

LET'S SQUARE DANCE

July 2024 : Volume 71 : No 7

Published by the British Association of American Square Dance Clubs

**We know how it all
started...**



**Let's continue
enjoying what
E"R introduced
to the nation
in the 1950's.**



What's in this month's magazine

Regular Items

- Area Federation contacts (P 31)
- BAASDC Management Team Contact Details (p 30)
- Callers' Corner (Paul Bristow) (P 11)
- Callers' Club (Alan & Suzanne) (P 10)
- Chuckle Zone (P 6,)
- Editor says... (p 3)
- Free listing of Open Dances (p 26)
- Presidential Message (p 4)
- Publication Guidelines (P 32)
- Six of the Best - Record Review (Paul Bristow) (P 14)
- Square Dance Holiday and Weekend listing (P 29)

Articles

- P 8 Heyford Hoofers (Chris Davis)
- P 9 Isle of Wight News (Terry)
- P 12 Tilehurst SDC Charity Presentation Evenin (Ray Turner)
- P 13 Viking Squares Aussie Night (Judy)
- P 16 NEWS FROM WHITE ROSE SQUARES (Ann Tillotson)
- P 18 Viking Squares Campout (*Carol, Pete, Mick and Judy*)
- P 22 Swedish Square Dance Convention (Gill & Alan Chard)

EDITOR SAYS.....

Well, Summer seems to be here at last, hope we're all making the most of it. Don't forget to let us know of all those Club Summer activities - walks, picnics, Square Dance travels etc,



Good to hear from a number of Clubs and a very welcome report of the Swedish Convention - do keep us up to date on how you're all getting on. Things seem to be picking up in a lot of areas.

Happy Dancing

Peter

(I'm informed that the cover picture originally came from a very old Daily Mail)

Please note that all items contain the views of the person submitting them and are not necessarily endorsed by BAASDC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Everyone

I have been reflecting on last month's President's Message and I asked 'How would I make square dancing attractive for future generations'.

So here are my suggestions, and there is no need to play around with the levels

Mostly, we dance to old songs and dress in the style of 1940's Westerns while expect new dancers to go through months of learning before being allowed to enjoy the experience of a dance.

There is more modern square dance music, if only we would use it. On the few occasions when it is used it is noticeable that dancers enjoy it and sing along with gusto.

Looking at flyers for dancers in the USA I can see that the dress code is changing. Many now say that the dress code is smart casual. Maybe we should adopt the same idea.

To allow new dancers to attend a dance perhaps we should hold more dances where Basic level 1 & 2 are called. In this way new dancers would feel they are progressing. I understand this used to be the case and the last time we held a friendship dance in Nottingham over 100 dancers attended.

Finally, I have received a copy of a paper by Colin Hume giving his experiences on calling gender free square dancing in a country dancing environment. If you are interested you can find it at <http://colinhume.com/dtpositional.htm>

Enjoy your dancing

David



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Chuckle Zone

Two guys, one old, one young, are pushing their carts around Wal-Mart when they collide. The old guy says to the young guy, "Sorry about that. I'm looking for my wife, and I guess I wasn't paying attention to where I was going."

The young guy says, "That's OK, it's a coincidence. I'm looking for my wife, too... I can't find her and I'm getting a little desperate."

The old guy says, "Well, maybe I can help you find her...what does she look like?"

The young guy says, "Well, she is 27 yrs. old, tall, with red hair, blue eyes, is buxom... wearing no bra, long legs, and is wearing short shorts. What does your wife look like?"

To which the old guy says, "Doesn't matter, --- let's just look for yours."

George Phillips, an elderly man from Walled Lake, Michigan, was going up to bed, when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window. George opened the back door to turn off the light but saw that there were people in the shed stealing things. He phoned the police, who asked "Is someone in your house?"

He said "No," but some people are breaking into my garden shed and stealing from me."

Then the police dispatcher said "All patrols are busy; you should lock your doors and an officer will be along when one is available"

George said, "Okay." He hung up the phone and counted to 30. Then he phoned the police again.

"Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people stealing things from my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now because I just shot and killed them both; the dogs are eating them right now," and he hung up.

Within five minutes, six Police Cars, a SWAT Team, a Helicopter, two Fire Trucks, a Paramedic and an Ambulance showed up at the Phillips' residence and caught the burglars red-handed.

One of the Policemen said to George, "I thought you said that you'd shot them!"

George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available!"

(True Story) Don't mess with old people !

Extended Chuckles

From Lorraine

NEW!

BLUETOOTH CORDLESS HOSE

Now you can have water anywhere you go!

LIMITED TIME Offers!

EVERYTHING CARAVAN & CAMPING

Skyhooks now **AVAILABLE**
We also now stock **Long Waits.**

JUNNINGS warehouse

The advertisement features a man in a blue t-shirt and grey shorts using a cordless hose to spray water against a grey building. The background includes a window with blue shutters and green foliage. The text is overlaid on the image in various colors and fonts, including a red banner for 'NEW!', a blue starburst for 'LIMITED TIME Offers!', and a white box for 'EVERYTHING CARAVAN & CAMPING' with small icons of camping gear. The 'JUNNINGS warehouse' logo is at the bottom in green and red.

I just loved this one !!! (Editor)

Heyford Hoofers.

To run means to stand still...

The Club has been busy of late. Separate graduation dances have been held on 16th April and 4th June bringing 5 more dancers into the club. So, a big welcome first to Nicky and Rosemary, and second to Julie, Julie and Lorraine. That makes 3 Julies regularly turning out and countless members with the initial J. We also used the first event to formally welcome Sid to the Club. He graduated with Cheltenham Swinging Squares earlier this year.



Progress has then been made but numbers at club nights have only marginally increased. It's a never-ending battle to keep square dancing alive in Bicester and North Oxfordshire. However, we have our intrepid caller Bob Billinghamurst keeping us dancing.

As our new dancers bed in, we must redouble our efforts to attract newcomers as the Club looks to celebrate its 58th birthday in the Autumn.

Chris Davis

Isle of Wight News

Over the winter we lost our much loved Devil's Chimney. I'm sure many will have enjoyed this attraction and the surrounding 'Landslip' walk when visiting the Isle of Wight. The once welcoming café at the end of the walk now hangs on the edge of a cliff, its beautiful lawns gone!

Fortunately Square Dancing on the island is on a firm footing and growing.

Our 12 student dancers have now completed the full Mainstream program and are fully integrated into our normal club evenings; we now have over five squares if everyone attends on the same night. Our thanks go to the fantastic group of Angel's who came every week to dance with the new dancers until April 1st when we changed to three hours of mixed Mainstream and Plus from 6 to 9pm for the whole club. Our club hall is packed on a Monday evenings and if we do take on any more student dancers it will have to be at a separate session – ideas already being discussed.

Westerners have also been lucky enough to welcome yet another experienced dancer who moved here from the 'North Island' –Marion Parkinson from Tilehurst Squares.



As Westerners are now enjoying dances on the 'North Island' we decided a new banner was needed to display at the venues.

Terry (Westerners)



The Square Dance Caller's Club of Great Britain

www.Callersclub.co.uk

Reaching out to Potential New Callers

As relatively new callers and enthusiastic members of Square Dance Callers Club of Great Britain (SDCCGB), Alan Edwards and I are part of a group of active newbies embarking on various means to increase interaction and discussion amongst potential and declared new callers.

There are various ways to progress along the journey to becoming a caller, whether it is simply to support your local club, or to eventually call for other clubs and dances. Callers Club has a number of online resources available for new callers, including access to helpful documents and pre-recorded training videos. Callers Club also sponsors interactive training opportunities with experienced callers, both via Zoom and face-to-face, which usually include some 'behind-the-mic' time. Other training is available via some limited local and regional experienced callers.

An emerging trend of new caller showcase dances are being organised across the country, recognising the reality that if Square Dancing is to grow and prosper, we need to help dancers who wish to become new callers to develop their technical skills, confidence and ability to entertain.

Whilst SDCCGB and other training is a key part of technical training, another part is development of emotional resilience, since sometimes on our journeys things don't always go smoothly (believe me, we both know that sinking feeling as your carefully prepared tip dissolves into chaos!).

To share experience and help provide emotional support and encouragement to potential new callers, the two of us will be establishing a regular online 'Chat time' soon, most likely via Zoom twice monthly. There will be no commitment to attend regularly, but knowing someone will be in the virtual space to welcome you to chat on any topic related to square dancing or square dance calling, should help us to connect with each other. If you are interested in taking part, please get in touch with either Alan or Suzanne.

Alan: alan151162@gmail.com

Suzanne: pigsnye2pitm@aol.com

We would like to build a community of people wishing to learn the trade of calling with a view to sharing experiences and opportunities.

Finally, to all you dancers out there, we really appreciate your patience in letting us practice our skills with you. No matter how good the training may be, "new callers" can only become "club callers" through the experience of getting on stage and calling a tip to dancers willing to accept the odd hiccup or two.

Thank you! *(Alan Edwards & Suzanne Fletcher-Mallinson)*

Caller's Corner

By **PAUL BRISTOW** (CALLERLAB
Accredited Caller Coach)

UK CALLER
TRAINING FOUNDATION

Callers Corner - Microprogramming; in simple terms: what to Call Next...

Microprogramming is the term used to describe the decisions made by Callers (on a Call-by-Call basis) to ensure that the Calls when delivered "extemporaneously" (i.e. not memorised, or simply read from a piece of paper) are presented to Dancers in a fashion by which they may be danced in a smooth and flowing manner. Memorised Modules, may be delivered by Callers in a smooth fashion - but they will only be able to deliver as much as they are able to memorise... If the Caller reads the Calls, it will be impossible to adjust the way they are delivered so that Dancers can be sure of success; whenever the routine is used, the Caller will need to watch the Dancers - all of the time that they are Calling - so that they can adjust the Timing and/or Delivery of the Calls; if the Caller is "Reading" the Choreography too much of their attention will be on reading the Calls.

To become proficient at delivering smooth flowing choreography (Flow Modules), you need to have a good understanding of what each and every Call does - and how it can be best used; a Call Assessment Sheet (available from CALLERLAB) should be created for each and every Call. Here is a link to download the Call Assessment sheet (CAS): <https://www.callerlab.org/download/call-analysis-sheet/?wpdmmdl=6302&refresh=603719d941cbd1614223833>

There is a tendency to assume that all you need do is complete the CAS sheet - in order to establish what can (and cannot) be done for each of the Calls and that - having done that - you have completed the task but this is not the true situation. Obviously, the CAS sheet format that CALLERLAB recommends is a simplistic design that gives an indication as to which items need to be considered. However, to properly achieve its purpose, the CAS sheet constantly needs to be re-visited, revised and updated, so that any additional information can be added. If used correctly, it will be the first page of a treatise on the Call, which will grow to accommodate as much as possible in terms of the potential uses of that Call, considering - as far as possible - every situation that may be likely to arise.

The more experience a Caller has, the better their ability to introduce variety into their microprogramming will be; Callers will try to find different ways of combining the Calls and will become more proficient at understanding how difficult some Call uses can be.

If you are a Caller, one of the best ways to carry out this advanced CAS sheet analysis, effectively is for you to record yourself when you are Calling - and then listen to what you Called - and think of other ways to use the choreography. In other words, revisit every single decision that you made and think what other decisions might have been possible and then try those out the next time you Call; some of this you can do in advance by writing and working with checkers or Taminations (or something similar).

However, there can be no doubt that the absolute best way will always be to work with real Dancers and work out what seems to be acceptable / unacceptable by the extent to which the Dancers succeed, the way Dancers react (i.e. the look on their faces!) - and the way in which they respond to each of the new combinations that you try out. Over time, you will develop a very good understanding of microprogramming and you will be able to deliver a great deal more enjoyable, exciting and successful choreography!

Tilehurst SDC Charity Presentation Evening

On Wednesday 22nd May Tilehurst presented the Alzheimer's Society (its nominated charity for 2023) with a cheque for the proceeds collected during the year. The club raised a total of £1000 from its book and Square Dance clothing sales and raffles, as well as the profits from its annual Charity Dance held in September each year. The Charity was nominated for 2023 by our members and Georgia Thornton from the Society attended to receive the cheque. A very enjoyable evening was had by all with Granville Spencer kindly calling for the evening and Georgia even joined in for a tip with the members.



Our Charity for this year is the Motor Neurone Society and once again we will be holding a dance in September to help raise money for them – we hope to see everyone there.



Pat Jenkins – chairperson Tilehurst SDC
Georgia Thornton - Regional Fundraiser,
Alzheimer's Society.
Paddy Davis – Treasurer Tilehurst SDC.

Ray Turner

VIKING SQUARES

'AUSSIE' NIGHT JUNE 2024

4TH June 2024 was the date set for a visit to Viking Squares from Brian Hotchkies, Australian caller, but as everyone is aware Brian is unfortunately poorly and unable to visit the UK this year. We were also due to have Brian to call for us in 2020 and of course we all know what happened then.

So we decided to have an Australian night at our usual Tuesday club on the 4th June. We asked dancers to either come in their Black and Yellow club colours (we do this on the 1st Tuesday of each month) or come dressed Aussie style. So there was a mixture of outfits with a sprinkle of colourful shirts, hats with corks and shorts.



The evening was introduced by Pete Baker, a member who is learning to call for us and the night was thoroughly enjoyed by all present/ We danced to Brian's CD's and decorated the hall in Australian flags and we even had a kangaroo and a croc present (not real of course) There was lots of laughter with dancers trying to remake the squares when the calls from the CD's were misheard but no-one seemed to mind the mistakes. Barry Gardiner did a guest tip and it was good to see him at our club again. The food we served however

was not typically Australian but more for a typically summer evening here in Britain– soup with crusty bread followed by scones with strawberries and cream.

The next event in our calendar will be our annual B.B.Q. when hopefully we'll be blessed with some good weather.

Happy Dancing

Judy Viking Squares



Six of the Best

Reviews of Square Dance releases
from other labels by

PAUL BRISTOW

(owner and producer of STING & SNOW records)



Nursery Rhyme Song Medley ~ Rod Shuping

Fine Tune FT 235 (Original Artists: Traditional?)

A collection of songs that you might want to sing with the youngest children, including: "If You're Happy and You Know It", "Old Macdonald" and "Nick-Nack Paddywack". Each tune has a jaunty feel (obviously) and a number of responses (both vocal sung parts - and sounds) are included on the track. This is a terrific "crowd pleasing" / "sing-a-long" tune to use; the music is well played and the vocal is extremely well performed by Rod!

Mainstream Figure: *Heads Promenade Halfway, walk in Right and left Thru Sides Square Thru Four, Eight Chain Four, Swing your Corner, Promenade.*

Another Somebody Does Somebody Wrong Song ~ Wade Driver

Rhythm RR 451 (Original Artist: B J Thomas)

An American country and pop song made famous by B. J. Thomas that was written in 1976 by Larry Butler and Chips Moman, who were awarded the Grammy for the Best Country Song; the full title of the track is: "(Hey Won't You Play) Another Somebody Done Somebody Wrong Song", which was the longest title of any single to top the Hot 100 up to that time! Rhythm provide some excellent music - Wade Driver on the vocal.

Mainstream Choreography: *Heads Square Thru Four, Right Hand Star Heads Star Left, Right and Left Thru, Swing Thru, Swing Thru, Swing.*

Heart's Desire ~ Philipp Kamm

Throw Back Tunes TBT 142 (Original Artist: Lee Roy Parnell)

A song co-written and recorded by American country music singer Lee Roy Parnell (Cris Moore shares the writing credit); it was released as the third single from his album: "We All Get Lucky Sometimes". The song spent 20 weeks on the Hot Country Songs charts, peaking at number three in 1996. Throw Back Tunes have done a terrific job with both the music - and the production of a first-class vocal by Philipp Kamm, from Germany!

MS Figure: *Star Thru, Pass Thru, Spin Chain Thru, Girls Circulate two times Boys Run, Couples Trade, Couples Circulate, Bend the Line, Square Thru.*

When the Going Gets Tough ~ Chris Froggatt

Knee-Deep KDM 178 (Original Artist: Billy Ocean)

Co-written and originally recorded by English singer Billy Ocean in 1985; this was the only No.1 song that Billy achieved. It was used as the theme song for the film: "The Jewel of the Nile" (starring Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner). The other writers credited for this track are: Wayne Brathwaite, Barry Eastmond and Mutt Lange. Knee Deep's Disco-Style music works really well here and a terrific vocal from Chris Froggatt!

MS Figure: *Pass the Ocean, Extend, Girls Trade, Swing Thru, Boys Cross Run, Chain Down the Line, Slide Thru Eight Chain Two, Touch a Quarter...*

Ribbon of Highway ~ Bill Harrison

ESP ESP 752 (Original Artist: Scooter Lee)

From the 1998 album: "Moving on Up"; this song seems to be really well known as a Line Dance, which comes as no surprise, given that Scooter Lee is an advocate for using Line Dancing as the principle form of exercise for her 501(c) non-Profit Charity group "Dancing for the Dream Inc." ESP have captured the sound of the original track with a great rendition here, using first class instrumentation; Bill Harrison shines on the Vocal!

MS Figure: Square Thru, Sides Half Sashay, Swing Thru, Centres Trade Centres Run, Wheel & Deal, Square Thru: Boys 3, Girls 4, Boys Cloverleaf.

Beach Cowboy ~ Brian Freed

Solid Gold SG 1054 (Original Artist: Jeff Dayton)

The song is written and recorded by Jeff Dayton - who rose to fame as the Bandleader for Glenn Campbell and the Jeff Dayton Band. From the 2021 album: "Calypso Poet", A good old fashioned "Boom-Chuck" country song; it feels fast but Dances really smoothly as a Square Dance. The instrumentation is well played - and is reflective of the style of the original track; Brian Freed provides a very well presented and well delivered vocal!

Mainstream Figure: Heads Promenade Halfway, walk in Square Thru Four Right and left Thru, Pass Thru, Trade By, Touch a Quarter, Scootback twice.

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

www.musicforcallers.com



web-site - web-site

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July STING RECORDS Release:

(from the Ambassador Club 2022 Edition - and a 2024 tune from Snow...)

STING 22212 Move It (Paul Bristow)

(from 1958: Cliff Richard and "The Drifter's" debut single - written by Ian Samwell)

SNOW 22451 Flabbergast (Plus Patter by Bronc Wise)

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NEWS FROM WHITE ROSE SQUARES

Over the last year White Rose Squares has sponsored a Yorkshire Federation SSD Dance, started our Beginners' Class once more, and held our 46th Birthday Dance. The club has maintained steady numbers, with 3 squares dancing each week and our Caller, Gene Turner has given us club night after club night filled with entertaining Calling and so many songs.

OUR BEGINNERS' CLASS STARTED JANUARY 2024

We hold a Beginners' Class every two years. A deliberate choice so that after the learning period all our dancers – particularly those wonderful people who act as Angels – can have a period “just dancing”. This year we have had 3 dancers keep learning with us and they are doing very well indeed. White Rose Squares may not be overly ambitious in terms of the frequency of holding new classes – but it is a practical decision that does work, and it also helps to retain current dancers. By having a regular Beginners' Class rather than only concentrating on current dancers means that the club (and our pastime) keeps growing a little.

YORKSHIRE FEDERATION SSD “LANTERNS” DANCE: SPONSOR WHITE ROSE SQUARES

As with other Yorkshire Federation Clubs, we are trying to offer Dances specifically at SSD Level, to give our newer Dancers the chance to try Dances beyond a club night. Philip Mee Called this one, and for those who braved the aftermath of Storm Babet, we had a good afternoon. Not easy Calling when people were diverted due to floods, but Philip made sure it was lively.

WHITE ROSE SQUARES 46TH BIRTHDAY DANCE

We were in the very capable hands of Di Green for this special Dance. Di Called alternate SSD, Mainstream and Plus so that everybody was involved, and adapted “The Rose” for White Rose's Birthday! Attended by nearly 5 squares we all had a good time, with pot luck and a raffle.

OUR TRAINEE CALLERS RISE TO THE CHALLENGE!

As in other parts of the country we have been trying to grow our Caller base. Gene Turner has been working with our two Trainee Callers, Nick Tillotson and Heather Innes over the past year to show them the way, and they continue to improve. Each Calls regular tips every club night. When Gene has not been able to be there Heather and Nick have also

Continued on next page

run three club nights together, initially having the back-up of some recorded tips (memo: some dancers find it difficult to adjust to recorded music!!), progressing to a full evening on June 9 of their own Patter and Singing Calls. Here the choreography had been adjusted to include only those Calls that our SSD students knew, or likewise that our Plus learners have covered, added to their Mainstream.



Lots of work had gone on in the background to accomplish this, and Nick and Heather made our June 9 Club Night a very enjoyable evening. Both Heather and Nick had originally learned to Square Dance at Leeds City Squares in the 90's, taught by John Mee, and later Heather started learning to Call there. John's careful teaching of Mainstream and Plus has set them up well for their venture into Calling.

Heather has a number lively singing Calls that dancers are enjoying, including "The Gambler" and "Good Morning America". Nick ran the evening, Calling most of the SSD tips and Singers and a MS/Plus tip. His songs included "I Can See Clearly Now the Rain has Gone" and "I'll Do It All Over Again" - so he must be enjoying it!!

DO COME TO OUR NEXT DANCE!

White Rose Squares "Summertime!" Dance

Saturday 13 July, 2024, 2pm to 5pm, Clifford Village Hall, Albion St, Clifford, Wetherby, LS23 6HY

Trevor Day Calling Mainstream & Plus

£7 on the Door / Raffle / Tea, Scones, Summer Fruits & Cream provided.

Ann Tillotson, Secretary, White Rose Squares.

VIKING SQUARES 12TH FUN AND FRIENDSHIP CAMPOUT AND FESTIVAL OF DANCING 2024

Over the many years Viking Squares have run a camp out there is always a theme – Red, White and Blue has featured on the many royal occasions including the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Queen's 90th Birthday and also her Platinum Jubilee. We have had an Oscar Night when dancers were asked to come dressed to impress in Black and White. A Wild West evening when the entrance to the hall was through stable doors and last year we had our 60's night which again proved a popular theme with lots of different ideas from many of us who could remember the clothes and hair styles of that time.

This year costumes and cultures of the World was our latest themed weekend. On arrival all of our campers were all handed a sheet of paper with a country and they needed to draw a picture. This could be a straight forward clue or they could make it cryptic and these were placed in their caravan/motor home or tent on view. Then everyone had the chance to go around and try to guess what the illustrated country was. In the hall we also had a map of the world treasure hunt and dancers were invited to try to find the spot where the treasure was hidden for a cash prize... On Saturday was our costumes of the world fancy dress and we were very impressed with the efforts of our dancers... Rob and Eileen Tilley won the prize for their efforts in representing Sweden.



Our Meet and Greet with a bite to eat is now a well established part of the weekend. It's always early on a Friday evening and is well appreciated as we gather around and chat to fellow dancers we've probably not seen since last year and this is where we also welcome new dancers.

The weather this year could most certainly have been a little kinder to us – setting up on the Wednesday saw the four of us completely soaked and thinking that no-one would turn up that day and we couldn't blame anyone for not venturing out – however 2

caravans arrived on site so our efforts weren't wasted and we applauded them.

Monday morning and again our farewell dance was well attended for those who were able to stay on. We had an abundance of guest callers and cuers - always such a lot of talent of hidden talent here. After all this is the place where callers and cuers often get their first opportunity to call to dancers and we must all applaud them for doing so.

Then it was time to say goodbye once again. Can we once again thank our callers Trudy & Simon and cuer Nick for providing us with good music and a variety of different choreography to dance to. Our





very best wishes and thanks also go to everyone who came along again this year to support our event.

Don't be discouraged if you are not able to come and camp with us – we do have quite a few dancers who stay locally so please think about just coming along to dance on any or all of the three nights of dancing. There are many B & B's in our area if you wish to stay over - just ask us and we will try to help.



Camp outs with dancing /festivals are dying out so let's use them and NOT lose them. Please help us to keep our event going as it is one of the very few of its kind in the country. Hope to see you in 2025.

On a sad note the Flyover expected on the Saturday afternoon did not take place and we discovered later in the day that the Spitfire that was due to come over us along with the Hurricane had crashed just after take off at Conningsby killing the pilot. We were all very sorry to hear this and have since sent our condolences to the Battle of Britain Memorial flight team.

Vikings Team - Carol, Pete, Mick and Judy



1st - 3rd November 2024

3 days, 3 halls: Fri 4:30pm - Sun 3pm

Burgess Hall, St Ives, Cambs, PE27 6WU

“Early Bird” prices only available till end-July

£20 weekend, £10 Friday, £16 Saturday, £10 Sat eve only, £6 Sunday.

Details and booking forms on BAASDC Events Calendar

Note: cover photo taken from Daily Mail.

TROUVILLE
HOTEL

FESTIVE SQUARE DANCE AT THE TROUVILLE

Join us at the Trouville Hotel for our
'Taste of Christmas' Square Dance weekend

with Di Green

calling Mainstream & Plus, featuring guest callers

Friday 06 December to
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Swedish Square Dance Convention Sigtuna 2024

On Monday 27th May 2024 we crossed from Folkestone to Calais on Le Shuttle, in our motorhome enroute to Sigtuna, Sweden. We spent the next 10 days meandering our way across northern France, a short foray across northern Belgium and the Netherlands and into Germany. Here we had a super stop at Clopperburg and the outdoor water and windmill museum, a much needed diversion and a must-see if you are ever in the area. Then onward, north through Denmark and over the Storbælt (or great belt) and Øresund bridges (a costly but interesting route) arriving at Malmo, Sweden on day 6. Driving north, we stayed overnight on a bird reserve on the west coast of Sweden, a lovely location. Waking early morning to the sound of cars (not birds), their occupants carrying tripods and large lens cameras and binoculars and heading for the reed beds. Alan went to join them and joyfully returned having seen bluethroats. Another welcome diversion before our last 4 days of driving east to Sigtuna, arriving at the Convention site of Prästängshallen on Day 10.

The convention was held in a Sports complex with three very large halls for dancing and an extra hall at the nearby Folk School. On registration we were given a camping pitch on the field for motorhomes and caravans next to the sports complex (interestingly at the bottom of the practise ski slope) and joined the other units on the field. We also received that all-important 'dangler' to attach to our badges, our 'entry pass to everything' for the Convention. Friday 7th June 2024 about 500 square dancers had registered, by Saturday there was 650 of us who had gathered for a weekend of square dancing. Beginning on



Main Hall, waiting for an event to start

Friday morning, four concurrent one-hour sessions ran throughout the day with 8 international callers taking their turn. Sessions were organised by level: C and A1/A2 (where our own Di Green spent most of her time); Plus/A1; Mainstream/Plus; and Basic/Mainstream. The sessions were excellent, good calling and the other dancers (almost all Swedish) were very friendly. All

LET'S SQUARE DANCE ~ July 2024

sessions were well attended, with some people dropping out of one and joining another at the end of the allotted hour. Daytime dancing took place Friday/Saturday/Sunday from about 11.00-19.00, then a break and parties in the evening (Friday and Saturday)! We danced in full square dance costumes all morning and all afternoon, with a short break for lunch (we didn't want to



Dancing in one of the halls

miss too much dancing!) and then into the evening as long as our minds and bodies could keep going! We fell into bed most nights into a deep and dreamless sleep. If I did wake I could hear the music and calls of the day still going round in my head. Wonderful!

What surprised us the most was the age range of the dancers: from about 10 years upwards, including a good number of teens/early twenties and a good number of boys as well as girls. All were good dancers and even some of the children were dancing A2. In general, the weather was great, warm and sunny except for a tremendous thunder and hailstorm on Sunday morning.



The callers were clear and generally helpful (but expected you to know your moves and definitions!). Our confidence increased and the Swedes were delighted to welcome square dancers from other countries. We would encourage anyone to attend these conventions, it was a lot of fun and a great experience. For the link on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/Zojjp1klk7y>

Gil Chard, Terry McCann, Di Green, Alan Chard

Gill & Alan Chard



PRESENTS



39th COAST WEEKEND

Tom Miller

Bill Harrison

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

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

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

Friday evening 15th – Monday 18th November 2024

Three nights half board £352pp



Further information from Bernard Murphy

callerbernard@blueyonder.co.uk

Phone 07752 569609 & 01752 668078

www.uksquaredancing.com

LET'S SQUARE DANCE ~ July 2024

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

OPEN DANCES July 2024

Sat 6 th Afternoon	Tudor Squares Terry Chapman A1, A2 Tel: 07803 752360 (Paul)	SOLD OUT	HP1 3OG
Sat 6 th Afternoon	Yorkshire Federation Summer Sounds SSD Dance Philip Mee & Gene Turner SSD Tel 07856 884432 (Gene)		RA Yorks LS23 6HY
Sun 7 th Afternoon	L&HC RCA Summer Friendship Dance Ian & Colin Turvill SSD, MS Tel 07796695575 (Kevin)		LU6 3RJ
Thurs 11 th (7 pm)	ALLEMANDERS SDC Birthday Dance Di Green, B, MS, P Tel. 07729 840471		RA WA1 3NJ
Sat 13 th Afternoon	White Rose Squares Summertime! Dance Trevor Day MS, P Tel. 01943-878066 (Ann)		RA N Yorks LS23 6HY
Sun 14 th Aft	HOGSMILL SDC - Advanced Teach and Fun Granville Spencer A1, A2 Tel. 07867 802355		KT11 3BN
Sun 14 th Aft	ASAZ A dance / workshop KEVIN LOVELL A1,2 Tel: 07796 695575 (Annika)		LU6 3RJ
Sat 20 th Afternoon	Centre Squares Summer 'Cream Tea' Dance Mike Belsten & John Boxall MS, P Tel 01454 773370 (Margaret)		Glos BS36 1QG
Sun 21 st	UKCTF New Caller Dance New Callers w Paul Bristow MS Tel. 07801 440955. (Paul)		UB9 4DW

REGULAR VIRTUAL (Zoom) DANCES July 2024

Every Monday 4 pm	Di Green & Terry McCann C1 workshop and dance https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89035956452?pwd=VTYraWdmbUltSEE5SDRqNE1UNIROUT09 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 August 2024

Sun 4 th 6.45 pm	HOGSMILL SDC London Visitors David Heffron USA, Kevin Lovell, Granville Spencer P, A e-mail: spencer8@tiscali.co.uk (Wendy)	KT4 8SW
Sat 17 th Afternoon	Travaux Twirlers & Beulah SDC Aug Tea Dance Simon & Trudy Fielding MS, P Tel. 07756 954422 (Alison)	E Sussex TN40 1QA
Sun 18 th Aft	ASAZ A dance / workshop KEVIN LOVELL A1,2 Tel: 07796 695575 (Annika)	LU6 3RJ

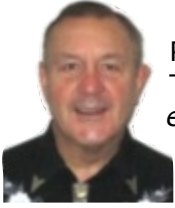
OPEN DANCES September 2024

Fri 20 th to Sun 22 nd	BLACK ARROWS A2 Torquay weekend Paul Bristow and Bronc Wise A2 Tel 01202 872135 / 07763 414383	TO Devon TQ2 5HS
Fri 27 th to Sun 29 th	HOGSMILL SDC Bournemouth Bonanza 2024 Granville Spencer and Ian Turvill P, A1 spencer8@tiscali.co.uk (Wendy)	TO Dorset BH1 3AB

2024 Square Dance Holidays and Weekend Breaks

J U L	Thurs 25 th to Sun 28 th	EUROPEAN CONVENTION Denmark www.ec2024.dk
S E P T	Fri 20 th To Sun 22 nd	BLACK ARROWS - Torquay A2 Weekend Paul Bristow & Bronc Wise A2 Tel: 01202 872135 / 07763 414383 (Doreen)
	Fri 27 th to Sun 29 th	HOGSMILL SDC Bournemouth Bonanza 2024 Granville Spencer & Ian Turvill P, A!, (A2) Tel. 020 355 567499 / 07742 881439 (Wendy)
O C T	Fri 4 th to Sun 6 th	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 1 st to Sun 3 rd	SDCCGB 70th Anniversary Celebration Multi-Caller & Cuers e-mail: susie@graybo.co.uk (Susie)
	Fri 15 th to Mon 18 th	PILGRIM PROMENADERS - 39th Coast Weekend Tom Miller (USA) & Bill Harrison (USA) See advert P 28 Tel: 01752 668078 / 07752 569609 (Bernard)
D E C	Fri 6 th to Mon 9 th	Festival Square Dance at the Trouville Di Green MS, Plus Tel 01983 402141
J A N	Sat 24 To Sun 26 th	AERON VALLEY DIAMONDS - Torquay Weekend Mike Belsten & Leah Tinsdeall MS, P Tel. 01545 561159 / 07866 890987 (Roy, Elaine)
M A R	Fri 14 th to Mon 17 th	PIECES OF 8 Fun Weekend Rob Branson & Wendy Shipton MS, P Tel. 07973 270310 or 07954 400872
	Fri 28 th to Sun 30 th	HOGSMILL SDC Bournemouth A2 Neil Whiston A2 Tel. 0203 556 7449 (Granville)
M A Y	Sat 10 th to Sat 17 th	ASAZ Square Dance Cruise MSC Virtuosa Kevin Lovell P, A1 Tel. 07796 695575 (Annika)

BAASDC COUNCIL MEMBERS



President - **DAVID ENGLAND**
Tel: **01949 831022**
email: baasdc.president@gmail.com

Vice President Position vacant



Secretary - **GEOFF HOLDCROFT**
Tel **07952 309723**
email: baasdc.secretary@gmail.com

Treasurer - **PAUL MEE**
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Email: baasdc.treasurer@gmail.com



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Member and Webmaster
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e-mail: baasdc.web@gmail.com

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.

AREA FEDERATION CONTACTS

East Anglia ~ **RICHARD MOTLEY**

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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 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 in an email.**

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ADVERTISING RATES			
Size/Entry	Club Rates	Size/Entry	Club Rates
¼ page	£10	½ page	£15
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