

# ***LET'S SQUARE DANCE***

**September 2023 : Volume 70 : No 9**

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## *EDITOR SAYS.....*

First of all, for anyone who hadn't heard, my lsdmag@talktalk email address was hacked and taken over at the beginning of August, the day before I went off on holiday; I wasn't able to get it sorted until August 15<sup>th</sup>, so if anyone sent anything in between those dates, I didn't receive it !



A rather 'slim' magazine this month, I guess it's the 'quiet' season, but a couple of very interesting articles from Carol Holman of Lune Valley Ocean Wavers (Pp 12 and 20). The second one looks promising for the near future - more details as we receive them.

Please keep reports coming in over the next months as most Clubs start the new season.

Happy Dancing

*Peter*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello Everybody

August has been a quiet month and my thoughts have turned to how we can get grow square dancing. I often find that when we are dancing at a weekend, in a hotel, people watching us like to see the fun we are having. But when they ask 'Where can I do that' there is nowhere near where they live. I feel we can only grow square dancing by expanding out from the areas where we now dance. That needs callers or competent dancers who are prepared to go, say, 10 miles from where they presently dance and form a new club.

Could this be you?

Enjoy your dancing.

*David*



### **Musings from your Public Relations Officer**

You just know it's the end of Summer and the beginning of Autumn when the B.B.C. start announcing the line-up for Strictly Come Dancing. I feel very old when the only two contestants I recognize are Angela Rippon, (remember those legs on the Morecambe and Wise show), aged 78 and Les Dennis of Family Fortunes fame, aged 69. The launch show will probably air on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Can't wait, and it got me thinking about competitions in Square Dancing.

Chatting with non-dancers, I frequently get asked if it is competitive; I muffle a chuckle and explain that it is not competitive at all and thank goodness too. However recent events have led me to change my mind.

In warm sunshine at the Viking Squares Camp-out found me chatting to Dom and Mary O'Keeffe. It turns out that they are the unofficial custodians of various items of silverware presented as prizes at Square Dancing competitions at 'The Saints' S.D.C. in Chilwell Nottingham. The club was started in 1957 by Len Sandalls and his wife Elsie. I was intrigued and at our recent Big 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash, Dom and Mary brought along the items, cleaned and polished. Luckily It appears that Dom and Mary had rescued the items to avoid them being 'skipped'.

There were three shiny Trophies for internal competitions at the Chilwell Square Dance Club.

The Rose Bowl for Seniors was won in 1961 by Hix' N Chix and in 1962 by the Saints.

The Intermediate Trophy was won by the Saints in 1961 and Applejacks in 1962.

The Junior Trophy was won by Ranch House from Nottingham 1961 and Rustlers in 1962.

Also among the artifacts from the Chilwell S.D.C. is a beautiful wooden banner for Chilwell Club and some photographs of the winning dance teams, beautifully turned out in matching outfits, and some of Len and Elsie Sandalls dancing.

*(Editor's note - look at pages 8 and 9 for some photos)*

Dom and Mary O'Keeffe were members of the Chilwell S.D.C. but sometime after the competitive years, I hasten to add, and I would like to say a big thank you to Mary and Dom O'Keeffe for all your help.

Of course it throws up many many questions. Who were the judges? How many judges? Were they judged on presentation, ability to carry out the calls accurately, keeping in time with the music? Did the teams dance at the same time? Was it best of three 'tips' and singing calls to decide the winner?

Who knows? Does anybody out there have any information about competitions? Perhaps other clubs held competitions and awarded trophies, medals dangles or certificates? Please let us know, we'd love to hear from you.

So, talking of competitive dancing, enjoy Strictly Come Dancing!

Let's make Square and Round Dancing great again.

*Susan*

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Dear Editor,

Hi anyone,

Does anyone want to learn A1/A2.

I live in Reading and am quite willing to teach A1/A2 in Reading.

It would be free, as I don't have to pay for the hall. It would be on a week day afternoon (Tuesday, Thursday or Friday) say 2ish for an hour and a half?

(I run a SSD on Monday afternoon, and Line/sequence dance class Wednesdays)

If there are at least 8 of you out there who would be interested email me at

[pineterry699@gmail.com](mailto:pineterry699@gmail.com).

It could be twice a month, whatever suits you.

Terry of Meadway SDC Reading

Dear Editor,

In response to Ange Alexander's letter regarding promoting square dancing, I would love to see a video created that could highlight some of the unique aspects of our activity.

My idea for the video is to try to find a way to appeal to many different people.

To show the world that SD is not a hokey, old-fashioned activity with out of date music. To highlight the positive aspects of camaraderie, movement, variety, fun, and smiles. To let the world outside of SD know that you can wear clothes you feel good in, enjoy many types of music, and dance at your own pace. Of course the problem is that this will be expensive, and many more people will feel they need to put their own personal spin on such a product. What I envision as inclusive—gay clubs, youth clubs, dancing with live music, camping clubs, handicapped clubs, solo clubs, and clubs around the world in other countries, etc.—would likely get narrowed down considerably. And that would be a shame. We should not limit the appeal of square dancing just to the things a few of us enjoy, whether it's the fancy clothes, a particular style of music, or particular program levels.

The video could be accompanied by business sized cards that could include a website for more dancing information, and a spot for local club contact info. In the US there is a website called [wherethedance.com](http://wherethedance.com) and clubs can put their dance dates and locations so that dancers who are travelling can find dances.

Perhaps we need to have a website for upcoming classes too.

At the very least we need to get the word out that square dancing exists, is fun, is inclusive, and invites new dancers to learn the program.

*Robin Alpenglow Arroyo Grande, CA USA*





See Susan's musings on Page 5





LET'S SQUARE DANCE ~ September 2023



Len and Elsie Sandalls



Dom and Mary O'Keeffe with the wooden banner



One of the winning Squares

## YORKSHIRE DAY DANCE

Wolds Weavers decided to use our usual Village Hall club venue to hold our annual Yorkshire Day Dance. Trevor Day agreed to call for us so we crossed fingers and hoped for 3 or 4 squares. By the time Trevor had started calling we had 6 squares on the floor and probably enough for another square just watching.



Trevor catered excellently for the variety of skill levels presenting themselves, calling mostly SSD and Mainstream but threw in the occasional Plus tip to keep us on our toes.

We had decided to give single raffle tickets rather than strips and to include the cost in the entrance fee, this variation seemed to work quite well.

Thanks to all those who helped us in any way and a particular thanks to Trevor for a thoroughly entertaining afternoon with calls guaranteed to keep everyone's grey cells buzzing.



*Barry Malin  
Wolds Weavers S D C*



# Chuckle Zone

Another one from Jenny !

An Army Recruit from the Australian outback sends a letter home:

'Dear Mum & Dad, I am well. Hope you are too. Tell me big brothers Doug and Phil that the Army is better than workin' on the farm - tell them to get in quick smart before the jobs are all gone!

I wuz a bit slow in settling down at first, because ya don't hafta get outta bed until 6am. But I like sleeping in now, cuz all ya gotta do before brekky is make ya bed and shine ya boots and clean ya uniform. No cows to milk, no calves to feed, no feed to stack - nothin'!! Ya haz gotta shower though, but its not so bad, coz there's lotsa hot water and even a light to see what ya doing!

At brekky ya get cereal, fruit, and eggs but there's no kangaroo steaks or possum stew like wot Mum makes. You don't get fed again until noon and by that time all the city boys are dead because we've been on a 'route march' - geez its only just like walking to the windmill in the back paddock!!

This one will kill me brothers Doug and Phil with laughter. I keep getting medals for shootin' - dunno why. The bullseye is as big as a possum's bum and it don't move and it's not firing back at ya like the Johnsons did when our big scrubber bull got into their prize cows before the Ekka show last year! All ya gotta do is make yourself comfortable and hit the target! You don't even load your own cartridges, they comes in little boxes, and ya don't have to steady yourself against the rollbar of the roo shooting truck when you reload!

Sometimes ya gotta wrestle with the city boys and I gotta be real careful coz they break easy - it's not like fighting with Doug and Phil and Jack and Boori and Steve and Muzza all at once like we do at home after the muster.

Turns out I'm not a bad boxer either and it looks like I'm the best the platoon's got, and I've only been beaten by this one bloke from the Engineers - he's 6 foot 5 and 15 stone and three pick handles across the shoulders and as ya know I'm only 5 foot 7 and eight stone wringin' wet, but I fought him till the other blokes carried me off to the boozer.

I can't complain about the Army - tell the boys to get in quick before word gets around how good it is.

Your loving daughter,

Sheila.'

**'LET'S MAKE SQUARE DANCING GREAT AGAIN'.**

Susan's motto is a really good one but what are we actually doing to achieve this.?

Angie's article about boosting recruitment in the August magazine is an excellent start but the problem goes much deeper.

There is no doubt that square dancing at the moment, is severely suffering, so a single patch is not enough. We often refer to the good old days when there were over 300 clubs in the UK, each with many squares of dancers.

Sadly this is never going to happen again as technology has changed the UK citizens lifestyles out of all recognition.

The problems are many and complex but if we ALL work collectively we may be able to slow down square dancing's demise and even give it the boost it needs to re-establish.

Square dance at the moment:

We need more dancers and callers to keep square dancing going.

Clubs are closing all over the country due to lack of dancers.

The majority of experienced dancers are now over 70 and are retiring mostly due to health problems.

Callers are retiring, mostly due to age or health.

All of the above are connected and they all need to be addressed together for us to progress.

Recruitment problems.

Square dancing is STILL an unknown to the majority of people. We regularly hear dancers say 'It's the best kept secret'. WHY?

New dancers, when we get them now, tend to be in their 60s and 70s at entry level (due to the 'empty nest' age rising)

New Dancers will not travel far to learn. Once they have learned and become 'hooked' they may travel further.

As Clubs are closing they are now very few and very far apart. No interested beginner is going to travel 50 miles plus, or even 10 miles to learn to dance if they can do something else on their doorstep.

Older beginner dancers take much longer to learn and often have mobility problems.

Younger dancers do learn quickly and want to advance quickly, not stuck in a class full of really slow learners.

We need more clubs and more callers.

Our clubs are either caller run or committee run but they usually have a regular club caller.

*Continued on next page*

As the callers get older or ill and retire some of these clubs will fold due to no other callers available or numbers dropping, making it unviable.

Clubs are not equally spread around the country but in little pockets dotted about mostly in the South of England and an odd club spattered here and there, certainly the majority of the country is a wasteland with no clubs at all.

Scotland, which is larger than England has only one club in Aberdeen, The North West of England has 2, Lancaster & Warrington. Yorkshire fares a little better with 4 or 5 I think, off the top of my head.

It takes a very long time to become a proficient caller. Our established callers, tell us how they started in their teens or 20s, many have been calling for over 40 years. Potential callers start as experienced dancers or new ones coming into the clubs, so they are now more likely to start in their 50s or 60s. There are some exceptions of course.

What can we do to help?

Experienced dancers mostly dance in clubs or at events that provide the 'highest' programme that they have achieved.

Most understandable as they have worked really hard to get to that point.

C Clubs look to A Clubs to recruit. A clubs look to Plus Clubs and so on down the line but with fewer people joining as beginners and even fewer moving 'Up the Ladder' the 'lower' programme clubs are struggling for numbers to survive.

It becomes a chicken and egg situation, what is the point of advertising widely if there are no clubs for the people to go to?

I would like to suggest that all our experienced dancers go back, down the ladder, to revisit their original clubs or at least a club a couple of programmes below their own, regularly. This would increase their numbers, making it viable to keep on going. Your experience would boost the morale of the newer dancers in that particular programme and they will would gain immensely from your experience and enthusiasm for square dancing. I'm sure you will have a great time reconnecting as well.

I realise that some of our very experienced dancers could not cope with the speed expected at MS or Plus but they could be fantastic teachers as could any experienced dancer.

I think that club satellite groups, for want of a better name, would work very well.

Experienced dancers would teach small numbers in an area within 10 miles of an established club, where the locals could come from within a 1 or 2 mile radius. A short intensive teaching programme up to SSD or MS as a lead in to progressing to the main club. Once people are hooked they are more willing to travel.

The satellite group teacher could then move on the the next village and start again.

*Continued on next page*

I am sure that help from Callers' Club, CallerLab and BAASDC, in the way of paperwork, CDs, Apps etc could be put together to help these people.

You never know this could also be the start of more budding new callers.

Technology has moved on so we should take advantage of this as well as the tried and tested recruiting and teaching methods.

Zoom was a godsend during Covid, teaching dancers all over the world. We should embrace that. We have had club nights via zoom when no caller was available by callers from the UK and America,

There are loads of teaching classes on the internet that can be viewed on TV or laptop to work with.

We just need to think out of the box a bit.

Think back to square dance origins, A group of people got together and had a fun time without formality. Eventually lots more joined in and it spread to other villages and towns

Perhaps we are being too precious trying to stay exactly as we were, which is now disappearing down the plug hole. Lets put the plug in and fill it up again.

I was talking to a square dancer recently about this article, which I was about to write and discovered she was doing exactly what I am suggesting with excellent results. Perhaps there are more of you doing this already too.

I have done this myself too and you get such a great feeling of satisfaction when you've taught and then practiced all the moves till you think they are ready to move to the main club.

Has anyone got any other out of the box ideas to Make Square Dancing Great Again?

*Carol Holman Lune Valley Ocean Wavers*



*the item was originally intended for the August issue but had been mislaid, so is being printed here as originally submitted and therefore makes no reference to articles relating to the future of square dance that were printed last month. (Editor)*

## **Let's Focus On The Future**

After many years observing the gradual decline in Square Dancing in the UK, in 2017 the SDCCGB (Square Dance Callers Club of Great Britain) and BAASDC (British Association of American Square Dance Clubs) joined forces to do something about it by forming the FFT, the Future Focus Team. Made up of a mix of callers and dancers, including representation from both councils, the team discussed, investigated, and piloted many initiatives to both retain existing dancers and to recruit new ones.

Despite BAASDC withdrawing from the team, officially at least, after only a few months, the FFT continued to operate until the pandemic, developing many ideas and regularly publishing articles in both Let's Square Dance (BAASDC's monthly magazine) and News & View's (SDCCGB's bi-monthly).

Unfortunately, since the restart, both councils have been fully occupied helping our wonderful activity recover ground lost during the forced closure and had limited band-width to develop any suggestions made to them.

However, as President of the Callers Club and a dedicated member of the Square Dance family, I continue to recognise the importance of the work done by the FFT, of which I was a founder member. It gave people, dancers and callers, somewhere to make suggestions and raise ideas; a group who would consider all such thoughts and progress those with merit.

I have said many times that our problems won't be solved by any one individual, by any one single initiative, but would need input from us all, or at least many of us. Indeed, I am aware that many of you have ideas, many of you have suggestions, many of you think we should try this or that, but just don't know who to talk to.

For this reason I am going to re-start the FFT.

Previously our meetings were in person. This time, we will hold meetings over zoom, removing any geographical barrier being involved.

As before, the team will comprise both callers and dancers, under the leadership and governance of the SDCCGB.

**I am looking for volunteers to join the team.** If you are interested in doing so please send me an email at [kevin\\_lovell@hotmail.com](mailto:kevin_lovell@hotmail.com)

If you have any ideas, again please send me details ... or indeed join the team.

We all know something has to be done. We all know someone has to do it. Why not put your "money where your mouth is" as it were and become part of the solution.

*Kevin Lovell President of the SDCCGB.*



## Six of the Best

Reviews of Square Dance releases  
from other labels by

**PAUL BRISTOW**

(owner and producer of STING & SNOW records)



### **I Will Walk with You ~ Darryl Lipscomb, Jerry Junck**

ESP ESP 241 (Original Artist: John Fogerty)

American rock musician John Fogerty has recorded, both as a solo artist and a member of Creedence Clearwater Revival; this track is from: "Deja Vu (All Over Again)" his 2013 solo album. The lyrics are a promise that the singer will be alongside those to whom it is sung: "every step of the way". A simple country melody, with a "rolling" feel and a first rate instrumental arrangement - all topped off with an excellent "two-Caller" vocal!

**Mainstream Figure:** *Square Thru, Swing Thru, Boys Run, Couples Circulate Chain Down the line, Star Thru, Pass Thru, Trade by, Swing and Promenade.*

### **Tequila Sunrise ~ Dean Singleton**

Arrowhead ARROW 1163 (Original Artists: The Eagles)

A song from 1973, written by Don Henley and Glenn Frey, and recorded by the Eagles; it was the first single from the band's second album: "Desperado". The theme of the song (according to "Billboard"), is: "one man's efforts at survival and having to take 'a shot of courage.'" Ultimate Classic Rock critic Sterling Whitaker rated it as: "the Eagles 7th most underrated song", it's played in a true "Eagles" style - with an excellent vocal!

**Mainstream Figure:** *Heads Promenade Halfway, Pass the Ocean, Extend Swing Thru, Boys Run, Half Tag, Scootback, Single Hinge, Girls Trade, Recycle.*

### **Mountain Greenery ~ Mike Oliveri**

Happy Trax HTX 122 (Original Artists: Sterling Holloway, Mel Tormé)

Composed by Richard Rodgers, with lyrics by Lorenz Hart for the musical: "The Garrick Gaieties" (1926), it was first performed on stage by Sterling Holloway; the lyrics display Hart's characteristic use of enjambment and witty and unexpected internal rhymes e.g. 'lover let' and 'coverlet' and 'keener re...' rhymed with 'beanery'. A great piece of music with a "fast and furious" feel (that works really well) - together with a "vibrant" vocal!

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

### **Ice Cream Man ~ Scott Bennett**

Crest CREST 172 (Original Artists: Van Halen)

This song was included on the first album that was released by Van Halen in 1978 (the album was named: "Van Halen") and described as a: "cover of an innuendo-laced blues song". It was written and originally recorded on Chess Records in 1953, by the Chicago Blues musician: John Brim. Crest have really "captured" the Blues sound with this tune, some quite fantastic instrumentation and a very well presented vocal by Scott Bennett!

**Mainstream Choreography:** *Heads Promenade Halfway, Square Thru Four Right and Left Thru, Pass Thru, Trade By, Touch a Quarter, Scootback, Swing.*

**Why Don't You Love Me (Like You Used to Do?) ~ Keith Klix**

Rhythm School RS 732 (Original Artist: Hank Williams)

A song, released as a single in 1950, by American singer and guitarist Hank Williams, it reached number one on the U.S. Country & Western chart. It has a light-hearted set of lyrics, with the singer pointing out that they are still as good as they ever were! As you would expect, Rhythm does a great job with the music, offering some quite outstanding instrumentation - that really lifts the dancing feel of the tune, as well as a great Vocal!

**Mainstream Figure:** *Promenade Half, Pass the Ocean, Extend, Swing Thru Boys Run, Bend the Line, Right and Left Thru, Pass the Ocean, Cross Fold.*

**Livin' on a Prayer ~ Chris Froggatt**

Knee-Deep KDM 164 (Original Artists: Bon Jovi)

This was the second chart-topping single - released by American rock band: Bon Jovi - from their third album: "Slippery When Wet"; written by Jon Bon Jovi, Richie Sambora and Desmond Child, it reached the number one spot on many of the charts worldwide and has become known as the band's "signature song". Knee-Deep have fabricated a really good version of the track - with company producer Chris Froggatt on the vocal!

**Mainstream:** *Touch a Quarter, Boys Run, Right and Left Thru, Veer Left Ferris Wheel, Zoom, Double Pass Thru, Cloverleaf, Square Thru Three, Swing.*

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

**[www.musicforcallers.com](http://www.musicforcallers.com)**



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# Caller's Corner

By PAUL BRISTOW

(CALLERLAB  
Accredited Caller Coach)

UK CALLER  
TRAINING FOUNDATION

## Callers Corner - A little on the subject of life as a Travelling Caller (Part Three)

Part of being a successful Travelling Caller, is the: "Opportunity Cost" (in real terms) of that lifestyle. It is fair to say that - initially - a Caller will derive a great deal of pleasure when invited to travel and Call for other clubs but at some point this, together with your Club Calling, will "impact" heavily on your "free time". For a long time, I found myself Calling somewhere on almost every day of the year. I thoroughly enjoyed it and never really thought about the "real cost"; if someone asked me to Call for them, I said "yes"! This included time spent on "Caller Training weekends", "5 day Caller Schools", as well as "extras" that were attached to a weekend spent Calling for a Festival or Dance event.

Each day during the week, when I arrived home from my regular job, I would have 90 minutes to eat, wash, change and then leave for club; that was all the time that I had to spend with my children on a daily basis. Every weekend we would travel, as a family to wherever I was Calling, enjoying the hospitality provided by the club that had booked me; part of any booking deal was "accommodation for Hazel, myself, as well as our two daughters" - this condition of the agreement, never seemed to cause us any problems.

Virtually the same situation existed before we had children and continued after the girls came along. While we had only one child (Verity), we took her with us on my overseas trips (she first flew when she was six weeks old) - but when Cherish came along and we had two children, flying became almost impossible - I became a "lone traveller" on most of my journeys abroad. For longer events, we would find a way to include the girls and try to make it (at least in part), a "family holiday"; for example: annual trips to Lytham!

My work as a Travelling Caller was limited by my "annual leave allowance"; every single day of which went on Square Dance events. Previously, I mentioned that I had a fairly large number of Fridays off - so as to Call at weekend events (many of these occurred on "Bank Holiday Weekends", which was a great help). Somehow, I managed to find a way to make trips to Australia (with the family) - on three occasions - where I Called at three weekend events on each trip! I have made 8 other Australian trips, just to Call a weekend; with an outward flight Tuesday morning, to arrive on Wednesday evening (I used Thursday to "adjust" to the local time...) then a return flight on Monday, arriving back Tuesday morning! To put it differently: a weekend trip to Australia, takes a week!

After retirement things changed significantly; suddenly there were no time restrictions to consider - and I was able to take on events that required longer periods away from home. This coincided with the point at which the number of Square Dance events, in general, started to reduce; a significant reduction in UK Dances, together with overseas events being a little more "selective" with regard to booking Callers (due to numbers of Dancers attending their "Special Dances" decreasing); I managed to maintain my status quo - in terms of income - but found myself Calling less. I even had weekends where I was not Calling! The bottom line didn't change, until Covid 19 stopped everything! The effects of the Pandemic remain; however, slowly-but-surely, the bookings are returning.

Nobody "forced" me to be a Travelling Caller, it was my choice - and I am still enjoying it; I knew well in advance what the "real costs" of being a "Travelling Caller" would be!

## Cheltenham's Brian Hotchkies Dance

This was quite a memorable occasion ! On the evening before the dance, we had our Club night, but then on the Saturday morning, a member of the Club felt unwell and tested positive for Covid. We informed everyone that we could contact, and quite a number decided not to attend the Saturday dance, so instead of the ten squares that we were expecting, we only had five.

Brian gave those five squares a great time, with his usual entertaining calling including six couple squares and some progressive squares. A disappointing evening as far as numbers were concerned, but enjoyed by all those who came – some from quite a distance.

Brian plans to be back in the UK in 2024 for a couple of weeks including a weekend at Symonds Yat (Contact Trevor on [trevorday\\_narca@hotmail.com](mailto:trevorday_narca@hotmail.com))

*Peter Wright*

Dear Editor

Rita Hurst (my mum) recently passed away - see July 2023 LSD Magazine



Rita has LSD magazines from January 1994 to July 2023.

These are on offer to anyone willing to collect them from the house in Leicestershire.

I do not ask for anything for the magazines, but a donation in memory of Rita would be very much appreciated. Donations can be made in memory of Rita, payable to "LRAA"(Air Ambulance) c/o G. Seller. Or you can donate online at [www.gseller.co.uk/obituaries](http://www.gseller.co.uk/obituaries).

If interested please contact me at [yellowrocks2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:yellowrocks2002@yahoo.co.uk) before 30 September 2023, after which time they will be recycled.

Regards

*Robert Hurst*

## **A New initiative**

Work in progress on a new app to teach dancers and callers

When SSD was rolled out as a new programme, I agreed it was a good move to make learning quicker but wondered if there was another way to help clubs without callers and teach beginners, other than reading paperwork or using pre-recorded CDs.

The paperwork and CDs are excellent but static, as once used it become repetitive.

We desperately need more callers as well as more dancers, so an app to encourage both, would be a huge boost to square dancing.

My original thoughts.

A human caller can never be beaten but is not always available.

If we want to encourage experienced dancers with no calling experience to take up the mantle of a caller, we must have something that makes it simpler for them to work with.

Learning to be a caller takes a very long time, so we need something to help things along and keep our favourite pastime going until our newbie callers can practice and gain experience to improve for the future

Wouldn't it be great, if there was a computer app that:-

1. Had all the 50 moves for the SSD programme and included the 14 MS moves, to complete at MS, if required. All set out in the suggested teaching order and split into the 12 weekly sessions.
2. Allow the teacher to put in what moves their particular group had learned so far, then press a button to jumble the moves up, to produce an up to 8 min patter and a singer, where the figures were not repeated.
3. Be able to highlight a particular move or two, (just taught) to be included in that particular tip.
4. The teacher could call via the screen, or the computer itself could be the caller.
5. Was able to accept half sashayed and all position dancing if asked for.
6. Was a tutorial for beginners but also a tutorial for a would be caller too.

I have to admit, that these were my pie in the sky musings, until I shared my ideas with my techy son.

He has never square danced but he went away and thought about my ideas. He came back to me. saying he thought it had 'Legs'.

*Continued on next page*



I have waited to send this article until I had an update of the progress of this app.

It may not be exactly as my 'what ifs' but I think its going to be very close, perhaps better than I envisaged. Time will tell.

The app will be 2 apps in one.

One for a non-caller dancer to teach the beginner dancers and possibly be encouraged to become a caller themselves.

The other as a computer calling puzzle game, aimed at younger folk to play, as a prelude to perhaps move on to become an actual caller.

The on screen dancers, will be as real as possible, so that arm and leg co-ordination during moves, can be viewed and copied easily while learning.

Figures and modules can be added by a user to increase the data base for everyone to use.

There will probably be a small fee for this app, possibly as small as £1.00 or £2.00 per month but he envisages that the gaming app could be free.

*Carol Holman LVOW Chairman*

LET'S SQUARE DANCE ~ September 2023

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

<b>OPEN DANCES September 2023</b>		
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Spetisbury Squares</b> <b>Trudy &amp; Simon Fielding</b> B, MS, P Tel: 01202 731012 (Andy or Angela) <b>See advert P 8</b>	Dorset BH21 2LR
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Black Arrows</b> Torquay A2 w/e Paul Bristow and Bronc Wise (A2) <a href="mailto:potplant38@yahoo.co.uk">potplant38@yahoo.co.uk</a> Doreen)	Devon TQ2 5HS
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> Afternoon	<b>Lune Valley Ocean Wavers</b> 28 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Tea Dance <b>Di Green</b> SSD Tel. 01524 411439 (Sheila)	RA Lancs LA2 6NB
<b>Sat 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Steeple Steppers</b> Birthday Dance <b>Neil Whiston &amp; Amy Richardson</b> MS, P, R Tel. <b>0115 931 4301 (Hilary)</b>	PL RA Notts NG14 7BD
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> Afternoon	<b>Tudor Squares</b> Tea Dance <b>Simon &amp; Trudy Fielding</b> MS, P Tel. <b>01442 831491 (Jenny)</b>	Herts HP1 3QG
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Tilehurst Squares</b> <b>Rob Branson</b> MS, P Tel: 0118 9471360 (Paddy) <b>See advert P 6</b>	RA PL RG31 7AW
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> Morn/Aft	<b>Hogsmill SDC</b> Advanced teach & Fun <b>Granville Spencer</b> A1, A2 Tel. 07742 881439 (Wendy)	KT4 8SW
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> to Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Hogsmill SDC</b> Bournemouth Bonanza 2023 <b>Granville Spencer and Ian Turvill</b> P, A1 / 2 Tel. 07742 881439 (Wendy)	TO BH1 3AB
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> Afternoon	<b>Harmony Squares</b> Birthday Dance <b>Simon &amp; Trudy Fielding</b> SSD, p-P Tel. 07856 884432 (Gene)	RA W Yorks LS23 6HY
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> Afternoon	<b>Cuffley Square Dance Club</b> <b>Paul Bristow</b> MS, P Tel. 07921 665349 (Debbie)	TO EN6 4NW
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Cheltenham Swinging Squares</b> <b>Neil Whiston</b> MS, P (2:1) <a href="mailto:ritadon1966@yahoo.com">ritadon1966@yahoo.com</a> (Rita) <b>See advert P 6</b>	RA PL Glos GL51 3NU

**REGULAR VIRTUAL DANCES Sept 2023**

Mondays 3 pm	<b>Di Green &amp; Terry McCann</b> C1 workshop and dance <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89035956452?pwd=VTYraWdmblUitSEE5SDRqNE1UNIR0UT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89035956452?pwd=VTYraWdmblUitSEE5SDRqNE1UNIR0UT09</a> Contact Di on digreen21@gmail.com
Tuesdays 4 pm	<b>Di Green &amp; Terry McCann</b> A2 <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89812836418?pwd=aHJoMERFVnM3ZG53TVZ0cTF0Rk1qZz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89812836418?pwd=aHJoMERFVnM3ZG53TVZ0cTF0Rk1qZz09</a> Contact Di on digreen21@gmail.com
Wednesday 4 pm	<b>Di Green &amp; Terry McCann</b> Plus <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81744783048?pwd=djFqNWxtS0dmeGtJb0FzR3B0eGxkUT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81744783048?pwd=djFqNWxtS0dmeGtJb0FzR3B0eGxkUT09</a> Contact Di on digreen21@gmail.com

**OPEN DANCES October 2023**

Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>North West &amp; Lakes Weekend 2023</b> <b>Paul Bristow, Di Green, Terry MacCann</b> MS,P, A1,2 Tel. 01524 811444 or 07981 743959 (Brian & Carol)	Lancs LA2 6ND
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Afternoon	<b>Whirl &amp; Twirl / Telemarks</b> Rounds Tea Dance <b>Teresa &amp; Paul Hart, Suzanne Baldry &amp; Stephen Pearson</b> Ph II-IV 01473 688 218 (Ken) or 07914 266 596 (Stephen)	RA IP28 6FB
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> Afternoon	<b>Minster Squares</b> Autumn Dance <b>Terry Chapman</b> MS, P, A1 <b>See advert P 6</b> Tel : 01202 889100 (Sheila)	RA Dorset BH21 2LR,
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Viking Squares</b> Autumn Dance <b>Leah Tinsdeall &amp; Amy Richardson</b> MS, P, R Tel: 01400 281497 (Judy) or 01476 561087 (Carol)	RA Notts NG13 0BG
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>ASAZ</b> Square Dance Cruise 2023 <b>Kevin Lovell</b> P, A1,2 Tel 077 966 955 7 (Kevin)	TO Southamp- ton
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Afternoon	<b>Yorkshire Federation</b> 'Lanterns' Dance <b>Philip Mee</b> SSD Tel. 01943-878066 (Ann)	RA PL N Yorks LS23 6HY
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>All Square At Zero</b> Multi'level' dance <b>Kevin Lovell</b> SSD, P, A1 Tel. 077 966 955 75, (Annika)	MK17 8LH
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> to Mon 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Pilgrim Promenaders</b> 38th Coast weekend <b>Ray Brendzy / Leah Tinsdeall / Bernard Murphy</b> P, A1,2 Tel, 01752668078 0775256960 (Bernard)	TO Somerset BA16 0EF



## 2023/4 Square Dance Holidays and Weekend Breaks

<b>S E P T</b>	Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> to Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>GEMINI SQUARES</b> Swanwick Plus Weekend <b>Emma Horsfield &amp; Robert Hurst</b> P Tel: 07867 616149 (Emma)	<b>CANCELLED</b>
	Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>BLACK ARROWS</b> - Torquay A2 Weekend <b>Paul Bristow &amp; Bronc Wise</b> A2 e-mail: potplant38@yahoo.co.uk (Doreen)	
	Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> to Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>HOGSMILL SQUARES</b> Bournemouth Bonanza Weekend <b>Granville Spencer &amp; Ian Turvill</b> Plus, A1, A2 taster Tel. 07742 881439 (Wendy)	
<b>O C T O B E R</b>	Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>LVOW &amp; ChAin Reaction</b> NorthWest and Lakes Weekend <b>Paul Bristow, Di Green &amp; Terry McCann</b> MS, P, A1,2 Tel. 01524 811444 / 07981 743959 (Carol)	
	Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>ASAZ</b> Cruise from S'hampton visiting France & Spain <b>Kevin Lovell</b> P, A1 (A2) Tel: 07796 695575 (Kevin)	
	Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> to Mon 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Pilgrim Promenaders</b> 38 <sup>th</sup> Coast Weekend <b>Ray Brendzy, Leah Tinsdeall, Bernard Murphy</b> P, A1, A2 callerbernard@blueyonder.com (Bernard) <b>See advert P 7</b>	
<b>D E C</b>	Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> to Mon 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Taste of Christmas</b> Trouville Hotel, I.O.W. <b>Di Green &amp; Terry McCann</b> MS, P Tel. Tel: 01983 402141 Trouville Hotel (Jeanette)	
<b>J A N</b>	Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Aeron Valley Diamonds</b> Torquay Weekend <b>Mike Belsten &amp; Leah Tinsdeall</b> MS, P Tel. 01545 561159 (Roy, Elaine)	
<b>F E B</b>	Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> to Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Pilgrim Promenaders</b> 39 <sup>th</sup> Coast Weekend Callers TBD callerbernard@blueyonder.com (Bernard)	
<b>M A R</b>	Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> to Mon 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Pieces of 8</b> Plus Fun Weekend <b>Rob Branston &amp; Wendy Shipton</b> MS, P Tel : 07973 270310 / 07954 400872 ( Rob or Chris )	
<b>M A Y</b>	Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>HOSE ROUNDS WEEKEND</b> <b>Teresa &amp; Paul Hart</b> R Ph II-IV Tel 07738717716 (Paul)	
	Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> to Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>VIKING SQUARES</b> - 12th Fun & Friendship W/E <b>Simon &amp; Trudy Fielding , Nick Wright</b> MS, P, R Tel. 01476 561087 (Peter) or 01400 281497 (Judy/Mick)	

## BAASDC COUNCIL MEMBERS



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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 ).

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

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

### ACCEPTABLE FORMATS

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

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

As the mag. Is no longer printed, photo resolution is not so important. A 1Mb file is adequate. **Please avoid mixing text and graphics**

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