

# EUROPEAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 12, Number 1

December 2015

## Editorial

Hello dance friends

My calendar and all the input is telling me that it's time for the next European Newsletter.

I am very happy with the increase of the number of countries also non-European that send me contributions to this letter. I hope you will enjoy reading it as much as I did.

New is the input from Beijing China. A large group of dancers from there visited the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the EAASDC and with the help of "Wuffi" I managed to get contact.

As already expected last year, the number of dancers in my home country is now under 200. A very positive development is the recent announcement that starting in January there will be a caller school in the Netherlands. This might turn the tide in getting young people interested in our hobby.

Have a look at the picture of the youth clubs from Germany and Sweden, on page 7, having a wonderful time.

Highlight of next year will be undoubtedly the European Convention in Shakespeare town, Stratford upon Avon. This will be the ninth edition after starting in 1997 in Hochheim Germany. Up to the first decennial celebration.

Where ?? It is more or less usual that on the convention the next place is known. Like the Olympics "See you in ...?"

Corry and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a fine 2016 in good health.  
May your next dance year be great.

Happy dancing,  
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**EUROPEAN  
ASSOCIATION  
OF  
AMERICAN  
SQUARE  
DANCING  
CLUBS**



This year's major emphasize was put on the celebration of

**60 years European Association of American Square Dancing Clubs (EAASDC)**

When EAASDC was founded at the Fall Round Up in Bad Wildungen on September 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> 1955, the founding members certainly wished for a positive development and long years of existence for their new association. Today we can state that these wishes have been realised and that EAASDC can look back proudly over the past 60 years. On the one hand what has been achieved is to the merit of the numerous presidents, starting with Harold and Thelma Deane, as well as their numerous helpers on the board or in supporting positions, who have worked until today in an honorary capacity for the association. On the other hand, this result wouldn't have been possible without the support from the numerous member clubs from Germany and other European countries.

The EAASDC has developed into a European umbrella organisation for clubs practising Square Dancing, Round Dancing, Clogging and Contra/Traditional and has presently 542 member clubs from Belgium, France, Liechtenstein, The Netherlands, Russia, Austria, Switzerland, Slovakia and Germany.

The association supports its member clubs in many regards and also has the purpose according to its constitution: To further and to support dance sport in the form of American folk dancing, specifically American Square Dancing and its related dance forms (Round Dancing, Clogging, Contra/Traditional) as a sport for all ages. Furthermore young people should to be won for this dance sport, for families a frame for mutual sportive exercise should be created and the human and cultural relations with other nations should be furthered and deepened.

Working at the fulfilment of this task, as well as on numerous projects for the member clubs, are

currently next to the 13 elected/nominated board members 42 team members. All of their efforts are being put in on an honorary basis and beside job, family and other life commitments.

There were many ideas and thoughts put into the organisation of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary event. Some fell through because the costs were too high, some due to other circumstances. In the end the decision was made in favour of a motto for this event that all participants share: The joy in dancing!

Thanks to the helpful support from the city of Gelsenkirchen this has been a major event with 14 halls, giving dancers from all over the world for three days the opportunity to practise our dance forms. It was taken into consideration that we have member clubs for all dance forms, and so all of their dancers could fulfil their dancing desires. In order to run this event and to provide everybody with the best starting conditions, numerous helpers had volunteered.

The program offered, apart from the reception on Saturday night, 24 hours of dancing in 14 halls and the leaders were coming from Europe, Canada and the USA. Presidents and Board Members were present from associations in the USA, Japan, China, England, Holland, Czech Republic/Slovakia, Sweden and Denmark, who did participate in the event as well as in meetings offering international exchange. Furthermore we did welcome dancers of the before mentioned associations as well as from Taiwan, Canada, Belgium, France, Austria, Russia, Switzerland and Germany.

It was a beautiful and unforgettable anniversary and all those 1.800 participants who did celebrate this anniversary with us had lots of fun and joy at the dances and that they made lots of new friends, according to our motto

**“friendship is our greatest reward”**

Grüße

Wolfgang “Wuffi” Daiss  
President EAASDC e.V.





2015 was a very exciting year for the Buffalo Squares, the youth club in Sweden. In the beginning of May we actually hosted the Swedish National Square Dance Convention of 2015. Nearly 2 years of planning and many hours of volunteer work for our bright and engaged club members, had finally reached their goal. The convention was a success, a small step for the Square Dance organizations in Sweden, but a huge step for the Buffalo Squares. We had like 1200 dancers visiting us, which is an impressive number in Sweden, and six great callers, all under the age of 40. Once again, we would like to thank everyone who believed in us, who supported us through the process, and most important, who came to the Convention and danced with us! We could not have done it without you! There is also a short video, filmed at the Convention, available on Youtube. Hopefully we have proven, once and for all, that we are an organization one could rely on. We follow through and we take responsibility. The youth club has grown up (remember that we celebrated our 20th birthday last year?). Let this be a message to all other square dance clubs. Trust your young dancers, listen to their ideas and make sure their voices are heard on an organizational level.

In October we hosted one of our Square Up weekends, the one where we teach the entire Basic program to youths, in just three days. We reached Grand Square during the first evening and that only took like five minutes to do. This time the class was also sponsored by the national organization of Square Dance (SAASDC). Two weeks later we held a youth dance (during Halloween so we had like spooky costumes and all) and some of the dancers who took the class at the Square Up actually showed up. This is the part that I really like. When new dancers get to meet and actually dance with the other members of our club. Yes, we do Basic, it is just 50 calls and not 100 different ones. But we can do it together. We have young dancers joining us from all parts of Sweden, from the North to the South, from the West to the East. We have dancers who have been square dancing for two weeks, and others who have been dancing for 15 years or more. We have German dancers from the Lion Squares visiting us,

which of course is a huge honor and pleasure. Lions and Buffalos dancing together, united in the red and black. We have dancers from the first Square Up, dancing with the ones from the last Square Up. We have young dancers, teenagers, meeting for the first time, making bonds that will last for who knows how long. For how long have you known your square dance friends? Our key is one dance floor, of course we would take a Plus or A2 tip every once in a while, but the weekend is based upon a level that allows everyone to join. Everyone is dancing with everyone. I have been dancing for more than 15 years and I still enjoy the Basic level. A good caller can still make it interesting using just 50 calls or less. And with good friends and the right attitude, one could make joy of dance anywhere. Do not forget what kept you going during the first two years of your square dancing career :)

So what now? Our projects have been running for about two years and we are still in the aftermath of the Convention. Some of our more active members may step down and we have chairs to fill in the board of the club. For the moment we have nothing planned other than Youth Dances, according to our regular activity. However, I have no doubt that we will soon be back with new projects. We are now by the age of our parents, when they first brought Square Dance to Sweden about 30 years ago. If our parents could make it work then, then maybe we can do it now. But not alone.

There is a new wave coming.  
Buffalo Squares // Jon Hansell Nilsson

### DAASDC looking back on 2015

In 2015 we can look back on many great and amazing dance experiences, both in Denmark and abroad. Hereby we would like to thank all the hosts and helpers who made the festival dances possible.

In May several Danes with great pleasure attended the Swedish Convention, organized by the young dancers' cooperation, Buffalo Squares. It was a sublime experience where you met many new people. How amusing it was to watch the young dancers, several of them even carrying babies and toddlers as they danced. It was obvious that there was a strong cohesion among these young ones. This is probably the very best way to attract new young dancers. To me the greatest experience was to see and observe how many Swedish callers who participated on an equal level with the dancers. I counted at least 50 callers who I knew, on the dance floor. Probably there were more. It is enjoyable for all of us to watch callers join their dancers on the

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floor. Thank you for starting the convention with a graduation ceremony. This was a really good decision... And here we saw many Challenge dancers on the floor as angels. Great thanks for this fine dancing weekend, Buffalos! You did really well!

We also enjoyed another great dance weekend. That was our own Danish Convention in June. We were visited by many dancers from Denmark as well as abroad. This confirms that many are looking forward to the big dances, where fun and joy is paramount.

In July we took off to IPAC in Barmstedt. IPAC is a must for many dancers! How great it is that Steffen Muring still has the desire to organize this traditional dance event. A dance, many of us are looking forward to attend every second year. Here we meet with many other dancers from different countries. E.g. Chinese, Japanese, Russian... A lot of amazing and talented dancers. It is always a great joy and pleasure. It is so great to dance together in the new halls close to each other.

It was no hard decision to make, to go again in September. This time to Gelsenkirchen for the celebration of EAASDC's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. How happy we were to learn, that more than 1400 dancers participated in celebrating EAASDC and the event. In connection with the dance the European Square Dance Federations met to decide future guidelines for the European Conventions.

DAASDC greatly appreciate the cooperation between the European federations. It also gives us input to address cross border issues and inspire one another. We have the same challenges everywhere: "How do we get more young people to dance square dance?"

This leads me to the next questions:

Did we forget how we started square dancing? Did we forget the joy of meeting many other dancers? Have we become too selfish?

It is up to each individual to think about why am I the square dance society? Personally I really like to dance the Challenge level and the challenges it presents to me, but that is not enough for me! I have a great desire to go to the big dance festivals with 40 squares or more on the floor! I want to attend events where I can meet NEW people! I did not forget the joy of participating with new and old dance friends. Therefore, I have already booked a trip to Stratford-upon-Avon in July 2016, the European Convention, along with dance friends and I happily look forward

to meeting old and new friends.

In DAASDC we are looking forward to meet with the other board members of the European federations. In the current period we have edited and simplified the guidelines for future European Conventions. We wish of course that all who love square dancing in the future will have the option of participating in this big festival dance. It is a lifetime experience.

Happy New Year to all.

Lotte Vangsgaard, DAASDC

**NVSD****Dear friends,**

Today we are facing the future...

Every year it is getting harder and harder to attract new dancers to our favorite hobby. Every year the number of active dancers is less than the year before. Every year we hope that we gain new dancers in the near future... And every year we say that we need a change to stop the decrease of dancers. Are we facing the future and can we change it.. Do we change it ??

This year not much has happened in Holland related to Square- and Rounddancing... We had several special dances in Holland and some real big events in our neighboring countries. One of the big events was the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the EAASDC. Several dancers from our country attended the event in Gelsenkirchen.

Here in the Netherlands we currently have 13 Square, Round or Square- and Rounddance clubs within our Dutch association. Furthermore, we have a few clubs that are not connected to the NVSD. And we have some dancers who are not connected to any Dutch club. At this moment we have about 150 individual dancers registered via the NVSD. But as some dancers are member of several clubs, we have about 200 dancers at the 13 clubs.

Something new: This year we have started "Grand Square – the Netherlands" in order to get dancers interested to start calling. Grand Square is known in many countries and now also active within the Netherlands. This startup had a positive spinoff and I'm happy to tell you that in 2016 we have scheduled three days to give 4 future callers some time at the microphone.

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Two of them are young dancers (age between 17 and 20 years). 4 future callers may not sound much but if they will succeed with calling, we will almost double our number of callers (currently we have 5 active Dutch callers). Hopefully in cooperation with the ECTA (the European Callers and Teachers Association) we can help the newbies and support them in order to have a great future behind the microphone!

And we have an upcoming celebration: In 2016 we will celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dom Town Squaredancers. This club will organize a New Years Party to celebrate this jubilee.

But we have more special dances this year. If you are planning a trip to the Netherlands, please have a look at [www.squaredance.nl](http://www.squaredance.nl), choose "Dans Specials Agenda" and find out if we have a special during your stay. Or choose "Clubs" and find out if there is a club that is having its regular club night during your stay. You may always contact us for further information at [info@squaredance.nl](mailto:info@squaredance.nl) in English, German or Dutch. If we have a dance during the summer holidays, this will be published at our website.

Finally I would like to wish you all, on behalf of the Dutch board and staff members, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Maarten Weijers  
President of the NVSD

**BAASDC**

This is my last report as I will be standing down as President in early December 2015.

Square dancing in the UK still thrives but like elsewhere we struggle to attract new dancers, the challenge will be to keep them coming back and then to dance onto Mainstream/Plus. The weekend and holiday scene is also suffering but many dancers plan their annual holidays around dance weekends so they manage to keep the scene alive. The Round dance scene again thrives but with no new clubs, like elsewhere we rely on new Callers and Cuers but struggle to find new ones. So that will be a challenge for the foreseeable future.

Plans for the 2016 European Convention in Stratford-upon-Avon are forging ahead.

The programme has been published and amended many times.

The new editor of our magazine has managed to increase the circulation and introduce colour to some pages. We are hopeful that this will continue to be the case.

Our callers are proving to be very popular in mainland Europe so you can expect to see more brits dancing in Europe in 2016. I paid a visit to Germany in March & September and Australia in April. I did attend the EAASDC 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations and enjoyed it immensely and found the talk with Jon Jones very enlightening.

The BAASDC council has agreed to my plan to attract young dancers into Square dancing based on the system that Swedes use but it has not gone to plan and I hope that the new President will take up the task and progress it.

Keep smiling,

John

**SAASDC**

Dear friends all over. I hope that you all have had a nice and joyful dance year also in 2015.

Let me update you on what has happened for us during this year. As earlier said SAASDC have member clubs apart from Sweden also in Finland, Åland and Norway.

In the board of SAASDC we have continued to focus on recruit new dancers but also to keep the dancers we already have.

One of the activities in order to recruit new dancers, clubs have organized an increased number of try out dances and open air dances. The result is hard to evaluate but we believe that we can see a small increase in the number of dancers. On the other hand we can sadly notice that the number of clubs is slowly decreasing.

One of the main issues for us during this year is to use modern communications through social media sites. Last year we published a new homepage and this year we started a Facebook page. This have been a great success and makes it easy to communicate with dancers all over.

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We believe that member clubs must be very active on their home ground in order to get more dancers. Therefore SAASDC have a recruiting fund, where clubs can get contribution for new and interesting activities.

If you are planning a trip to Sweden, please have a look at [www.squaredans.se](http://www.squaredans.se), choose dance list, for the latest information about our dances. You may always contact us for further information at [info@squaredans.se](mailto:info@squaredans.se)

Finally I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tommy Hansson  
President SAASDC

**A Bet With Great Results**

2015 was an exciting year for the Lion Squares, the youth square dance club of Germany. Along with our annually youth dance weekend and various specials where we meet up and celebrate our friendships and the joy of square dancing this year especially was about our friendship with the Swedish youth club, the Buffalo Squares.

But from the beginning: Founded in 2007 the Lion Squares naturally felt kind of close to their Swedish role model that was founded years before. But other than knowing that there are many younger dancer dancing in a country north from us and sporadic contact at international events their wasn't that much contact. But this was about to change during this year.

It all started a while ago when a few Lions placed a bet with Swedish caller named Thomas Hedberg. As innocent as he was he thought the Lion Squares would not be able to show up at the Swedish Square Dance Convention in Jönköping, Sweden in

May 2015 which was organised by the Swedish Buffalos. In case he loses he committed himself becoming supporting member of the Lion Squares.

No sooner said than done. Already thinking about visiting the convention before, the organization of our trip to Sweden started right at that point! And in early May a big bus started its tour in Munich grabbing up more and more Lions by driving up north. In total 34 Lions participated in the road trip to Sweden which was enabled with the great help of the EAASDC, Dansglädjen, Diamond Printers Hamburg, Square Dance Job Rhein-Main as well as our supporting members.

Showing up in Jönköping caused a stir. Soon people couldn't tell whether someone was a Lion or a Buffalo since everybody wore their square dance clothing fitting the two club colours of both youth clubs, red and black. Together we participated in the great opening ceremony making it a blast.

During a fun after party we played games and got to know each other. Some even got to learn the traditional Swedish dance „Bugg“. And the Lions showed their well-known „Saturday Night Life“-Performance. It was a real festival of cultures that continued on the whole weekend.

So after all we didn't only won a bet. Much more than that we cemented sustainable international friendships and made great memories filled with the joy of square dancing.

And the friendship continues: In July we welcomed seven Buffaloes and three young dancers from Russia to our youth dance and many Lions drove up to Sweden for the Buffaloes annual gathering. Also we are very proud to welcome three dancers from Sweden, three from Russia, one from Denmark, one from England, two from the Netherlands, three from Slovakia, one from Switzerland and two dancers from the USA as members to our club to strengthen one big feature of square dancing which is having fun with other people without worrying about nationalities.

**Keep yourself updated:** The Lion Squares Germany having their 10-year anniversary in 2017. There is going to be a big square dance special. Don't miss it! Further information will be given soon on [lionsquares.de](http://lionsquares.de).

**Kerstin Wieben, PR.**



A great picture of the future of square dancing: The Buffalo's and The Lion squares.

## What's new in JAPAN

### Chairman of International Affairs Committee

#### Japan Square Dance Association (JSDA) Hiroshi Nakagawa

How nice it is to have the space like this for international information exchange on what have happened and what are coming up in each country!! This time, myself, Hiroshi Nakagawa, as the Chairman of the International Affairs Committee is taking charge of reporting the topics in our organization.

We sent a member of the committee to the EAASDC's 60th Fall Round Up held in last September in Gelsenkirchen, Germany. Thanks to their invitation extended to our organization, we could take another step to add our international acquaintance. His trip report covered the dances at many halls and the European and International meetings and the after party on Saturday evening.

Now, I would like to let you know about two things from us this time: the "2016 All Japan Square Dance Convention" and the "JSDA's mid-term action plan" for picking the membership up again.

2016 All Japan Square Dance Convention in Yokohama

Time really flies. It is already five years since we celebrated our 50th All Japan Square Dance Convention, inviting VIP's from outside of the countries (Refer to the last year's article for the information).

This 55th commemorative event will be held in Yokohama near Tokyo from August 5th, Friday, to August 7th, Sunday, where we anticipate about 1,400 dancers. We are hoping this will be another chance of international communication. In this occasion the members and clubs who have contributed many years for square dance activity in Japan will be recognized by presenting the testimonials.

JSDA's 3-year mid-term action plan

The membership of our organization which had been upward all thru its history until our 50th anniversary, reached a plateau of 14,500 and down a little bit at this year's renewal.

Considering the situation, the "3-year mid-term action plan" from 2015 through 2017 has been set as the top priority policy of the JSDA: Now our target is 16,000 by 2018. This target can be accomplished by net-increasing by one more member at each of more than 500 registered clubs. I am sure anyone would ask us HOW. Here, our strategy is to start counting the number of people who have experienced square dancing in any programs including the Community dances:

The number of "100 thousand people" was targeted to let general public realize "WHAT THE SQUARE DANCE IS". These people will have some experiences of Square Dancing. We hope this activity will connect to the better recruiting to accomplish the membership of 16,000.

We, square dancers, should share the same idea to have the happy moment.

To realize this purpose, we would like to contribute for the spread of Square Dance in cooperation with related foreign organizations and interchange with lover of the Square Dance.

## CSCTA

### Dear square-dancing friends,

Let me invite you in the name of the CzechoSlovak Callers & Teachers Association to visit Bratislava, the capital city of Slovakia (and the Square Dance in Slovakia), for the 2nd Slovak Convention which will take place at the turn of April and May in 2016. The program is very attractive, offering not only the best-known Czech and Slovak leaders, but also several others coming from abroad, the most prominent among them being Søren Lindergaard from Denmark.

After eight years, the CSCTA Convention is coming back to Slovakia for the second time ever. Those who had attended the first one know now that there is something very special about Slovakia and Slovak square-dancers, and they are happy to come back every May for the Unconventional May Special Dance to immerse in an atmosphere of fun, friendship and fellowship again and again. I would like to suggest to those who have never come to consider a trip to the 2nd Slovak Convention, too. The extensive experience of the Karolína Square Dance Club with organizing big dances is a guarantee that everything possible (along with a few impossible items, too) will be arranged and taken care of.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you in a square, at the afterparty or just anywhere at the 2nd Slovak Convention in Bratislava in 2016!

Sincerely,

Tomáš "Doug" Machalík  
President of the CzechoSlovak Callers & Teachers Association

## CHINA ( BEIJING)

### Happy Square Dance and Enjoy your life

Square Dance have been known in Beijing in the year 1997, which was informed by American Square Dance Alliance to the Chinese Dance Alliance to join the Caller training class in Los Angeles. Then the Chinese Dance Alliance led a team to visit American for the training class, after that five of them Mrs.Wu Linghuan, Mrs.Liu Shisong, Mr.Xie Yaxiong, Mr.Li Yaorong and Mr.Liu Daozhi including Mrs.Tang Xialing, member of the Chinese Dance Alliance became the first pathfinders to promote square dance in the different clubs located in the different districts in Beijing.

Right now most of those pathfinders are over 80 years old and they may not be involved into the regular square dance activity except Mrs.Wu Linghuan who is still working on her team also. Those pathfinders were not only the dancers but also instructors and callers. They are very active to promote and instruct square dance as volunteers. There are more than 10 clubs spread all over different districts in Beijing consisting of more than 300 dancers in total right now, such as the Smile Square Dance Club (斯迈尔) led by Mrs.Wang Xiaoping, Joyous Pas Square Dance Club (欢乐舞步) led by Mrs.Wu Linghuan, Sunshine Square Dance Club (阳光) led by Mrs.Zhang Jian, Happy Garden Square Dance Club (开心园) led by Mrs.Shen Zhinong, Hand by hand Square Dance Club (手牵手) led by Mrs.Qi Zhongyu, Long Match Square Dance Club (长征) led by Mrs.Lu ShuiYue, Ark Square Dance Club(方舟) led by Mrs. Yan Hongbin, Good Friends Square Dance Club (金友) led by Mrs.Huang Chenlan, Blueberry Square Dance Club (蓝莓) led by Mr.Lv Zhihui, Great Wall Square Dance Club (长城) led by Mrs.Yu Dongmei, Heart Song Square Dance Club (心歌) led by Dan Ling, Birch Forest Square Dance Club (白桦林) led by Mr. Wu Qi and Stepping Dance (踏歌) led by Mrs. Wang and so on. Most of clubs are very active to have regular activity and covering different square dance level every week.

In the year 2014, Smile Club, Joyous Pas Club, Sunshine Club, Happy Garden Club and Peace Joy Club have proposed to built up the China International Square Dance Alliance (CISDA) and the CISDA has been co-founded on Oct. 19, 2014. It marks the square dance in Beijing has been entered into a new stage.

The establishment of the Alliance creates a wider platform to give play to our resources, and provides opportunities to make friends with square dance people from the world, they hope to hold hand in hand towards a brilliant future! Welcome people from all countries in the world to China and to Beijing to dance with us. To not only enjoy Chinese culture for thousands of years of ancient civilization, but also, to be affected by the big changes of Chinese reform and development. The purpose of the square dancer is Happy Square Dance and Enjoy your life.

### Strawberry Feng

in Beijing, China  
10 Dec.,2015





**1 Group at the birth of CISDA**

## Square Dancing in France

2015 has been a fairly good year for the activity in France. Most clubs are gaining members though still quite slowly. The level of some of the smaller, newer clubs has risen to a point where many of the dancers are ready to pass their graduation and some of the founders are now looking at learning Plus.

In some of the older clubs, the levels have risen to A2 and even C. Lucky Boots for example have been attending the A2 extended weekend in Bad Herrenhalb, Siegen for the last 5 years, as well as the Easter Weekend in Plön. They are now hosting an annual weekend workshop of A2 and are adding a day of C1. They have callers come in from Germany to give the workshops.

Three retired Square Dancers in the Paris area are giving Square Dance lessons to grade school children a few hours a month.

Quest Paris Swings hosts two student dances each year in addition to their Special Dance. This allows for the new, clubs in the area to get to meet dancers from other clubs and allows them to realize that the activity is much more than just an evening activity to pass time. The « OPS » will be celebrating their 10th year as an official club 25 & 26 of June, 2016. We are hoping to have many visitors as this will take place in a grand hall which we don't always have.

Whereas the activity is still struggling to deepen it's roots in France, there are a lot of motivated people

helping throughout the country, from the French Riviera, through the vineyards of Bourgogne and the Cognac area, up through Paris and on to the north of France. I particularly wish to thank Claude Tanfin for his web pages in which he consolidates much of the information from the different clubs. Most clubs are referred on the site : <http://square-dance.fr/>

Tom Mackler

## Australia

## ANSDC

The details for the 2016 Australian National Square Dance Convention are:

57th ANSDC - The Sunshine Coast University Sports Stadium in Buderim, Queensland, Australia. 29th June to 3rd July 2016 Theme is "Fair Dinkum"

Co-Convenors Nev and Bev McLaughlan

Secretary : Carmel Mathieson (Email:

[secretary2016aussienat@gmail.com](mailto:secretary2016aussienat@gmail.com)

Registrar : Bob Thomson (Email:

[registrar2016aussienat@gmail.com](mailto:registrar2016aussienat@gmail.com)

Caller/Cuer Conference 2016 from 26th to 28th June 2016

at the Mantra Resort, Mooloolo Beach, Queensland, Australia.

International Presenters: Paul Bristow, Ken Ritucci, Randy & Marie Preskitt.

Also Steve Turner from Western Australia

Visit:

[ACFCALLERCUERCONFERENCE2016.WEEBL.Y.COM](http://ACFCALLERCUERCONFERENCE2016.WEEBL.Y.COM)



## CANADIAN SQUARE & ROUND DANCE SOCIETY

Friendship from coast to coast/  
L'amitié d'un océan à l'autre

1-866-206-6696 [www.squaredance.ca](http://www.squaredance.ca)

### News from the Canadian Square Dance Community

The dance season in 2014 -15 was filled with many square dance events at clubs, and provincial centers. The organizers for the next Canadian National Convention (Festival) were busy making preparations for a terrific series of dance days in Regina, Saskatchewan, from 28 to 30 July, 2016. The chance to "Partner Up Prairie Style" is very special as this is the first Canadian National Convention held in Saskatchewan. All the details for types of dances, registrations, and accommodations are shown at: [www.saskfestival2016.ca](http://www.saskfestival2016.ca)

All five forms of dance under the Canadian Society umbrella were active this past year. Contra Dancing has become much more popular in several parts of the country. Contra dancing is a North American folk dance which grew out of English Country dancing during the colonization of North America. It has continually evolved in the same way other dance movements have and in recent years has seen a huge revival in the USA. While having similar moves as square dancing, it is characterized by the usual formation of two long opposing lines and the interaction of couples up and down the line. However, a variety of formations are used and the lines may be straight, or in circles or triangles. Quadrilles (square formation) are also in common use within a contra dance program.

As seems to be the case in most Modern Square Dance countries, recruiting and retaining new dancers is an ongoing issue. Several promotional efforts have begun in the USA and Canada. One of these is to introduce a revised symbol and slogan for the square dance advertising.

The "Slogo" is shown at the top right of this page. Other ideas are being applied to publicity campaigns to encourage younger adults to join in. In some areas, teen dancers receive free Society memberships as part of the effort.

Readers are invited to visit the Canadian Square and Round Dance Society website at [www.squaredance.ca](http://www.squaredance.ca) There you will find complete information about dancing in each Province in the country. A friendly welcome awaits you from the Atlantic to the Pacific shore in the second biggest country in the world.

J.R. (Bob) Ruohoniemi  
Past President  
Canadian Square and Round Dance Society

### Square Dance WebSites & Tower of Babel

Occasionally Square Dance Newcomers are told "after you have been graduated, you can dance in all clubs everywhere in the world."

Just European Square Dancers speak a dozen different languages. We all know from the story of the Tower of Babel that communication difficulties can lead to the failure of great undertakings.

Thanks to the standard terminology and choreography of Square Dance we are able to dance with friends throughout the world as well as foreign dancers can dance with us in our clubs.

Hence, wouldn't it be obvious to present the information needed for a club visit in a way that they could easily be found and understood by any possible visitor?

In some countries there are excellent sources of information about their clubs. In other countries barely more than the websites can be found. Reading a website, one often could get the impression that it was mainly created for people who are familiar with the club rather than for those who would like to visit it.

If somebody tries to find club data through a club website, in many cases the international accessibility is hindered by national language barriers. In addition, specific information is sometimes imperfect or hidden under the most unlikely headings. That makes it even harder for a native to find the data he is looking for.

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The problem becomes particularly clear when trying to search for club data at our foreign-speaking neighbor's website under such circumstances.

Even an **English version of a web site** does not solve the problem completely. A dancer with little knowledge of English would find the data of the dance hall much easier if it could be found under the

heading *DanceLocation* instead of *Where Do We Dance* or similar paraphrases.

This brings us back to the Tower of Babel and the advice that websites should imply some uniform internationalisms (words used in many languages that have similar spellings, pronunciations and meanings) that facilitate the "AnyNation-SquareDancer" to find the information needed.

**The following data should be accessible with a few clicks:**

**CLUBNIGHT:** Day, Time, DanceLevel  
or CLUBDAY *example: We 20:00 PL*  
(days as *Mo, Tu, We, Th, Fr, Sa, Su.* and  
months as *Jan, Feb, Mar. Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec.*)



**DANCE LOCATION:** LocationName, Street, №, ZIP, Town  
*example: Auerschmied 2, DE 83737 Irschenberg*  
(should be recognized by GPS navigation devices)



**CONTACT:** Phone№, Email

Typically, these data are available in three independent web pages. It would be beneficial if the associated menu items could be found close together.

Even those who do not want to disturb the national appearance of their internet presence could help for better orientation by using icons or involving one of the following methods by which unified labels can be displayed:

**Mouse over examples:**

- Language change if mouse is over menu item,  
see [dancing-moor-lights.de](http://dancing-moor-lights.de)
- Superimposing a tool tip if mouse is over menu item,  
see [flying-dandelions.de](http://flying-dandelions.de)

Nowadays, you almost can't survive without English expressions in many areas of life. Is it not a bit surprising that many American Square Dance websites don't use a single English word, apart from their club name?

Even if not many foreign visitors might be expected, some of the stones that block their way could be removed without great efforts.

When setting up the navigation through a Web site, lets be inspired by the airports in the world. Imagine the chaos if there were no unified information which are easily understood by most travelers.

Wolfgang Benz, [routesdc@eaasdc.eu](mailto:routesdc@eaasdc.eu)



Corry & Ron with "old Friends"

**The list of square dance clubs in Beijing**

1. **“Hand in Hand” square dance club**(M)  
Mr. Liu Shisong [liusong@yahoo.com.cn](mailto:liusong@yahoo.com.cn)  
Mrs. Qi Zhongyi [qzy4927@sohu.com](mailto:qzy4927@sohu.com)
2. **“Gold Friend” square dance club**(P-A)  
Mr. Liu Chengguang [sxq728@163.com](mailto:sxq728@163.com)
3. **“Joyous Pas” square dance club**(M-P)  
Mrs. Wu Linghuan [zhongj2000@126.com](mailto:zhongj2000@126.com) (M-P)
4. **“Smile” square dance club**(P-A)  
Mrs. Wang Xiaoping [smile\\_qincisen@yahoo.com.cn](mailto:smile_qincisen@yahoo.com.cn)  
Mrs. Feng Jianrong [Jr\\_feng@sina.com](mailto:Jr_feng@sina.com)
5. **“Happy Garden” square dance club** (M)  
Mrs. Shen Zhinong [szhinong@hotmail.com](mailto:szhinong@hotmail.com) (M)
6. **“Sunshine” square dance club** (M-P)  
Mrs. Zhang Jian [zhangjian1953@qq.com](mailto:zhangjian1953@qq.com)  
[zhangjian\\_009@sina.com](mailto:zhangjian_009@sina.com)
7. **“Xia Nan Cun” Square Dance Club**(M-P)  
Mr. lv Zhihui [zhihui\\_lv@sina.cn](mailto:zhihui_lv@sina.cn)  
Mrs. Wu Lihong [gmwh@sohu.com](mailto:gmwh@sohu.com)
8. **“Xin Ge” square dance club** (B)  
Mrs. Dai Lin [zhaochongzheng@hotmail.com](mailto:zhaochongzheng@hotmail.com)
9. **“Tian Mei” square dance club**(B)  
Mrs. Liu Jiaping [vip588@sina.com](mailto:vip588@sina.com)
10. **BIT Art Friends Square Dance Club** (P)  
Mr. Hu Yangyi [Hu\\_Yangyi@tom.com](mailto:Hu_Yangyi@tom.com)
11. **Ark Square Dance Club** (P)  
Miss. Hongbin Yan [wyan0711@sina.com](mailto:wyan0711@sina.com)  
Mr. Cisen Qin [qincisen@163.com](mailto:qincisen@163.com)
12. **“Long March” square dance club**(A)  
Mrs. Lu Shuiyue [bwy666@aliyun.com](mailto:bwy666@aliyun.com)
13. **Great Wall Square Dance Club**  
Mrs. Yu Dongmei [Lrina888@126.com](mailto:Lrina888@126.com)

2015/12/12 版本

## Calendar of Conventions & Jamborees

### 2016

March	12 – 13	EAASDC	Spring Jamboree	Forchheim	Germany
April/May	29 – 1	CSCTA	2 <sup>nd</sup> Convention	Bratislava	Slovakia
May	20—22	ECTA	44 <sup>th</sup> Round D Festival	Schöneck	Germany
June	03—05	NZSRDC	50 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Hamilton	New Zealand
June`	04—06	SAASDC	34 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Linköping	Sweden
June	22 – 25	NSDC	65 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Des Moines IO	USA
June	24 –26	DAASDC	25 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Horsens	Denmark
June/July	29 – 03	NSDSA	57 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Buderim QLD	Australia
July	22 –24	BAASDC	9 <sup>th</sup> Eur Convention	Stratford-u-Avon	UK
July	28 –30	CSRDS	19 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Regina SK	Canada
August	05—07	JSDA	55 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Yokohama	Japan
September	02 – 04	EAASDC	Fall Round Up	tba	Germany

### 2017

March	10—12	EAASDC	Spring Jamboree	tba	Germany
April	14 --17	NSDSA	58 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Bendigo VIC	Australia
May	26 - 28	ECTA	47 <sup>th</sup> Round D Festival	tba	Germany
June	21 – 24	NSDC	66 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Cincinnati OH	USA
September	01 – 03	EAASDC	Fall Round Up	tba	Germany

### 2018

April	20—23	NSDSA	59 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Perth WA	Australia
June	27 – 30	NSDC	67 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Kansas City MS	USA
July	19 – 21	CRSDS	20 <sup>th</sup> Convention	London ONT	Canada

### 2019

June	24—29	NSDC	68 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Atlanta GA	USA
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