LET'S SQUARE DANGE

June 2023: Volume 70: No 6

Published by the British Association of American Square Dance Clubs



New Dancers from Yorkshire Coast Wavers

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EDITOR SAYS

Wow! Halfway through the year already.

Not very many reports in this month, though it was great to receive Robin Alpenglow's report of the Yorkshire Coast Waves first Birthday. I have met Robin many times on Zoom, but haven't yet had the pleasure of meeting her face to face.



Kevin Lovell's presentation of Jerry Junck's article is very long but extremely interesting. Square Dancing has obviously had the same problems for many years.

Please let us have reports of your Clubs' Summertime activities - Outings, Barbeques, Demos, whatever, as dance reports might be getting a bit thin in the next couple of months.

Peter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Everyone

This month square dancing has lived up to it's motto of Fun and Friendship. From Zoom Buddies to a fond farewell.

At the end of April we welcomed Robyn, from California, to A Stacks. She has been dancing to Di Green and Terry McCann on Zoom and was visiting for an exended stay.

At the Yorkshire Coast Wavers birthday dance Robyn was able to meet up with a number of Zoom Buddies who had travelled from various parts of the country, at what was an excellent event. The hospitality was outstanding, even by the traditional Yorkshire standards.

In the middle of May we enjoyed at sunny weekend of dancing at Aeron Valley. Sadly Roy and Elaine have decided that this year was the last one.

On the 26th May over 50 square dancers gathered in Basingstoke to say farewell to James Wyatt. It was a moving service and allowed us to recall our memories of him and the joy he brought to square dancing.

Finally, I have decided to retire at the AGM. I have achieved the goals I set myself when I took on the role, to stabalise the Council and organise a Birthday Dance.

Enjoy your dancing.

David

Musings from your Public Relations Officer

One - Two - One - Two Left Right Ves, you've guessed it, I'm in marching mood! It started of course, watching the Coronation and the sight and sound of thousands of soldiers marching through the streets of London; with not a pot-hole in sight (just had to get that off my chest, sorry, I digress).

One amazing feat that they pulled off was for all eight massed bands across the procession to play the same piece of music at the same time. With the help of a click track in their ears, (it was the first time such technology had been attempted on a large-scale ceremonial event) – the Drum Majors ensured everyone stepped off together at the same tempo (108 beats per minute, slowed down from the regulation 116 beats per minute because of the size of the bands), playing the same piece. At any one time, every band was playing exactly the same bar, right across the 1.3 -mile-long procession. That's impressive! Well done everyone!

Next time you are square dancing listen to the sound of feet as they move around the square. They move to the beat of the music. Members of a club which I regularly haunt, make a feature of an occasional stamp; very impressive if dancing on a wooden floor.

However, I don't believe it is essential for square dancers to be able to keep to a 'beat'. Unlike other dance disciplines like ballroom or line dancing; as long as the dancers know their definitions and destination they can square dance and this makes it, in my opinion, a more accessible form of dancing for those who find it a challenge to keep to a beat or to clap in time to music.

Writing about soldiers marching in time, most of us cannot fail to remember the fiasco surrounding the opening of the Millennium Bridge in London in 2000, now referred to as the 'wobbly' bridge. The sway was so disconcerting that it had to be closed two days after opening, As a suspension bridge the concept of 'suspension' was different with side pieces from which the bridge was suspended. It took great minds, in suspension bridge technology, one and a half years to come up with a scheme to solve the problem by adding dampers to the design to act as shock absorbers. However, to this day soldiers have to 'break step' when they march over bridges.

As I have mentioned before the 'soon to be opened' new stretch of the East West Network Rail link runs at the bottom of my garden. Last week I witnessed

a 500 tonne crane lifting two footbridges into place. So when the station opens, I shall be keeping a keen eye on the pedestrian traffic and of course shall be reporting back.

Let's make Square and Round dancing great again!
Susan Ellis

BAASDC 70TH BIRTHDAY

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Saturday Daytime Programme

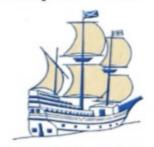
TIME	HALL 1	HALL 2	
10.00 - 10.45	MS/PLUS	A1	
	Paul Bristow	Neil Whiston	
10.50 - 11.35	MS/PLUS	ROUNDS	
	Mike Belsten	Paul Hart	
11.40 - 12.25	MS/PLUS	A2 Paul Bristow	
	Kevin Lovell		
12.30 - 13.15	ROUNDS	MS Claudia Kloid	
	Paul Hart		
13.20 - 14.05	MS/PLUS	C1	
	Neil Whiston	Di Green	
14.10 - 14.55	MS/PLUS	ROUNDS	
	Leah Tinsdeall	Amy Richardson	
15.00 - 15.45	SSD/MS	A2	
	Kevin Lovell	Neil Whiston	
15.50 - 16.35	ROUNDS	Plus Di Green	
	Amy Richardson		
16.40 - 17.30	SSD/MS	A1	
	Granville Spencer	Paul Bristow	

Version 4 09/04

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TICKELS ES

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Six of the Best

Reviews of Square Dance releases from other labels by



PAUL BRISTOW

(owner and producer of STING & SNOW records)

Moonlight Swim ∼ Kevin Kelly

Knee Deep KDM 162 (Original Artist: Elvis Presley)

From the 1961 film: "Blue Hawaii", a track written by Ben Wiseman and Silvia Dee and included on the soundtrack album of the same name; the album was second only to "West Side Story" as the most successful soundtrack album of the 1960s and achieved Platinum status in terms of sales. A simple love song, with an Hawaiian feel - that will be easy to Call and to Dance; Kevin Kelly is one of the most talented Australian Callers!

Mainstream Choreography: Heads Promenade Halfway, Square Thru Four Right and Left Thru, Star Thru, Square Thru Four, Trade By, Swing.

Everybody's Reaching Out for Someone ~ Tom Miller

ESP ESP 367 (Original Artists: Dickey Lee, Brenda Lee, Crystal Gale)

Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and Country Music Hall of Fame inductee, American pop/country singer and songwriter: Dickey Lee, co-wrote this song with Allen Reynolds; he recorded and released a version in 1971. The tune went on to be covered by a fair number of artists, who enjoyed varying degrees of success with it. ESP music - played in a true country style - with a great beat structure and an outstanding vocal by Elmer!

Mainstream Figure: Heads Square Thru Four Hands, Swing Thru, Boys Run, Bend the Line, Right and Left Thru, Pass the Ocean, Recycle, Swing.

I Feel Like Dancing ~ David Mee / Shauna Kaaria

Chic CHIC 1087/2087 (Original Artist: Jason Mraz)

A 2023 digital download track from American singer-songwriter and guitarist Jason Mraz that appears on his album: "Mystical Magical Rhythmical Radical Ride". The lyrics of the song speak about how much the singer enjoys dancing and describes the ways that he makes it happen; an up-tempo tune with a great rhythmic feel. Chic have captured the style of the original track, with some first class music - and a choice of vocal recordings!

Mainstream: Heads Promenade Half, Square Thru Four, Right and Left Thru Veer Left, Couples Circulate, Half Tag, Scootback, Swing and Promenade.

Whole Lot of Leavin' ~ Ryu Hasunuma

Rhythm School RS 738 (Original Artists: Bon Jovi)

A song by American rock band: "Bon Jovi", written by Jon Bon Jovi and John Shanks; it was released only in Europe, as the fourth single from the band's 2007 "Lost Highway" album. The lyrics of the song talk about the sadness that you might experience - if you are leaving (or being left by) someone; a solemn weighty soulful subject. The music is very beautiful and fits the theme of the song; the vocal is by Ryu, a Caller from Japan.

Mainstream Choreography: Heads Square Thru Four, Right and Left Thru Swing Thru, Boys Run, Half Tag, Scootback, Boys Run, Square Thru Three.

Minnie the Moocher ~ Jason Raleigh

Riverboat RIV 1279 (Original Artist: Cab Calloway)

A "Jazz-Scat Song", first recorded in 1931 by Cab Calloway and His Orchestra, selling over a million copies it became very popular as a "Call and Response" tune, where the audience are encouraged to join in on live performances. The music and the lyrics were written by Cab Calloway, Irving Mills and Clarence Gaskill. Riverboat have paid faithful attention to the musical style of the original and Jason Raleigh provides a great vocal!

Mainstream Choreography: Heads Promenade Halfway, Square Thru Four Right and Left Thru, Pass Thru, Trade by, Slide Thru, Square Thru Three.

Prayer in C ~ Christian Sorge

SharpShooter SS 1081 (Original Artists: Lilly wood and the Prick)

This was an extremely popular "Re-Mix", by Robin Schulz, of a previously released song. Written in 2010 by Benjamin Cotto and Nili Hadida and originally recorded and released by French folk pop duo: "Lilly wood and the Prick" - on their "Invincible Friends" album. Outstandingly good music - based on a modern electronic style, with an excellent bassline and great rhythmic feel, Chistian Sorge has chosen another first-rate modern song!

Mainstream Figure: Heads Flutter Wheel, Sides Lead Right, Circle to a Line Reverse Flutterwheel, Pass Thru, Bend the Line, Right and Left Thru...

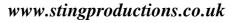
Hear and buy all the newest Square Dance releases - by "clicking" on "Recent Additions" at:

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Caller's Corner UK CALLER BY PAUL BRISTOW (CALLERLAB TRAINING FOUNDATION

Callers Corner - Allemande Left: a "Special Call" (with the "built-in extra")!

To get the Dancers to a viable Allemande Left spot (to "resolve" a Square), Callers need to know about the "built-in extra" that you will find in the definition of Allemande Left where it says: "If necessary, dancers individually turn in place up to 90 degrees, so that the Men are facing: "wrong way promenade direction" and the Women are facing: "promenade direction"; this is only necessary where the Dancers are not already in a situation where every Boy and Girl are Face to Face (facing in the correct directions for an Allemande Left to be executed). The number of Formation/Arrangements (F/As) where correct Allemande Lefts can be found is limited to three specific Set-Ups (FASRs):

[F/A = the "Formation" as well as the "Arrangement" of the Boys and the Girls]

[F/A = the "Formation" as well as the "Arrangement" of the Boys and the Girls]

- 1) A "Common Centred 8 Dancer Set-Up" any of the small sub-group of F/As that can be referred to by this name; the easiest example of this would be the Static Square with the Couples in a "Normal" Arrangement. To actually execute an Allemande Left from here will require every Dancer to turn a little (less than a quarter), to Face their Corner.
- 2) "Eight Chain Thru" sometimes created by a Quarter Turn. Consider Outfacing Lines of Four, to do an Allemande Left, each of the Dancers in each Couple will need to turn a Quarter to face the other thus creating the Eight Chain Thru F/A.

Out Facing Lines of Four

(after LA is Called - before it is done, showing adjustment)

Out Facing Lines of

Four (before LA is

Called)

LA is Called)	before it is done, showing adjustment)	
Facing Lines of Four (before LA is Called)	Facing Lines of Four (after LA is Called - before it is done, showing adjustment)	

If you factor in the "Quarter Turn" as a "given" aspect of Allemande Left, it will provide the Caller with a much easier set of rules to follow: something along the lines of: "Once you get away from the "Common Centred 8 Dancer Set-Up" and start to work in regular 2 X 4 Dancer choreography, there are only two F/As from where the Call Allemande Left can be done; "Eight Chain Thru" and "Trade By""; this of course leads in to the concept of the Four Allemandes, where Dancer Sequence and Partner Relationship are included, all of which will allow Callers to find an Allemande Left in three Calls, from anywhere...

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"THE RIVERBOAT SHUFFLE"

Does anyone out there admit to being old enough to remember this event? It was organised by London square dance clubs in (I think) 1959. We hired a huge boat on the Thames and sailed from Westminster to Hampton Court, dancing on board all the way. When we stopped at lock gates we jumped off and danced on the bank, then back on board to continue the trip.

We spent the afternoon at Hampton Court palace and gardens, then sailed back to Westminster, again dancing all the way. The President at the time was Viv Cannon, but I can't remember who all the callers were.

Jane Murphy (only a teenager at the time!)

The Square Dance Caller's Club of Great Britain

http://www.Callersclub.uk

Following a royal example

Always with Square Dancing at the back of my mind I was intrigued about the many phrases and words I heard during the Coronation which we as Square dancers should bear in mind.

One phrase in particular has stuck in my mind; the words of the solemn promise the king made to the Nation.

'Not to be served but to serve'

They made me think of the pledge some of us make at graduation. - I'm not sure how many clubs follow this tradition once one of the programs has been taught - some clubs do it at completion of the Basic program, others wait until the Mainstream moves have been taught. And now of course it could be done after the twelfth week of the SSD program. Some clubs don't do it at all.

The King's words put into a nut-shell how we hope to inspire our newer dancers into being committed club members .

It is eventually quite obvious that some people see, without being asked, when a job needs doing. The kettle will be boiled ready for tea or coffee. Some people always arrive at the hall early so as to put out the chairs around the room. Such jobs are quite simple and the club leader or caller should ensure that the same people aren't always the ones doing those tasks. If everyone take their turn, without being asked, then it becomes easy to spread the load.

But always remember not to touch the caller's equipment without asking first. There is usually a big financial commitment tied up in this technology.

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-mait susie@graybo.co.uk So each of us comes to the club to serve and not to be served.

Susie Kelly

Introducing our new Treasurer - Terry Pine

Hi to all you Square dancers, I hope to be able to get to know some of you in the future.

I have always loved dancing, at school when it rained in the dinner time I was always happy as we would have music and I would be there dancing.

When I was a prison officer at Shaftesbury, my wife and I learned to sequence dance one night and learnt square dancing on another night. (Many moons ago!)

When we moved to Reading, there were no square dance clubs near us, so we used to travel to Alton, Hampshire, where Emphis and her husband run the club.



Then we went to High Wycombe, and danced to James and Derek. They were good years.

Then I thought I would have a go at 'calling' and start a club in Reading. I told my four children that I had helped them so they and my wife, would help me by attending until we had enough others, then they could drop out. Thus 'Tilehurst Swingers SDC' was born, (later to change its name to 'Tilehurst SDC').

I learnt to call 'on the hoof', well none of the dancers knew when I went wrong!! They thought it was them!! That was over 30 odd years ago.

Over that period I changed the club from a 'caller' run club to a 'committee' run club.

I have taught up to the 'A' programme, and the club danced 3 nights a week.

Too much for one person. The club is still running, but with a lower attendance, (We peaked at about a 100 members, good times).

Now as I do not like to drive at night, but still love to dance, I started Meadway SDC about 9 months ago, and we meet in the afternoons on Mondays. We have 14 dancers, 2 beginners and 3 plus dancers and I dance and 'call' when someone needs to sit out.

I also run a Sequence and Line dance club on a Wednesday afternoon.

Tilehurst Square Dance Club – Second Charity Presentation night.

Following on from our last article in Let's Square Dance, the club had two nominated charities for 2022. Our second Charity was the local branch for Ukrainian Support and two representatives attended our club night at the end of March to receive a cheque from the club.



Two Representatives from Newbury Ukrainian Charity receiving their cheque from Pat (our Chairman, far left), Paddy (our Treasurer, second from right) and Mike Greenaway (whose family have links with Ukraine, far right).



Chuckle Zone







TRIBUTES TO JAMES WYATT

Some years ago, a group of French square dancers travelled to Lytham St Annes where we discovered the joy and fun of dancing to the calling of, among others, James Wyatt. Encountered at other European conventions, James always made a positive impression and this gave rise to an invitation to call at the OPS weekend special in the Paris region in 2011. He always managed to combine serious calling with humour and made things seem easy, even when they weren't. His trademark "gels" will not be easily forgotten. James was a wonderful caller and a lovely person off stage and he will be missed by all those who had the good fortune to meet him. From France we send our sincere condolences to his wife and family and to the UK square dance community.

Jo Frehel (The Leaping Frogs)

I can't recall exactly when we first met James and began dancing to his wonderful calling, but I think it was in the late 80's when we started dancing at Tadley Squares in Hampshire. At the time James was the Tadley Club caller and so we were able to enjoy dancing to him every week. Fast forward and following an extended sabbatical, when we returned to dancing after our children had grown up, we joined Tilehurst Squares where again James was the club caller and although not calling every week, we were again fortunate to be able to dance to him on a regular basis. I fondly recall the European convention in Stratford and how the halls were packed whenever James was calling. Similarly, James' 'Tough Plus' weekends in Torquay were always very popular and not only great dancing but also great fun as well.

One of my fondest memories of James however is not directly related to Square Dancing. James loved his motorcycles and we were camping at an airfield near James and Brenda's home in Basingstoke and they both came down to see us on their motorcycles. We spent a wonderful and memorable afternoon sitting around chatting, drinking Tea and watching the aircraft, quite forgetting how much time was passing or how warm it was until the time came for James and Brenda to ride home. It was at this point that it was discovered that we had all forgotten to apply sufficient sun cream and putting on his helmet was somewhat uncomfortable for James having caught the sun on his head. Brenda updated us later that James was fine – but it was going to take a few days for his sunburn to fade!

Although we knew James was not in the best of health following his retirement from calling, but we were so sad to hear about his death and our thoughts are with Brenda and his family at this time.

Ray and Julie

Continued on next page



I think this is a lovely photo of James and Neil looking very smart at Banbury.

By the time we started dancing in 1999, James was already one of the great Callers and we were amazed how fast we were dancing and how much fun James generated from the stage.

James, Brenda and their children were part of a whole group of Calling dynasties who welcomed square dancers to Lytham St Anne's every summer. Their excellent Calling and camaraderie drew dancers from all over the world who joined with us newer dancers in the evening halls.

Thank you to Brenda for organising the A weekends at Southsea, wonderful dancing of course but also so much fun. He is sadly missed.

Wendy and Granville Hogsmill SDC

Betty and I's earliest recollection of James was a guest spot at one of the Hants and Berks Quarterly dances at Pamber Heath, Tadley, Hants. He was about 15/16 and this was in the early 80's. So we saw him grow into the superb Caller he was.

Eric. Contround Eights SDC.

It's probably all been said already but I would like to add thanks from myself and all the Allemanders for all the fun and enjoyment James has spread over the years. Special mention should be made for the Hemsby Easter Weekends and the Lytham Festival Week, both of which spanned many years in which he was a real star. Thank you James, and God Bless You.

Jane Murphy, The Allemanders, Warrington.

HAPPY FIRST BIRTHDAY YORKSHIRE COAST WAVES (YCW)

Starting a new square dance group has a good deal in common with a birth. It starts with the seed of an idea finding fertile ground. Then there are the practical questions that need answering.

With a birth those questions involve finding a doctor, choosing a hospital, ensuring adequate nutrition, purchasing furniture and clothing you will need, notifying family and friends, and for some, finding godparents for the child.

When you are starting a new SD club, the questions surely include: Where can we find a place to dance that has a good floor, doesn't cost too much, and is in a central location?

How will we attract students?

What program will we offer the dancers?

How will we set up the timing of the starting date, and how will we schedule the timing of the teaching?

Where will I find support from friends and the greater community so that I don't burn out?

Hats off to Angela Alexander for navigating all these challenges, and bringing a delightful group of 29 dancers through most of the SSD program. I attended the first birthday party of this club, the Yorkshire Coast Waves, on Saturday, April 29th in Hunmanby, England.



Terry McCann and Di Green took the dancers through the steps with grace, wit, and good humour. Dancers from as far away as Lancashire and Oxfordshire, along with many from the closer clubs came to meet and support Ange, the YCW, and the new dancers. Two other callers attended, Gene and Sandra Turner and Phillip Mee and Kerry Marsden. Several newbie callers came as well, though I didn't have an opportunity to speak to them all. All joined in the dancing with great good will.

The twenty-nine dancers of Ange's group love square dancing. Wouldn't we all like to add that number to our clubs in a year? There was great merriment in the hall and thanks to the visitors it felt like the good old days, since trying to fit them in the hall was a challenge.

While I came the farthest (5,000 miles), I was surprised and delighted that so many attended. We had six squares dancing. David Eagland (President of the BAASDC) was there with his wife Sandra, carrying on the tradition of the BAASDC's support of dancing.

The club provided a buffet lunch that could have fed 10 squares and there was even a Battenburg cake to remind the dancers of the grand square figure. (If you don't get the reference ask Ange or Di to explain it.)

On a personal note I was buzzed to get to meet in person with a number of folks who attend Di and Terry's zoom dances with me and who made the sojourn to Hunmanby to welcome the new dancers and meet me! Thank you friends.



Robin Alpenglow

ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING

I recently came across the following which was written by a senior American Caller Jerry Junck. Unfortunately, it is quite long, but except for a few brief edits and corrections, I feel it worth including in full as his thoughts and concerns are very important to our activity's future and, I must say, sum up my own feelings very well. Please take a few minutes to read through what he has to say, and after doing so have a look at my final comments which follow it. Enjoy...

Kevin Lovell

Without leaders and leadership, no business or recreation can expect to enjoy any degree of longevity. I applaud each of you for your devotion and leadership over the years, and for taking the time to read this article, which in itself is a very positive sign for our favourite recreation.

While it is my personal opinion that we are privileged to enjoy the greatest recreation available, it is apparent that our attitudes do not always reflect that fact. It is also my belief that attitudes play a major role in the success or failure of any endeavour. Therefore, I have chosen to title this article "Attitude Is Everything."

There are two questions we need to ask. What attitudes should we be addressing? What attitudes should be of concern to each of us? Quite honestly, today's square dance activity is suffering from a great many more negative opinions than positive attitudes. However, do these negative opinions and attitudes apply only to square dancing, or do they mirror our society as well? Let's be perfectly honest and admit that recent years have been especially trying and stressful. Some have said our world will never be the same. It is my view that the world has always been changing and that people constantly make adjustments to accommodate those changes. Attitudes changed after World War I and the Depression. Then came World II and the whole world changed. Vietnam made another change in attitudes in the USA too. Most of which were extremely negative.

We have been living and dealing with those negative attitudes for many years. Would it be too presumptuous to speculate that recruiting for square dancing may have suffered more from a change in our society, than from structural problems within our activity?

It is my opinion that we need to look at our activity with a more realistic and objective view than we have done in the past. It is my view that our society has never had a greater need for square dancing than now. It has been a very difficult time for everyone. However, it has quickly became apparent that dancers desperately need the company of others and that there is a great deal of comfort from the feeling of family square dancing has to offer. We have something a great many people in our society not only want, but need as well. I think now is the perfect time to reach out and invite non dancers to become a part of our family.

However, before we do we need to evaluate our own attitudes and feelings about square dancing. We must stop finding reasons why we can't recruit or retain dancers. Have you heard dancers say that they have asked everyone they know? Well how about asking someone you don't know. It is my opinion that we need to look at our activity with a more realistic and objective view than we have done in

the past. We need to recognize that there are things we can control, and things we have little or no ability to influence. It is important that we identify those things that we as a group, can improve upon and work to address those issues, while not squandering our time with issues we have little or no ability to control.

Now, let's take a look at some issues I see that we have an ability to affect in a positive manner. Sure there are other issues, but these are the ones I think are the most important. Please bear in mind that some of these issues may be controversial to some. However, it is imperative that we, as leaders in the activity, try to be as objective as possible, and put our own personal feelings aside for the good of the activity.

My approach to this article is that it should be the beginning of open and positive discussion regarding all of our issues, including those deemed controversial. If there might be a criticism we could make of ourselves, myself included, it is that we all suffer to some degree from tunnel vision. It is extremely difficult to look forward, have a vision, and see the whole picture. I challenge each of you to join me in this endeavor. I absolutely believe that we, all of us together, can accomplish anything we want to do.

Our recreation is too great and our leadership too dedicated and too passionate, not to accomplish our goals. But, we must keep in mind that all of us, collectively, may have to make some difficult decisions. No one will do it for us. We will have to do have vision, be honest, open, and accept the fact that some change will be necessary. We will have to be able to exercise diplomacy and negotiate. Some may not get everything they want, but we must support the decision made in order to rebuild and revitalize this wonderful activity we all love.

Let's begin by addressing our attitudes toward square dancing in general, caller and dancer attitudes alike. One attitude I would like to see completely eliminated is what I perceived to be an overall negative attitude toward square dancing as a whole. I can begin to count the number of times in the past year that I have heard callers and dancers say that the activity is doomed to die. I'm too much an optimist to accept that perception of square dancing. But, let's be objective and recognize that square dancing isn't for everyone. Neither is skydiving! However, that does not mean square dancing has no appeal to today's society.

Accepting the fact that square dancing isn't for everyone does suggest we need to work harder at recruiting. Obviously, there are numerous other recreations and pastimes attempting to recruit the same people. We need to convince non-dancers that we have a better product. We need to make those we do recruit feel welcome and part of our square dance family. Being aware of the above, and at the risk of appearing to be simplistic, what one single thing would greatly reduce many of our current concerns?

The answer is that we need an influx of new and energetic dancers. This one factor would resolve a great many of our challenges facing the square dance activity. Having said that, let's not be so naive as to think recruiting new dancers is easy. We all know better. However, we cannot escape the fact that we find new dancers through recruiting, and they will stay in the activity only if we make the necessary effort to obtain them. Rebuilding and revitalizing our activity is completely de-

pended upon our ability to successfully address recruitment and retention. Everyone – Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, Challenge, and even Round Dancers – are all going to have to contribute new dancers in order to perpetuate our beloved activity. Therefore, recruitment and retention of new dancers are the two most significant challenges facing our activity. Rebuilding and revitalizing our activity are completely depended upon our ability to successfully address these two issues. It will require an increased commitment from both dancers and callers alike. There is no way around that fact.

We need experienced dancers to recruit and make the new dancers feel welcome, and quality callers to teach and retain them. We must stop finding reasons why we can't recruit or retain new dancers. This is totally within our ability to address.

For instance, using the issues that the program lists are too long or need to be modified before they can recruit is simply not true. Do the program lists need change? Probably! Changes necessary and healthy for any business or activity to adjust to the current styles and taste of the times. But, modifying or consolidating the program lists will have little effect upon the recruiting of new dancers. "Why not?" you may ask. The answer is simple. New dancers have no idea what calls are on the program lists. They all know they want to dance. The fact that there are 50, or 150 calls, on the program lists has no meaning to them. Only current dancers and callers are interested in program content. New dancers really don't care. Therefore, the number and content of the calls on any program lists has very little bearing on recruitment.

That being said, the number of calls, and the length of time necessary for new dancers to achieve proficiency, does have a direct affect on new dancer retention. The goal of new dancers is to be able to attend open dances. To that extent, program content does influence whether or not new dancers choose to stay in the activity. In the US there are areas in which Mainstream is the entry program and they appear to be considerably better able to retain new dancers than those areas where the Plus program is the primary destination for new dancers.

Are we asking too much of new dancers? Even acknowledging my statements about recruitment, I still honestly feel that we have recruited a sufficient number of dancers over the years to have some positive effect on the activity. However, I also believe we can do better at recruiting. That will only take increased effort.

Improving our retention rates will require a concerted effort from everyone to change our ATTITUDES, callers and dancers alike. This change requires all of us to take a hard look at our attitudes and work on two things - understanding and tolerance. Understanding that it is not easy for beginners to learn square dancing, and tolerance toward the new dancer during classes, and more importantly, after graduation. Remember, dancers tend to reflect, or mirror, the attitudes of their caller. Therefore, it is imperative that callers, as LEADERS, set an example with their ATTITUDES.

Now, before everyone gets excited and begins denial, let me present some examples of the ATTITUDES we need to change. We have all heard the following statements at one time or another. I spent an entire summer collecting them. They are

just a few representative examples of dancer and caller ATTITUDES pertaining to either, new dancers, teaching, or to the Mainstream program.

First, and this is from a full-time caller. "I think the Mainstream program is a terrible program to call." Do you know callers that have made the statement that Mainstream is uninteresting? I hope you don't, but I do. Do you think the dancers that follow and support this caller will also reflect that position? Absolutely!

Second, when I asked callers about their beginner classes, the most common response I received was, "I've called a lot of years and paid my dues. Let someone else teach them." Are you surprised? I was. Do you think this type of attitude will eventually be reflected in dancers attitude? How many new dancers will be brought to this caller by his club? Do you think callers with this attitude can motivate dancer to promote lessons? Can callers exhibiting this type of attitude be expected to do an effective job of teaching?

Do any of these examples sound familiar to you? Do they express your opinions? Do you think these negative attitudes affect recruiting and retention? Definitely! Can we change our attitudes? I think we must.

The bigger question is, "How do we do this?" First, we simply must realize that the entry level program is the most important program in square dancing. It is the foundation for all the other programs we enjoy. We need only to look back in history to recognize that when square dancing was at its peak, 70% of the clubs danced the Sets In Order 75, which closely resembles today's Mainstream program! That should speak volumes to us.

I firmly believe that many callers and dancers are far too fascinated with the complexity of square dancing. It is also my opinion that most of us call material that is far too difficult for the recreational dancer. Having said that, does everyone want to dance only Mainstream? Certainly not. That's the purpose and beauty of the variety of programs square dancing has to offer. Literally, we have something for everyone.

However, those of us that enjoy the other programs need to recognize the importance of the Mainstream program. We must also support the Mainstream program because without Mainstream, these other programs cannot continue to exist. When attending a Mainstream dance, we should enjoy the dance for the music and the people. We must become more tolerant of the Mainstream dancer and be willing to enjoy the dance at their level of knowledge and ability. We should not go with the idea of dancing only when the Plus tips are called. This will take a considerable change in attitude by today's dancers. But, it would do so much to make our activity much more inclusive, rather than exclusive.

Second, modern western square dancing consists of two types of people: recreational dancers and hobby dancers. Most recreational dancers dance the Mainstream program and perhaps a few of the Plus calls. They typically dance once or twice a month. Hobby dancers, on the other hand, may dance Plus, Advanced, Challenge, and/or Rounds. They tend to love their program to the exclusion of all other programs. This includes the exclusion of helping with, and the recruiting for, beginner classes. Isn't it a shame that our most enthusiastic dancers basically do very little

to recruit for the activity they so enjoy? Are these dancers reflecting their caller's attitudes?

Obviously, we are not replenishing our recreational dancers as rapidly as we need. But, we cannot expect to do so, when only 20 percent of the square dance population is doing the recruiting. The current mainstream dancers cannot, and should not, have to do all the work. Everyone – mainstream, plus, advanced, challenge, and even round dancers are all going to have to contribute the new dancers in order to perpetuate arm beloved activity. This will indeed, take a big change in ATTITUDE.

The attitude by callers that "I've paid my dues, let someone else teach them" simply has to change. The single most important thing we do as a caller is to teach both new dancers and new callers. How many callers have taught a new class in the last couple of years? There are roughly 2000 callers who are members of CALLERLAB alone, plus many globally who aren't. If each one had a class of only two squares there would be 4000 new squares, or 32,000 new dancers from CallerLab members and all in one season!!! Do you think that would help square dancing? Absolutely! But, EVERYONE has to contribute. We cannot survive with only a few doing the recruiting and teaching.

Dancers, all of them, are our recruiting force. Callers, all of them, are responsible for teaching. Our responsibility as callers is two-fold. First, we must set an example that will provide the motivation necessary to encourage dancers to become ambassadors for the activity. Second, callers must be the best teachers they can be. We don't want to lose any opportunity. We must be motivated ourselves and prepared to make classes both educational and entertaining.

Preparation is the key. You can't read a book in one go, but you can read a sentence. You cannot read a sentence until you can read a word. And, you cannot read a word until you know your ABC's. Teaching square dancing is the same thing. We cannot expect dancers to be able to Coordinate when they have not yet learned to Circulate.

I have been discussing my thoughts on attitudes regarding recruiting in teaching. It is my opinion that our attitudes regarding new dancers are even more important than the retention of those people in the activity already.

Why don't we retain more of our new dancers? I feel the big reason for that is that we are not as friendly and tolerant of them as we should be.

Earlier in this article I said that we should be more objective when looking at ourselves, and our attitudes. Retention of new dancers is the area where we really need to re-assess our attitudes toward the new dancers.

Why don't we retain new dancers? A primary reason is that after we get them started, we don't nurture and cultivate them. We don't take care of them or, worse yet, we take them for granted. In the past, we were very careful with our new graduates. Not anymore. How many of you have heard club officers say that their class is at the dance for the first time, but the club would like some plus calls during the evening anyway? He will usually follow this by saying that, "Although

the new dancers don't know what calls, the club will split them up and PULL them through. They are going to have to learn it anyway." Sound familiar? Is this an attitude we need to change?

What else can we do to help dancer retention? Patience would be a big help. It is our responsibility, as callers and dancers, to provide an enjoyable dance experience. We have to be more tolerant and understanding that we must SELL our activity to those new dancers first. I believe that too much complexity in lessons in dance programs DRIVES dancers from the activity. Let's hook them with fun and friendship first. I firmly believe that many callers and dancers are far too fascinated with the complexity of square dancing. It is also my opinion that most callers call material that is far too difficult for the recreational dancer.

Please understand that I am not advocating limiting variety. I'm advocating being different without becoming difficult. There is a huge distinction between the two. Today's square dancers are survivors who either enjoy, or tolerate, the challenge of today's dancing. But, it is evident that the recreational dancer has not been intrigued with the challenge and has left the activity. They didn't complain. They merely stopped square dancing.

Do we need to re-evaluate our attitudes with respect to recruiting and retention? I think the answer is absolutely, we do. In my opinion, the topics just discussed may be somewhat easier to address than other issues we must also consider. Our activity is faced with some issues that are extremely controversial, and will be met with passionate opposition.

Jerry Junck

Many of you will agree with the observations made by Jerry, believing they accurately reflect the situation today. What may surprise you is that this article was actually written by Jerry at the turn of the century and delivered as the Keynote address at the CallerLab convention in 2002.

I took the liberty of removing some direct references to 9/11, altering his words slightly as the emotional state of many post-Covid are very similar to those felt after the Twin Tower's attack. I hope you, and Jerry, will forgive me for doing so, but I felt it significant that the problems and concerns, and indeed opportunities, we have today very much mirror those recognised over 20 years ago.

We continue to have the attitude that Square Dancing is on it's "last legs" and cannot survive, which is preventing many callers, dancers, clubs and organisations even bothering to try. Yet, if we have lasted 20 years since the above, who is to say we cannot survive another 20 – surely this makes any effort we are willing to make worthwhile.

Furthermore, if we can change our attitudes. If we can have a more positive outlook on things. If we can transmit this positivity to others. If we can all 'do our bit' to help recruit, help teach, indeed help others to enjoy our activity as much as we do, there is no reason to assume we only have 20 years, and we can create a long term future for ourselves and future generations – we have a wonderful activity and should ensure others can enjoy it as much as we do, and for as long as we have, if not longer.....

Kevin Lovell.

Page left blank No Obituaries (Which is nice)

In the right hand column of the listings, the abbreviations are: TO = Ticket Only, RA = Raffle, PL = Pot Luck

OPEN DANCES June 2023

Sat 3 rd Aft /Eve	R D COUNCIL Workshop & Multi-cuer Dance Nick Wright (Multi-Cuers) PH I - IV Tel. 01865 424745 (Judi)	Oxon OX25 1PL
Fri 9 th	CONTROUND EIGHTS - Extended Club Night Eric Webb MS, P Tel. 01235 834778 (Eric)	Oxon OX13 6RR,
Sat 10 th	WAGGONERS - Summer Dance Trudy & Simon Fielding MS Tel. 01992 441083 / 07719 961611 (David)	RA PL
Sat 10 th (Afternoon)	WESTERNERS Isle of Wight Dance Terry Chapman with Ray Winter and Andy & Angela Brackstone MS, pa P Tel. 07752879976 See advert P 9	I.O.W PO40 9UU
Sat 10 th	BISHOPS EIGHT 14th Birthday Dance Brian Summerfield, Paul Preston, Amy Richardson MS, P, R Tel. 01949 860843 (Kath)	RA Notts NG14 7BD
Sat 17 th	WESSEX REGIONAL CALLERS ASSOCIATION Area Dance Simon & Trudy Fielding MS, p/a P Tel 07736 285341 (Peter)	Hants SO40 3RS
Sat 17 th Afternoon	CORINIUM SQUARES New Caller Dance Free entry Suzanne Fletcher-Mallinson, Penny Warner, David Hewitt, Alan Edwards MS Email alan151162@gmail.com	Glos GL7 1RE
Mon 19 th to Fri 23 rd	AERON VALLEY DIAMONDS Symonds Yat Johnny Preston Plus, A1, A2 Tel. 01545561159	TO Hereford
Sat 24 th	Another Night with Neil Neil Whiston P, A1, A2 Tel. 07985 644335 (Barbara) 07860 467842 (Maggie)	RA HP1 3QG,
Fri 23 rd to Sat 25 th	PIECES OF 8 Midsummer Weekend of Dance Rob Branson Plus, A1 & A2 Tel. 0797270310 (Rob)	TO CV37 8PE
Sat 25 th Afternoon	L & HC RCA Summer Friendship Dance Simon & Trudy Fielding SSD Tel. 077 966 955 75, (Kevin)	Beds LU6 3RJ

REGULAR VIRTUAL DANCES June 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	Di Green & Terry McCann A2		
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 July 2023		
Sat 1 st (Afternoon)	Harmony Squares Good Times Dance Cliff Anderton, Philip Mee & Gene Turner SSD Tel. 07856 884432 (Gene)	RA W Yorks LS23 6HY
Sat 1 st (Afternoon)	WORTHING SQUARES Summer Dance Granville Spencer MS, P Tel. 07577 220161 (Mike)	RA W Sussex BN12 4HD
Sat 1 st	Heyford Hoofers Christmas in July Rob Branson and Judi Read MS, Plus Tel. 07903164789 (Bob) See advert P 8	RA Oxon OX25 1QH
Sun 9 th (Afternoon)	All Square At Zero "A" Daytime Dance Kevin Lovell A1, A2 Tel. 077 966 955 75 (Annika)	LU6 3RJ
Sat 15 th (Afternoon)	White Rose Squares "Sunhats" Dance Leah Tinsdeall MS, Plus Tel. 01943-878066 (Ann)	RA N. Yorks LS23 6HY

OPEN DANCES August 2023		
Sat 5 th Afternoon	WOLDS WEAVERS SDC Yorkshire Day Dance Trevor Day SSD, MS, P Tel. 01759-303189 (Barry, Isabel)	RA Yorks YO42 4E
Thurs 17 th	TUDOR SQUARES Brian Hotchkies MS, P Tel. 01442 831491 (Jenny)	HP2 5SB
Fri 18 th To Sun 20 th	IPAC 2023. International Plus, Advanced and Challenge Convention - 2023	Frankfurt Germany
Sat 19th	CHELTENHAM SWINGING SQUARES Brian Hotchkies MS, P (2:1) See advert P 8 Email: ritadon1966@yahoo.com (Rita)	RA PL Glos GL3 2PL

2023 Square Dance Holidays and Weekend Breaks

J U N	Mon 19 th to Friday 23 rd	
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)
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)
0 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	Sun 15 th to Sun 22 nd	ASAZ Cruise from S'hampton visiting France & Spain Kevin Lovell P, A1 (A2) Tel: 07796 695575 (Kevin)
E R	Fri 27 th to Mon 30 th	Pilgrim Promenaders 38 th Coast Weekend Ray Brendzy, Leah Tinsdeall, Bernard Murphy P, A1, A2 callerbernard@blueyonder.com (Bernard) See advert P 7
D E C	Fri 1 st to Mon 4 th	Taste of Christmas Trouville Hotel, I.O.W. Di Green & Terry McCann MS, P Tel. Tel: 01983 402141 Trouville Hotel (Jeanette)
J A N	Fri 26 th to Sun 28 th	Aeron Valley Diamonds Torquay Weekend Mike Belsten & Leah Tinsdeall MS, P Tel. 01545 561159 (Roy, Elaine)
F E B	Fri 23rd To Mon 26 th	Pilgrim Promenaders 39 th Coast Weekend TBD callerbernard@blueyonder.com (Bernard)

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

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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).

<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 <u>publication cannot be guaranteed</u>. 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**

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¼ page	£10	½ page	£20
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