



NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS

ISSUE NO 19

JUNE 2008

COMMITTEE

Chairman:
J. Beavon

Secretary:
B. Smith

Treasurer:
J. Miller

Members:
C. Adams

L. Rogers

J. Wood

G. Scurrah

Club Caller:
Trevor Day
(non-voting member)
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Recruitment for 2008

Our plans to recruit this September and a number of members have already come forward to form a recruitment sub-committee. This system worked so well last time that we are glad to have their expertise again along with that of some new volunteers who will bring in their ideas.

The plan, at present, is to have two dance programmes only on each evening - basic learning and full mainstream on Mondays and Learning Plus and Full Plus on Fridays - but nothing is ever set in stone and we will need to be prepared to review this, should the situation require it. A fair test would be to run with this until Christmas and then ask for your thoughts.

But before all that, there is the Lytham Festival in August and I hope as many of you as possible will try to attend some of the sessions at this wonderful feast of square dancing. The organisers particularly want more mainstream dancers this year and as soon as we have the full details, we will circulate them.

In the meantime, we have a number of guest callers coming during the summer to cover for Trevor whilst he is calling/dancing elsewhere and I hope you will take the opportunity of widening your experience of dancing to different callers.
Remember to smile and enjoy!

J. Beavon, Chairman

Annual General Meeting - 24th October

Our AGM will take place on 24th August if possible. This is necessary because the constitution requires that the secretary has to send all proposals out to members at least 28 days in advance (which is 20th September).
In order to give the committee time to consider any proposals, members are requested to put their proposals regarding changes to the Constitution and nominations for Officers by 18th

B. Smith, Secretary

Headway Hotel Dinner Burns Night 25th January

The festive evening this year took place at the Headway Hotel on the front at sunny Morecambe-by-the-Sea, on Friday, 25th January. Everybody came along in posh frocks – even some of the women (well, there was one chap in a kilt). The first port of call on arrival was the bar, and it turned out that not only was there our square dancing group, but also a group of people coming to listen to traditional jazz in the other, larger, room, in aid of charity. This had the advantage that on breaks to inspect the plumbing, we could listen to the jazz.



Headway Hotel Dinner continued ...

I was quite impressed with the catering and the service, and I think that everyone enjoyed an excellent meal. Of particular note was the bread and butter pudding! I will certainly come here again.

There were enough dancers to form four squares, and fill a few tables.

Trevor once again lead us all through a variety of interesting dances, which were all the more interesting for the

addition of liquid refreshment, and after what seemed like a fairly short time, we were all off home again.

To those who didn't come, I would say that you missed out on an excellent evening.

I would like particularly to thank Trevor and Chris for organising the evening, and for making sure that it went so well.



Grand Hotel, Grange-over-Sands 15th - 17th February

This was a great weekend of dancing, well attended by many people from all over the country, including dancers from Scotland and the South of England.

A group of around 25 dancers from our club were present; some stayed for the whole weekend, or one night, whilst others joined for the Saturday evening dance only.

For some of us it was our first 'big' dance but we soon overcame our nerves because everyone was friendly and helpful.



was the main caller assisted by others. It was difficult at times to hear some of the calls but we all helped each other along. It was interesting to see some round dancing which was new to some of us.

The large, sunken ballroom easily accommodated up to 12 squares. There was a handy bar and plenty of seating with good views overlooking the dance floor. It was a very enjoyable event; an excellent venue with plenty of dances to suit all abilities.

Money taken from raffles etc over the weekend was donated to the Cystic Fibrosis charity – a grand way to raise money for a worthy cause.



The Allemander Birthday Dance

On 8th March we were invited down to the Allemanders for their Birthday Dance. A few square dancers from Caton Lune Valley Wavers went down to the Club.

The weather wasn't very nice going down, but the greetings we got from the club members when we arrived made up for the bad journey down.

The dance was very enjoyable and

full of fun, as the caller Dave Clay was an excellent caller and a very funny man. He also came to our Club in April.

Everybody brought food for the Pot Luck Supper and at 9 o'clock Chris and Trevor set the buffet out. After the buffet there was a raffle. An excellent dance evening enjoyed by all.

Linda has produced the news leaflet this time as Joan will be recovering from major surgery.

We all send our best wishes to both Joan and Bert (who was her kidney donor) and hope the operation is a huge success and that they will both be back dancing soon.

Dates for your Diary

Friday, 8th August

Johnny Preston Dance
at Victoria Institute, Caton
Biscuits and cakes
No pot luck or raffle

Sunday, 14th September

Bar-B-Que
Scarthwaite Hotel

Saturday 11 October

Birthday Dance/Paul Bristow
at Halton

Workshop (£3) & Dance (£5)
Pot luck & raffle

Saturday 15th November

Autumn Dance
Pot luck & raffle

Callers: Gene Turner & Cliff
Anderton

Friday 24th October

AGM

**Second callers or callers on
nights that Trevor is away:**

30th May – Cliff Anderton

13th Jun – John Kozyra
(Second caller)

27th Jun – Di Green

11th Jul – Alan Trengove

29th Aug – Norman Mitchell

5th Dec – Di Green

Spring Dance with Dirk the Shirt at Halton, 12th April 2008

Jackie had to find a last-minute replacement for Dave Clay who was taken into hospital the day before our dance. Luckily she was able to obtain the services of Dirk the Shirt at short notice.



The afternoon workshop was attended by Mainstream, Learning Plus and Full Plus dancers. We quickly discovered why Dirk had acquired his calling nickname: he was wearing a very fancy shirt under his silver waistcoat! Instead of having separate tips at each level, Dirk kept us all together and cleverly taught us some unusual variations of basic moves. The afternoon workshop was interspersed with wisecracks and jokes from Dirk, so there was plenty of opportunity to rest between tips!

The evening dance was very well attended by our own members



and by many dancers from other clubs. We even had a couple from Austria brought along by Trevor and Chris. The hall at Halton was full, which was quite an achievement. Dirk's calling during the evening dance turned out to be fast and exciting. I think everyone enjoyed it. (Fortunately Dave Clay has recovered and is home again).



Beetle Drive at Halton Community Centre - 10th May 2008

You could cut the tension with a knife as 44 players sat at tables waiting for the signal to start. Tense fingers gripped the dice shakers hoping to throw a 6 to start drawing a beetle. We had gathered to support our nominated charity by playing Beetle. Most participants said they hadn't played for 40 years! Hans said it was all double-dutch to him, but Geraldine soon put him on the right track.

The starting bell sounded and we were away. Where are the sixes? Who dropped the dice? We played 6 games and then it was refreshment time. Boy, did we need a break! Some of us had been moving from table to table as winners. Another 6 games and we would have a winner. Individual game winners received a token prize of chocolate to help concentration and stamina.

The cards were collected, scrutinised and the winner was announced. Geraldine is the Beetle Champion 2008 and may hold the title for a very long time. A raffle was held and the evening made a profit of approximately £160 for the Charity. Thanks to everyone who made the night such a success.



An evening with the Man from Down Under



On Friday 6th June, at the Halton Youth & Community Centre, we were treated to a very entertaining evening by a caller from Australia who had found time to fit us into a busy schedule of touring clubs around the country. Brian Hotchkies had us dancing some interesting new variations to familiar moves. We were especially impressed at how he had couples moving between squares to arrive in their original squares at the other end of the hall. Another novelty was dancing in squares of

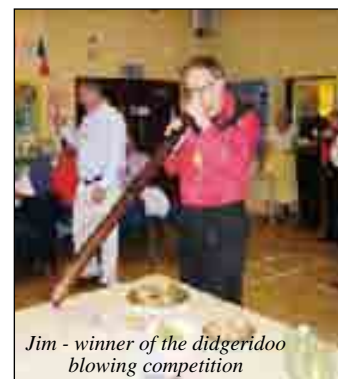
play the instrument. The prize of a bottle of wine for the best performance on the didgeridoo by one of the dancers was won in confident style by Jim.

The dance was well attended, with up to 7 squares on the floor and it was nice to see familiar faces from other clubs. Thanks to all who helped to make the evening a great success (Ruth thinks it's the best dance she's been to so far) and a special thank you to Audrey and John Blacow who kindly provided accommodation for Brian and also for Chris and Trevor Day.



sixteen – one couple behind another – definitely not in the book!

George, our Mr Fix-it had done a great job in putting together a collection of Aussie items that should have made the caller feel right at home. We don't know where they all came from, and perhaps it's best not to ask! There were miniature koala bears decorating the tables, flags, posters, a map of Australia, a sign to Melbourne and even a didgeridoo. When we took a break from the pot luck supper, Brian gave a demonstration of how to



Jim - winner of the didgeridoo blowing competition



Orchid Walk 22nd June 2008

Oh dear! The weather looked awful. Rang George to say we didn't want to go but he assured us there was a dry spell between 10am and 2pm.

So, twelve of us set off from the RSPB centre at Leighton Moss, crossing the bird reserve and ending up at the back of Leighton Hall. We crossed through



freshly mown fields to arrive at the Yealand Storrs road, where we were joined by Trevor and Ruth.

A pleasant woodland path eventually brought us out into a series of meadows. Here Ruth

and Trevor pointed out Common Spotted Orchids a Northern Marsh Orchid and Twayblade Orchids. We were also shown Quaking Grass as well as the part parasitic Yellow Rattle. A stop for a bite to eat and drink was then taken on the remnants of an ancient field boundary wall at Gait Barrows. Further on, we came to the beautiful Haweswater, apparently one of the only two natural lakes in Lancashire!



At the beginning of the walk, George produced a crucifix, a ball of string, a watch and a tape measure which he later used to make a timeline to demonstrate how long ago 340 million years would appear on a piece of string! Still puzzled? See George for an explanation!

Recruitment for September 2008

The Recruitment Committee have now met on 3 occasions at the Ship Hotel in Caton.

We have made great progress in the production of leaflets and posters to recruit not only new members for Monday evening's Beginners and Mainstream classes, but also to recruit for Friday evening's Learning Plus and Full Plus programme, to include contacting past members to invite them to rejoin the Club. Thanks are due to Linda Mills for producing such high quality advertising literature and to Trevor Day for getting the materials printed. The posters, fliers, car stickers and postcards will be issued in packs shortly to all members so that they can arrange to have them displayed in their local shops, pubs, clubs and notice-boards. Business cards will be issued later so that members can pass them on to people who they know have shown interest. These will act as a back-up to the initial poster campaign.

We continued along a quiet country road which led us to the entrance to Trowbarrow quarry. Quarrying was abandoned in 1964 and it is now a popular rock climbing area. The quarry has exposed vertical beds of fossil-rich limestone.

George gave us a brief talk about the quarry – apparently it was here that tarmac was invented. Quarrite, as it was then called was used to lay the road surface for Blackpool promenade and the Golden Mile in Edinburgh. At the quarry Trevor took us to various archaeological sites. We saw fossil corals up to 30cm in diameter and stick fossils in limestone which had first been laid in warm clear shallow water 340 million years ago when Lancashire was south of the



equator! We also saw evidence of tree roots which had grown in the limestone mud before the limestone hardened and was then twisted from a horizontal to a vertical position by the earth's movement.

Leaving the quarry we entered the Trough of Trowbarrow and admired the gate designed as a carabine in memory of a former musician, climber and lover of the area around Trowbarrow.

By this time we were very wet, but we all enjoyed the fresh air and good company. Finally, we returned to the RSPB centre for a well earned cuppa and a bite to eat.

We are also making preparations for a square dancing demonstration and recruitment campaign in Happy Mount Park over the August Bank Holiday. The local Citizen are also willing to cover this event. A recruiting stall was manned at the St Paul's Church Gala, Brookhouse on 5th and 6th July. Thanks to all who helped man it. Bob James has worked hard to ensure that as many local freebies as possible will have a recruitment article to include in their next edition.

However, there is nothing like word-of-mouth for the best recommendation and we would ask all members to pass the message on ...

Square Dancing is fun!

George
Recruitment Committee