil Pierce performs in the "Michael Bubl " style on the vocal!

**Mainstream Figure:** *Promenade Half, Touch a Quarter, Boys Run, Swing Thru, Boys Run, Couples Circulate, Bend the Line, Pass the Ocean, Recycle.*

**Stuck on You ~ Mike Hogan**

Rawhide RWH 1251 (Original Artist: Elvis Presley)

Elvis Presley's first hit single after his two-year stint in the US Army, it was written by Aaron Schroeder and J. Leslie McFarland and reached number one in 1960 in the US; it went to number one on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and also peaked at number six on the R&B chart. This is a nice tune that "bounces" along in the Elvis Presley/Rockabilly style. Rawhide have captured the flavour of the original - on the music and the vocal!

**Mainstream Figure:** *Heads Square Thru Four, Swing Thru, Spin the Top, Right and Left Thru, Flutterwheel, Sweep a Quarter, Swing & Promenade.*

**Stay ~ Jack O'Leary**

Silver Sounds SSR 390 (Original Artists: Maurice Williams and the Zodiacs)

A doo-wop song written by Maurice Williams in 1953 (when he was only 15 years old) - first recorded in 1960 by Maurice with his group "the Zodiacs", it achieved the number one spot on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100; there were also successful versions by The Four Seasons, The Hollies and Jackson Browne. A well produced version by Silver Sounds, it makes use of all of the parts of the original song and is well presented by Jack O'Leary!

**Mainstream Figure:** *Promenade Half, Square Thru Four, Right and Left Thru Veer Left, Couples Circulate, Girls Scootback, Boys Fold, Swing & Promenade.*

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

**www.musicforcallers.com**



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*(from Scotland - a popular "Jacobite" anthem - set at the time of Bonnie Prince Charlie)*

**STING 22053 Valiant / Noble** (Double Sided Patter)

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## The Square Dance Caller's Club of Great Britain

<http://www.Callersclub.uk>



### Who leads and who trails behind

You may not realise it but we live in small cottage set amongst agricultural fields which grow a cycle of crops through the years. Some times it's wheat, sometimes broad beans grown for cattle feed, sometimes rape presumably grown for it's oil content. The bean flowers smell gorgeous but the rape flowers make my eyes water when they are ripening. So we obviously see lots of Farm traffic up and down our lane, mostly tractors hauling trailers full of whatever the crop is and then bales of straw sometimes wrapped in plastic maybe for silage to feed cattle in winter. So we are used to seeing tractors and trailers passing our cottage.

This may illustrate what we mean when describing one person behind another as LEADERS AND TRAILERS. The caller may refer to this formation when teaching certain moves. For example in WALK AND DODGE. It's the leader who dodges sideways into the neighbours spot as the trailer walks forward to fill the Dodgers' or Leaders' spot once they've dodged. This can be easily understood from waves where the in-facer is the walker and the out-facer is the dodger - ending in out-facing couples. But from facing lines the caller could specify Girls walk and Boys dodge - or vice versa - which would make mini waves at the finish.

This could also lead to the idea that if you are all in out-facing lines then you are all leaders, this is easier to understand than the opposite view that assumes that in-facing lines are all trailers. Better not to dwell on that idea.

DOUBLE PASS THRU clearly has leaders and trailers but a completed double pass thru could have the leaders Clover leaf and the trailers partner trade. This concept may be more difficult to understand in a starting double pass thru because the centres will be facing other centres, forgetting they themselves are being followed by trailers.

ZOOM is another move that needs leaders and trailers. In this the trailers simply step forward and the leaders' pathway describes a 360 degree circle away from their partners to finish in the trailers footprints. This move is commonly danced from a Double Pass Thru position but it could also refer to the the ends of waves or two-face lines.

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IN WAVES the dancers are usually concentrating on the people beside them so they may not realise that in parallel waves there are actually leaders and trailers which can be better observed if the two waves are closer together. The leaders are the out-facers and the Trailers are the in-facers - looking at the backs of the out-facers in the other wave. So this is where the Walk and Dodge comes into the picture but the caller could also ask, from the wave, All the Leaders Trade down the line or All the leaders run right. Given the right arrangement it could be all the girls trade down the line or all the girls run right but if those outfacers are of mixed genders - a boy and a girl - then saying All the Leaders trade or run etc. makes perfect sense.

If the caller asks the dancers, from a tidal formation, to do a single file tag the line all the way, zoom may not be called because there needs to be a centre line - a partner in fact - for the leaders to circle away from. But that 's a bit technical so I think we'll leave it there

Keep smiling, keep having fun and keep safe

Susie

## **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](mailto:susie@graybo.co.uk)



**Viking Squares**  
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**Campout Weekend**



**Thursday June 2nd - Monday June 6th 2022**



**At**

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**Trudy & Simon Fielding**  
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**For further information please contact**  
**Carol or Peter Baker on tel: 01476 561087**  
**Judy or Mick Grummitt on tel: 01400 281497**

# **BRONC WISE & PAUL BRISTOW**

(USA)

(UK)

## **A2 WEEKEND**

**TLH VICTORIA HOTEL**

**Belgrave Road, TORQUAY TQ2 5HS**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**Dancing and Hotel Accommodation**

**Half Board**

**£180 pp**

**Friday Evening Dance**

**Saturday Morning & Afternoon Work Shops**

**Saturday Evening Dance & Raffle**

**Sunday Morning Dance**

**Contact Doreen Bonner 01202 872135**

**E-mail: [potplant38@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:potplant38@yahoo.co.uk)**

**Tickets sold on First Come First Served Basis**

*It is advised to cover this week-end with the appropriate holiday insurance.*

*Event under the auspices of Black Arrows 2001 SDC*

### **Sound Systems: what is required in terms of Square Dance equipment?**

Every Caller needs to have a good sound system, upon which they can rely; i.e. a set of equipment that will provide the best level of reproduction of both Music as well as voice for the Dancers; in my opinion, this is not so much a question of "quality" as of "clarity".

The Dancers need to be able to hear the part of the music to which they dance, this - in simple terms - is the "downbeat" (one footstep for each down beat); however, the most important thing is the voice of the Caller, this must be made "distinguishable" from the rest of the sound, in a manner that allows the Dancers to understand every word the Caller says; a high quality sound system will be intended to bring out every instrument in the orchestra, which will not always achieve this degree of voice clarity. Quite often I have had people tell me that they could build a much better amplifier producing a much higher quality sound - but it is not just a question of quality. It has to be a question of compromise, favouring the voice, to make the sound appropriate for Square Dancing.

When I first started Calling (in the 1970s), many Callers in the UK relied upon a valve amplifier, taken from an old radiogram; you built a box for the turntable from the same unit; the single column speaker was made by putting the loudspeaker units (again from the radiogram) into a wooden cabinet. I hate to think what modern health and safety would think of these cobbled together combinations. A few Callers had standard public address systems with purpose built speakers; these were considerably more expensive and were sometimes the property of the club, rather than the Caller. Advertisements in the American Square Dance magazines offered a range of purpose built "bespoke" sets that could be purchased for the price of a small car; a small number of Callers invested in these. As time went by more Callers purchased these sound systems from the United States (although a fair number still had the old Heath Robinson affairs or P.A. systems).

Slowly but surely, as purchasing power improved, the most successful and trusted units became recognised as the Hilton record player with built-in amplifier, record reset and a volume control for the music on the microphone chord - and Yak Stack folding column speakers; these became universally acknowledged as the ultimate Caller system.

However, as the Hilton - with a Yak Stack (both built with costly "special components") combinations were the "Rolls-Royce" of Caller systems, they carried a very heavy price tag, which still kept them out of the reach of many Callers, who found cheaper systems and "made-do" with the sound that they produced. It should be understood that the Hilton/Yak Stack units were carefully designed to put the voice very clearly out in front of the music - the effect of doing this meant that the music could not be reproduced "perfectly" but it effectively "tweaked" the music channel and applied extra sharpness and clarity to the voice channel, creating the best possible balance; Dancers were able to dance to the music and the Callers could be heard very clearly in all parts of the hall.

In these modern times I cannot over-rate the effect of the Hilton amplifier. From time to time I come across modern sound systems, set up for larger conventions, using very new, very effective sound equipment - but the primary unit in these set-ups is a Hilton!



## CAMPOUT

**MONK S BARN FARM**

**Shipston Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warks, CV37 8NA**

**22-29th June 2022**

**New dance venue: Non campers welcome**  
**Alderminster Village Hall, CV37 8PE.**  
**just 3 minutes away with ample parking**

**Caller: Rob Branson Plus**

**Cuer: Nick Wright Rounds**

**Pitch Fees:     £16.50 with electric inc vat per day**  
                      £12 non electric inc vat per day

**Deposit           £10**

**Dancing will be on Friday and Saturday evening 7-10pm**  
**and on Sunday from 2.30-5.30pm.**

**Pre-paid Dance ticket p.p. covering all sessions £16, including**  
**refreshments and light buffet Saturday evening**

**Open door dance price £6 per person per session**

**For booking information contact**  
**Chris Branson**

**Mob: 07973 270310 & 07954 400872 Tel: 01202 478924**

**Email: [chrisrob.piecesof8@sky.com](mailto:chrisrob.piecesof8@sky.com)**

*Each year, the European Newsletter is produced and includes reports from Square Dance Associations all over Europe and also from China, Japan and Taiwan. We'll include a number of these over the coming months; here is the BAASDC report:*

The United Kingdom like every other country, continues to suffer the consequences of the Pandemic and never more so than Square and Round Dancing. As a close contact activity with lots of hand holding, twirling and swirling and not forgetting the 'Yellow Rocks' it is taking time for dancers to feel confident about returning to their Clubs. Inevitably some Clubs have had to close, others have lost the use of their venues for a variety of reasons including steep rises in costs and availability. However, gradually some Clubs are starting to re-open.

During the 'Lockdowns' many of our Club Contacts took the trouble to keep in touch with their dancers in a variety of ways. These included Zoom, telephone calls, newsletters and socially distanced social events. Such Clubs have been wonderful as they realized the importance and benefits of the social side of belonging to a Club.

One of the positives that came out of the Pandemic, was the genius idea to encourage Callers and Cuers to carry out their craft on 'Zoom'. Who was this genius? Someone must know including obviously himself/herself? Could someone tell me please? If there is a 'Hall of Fame' for Square and Round dance luminaries, then surely their name should be there for all to see.

What Zoom did, was to make us appreciate the fact that ours is a truly global activity, when despite cultural and other differences we all speak the same language of Square Dance calls. Dancers from all over the world, in different time zones and countries, came together as a huge global family. They met up regularly and many formed friendships in a way unimaginable before Covid 19.

Another bonus for the Zoomers was that many callers took the opportunity to teach different programmes, giving existing dancers the chance to hone their skills and others to add another level of expertise to their repertoire.

Here in the United Kingdom many dancers are still enjoying the benefits of Zoom dancing. Sadly for some, their Club may have closed or not yet re-opened. Others unable to fully participate actively in

*Continued on next page*

dancing just sign in to talk to other dancers, just listen to the banter or just enjoy the familiar sound of the Calls and the music. Thank you to all Zoom Callers and Cuers everywhere!

Dancers in the United Kingdom are being encouraged to attend as many dance events both here and abroad, and our diaries for 2022 are beginning to fill up. Of course there is the BIG ONE the European Convention to be held in Vienna in Austria in July. There is a stellar line-up of Callers and Cuers; coming from the U.K. will be Di Green, Neil Whiston and Paul Bristow calling and Teresa and Paul Hart cueing. For many it may be the opportunity to meet up with fellow Zoomers in person – to chat and dance together and reflect on past events.

In July, 2021 as the President of the B.A.A.S.D.C. I received a Vote of Confidence from our Clubs; I was so pleased to receive their support. However in October at our Annual General Meeting I took the decision to step down from the post, but stayed on the Council as the Public Relations Officer. So when you are reading this our new President will be David England.

I wish all Dancers Callers and Cuers and their families A Very Happy New Year with lots of Real Dancing with Real People in Real Places ! Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we're here we should dance!

*Susan Ellis      Public Relations Officer for B.A.A.S.D.C.*



**SEVERNSIDE SQUARES**

**EASTER DANCE 2022**

COME TO OUR EASTER BONNET SQUARE DANCE  
AT THE GREENFIELD CENTRE WINTERBOURNE BS36 1NJ

SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2.00 pm – 4.30 pm

DANCING TO MIKE BELSTEN  
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TEA, COFFEE AND SOFT DRINKS PROVIDED

CASUAL DRESS  
BEST EASTER BONNET PRIZE MEN & LADIES

TICKETS ARE ONLY £5.00. PP

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**VALENTINE DANCE**  
**PAUL BRISTOW**

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or by e-mail: [paul@stingproductions.co.uk](mailto:paul@stingproductions.co.uk)

**\*RAFFLE\***

### **Obituary ~ Marnie Slater**

It was with great sadness that we learned the news that Marnie Slater had passed away on 6th December. Marnie and Paul have both been great supporters of both Rounds and Squares and her presence will sorely be missed.



Marnie was never afraid to give you her opinion on Rounds, especially the phase ratings and many a long evening was spent on the changes put in place by Roundalab in the 1980s. Marnie and Paul were often seen supporting local events and weekends as well as being prominent in their own teachings at their respective clubs.

*Paul Hart on behalf of the Round Dance Council, SDCCGB*

*Further information from the programme of the BAASDC Convention 1990*

Marnie began square dancing in 1970 when she formed Stourbridge Squares, Paul began dancing in 1972 and they then had a Square Dance Wedding in 1975. They began round dancing in 1976 at Step-A-Round RDC under the tuition of Babs and John Adam.

In 1981 Paul opened his own club, Weavers SDC and called there for many years. In 1984 Marnie opened Butterfly Rounds and had also cued for Cheltenham Swinging Rounds every other week.

Marnie had cued for many clubs and events over the years including BAADSC Convention and Set Squares Llandudno weekend.

## OPEN DANCES March 2022

Sun 6th (Aft)	<b>A.S.A.Z.</b> A1,2 Improvement Workshop <b>Kevin Lovell</b> A1 A2 Tel 077 966 955 75 (Kevin)	LU6 3RJ
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> To Sat 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Catherine Wheelers</b> <b>Di Green &amp; Paul Mee</b> C1, C2 Tel: 07549108515 (Paul)	Notts NG7 2JJ
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Viking Squares</b> 37 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Dance <b>Neil Whiston</b> (MS/P) <b>Amy Richardson</b> ( R ) Tel. 01476 561087 (Carol) 07903 153161 (Judy)	Leics NG13 0BG
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> to Mon 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Pieces of Eight</b> Torquay Fun Weekend <b>Rob Branson &amp; Wendy Shipton</b> (MS / P) Tel 07973 270310 (Chris)	Devon TQ2 5JJ
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> (Aft)	<b>ASAZ</b> Workshop <b>Kevin Lovell</b> A1, A2 Tel. 07796 695575 (Kevin)	HP15 6AD
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> (Aft)	<b>ASAZ</b> Friendship Dance <b>Kevin Lovell</b> Easy M/S (SSD) & Plus Tel: 07796 695575 (Annika)	LU6 3RJ
Thurs 31 <sup>st</sup> (Morn/Aft))	<b>Catherine Wheelers</b> C1 Workshop Paul Mee C1 Tel: 01400 272673 or 07549 108515 (Paul)	Notts

## REGULAR VIRTUAL DANCES March 2021

Every Monday 3 pm	C1 Zoom Dance <b>Di Green &amp; Terry McCann</b> C1 workshop <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89035956452?pwd=VTYraWdmbUltS EE5SDRqNE1UNIROUT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89035956452?pwd=VTYraWdmbUltS EE5SDRqNE1UNIROUT09</a> Contact Di on digreen21@gmail.com
Every Tuesday 4 pm	A2 Zoom Dance <b>Di Green</b> A2 <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89812836418?pwd=aHJoMERFVnM3Z G53TVZ0cTF0Rk1qZz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89812836418?pwd=aHJoMERFVnM3Z G53TVZ0cTF0Rk1qZz09</a> Contact Di on digreen21@gmail.com
Every Wednesday 4 pm	Plus Zoom Dance <b>Di Green &amp; Terry McCann</b> Plus <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81744783048?pwd=djFqNWxtS0dme GtJb0FzR3B0eGxkUT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81744783048?pwd=djFqNWxtS0dme GtJb0FzR3B0eGxkUT09</a> Contact Di on digreen21@gmail.com

<b>OPEN DANCES April 2022</b>		
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> (Morn/Aft)	<b>Catharine Wheelers</b> C2 Workshops <b>Paul Mee</b> C2 Tel: 01400 272673 or 07549 108515 (Paul)	Notts NG7 2JW,
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> (Aft)	<b>ASAZ</b> - A1/A2 Improvement Workshop <b>Kevin Lovell</b> A1, A2 Tel. 077 966 955 75 (Kevin)	LU6 3RJ
Satb 16 <sup>th</sup> (Aft)	<b>Severnside Squares</b> Easter Dance <b>Mike Belsten</b> MS, P Tel. 01454 613743 or 07960 093199 (Mike)	Bristol BS36 1NJ
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>SDCCGB</b> Spring Friendship Dance <b>Three top Callers</b> (TBD) Contact: Susie Kelly e-mail: susie@graybo.co.uk	Oxon OX14 4LF
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Lune Valley Ocean Wavers</b> Spring Dance <b>Emma Horsfield</b> SSD, MS, Plus Tel: 01524 411439 (Sheila) or 01524 811444 (Carol)	RA Lancs LA2 6NB
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Viking Squares</b> 'Spring Fling' Celebration Dance <b>Neil Whiston</b> MS, Plus Tel. 01400 281497 (Judy) or 01476 561087 (Carol)	Notts NG13 0BG
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> (Morn/Aft)	<b>Catherine Wheelers</b> C1 Workshop Paul Mee C1 Tel: 01400 272673 or 07549 108515 (Paul)	Notts
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> (Aft)	<b>ASAZ</b> Workshop <b>Kevin Lovell</b> A1, A2 Tel. 07796 695575 (Kevin)	HP15 6AD

## LET'S SQUARE DANCE ~ March 2022

<b>OPEN DANCES May 2022</b>		
Thurs 5th (Morn/Aft)	<b>Catharine Wheelers</b> C2 Workshops <b>Paul Mee C2</b> Tel: 01400 272673 or 07549 108515 (Paul)	Notts NG7 2JW,
Sun 8th (Aft)	<b>ASAZ</b> - A1/A2 Improvement Workshop <b>Kevin Lovell</b> A1, A2 Tel. 077 966 955 75 (Kevin)	LU6 3RJ
Fri 13th to Fri 20th	<b>ASAZ</b> Norwegian Fjords Square Dance Cruise <b>Kevin Lovell</b> Plus, A1 Tel. 07796 695575 (Annika)	From Southamp- ton
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Contround Eights</b> Birthday Dance <b>Eric Webb &amp; Guests</b> MS, Plus, Contras & Rounds Tel. 01235 834778	Oxon OX13 6RR
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> (Morn/Aft)	<b>Catherine Wheelers</b> C1 Workshop Paul Mee C1 Tel: 01400 272673 or 07549 108515 (Paul)	Notts
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Hose</b> Round Dance Weekend <b>Teresa &amp; Paul Hart</b> Ph II - IV Tel. 07738 717716 (Paul)	Leics LE14 4JR
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> (Aft)	<b>ASAZ</b> Workshop <b>Kevin Lovell</b> A1, A2 Tel. 07796 695575 (Kevin)	HP15 6AD
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Bishops Eight</b> 12th Birthday Dance <b>Brian Summerfield &amp; Amy Richardson</b> MS, P, R Tel. 01949 860843 (Kath)	RA TO Notts G14 7BD

## 2022 Square Dance Holidays and Short Breaks

<b>M A R</b>	Fri 18 To Mon 21	<b>PIECES OF EIGHT</b> Fun Weekend Torquay <b>Rob Branson &amp; Wendy Shipton</b> M/S & Plus Contact: Chris Branson 07973 270310
<b>M A Y</b>	Sun 13 To Tue 22	<b>NORWEGIAN FJORDS CRUISE</b> <b>Kevin Lovell</b> Plus & A1 Contact Annika Lovell 07796 695575
<b>J U N E</b>	Fri 20 to Sun 22	<b>HOSE ROUNDS</b> weekend <b>Teresa &amp; Paul Hart</b> Ph II to IV Contact: Paul Hart hartpaul@sky.com or Call 07738 717716
<b>A U G</b>	Thurs 2 To Sun 5	<b>VIKING SQUARES</b> Campout Colsterworth Simon & <b>Trudy Fielding &amp; Nick Wright</b> MS, Plus, Rounds Contact Judy Grummitt on 01400 281497
<b>S E P</b>	Wed 22 To Wed 29	<b>PIECES OF EIGHT</b> Stratford Campout <b>Rob Branson &amp; Nick Wright</b> Plus, A, Rounds Contact Doreen Bonner 01202 872135
<b>O C T</b>	Fri 5 To Sun 7	<b>A2 WEEKEND</b> Torquay <b>Bronc Wise &amp; Paul Bristow</b> A2 Contact Doreen Bonner 01202 872135
<b>S E P</b>	Fri 2 To Sun 4	<b>GEMINI SQUARES</b> Swanwick Plus W/E (Derbyshire) <b>Emma Horsfield &amp; Robert Hurst</b> Contact: Emma 07867616149 <a href="mailto:em.geminisq@yahoo.co.uk">em.geminisq@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>O C T</b>	Fri 23 To Sun 25	<b>HOGSMILL SDC</b> Bournemouth Bonanza 2022 <b>Granville Spencer &amp; Ian Turvill</b> MS & Plus (A1 taster) Contact 02035 567449 / 07742 88143
<b>O C T</b>	Fri 7 To Sun 9	<b>LUNE VALLEY OCEAN WAVERS &amp; CHAIN REACTION</b> North West & Lakes Weekend Lancaster <b>Di Green - Paul Bristow - Terry McCann</b> MS, Plus, A½ Contact Carol Holman , 01524 811444, 07981 743959

## BAASDC COUNCIL MEMBERS



President - **DAVID ENGLAND**  
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*e-mail:* baasdc.president@gmail.com

Vice President - Position vacant

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Tel **07952 309723**

email: baasdc.secretary@gmail.com



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Public Relations Officer - **SUSAN ELLIS**

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Email: baasdc.pro@gmail.com



Member - **ROY EVANS**

Tel. **01545561159**

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.

British Association of American Square Dance Clubs

International House, 776-778 Barking Road, BARKING, London E13 9PJ

## AREA FEDERATION CONTACTS

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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.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.

### **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.

As the mag. is no longer printed, photo resolution is not so important. A 1Mb file is adequate. **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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