

Published by the British Association of American Square Dance Clubs

Barry and Irene Gardner (see page 16

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EDITOR SAYS

Hi again readers. First of all, I must apologise that last month's magazine came out in a slightly different format than usual. I had assembled the mag using a different publishing programme (a more up-to-date one) but had a lot of problems, one of which was that it didn't allow me to choose the pdf format for exporting. I have gone back to my old tried and trusted PagePlus, so things should be back to normal from now.



Lots of interesting content this month. Thanks to all who have contributed. Don't miss the up to date information on our 70^{th} Birthday celebration weekend.

A very interesting piece on Teaching Material (P 12). Are we going to do anything about this ?

There are several mentions of Aeron Valley's Torquay Weekend - this MS and Plus event was hailed by many attendees as 'like the old days'. (Why do so many of the current weekend events now have to include the 'A ' programme ? It keeps so many of us out !)

Please keep the reports coming in.

Happy Dancing

.Peter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Everyone

There was a very interesting article in last months LSD from John Petty regarding the need for a media based training programme.

It raises a whole lot of questions not just on training, but beyond.

Firstly, training of square dance. I have come across a very interesting article on the Callerlab site from Julian Prichard relating to how they teach square dancing without a caller. This article can be found at twww.knowledge.callerlab.org and then enter Julian Pritchard in the search box.

If they can do it in France then I am sure we can do it in the UK.

Beyond, I am sure they will not mind me raising the point, but there are a lot of our callers who are going to retire in the next few years.

Our primary object must be to halt the decline of our existing clubs. I know from my own experience that if you are not prepared for the moment when your club caller makes his or her last call the club folds.

I would encourage every club, whether caller or committee run, to start forward planning for the moment their caller make the call to call 'time'

If you are fortunate to have another caller waiting to take over, great, but if not, there are alternatives. Either go to recorded music or use the Internet to link up with another club. There are people in the UK square dancing community who do both of these and I would be only to willing to put you in touch with them.



So, first of all, let us all plan for the future of our existing clubs and stabilise our base and then we can think about growing square dancing.

Enjoy your dancing

David

BAASDC 70TH BIRTHDAY, LATEST NEWS.

It is now only some 5 months before the BAASDC celebrate its 70^{th} Birthday on Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd July in Rugby. Besides the weekend ticket at £25 per person, bookings are now available for individual session tickets.

There are three sessions, Friday evening, dancing Mainstream and Plus to Di Green and Kevin Lovell with Rounds provided by Judi Read.

Saturday daytime , 7.5 hours of dancing at all programmes from Mainstream to C1 and Rounds, in two halls to a number of callers and cuers, details yet to be finalised. Tea and coffee will be provided throughout this session.

Saturday evening, dancing Mainstream and Plus to Paul Bristow and Neil Whiston with Rounds by Teresa Hart. There will be a Grand Parade during the evening when club members will be encouraged to parade behind their club banner.

Each session is priced at £10.

Volunteers are also need to help the event run smoothly. If you could spare some time during the event I would be grateful, particularly any First Aiders.

I am looking forward to seeing you all there, for what is sure to be a great weekend of dancing to celebrate this milestone.

David Eagland BAASDC President

BAASDC 70TH BIRTHDAY Session tickets now available. £10 per Session Booking form at www.uksquaredancing.co.uk

Musings from your Public Relations Officer

I'm sure it can't have escaped your notice that the British Association of American Square Dance Clubs will be celebrating its Big Birthday this year. On July 21^{st} and 22^{nd} we shall be celebrating our Platinum Birthday, 70 years of Square Dancing in Britain.

The event will be held in Rugby School; no sorry not the famous Rugby school renowned for giving its name to the sport of Rugby. Our event is taking place in the Rugby Girls School in Longrood Road Rugby CC22 7RE.

The event starts on Friday evening with a dance from 7.30 to 10.00 p.m. with Di Green and Kevin Lovell calling Mainstream and Plus and Judi Read cueing Rounds.

Saturday dancing is multi-programmes in two halls from 10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Saturday evening sees the 'Gala Dance' beginning with a 'Grand March'. We are inviting as many Past Presidents as we can to attend this auspicious event. So a message to all Past Presidents, if you're reading this, then I hope you will be able to attend. This one definitely intends to! Paul Bristow and Neil Whiston will be calling Mainstream and Plus and Teresa Hart cueing Rounds, from 7.30 to 10.45 p.m.

A ticket for the whole weekend of dancing is £25. Tickets can now be purchased for the three individual sessions, Friday evening, all day Saturday and Saturday night at £10 each. However, if you wish to attend all three sessions then you should buy a ticket for the whole weekend priced at £25. Booking forms are on the website or you can contact our Secretary Geoff Holdcroft directly.

It would lovely to have a display of Club Banners. So please remember to bring yours along. Of course we are still looking for two BAASDC Banners lost a few years ago; allegedly last seen in a green fishing bag. I'm not giving up on them just yet, they must be out there somewhere. The search to find Lord Sugar's Business Partner, sorry oh that's something completely different; the search to find the Banners continues! What a coup it would be to find them in time to display them at our Big Birthday Bash!

I do hope many of your will attend. It will be a wonderful opportunity to meet up with fellow dancers and share our love of this beloved activity. See you there in a Square or be Square? Square get it ? Good !

Let's make Square and Round dancing great again!

Susan Ellis





Plus Weekend

(Plus workshops and fun dances)

with



Emma Horsfield

Robert Hurst 01 – 03 September 2023



New

contact: Emma on 07867 616149 or 0114 2642266 Email: em.geminisq@yahoo.co.uk En-suite accommodation. 2 nights full board, and Sunday lunch. Five sessions of dancing. Hot drinks available 08:00am to 20:00pm Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Alfreton, Derbyshire, DE55 1AU



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CALLER TERRY CHAPMAN

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Admission £5 Befreshments provided

Level mainstream and pre-announced plus There will be a raffle

Contact Sheila 01202 889110

Good News and Bad News.

The good news first. Brian Hotchkies is coming over from Oz in August THIS year. The bad news is that he'll only be here for a few days, prior to his embarking on a long European tour. He's planned to call just twice while he is here. On Thursday August 17th he'll be calling at Tudor Squares, and on Saturday August 19th, he'll be at Cheltenham Swinging Squares. If you're within reach of either (or both) of these Clubs, please make a note in your diaries so that you don't miss the oppor-

tunity of dancing to this wonderful fun Caller. later.



Details will be available

If you want to make contact to reserve an early ticket, Tudor Squares are at jenny@thirlwell.me.uk and Cheltenham Swinging Squares are at ritadon1966@yahoo.com

Peter Wright

More (late) Good News

Just heard from Trevor Day that Brian will be returning in 2024 for a longer visit and will be at Symonds Yat for the weekend of 31^{st} May / 2^{nd} June 2024

(Editor)

Hi Everyone,

We don't want to blow our own trumpet, but we at Aeron Valley were delighted with the response we got at our Torquay weekend in January with callers Mike Belsten and Leah Tinsdeall.



The floor was full, (8 squares) and the atmosphere

in the hall was lovely. Everyone looked so happy and friendly, and we felt that the dancers 'gelled'. Mike's new knee, eased by a bar stool from another hotel, did not seem to impede his calling at all, whilst Leah, at 8 months pregnant, did not allow her lively baby to interrupt her cheerful delivery! A big thank you to both our callers for a great weekend of dancing.

Some dancers stayed with us on Sunday night, and the hotel kindly allowed us to use the hall for an extra evening of dance. This was an opportunity to showcase square dancing to members of the public who came into the ballroom for drinks from the bar. Granville Spencer joined Mike in calling this evening for us, and included a fun basic tip for the hotel staff to have a go. Thank you Granville.

And of course, we thank you, the dancers who came along and created the great atmosphere we all enjoyed on the dance floor. We hope to see you all again next year. Mike and Leah will be back. We are already taking bookings.

Roy & Elaine Aeron Valley Diamonds

AROUND 2000 RDC BIRTHDAY DANCE

On 15th December, we held our annual birthday dance, this year to celebrate 22 years since the club started. It also was the final event to be held by the club, as the number of members had not recovered since the Covid lockdowns and the numbers attending regularly could not sustain the club. However, past members of the club were invited to attend for the final session, to which there was a good response, so that we had an excellent dance which was most enjoyable. It was great to have the opportunity to meet and chat with past members again.



Our cuer, Judi Read, gave a lovely programme of dances of varying phases, so that all attending were able to participate. We had a break for a



glass of Prosecco and a piece of birthday cake, after which I was able to offer the club's thanks to all those members, past and present, together with the cuers, who have supported the club and helped in a variety of ways. Around 2000 has been a great joy over many years to both my wife and myself, and we are very sorry that it

must close. I know from comments made to me that many other members feel the same but, unfortunately, good things never last for ever. We will continue to Round Dance whenever the opportunity arises.

Richard Ward. Around 2000 RDC.

DANCING IN BELGIUM

Until the pandemic struck, with the ensuing lockdown restrictions, Isabel and I have for many years enjoyed short December breaks in a variety of North German towns sampling the delights of their Christmas markets as well as their culture.

Last year (2022) had possibilities but didn't look too promising. Flights from our nearest airport at Leeds were fewer than pre pandemic and there didn't seem to be anything attractive at a price which we were prepared to pay. However, in late November I spotted reasonably priced flights between Manchester and Brussels; we eyed up rail strike days and decided that it was worth taking the risk.

Once transport and accommodation was booked we browsed the internet in search of square dance clubs and were pleased to find that Brussels Dancing Hearts danced Mainstream and Plus whilst we would be there. An email to the club ensured that we hadn't misunderstood anything and that we would be welcome to join them; all we had to do was to find our way there once we had reached Brussels.

We had details of the route and although the entrance to the Metro was only a few hundred metres from our hotel, it was well concealed by the Christmas Market and took a little finding. The first stage of our journey to the terminus at Stockel was without incident. Then we needed to catch a tram from the stop immediately outside the Metro station. A waiting passenger directed us to the correct side of the track. After a few minutes our tram appeared and we climbed aboard. It was an old tram – no electronic boards or announcements to tell us where we were. We knew that we had to travel only 4 stops but in the deepest and darkest of Brussels suburbs the tram didn't seem to be stopping anywhere.

We estimated that we must have travelled 3 stops and pressed the "next stop" button to ensure a halt. Luckily we'd guessed correctly and recognised the name of the stop – "Bel-Air", or "Schone Lucht" if you wanted it in Flemish.

We climbed the steps out of quite a deep cutting and were then slightly bemused as none of the roads at the small dimly lit roundabout showed a name. Luckily I spotted a dog walker and asked him the name of the road – he didn't know! But he was able to direct us to the church hall where the club

met; his route was accurate but somewhat indirect.

We were warmly received by the Dancing Hearts' members and enjoyed a pleasant evening dancing to Philippe Dardenne's calling, even being applauded for being in a square which made no mistakes; the evening concluded with a glass of beer and a lift as far as the Metro station.



Being able to speak French was definitely useful but, as always, the calling was in English with only the slightest hint of an accent.

Barry Malin Wolds Weavers S D C

Teaching material

I was very interested in the article from John Petty in February's LSD. He asks why, as clubs and callers get fewer and further between, there is no way of teaching new dancers to dance in areas with no caller, and anything up to 150 miles away from the nearest club – which is not guaranteed to be recruiting anyway!!! We cannot expect ageing callers, (and let's face it, most of them are not getting any younger) to travel vast distances on a weekly basis to teach new classes. Novice dancers are certainly not going to! So is there an alternative?

Caller Club asks what BAASDC it is doing about this. Wrong Question! It should surely be 'What is Caller Club doing about it?' John suggests teaching tapes at Basic and Mainstream or SSD level. How sensible? How obvious? This is an issue I have been banging on about for years .

As a leader and teacher of a club without a caller, I have been succeeding in teaching dancers, without the aid of a caller, for around 20 years. And I would be happy to help any Club Leader with a fair amount of dancing experience to do the same. But it is an expensive business. We have bought hundreds, if not thousands of pounds worth of dancing material from a varirty of callers, to find that we can use, at best, maybe one or two tracks from an occasional CD.

What is needed is a set of structured and properly sequenced teach tapes/CDs/downloads which is completely self explanatory, and does not rely on the presence of that experienced dancer. There are individuals around the country who have stood on the sidelines of hotel dance floors and watched us enjoying our dancing. How many of us have approached these people and explained what was going on? I would be willing to bet that there are plenty. But the inevitable next question is always 'Well, where can we learn?', only to find out that there is nowhere near their location.

I have repeatedly met with a curious reluctance on the part of the higher echelons of Caller Club to engage with the idea of producing teaching material at this level. What is their problem? They seem to feel that training more callers in their own limited home areas is the answer. They make spurious excuses about licences and insurances and legality. What is illegitimate about small groups of friends , carpet squares, dancing to music in their own homes? These, in my opinion are the nuclei from which future clubs can develop, the nests from which future callers will emerge and grow. (Our own Leah Tinsdeall is an excellent example. She learned to dance with us, and with the help of some established callers has gone on to become an accomplished and respected caller, herself)

And it is not an entirely lost cause. If there are callers out there who are actually prepared to contribute to producing recorded teach tips, (and we believe there are) please will you contact your callers' organisation to agree on a structure for teaching with this method.

If this can be achieved it will support and enhance existing clubs who have lost their callers, and will also introduce square dancing to other social groups around the country, enabling them to take it up.

Elaine Aeron Valley Diamonds

B.A.A.S.D.C

Still urgently require a

TREASURER

If you could fill this post please contact the President baasdc.president@gmail.com

Steeple Steppers Graduation Celebrations

Has ever a Graduation taken so long? No, it was not due either to the caller, (the patient Emma Horsfield), or the hard-working students, but that 2 year break due to Covid.

Our congratulations to all those who returned, picking up enthusiastically where they left off. One couple had an extra break due to a hip replacement, but were back watching as soon as possible, determined not to miss anything, and are now attending local dances.



They all graduated in style with a fuddle/ potluck/ bring and share, (whatever your regional phrase is), and the company of guests including President David Eagland and Northern Area contact John Webb. Thanks to all the dancers who took the students under their wings, we remember how it was for us when we were learning.

Well done, Alan, Marguerite, Helen, Sheilagh, Alan, Kath, Rosalind, Rob, and Eileen.

Emma looks proudly in the centre.

Hilary Sentance

Continued on next page

Steeple Steppers Christmas Celebrations.

We had an action-packed evening of games, a quiz, eating, and, oh yes, a bit of dancing as well. Thanks to you all for entering into the spirit of the occasion with red or Christmas outfits, and contributing exactly the



right of amount of food, to Emma and Robert for calling appropriate songs, and Kay for organising our quiz. Our Christmas Card donation raised money for the Lincs and Nottingham Air Ambulance Charity, and Gill 's was voted the best outfit with her Christmas - cake hat which stayed firmly on her head all through her dancing.



Hilary Sentance

Spot the 90-year-old dancer!

Steeple Steppers has the charming tradition of celebrating special birthdays (when they end in a 0 or 5) of those members who have given their date of birth to the birthday secretary. If you wish to remain 21 forever, then your details do not need to be disclosed.

Presumably in the misty depths of time, the cards tended to be for those at the younger end of our life - span. However, Sue is increasingly buying cards with larger numbers on.

Her first card for a 90 -year- old was for Barry Gardner, not only able to say " I'm still standing," but "I'm still dancing," after all these years. His wife Irene provided a wonderful table full of food to add to the occasion. Our thanks to her, and our warmest congratulations to Barry.



Spot the 90 year old dancer Barry Gardner. (He's in the white shirt at the back)

Not only an impressive birthday, but also an inspiring wedding anniversary. They have followed the birthday party with organising a charity Square Dance in aid of Parkinsons UK to celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary at a local hall on March 18th.

Dancing is being advertised as one of the best ways to keep mind and body going, and Barry and Irene are wonderful examples to us all.

If you are in the Nottingham area on a Sunday evening, get in touch and I will give you details of where we are. You will be very welcome.

Hilary Sentance 0115 931 4301 hilary.sentance@btinternet.com

PILGRIM PROMENADERS 38th COAST PLUS, A1 & A2 WEEKEND







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Aeron Valley Diamonds Weekend - Torquay

Due to my wife being very ill I had not danced for several years, so now that I am able again to dance it was with real trepidation that I plucked up courage to try a weekend dance.

As I was driving down the M5 towards Torquay I was full of doubts as to what I would find when I got there. First, would I find a dance partner, secondly, would I know anyone after all these years, thirdly would I, as a single dancer be in a small room possibly up in the attic of the hotel overlooking the car park.

Why did I worry? First of all I had a double room with a sea view, then there were numerous dancers I knew who also knew me and several reunions took place. There was also no shortage of dance partners, so I was well away and over the weekend I think I danced every dance except the one I sat out to allow me to take a few photos.



The calling by Mike Belsen and Leah Tinsdeall was really great and just at the right level of complexity for me and the majority of the Hall. We were also blessed with the company of BAASDC President David Eagland.

I returned home at the end of the weekend with a warm glow and a large smile on my face. Why had I worried so much on the way down the M5. In fact I was so pleased with myself that I have placed deposits on three further weekends this year.

Finally I must comment on all the work which goes on to organise a weekend like this. Having in years gone by also arranged events of this sorts I know how hard it is to ensure that everyone enjoys themselves and everything runs smoothly. Roy and Elaine must be congratulated on a job well done.

Alan Cotterill

Aeron Valley Diamonds Weekend - Torquay

January can be a dark, dreary month and so it was with great joy that we attended this Square Dance weekend at the end of January. It is always a very happy affair. Lots of people to catch up with and new people to meet. Lots of laughter in the squares and evening meals and breakfasts cooked for you!

Roy and Elaine Evans organise and run the weekend. They talk to all the dancers and make sure everyone feels welcome. Mike Belsten and Leah Tinsdeall called Mainstream and Plus. It was great they could both be at the weekend, Mike is recovering from a knee operation and Leah's baby is due in February. They kept us dancing with their different choreographies and singing calls. The Saturday evening dance included a very successful raffle for a children's hospice and an after party.

The farewell dance on Sunday morning saw the sun shine onto the dance floor. After a lovely dance it was time to say our goodbyes to those not staying on an extra day. A very enjoyable weekend. Thanks to all who made it possible.



Mike Belsten, Elaine and Roy Evans and Leah Tinsdeall with president David Eagland in the centre

Moira Jenkins



Chuckle Zone

This was read by Lynn Winkworth from Countround Eights at the Torquay weekend's after party

Instructions for Giving your Cat a Pill

- 1. Pick cat up and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right hand. As cat opens mouth, pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.
- 2. Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.
- 3. Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away. Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of 10.
- 4. Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call spouse from garden. Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, holding front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Get spouse to hold cats's head firmly with one hand, while forcing wooden ruler into cat's mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.
- 5. Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered figurines from hearth and set to one side for glueing later.
- 6. Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with cat's head just visible from below spouse's armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw, force cat's mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw. Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans, drink glass of water to take taste away. Apply plaster to spouse's forearm and remove blood from carpet with soap and cold water.

7. Retrieve cat from neighbour's shed. Get another pill. Place cat in cupboard and close door onto neck to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band. Fetch screwdriver from garage and put cupboard door back on hinges. Apply cold compress to cheek and check records for date of last tetanus shot.

Throw T-shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom. Ring fire brigade to retrieve cat from tree across road. Apologise to neighbour who crashed into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil wrap.

- 8. Tie cat's front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining able. Find heavy duty pruning gloves from shed. Force cat's mouth open with small spanner. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of fillet steak. Hold head vertically and pour 1/2 pint of water down throat to wash pill down. Get spouse to drive you to accident and emergency; sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill remnants from right eye. Stop by furniture shop on way home to order new table.
- 9. Arrange for RSPCA to come and collect cat. Ring pet shop in morning to see if they have a friendly hamster!

Reference:

Very Funny: Instructions for giving your cat a pill'. PetPlace.com. Posted by their Veterinary Staff.

In the after-party at the recent Torquay weekend, this song was sung and a number of people asked that it should be reproduced in the magazine. Those of you of riper years will remember a radio programme 'Much Binding in the Marsh' which always ended with a song. This was a parody on that song. If you don't remember the programme, click on this link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xEYVc80AI-4 and it will demonstrate the song and perhaps help you to read / sing it.

At Much Dancing by the Sea It's three years now since Covid hit the nation (tiddle-im-pom-pom) At Much Dancing by the Sea I know it caused us all so much frustration We had to give up dancing and that made us really mad Our Clubs have all lost members and that makes us very sad But here we are in Torquay – so it can't be all that bad For Much Dancing by the Sea

At Much Dancing by the Sea

- Mike and Leah sure make a perfect double *At Much Dancing by the Sea* They get us through the tips without much trouble They called some easy stuff that we've all known for years Then workshopping with Star Track – 'twas music to our ears But they never had us stagger through Spin Chain exchange the Gears *At Much Dancing by the Sea*

At Much Dancing by the Sea

Leah's calling here in spite of her condition At Much Dancing by the Sea Her family will soon have an addition. We're all so pleased to know a little Tinsdeal's on his way Our warm congratulations - we'd all like to convey The happy time will soon be here, but please, just not today ! At much Dancing in Torguay

At Much Dancing by the Sea The cabaret tonight has been quite splendid At Much Dancing by the Sea I'm sad to say that now it's nearly ended. David played his ukele and Lynn then read for us Jenny did her Will Power poem – that really was a plus. And Brian had us singalong – just like he always does At Much Dancing by the Sea

At Much Dancing by the Sea

We've had a great time dancing here again *At Much Dancing by the Sea* Our grateful thanks to Roy and to Elaine All good things must come to an end, that's very true I fear And as we all go travelling home, I'm sure we'll shed a tear I really hope, God willing, that we'll see you all next year *For more Dancing at Torquay, with Mike and Leah For more (two three four) Dancing by the sea.*

Peter Wright

News from Centre Squares, Winterbourne

Whilst our membership has reduced since COVID, along with many clubs, we continue to enjoy meeting weekly to dance together with Colin Pett calling. We have now been meeting in the same venue (Winterbourne Community Centre) on a Tuesday evening for over 45 years. I wonder whether there are any other UK clubs meeting for longer than this in the same hall in which the club started?

So far, 2023 has been bittersweet for us as a Club. We were saddened by the unexpected loss of Issy Phillips in January. It was lovely to see so many Square Dancers at her funeral on 10th February. All our thoughts are with Andy and his family at this sad time. On a brighter note we celebrated the birth of Rupert to one of our club members, Beth, and her husband Ollie. From memory this is only the second time a current dancing member within Centre Squares has given birth – the last one being in the 1980's. Many of our members have become first-time Grandparents over the years but not parents!

Some of our members went to the Torquay weekend at the end of January, with Mike Belsten and Leah Tinsdeal calling. They enjoyed this and came home 'invigorated'!

Centre Squares has not held a Saturday dance since 2019 but we hope to rectify that in 2023. Watch this space.

Carry on dancing (to coin a phrase)!

Margaret (Nash)



Hogsmill Winter Workshops

At Hogsmill, we have always found that a whole day dancing offers us a great opportunity to learn, revise and review whilst building up valuable muscle memory with floor time.

This is especially important for our club because there are few Saturday dances locally.

January is a great month for dancing as we seek to shed the Christmas pounds ready for the holidays we take when the weather improves. Numbers are always higher in November , January and February as we stay close to home in these winter months.

This year, we took things to a whole new level with six sessions of five hours in the first months of 2023.

These are always fun events, because people laugh a lot when they are learning, we all work together and, as a welcome break, thoroughly enjoy a communal picnic lunch.

Granville led two sessions for the A Group who have now been introduced to every move in the A1 Programme.

Ian led two Mainstream and two Plus Sessions, taking people almost right through both programmes from mostly standard positions. Experienced dancers found this revision very useful in re-establishing the basics. They will also benefit because seven new dancers can join the Plus Group, hitting the ground running. One of our September Starters is now ready to join the Mainstream Group too.



At Hogsmill SDC, on a Tuesday morning and evening, everybody can dance for nearly four hours at the club. Most people just enjoy the company, the music and the exercise but there are always some who dive in deeper, go home and check the moves on Saddlebrook Squares, discuss the choreography with their friends and rarely miss a lesson. At Hogsmill SDC, our club has a solid base of members who enjoy their weekly dance lesson, they are the bedrock of the club but we also try to offer further opportunities to those who have aptitude, enthusiasm and time. We all enjoy this learning journey at our own pace.

Wendy

Caller's Corner UK CALLER

Callers Corner - Professional Development (Self Improvement) - what is it?

It was in 1984 that I hit a "bump in the road" with my Calling. During my first 8 years I had been very successful - I was now Calling for 7 Clubs (3 were held on Sunday) I was Calling on most Saturdays, a featured Caller at several weekends throughout the year, I was travelling Overseas on an occasional basis - and had been the Vice President of the Callers Club for 4 years; actively involved in organising meetings as well as presenting a range of Caller Training sessions (for the general membership of CCGB). In total, I was working as a Caller on almost 300 days each year. It therefore came as quite a surprise to me when I realised that - despite all of this - I was getting bored with my Calling...

I wasn't bored with Square Dancing; it was with the Calling where the problem lay. I just seemed to be using the same stuff over and over again. I was starting to wonder if the Dancers had also begun to recognise this. I was finding it more difficult to make my Calling sound as "spontaneous" as I thought it should be; especially as some people were Dancing to me 3 or 4 times a week! I discussed my problems with several Callers who all, basically, gave me the same advice; that I need to look at: "Self Improvement".

I did not like the name Self Improvement - it suggested to me that I had fallen short of what I could achieve (I wasn't trying hard enough?). I soon realised that a much better term to use was: "Professional Development"; it didn't matter how successful you were, or how much experience you had, everybody could "improve" by embarking on a course of Professional Development; a constant regular review of what you did, how well it was received and ways that you could improve every aspect of your performance as a Caller. On this basis, I went back to material I had written during my first 8 years as a Caller.

It all started for me when I was lent a bag of Square Dance Singing-Call records, from which all the cue sheets were missing; I recorded the vocal sides on Reel-to-Reel tape and then wrote out the figures in an "Exercise Book". I then went thru these and tried to picture, in my mind, how the figures worked - adding drawings of the Set-Up - where necessary; after that I went through every Call (there was only Mainstream at this time) - I looked at what it did, making notes and adding sketches as needed. These exercises - together with the text from several Caller Manuals - provided a foundation for my plan.

So, I read through all that I had written - and transposed some of it to a new book with updates - and deleting repeated comments where necessary. There was also quite a lot of "unfinished business" - concerning the texts that I had read - about Systems, Methods and concepts connected with the attributes of each Call that enabled me to put together new ideas as to the content of my Professional Development plan; allowing me to keep on "Improving" as a Caller. Now, almost fifty years later, this Professional Development plan still serves me well; as it fits the way that my brain works when it comes to Calling!

As I have mentioned previously, every Caller has a different way of Calling - no two are the same; to work out your own personal "bespoke" Professional Development plan you need to discover what works best for you. For example: some Callers cannot rely upon Modules, or Two Faced Line; some may need to look at aspects of "Mental Image"; it is always important to use the Methods (and Systems) that best match the way you think!

Six of the Best



Reviews of Square Dance releases from other labels by



PAUL BRISTOW

(owner and producer of STING & SNOW records)

We're Not Here for a Long Time ~ *Ted Lizotte*

Throw Back Tunes TBT 135 (Original Artists: Huey Lewis and the News)

During the 1980s and early 1990s "Huey Lewis and the News" - an American new wave pop rock band from San Francisco, had a run of hit singles, achieving 19 top ten singles across the Billboard Hot 100 charts. This track is from their 2001 album: "Plan B". The Square Dance version has a full instrumental, in the style of the original, using a range of music supported by a powerful walking beat - and a first-rate vocal from Ted Lizotte!

Mainstream Figure: Heads Promenade Halfway, Square Thru, Swing Thru Spin the Top, Right and Left Thru, Square Thru Two, Trade By, Swing.

Take it Easy ~ Philipp Kamm, Dean Singleton

Arrowhead ARROW 1161 (Original Artists: The Eagles)

The 1972 debut single by the American rock band The Eagles, which was also the first track on their first album (simply named: "Eagles"); written by Jackson Browne with the help of Eagles' band member Glenn Frey, who also provides lead vocals. It is now listed as one of the "Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's 500 Songs that Shaped Rock and Roll". The music is excellent - in terms of arrangement and quality - offering an outstanding vocal!

Mainstream Choreography: Heads Square Thru, Swing Thru, Boys Run Ferris Wheel, Pass Thru, Slide Thru, Square Thru Three, Swing, Promenade.

Words of Love ~ Joe Saltel / Shauna Kaaria

Chic CHIC 1083 / 2083 (Original Artists: Buddy Holly, The Beatles)

A song written and recorded by Buddy Holly in 1957 - regarded as one of his important recordings; Buddy, harmonized with himself by combining tape recordings of each part. The Beatles included this track on their 1964 album: "Beatles for Sale"; John, Paul and George providing the vocal parts. Chic have created some first class music and present a much-deserved recognition of both original styles, in both a Male and Female version!

Mainstream Figure: Heads Square Thru, Swing Thru, Boys Run, Half Tag Scoot Back, Single Hinge, Girls Trade, Boys Cross Fold, Swing, Promenade.

I Will ~ Dan Nordbye

ESP ESP 805 (Original Artists: Vic Dana / Dean Martin)

Vic Dana was a Dancer who was "discovered" by Sammy Davis Jr. After Dancing fell out of fashion, he re-invented himself as a Singer. This single was released in 1962, it came from his album: "More" and was originally written by Dick Glasser. Dean Martin released a version in 1965 that was also well received. ESP offer a faithful version of the music, a full orchestral sound and a string section presenting a terrific vocal from Dan Nordbye!

Mainstream Choreography: Heads Promenade Halfway, Square Thru Four Right and Left Thru, Veer Left, Ferris Wheel, Square Thru Three, Swing.

Father and Son ~ *Chris (Dad), with Michael and Benjamin Froggatt* Knee-Deep KDM 159 (*Original Artist: Cat Stevens*)

From the 1970 album: "Tea for the Tillerman", the song is about a father who does not understand his son's desire to break away and shape a new life - and the son who can't really explain himself - but knows that it is time for him to seek his own destiny; a real heartbreaker. Very smooth music, arranged in the style of the original, featuring Chris and his two sons singing the various father and son parts of the song - a great vocal!

Mainstream Figure: Heads Square Thru Four Hands, Swing Thru, Boys Run Bend the Line, Right and Left Thru, Flutterwheel, Slide Thru, Swing.

Couldn't Get it Right ~ Justin Russell

Royal RYL 1018 (Original Artists: Climax Blues Band)

A 1976 song by the Climax Blues Band; the song was written after the band's label told them that their 1976 album: "Gold Plated" lacked a "standout track" and asked them to "try and write a hit..."! The track (which bassist Derek Holt said: "came from absolutely nowhere") went on to become one of their most successful releases. Justin Russell, one of the younger Callers on Royal, provides a strong Vocal - supported by top class music!

Mainstream Figure: Promenade Halfway, Square Thru, Right and Left Thru Pass Thru, Trade By, Slide Thru, Square Thru Three, Swing and Promenade.



OWNER & PRODUCER: PAUL BRISTOW, 286 LONG DRIVE, RUISLIP, MIDDLESEX, HA4 OHZ, U.K.+44 (0)7801 440955e-mailpaul@stingproductions.co.uk

The Square Dance Caller's Club of Great Britain

http://www.Callersclub.uk

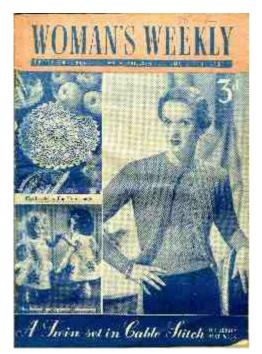
March 4th is the Callers Club AGM. Held using zoom as this ensures we get a bigger attendance. In addition to the AGM business meeting we will be having 3 speakers, Juliane Burr, Mel Wilkerson and Don Beck, all speaking on subjects which will provide extra education for our Callers.

I couldn't resist showing you the article printed in Woman's Weekly dated 1st March 1952. - Seventy one years ago. This just shows the impact that Princess Elizabeth and Duke of Edinburgh made on the public when they were pictured Square Dancing during the Royal Visit to Canada in 1951.. It was definitely "The Thing" to be seen dancing and with all the special full skirts, embroidered shirts, the popular music and the overall fun and friendliness of the clubs, there were full dance halls everywhere..

Those were the days and I remember them well.

Maybe the use of the SSD program will bring back a flavour of those days.

Worth a try?? Happy Dancing



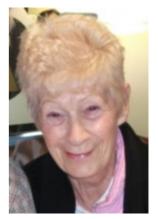
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Susie

Obituary ~ June Pedge

It is with great sadness Viking Squares report the death of June Pedge on 12th February 2023 after a relatively short illness. June was our club Chairman until October 2022 but had been a long serving member of Vikings committee for many years.

June played a very active role in the club. She was always very welcoming to new members and treated everyone in the same friendly manner. June and her late husband Ted, took a very active part in square dancing and Ted himself was Chairman for some considerable time. They took part in many square dancing holidays and



were always keen to support other neighbouring clubs. June attended two other local clubs, Bramley Squares and Bishops Eight.

June will be sorely missed by her family, everyone at Viking Squares, and her many friends made through the numerous activities she took part in. Including singing in a choir, leading a keep fit group and helping at a café. She was a member of the W.I. and belonged to her village U3A group. She was indeed a lovely lady who always had time for everyone.

June always played a leading role in Vikings party nights and will be remembered for her many guises – one especially – as Julie Walters in her role in the comedy sketch "Two Soups" and her renditions of Pam Ayres poetry were something not to be missed.

Our sincere condolences go to her family and the many friends she made throughout the square dance world.

Judy and Mick Grummitt On behalf of Viking Squares

In the right hand column of the listings, the abbreviations are:

TO = Ticket Only, RA = Raffle, PL = Pot Luck

OPEN DANCES March 2023			
Sat 4 th Aft	Tilehurst SDCAfternoon Spring DancePaul BristowMS , PTel.0118 9471360(Kath)	RG10 9TT	
Sat 11 th	Viking Squares 38 th Birthday Dance Neil Whiston, Amy Richardson MS, P, R Tel. 01400 281497 (Judy) or 01476 561087 Carol)	TO Leics NG13 0BG	
Sat 11 th	Testvale SquaresSpring DanceEmma HorsfieldMS, PTel. 02380364505	SO40 3RS	
Sat 11 th	Wolds Weavers 9 th Birthday Dance Di Green & Terry McCann SSD, MS, P Tel. 01759 303189 (Isabel / Barry)	Yorks YO42 4EN	
Sun 12 th Aft	Contround Eights SDCTea DanceEric WebbSSD, MSTel.01235834778(Eric)	PL Oxon OX13 6RR	
Fri 17 th To Mon 20 th	Pieces of 8 Plus Fun Weekend Rob Branson, Wendy Shipton P Tel. 07973270310	TO Devon TQ2 5JJ	
Sat 18 th Afternoon	Tudor Squares SDC Tea Dance Simon & Trudy Fielding MS, Tel. 01442 831491 (Jenny)	Herts HP1 3QG	
Sat 18 th Afternoon	Minster SquaresSpring DanceTerry ChapmanMS, pPTel.01202 889110(Sheila)See advert P 6	RA Dorset BH24 1DW	
Sat 25 th Aft	Cheltenham Swinging Squares Afternoon Spring dance Kevin Lovell MS, P Email <u>ritadon1966@yahoo.com</u> See advert P 6	RA Glos GL51 3NU	

REGULAR VIRTUAL DANCES March 2023

Every Monday 4 pm	C1 Zoom Dance Di Green & Terry McCann C1 workshop and dancehttps://us02web.zoom.us/j/89035956452?pwd=VTYraWdm bUltSEE5SDRqNE1UNIR0UT09 Contact Di on digreen21@gmail.com	
Every Tuesday 4 pm	A2 Zoom Dance Di Green & Terry McCann A2 https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89812836418?pwd=aHJoMERFVnM3Z G53TVZ0cTF0Rk1qZz09 Contact Di on digreen21@gmail.com	
Every Wednesday 4 pm	Plus Zoom Dance Di Green & Terry McCann Plus https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81744783048?pwd=djFqNWxtS0dme GtJb0FzR3B0eGxkUT09 Contact Di on digreen21@gmail.com	

OPEN DANCES April 2023				
Sat 1 st	Harmony Squares Student Dance Cliff Anderton / Gene Turner SSD Tel. 01423 867182 (Gene)	RA W. Yorks LS23 6HY		
Sun 2 nd Aft	All Square at Zero `A' daytime dance Kevin Lovell A1, A2 Tel. 077 966 955 75 (Annika)	LU6 3RL		
Sat 15 th Aft / Eve		RA, PL KT19 9QY		
Sat 15 th Aft	Lune Valley Ocean Wavers Spring Tea Dance Cliff Anderton / Gene Turner SSD, MS, P Tel. 01524 411439 (Sheila)	RA LA2 6NB		
Fri 21 st	Contround Eights SDC 34 th Birthday Dance Eric Webb & Guests TBN Tel. 01235 834778	PL RA Oxon OX13 6RR		
Sat 29 th Aft	Yorkshire Coast Waves 1 st Birthday Dance Di Green & Terry McCann SSD Tel. 07986 450591 (Ange)	RA N Yorks YO14 0NS		

	OPEN DANCES May 2023	
Fri 12 th to Sun 14 th	Aeron Valley DiamondsHoliday W/E with SquaresMike Belsten & Leah TinsdeallMS, PTel.01545 561159	TO Wales SA46 0HF
Fri 19 th to Sun 21 st	Hose Rounds Weekend Teresa & Paul Hart Ph II - IV Tel. 07738 717716	TO LE14 4JR
Fri 26 th to Mon 29 th	Viking Squares Fun & Friendship Campout Simon & Trudy Fielding, Nick Wright MS, P, R Tel. 01400 281497 (Judy & Mick) or 01476 561087 07973270310 (Pete & Carol)	TO Lincs

2023 Square Dance Holidays and Weekend Breaks

M A R	Fri 17 th To Mon 20 th	PIECES OF 8Plus Fun WeekendTorquayRob Branston & Wendy Shipton(Plus)Tel: 01202 478924 / 07973 270310Rob / Chris)
М	Fri 12 th to Mon 14 th	AERON VALLEY DIAMONDS Wales Holiday weekend Mike Belsten & Leah Tinsdeall MS, P Tel: 01545 561159 (Roy & Elaine)
Α	Fri 19 th to Sun 21 st	HOSE ROUNDS WEEKEND Teresa & Paul Hart Ph II - IV Tel 07738 717716
Y	Fri 26 th to Mon 29 th	VIKING SQUARES - 11th Fun and Friendship Camp Out Trudy & Simon Fielding & Nick Wright MS, P, R Tel: 01400 281497 (Judy/Mick) or 01476 561087 (Peter/Carol)
J U N	Mon 19 th to Friday 23 rd	AERON VALLEY DIAMONDS Symonds Yat Week Johnny Preston P, A 1,2 Tel. 01545 561159 (Roy / Elaine) <u>aeronvalleydiaminds@yahoo.co.uk</u>
J U L Y	Friday 21 st to Sat 22 nd	BAASDC 70th Birthday Event Multiple Callers / Cuers MS, P, A, R e-mail: baasdc.secretary@gmail.com
S	Fri 1 st to Sun 3 rd	GEMINI SQUARES Swanwick Plus Weekend Emma Horsfield & Robert Hurst P Tel: 07867 616149 (Emma) CANCELLED
E P	Fri 8 th to Sun 10 th	BLACK ARROWS - Torquay A2 Weekend Paul Bristow & Bronc Wise A2 e-mail: potplant38@yahoo.co.uk (Doreen)
т	Fri 22 nd to Sun 24 th	HOGSMILL SQUARES Bournemouth Bonanza Weekend Granville Spencer & Ian Turvill Plus, A1, A2 taster Tel. 07742 881439 (Wendy)
O C	Fri 6 th to Sun 8 th	LVOW & ChAin Reaction NorthWest and Lakes Weekend Paul Bristow, Di Green & Terry McCann MS, P, A1,2 Tel. 01524 811444 / 07981 743959 (Carol)
T O B	Fri 13 th to Mon 16 th	Pilgrim Promenaders 38 th Coast Weekend Tim Crawford & Tommy Schneeberger P, A1, A2 callerbernard@blueyonder.com (Bernard)
E R	Sun 15 th to Sun 22 nd	ASAZ Cruise from S'hampton visiting France & Spain Kevin Lovell P, A1 (A2) Tel: 07796 695575 (Kevin)

BAASDC COUNCIL MEMBERS



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e-mail: baasdc.president@gmail.com

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Treasurer -Position vacant



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> Member - ROY EVANS Tel. 01545561159





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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.

> British Association of American Square Dance Clubs Geoff Holdcroft 9 Station Road, WOODBRIDGE, IP12 4AU.

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London & Home Counties ~ **ANNIKA LOVELL**

Tel. 01908 281802 email; annika_lovell@hotmail.com

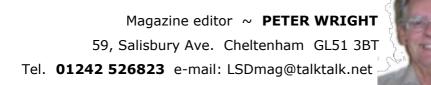
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Tel: 01423 500275 *e-mail*: Cliff.Anderton@btinternet.com

SUPPORT TEAM



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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.

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

<u>All other items including advertisements</u> - 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. ($\frac{1}{4}$ page is 60 x 90 mm, $\frac{1}{2}$ 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					
Size/Entry	Club Rates	Size/Entry	Club Rates		
1⁄4 page	£10	½ page	£20		
Full page	£30.00				

If you know of any dancer not receiving the email copy of the magazine, please get them to contact the editor at LSDmag@talktalk.net