



NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS

ISSUE N° 20

NOV 2008

COMMITTEE

Chairman:
Jackie Beavon

Secretary:
B Smith

Treasurer:
John Miller

Members:
Chris Adams

Liz Rogers

John Wood

George Scurrah

Club Caller:
Trevor Day
(non-voting member)
0161 4373620

News from the Chairman

The AGM, when my position as chairperson comes to an end, is fast approaching, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the club members for the support I have received during my term of office. It has been a pleasure to see our newer members make such wonderful progress and add so much to the lively atmosphere on dance nights. At the time of writing, we are two weeks into our latest recruitment drive and so far we have had 50 new dancers at our taster sessions and we hope that many of them will continue to attend and become club members. Brookhouse on a Monday night is buzzing and we should congratulate the recruitment sub-committee on a job well done. Thanks also to the Angels who turn out to dance with the learners and make them feel welcome. Our club thrives because so many people are willing to help and I feel confident that we will have plenty of nominations for the new committee at the AGM.

Jackie Beavon, Chairman

Annual General Meeting - 24th October

Our AGM will take place on 24th October. We hope that as many members as possible will be able to attend for the election of officers to the Committee and voting of proposed changes to the Constitution.

*B Smith
Secretary*

Allemanders - 31st July 2008

On the evening of the 31st July about 20 Lune Valley Ocean Wavers travelled down the M6 to the Allemanders Club at Warrington to take part in a club dance with guest caller Dirk the Shirt.

It was a lively evening and those of us who had previously danced to Dirk's calling were not surprised by his style. He had us dancing unusual moves with 16 in a square at one stage. There were also some slower dances with excellent

singing by Dirk which was much appreciated.

Alford Hall is an excellent venue for the Allemanders Club, with a large sprung floor and liquid refreshment readily available from the bar downstairs. We were made very welcome by the Allemanders, some of whom we had met before at previous events.

It was late when we returned home, but a very enjoyable evening was had by all.

John Blacow

Tadcaster 1st - 3rd August

Yorkshire Federation Campout at Tadcaster Grammar School 1st-3rd August 2008.

Where is Tadcaster, you might ask? It is situated north-east of Leeds and can be reached by car via Skipton. Tadcaster is near Boston Spa where many other square dances are held. It is an interesting small town famous for its brewery – an added attraction for visiting square dancers!



www.oceanwavers.co.uk



Tadcaster continued ...

This annual weekend of dance is called a campout, but we didn't see any tents. Many of the dancers were from local Yorkshire clubs (of which there are many). Those from further afield came in their caravans or stayed in local B & Bs. We were able to stay with our son who now lives near Tadcaster and we just attended the Saturday night dance.

The campout was organised by Tony Metcalfe. Dancing on the Saturday night was in the main hall of the school which is a similar size to the one in Lytham St Anne's High School. There was room for about 15 squares and the hall was full. We saw Val & Barry and Barbara Kemp. Other Lune Valley members had attended the afternoon workshop. There were also many familiar faces from the Allemanders club.

James Wyatt was calling. As usual he was brilliant, keeping us all on our toes. We even managed a few Plus tips with some help from more experienced dancers.

We are planning to attend this event again next summer and recommend it to other members at Lune Valley.

Vicky & Martin Lister



National week of dance - Lytham St Annes (two articles!)

Just before 8pm on Friday 9th August 2008 the Main Hall was already packed with squares eagerly awaiting the start of the National Week of Dance at Lytham St Annes. Tony Metcalf (National President) stepped up to the microphone, welcomed everyone and introduced the callers for the week: Paul Bristow, Ian McConnel, Johnny Preston, Neil Whiston and James Wyatt. The first tip was very lively and lengthy with all the callers calling partially in succession and partially in unison. This set the tone for rest of the evening and indeed the rest of the week, basically to be a sociable fun event.

The general format for each evening's dancing comprised Mainstream and Plus for everyone in the Main Hall for the first hour followed by dancing at specific levels in separate halls. Workshops were available during mornings and afternoons at various dance levels.

This event is probably the highlight of the British Square Dance calendar showcasing the best callers and is held virtually on our doorstep. The majority of dancers spent the week at the event staying in their caravans on site. However for our club members, attendance is within reasonable daily travelling distance.

This year I attended the Saturday and Wednesday evening dances partnered by Susan and Jackie respectively. In some of the tips we formed squares with our fellow members but often ventured beyond and danced outside that comfort zone.

Several carloads of intrepid Ocean Wavers ploughed through the water to attend the first night of the Lytham Week of Dance on 8th August – the passengers profoundly grateful to the drivers for being prepared to brave the unpleasant driving conditions! On the road

The callers provided some very interesting tips delivered with style and humour resulting in enjoyable rather than overly challenging dancing. Although the tips had to be executed speedily I left the dance at the end of the evening tired but with a feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction.



Overall the event appeared to be well attended, was well organised with hot and cold refreshments and biscuits freely available. For the more experienced dancers, friendships made in squares at other events were renewed. And for our graduated members this event is a superb opportunity to dance in a big venue to the top callers without having to travel vast distances. I admit that the first time can be somewhat daunting but if you dip your toe into an unfamiliar square and persevere, you may want more of the experience.

John Laws

back, however, all were agreed that the journey had been very well worthwhile.

In fact, for the more recent Mainstreamers, it was a mind-blowing experience - we'd certainly seen nothing like it before!

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 11 October

Birthday Dance/Paul Bristow
at Halton - Mainstream/Plus
Workshop (£3) & Dance (£5)
Pot luck & raffle

Friday 24th October AGM

Saturday 15th November

Autumn Dance at Halton
Mainstream/Plus
Pot luck & raffle
Callers: Gene Turner &
Cliff Anderton

Friday 25th April 2009

at Halton
Caller: Neil Whiston

Friday 10th October 2009

at Halton
Caller: Terry McCann

Second callers

17th Oct – Tony Metcalfe
7th Nov – John Kozyra
21st Nov – Di Green
5th Dec – Di Green (in
Trevor's absence)

National week of dance - Lytham St Annes continued ...

The group I was with arrived early and, having signed in and received our identification badges, we went in to the main dance hall – a massive room with a large stage and space for thirty or more squares. There weren't that many people there by then and we wondered how the evening would go.

Things began to look more promising as more and more people came in and the callers came on to the stage. As soon as the first tip was called things really started buzzing.

The "old hands" had warned us that the pace would be rather hotter than we were used to but to join in and go with the flow. It turned out to be very sound advice. The floor filled up almost instantly and the first tip soon got under way called in turns by five different callers, one of whom was Johnny Preston who had called so successfully for us at Caton the evening before. Another piece of very wise advice we had received was to join squares with some more advanced couples in them and not stick together with people we knew but who might also find the pace a bit hot. It certainly was faster than we had ever danced before but, relying quite a lot on "auto pilot" and friendly shoves in the right direction by the more expert dancers

(including Trevor and Chris who were doing sterling work looking after their flock!), we survived. We were amazed how fast we had actually managed to dance. The Mainstream tips were occasionally interspersed with some round dancing which provided welcome breathers and a fascinating insight into a different discipline.

After about an hour of really enjoyable dancing we leapt up to join another tip and found ourselves with a very proficient-looking group, not noticing that quite a lot of people were filing out of the room. On asking, "This is a Mainstream tip isn't it?" We received the reply, "No, this one is A1". We had not picked up an announcement so, very apologetically and sheepishly we joined the crowd who were making their way to another room where the Mainstream dancing was to continue. Again there was plenty of room to dance and the happy atmosphere simply came with us into the other room.

Overall, the facilities were excellent, there was a well-stocked shop for those who wanted to purchase the authentic gear, the atmosphere was electric and I'm sure it is true to say that, "A good time was had by all." This is certainly one to put on the calendar for next year.
Peter Silvester

In memory of Joan

Joan's tragic death on August 26th has deprived our club of a very popular and hard working member. Joan, who had always been sporty, took up square dancing when her health prevented her from participating in more strenuous pastimes and she loved it from the moment she first heard Trevor say "Bow to your partner". But she didn't just come to dance, she wanted to help and she became an excellent club secretary and after her term in office she looked for other ways to contribute to the club. She did sterling work on the recruitment committee and it is thanks to her that we have this club newsletter. It started life as a single black and white sheet and blossomed into this very professional full colour magazine we now have.

But Joan saw the bigger picture and wanted to promote square dancing on a national scale so she wrote articles for the Association's magazine and her recruitment literature was used by many other clubs.

As our PRO she raised the club's profile by sending in regular updates on our activities and she proved to be a wonderful ambassador for the club by helping at the National Convention and anywhere else she could be of use.



In memory of Joan continued ...

Although her health was deteriorating she and Bert still went on many square dance holidays, just packing the dialysis equipment along with her petticoats and she always received a warm welcome from her friends all around the country.

When she could no longer dance she was still a benign presence as she sat in the corner smiling and chatting.

We shall all miss her but our thoughts and best wishes go out to Bert who has suffered the greatest loss.

Jackie Beavon, Chairman

Allemanders 27th September 2008

On Saturday 27 September the Allemanders Square Dancing Club of Warrington held an afternoon workshop and evening dance at which Ian McConnell was the caller.

Three squares attended the A2 workshop and there were fifty dancers in the evening, including thirteen from Lune Valley Ocean Wavers, dancing mainstream and plus.

The caller was very clear, so we had no excuses when we occasionally took a wrong turn! The music was lively and fast, and the ladies especially, were taken with the variety of swirling, colourful skirts on display.

Photographing dancers in action is a difficult business, and we were grateful for people's patience and cooperation in lining up for a group photo displaying their colourful attire and cheerful faces. Dancing at new venues, with members of other clubs, is always good fun, and it is nice to support other clubs whose dancers regularly come along to our dances. So if you haven't been to any outside dances yet, do give it a go.

*Trevor Pearce
(with help from friends)*



Recruitment for September 2008

Posters advertising our recruitment campaign went everywhere, even up to heaven it would seem, so many angels came to help on the nights of the 'Free Taster Nights'. Their help in welcoming, giving assistance and encouragement was greatly appreciated by all of our potential new dancers. To date we have taken the names of over fifty people who have come on the first of the two 'Taster Nights'. Some are totally new to Square Dancing whilst there are a number who have returned to give it another try. There was a tremendous buzz on each of these two evenings, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and there were smiles and laughter all around the Hall. The new recruits found themselves in squares and then executing a series of basic moves before they quite realised what was happening. They suddenly found themselves square dancing - exactly what they had come to do and it was so painless!

Of course this sense of well being and achievement was due to the welcome and encouragement they received

Joan first asked for volunteers to produce the Newsletter when she was about to go into hospital for surgery and I agreed to do it.

I have now been asked to continue producing the Newsletter, which I shall be happy to do so, although I will never be able to do it on the national scale that Joan did.

In acknowledging all the wonderful work that Joan has done for the Club, I would also like to thank all members who have produced items to be placed in the Newsletter, as without these there would be no news to report!

I hope to produce a Newsletter once every 3 months, so please continue sending me your news - either by hand on a Friday evening, or you can email me at lindamills@onetel.com.

Linda Mills

from the angels but also as a direct result of the patient and careful explanations given by Trevor. Thanks are due to you, Trevor, in getting the show on the road so smoothly each evening. Thanks are also due to all of the club members without whose help in distributing posters, leaflets and flyers or just talking about square dancing have enabled us to get so many new potential dancers across the threshold of the Club doorway. Particular thanks are due to Linda Mills who did such a professional job in designing the advertising literature and to Trevor who had the materials printed. Bob James did a sterling job ensuring that we had articles about Square Dancing printed in so many of the local newspapers. Bob also ensured that signs were put in place directing the new dancers to the Church Hall. Finally the Club Committee have asked me to pass on their thanks and appreciation for the effort put in by the recruiting committee to make the recruitment exercise such a success.

*George Scurrah
Recruitment Committee*