

# The Banana Benders Bugle

September 2007

My Scribble

## Calendar of Events

The bulk of this Bugle is a report on the special meeting of dancers held 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2006. I have had many requests to publish this but it only recently came to hand. Please remember this report contains suggestions from the dancers present. These suggestions are not binding on any person or body but they are worth reading and some are well worth implementing. You may have some other suggestions to add to the list. (The Bugle will be happy to publish any good idea or comment.) In the future we may see some results from such discussions. When the new Constitution is initiated, dancers who become members of the Society will be encouraged and able to put their suggestions directly and personally to the management committee. It is sincerely hoped that will include every square dancer in Queensland.

It is anticipated that the new Constitution for the Society will attain acceptance by the Department of Fair Trading in the near future. This procedure was interrupted to facilitate the combining of the changes of Constitution and the Society AGM. The Society Secretary will inform all of the proposed arrangements in the next short while.

I owe possible contributors to the September Bugle an apology. In the July Bugle I inserted a notice that the next contributions for the Bugle should be in by the 22<sup>nd</sup> September. I really meant the 22<sup>nd</sup> August. And that wasn't the only booboo. I made a couple of others too. I should run a competition, "How many mistakes will be in the next edition of the Bugle?" I comfort myself by remembering 'that the only way to never make a mistake is to do nothing, and that is the biggest mistake of all.'

NOEL MILLER

Contact The Bugle:- burtrax@bigpond.net.au

Noel Miller, 29 Bluegrass Crest. Eight Mile Plains  
4113 Ph. 3841 6619

### SEPTEMBER

- 5 Uniting Squares Birthday Dance.
- 8 Logan City Square Dancers Inc. Saturday Dance
- 15 S Bar B SPECIAL DANCE. See Page 5
- 21 – 23 Q'ld State Convention
- 28 International Food Night at Salad Bowl Squares
- 29 Pine Rivers 5<sup>th</sup>. Saturday Dance

### OCTOBER

- 6 – 7 Rocky & District Square Dance inc. 3rd. Birthday. Page 7
- 13 Logan City Square Dancers Inc. Saturday Dance
- 19 – 21 Armidale Spring Festival. Page 2
- 26 Q.C.A. Gala Dance
- 26 Salad Bowl Squares Halloween Night
- 27 50<sup>th</sup> Sunshine State Roundup
- 29 Upbeat Chaos Party Night

### NOVEMBER

- 6 Gumdale Melbourne Cup Day
- 10 Logan City Square Dancers Inc. Saturday Dance
- 10 Harvey Bay Graduation Dance.
- 18 Q.C.A. Quarterly Meeting/Caller training session
- 24 Society Christmas Party
- 25 Society General Meeting & A.G.M.
- 30 Ice-cream Night at Salad Bowl Squares

**Copy for the October Bugle would be welcome on or before 22nd. SEPTEMBER.**

**Yep, that's right, this time.**

Reproduced courtesy of

## VALE – DON GILLESPIE

At the Adelaide Convention in June 2007, Don Gillespie was elected as Co-ordinator of the TAWS Group (Travelling Australia With Squaredancers).

Sadly, Don passed away Thursday 23rd August in a swimming accident in North Queensland. He will be missed by the State Representatives and Members of the TAWS Group and the many square dancers around Australia who knew him.

### 31<sup>st</sup> Armadale Spring Festival

19-20-21 October 2007

Come and help us celebrate  
a great weekend of Dancing!

Square Dance Callers: :

Jason Dean & Mike Davey

Rounds: Linda Williamson

Clogging: Suellen Guest

Contact David Williams

02 6775 1707

dwilliam@northnet.com.au

www.armidaleeights.net

### Pine Rivers Senior Citizens inc.

*Spring in the South Pacific*

7p.m. 29th September

Community Hall,  
Anzac Avenue Kallangur

Cost \$5

A sumptuous supper

Inquiries to Margaret 3285 2130

Jan 3205 1696

### News from Upbeat CHAOS

The Pajama Party went off really well with most people dressing in winter attire and dressing gowns but oh! those slippers! They were something else. Cows, Pigs, Heaven-knows-what and some just plan slippers. A great night had by all.

Good to see the numbers picking up again. Russell Wall was the big winner of the membership draw after it had jackpotted for quiet a few weeks.

Rounds will be on 10th and 24th September 2007. October 29th is the next Party Night when the theme will be "The Roaring 20's." Don't forget to dress up.

Yours in dancing,  
Corinne Bradshaw

### The Sunshine State Roundup

Please remember that there will be a

**Dressed Set Parade**

at

**The Sunshine State Roundup.**

A notice to clubs will be included with the Society mailing in the very near future.

### FRIENDSHIP

There's a miracle of friendship  
That dwells within the heart  
And you don't know how it happens  
Or where it gets its start . . . .  
But the happiness it brings you  
Always gives a special lift  
And you realize that friendship  
Is God's most perfect gift.

Author unknown.

**The sweetest music you can hear on  
a dance floor is the sound of laughter.**

## MORETON BAY SQUARES

Hi! Everyone, just a short piece this time. We have had a quiet few weeks with dancers away for the National, other holidays and of course the flu bug. We are still dancing one and a half to two squares most Saturdays. Our learners are dancing well and having fun making mistakes and learning along the way.

Three of our dancers spent the weekend in Buderim with Jerry Jestin and had a great time finishing a little brain-drained at the end. Nellie & Alec, our President and Treasurer, have moved to Hervey Bay, and we wish them all the best I am sure we will see them on the dance floor often in our travels.

Jack Garlick is our new President .We are looking forward to the State Convention and hope to meet up with you all there.

“Til then,  
Friends in Dancing ,  
Ann Dix, Secretary.

## News for Tugun Twirlers

Our Cartoon and Comic Night party is on 29th August, so I will fill you in next month on what costumes were worn.

Numbers were down a little as some were away and others had colds and flu. Great to see our visitors from South Australia enjoying the last month of dancing with our regular members.

The Members' jackpot had been accumulating value for quiet a few weeks and was won by one of our newest members. Thanks to Eric Bradshaw for filling in for me while I was away.

New Round Dance classes will begin on Wednesday 5th September 2007 from 6 -7 pm. Everyone welcome to attend. Continuing then with Mainstream 7-8.30 pm. then supper. After supper we have plus till 10 pm. A few members are off to the Woopie Weekend. Have a good one and drive safely.

Yours in dancing,  
Corinne Bradshaw

## STEPPING OUT WITH CLOGGING

It was SHOWTIME again for the Combined Brisbane Cloggers group, who after a successful appearance in their heat of Senior Superstars at Moorooka Bowls Club, went on to compete in the final at a packed Brisbane City Hall.

Putting on a crowd-pleasing performance as one of seventeen acts in the final, this time we didn't fill one of the top three spots but did a power of good in promoting Clogging.

The Seniors' Week Dance Spectacular, again in the Brisbane City Hall, saw Clogging and lots of other dance styles going on with spectator participation, with the Cloggers then moving to their usual venue, the Sherwood Room, for another Clogging session.

New members are still being attracted to Beginners' classes and I am happy to point you in the right direction to a Club near you, including our Monday morning classes in - guess where?- yes, the beautiful Brisbane City Hall.

A few more demos are in the offering and will let you know about them in the next edition of the BBB.

Our National Clogging Convention is underway in Canberra with a brilliant attendance of Cloggers from all over. Congratulations to the organising Committee for a fantastic job. Next year's Convention will be in Sydney.

Live, love, laugh and keep dancing,

**Frances**

FRANCES LOOK O.A.M.

PH: 3391 6526,

The man who follows the crowd usually gets no further than the crowd. The man who walks alone is likely to find himself in places no one has ever been.

From the Courier Mail. W/e 26/2/05

## **PINE RIVERS SENIOR CITIZENS**

On behalf of all our dancers, we would like to express our condolences to Graham Rigby and family on the loss of Val. Val will be sorely missed by square dancers everywhere- she was a wonderful lady.

We're pleased to say that our dancers are overcoming their illnesses and we have danced 3 sets for the past few weeks. For those who are still battling ill health, we hope you will be back with us very soon.

16 of our members travelled to Bundaberg for the weekend of 10/11/12th August and had a great time. The Q.C.A. held their quarterly meeting and Callers' School during the weekend and a few of our dancers sat in on the school on the Sunday morning. It was a real eye opener for them.

We must have the travelling bug at the moment as 5 of our members then went to Rockhampton a fortnight later to hear Brian Hotchkies.

Margaret enjoyed her night calling for the Logan dance on the 18th. A minibus taking dancers from both Pine Rivers and Northside Promenaders travelled across for the dance. There were six squares dancing that night, and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the evening.

We look forward to seeing you at our next dance, 29th September (refer to Calendar of Events).

Regards Jan Hay

## **Gumdale Reunion Ball**

On August 15, approximately 85 dancers were on hand to celebrate a reunion of Gumdale members.

It was wonderful to see so many dancers enjoying themselves, catching up with old friends and dressing up in sartorial splendour. The prize for the best dressed couple went to Des and Mavis Wilcock.

In presenting the night's entertainment, Alan Evans was assisted by young callers - Matthew and Michael Mills from Central Queensland, and they showed us why they are regarded as the up and coming stars of the calling business.

The hall was splendidly decorated with streamers and balloons. Bottles of non-alcoholic wine were placed on the tables which were arranged in the manner of a fashionable restaurant causing many favorable comments. Plentiful food was supplied for the supper, courtesy of the many patrons who supplied plates for which the organising committee was extremely grateful. Our thanks are also extended to the donors of raffle prizes.

In short, the night could be summed up by the comment of one dancer who rated it the best square dance function he had attended.

Gumdale Committee.

## **THE BOTTLE OF WINE**

*For all of us who are married, were married, wish you were married, or wish you weren't married, this is something to smile about the next time you see a bottle of wine:*

Sally was driving home from one of her business trips in Northern Arizona when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of the road. As the trip was a long and quiet one, she stopped the car and asked the Navajo woman if she would like a ride.

With a silent nod of thanks, the woman got into the car.

Resuming the journey, Sally tried in vain to make a bit of small talk with the Navajo woman. The old woman just sat silently, looking intently at everything she saw, studying every little detail, until she noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Sally.

"What in bag?" asked the old woman?

Sally looked down at the brown bag and said, "It's a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband."

The Navajo woman was silent for another moment or two.

Then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder, she said: "Good trade...."

## **“TRIBUTE TO VAL RIGBY”**

**OUR SINCERE THANKS ARE EXTENDED TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE “S-BAR-B” FOR THEIR LOVING SUPPORT OF VAL AND THE CLUB OVER MANY MONTHS, THEIR IMPRESSIVE GUARD OF HONOUR, AND THE OVERWHELMING SUPPORT OF SQUARE DANCERS FROM EVERYWHERE, ON BRIBIE ISLAND RECENTLY FOR HER “CELEBRATION OF LIFE”.**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHAT I BELIEVE TO BE HER WISH, THE “S-BAR-B” CLUB WILL CONTINUE TO DANCE ON 2<sup>ND</sup>, 4<sup>TH</sup> AND 5<sup>TH</sup> FRIDAYS AND OUR “54<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY” ON SATURDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, WILL NOW BE A “TRIBUTE TO VAL RIGBY”.**

**GRAHAM RIGBY**

### *A little about Val's history in Square Dancing.*

In 1953 a fifteen year old Val was Leader of The Girl's Club at St. Barnabas Church of England, Ithaca. It was decided they should sponsor Square Dancing, and I was engaged as the caller. It was there that we met, married in 1959, and for almost 54 years have conducted the S Bar B with Val the very cornerstone of the Club. Astute, strong of character and very simply loved by all.

She was a member of “The Four Leaf Clovers”, Queensland Champions in 1956, and won more “Ashgrove Rosebowl” elimination hoedowns than anyone else. But it was more as an organiser where Val's strength lay for our early Jamborees, Sunshine State Roundups, State Conventions and serving on the Committee of three National Conventions. She was Camp mother for thirty Gold Coast “Summer Holidays” and twenty “Winter Wonderlands”, and was pivotal to the success of our many Square Dance Tours all over Australia.

Val's contribution to Square Dancing has been enormous, and as my rock she was still planning our Club's “54<sup>th</sup> Birthday” while in Redcliffe Hospital.

She and I have been in every sense a team and truly our life's been a Dance! Val was privileged to touch and enhance so many lives, as evidenced at her recent “Celebration of Life” with about four hundred in attendance on Bribie Island, at least half of whom were square dancers.  
Graham Rigby.

### **“THE FIRST S-BAR-B CLUB NIGHT SINCE VAL'S PASSING”**

Would he? Or wouldn't he? That was the question on everyone's lips... Even he was not sure if he would make it. But life goes on... Graham Rigby was there, Val was very much there in spirit and photographs, two sets of dancers were there, but where was the sound?

Due to a dodgy speaker-lead the sound cut-out completely half-way through Graham's first dedication singing call: “The Wonder of You”. Or was it divine intervention? It was the first time in 53 years that this had occurred. Undeterred, Graham continued without music, giving us dancers a chance to sing along.

Miraculously, the sound returned for Graham to do the last two brackets. It was very touching to watch Graham kiss his late wife's photograph before calling to finish “Happy Trails”. It brought back a beautiful memory I had of watching Graham kiss Val goodbye when visiting hours were over in hospital. It sure turned the waterworks on for me. I kept dancing and trying to smile, but the tears just kept falling. It was also sad to think that the S-Bar-B Club would soon be shutting down in September forever- a double tragedy.

Thankfully, Graham's had a change of heart. S-Bar-B's 54<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dance will not be the last. It will be a Tribute Dance to Val. The dancers are pleased and happy for Graham as this means he will keep his network of friends he sees every Friday fortnight and he'll continue doing what he loves to do: calling for S-Bar-B.

Angela Carter (Trainee Caller)

## RAMBLING EIGHTS CHRISTMAS IN JULY



Five sets danced in the hall which was decorated in the theme and enjoyed a Christmassy Supper.

We were pleased to welcome a New Zealand caller, Ian Small and his wife Realyn. Graham Brandon and Noel McKenzie also took the microphone for some calls. Maurice had a guest call and showed us that he is improving with practice.

In all it was a fun party, and thanks go to those who helped and contributed to the Raffle and lucky door prizes.

David Pearce

The above picture is a bit of an experiment. I DO NEED TO KNOW if ANYONE has a problem in down loading, printing or reproducing this page. I have always avoided pictures as some come in weird format and because you the recipients, may have a problem in reproducing them.

**Please let me know as soon as any problem appears.** Noel M.

### True Story

I will seek and find you . .  
I shall take you to bed  
and have my way with you  
I will make you ache, shake and  
sweat until you moan & groan.  
I will make you beg for mercy,  
beg for me to stop.  
I will exhaust you to the point that you  
will be relieved when I'm finished with you.  
And, when I am finished,  
you will be weak for days.

All my love  
The Flu.

Now get your mind out of the gutter and go  
And get your flu shot.

### A Man of Action, not Words.

Mildred, the church gossip, and self-appointed monitor of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose into other people's business. Several members did not approve of her extra curricular activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence.

She made a mistake, however, when she accused George, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his old pickup parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon. She emphatically told George (and several others) that everyone seeing it there would know what he was doing.

George, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just turned and walked away. He didn't explain, defend, or deny. He said nothing. Later that evening, George quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house... walked home... and left it there all night.

You gotta love George.

## **Rockhampton and District Square Dance Inc**

invites you to **whirl away your weekend** with guest caller  
**Wilma Flannery**

**5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

**Friday 7.00pm Saturday 9.30am, free BBQ Lunch, 2.00pm, 7.00pm**

**Sunday 7.00am - breakfast (free) on Mt Archer  
with dancing at 10.00am in the Centre**

**AND IT'S ALL FREE!**

(because it's our third birthday) at the  
**Rockhampton Square Dance Centre  
62 Fitzroy St, Rockhampton**

**Enquiries to President: Michael Bowden:(0418 880 539)**

### **STEPPING OUT WITH CLOGGING (Part two)**

**Canberra** had some of the staidness shaken off it as 380 wildly enthusiastic Cloggers took to the floor for the 12th ACA National Clogging Convention which concluded with a reverse banner parade and farewell last Sunday.

So many highlights- so much dancing!

There were the high-energy demonstrations from dance teams across Australia, a children's presentation, fifty cued dances including really great workshops, and the biggy on Saturday night, the Show case Dances for 2007, which was won by New South Wales with their dance "Ooh".

The new ACA Executive Committee is- President: Debby Selby, Vice-President: Vickie Dean, Secretary: Kathy Hedger, Treasurer: Jan Collins. Having completed my elected three years term as ACA State Rep. for Queensland, I now hand over the keyboard to Stephen Hope. Best wishes for future successes to the new Committee.

News on our dear friends Donna and Phillip Farry who are now living in Tasmania. Donna will be the new State Rep. for the Apple Isle- gosh, they're going to have a fun time in Tassy!

A weary contingent of Queensland Dancers arrived at Brisbane Airport on Sunday night, thoroughly danced out but thrilled at having been part of what was a very successful Convention- sincere congratulations to the organising Committee.

It was great to see Jean Watford, the Queen of New Zealand Clogging, strutting her stuff.

Best wishes to Olive Borovsky who, due to health reasons, could not go to this year's Convention. Olive's next venture will be the New Zealand Convention later this month.

Queensland's own Jenny Neal from Gympie, will be the Guest Instructor at the NZ Convention.

Next year's Australian National Convention will be held in September at the Sydney Academy of Sport, Narrabeen, part of Sydney's beautiful northern beaches district- C U there!

Best Wishes Always, Frances

FRANCES LOOK O.A.M.

Email: lookdonfrances@bigpond.com PHONE: 3391 6526

### **DISCLAIMER**

The views expressed in The Banana Benders Bugle are not necessarily those of the Square Dancing Society of QLD Inc., the Australian Round Dance Association, the Australian Clogging Association Inc. or the Editor. Articles submitted for publication may need to be edited due to space constraints. Articles submitted for publication, including anonymous contributions or those bearing a nom de plume, will not be considered for publication unless the actual name, address, contact telephone number and/or email address is included at the bottom of the finished article. This information will be withheld from publication upon request, but must be supplied to the Editor when submitting your article. The Editor reserves the right to decline publishing any article or advertisement which he considers may be detrimental to the best interests and well-being of dancing and its participants (members).

Dec 2 last year a good number of all segments of Square Dance came together to participate in a forum to view their opinions on a number of subjects pertaining to square dancing.

I have had many requests to print the report of that meeting and it has recently become available. You may not agree with some of the opinions expressed in this report. If you feel that way I will be happy to include any suitable suggestion or comment re the contents of this report.

We can all sit on our hands and say nothing but that is the ideal way to see zilch happen to improve this activity.

Come on, have your say. It may be just what is needed to move things along.

**Report of Special Meeting  
Held 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2006  
At Baptist Church Hall  
Innes Street, Geebung**

*Present;* A. & J. Rayner, L. & S. Bloomfield, H. Welsh, R. Mole, D. Rogers, N. Miller, G. Wilson, D. Look, H. Lilley, J. Dalliston, M. Cunyngham, K. Brown, D. & F. Pearce, R. Martin, R. Fry, J. O'Neill, M. Baines, J. Hay, M. Ahern, O. & B. Brandon, B. Horsey, D. & M. Hillcoat, S. Leighton, N. Forbes, A. Webster, A. Dix, S. Kelly, D. Smythe, C. & F. McKinney, L. McIntosh, M. Hutchen, J. Casey, M. Reid, P. Storey, E. Shaw, M. Bowden, G. Rigby,

*Apologies;* A. Hoppe

**Meeting opened at 9.32 am. Chairperson; Warwick Armstrong. Minutes Secretary; Jane Rayner.**

Chairman welcomed all attending and explained format for meeting being an open discussion regarding the current and future health of square dancing. Chairman explained that the two main bodies concerned were the Square Dancing Society of Queensland Inc and the Queensland Callers Association (QCA) and called for a brief outline of the roles played by both groups.

QCA President David Smythe explained that the operation and role of the QCA was mainly caller training. Currently the QCA has its largest membership than at any other time.

Society President Leighton Bloomfield spoke of the role of the Society being the promotion of square dancing. He made comment that the roles of both groups are separate in that the QCA concentrates more on caller training and the Society on square dance promotion and the welfare of clubs.

*Summary;*

- QCA instrumental in training of callers.
- Society instrumental in promoting and organising square dancing.

*Further Comments;*

It was agreed that promotion is the main objective of the meeting and that dancers and clubs should take responsibility for promotion. It was suggested that a central body be established to govern promotion rather than the apparently fragmented situation currently being experienced.

***Promotion;***

*Suggestions made;*

- Sell promotional product at markets with audio/visual display.
- Dress code; optional for promotional purposes.



- TV advertising; there are grants available to fund this.
- Signage; the Society is willing to subsidise the cost of a permanent sign for clubs to display at their venue.
- Approach university students doing film courses to produce a video as a project for their studies.
- A standard promotional video be made and distributed to clubs with instruction on how best to use it.
- It was suggested that square dance lessons could be sold at the markets eg; a course of 10 lessons for a pre set price.

*Comments;*

Television promotion may not be financial viable (in the event of not securing a grant).

Brian Horsey commented that the "Life Be In It" programme run in the 1980's was the most successful promotion ever for gaining new dancers.

Some callers and clubs have had positive results from promotional video at street stalls.

***Teaching square dancing at schools;***

It was generally agreed that teaching square dancing in schools was not productive. If no caller available the task fell to the teachers who did not understand or know how to teach square dancing. To achieve success at schools, a caller must participate. Also, teaching in schools can only be done in the presence of a teacher if the caller does not have a Diploma of Education. A blue Card is now required by anyone teaching children.

*Suggestions;*

- Possibly list square dancing as an activity on school adult education programmes.
- Some interest has been shown by the principal of MacGregor state school. It was suggested the Society follow this up as soon as possible.

*Summary;*

General consensus that promotional videos are a good idea and we should perhaps target secondary school rather than primary schools.

***Dance Programme;***

QCA President David Smythe suggested that the current Callerlab program of movements be published to all clubs and published in the Review. He commented that callers should not be so engrossed with different levels but concentrate more on keeping standard simple.

**(Secretary's note;** the Callerlab program is published in the Society Red Book; AG02)

*Further comments;*

- The Amateur Callers is successful because the standard is not too high. Clubs should focus on more basic level sessions.
- More roundups at clubs.
- The Callerlab "One floor programme" incorporates 67 movements for streamlining of dance programmes.

*General Comments;*

Sid Leighton commented that callers need to recognise they are selling entertainment. He suggested adding variety such as guessing competitions between brackets to enhance the atmosphere. Callers need to discover what works best for their club members.

***Grants;***

Discussion ensued re the application for and obtaining of grants for promotional purposes. It was pointed out that to obtain a grant a club must be an incorporated association. Society President Leighton Bloomfield commented that the Society would endorse any grant application made for the promotion of square dancing.

Disabled people with carers – may be able to obtain grant.

### ***Dress Code;***

#### *Comments;*

- New dancers should not be pushed into obtaining square dance clothes too soon. They often enquired about and obtained square dance attire of their own accord in their own time.
- Newer dancers often felt more like they “fitted in” when wearing square dance attire.
- It was suggested and generally agreed that square dance attire for most public demonstrations is optional. Smart casual dress is also suitable.

### ***Recruiting New dancers;***

#### *Suggestions;*

- Post information on the internet.
- David Pearce; Rambling 8's square dance club has its own web site.
- David Smythe; The QCA is preparing a web site.
- Sandra Bloomfield has sent a list of Queensland clubs to the national website – [www.squaredance.org.au](http://www.squaredance.org.au)

#### *General Comments;*

- Modern square dancing can be too technical and difficult to learn easily.
- Caller attitude plays an important role in creating a positive atmosphere.
- Perhaps the word “square” in promotional advertising could be detrimental.

### ***Caller judgement;***

#### *Comments;*

- Callers should be entertaining when calling at major functions.
- David Smythe; The QCA caller training sessions are currently focusing on the entertainment aspect of calling.
- Callers should not waffle too much when dancers are squared and prepared to dance.
- Callers sometimes spend too much time filling square from roundups.
- Callers should dress appropriately.

### ***Club atmosphere;***

#### *Comments;*

- Club members should make an effort to interact with visitors to the club.

(At this point several dancers from Pine Rivers Senior Citizens square dance club commented that the club has a positive atmosphere and all enjoyed dancing there.)

### ***Recruitment & Retention;***

#### *Comments;*

- Keep choreography at learners sessions fun and simple.
- Less partner changes at basic level.
- More social time.
- Gradually introduce newer dancers to large functions so they feel comfortable. New dancers should be diplomatically informed of standard at large functions rather than be told bluntly not to attend.
- Caller club programme should cater for all levels.
- Communication between callers and dancers re standard is important.
- Sandra Bloomfield commented that some new dancers assisted by herself and Leighton at a major function was appreciated and the people are still dancing.
- Some large functions may not be suitable for absolute beginners.

**Awareness of the 3 R's is important;**  
**Recruitment**  
**Retention**  
**Retraining (callers)**

***Combined nights;***

Concern was raised re the decline in attendance in recent years.

*Comments;*

- The social aspect of these functions is paramount.
- Mixed feelings regarding the importance of Caller billing. Should major functions feature selected callers? Some feel yes, some feel no, that people will attend whether the advertising features callers or not.
- Caller placement in programme important for dancer enjoyment.
- The whole event should be fun.
- More advertising for major functions.
- Should have more roundups so singles feel more included.
- If daytime and evening sessions, encourage people to bring a basket tea for social interaction between sessions.
- It was suggested that competition could be re introduced to try to attract younger dancers.

**At this point the Chairman invited Noel Miller to sum up.**

*Noel Miller;*

"We should be targeting the 40-50 year old age group as our "young" people as the average age of square dancers today is older than this.

A better atmosphere is achieved by creating a smaller area rather than having a few dancers spread over a large hall.

To recruit new dancers, less talk and more action is needed."

***General Comments;***

- The Society and QCA should work together for the benefit and promotion of square dancing.
- The Society and QCA could consider holding their general meetings on the same day. This may assist with interaction between callers and dancers.
- A vote thanks was forwarded to the people who travelled form long distances for the meeting.

***Conclusion;***

*Comments;*

- The implementation of ideas was everyone's responsibility. It should not be left solely to Executive Committees.
- Leadership is first required before dancers can help.
- Club members should be encouraged to read this report then hold an open discussion at club.
- Clubs could delegate champions to follow up the ideas put forward at this meeting.

**Meeting closure;** Chairman thanked all for attending. Vote of thanks forwarded to Chairman, Warwick Armstrong and Minutes Secretary Jane Rayner. Meeting closed 12.45pm.