

LET'S SQUARE DANCE

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EDITOR SAYS.....

Hi All, I've just returned from a super weekend's MS and Plus dancing at Torquay (courtesy Roy and Elaine) with Leah and Mike calling (lovely to see little Asher again). Home just in time to finish off the mag., though I'm afraid there's not time to get it proof read this month - so please excuse the errors !



I take a monthly Science magazine which recently printed an article on ways to improve your mental health. High on the list, along with a healthy diet, were: social interaction, physical contact with others, physical exercise, mental and memory challenges. Seems like a definition of Square Dancing - so keep it up !

So sad to see that Stourbridge Squares is closing (their final dance is on February 9th). I'm hoping they'll let us have a bit of history of the Club.

Happy Dancing

Peter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was a shock to learn of the untimely death of our Vice President, Robert Hurst, on the 15th of January.

Robert had been Vice President of the BAASDC for only a few months and he had been looking forward to bringing his wealth of experience to the Council's deliberations, as well as starting a new life in Leicester and calling for Bramley Squares. Our thoughts are with everybody who knew him at this sad time.

Occasionally you get what I call an 'Antiques Roadshow' moment, when you discover something you have been wanting for a long time is already in your loft.

This happened this month. I have been involved with a small group trying to find ways to teach square dancing without a caller. Our wish has been a set of patter and singing calls to match a teaching programme. The Antiques Roadshow moment came when I was looking through some square dance music on a computer stick I had been given. There in a folder entitled 'SD Teach' was just what we had been looking for. This along with other developments means that, in the near future there should be a package to allow a competent dancer to teach square dancing.

Watch this space!

Enjoy your dancing

David



Musings from your Public Relations Officer

BOGOF now stay calm and read on; I'm not insulting you, dear reader, merely stating a slogan used by many shops Buy One Get One Free. This is not a new idea, the earliest reference to buy one get one free is from 1721 when Richard Bradley's book 'A Philosophical Account of the Works of Nature' was offered under a buy seven, get one free deal. We all love a bargain and to get value for money, and in my opinion there are few weekly dancing activities that give as much value for money as Square and Round dancing.

I remember when I started to learn to dance, the weekly fee was just a couple of quid. When I attended my first proper Saturday night dance, I couldn't believe that for under a fiver I could dance, listen to great music, have a hot drink and a 'pot luck' supper!

This called for research.

Should you want to take up the very popular 'Line Dancing' you'd have to fork out around £10.50 per session. However, you're dancing on your own and won't be needing a small gang to play with.

'Ballroom Dancing' lessons work out at £120 per person for a course of 12 lessons, whilst 'Flamenco Dancing for Beginners' will set you back £76.50 for 6 lessons.

'Ceroc' now that's an interesting fusion of several different partner dance styles, that'll cost from £6 to £10 per session.

And finally I cannot end my quick tour around different dancing styles without mentioning Belly Dancing; suitable I am reliably informed for all body types. So if you fancy that allow 1-2 months to learn the basics at a cost of £10 per hour.

So armed with that information from a financial point of view I'm definitely going to carry on Square Dancing. That's not to say that I'm ruling out having a go at Belly Dancing. If I do you'll be the first to know how I get on. Maybe?

An added bonus is that most club's entrance fee includes a cup of coffee or tea and at very posh clubs, if you're lucky, a biscuit. In England the average price of a cup of ordinary tea varies from £2.00 to £3.50 and basic coffee from £2.70 to £3.50. Given that the cost of a teabag is 0.8p and the coffee around 10p per cup add the cost of the milk and sugar; well you can do the maths?

So I'm sure you don't need any more convincing that Square Dancing represents great value for money. My work here is done. I rest my case. Lucky aren't we?

Let's make Square and Round dancing great again!

Susan





Chuckle Zone

An elderly gentleman loves to fish. He was sitting in his boat the other day when he heard a voice say, 'Pick me up'. He looked around and couldn't see anyone.

He thought he was dreaming when he heard the voice say again, 'Pick me up'

He looked in the water and there, floating on the top, was a frog.

The man said, "Are you talking to me?"

The frog said, "Yes, I'm talking to you - pick me up, then kiss me, and I'll turn into the most beautiful woman you have ever seen. I'll make sure that all your friends are envious and jealous because I will be your bride"

he man looked at the frog for a short time, reached over, picked it up carefully, and placed it in his front pocket.

The frog said, "What, are you nuts'? Didn't you hear what I said?, I said kiss me and I will be your beautiful bride."

He opened his pocket, looked at the frog and said, "Nah, at my age I'd rather have a talking frog."

With age comes wisdom.

Anonymous

**By replacing
your morning
coffee with green
tea, you can lose
up to 87% of
what little joy
you still have
left in your life.**



Extended Chuckle Zone

It snowed last night...

8:00 am: I made a snowman.

8:22 - The trans-gender man...women...person asked why I didn't just make one snow person with detachable parts.

8:25 - The Vegans at the end of the lane complained about the carrot nose, as veggies are food and not to decorate snow figures with.

8:28 - I was being called a racist because the snow couple is white.

8:31 - The middle eastern gent across the road demanded the snow woman be covered up .

8:40 - The Police arrived saying someone had been offended.

8:42 - The feminist neighbour complained again that the broomstick of the snow woman needed to be removed because it depicted women in a domestic role.

8:43 - The council equality officer arrived and threatened me with eviction.

8:45 - TV news crew from BBC showed up. I was asked if I know the difference between snowmen and snow-women? I replied "Snowballs" and am now called a sexist.

9:00 - I was on the News as a suspected terrorist, racist, homophobic sensibility offender, bent on stirring up trouble during difficult weather.

9:10 - I was asked if I have any accomplices. My children were taken by social services.

9:29 - Far left protesters, offended by everything, marched down the street demanding for me to be arrested.

By noon it all melted

Moral:

There is no moral to this story. It is what we have become, all because of snowflakes.

Eric Webb

Why Do We Cry at Weddings? or **What the Heck Is Zoom Square Dancing?**

If, like me, you've been square dancing for years (I'm closing in on 40 years and still as addicted as I was on opening night), you have probably been asked to explain your strange attachment to the activity. You may have tried to talk about the music and come up with the lame-sounding "it's not just Turkey in the Straw or the Virginia Reel", or the slightly more attractive "we dance to Phantom of the Opera, Simon and Garfunkel, and the Beatles." Or perhaps you eschew music selection and just talk about moving to the music. Or you say "it's good exercise" to which they respond "I thought it was just walking." You can wax eloquent on the mental aspect of square dance, the number of calls and the complexity, the patterns and definitions, and their eyes just glaze over.

But when Covid hit, and the world got locked down, and there was no in-person square dancing, I needed to reevaluate my addiction. How could I live without the endorphins I get from dancing? Could I keep myself moving when I despise all forms of exercise except square dancing? How could I stay connected to the outside world? This is early 2020. There was no vaccine, and no realistic hope of there being one for years (thank you medical science for proving that wrong anyway). People were dying by the hundreds and even thousands every day. We donned masks to grocery shop, and washed our hands multiple times a day. We hunkered down in our houses, and I was pretty sure I would never get to square dance again and there would be no joy in my life. It was a bleak time.

Then I saw a glimmer of hope. In the crushing darkness of the epidemic I started to hear talk of zoom square dancing. I had never even heard of zoom, and could not envision how this would work, but like a junkie on the trail of a fix I picked up breadcrumbs and soon found myself struggling with a foreign technology. In the early days those zoom meetings sounded a lot like a seance—"can you hear me?", "we can't see you", "give me a thumbs up if the volume is right". But some genius caller had given me back my life with the two couple format.

I hopped onto every zoom dance that was at a level I knew, and even

Continued on next page

took the Advanced zoom class that Dayle Hodge was teaching, hoping to increase my opportunities. Now when I talked about zoom square dancing people were really perplexed. They asked “and there’s no one else in the room with you? How does that work?” Again, I really couldn’t explain it.

I danced to zoom callers in Canada, Japan, the US, the UK, and Germany, all from the comfort of my bedroom. I particularly appreciated the callers like Di Green and Terry McCann, Kevin Lovell and Annika, and Darren Galina and Thom Dang, who danced with us on camera so I could make course corrections as necessary. I met dancers from as far away as Australia and Sweden, and even their pets.

That all started almost four years ago. I have met some of the dancers and callers in person now. I spent three weeks with Di and Terry in Mansfield, England. I went to the in person girl power dance in Baltimore, and was hosted by Ken and Amy Shotting. I continue to zoom dance three days a week.

As in person dancing started back up, slowly and tentatively, I started to worry. In my local area the dance opportunities were limited to perhaps two a month. How would I feed my habit? Many clubs folded. Would zoom dancing end? A lot of callers like Lorne Smith in Canada and Kevin Lovell in England who were back calling for clubs, quit zoom calling. But Dayle Hodge and Ett McAtee in the US and Di Green and Terry McCann in the UK continue to support the zoom dancers, for which I am eternally grateful.

So back to the title of this article—What the Heck Is Zoom Square Dancing—for me, it’s a lifeline, a world wide circle of friends, a challenge, and an endorphin filled pastime. If you haven’t tried it, I’d encourage you to try. I’d love to add you to my circle of zoom friends. The alternate title, ‘Why Do We Cry at Weddings’, is also apt. Taking up zoom dancing, we are at the beginning of a wondrous adventure, and we are also on the verge of losing it.

Try it!

Robin Alpenglow (USA)

The Square Dance Caller's Club of Great Britain

<http://www.Callersclub.uk>

In Memoriam

Robert Hurst and John Smith

This time we remember two of our members.

Robert Hurst we have only just heard about and have no details yet. He joined Callers Club in 1986 and served on the Council as PRO from 1991 to 2000. He had only just this year been elected Vice President of the BAASDC Council. He will be much missed.

The other who left us at the turn of the Year and just missed the January magazine is John Smith late of the Foot 'N Fiddle and the 6T8 of Hanwell. In 200 the late Tony Pears celebrated John in his Hall of Fame series of articles in this magazine. I can do no better for now than give you some of Tony's words about John's early career.

John Smith 3-Apr-1936 - 23 Dec 2023

When 18 year old John received an invitation to try square dancing, he was not exactly wild with enthusiasm. After much persuasion he finally agreed to spend an evening at the newly formed Foot N Fiddle club. Despite his reservations John found that he was captivated by the friendliness of the people and the lively tuneful music. It was to be a night that changed his life.

Before he could become too involved, John found that he had another call to answer. For the next two years national service in the RAF claimed his time. On leaving the service he was able to devote much more time to square dancing. In 1958, John, together with Robin Rumble and Tim Fitter, was trained to take over the calling chores at Foot N Fiddle on the departure of Pete Sansom to the USA.

In 1959 John was one of a quartet of British callers to represent the BAASDC at the Labour Day round up at Wiesbaden, the others being Jon Vear, Robin Rumble and Tony Pears. John was also among the callers to attend the Paris round up in November 1959.

By 1968 Foot N Fiddle was having problems with their hall. Looking for an alternative, John found St Mary's church hall, Hanwell to be ideal and suggested that Foot N Fiddle transfer there. The committee voted against it on the grounds that it would no longer be Foot N Fiddle. Not wishing to see such an ideal hall wasted John decided to open his own club and on 16th April, 1968 6T8 Hanwell was born. The club began very successfully and a very successful Christmas and New Years dance was held on 28th December 1968.

In 1986 his work moved him to Dorchester, and in 2009 he and Hilda moved into a residential care home near Manchester. In 2017 Trevor Day did a Square Dance party dance at the care home for them.

His funeral was held on the 12th of January. Farewell dear John, and Hilda too. I have missed you over too many years.

Simon Kelly member of the 6T8 from its start.

JOHNNY PRESTON (USA-FRANCE)



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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)



Everybody Loves a Clown ~ Steve Park

Amigo AMO 5001 (*Original Artists: Gary Lewis and the Playboys*)

A song from 1965, written by: "Gary Lewis, Leon Russell and Tom Lesslie", that was the title track from the third album from "Gary Lewis and the Playboys"; the single reached Number Four on the Billboard Top 100, in the US and has the tag line: "everybody loves a clown, so why can't you?"; a sombre sentiment - but a terrific please of music. Amigo have done a great job on the instrumentation and the vocal is well performed by Steve!

Mainstream Choreography: *Heads Promenade Halfway, Square Thru Four Swing Thru, Boys Run, Couples Circulate, Half Tag, Swing and Promenade.*

Ramblin' Gamblin' Man ~ Scott Bennett

Arrowhead ARROW 1165 (*Original Artist: Bob Seger*)

The title track, written and performed by Bob Seger, from the 1969 album attributed to "The Bob Seger System"; this was Bob's first Top-Twenty hit. The song's title tells you what the track is all about; it's the story of a "Ramblin' Gamblin' Man"! Arrowhead have created an excellent version of this song, offering a faithful tribute to the feel and style of the original, with a terrific vocal - provided by fellow Music Producer Scott Bennett!

Mainstream Figure: *Promenade Halfway, Square Thru Four, Swing Thru Boys Run, Ferris Wheel, Square Thru Three, Swing and Promenade.*

Sugar Pie Honey Bunch ~ Kip Garvey

Eureka EUR 1023 (*Original Artists: Four Tops*)

Curiously, the correct title of this track is: I Can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie Honey Bunch), not that it really matters. Written by Lamont Dozier, with Brian and Eddie Holland for the Motown Group: "Four Tops", in 1965; it was featured on their album: "Four Tops Second Album". The single achieved the number one spot on the US Billboard Chart. Eureka have done a superb job with both the music - and a first-class vocal from Kip!

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

Smile ~ Chris Froggatt

Knee-Deep KDM 173 (*Original Artist: Pussycat*)

Pussycat was a Dutch country and pop group, led by the three Veldpaus-sisters: Toni, Betty, and Marianne whose song "Mississippi" was a number one hit in most European countries, in 1975. This track, released in 1976, was written by Werner A Theunissen and was the follow up to their hit; it says how a smile from a friend can cheer you up... Knee Deep's Pop-Style music works really well, along with the superb vocal by Chris!

Mainstream Figure: *Heads Promenade Halfway, Lead Right, Circle to a Line Right and Left Thru, Flutterwheel, Sweep a Quarter, Pass Thru, Swing.*

Country in my Genes ~ Bill Harrison

ESP ESP 751 (Original Artist: Loretta Lynn)

A song, written by Larry Cordle, Betty Key and Larry Shell, which was the lead single on Loretta Lynn's 2000 album: "Still Country". The lyrics are a statement by the singer to refute the "New Country" sound in favour of "Traditional Country", because she has got "Country in her genes"! ESP have captured a great "Traditional Country" feel, offering some excellent instrumentation; Bill Harrison "keeps it Country" on the Vocal recording!

Mainstream: Couple One Split Couple Three, Separate Around 2 a Line of 3 Couple Three Cross the Floor Separate around 2 to a Line of 4, Square Thru 3.

My Oklahoma Home ~ Tim Tyl

Riverboat RIV 1347 (Original Artist: Pete Seeger, Bruce Springsteen)

A song written by Sis Cunningham and her brother Bill Cunningham that was performed by Pete Seeger, it is a 'dust bowl song', with a "tongue in cheek" tale of how, during the period in Oklahoma (1930 - 1940), everything on the Cimarron Strip just "Blowed Away". Riverboat provide a great Country "Boom-Chuck" type of feel - as found on the original recordings, Tim Tyl, using a lot of the song lyrics, provides an outstandingly good vocal!

Mainstream: Heads Pass Thru, Separate around 1 to a Line, Star Thru Double Pass Thru, Centres In, Cast Off Three Quarters, Star Thru, Pass Thru.

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

www.musicforcallers.com



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FREE advertising ????????????????

Hi all, I run a sequence/line dance club, have done for the last 5 years.

One of my members knew I was a square dance caller, and asked me if I would start a Square dance club in the afternoons. I did not think it would get off the ground, knowing you need at least 8 to do it.

I was surprised when a lot of others said they would give it a go, so when I started Meadway SSD club last year, most of those who came, (about 10) came from my Sequence/line dance club, and brought some of their friends.

Anyway, browsing on the Internet I came across the web site '**Are you dancing**'. After looking through it, I thought I would advertise my Sequence dance club on it. You join for free and can advertise for free, yes **IT IS FREE**. They also do paid ads.

They advertise all sorts of dancing, I looked to see if Square dancing was on it and it is. It comes under Folk/Country.

Knowing that most of my dancers came from other types of dancing, I have decided that I will be putting an ad on for my square dance club as well, who knows what response I will get, but it's got to be worth giving it a go.

So anyone looking for some free advertising. Why not put an ad on it to.

Terry Pine

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

UK CALLER
TRAINING FOUNDATION

Callers Corner - The history of the Regional Callers Assemblies, why they exist.

At the 1978 AGM of Callers Club the main item under discussion was the question of: "what to do about illegal caller meetings..."; this was the phrase used to describe Caller meetings that occurred anywhere in the UK - that were not organised by Callers Club. These meetings (open to Callers, whether-or-not they were members of Callers Club), were happening at a number of locations in the UK. The Council presented this as a "problem" to the membership and several people spoke up on the subject. Eventually, I raised my hand and had the chance to speak; I said I thought it was wrong to describe them as "illegal caller meetings ", I suggested that it would be better to refer to them as "Regional Caller Assemblies". I pointed out that meetings of Callers are -"in essence - a good thing" (which was met with approval from the floor); I said that Callers Club needed to establish a method of officially recognising such meetings, so that all Callers could benefit; Graham Lockheart proposed that I be voted on to the Council as the PRO primarily to resolve this problem, someone seconded the proposal. They then asked if I was prepared to do it! I said "yes" and was unanimously voted in as a council member!

There was a meeting of the Council immediately following the AGM at which we agreed that a charter should be created to allow a group of Callers to hold meetings that were recognised by Callers Club; we used the word Charter rather than licence as the content of a Charter - once it has been issued - cannot be altered (we knew the idea would not work if Callers Club had any direct control over changes to the rules affecting the RCAs' validity, they had to be independent of Callers Club). However, to ensure that Callers Club was represented at RCA meetings a condition of the Charter was that there must be at least one member of the RCA who was a member of Callers Club - a "Local Area Representative", to report back to the Council on what happened at the meetings. All of the above will be set out in the minutes of the 1978 Callers Club Council meetings. The 1978 Council comprised: Dave White (president), Howard Marks (treasurer), Dick Taylor (Secretary), Ted Ivin, John Smith, Dave Whittington and - of course - Paul Bristow!

In simple terms, the important aspects of the RCA idea, in simple terms were: 1) you do not have to be a member of Callers Club in order to attend. 2) Callers Club cannot tell the RCA what to do it has no dominion over it. 3) Once it has been granted, there is no way to change the conditions of a Charter. Five years ago SDCCGB told the RCAs that their members now have to be members of SDCCGB, in order to attend RCA meetings - they cannot do that. It should also be noted that SDCCGB has no obligation to keep an RCA going, the only thing that SDCCGB must do, is to find someone who will act as the Local Area Representative - in order to comply with the Charter.

I had hoped that SDCCGB would realise it's error but it now seems unlikely. In order to bring back some balance to this situation the UKCTF has set-up regular Caller Seminars, as was mentioned in my article two magazines ago and if you would like to attend these you are most welcome; you do not have to be a member of SDCCGB to attend - but - if you do plan to be there, please let me know before you travel - as there is limited space available in the room where the Seminars take place. However, we are using the large hall for the early evening Dances, featuring the Callers that have attended the Seminar!

THE SHED

A gentleman's shed is an asset
Of that there's no shadow of doubt
It's great to be there on the inside
When stormy clouds gather without.

It's top hole if you have a notion
To play with computers all day
Perhaps dart in there with your crossword
When Mother-in-Law comes to stay.

For those with a musical talent
It's ideal to tune your guitar
And knock up a tune on the squeezebox
Or practice your Tonic-Sol-Fa.

You may have a bent for invention
To discover a cure for the flu
Or, just slip in there to write poetry
As some silly sods seem to do.

You can cook in your timber-built hideout
Make coffee or tea and a sarny
Believe me, it's the right place to be
When you and the wife have a barney.

Yes, a gentleman's shed is his castle
His refuge, his fort, his redoubt
A place of his own in all weathers
Where the sins of the world are locked out.

There's many a septuagenarian
Who did nowt, and finished up dead
He'd have lasted a bloody sight longer
If his missus had bought him a shed.

Alan Parry-Booth

**European Convention Ikast, Denmark
July 2024**

We have been asked to pass on this message from the European Square Dance and Round Dance Convention.

Help us deliver the message of The European Convention of 2024 in your club.

We would be grateful if you would be so kind as to inform all your members, that the European Convention will be taking place on the 26.-28. July in Ikast. Please encourage everyone to come and attend the Convention.

We will be dancing from Basic to C2.

We would appreciate it, if you would pass the information to all your members, including the attached file containing the flyer and link to the website. We will also be grateful if you would advertise the event during your local dancing nights.

It is important, that as many as possible will attend the Convention, the more the merrier, and the better celebration it will be.

Perhaps the local clubs will be able to make the arrangements. We have several hotels, Airbnb's and B&B's in the area around Ikast, as well as holiday cottages for rent.

VIKING SQUARES REACHES 40

2024 began for Viking Squares with a party to celebrate 40 years of dancing. Viking Squares held its very first club night on Tuesday 10th January 1984.



But let us start at the very beginning. Jack Broadhust and his wife June went along to a village Hoe-down night which was raising money for the local play-group. Geoff Powell was the caller for the evening and at the end of the night he invited anyone that had enjoyed the dancing to go along to his club Sugar Valley in Newark to learn to square dance. Jack and June took up Geoff's offer and went along to learn. They both thoroughly enjoyed square dancing and were soon going along to Saturday night dances and camp outs. They wanted to share their experience with others and encouraged by Geoff Jack decided to try his hand at calling, first doing guest tips at the club and later going along to Callers Club in London – caller Pete Skiffins was teaching callers at that time.

After a few months learning the skills of calling Jack decided to set up a club in his village of Allington and so Viking Squares was born. Jack recruited friends and neighbours from the village (a little arm twisting involved here I believe) At the time Jack was just a few pages further on than the dancers on his calling journey but continued to plod on regardless of the fact that dancers would state we've not done that move before or say we can't remember that move. Eventually everything jelled and our first graduation took place. After a while adverts in the local library in Grantham and the local newspaper the word was spread and more eager folks came along to have a try at square dancing. Some stayed and some just came for one night but Vikings have continued to thrive somehow. We continue to advertise in local papers and quite often someone appears out of the blue wanting to have a go at square dancing. No one is ever turned away and usually they get hooked

Continued on next page

after coming along 3 or 4 times. Many dancers have come and gone over the years but there are 3 founder members who still continue to dance at the club.

A few years ago (before Covid struck) we had a very healthy membership of over 50, more recently like other clubs our numbers have been much less but we are lucky enough to get 2 squares or more on club evenings.

Most of our members travel quite considerable distances on Tuesdays evenings to dance with us, coming from Nottinghamshire, Lincoln, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, Stilton and Leicestershire. We do thank them for their continued support.

In recent months Jack has been unwell and Dave Woolerton who has assisted Jack for some time now has taken over and calls for us regularly once a fortnight and we also have a budding new caller, club member Pete Baker learning the ropes and making a very good job doing something that would not come easily to most of us.

We have our usual events planned for 2024. Starting with our 40th Birthday Dance

on 9th March at Bottesford Village Hall to caller Neil Whiston and Amy Richardson will be cueing Rounds. Our Festival of Dancing and Camp Out at Colsterworth over the late May Bank Holiday and our Autumn Dance on 12th October with caller Philip Mee and Amy again cueing Rounds. Please come along there are camp sites and B & B's in the area.

We were disappointed to learn that Australian caller Brian Hotchkies has had to cancel his British tour this year due to ill health meaning that we have had to cancel our forthcoming dance with him in June. However we do wish to send him our very good wishes for a full recovery.

Viking Squares would like to invite anyone visiting our area on a Tuesday evening to drop in and have a dance with us. You'll always find a warm welcome awaiting you.

Our message to all square dancers is to support your local clubs and their dances. Remember USE them or LOOSE them.

Happy Dancing in 2024



Barrington Randle, Gill Towers, Judy & Mick

Judy Viking Squares

Meadway Social Square Dance Club

Our yearly round up of news, etc.

We started the year with twenty-two dancers, unfortunately the year saw us lose four of those dancers (3 through ill health) and we gained just one out of the five people who tried us out this year.

We advertise in two libraries with posters and a threefold A4 leaflet, and five posters round Tilehurst. Sadly, although many of the leaflets get taken, they have not produced the results we would want. As we meet in the afternoons, we obviously can only expect to attract retirees or mums/dads with children at school.

We tried to run a separate time for any new beginners but that did not work out as it seems that people today have many other things to do, therefore cannot be as committed to coming every week.

So we moved back to teaching any new ones every other tip, or using our friendly helpers to teach them moves out in another room, whenever. (where would we be without our friendly helpers?).

We like to dress for the occasion, hence Christmas, (see last months magazine) Valentines and Halloween will see us in a different light than above!



We hope to hold our first Saturday afternoon dance in March/April, (if we can get two squares, in a hall that could hold ten) so anyone who wants to spend the morning hopping in Reading, then going for a nice meal, feel free to come and dance with us. There is no cost it will be a free dance, obviously the level will be Basic, but with three tips for any mainstream dancers.

We are lucky to have a local 'caller' doing the honours for us.

If you are interested just email pineterry699@gmail.com or phone Terry on 0118 9503855 for the date and hall.

How have we progressed this year with the SSD programme? Well we have learnt that we will not be keeping to the time schedule that is laid out for it.

But more importantly we have fun, and yes we are getting there.

Our members are also lucky to have Tilehurst SDC near us, so when anyone wants to move on, there is the opportunity for them to do so.

Terry Pine

Corinium Squares 35th Birthday Dance

We held our 35th Birthday Dance on the afternoon of January 20th. This was an experiment for us as we usually have evening dances. The weather all week had been below zero and as we had no parking, we thought we might only get 2 squares. We need not have worried obviously square dancers are made of stern stuff and some came from as far afield as Exeter and Uxbridge as well as our usual supporters from neighbouring Cheltenham.

I should have mentioned that we had a good magnet in the guise of Di Green to do our calling. She as usual provided us with a lovely fun afternoon. We had four squares with a few left over which enabled some of us to rest our feet now and again. With plenty of cake and hot drinks to keep us going most of us lasted the whole afternoon. Thank you to all that attended and made it so enjoyable.

We will repeat the afternoon format next year for our 36th Birthday with Kevin Lovell and will risk a larger venue with better parking - watch this space. This dance will take place on January 25th 2025.

Christine Bevan



PRESENTS



38th COAST WEEKEND

TIM CRAWFORD

TED LIZOTTE

Calling a weekend of PLUS & 'A' packed full of dancing mornings, afternoons and evenings to suit you.

In beautiful Somerset with very comfortable, en suite, half board accommodation at a 3* hotel

Wessex Hotel, 15 High St, Street, Somerset BA16 0EF

Friday evening 23st – Monday 26th February 2024

Three nights half board £ 330pp



Further information from Bernard Murphy

callerbernard@blueyonder.co.uk

Phone: 07752 569609 & 01752 668078

www.uksquaredancing.com

**PILGRIM PROMENADERS SDC 38th COAST WEEKEND
WESSEX HOTEL, STREET, SOMERSET
FRIDAY 23rd – MONDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2024**

TIM CRAWFORD (CANADA) + TED LIZOTTE (USA)

BERNARD MURPHY

FRIDAY 23rd

PROGRAMME

6.00pm DINNER - ONE SITTING – FIXED TIME

8.00pm–10.30pm PLUS A1 & A2 DANCE

SATURDAY 24th

8.30am–9.30am BREAKFAST

10.30pm–12.30pm A1 WORKSHOP

2.00pm-4.30pm A2 DANCE

6.00pm DINNER – ONE SITTING – FIXED TIME

8.00pm–10.30pm PLUS A1/A2 DANCE

SUNDAY 25th

8.30am–9.30am BREAKFAST

10.30pm–12.30pm A2 WORKSHOP

ADDITIONAL DANCING IF STAYING SUNDAY NIGHT DB&B

2.00pm-4.30pm A1 DANCE

6.00pm DINNER (ONLY IF STAYING SUNDAY DB&B)

8.00pm–10.30pm PLUS DANCE A1 & A2

MONDAY 26th

8.30am–9.30am BREAKFAST

**ON FRIDAY CHECK IN ANY TIME BEFORE 3.00pm TO AVOID QUEUEING LATER.
ROOM CARDS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM 3.00pm ONWARDS.
ROOMS TO BE VACATED BY 10.00am ON YOUR DAY OF DEPARTURE PLEASE**

22-10-2023

Obituary ~ Robert Hurst

Sadly, Robert Hurst passed away suddenly on Monday 15 January 2024.

Robert was born in Leicester 23rd June 1956 to Rita and Arthur Hurst. During Roberts working career he worked as an Actuary which as well as working in the UK saw him working in Bermuda, Dublin, Gibraltar and Saville.



Robert was introduced to Square Dancing in 1980 when he went to work in Bermuda, on his return to the UK in 1982 he joined Lazy River SDC where his love for dancing followed closely by calling began. Robert had a calling career for almost 40 years, most of which were as the club caller for Lazy River SDC.

He will be known by many for hosting the Jerry Story and Tony Oxendine square dance weekends. He loved square dancing and attended several USA National Square Dance Conventions taking his Mum and dad with him sometimes as they were both square dancers too. He danced in many USA States, Hawaii, Canada, the Caribbean, Sweden and Germany.

Robert lost his much-loved mum in July last year which hit him very hard but he was in the process of moving to live in Leicestershire and was to become the caller of Bramley Squares.

We had just spent a wonderful Christmas, New Year and my birthday together and I will miss him very much.

If you would like to attend Roberts Funeral, it will be at St James, Newbold Verdon, Leicester LE9 9NL at 15.00hrs on 9 February.

Emma Horsfield

Obituary ~ John Kozyra 11/08/1944 -18/12/2023

John died just over a year after his beloved wife, Rose, a sad loss to his family and friends and a great loss to Square Dancing. After starting life as a Polish refugee in Tanzania, John made Yorkshire his home at the age of four.

John's career in sound engineering took him to a wide range of venues including the Leeds Variety Show and outside broadcasting at the Yorkshire Showground. We first met John as the Music Master for the St Aelred's Irish Dance Group, led by his talented daughter Hazel who took over the running of the group aged only thirteen.



John and Rose danced all over the world and he had a huge influence in dancing in the North of England. He taught the Beginner Group at White Rose for many years, adamant that his pupils should know every move from every possible position. Rose and John ran their own club, Chain Gang and finally achieved their aim of opening their own C Club, Phantoms in 2004. John called regularly at venues as far apart as Allemanders in Lancashire and Wolds Weavers in Yorkshire. John loved the complexity of choreography and enjoyed a choreographic query to the end.

John and Rose epitomised the motto, "Fun and Friendship set to Music", always smiling, always welcoming, they will be sadly missed.

Wendy Spencer

LET'S SQUARE DANCE ~ February 2024

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

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

OPEN DANCES February 2024		
Sun 4 th Afternoon	HOGSMILL SDC - Advanced Teach and Fun Granville Spencer A1, A2 Tel. 07867 802355	KT11 3BN
Fri 9 th 8 pm	Stourbridge SDC SSDC's Final Dance Di Green & Terry McCann (Plus) Email: ssdc72@yahoo.com	Staffs DY3 4NE
Sat 17 th Afternoon	HOGSMILL SDC Mainstream Teach & Review Ian Turville MS Tel. 0203 556 7449	KT4 8SW
Sat 17 th	ROCKIN 8s PLUS Valentine's Dance Paul Bristow P (See Advert P 7) Tel. 01895 622859 (Paul)	Bucks UB9 4DW
Fri 23 rd to Sun 25 th	PILGRIM PROMENADERS 39 th Coast Weekend Tim Crawford & Ted Lizotte See Advert P 18) Tel. 07752 569609 & 01752 668078 (Bernard)	TO Somerset BA16 0EF
Sat 24 th Afternoon	WHITE ROSE SQUARES Birthday Dance Di Green SSD, MS, P Tel. 01943-878066 (Ann)	RA PL N Yorks LS23 6HY

REGULAR VIRTUAL (Zoom) DANCES February 2024		
Every Monday 4 pm	Di Green & Terry McCann C1 workshop and dance https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89035956452?pwd=VTYraWdmYUltSEE5SDRqNE1UNIR0UT09 Contact Di on digreen21@gmail.com	
Every Tuesday 8.30 pm	Di Green & Terry McCann A2 https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89812836418?pwd=aHJoMERFVnM3ZG53TVZ0cTF0Rk1qZz09 Contact Di on digreen21@gmail.com	
Every Wednesday 4 pm	Di Green & Terry McCann Plus https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81744783048?pwd=djFqNWxtS0dmeGtJb0FzR3B0eGxkUT09 Contact Di on digreen21@gmail.com	

OPEN DANCES March 2024

Sat 2nd Afternoon	Centre Squares 47 th Birthday Dance Colin Pett MS, P Tel. 01454 773370 (Margaret)	S Glos BS16 1QG
Sat 9th Afternoon	Hogsmill SDC Plus teach & review Ian Turville P Tel. 07824513031 (Ian)	KT4 8LG
Sat 9th	Viking SDC 40 th Birthday Dance Neil Whiston & Amy Richardson MS, P, R Tel. 01400 281497 (Judy) or 01476 561087 (Carol)	RA Leics NG13 0BG
Sun 10 th Afternoon	Scarlet Ribbons RDC 33rd Birthday Dance Judi & Guest Cuers Ph I -IV Tel. 01865 424745 (Judi)	RA Oxon OX1 5PY
Sat 16th Afternoon	Hogsmill SDC Plus teach & review Ian Turville P Tel. 07824513031 (Ian)	KT9 2DJ
Fri 15th To Mon 18th	Pieces of 8 Fun Weekend Rob Branson & Wendy Shipton MS, P Tel. 07973270310 or 07954400872	RA TO Devon TQ2 5JJ
Sun 17 th	New Caller Dance New Callers (with Paul Bristow) MS ? Tel (to be added)	UB9 4DW
Sat 23 rd Afternoon	Cheltenham Swinging Squares Spring Afternoon Dance Kevin Lovell MS, P (2:1) E-mail: ritadon1966@yahoo.com	Glos GL51 3NU
Sat 30 th Aft/Eve	MEMORY OF JAMES WYATT DANCE Neil Whiston & Paul Bristow A (Aft) P, R (Eve) Tel. 07985 644335 (Barbara)	SG14 2LX

OPEN DANCES April 2024

Sun 7th Afternoon	HOGSMILL SDC - Advanced Teach and Fun Granville Spencer A1, A2 Tel. 07867 802355	KT11 3BN
Sat 13 th Aft/Eve	HOGSMILL SDC Terry Chapman SSD, MS, P, A Tel. 0203 556 7449 or 07742 881439 (Wendy)	PL RA KT19 9QY
Sat 13 th	BISHOPS EIGHT Brian Summerville, Paul Preston, Amy Richardson MS, P Tel. 01949 860843 (Kath & David)	RA NG13 9JP
Sat 20 th	SPETISBURY SQUARES - New Callers Dance Sarah, Shirley & Sally B, MS, P, A Tel: 01202 731012 (Andy / Angela)	Dorset
Sat 27 th Afternoon	TILEHURST SQUARE DANCE CLUB Spring Dance Terry Chapman MS, P Tel. 0118 9471360 (Kath)	RG10 9TT
Sat 27 th Afternoon	YORKSHIRE COAST WAVES - 2nd Birthday Di Green & Terry McCann SSD Tel: 07986 450591 (Ange)	PL RA YO14 0NS

2024 Square Dance Holidays and Weekend Breaks

F E B	Fri 23rd to Mon 26th	PILGRIM PROMENADERS 39th Coast Weekend Tim Crawford & Ted Lizotte callerbernard@blueyonder.com (Bernard)
M A R	Fri 15th to Mon 18th	PIECES OF 8 Plus Fun Weekend Rob Branston & Wendy Shipton MS, P Tel. 07973 270310 / 07954 400872 (Rob or Chris)
M A Y	Fri 17th to Sun 19th	HOSE ROUNDS WEEKEND Teresa & Paul Hart PH II - IV hartpaul@sky.com or 07738717716
	Fri 24th to Mon 27th	VIKING SQUARES - 12th Fun & Friendship Festival Simon & Trudy Fielding , Nick Wright MS, P, R Tel. 01476 561087 (Carol/Peter) or 01400 281497 (Judy/Mick)
	Fri 31st to Sun 2nd	LVOW SYMONDS YAT Week Brian Hotchkies MS Tel: 01524 720418 (Trevor) trevorday_narca@hotmail.com
J U N E	Fri 14th to Sun 16th	PIECES OF 8 - Midsummer Weekend of Dance & Campout Rob Branson P, A Tel: 07973 270319 or 07954 400872 (Rob / Chris)
	Mon 24th to Fri 28th	AERON VALLEY DIAMONDS SYMONDS YAT Week Johnny Preston P, A1,2 Tel: 01545 561159 / 07866 890987 (Roy)
J U L	Thurs 25th to Sun 28th	EUROPEAN CONVENTION Denmark www.ec2024.dk
S E P T	Fri 20th To Sun 22nd	BLACK ARROWS - Torquay A2 Weekend Paul Bristow & Bronc Wise A2 Tel: 01202 872135 / 07763 414383 (Doreen)
	Fri 27th to Sun 29th	HOGSMILL SDC BOURNEMOUTH BONANZA 2024 Granville Spencer & Ian Turvill P, A1, (A2) Tel. 020 355 567499 / 07742 881439 (Wendy)
O C T	Fri 4th to Sun 6th	LVOW & ChAin Reaction NW & Lakes Weekend Paul Bristow, Di Green & Terry McCann MS, P, A1,2 Tel. 01524 811444 or 07981 743959 (Brian/Carol)
N O V	Fri 1st to Sun 3rd	SDCCGB 70th Anniversary Celebration Multi-Caller & Cuer e-mail: susie@graybo.co.uk (Susie)

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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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DEADLINES FOR COPY

Obituaries - 23rd of the month preceding the publication month. (as early as possible would be appreciated) with an accompanying photo if possible. Forward details direct to the editor (LSDmag@talktalk.net).

Free listing of open Dances – Club contacts are expected to check the events calendar on the BAASDC website (www.uksquaredancing.com) to avoid clashes and then submit details using the website's EVENT SUBMISSION FORM found under 'help' and then 'Forms' at least **TWO weeks** before the publication month.

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

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

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

ACCEPTABLE FORMATS

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

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

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

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¼ page	£10	½ page	£15
Full page	£20.00		

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