

EUROPEAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 16, Number 1

December 2019

Editorial

Hello dance friends

Again Christmas and Sylvester are coming into view, so time for your European Newsletter.

In this 16th issue I am very pleased that the number of associations that contribute to this Newsletter has increased again by a new one.

The Taiwan association SDAROC has joined up with us.

Maybe an update on the background of this European Newsletter is useful for the more recently joined readers. The Newsletter started as an initiative by the annual joined meeting of the Square dance Associations in Europe. At that time mend as a way to exchange information among the participants in the time between their meetings.

As it was (and is) distributed by the internet, square- and round dancers in other parts of the globe got aware of it. This was also spread by the contacts of the dancers and led to the very much appreciated contacts and information from other parts of our "square dance world"

Each time I start working on a new issue I am pleased that there is again new or updated information from countries or areas. We know there are people sharing our dance but have little knowledge about the "scenery" in which they work.

I take this moment to express a warm "thank you very much" to everyone who provided me with input over the years. Without you all there had been no Newsletters.

For me 2019 was also the year of the returning of IPAC in Germany. After Amsterdam 2018 this was again a fine place to meet old and new friends

Corry and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a fine 2020 in good health and lots of fun with dancing.

Happy dancing,

Ron van Dijk

Brandenburglaan 38

NL 4333 BZ Middelburg

E mail: rvandijk@zeelandnet.nl

The Netherlands

Addresses

BAASDC

(British Association of American Square Dance Clubs)

Susan Ellis - President

Phone: + 44 7794096145

Email: baasdc.pro@gmail.com

URL: www.uksquaredancing.com

CSCTA

(Czech Association of American Square Dance Clubs)

Tomas Machalik - President

Phone: + 420 602 250 534

Email: Doug@square.cz

URL: www.square.cz

DAASDC

(Danish Association of American Square Dance Clubs)

Lotte Krogh Vangsgaard - President

Phone: + 45 40 84 84 05

Email: president@squaredancedanmark.dk

URL: www.SquareDanceDanmark.dk

EAASDC

(European Association of American Square Dancing Clubs)

Wolfgang Daiss - President

Phone: + 49 179 76 42 598

Email: president@eaasdc.eu

URL: www.eaasdc.eu

NVSD

(Dutch Association of Square Dancers)

Loet Polak - President

Phone: +31 (0) 624 233429

Email: president@squaredance.nl

URL: www.squaredance.nl

SAASDC

(Swedish Association of American Square Dance Clubs)

Jessica Dhyr - President

Phone: + 46 70 6939416

Email: Jessica@squaredans.se

URL: www.squaredans.se



BAASDC

2019 Annual Report from the President of British Association of American Dance Clubs for the European Newsletter.

Two years on and I'm still in post and as the famous poignant French phrase goes, plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose - the more things change the more things stay the same.

Now a quiz! What do the following have in common? Siberian tiger, ivory-billed woodpecker, lemur, mountain gorilla, leatherback sea turtle and Square and Round dancers. Give up? We are all endangered species, and as such need protecting - and who exactly is going to do that? Well as I look around at all the countries that have Square and Round dancing, some are in a good place, but those whose numbers are dropping then it's obviously up to us to keep dancing alive and kicking for as long as possible. For as we all know and can recognise the symptoms - yes that means you and me, we are addicted to dancing. Sadly there is no cure!

Of course I cannot let this opportunity of talking to our European neighbours pass without a reference to Brexit. All I can say is that your guess is as good as mine as to what will happen! When you read this in the New Year anything could have happened but BAASDC will continue to encourage our dancers to go abroad to dance.

I am happy to report that our initiative to encourage Clubs to stop using single-use plastic is working and many dancers are taking their own re-usable mugs to dance events.

We have an on-going debate as to whether dancers should wear bands or sashes and when and where. Opinion is divided. However when dancing in Europe I have rarely seen a band. Dancers seem very happy to rely on their knowledge of their position in the square. It was especially interesting to see that when dancing with the young people from the 'Lions Club' in Germany and the 'Buffaloes' in Sweden they were happy to dance in any position and not a band in sight. How do other countries view the 'sash'?

When considering attending any dance event whether here or abroad it is helpful to know its exact location. Is it near a famous city of landmark or offers attractive activities nearby. Combining a dance holiday with visits to places in a great location is more tempting to the traveller. So it might be a good idea to mention these things when designing your flyer! Just a thought!

Our philosophy is to retain promote and maintain dance clubs and to this end our Council continues to give financial incentives to Clubs who recruit and graduate dancers. This is always appreciated by the clubs.

One idea I really like is the German custom of shaking hands with everyone in your square. You only need to do it once and not repeat it if you meet the same dancer again in a different square. This

encourages a friendly attitude and anything that makes dancers smile at each other can only be a good thing. I think it would be a great thing to introduce in the United Kingdom. Wish me luck! As our activity is so dependent on reasonable physical fitness and with our aging dance population some dancers find a lot of dancing difficult. As a result of this when attending weekly club nights or dance events they prefer to take rests. I know they feel embarrassed that they cannot dance as much as they used to. I feel that clubs should make all the dancers welcome and be cognisant of their changing needs. Many dancers have known each other for many years and formed strong friendships. Clubs should make them feel comfortable to attend and realise and understand the importance of the social side of attending dance events.

In July I attended iPAC the International Plus Advanced and Challenge weekend in Barmstedt Germany. It was a wonderful event held in very high temperatures and was an opportunity for me to meet up with the other Presidents of European countries and the wonderful editor of this newsletter Ron van Dijk. Thank you!

From 1950 to 1998 Come Dancing was a British Ballroom dancing competition on BBC television and became one of television's longest-running shows. It has been followed in 2004 by Strictly Come Dancing a dance competition in which Celebrities and professional dancers compete in Ballroom and Latin dances. The programme ends with everyone embracing with the words 'Keep Dancing' so let's all do just that!

Susan Ellis
President of British Association of American Square Dance Clubs

CSCTA**Dancing in the Czech Republic and Slovakia:****What to Expect**

Quite often, dancers from the Western Europe or other countries that visit the Czech Republic or Slovakia look for local clubs or for weekend dances to dance at. In order to help them, the calendar of Czech and Slovak events is now available in English (<http://www.square.cz/calendar>) and German (<http://www.square.cz/kalender>), too. Moreover, the English version of the directory of clubs (<http://www.square.cz/directory>) contains contact information as well as other useful data; however, it is strongly recommended to get in touch with the particular clubs that you would like to visit and to make sure about the dance time and place. In general, it is good to bring shoes to change into for dancing; proper attire is usually not required. There are also a few points that are quite specific for Czech and Slovak dancing as compared to other countries:

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- The clubs are rather small. Clubnights are often attended by one or two squares only.
- Many dancers understand no or almost no English or German. They will enjoy dancing with you but it is difficult for them to talk to you. Please do not consider them unfriendly because of this.
- The average age of dancers is less than 50 although this can differ from club to club. As a result, the tempo of the music played can be somewhat higher than what you are used to in other countries.
- A typical weekend dance starts on Friday evening and goes on from Saturday morning till Saturday night and from Sunday morning to Sunday noon or early afternoon. Afterparties are a natural part of the evenings (and nights) when the dancing is over: you can encounter groups of dancers that sing with guitars, play board games, or just talk and have fun.
- Czech and Slovak callers are rather creative. Most of them use all-position choreography because it is what their dancers expect. It does not mean that boys need to know what girls are supposed to do and vice versa; however, you are likely to encounter choreography that commonly uses half-sashayed or same-sex couples, left-hand ocean waves and so on. Good knowledge of definitions is definitely an advantage.
- Quite a lot of foreign dancers feel that most Czech and Slovak callers and cuers have rather strong accent (of course, the calls are given in English). Although they can be difficult to understand at the beginning, experience shows that after a few minutes, everything gets better. Moreover, skilled dancers know that dancing to people with strong accents is often tremendous fun regardless of the choreography used.
- Directional calling or giving cues for parts of calls is not very common – of course, the caller does help the dancers out of trouble. If you are interested in joining Czech or Slovak squares or rounds, you will be welcome! Many regional dances and workshops take place in various parts of both countries but some bigger events are planned, too. In near future, you can attend Hornický šacht'ák in Ostrava (CZ) that takes place on the third weekend of January in 2020, or the CSCTA Convention that is combined with the Májovka dance in 2020 and takes place in Bratislava (SK) on the first weekend of May. We are looking forward to dancing with you!

LION SQUARES

Since both our big events in 2017 and 2018 are mostly completed, this year's focus was placed on the setup of a new website and the establishment of a team for hosting the website and the social media channels. At our annual meeting in Wedemark close by Hannover on May 11, 2019, the new website was

presented and launched shortly after. Currently, a team is assembled and coached for hosting the website.

Our hitherto existing webmaster Björn Bahn was elected as vice president. The webmaster position is now filled with our supporting member Stephan Jacobs. Georg Seyboldt was elected new president. Carina Bahn and Meike Dannecker are still secretary and treasurer respectively.

Our new website is generated from Wordpress, which simplifies the hosting. Furthermore, it has an accessible design in most places. It can be read out loud, the font size can be increased and we incorporated a color adjustment option. In addition, all upcoming events are posted with flyers and further information. After events that we visited, we also add the group picture. Why don't you pass by and have a look yourself!

You can reach the website at www.lion-squares.de. If you don't like something or find a mistake, please send us a short email to info@lion-squares.de.

In 2019, we also organized six club nights. On 30.5. we were on the island Sylt together with the Lenne Steppers. On 14.6. we had a club dance in Karlsruhe together with the Charly Mixers. On 7.7. we were in Trier together with the Mosel Valley Dancers and on 11.8. in Dreisen together with the Thunder Mountain Travellers. In October, we'll have a club dance in Leverkusen with the Crossing Creeks and to finish up the year a club dance on 8.12. in Erding with the Duke Town Promenaders. We never had that many club dances in one year so far!

And also for next year we already have several club dances in the works. Our youth dance will take place in Bergneustadt close by Cologne on April 24-26, 2020. Everyone aged 14 to 30 can participate. For our senior lions (everyone above age 30 and all supporting members) we host the first Silver Lion Dance close by Kassel in February.

Apart from dancing, we also have several other informal meet ups. This year we went ice skating, met to play board games, had BBQ and played black light mini golf.

We hope that next year will be as successful as this one and wish everyone Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

DAASDC**The year 2019 in Square Dance Denmark)**

In January, DAASDC together with Brandbjerg Folk High School invited for a 5-day square dancing experience and it became a week out of the ordinary. We had square dance lessons, singing sessions, excursions and Irish Folk music. Everyone agreed that it was an absolutely amazing and different week with a lot of input. Unfortunately, the number of participants was quite low, but we were fortunate that several "angels" helped the team when dancing was going on.

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In March, we held a day of square dance inspiration for all Danish clubs. The day started out with lectures and "openings" about fellowship and how important it is for an activity to share and pull in the same direction. All Danish clubs were invited with one or more participants. The keynote speaker was a wellknown person in Denmark, so he attracted a lot of people. Many of us went home with big smiles on their faces and thoughts of the inputs and "pearls" he delivered. Although he knew nothing about square dance he knew a lot about fellowship. In June about 350 dancers attended til Danish National Convention in Saeby, Northern Jutland. It turned up to be a fantastic festival dance. Sadly we said goodbye to Jerry Jestin who called his final dance in Denmark but at the same time we welcomed Hunter Keller on his first caller appearance in Denmark. Accompanied by Carsten Nielsen, Bjørn Andersson and Paul Bristow this convention ended up as a top event. We all sensed how much fun the callers had on stage; and the fun propagated to the dancers on the floor. A top tuned caller team to be highly recommended.

Approximately 100 Danish dancers attended the iPAC dance in Barmstedt in July. It was so uplifting to meet so many dancers from far and near all over the World. The joy of recognition was obvious. We danced from early morning to late evening. "Hygge Danish Style" was practiced all over the camping site. We all here agree that we missed the iPAC, hence: Thank you Steffen Mauring for one more dance and party.

The board of DAASDC is and will during the oncoming months be busy arranging the Danish National Convention year 2020. Sadly no Danish clubs want to sponsor the dance alone, but the DAASDC board have decided that the annual national gathering is important for the survival of Danish Square Dancing. Luckily the club "Sydjysk Square Dance" have agreed to cooperate with us and take some of the tow. The DAASDC board is also going to delegate some of the effort to other Danish clubs who then have to solve some practical tasks. This is necessary in a fellowship. Important issues like booking, economy, registration a.o. will be taken care of by the DAASDC Board, while decoration of dance halls, servicing, cleaning of halls and transportation of callers will be delegated to various clubs.

Apart from our own Danish National Convention we are looking forward to attend the European Convention in Sigtuna, Sweden. We are so excited to be able to visit the oldest town in Sweden during a Square Dance event. We encourage all Danish square dancers to attend this event and to enjoy an amusing festival. During the convention in Sigtuna the European Association will hopefully be able to decide where to hold the 2022 EC. It is unfortunately very difficult to find clubs that have

the urge and excessive forces to attend a European Convention, but we hope this will be solved. It is hard to predict the future for Modern Square Dancing in Denmark because we, as in many other places, are struggling to attract young and newer dancers and hold their attendance to our activity. We are competing against several other leisures and the fact that youth today have very different interests. We are up against social media, gaming like eg. Counter Strike and Fortnite Maybe we need to re-think the square dance programs Basic and Mainstream and focus these programs on kids and younger people in a way where they do not have to attend classes for one to two seasons to be able to dance "for real." We think this could be taught within 6 – 8 lessons if speed is increased and teaching is concentrated to contemporary music. We would like to do an experiment with younger people. This is hard because in Denmark we do not have any younger callers who can handle this challenge ... Not only the dancers are getting older ... The callers do too. However in DAASDC we choose to look ahead hoping for new inputs and ideas to be tested. In time we must succeed in a way where more people recognize the idea with our amazing pastime which e.g. prevents dementia, loneliness, overweight and strengthens connections, social relationship, joy and all in all brings happiness and self esteem ..

With these words we in DAASDC wish you all a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year
Best regards

Lotte Vangsgaard, President of DAASDC

EAASDC**Article for the European Newsletter 2019**

December usually is the time for looking back and so here's a few highlights from the past year, from my point of view.

Development of EAASDC-Club-Members
Number of Clubs on 1.Januar 2019: 527
Number of Clubs on 31.December 2019: 525
Number of Clubs lost: 7
Number of Clubs gained: 5

Board Elections and Honorary helpers of EAASDC
At the Spring Jamboree all present active Board members have been reelected. New or former ones, who have volunteered this year to support the association with their work, competency and devotion, thank you for this and a heartfelt welcome to Stefan Burger (Vice President), Klaus Kietzmann (Bulletin Editor), Andreas Macke (Data Protection Officer) and Uli Geyer (Bulletin Administrator). The same to all further volunteers, who declared their willingness to work on an EAASDC team during the course of this year.

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Here it was especially the Youth Team that grew. The future of honorary work Just as we had somewhat digested the new GDPR our clubs and we were confronted this year with the Transparenzregister (transparency index) and the first case of a club review regarding social security charges. Two issues that many of us have never heard of before, let alone know anything about. We at the association have made the endeavor to do research in these areas as well and to give recommendations to our clubs. It should be noted, however, that voluntary work in associations is becoming more and more difficult, especially due to legal requirements, and the burdens are increasing, so that many board members feel not only overburdened with work, but simply over challenged. This leads, in particular for the majority of our small clubs, to the point that many board members say "what all else should I know and pay attention to?", are very much tempted to "give it all up" and are also less and less willing to work on an honorary basis.

My personal bottom line for this:

We're all no experts in association law, tax law, social law, trademark law, data protection law or any other law. We only want to offer leisure activities in our society and make an honorary contribution to a community worth living in. The constant increase of legal and state requirements leads to increasing frustration and unaffordable expenses for legal advice and services, both for small and large non-profit associations. This development and the associated responsibility and overload for club officers will probably culminate soon in the "death of the honorary office". I hope and wish that we will not give it up and that we will continue to provide for all the members of our large community a "home" with joy in dancing.

A true (?) story with a blinking smile

As far as high age is concerned, England definitely cannot be longer in the leading position, because first of all I saw quite a few dancers there this September who were younger than me (I don't mean female dancers here, because women are always young anyway ;-)) and secondly these days I heard the following "story":

In America there is said to be a square dance couple, both dancing for about 20 years and now even up to A2. Both regret that they got to know the hobby "so late" and that the dancing offered in their area "only" gives them the possibility to dance 4 times a week.

She is apparently 100 and he 101 years old!!

Oh boy, and I thought to still dance once a week at age 68, was already a remarkable achievement 😊

'A warm glow of candles

Forever warmth in our hearts

The whole world alight with peace and friendship

Would make not just Christmas a ball.'

With this, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a joyous start into a hopefully happy New Year,

Grüße

(Greetings)

Wolfgang "Wuffi" Daiss

President EAASDC e.V.

CHINA

Square dance in Beijing in the year 2019

It is benefit from the international Square Dance developing and exchange not only in China but also in the world.

There are than 10 more Square Dance Clubs in Beijing and most of them have regular activities to practice Square Dance with different levels within their own clubs where are located in the different Districts of Beijing. Here I just want to introduce the most active clubs in the year 2019., i.e the Beijing Smile Square Dance Club (hereinafter to as Smile Club and Beijing Great Wall Square Dance Club (hereinafter to as Great Wall Club).

The Smile Club is one of the pioneers about Square Dance in Beijing established 13 years ago. Some dancers have extended their own clubs from Smile to others as seeds in Beijing during these years. The Smile Club has been establishing and perfecting the organization including adjustment to the class level, team leader, and teacher and so on since last year until now. There are about 6 new classes starting square dance and increasing about 50 new dancers to the club. The club has made a regulation to have a club's dance party every month to collect the people from different level together in order to exchange dance experience and enhance friendship. Smile Club hold the 13th anniversary was ceremoniously celebrated in the period of 17 to 22 October, 2019. More than hundreds dancers from different clubs in Beijing got together to compare notes about square dance. The club invited Mr. Michael Sikorsky, one of the famous American Caller as the only guest caller to join the convention. Accompanied by joyful and beautiful music, the whole celebration was filled with a warm atmosphere of joy and joy...

The Beijing Great Wall has been established in the year 2014 and it has been developed very fast. The first 8 developers have been enlarged into 130 people now. The club has a regular dance with different levels according to the relative regulations and levels of the International Square Dance Organizations. The dance level has covered from the basic to C3 and they have fixed time to practice every day of every week.

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They have trained a core teacher team step by step and all of the teachers are working in the practice from teaching to training as the teaching programmed. Most of the dancers have made the progress from the dance. They have got a lot of fun, experience health, collect the skills, experience sharing and enjoy hapless in the recreation and have more friends in the different dance parties. Especially the club has full of enthusiasm in the year 2019. The club has passed through grow up in strength, active member, spread the friendship, step to the happy and healthy life. The Club held a successful Celebration Party for the 5 years birthday and they invited Sandie, one of the famous American caller and Mrs.Shuying Chen from Taiwa as the guest callers to the Party. There were more than 200 dancers joined the party including the dancers from Japan and Taiwan.

The club organized the Mid-Autumn Festival Party and joined the dance party with other clubs to celebrate the traditional holiday.

To promote square dance in China, we are going to have two ways. One is go to abroad to join different dance convention in the world and the other is to invite callers coming to China to help us. Here just some examples below about our teams went outside.

Mrs.Yu, the Chairwoman of the Club led about 30 people to Taiwan to join the 9th Square Dance Convention in March of 2019.

Five dancers from Smile Club joined the 68th National Convention in Atlanta, USA in July of 2019.

There were about 10 dances from Smile and Great wall Clubs joined the 14th IPAC in July of 2019 in Germany.

Very recently the Great Wall club has collected 10 dancers to Japan to join the JANCC Convention in November of 2019 which was the third time to be there for them.

As Square Dance is going to be more popular in Beijing because of it is not only good for body but also good for your brain. The clubs in Beijing joined a lot of public welfare undertakings, especially to join the local Communities activities, such as presented the Literature art festival hold by Enterprises for the National 70th year Celebration and presented in promotional video for the Beijing Wangfujiang Department Store.

This year is the year of many collect parties about the square dance family. The clubs support each other to join the relative parties and show style of square dance to promote the activity linked the art and movement about square dance.

2019 is a year the square dance big family gather together many a pole to participate in the union and the friendship club held the activities to show the

elegant demeanor of square dance "Friendship first and the Happiness is the basic" . The spirit of the square dance encourage us to try our best to go further face to the world and hug the dancers from the world.

Here I am on behalf of local dancers sincerely invite all of you especially callers to come to China to Beijing to enjoy square dance together.

Beijing Smile Square Dance Club

Activity time: Every day in the morning

Address:

No.216 Huizhongbeili, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China

Contact: Mrs.Xiaoping Wang and Mrs.Jainping Min

Mail Box: 690675610!qq.com

Beijing Great Square Dance Club

Activity Time:

Every Morning from Monday to Saturday

Full day on Monday, Wednesday and Sunday

Address:

Andingmen Street Cultural Activity Center, Beijing

Contact: Mrs. Qike Yu and Mr.Chenjun Yuan

Mail Box: Irina888@126.com

The author:

Strawberry Feng

Telephone: 0086 13701121669

Mail box: jr_feng@sina.com

Drafted on 30 November, 2019 in Beijing, China

SAASDC

Welcome to the 11th European Square- and Round Dance Convention

The time is closing in on the next European Square- and Round Dance Convention. This time Sweden is hosting the event in the town of Sigtuna, just between the cities of Stockholm and Uppsala, next to Stockholm-Arlanda International Airport. When writing this is only 215 days left. The event is held between the 3rd to 5th July 2020, with a prestart, Trail-End Dance on the 2nd.

Sigtuna is the oldest town in Sweden and also the first capital. It was founded in 970 by King Erik the Victorious at the end of the Viking era. Today we can go back in time and visit medieval churches, ruins, castles and many other things. This is where Sweden begins! So why not spend some more days exploring the area, visit both Stockholm and Uppsala.

Hopefully, you will enjoy both the lush greenery by lake Mälaren and the dance festival. We have prepared a three days program with a lot of dancing to some of Europe's top callers and cuers as well as leisure and party time. We offer multiple dance halls, cafeteria, food, after party and a lot more.

Why not take the opportunity to cool down at the

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outdoor beach just 10 minutes walking distance from the event area.

We care for our environment and consider it as much as possible during EC2020. Among other things, we focus on less use of plastic and less car traffic.

We recommend that you bring your own water bottle. There are places to refill your bottles near the dance halls, the drinking water in Sweden is excellent. However, it is still possible to buy bottled water in our cafeterias. There will also be several recycling stations where PET bottles and aluminium cans can be recycled.

We also try to reduce car traffic as much as possible. If you live at the hotels in Sigtuna, we ask that you leave the car and walk to the dance area. It will take 10-30 minutes to walk depending on which hotel you have chosen. There will be a scheduled transfer bus between our hotel in Märsta (Best Western Arlanda Hotellby) and the dance area. Please consider taking the bus.

For those who have reserved a space for caravans and RVs, please leave these stationary during the event as much as is possible.

You will find more information on the website convention2020.eu, where you also make your registration. Don't hesitate to mail us any question you may have. We're trying to the best so you will experience a fantastic dance holiday! Visit also the Visit Sigtuna website (destinationsigtuna.se) where you find information about the town and surrounding area with all of its sights.

We hope to see you in Sigtuna at the beginning of July 2020. We are ready for your arrival and excited to welcome you!

NVSD

(Dutch Association of Square Dancers)

Dear dance friends,

My name is Loet Polak. I am the new president of the NVSD, the Dutch Association of Square Dancers. The former president Maarten Weijers has stopped after 10 wonderful years. We thank him and his wife (who supported him a lot) for that.

Just to introduce myself:

I'm dancing since 1986. I dance Rounds up to Phase V and Squares up to A1. In 1992 I became ECTA Rounddance cuer and I teach in several clubs in the Netherlands.

I hope to do the job for the NVSD as well as the former president.

In 2020 we will have a lot of events. If you're coming to the Netherlands then please visit our website www.squaredance.nl and choose in the menu: Dance Specials. There you will find all the information you need to see if you can match your visit with one of our events.

If you want to come to one of the club nights of the Dutch clubs, you will find all the information about that on our website, too. Most of us speak at least some English, so that is no problem.

On behalf of all Dutch dancers, I wish you all a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and good health.

Loet Polak

President of the NVSD

Buffalo Squares

Celebrating 25 years of young Square dancing

We all know Square dance is an activity suitable for people of all ages. Whether you are young or old does not matter, anyone can enjoy Square dancing. However, this is unfortunately not reflected in the actual age distribution of Square dancers.

Many Square dance clubs and organizations are struggling to recruit and motivate young dancers to stay in the Square dance community and keep dancing.

Over the years people have tried to figure out what young people are looking for in Square dance, what can be added or changed to make this wonderful past-time hobby more appealing to the youth.

To me, the most important reason for staying in Square dancing has been heavily dependent on one thing: Other young dancers.

Starting to Square dance at a young age can be difficult if you have no peers in your course group or in your dance club. Having someone you can relate to and keep company with is important as a young dancer, since it is easy to feel left-out when most other dancers are 30, 40 or even 50 years older than you.

This is why it is important to show new young dancers that there are other young people who are dancing and welcoming new young dancers into the community. And this is why I am so proud of being a part of Buffalo Squares, the Swedish club for young Square dancers.



Buffalo 25 yrs

For 25 years the members of Buffalo Squares have been proudly carrying our black-and-red outfits with the Buffalo logo on our backs.

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We are showing the Swedish Square dance community that there are young people out there who enjoy Square dancing and are happy to invite new young dancers to join in on the fun. Throughout the years we have been working to promote Square dance for young dancers in Sweden by organizing youth dances, summer weekend events and introductory courses for new dancers.



This November we celebrated our 25-year anniversary by hosting an open dance, inviting all dancers to participate in the happy and energetic atmosphere that is always present when dancing with members of Buffalo Squares. With Mattias Alfredsson and Hedda Nilsson on stage, both young and old had a great time together in the small Swedish town of Grimeton.

**Matias****Hedda**

I am happy to see what the Buffalo Squares have grown to become over the past 25 years, and I am excited to see where we will go from here. I would like to thank the members of Buffalo Squares who helped organizing this celebration and I would especially like to thank all our guests who came to celebrate with us.

Jens Götharson
President, Buffalo Squares

TAIWAN**Hi! Greetings from Taiwan.**

You might not have heard about square dance in Taiwan before. I hope this letter let you find some of its statistics interesting. The history of Taiwan's square dance dated back to 1970's as some officers of U.S. Military Assistance and Advisory Group/Republic of China on Taiwan headed back home and left their square dance tapes and documents here.

Originally square dance was a fancy pastime for elites who have higher socioeconomic status. As time elapsed, it is an excise for general public, and Taiwan's square dance community has evolved to a unique and open society.

There are 14 member clubs in the SDAROC, including 2 "hibernating" clubs and 1 newly established club.

The registered member dancers of the SDAROC is about 160 in year 2019. The total SD population, however, is probably over 200. Almost 99% square dancers in Taiwan reside in the Taipei Twin Cities. This gives the benefit of easy accessibility, meaning that most dancers can hit the dance floor within 60min. Approximately 90% of the dancers are women. As a result, most female dancers can dance both right and left hands, but not necessarily vice versa! The most legendary and elderly dancer is 94 years old now, and he is still actively dancing and learning C2! Thanks to Andrea Chang, leader of Antsquares Club, who has been relentlessly teaching square dance in a few primary schools for their special events. Hence we may boast that the youngest dancer might have been 8 years old :)!

The most important event in the year of 2019 must be Taiwan's International Square Dance Convention (TISDC). The 9th biennial session of TISDC was held in Taipei from March 2nd to March 3rd, with an A&C trail-in party on March 1st evening. The conference this year hosted approximately 260 participants. Besides dancers from the local clubs, there were dancers hailed from Japan, Australia, Serbia, U.K., Belgium, and China. We were honored to provide this opportunity for the attendees to get together and dance from mainstream to C2. The internationally renowned caller, Mr. Jerry Story from Iowa, USA, was the featured guest caller. He and other callers and cuers lead us swing into spring and gave us happy memories that have been lingering from then on.



Fig 1. Jerry and dancers of the 9th TISDC.

Starting from July, 2017, Chairwoman of SDAROC, Nancy Chen, initiated a caller training program, recruiting young and promising dancers to embark on a new calling adventure. Nancy herself had been serving as a voluntary instructor until June 2019. The new callers had their debut in the 2019 TISDC.

Continued on page 9

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They overcame stage fright and worked in cooperation with experienced callers in both hash calls and singing calls. They gain confidence and experience in the performances and won much applaud from the dancers. Incorporating new callers into the parties certainly brings refreshing currents into the SD community in Taiwan. We all look forward to a new look in our future SD parties



Fig 2. New callers and Nancy Chen (very center) in the 9th TISDC.

Antsquares Club is celebrating its 20th anniversary in October. Andrea Chang and the organizing committee invited Buddy Weaver from the USA and Masaru Wada from Japan as leading callers for a 2-day convention plus a trail-in party. Some of our Japanese and Australian friends also joined this festive event. A gala was arranged after the dinner where school children entertained us with square dance and martial arts, while some ANTS performed a series of folk dances. The climax of the party was the joint singing and calling of the BMW Trio (Buddy, Masaru, and Murphy) that everybody hated to call it the day. A one-day post-party tour to Jiufeng let participants send good-wishes-lanterns into the sky and marked the end of this successful event.



Fig 3. Andrea Chang and the BMW Trio.

Comparing to other countries, Taiwanese SD lovers are only a small group of people. Yet we Taiwanese SD dancers are willing to step out of this small island and reach out to the international communities and embrace friendship from all over the world.

In February we had 5 members attending a 2-day challenge camp “If You Want” at Shizuoka, Japan. In July we had 4 dancers joining Penguins Summer Dance at Tranum, Denmark, and 8 dancers participating in iPAC at Barmstedt, Germany. Just coming back from Tokyo, 18 dancers had marvelous time at the JNACC. Other individual dancers also traveled to various events like Swedish National Convention, Challenge Circus in Tokyo, AACE and Cherry Ridge in the USA, etc. Besides dancers, some callers also extended their enthusiasms to gain international recognitions. For instance, Jack Hsieh, leader of the Seasons Club, gave calls at the 3rd Slovak Convention, and Nancy Chen performed at several sessions in the 2019 JNACC.



Fig 4. Participants of the Penguins Summer Dance, Denmark.

Square dance is the most captivating pastime. From mainstream to challenge, each level gives us different types of physical and mental satisfaction. It deserves our affection and I wish you enjoy happy dancing all year round!

Chin-Yin Hwang
International Liaison,
SDAROC

Square Dancing in Japan

Jennifer Davis

Member of International Affairs Committee,
Member of Japan Square Dance Association
(JSDA)

“Wow! There are a lot more woman than men!
And what are those sashes that many of the women
are wearing across their shoulders?” This was my
first impression when I attended my very first
Dosado Party in Tokyo about twenty years ago.
The Dosado party is a thing for beginner dancers.
The caller is limited to use the basic movement or
the standard application of MS.

Dosado Parties are held annually throughout
Japan, which are sponsored by the each local
districts of the JSDA (Japan Square Dance
Association). Since there are more square dance
clubs in Tokyo, Dosado Parties are held twice a
year in the winter and summer. Therefore, many
of the square dance clubs plan their beginners
classes to complete right before the Dosado Parties
in each local district.

At the Dosado Party, each beginner dancer wore
their matching brand new hand-made puffed up
dresses for lady dancers and western shirts for men
dancers, and they all attended the square dance
party for the first time. The experienced dancers
also attend this party to make sure all of the
beginner dancers are enjoying their time during the
party.

Since most of the square dancers in Japan are
woman, it is quite common to see squares that are
almost women. So to differentiate the lady
dancers dancing the lady parts and the lady
dancers dancing the men parts, the lady dancers
dancing the men parts wear sashes across their
shoulders.

Also since each clubs are all wearing their
matching club outfits, it is quite common to see
squares that are wearing the same colored outfits.
So you would see a square where all eight dancers
are wearing green, and the square next to the green
square will be a red square, and the square next to
the red square will be a yellow square, and so
forth.

Now, after the beginner dancers enjoy their
attendance at the Dosado Party, they all learn more
new movements in the mainstream level. After
they complete their Basic and MS lessons in about
seven to eight months, they all dance the MS level
for several months, then the next beginners class
begins all over again.

In Japan, most of the club members meet regularly once
a week where there are experienced dancers and
beginners dancers dancing all together at the same time.
So a typical dance program in clubs in Tokyo will be two
beginners lessons, a full MS tip, more beginners lessons,
then a MS/Plus tip, followed with more beginners
lessons, and so forth.

Are there Dosado Parties in the European countries,
too?

JSDA

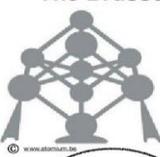
All Japan Square Dance Convention
Hiroshi Nakagawa,
Chairman of International Affairs Committee,
Member of Japan Square Dance Association (JSDA)

The 58th All-Japan Square Dance Convention was held
in Hiroshima of Chu-Shikoku Area Unification Branch
Office from September 06th to September 08th in 2019.
As you may know, Hiroshima is the place where atomic
bomb was used first in the world. The convention was
held in the memorial park of atomic bomb. So, it was
become memorable event with about 1,100 participants..

The 59th all-Japan square dance Convention is held in
Sapporo of the Hokkaido unification branch office
between Saturday, August 29 of 2020 and Monday,
August 31. We are looking forward to meeting you at
convention in Sapporo.

Detail information will be updated by
below <http://hokkaidosd.jp/59thalljapansdconventioninsapporo.pdf>

The Brussels Dancing Hearts



**MS
PLUS
A1
A2
C1**



Maarten Weijers
NETHERLANDS

Michael Kellogg
USA

Philippe Dardenne
MC

**29-30-31 MAY
& 1 JUNE
2020**

4 DAYS

FRIDAY Michael Kellogg C1	SATURDAY & SUNDAY M. Kellogg - M. Weijers MS / PLUS / A1 / A2	MONDAY M. Kellogg - M. Weijers MS
Het Hoeveke 41 Raymond Hemalsteensstraat 1970 Wezenbeek-Oppem GPS: Bosweg 9 follow the road, the parking is on your right side just before crossing Herenbeekstraat Métro L1 : stop Stockel + Tram 39 Stop Marcellie	Complex Zilp 101 Zilp 1780 Wemmel Métro L6: Stop Roi Baudouin + Bus 241: Stop Norland (1/1) or Bus 250/251 Stop: Strombeek-Drippingel (2/1)	Atomium Square de l'Atomium 11200 Bruxelles Brussels City (incl. Atomium) = Register (FREE) on www.lez.brussels

A small promotion for a 4 day event by
“my neighbours” in Belgium. Editor.



Welcome to

The 11:th European Square- and Round Dance Convention

also: The 38:th Swedish Square Dance Convention

SIGTUNA 3-5 July 2020

10 callers:

Di Green (UK), Jiri Slaby (CZ), Jack Borgström (SE), Carsten Nielsen (DK), Joachim Rührenbeck (DE), Paul Bristow (UK), Maarten Weijers (NL), Paddy Böhnke (DE), Søren Lindergaard (DK), Stefan Sidholm (SE)

4 cuers:

Loet Polak (NL), Judi Read (UK), Martin Prüfer (DE), Pavel Hosenseidl (CZ)

Levels: B–C2, Phase II-IV



Crazy Flutters
Squares, Round and Line Dance
Sigtuna-Märsta

Lunch, Pubevening, Afterparty, Café, Tour with guide in Sigtuna, Trail-End Dance (Thursday 2:nd July), and much more!

Information and registration on website:

<https://convention2020.eu>

Calendar of Conventions & Jamborees

2020

March	13-15	EAASDC	Spring Jamboree	Hochheim	Germany
April	10—14	NSDSA	61 st Convention	Katoomba	NSWAustralia
May	1 -- 3	CSCTA	3 rd Convention	Bratislava	Slovakia
June	5 -- 7	DAASDC	29 st Convention	Vamdurp	Danmark
June	17 -20	NSDC	69 th Convention	Spokane WA	USA
July	3 -- 5	SAASDC	11 th Eur Convention	Sigtuna	Sweden
July/Aug	30 - 1	CSRDS	21 st Convention	Surrey BC	Canada
August	29 -31	JSDA	59 th Convention	Sapporo	Japan
September	4 -- 6	EAASDC	Fall Round Up	tba	Germany

2021

June	24--26	NSDC	70 th Convention	Jackson MISS	USA
June	24—28	NSDSA	62 nd Convention	Darwin	Australia

2022

June	22 -25	NSDC	71 st Convention	Evansville IN	USA
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2023

June	21-24	NSDC	72 nd Convention	Mobile AL	USA
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As the European Newsletter is computerized, it would be most helpful to have articles or letters as a digital version, send by email to the editor. The editor reserves the right to exercise their discretion in editing before publication.