

# EUROPEAN NEWSLETTER

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## Editorial

Hello dance friends

We started this European Newsletter in 2003 and you see here Number 20.

It all began at the presidents meeting at the Convention in Copenhagen 2002. I attended this meeting as President of the NVSD and I was asked to start it up.

Now after 20 years being your editor and also having the first digit of my age seeing change into 8, I decided that this is a good point "to call it a day" I have informed the presidents of the Associations in Europe of my decision to step down. Of course I will give all assistance to the next editor if wanted.

I am looking back at a fine time by getting many new contacts from all over the world.

We started with the exchange of information between the associations in Europe following the birth of the bi-annual European Convention in 1997. By now we share this with square dance associations all over the globe.

In our country our hobby is sadly enough on a very low level We have only 5 active square and 4 round dance clubs left. We also lost our long time secretary Prof. Dr. Barbara Reinhartz she passed away after a long time of health problems. Barbara was more than 25 years secretary of our Dutch association NVSD.

I will remember her as a nice person who "knew what she was talking about"

Corry and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a fine and healthy 2023.

Maybe we see you somewhere on a dance floor

Happy dancing.

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**EAASDC**

Dear friends and colleagues in the Office,

The year has gone by so quickly that I am a little startled that Christmas is just around the corner. The weather here in Paderborn-Germany is still as warm as in September and only the early onset of darkness indicates the season.

Within the EAASDC clubs, club life is slowly returning to normal. Covid is no longer omnipresent and hopefully soon only the "ghost of the past". Unfortunately, we have also lost quite a few clubs this year as they are no longer dancing for various reasons. We have also lost a dear member within our board, we miss her very much.

But we also look to the future with confidence: there will be a Spring Jamboree again next year and also a Fall Round Up. The Specials will be more numerous again and our dancers will have the opportunity to meet again. I too have taken advantage of these opportunities in recent months and have been able to revive many an old contact and make new ones. These meetings are like a short holiday for the soul, as many other dancers say.

My wish for next year is that we can finally put the pandemic behind us and that our dance sections will revive and classes will be held again.

With this wish for all our organisations and clubs, I send my love to the world and wish you a blessed Christmas and a healthy and happy 2023.

Yours sincerely

Yours, Claudia Klöid  
President EAASDC e.V.

**BAASDC****. British Association of American Square Dance Clubs 2022**

After all the turmoil experienced 15 months ago I am pleased to be able to say that the BAASDC Council is functioning normally.

Arrangements have been made for the BAASDC 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations in Rugby in July 2023. Friday 21<sup>st</sup> sees Di Green and Kevin Lovell calling and Judi Read cuing. During the day on the Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> there will be multi level dancing in two halls. Saturday evening is a Gala Dance with Paul Bristow and Neil Whiston calling and Teresa Hart cuing.

The financial problems that clubs faced as a result of Covid pandemic show no sign of ending. Just as they are recovering from their effects rising energy costs are pushing up the cost of hall hire (up to 50% in some cases) which is leading to increased pressure on club finances

The effects of Covid and the subsequent lockdowns have had a devastating effect on UK square and round dancing. In the last two years over 25% of clubs (at 2020 level) have closed and others are only just surviving on just over a square of dancers meaning regular dancing is not possible. Taking this into account along with the age profile of our callers it would seem that we must expect more closures over the next few years.

Along with the Square Dance Callers Club of Great Britain, BAASDC is trying to promote the use of social media as a recruitment tool, it having proved very successful where it has been piloted.

David Eagland  
Prersident BAASDC

**DAASDC  
Greetings from Denmark**

Now time is up for a new evaluation of Square Dancing in Denmark. Looking back at 2022 the first thing that hits my mind is the Danish Convention. Two years without conventions ... how will it go then? ... it went absolutely fantastic! Everyone had been looking forward to be able to dance together again. DAASDC was fully satisfied with the number of dancers attending – it was fantastic! On that occasion it was also my first opportunity to meet Claudia and Andrea from the EAASDC board. We had a fine conversation about our wishes for Square Dancing in Europe. We also discussed the problems regarding the European Convention 2022 in Vienna, what was going on and why the event was cancelled. However, we chose to look ahead to the next European Convention in 2024 which will be in Denmark. 'Hedens Squaredansere' and DAASDC are looking forward to a fantastic European Convention 2024 in Ikast, and we will welcome dancers from near and far. At that event DAASDC will invite the other European Square Dance federations to a meeting where we can look over the common guidelines for holding the European Convention. The guidelines need a major upgrade as they have not been reviewed since 2016. Several positions in the respective federations have been occupied by new persons who probably have new and great ideas.

After all the summer of 2022 offered a trip to Vienna. Sadly not to the European Convention but to a substitution dance instead. After all we had already booked flights as well as accommodations. We would also like the use the opportunity to promoting European Convention in 2024 in Denmark - so we hurried up packing the suitcases and off we went. Now, when one travels to a dancing festival it's important to combine the trip with some sightseeing.

**Continued on page 3**

**Continued from page 2**

We spent a week in Vienna and had some great experiences at the dance as well as the city.

At the dance DAASDC and 'Hedens Squaredansere' drew attention to both the Danish Convention 2023 and the European Convention 2024. We hope to see many of our dancing friends from near and far to both festivals. Check our web site [www.Squaredancedanmark.dk](http://www.Squaredancedanmark.dk). Danish Convention 2023 will be held in Saeby in North Denmark. So if you are arriving from "the South" to Denmark it's just "Straight Ahead" along motorway E45. We suggest to combine the dance with a vacation at "The Top of Denmark."

Read more: <https://www.toppenafdanmark.dk/en>.

Fortunately, we have had a good start with small and larger dancing events. We did, however, lose some dancers as well as clubs after the corona pandemic. In DAASDC we are aware of the fact that outside our association some square dancing is going on in other contexts and in other associations that have chosen to act outside of DAASDC. We appreciate the opportunity to dance Squaredance no matter where it is. We choose to look forward and hope that at some point we can attract more members.

DAASDC wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in a Square.

Lotte Vangsgaard, President DAASDC

**NVSD**

(Dutch Association of Square Dancers)

Dear dance friends,

This year we have no big problems with the virus so we thought things are getting back to normal. But still a lot of members were stopped so it's more difficult to keep everything going but we do our best. We already planned some parties for the next year. You can find them on our website:

[www.squaredance.nl](http://www.squaredance.nl).

Before going to any club or party please check the Corona regulations for that moment (on the website you will find contact persons for every club).

The number of active dancers is a little bit down due to several circumstances but we are still keeping the activity alive.

At this moment there is not much news from here.

Please follow us on the website or Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/squaredance.nl>

On behalf of all Dutch dancers, I wish you all a good and healthy new year.

Loet Polak

**CSCTA**

News from the Czech Republic and Slovakia

After the usual summer break (when most clubs did not dance at all), we are back to normal.

Unfortunately, the numbers of new dancers are very low and many clubs do not have classes at all – but it seems that we did not lose any clubs due to CoViD!

Although our calendar of events used to offer many full-weekend dances that were attended by dancers from near and far, the economic situation is resulting in fewer people at these dances and shorter distances that they are willing to travel. There are still several charter dances and workshops taking place and we also see some regional one-day events – which were quite rare in the past.

Even though the CoViD situation makes travelling difficult, we see some of our dancers travelling abroad to dance – and also some foreign dancers attending our dances! The true spirit of friendship as the base of square dancing and round dancing is still real and we all appreciate it! Anybody who wants to meet new and old friends at our dances is welcome – more information about the events can be found in the online calendar: [square.cz/calendar](http://square.cz/calendar)

Tomas "Doug" Machalik

President of the CzechoSlovak Callers & Teachers Association (CSCTA)

**SAASDC**

1982! 2022! 40 years old. Yes, SAASDC turned old. We had our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday on November, 7<sup>th</sup>. Time again for a new newsletter and what to write? Everything is not back to normal – will it ever be? We notice that when we do our yearly check with the clubs (Regarding their numbers of members and what level they are on etc.). Many clubs are now seeing the effects of Covid-19 and sadly have to close down.

But of course we hope that we are finished with the pandemic and that we can go back to where we had been and (thumbs held) with a whole lot of new friends that will discover the wonderful of Square Dancing. We enjoyed the National Convention 2022 in Flen. It was so wonderful to be back with good friends, lots of dance, good callers and everything surrounding.

We now look forward to National Convention 2023 in Halmstad May 19-21. Please come and join us! See more on: [www.convention2023.se](http://www.convention2023.se)

**Continued on page 4**

**Continued from page 3**

We also just had (when this is written) our first digital board course. Attendants from different places in Sweden met online and learned about what is important to think about when you're a board member.

Feel free to visit our website: [www.squaredans.se](http://www.squaredans.se) or follow us on Facebook where we are called Squaredansförbundet.

Take care and stay safe! Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Ing-Marie Lindh, board member SAASDC

**JAPAN**

Member of Japan Square Dance Association (JSDA)

Hello from Japan.

Japanese people have received 3 to 5 doses of Covid19 vaccination, so the regulation is beginning to be relaxed. However, the number of infected people is increasing in Japan. At present (Nov. 15), the 8th wave of Covid19 is starting. Infected people number is over 10,000 in Tokyo and over 100,000 infected people in all of Japan in a day after two months. But the political decision is made the decision to relax considering economic reasons.

As a piece of good news, 2023 will be our first National Convention since 2019 and we are very excited and hopeful that it will take place. It is being held from the 1st of September to the 3rd of September 2023 in the regional town of Hakata, Fukuoka prefecture. The theme is "I Love Festivals, Good Place Hakata - Smiles Again Convention."

\*All Japan Square Dance Convention in Hakata from 2023-09-01 to 09-03 wish square dance events is held as before in the world.

Catch Phrase

「まつり大好き よかこ博多  
笑顔ふたたび コンベンション」



Badge Design

Hiroshi Nakagawa  
Chairman of the International Exchange  
Committee of JSDA

**TAIWAN**

Dear fellow dancers,

The pandemic is not yet over this year in Taiwan. It has been enormously affecting our daily lives. Although more than 85% of the population have received at least two doses of COVID-19 vaccines, the numbers of domestic confirmed cases started to soar in April, 2022. Most SD clubs had called off routine activities since then. Accordingly, the SDAROC's Spring Party, originally organized to be held on 17, April was cancelled. SD Clubs reopened gradually in July.

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden death of Mr. Huber Ho in July, 2022. Huber was a wonderful gentleman with an incredible passion for square dance. He had been leading the Metro Taipei SD Club for more than 20 years, and was the most important and beloved caller and club leader in Taiwan. Huber played an important role in the developing of Taiwan's square dance and had laid a solid foundation of calling and teaching that many Taiwanese callers and dancers benefitted from. It is such a great loss for all of us.

**Continued on page 5**

Continued from page 4



Fig1. Huber Ho (center) draws slips at the Year-End Party last December and poses with the Lucky Red Envelop winners. It was the last party he called and sang.



Fig 2. Huber and Mandy makes a wonderful and legendary couple in almost every party.

Usually, the SDAROC holds four joint parties each year, partial membership will be refund if this goal is not met. So far only two parties have been organized this year. On 24, July Ms. Beral Shen called for a general assembly the day after Huber's funeral. She was re-elected as the chairperson of the SDAROC for another term. A session of the after-party was dedicated to Huber and his recorded calling tips were played in memory of his contributions. The second party was a Thanks-Giving Party, held on 6, November. Less than 50 percents of the members took part in these two events. Low participation rate implies that most dancers still don't feel comfortable with the mass

gathering. This concern has to be alleviated before dancers go back to the dance floor.



Fig 3. Dancers pose for Thanks-Giving party on 6, November.



Fig 4. SSD is a newly adopted approach to recruit dancers.

But every cloud has a silver lining. In this year, Andrea Cheng and Nancy Chen, leaders of Ant Squares and TWTC respectively, started to introduce SSD (Social Square Dance) to the new dancers. This is a great jump-start for potential dancers to have a quick glance before they dig into the beauty of square dance. The alteration is indeed expanding a broader base for SD teaching in Taiwan. On the other hand, a few dancers were invited by the Polly Wally Club to start a journey to C3B learning this February. Polly Wally is a club of C3A and B, its members are from various clubs. It is a rare opportunity to have openings for new members. Recordings have been used as teaching materials, and more experienced dancers have been playing the role as angels for the new comers. Team effort makes the learners less stressful and gives angels times to review calls again, it is truly a win-win situation.

Furthermore, Murphy Chang, leader of Clover Fun Squares, has been organizing SQ FUN, a series of inter-club party, twice a month if situation permits. Dancers pay for thickets and enjoy a Saturday morning dancing from levels Plus to A2. SQ FUN allows us to dance regularly and readily besides the joint parties. In addition, Grace Su, leader of Cheng-Kung, started to adopt the 2-couple square in teaching.

Continued on page 6

## Continued from page 5

With 4 phantoms in a square, dancers need to be more aware of the definitions, the formations, and the relationships with phantoms, etc. It takes a great deal of concentration and brain power and hence makes dancing even more challenging and fascinating.



Fig 5. Wenchao Liao (5th to the left), leader of the Polly Wally Club, welcomes new dancers for C3B learning.



Fig 6. New callers signify a new era. Beral Shen (left), Robin Lo and other new callers frequently perform at parties. Nancy Chen (right) is the 'caller producer'.

Nancy Chen will be hosting a 25th anniversary party for the TWTC Squares on 11, December. We all hope that not only TWTC but also all SD clubs in Taiwan will expand and extend progressively. Year 2022 is certainly not a year of abundant harvest, but we will be patiently sowing and waiting for the reaping to come in the future. While most people are either vaccinated or infected, there's a chance that Taiwan will move COVID-19 from being a pandemic to an endemic. Hopefully we will be able to travel and dance with friends around the world in the coming year. Let's stay positive! On behalf of all Taiwanese dancers, I wish you all the best in the New Year.

Chin-Yin Hwang  
International Liaison,  
SDAROC

## AUSTRALIA

Australia is again dancing in all States and the Australian National Territory.

Our first National Square Dance Convention was held in Goulburn NSW in April 2022 with only Australian Dancers, as borders were still closed and dancers did not want to risk further cancellations. We now invite you to come and square dance in Australia, at our clubs, our State Conventions and the National Square Dance Conventions of 2023 and 2024.

Our National Squares Dance website: [www.squaredanceaustralia.com](http://www.squaredanceaustralia.com) will give you all the information and links to give you lots of opportunity to dance when travelling in Australia. I hereby give you the dates that are known for our square dance conventions:

10th to 13th March 2023 - Victorian State Convention at San Remo (close to Phillip Island).

Contact: Julie Leydon (Secretary)

Phone +61498372314 Email:

[jleydon1993@gmail.com](mailto:jleydon1993@gmail.com)

20th to 24th April 2023 - 63rd Australian National Square Dance Convention, Parafield Gardens, near Adelaide, South Australia

Contact: Graham Elliot (Convenor)

Phone +61403929044 Website:

[www.adelaide2023.com](http://www.adelaide2023.com)

4th to 6th August 2023 - Queensland State Convention, Buderim, Sunshine Coast, Queensland.

Contact: Bev McLaughlan Website:

[www.40qldconvention@gmail.com](mailto:www.40qldconvention@gmail.com)

20th to 24th May 2024 - 64th Australian National Convention, Darwin, Northern Territory. No venue or contact have been released yet.

It was nice to get another email from you and I wish to thank you for inviting Australia to be part of your information for European square dancing.

Kind regards

Mary Beerens

## CHINA

This year is the third year of that we have been suffering the epidemic COVID-19 in the World. Our country has the general policy of Prevent external input and internal rebound and dynamic zeroing based upon the resistance to disease concept of "People come first and life comes first". That means if an epidemic is found, it will be isolated, so that there would be no continuous community transmission and large -scale rebound.

Continued on page 7

**Continued from page 6**

For those quarantined at home, the community will provide enough vegetables and meat for residents to stay at home (as the photos below).



Community as the first line of defense, back to the medical institutions, the prevention of severe illness and death as the most important line of defense, is not completely lying in peace.

There are no any square dancers suffered by the epidemic reported luckily in Beijing up to now because of we put on the masks and adhere to nucleic acid once within 72 hours and avid to visit the medium and high risk area including we could not be possible to go abroad to join any international square dance conventions.



Our communities organized nucleic acid testing in an orderly manner nearby the residences, and I served as one of volunteers to maintain the orders (as the photos above).

There are very strong bases of square dances involved by millions of old, middle-aged and young dancers in China with various of 56 multiple nationalities. The leadership of Beijing Smile Club, one of the most active clubs in Beijing makes use of the chance to create the square dance with local cultural. We had more than 80 people dance together under the help of the famous callers of Toru Ogami from Japan, Brain from Australia and Joachim Ruehenbeck from Germany in recent years (The Group SQD photos as below).



We miss all of callers who visited China and dance together with us. Hope everything would be come back soon.

We would like to emphasize that the large-scale team dance exhibition of China Smile Club shows the Chinese characteristics, the wisdom and ability of Chinese people, the innovative cognition of square dance group, the effort and contribution. It had the desired effect. It has been widely praised by the society.

The club realized that the construction of the organization team could not be separated from a batch of new recruits. The Group Square Dance can show the comprehensive coordination ability of dance personnel at all levels. In the square performance, the old dancers for the new players are obvious demonstration role, which can better consolidate the team business construction.

**Continued on page 8**

Continued from page 7



The photo showed one of basic classes.

The club does not relax the basic training. In the stage of improving from M to P level, the club constantly emphasizes the basic training to the students. In the stage of consolidating the P level, the club holds the "advanced class" training for the students on the basis of P level again, and the effect is obvious.

The club has dance parties weekly and monthly under the cooperation with Kangda Family of CITIC-Prudential LIFE Insurance Company Limited from March, 2022 to now in their plaza (as the photos below.)



The maximum number is about 50 at a time for the month party due to the limitation of collect people.

There are about 30 people learn square dance for five years in the club. They have made a very big progress and they they said that square dance is a password dance, the western dance, when the most out of learning because we don't understand English, feel a little boring at the beginning. But later insisted down under we encouraged each other, now they have jumped to C3A level. Everyone feel special and the dance can let us increase the memory, also have the exercise on the body, learning square dance have a positive feeling, learning from each other, help each other, solidarity and affection, with ran from 2020 to now, there have been outbreaks but we've never been stopped square dance because of square dance can make us happy, refreshed, positive! All in all, we think square dancing brings us a lot of benefits. 热爱、坚持、携手、快乐! In general "Love, join hands, persevere and be happy" become the power of our dancers.



The above left photo showed the dancers played in the Olympic Forest Park in Nov., 2022. The right photo was played in the community area in Sept. this year.



Smile Club has only more than 16 years of construction, the team of teachers and callers are relatively weak, but we continue to learn from the major clubs in Europe and the United States, hoping to enhance exchanges for friendship.

Welcome all of you to Beijing to see Chinese people's real state of life.

Draft by Jianrong Feng (Strawberry) in Beijing [Jr-feng@sina.com](mailto:Jr-feng@sina.com)

9 November 2022



## Calendar of Conventions & Jamborees

### 2023

March	10 – 12	EAASDC	Spring Jamboree	Kuchen	Germany
April	20—24	NSDSA	63 <sup>rd</sup> Convention	Adelaide SA	Australia
May	19 – 21	DAASDC	31th Convention	Sæby	Denmark
May	19 –21	ECTA	Round Dance Festival	tba	
May	19 – 21	SAASDC	41 <sup>st</sup> Convention	Halmstad	Sweden
June	21 - 24	NSDC	72 <sup>nd</sup> Convention	Mobile AL	USA
July	2 - 10	IAGSDC	40 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Ottawa	Canada
July	21 –22	BAADC	70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	Rugby	UK
September	1 –3	JSDA	59 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Hakata	Japan
September	1 – 3	EAASDC	Fall Round Up	Dachau	Germany
October	5 - 8	ECTA	Convention	Leipzig	Germany

### 2024

March	15 -17	EAASDC	Spring Jamboree	tba	
May	20 – 24	NSDSA	64 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Darwin NT	Australia
June	26- 28	NSDC	73 <sup>rd</sup> Convention	Milwaukee WI	USA
July	26 -28	DAASDC	11 <sup>th</sup> European Convention	Ikast	Denmark
Aug/September	30 - 03	EAASDC	Fall Round Up	tba	

### 2025

June	25 - 28	NSDC	74 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Shreveport LI	USA
July	7 – 11	NSDSA	65 <sup>th</sup> Convention	Morayfield QL	Australia

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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.